

Region Weathers Storm With 'Blizzard' Less Than Predicted

By PAUL J. PEYTON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

AREA — The region lucked out as an historic blizzard that was predicted to bring two to three feet of snow to New Jersey shifted 50 to 75 miles to the east, leaving local towns here in Union County with between

six and 10 inches of snow. The website weathernj.com admitted the blizzard forecast was a "major bust."

"...We had all the ingredients on the table for a historic snowstorm. We simply messed up the cooking time," according to the website.

"Thankfully, we were spared the extreme blizzard conditions that the National Weather Service had forecast for our area," Westfield Mayor Andy Skibitsky said in a statement on the town's website. "... Thank you to all the residents who heeded the warnings and stayed safe."

The town's fire department had been prepared for the monumental task of digging out 900 fire hydrants throughout Westfield.

Governor Chris Christie lifted a travel ban in the state that had been up from 11 p.m. Monday at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday. The Westfield and Cranford municipal buildings were closed Tuesday, although Fanwood Borough Hall opened at 10:30 a.m. followed by Scotch Plains at 11 a.m. Schools were closed Tuesday.

Union County government offices opened at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, although the county courthouse was closed.

"While the Fanwood area did get a good amount of snow, it appears that it was less than half of what forecasters had originally predicted," read a statement from Mayor Colleen Mahr and Police Chief Richard Trigo on the Fanwood website.

Public works crews throughout the area were busy Monday night and all day Tuesday plowing roads and municipal parking lots.

Scotch Plains also weathered the storm well. In a statement from Mayor Kevin Glover, the township council and Town Manager Al Mirabella, they thanked residents for "heeding our advice to stay off the roads, which clearly helped facilitate the cleanup throughout the evening by our DPW."

Garwood Police Chief Bruce Underhill said the borough "sustained no downed trees and no power outages. As usual, our DPW did a great job."

"Being able to plow our roads curb to curb helps ensure the safety of all and can only be accomplished with the help of the residents. Because we had nearly 100-percent compliance with our local ordinance, we could count the number of cars on our streets with one hand,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Paul J. Peyton for The Westfield Leader

FUNDING HOLE....Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-19th, Sayreville) speaks at Monday's Raritan Valley Rail Coalition meeting at the Westfield Municipal Building.

Cranford Hires Employee, Appoints Bd. Members

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

CRANFORD — The township committee Monday at its workshop meeting authorized the appointment by resolution of a part-time employee with the health department at a rate of \$30 per diem. Jessi Powell was hired as a part-time registered environmental health specialist. Township Business Administrator Terrence Wall said the health specialist performs approximately eight inspections a month in the township of Cranford. The position was previously paid by the Westfield Regional Board of Health, where he was hired as a full-time employee. The township expense for the Westfield Regional Board of Health is to be reduced by the amount to be paid for this contractual employee, Mayor Andis Kalnins told *The Westfield Leader*. In 2014, the township budget for the Westfield Regional Board of Health was just over \$79,000, Mayor Kalnins said in a workshop meeting in November.

The committee voted on resolutions on the consent agenda slated for the official meeting originally to be held Tuesday, but was canceled in light of the impending storm, Mayor Kalnins said. The committee authorized 2014 budget transfers and tax refunds. The committee also authorized a leave of absence for Mary Valdivia, violations clerk with the Cranford Municipal Court, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.

Upon returning from closed session, the committee passed the following resolutions. The committee authorized the appointment of David Solomon as an alternate no. 1 member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term ending December 31, 2016. Maureen Tinen was authorized as an owner member to the Downtown District Management Corporation to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2016. She will replace Barry Donovan, owner of Kilkenny House, who resigned. An-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?...Children in Westfield made their "Frozen" dreams come true as variations of Olaf popped up all over town.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

HAVING A BLAST...Families enjoyed the snow non-event by sledding and tubing at Unami Park in Cranford. The storm, which was predicted to be a blizzard, turned into a mere five inch snow fall as the storm moved to the east leaving parts of New York and Massachusetts with upwards of two feet of fresh powder.

Wisniewski to Raritan Coalition: 25-Cent Gas Tax Hike Needed

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WESTFIELD — The health of the state's Transportation Trust Fund was the main topic of Monday's Raritan Valley Rail Coalition meeting held at the Westfield Municipal Building. The Transportation Trust Fund is the main funding source for transportation projects throughout the state.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-19th, Sayreville), who chairs the Assembly's Transportation and Independent Authorities Committee, said he supports raising the state's gasoline tax by 25 cents per gallon in order to fund the Transportation Trust Fund, which he said would generate \$1.025 billion annually.

"We need that much money not only to do the work we need, but to do it in a way that is sustainable," Mr. Wisniewski said.

He said money going into the Fund has only been used for transporta-

tion. The fund was started in 1985 with \$250 million. Funding has now hit \$1.2 billion annually.

"That increase has occurred without raising the gas tax," Mr. Wisniewski said. To date, \$27.1 billion has been spent over the past 31 years on transportation from the fund, although only \$18 billion of that was cash, with the rest coming from borrowing.

"We borrow when they (Transportation Trust Fund) need money and that borrowing is in part what is consuming all of the revenue that we are currently collecting," Mr. Wisniewski said. He said all money raised in 2015 for the Fund is going to be used to pay debt service. The Fund currently is \$16 billion in debt.

Dedicated funds for the Fund are the motor fuels tax of 10.5 cents per gallon, petroleum products gross receipts tax and the sales and use tax. Mr. Wisniewski said it is becoming impossible for the state to continue to divert sales tax money to pay for transportation debt while also using state revenues to pay the state's other bills. The lawmaker's gasoline tax increase would come from the petroleum products gross receipts tax. He said this tax would be paid by the wholesalers. Mr. Wisniewski said this funding source would last for over 25 years and perhaps up to 40 years.

He said he supports raising the gasoline tax "because there is no money anywhere in state government to fund transportation." He said new revenue sources are needed for the Fund.

"Our infrastructure (in New Jersey) is in horrible shape," he said. On the one-seat-ride efforts by the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, Mr. Wisniewski said more capacity is needed to get NJ Transit trains across the Hudson River to New York City. He said the cancellation of the Arc Tunnel (Access to The Region's Core) resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in federal funding.

Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22nd, Scotch Plains), vice-chairman of the Transportation Committee, said, "We are going to have to confront the need for additional revenue," adding that, "we need to have the ability to have legislation signed." She said the poor condition of New Jersey roads has resulted in New Jerseyans spending an additional \$600 on vehicle maintenance per year.

"We need to have a Transportation Trust Fund that's going to be able to support the investments and manage construction," Ms. Stender said.

Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp said he would like to see a fee on trucks picking up and dropping off loads at

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Westfield Reschedules Police Promotions to February 10

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

WESTFIELD — The town council Tuesday rescheduled the police promotions and the American Water Company update originally scheduled for the meeting until Tuesday, February 10 due to this week's snow storm that hit the area.

American Water Company is to discuss its water main cleaning and two other projects for line replacements that will most likely begin in the spring, Town Administrator Jim Gildea said at Tuesday's conference meeting.

Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan sat in for Mayor Andy Skibitsky, who was absent.

The term of Police Chief David Wayman, appointed as the emergency management coordinator, was changed from one year to three years, effective January 1, 2015, per the requirements of the County of Union, Mr. Gildea said.

The council's Policy Committee had its first formal meeting Tuesday, Councilman Jim Foerst said. "We reviewed the numbers with the auditor and the preliminary figures look good so far," he said.

Mr. Gildea told *The Westfield Leader* that budget discussions will begin in a few weeks at regular council conference meetings.

Per resolution, the committee ap-

proved the planning board's decision for a demolition of a single-family dwelling and detached garage located at 631 Carleton Road. The tree preservation commission gave its consent as well, Mr. Gildea said. Gialluisi Custom Homes II, LLC, sought a minor subdivision approval by the planning board to subdivide the property and create two fully conforming lots. All existing structures will be demolished and a single-family house will be constructed on each lot, according to the December 1, 2014 Westfield Planning Board agenda.

The area at St. Marks Avenue where a dump truck fell into a hole and damaged the storm sewer system was repaired at a cost of \$131,000, Mr. Gildea said. In September, a dump truck carrying asphalt fell into a hole where the road was being paved and collapsed the storm sewer system underneath the street.

The council also approved two resolutions authorizing a third change order for the 2014 Various Road Improvements at an additional cost of \$16,000 and a second change order for the 2014 improvement of Seneca Place at an additional cost of \$72.

There were no ordinances on the agenda. The council approved \$820,000 in bills and claims.



Photo Courtesy of Joe Sabatella

KEEPING WARM...Joe Sabatella and his wife warm up with their copy of *The Westfield Leader* last week in Curacao.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	16-17
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-14
Police	15	Real Estate	9-18
Community ...	6-7, 15	Classifieds	15
Obituary	6	A&E	17-18



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HISTORY LESSON...Local historian Robert A. Mayers delivers a lecture to an eager audience on “The Forgotten Revolution” on Friday night in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building. This lecture was presented by the Westfield Historical Society.

Mountainside Council Names Appointees

By KATE BROWNE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

MOUNTAINSIDE — Members of the Mountainside Borough Council tackled a full agenda at their first public meeting of the year on Tuesday, January 20.

Officials voted on several appointments to various county advisory groups, authorized several expenditures, and thanked the Mountainside Rescue Squad for its support of the New York City Fire Department during January 18th ice storm.

The council unanimously voted to appoint Councilman Robert Messler to a one-year term as Mountainside’s representative to the Union County Transportation Advisory Board, with engineer Michael Disko serving as his alternate. The Transportation Advisory Board supports Union County’s Bureau of Transportation Planning, which is charged with insuring a balanced transportation system. The transportation network in Union County includes highways, bus lines, passenger and freight rail lines, shuttle services, bicycle trails as well as airport and port facilities. In addition, the council agreed to appoint Zenon Moriak as the borough’s representative to the Union County Air Traffic and Noise Advisory Board.

Council members also voted in favor of supporting the Governor’s Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse through continued participation in the Municipal Alliance for the Prevention of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse. The Municipal Alliance was established in 1989 and is dedicated to educating and encouraging residents, local law enforcement, schools, the faith community, parents, students and others about the dangers of drug and alcohol abuse. The council agreed to seek a grant of \$15,743 to support its education objectives.

In other business, officials voted in favor of executing a contract for animal control services with Associated Humane Societies in the amount of \$15,998. The Humane Society is a not-for-profit organization and is the largest animal shelter system in New Jersey, with three shelters in Newark, Forked River and Tinton Falls.

Additionally, the council voted to enter into agreement with Gar-

Chertoff To Speak at Statewide GOP Event

WESTFIELD—Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) has announced that former Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff will speak before a statewide Republican event in Atlantic City on Monday, February 2. The event is expected to be the largest gathering of New Jersey Republicans in more than a decade with 1,000 people expected to attend.



ENJOYING THE DAY...Kids and grownups alike enjoyed the day off on Tuesday by sledding, tubing and snowboarding at Unami Park in Cranford. The predicted blizzard turned into a mere five-inch snowfall as the storm moved to the east, leaving parts of New York and Massachusetts with upwards of two feet of snow.

Comptroller Probe Questions \$1.5-Mil. Spent on UC Alliance

STATE — An Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) investigation has found that Union County paid in excess of \$1.5 million over a four-year period to a non-profit agency that produced a biannual newsletter and little else in return for the public’s money.

The agency, Union County Alliance (UCA), relied almost entirely on public funding but operated with virtually no oversight or recordkeeping, OSC found. Charged with promoting economic development, the UCA was headed by a Union County official, now deceased, who left the county payroll to become employed directly by the agency as its president.

As a non-profit organization, the UCA is not subject to the same ethics standards and regulations that typically apply to public entities. In its report, OSC recommends Union County take steps to ensure that vendors such as the UCA “are not used simply as a means to circumvent rules and regulations that would be imposed upon the government agency by law if it performed the services itself.”

“State laws exist to place a level of accountability over the expenditure of public money,” Acting State Comptroller Marc Larkins said. “When a group funded almost entirely by government money, managed by government officials, carrying out a government function, is allowed to operate outside of government rules and regulations, accountability disappears.”

OSC’s investigation focused on a series of annual no-bid contracts from 2008 to 2011 through which Union County paid the UCA \$1.56 million (representing 80 percent of the UCA’s funding) to promote economic development in Union County.

Approximately 99 percent of the UCA’s funding during that time period came from the county and other public entities within the county.

According to OSC’s findings, the only material work product completed by the UCA during that period was the publication of a newsletter called Union County Directions. The newsletter, which was issued twice a year along with periodic electronic updates, consisted of information prepared and provided by the county, including interviews with public officeholders and information about the accomplishments of Union County government and local officials. The newsletter had previously been published by the county itself and cost the UCA approximately \$120,000 a year to publish and mail.

As justification for awarding annual contracts to the UCA without considering other competition, the county asserted that it required services that could not be provided by other vendors. The county renewed its contract with the UCA each year without alterations and with no reassessment of its terms, OSC found. In its report, OSC concluded that the tasks undertaken by the UCA did not require any specialized expertise and the county could have either produced its newsletter in-house, as it had done in the past, or opened the contracts to competition as an attempt to save the public money.

The county’s justification for bypassing competitive bidding was further compromised by the fact that the UCA hired additional vendors and consultants to perform work on the newsletter, OSC found. One of those companies was affiliated with the former UCA president’s wife and was paid more than \$108,000 for research and editing. The former president’s wife also worked for Kean University and was involved in approving \$167,000 in payments from the university to the UCA for advertisements placed in the newsletter. She later recused herself from involvement in additional advertisement payments.

The former UCA president’s contract entitled him to 15 percent commission from advertisements placed with the UCA. In addition to the advertisement revenue from Kean University, Union County itself separately paid the UCA at least \$29,000 per year for advertisements in the newsletter, which it was paying to produce.

UCA’s lack of recordkeeping made it impossible to accurately account for its finances, said OSC Investigations Division Director Noelle Maloney. The group did not have a functioning treasurer, even though its bylaws required a treasurer to cosign all of its checks, and it did not maintain any budgets.

“In order to conduct our investigation, we had to reconstruct financial details from UCA bank records and other sources,” Ms. Maloney said. “Even then, it was impossible to determine exactly how the UCA spent the county’s money.”

OSC did determine that most of the group’s expenditures went to salaries and other forms of employee compensation that raised more questions. The former UCA president received checks at different times, in different amounts, and at times received multiple checks on the same dates which did not correspond with payroll records, OSC found.

OSC also determined that the UCA had a separate checking account with a debit card that was used to charge \$90,000 over the four years, much of it for meals and travel. Charges were incurred from a hotel in North Carolina, a restaurant in Florida and a liquor store in Ship Bottom, New Jersey, OSC found. The UCA kept no receipts or records to demonstrate that any of the expenses were for legitimate business purposes.

The investigative report concludes with six recommendations to Union County and other government units. Among them, it asks the county to consider whether the economic development functions currently provided by the UCA are more appropriately performed by the county itself. The report also provides several steps for all public entities to take when contracting with outside vendors, such as including a code of ethics to deal with conflicts of interest.

County officials said they are reexamining their financial commitment to the UCA in light of OSC’s findings. The UCA’s current president, hired in March 2013, said that steps are being taken to address OSC’s recommendations. For example, the UCA is now using a reimbursement process for expenses and, going forward, vendor contracts and any potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed to the UCA board. The county released the following statement through spokesman Sebastian D’Elia.

“The County of Union is currently in the process of reviewing the Comptroller’s report and its recommendations. As the report indicated, the county has already taken a number of steps addressing issues raised by the Comptroller’s Office, beginning in 2012. The Alliance, at the urging of the county, undertook corrective actions as per their financial book keeping, and activities. Coupled with these reforms, the county also cut about one third of its annual subsidy to the Alliance, and the organization is now focusing on generating outside income to subsidize its operations.

“Overall, we believe these reforms will enable the Alliance to play a vital role in assisting the county as a whole and galvanizing private and public sector support for urgent regional business, transportation, planning and economic development initiatives.”

OSC has referred its findings to the Internal Revenue Service, the New Jersey Department of Treasury’s Division of Taxation and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



FIXING TRUST FUND...Elected officials and members of the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition gathered Monday at the Westfield Municipal Building to hear Assemblyman John Wisniewski (D-19th, Sayreville) discuss funding the state’s Transportation Trust Fund.

Teacher Awards Presented by SP-F Bd. of Education

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader

SCOTCH PLAINS — At the beginning of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Board of Education (BOE) meeting held last Thursday night, 14 teachers were given The Governor’s Educator of the Year Award in front of a packed room.

Charlene Hall, third-grade teacher from Brunner School; Christine Segotta, third-grade teacher from School One, and Maureen Holler, first-grade teacher from Evergreen, were awarded with this honor. In addition, vocal music teacher Heather Filipksi from McMinn School was given the award, as well as Heidi Sweeney-Schulenburg, social studies teacher from Park Middle School; Michelle Emanuel, world language teacher from Terrill, and Elizabeth Coleman, English/Language Arts teacher from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS). Michelle Mallozzi, second-grade teacher from Coles, also was named with the honor but was not present at the meeting.

In addition, Tiffany Annese, school occupational therapist from Brunner School; Eileen Raszka, school library media specialist from Coles School; School One Speech Language Specialist Diane Heath and SPFHS School Counselor Catherine Hoffman all received awards. School Nurses Darlene Tomasulo from Evergreen School and Connie Salisbury of McGinn School also were recipients.

According to the State of New Jersey Department of Education’s (NJDOE) website, The Governor’s Educator of the Year Award highlights educational innovation, student achievement and the rewards of teaching and important services outside the classroom that lead to success. The website also states that its purpose additionally is to attract public attention to the positive aspects of the educational system.

According to the NJDOE, every New Jersey principal is encouraged to recognize one effective or highly-effective teacher and educational services professional.

In other business, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Hayes introduced a draft B to the 2015-2016 calendar.

In draft B, students would not start back to school until Tuesday, September 8, which is after Labor Day, and would have an extra professional day on June 23, 2016. Draft B also lifts the professional day that would be scheduled on February 12, 2016 in draft A.

In draft A, which was first introduced in the beginning of the month, students are scheduled to go back to school on Friday, September 4, which is the Friday before Labor Day.

Ms. Hayes stated that both options were on the website and that parents were encouraged to cast their votes as to which calendar should be adopted at the meeting

tonight, Thursday, January 29.

Finally, it was announced that the Educational Enrichment Fund (EEF) will host a beefsteak dinner on Thursday, March 5, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$45 per person unless purchasing a table for 10, when the price is \$40 per person.

The next BOE meeting will be tonight, at 7:30 p.m., in the Administration building on Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains.

Cranford

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thony Durante was appointed as a resident member to the Downtown District Management Corporation for a three-year term ending December 31, 2017.

The committee is expected to begin the municipal budget review process at its next meeting on February 9.

The committee also discussed fire and police personnel matters, the FEMA elevation project, and legal matters in closed session, according to the agenda.

Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Chief Underhill said. “Also, my thanks to the men and women of the Garwood Police Department who, as with every storm or incident, are out there in the thick of it to ensure public safety in the borough.”

With schools closed on Tuesday, sledding was available at Briant Park in Summit, Echo Lake Park in Springfield and Westfield, Lenape Park in Cranford, Meisel Park in Springfield and Unami Park in Garwood. In addition, cross-country skiing was permitted at the Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains, Oak Ridge Park in Clark and the Watchung Reservation.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

NJ American Water To Begin Work in Fanwood

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

FANWOOD — New Jersey American Water will begin a water main replacement in one week, Michael Bange, operations manager for New Jersey American Water, told the borough council at last Wednesday’s regular council meeting.

New Jersey American Water will replace 4,400 feet of 48-inch pipe along Madison Avenue on the corner of Willow Avenue, as well as Cortland Avenue and Westfield Avenue. The work is to be done between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Once the replacement of pipes along those roads is complete, the water company will then move on to Martine Avenue, where work will be done at night.

The replacement of the water mains is expected to be completed by Sunday, April 26, with the paving of the roads to be done by the end of August. The gas company also may want to replace gas lines while the roads are open, Mr. Bange said.

Council President Katherine Mitchell said the shade tree commission was concerned with the water company taking down a shade tree on Madison Avenue.

Fanwood residents Amanda Barnett, Courtney Agnello and Michelle Shapiro-Abraham were named Volunteers-of-the-Month for their work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Program. The three women started the program six years ago.

“They listened to the call of Michelle Obama in making Martin Luther King, Jr. Day... a day on versus a day off,” Mayor Colleen Mahr said. She said 800 volunteers in the community had offered a service that honors Dr. King. Some of the service programs included nursing home visits, donations of knitted hats and

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CLEARING THE ROADS...A snow plow was the only vehicle on North Avenue at Farley Road in Fanwood on Tuesday morning, shortly after the statewide travel ban was lifted.

Photo Courtesy of Tom Kranz



Paul J. Peyton for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times
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Photo Courtesy of Tom Kranz
HAVING FUN...A snowboarder and sledder enjoy their day off from school and the fresh snow on the incline behind the Fanwood firehouse Tuesday morning.

Wisniewski to Raritan Coalition: 25-Cent Gas-Tax Hike Needed

By PAUL J. PEYTON
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“Our infrastructure (in New Jersey) is in horrible shape,” he said.

On the one-seat-ride efforts by the Raritan Valley Rail Coalition, Mr. Wisniewski said more capacity is needed to get NJ Transit trains across the Hudson River to New York City. He said the cancellation of the Arc Tunnel (Access to The Region’s Core) resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in federal funding.

Assemblywoman Linda Stender (D-22nd, Scotch Plains), vice-chairman of the Transportation Committee, said, “We are going to have to confront the need for additional revenue,” adding that, “we need to have the ability to have legislation signed.” She said the poor condition of New Jersey roads has resulted in New Jerseyans spending an additional \$600 on vehicle maintenance per year.

“We need to have a Transportation

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



KEEPING WARM...While vacationing on the island of Antigua Briella, Jake and Kapriana Payami of Scotch Plains started looking forward to a “sunny” 2015 while reading their Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times.

PAGE INDEX

Regional	2-3	Education	16-17
Editorial	4-5	Sports	9-14
Police	15	Real Estate	9-18
Community ...	6-7, 15	Classifieds	15
Obituary	6	A&E	17-18



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DO YOU WANT TO BUILD A SNOWMAN?...Children in the area made their “Frozen” dreams come true as variations of Olaf popped up on front lawns.

Comptroller Probe Questions \$1.5-Mil. Spent on UC Alliance

STATE — An Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) investigation has found that Union County paid in excess of \$1.5 million over a four-year period to a non-profit agency that produced a biannual newsletter and little else in return for the public's money.

The agency, Union County Alliance (UCA), relied almost entirely on public funding but operated with virtually no oversight or recordkeeping, OSC found. Charged with promoting economic development, the UCA was headed by a Union County official, now deceased, who left the county payroll to become employed directly by the agency as its president.

As a non-profit organization, the UCA is not subject to the same ethics standards and regulations that typically apply to public entities. In its report, OSC recommends Union County take steps to ensure that vendors such as the UCA “are not used simply as a means to circumvent rules and regulations that would be imposed upon the government agency by law if it performed the services itself.”

“State laws exist to place a level of accountability over the expenditure of public money,” Acting State Comptroller Marc Larkins said. “When a group funded almost entirely by government money, managed by government officials, carrying out a government function, is allowed to operate outside of government rules and regulations, accountability disappears.”

OSC's investigation focused on a series of annual no-bid contracts from 2008 to 2011 through which Union County paid the UCA \$1.56 million (representing 80 percent of the UCA's funding) to promote economic development in Union County.

Approximately 99 percent of the UCA's funding during that time period came from the county and other public entities within the county.

According to OSC's findings, the only material work product completed by the UCA during that period was the publication of a newsletter called Union County Directions. The newsletter, which was issued twice a year along with periodic electronic updates, consisted of information prepared and provided by the county, including interviews with public officeholders and information about the accomplishments of Union County government and local officials. The newsletter had previously been published by the county itself and cost the UCA approximately \$120,000 a year to publish and mail.

As justification for awarding annual contracts to the UCA without considering other competition, the county asserted that it required services that could not be provided by other vendors. The county renewed its contract with the UCA each year without alterations and with no reassessment of its terms, OSC found. In its report, OSC concluded that the tasks undertaken by the UCA did not require any specialized expertise and the county could have either produced its newsletter in-house, as it had done in the past, or opened the contracts to competition as an attempt to save the public money.

The county's justification for bypassing competitive bidding was further compromised by the fact that the UCA hired additional vendors and consultants to perform work on the newsletter, OSC found. One of those companies was affiliated with the former UCA president's wife and was paid more than \$108,000 for research and editing. The former president's wife also worked for Kean University and was involved in approving \$167,000 in payments from the university to the UCA for advertisements placed in the newsletter. She later recused herself from involvement in additional advertisement payments.

The former UCA president's contract entitled him to 15 percent commission from advertisements placed with the UCA. In addition to the advertisement revenue from Kean University, Union County itself separately paid the UCA at least \$29,000 per year for advertisements in the newsletter, which it was paying to produce.

UCA's lack of recordkeeping made it impossible to accurately account for its finances, said OSC Investigations Division Director Noelle Maloney. The group did not have a functioning treasurer, even though its bylaws required a treasurer to cosign all of its checks, and it did not maintain any budgets.

“In order to conduct our investigation, we had to reconstruct financial details from UCA bank records and other sources,” Ms. Maloney said. “Even then, it was impossible to determine exactly how the UCA spent the county's money.”

OSC did determine that most of the group's expenditures went to salaries and other forms of employee compensation that raised more questions. The former UCA president received checks at different times, in different amounts, and at times received multiple checks on the same dates which did not correspond with payroll records, OSC found.

OSC also determined that the UCA had a separate checking account with a debit card that was used to charge \$90,000 over the four years, much of it for meals and travel. Charges were incurred from a hotel in North Carolina, a restaurant in Florida and a liquor store in Ship Bottom, New Jersey, OSC found. The UCA kept no receipts or records to demonstrate that any of the expenses were for legitimate business purposes.

The investigative report concludes with six recommendations to Union County and other government units. Among them, it asks the county to consider whether the economic development functions currently provided by the UCA are more appropriately performed by the county itself. The report also provides several steps for all public entities to take when contracting with outside vendors, such as including a code of ethics to deal with conflicts of interest.

County officials said they are reexamining their financial commitment to the UCA in light of OSC's findings. The UCA's current president, hired in March 2013, said that steps are being taken to address OSC's recommendations. For example, the UCA is now using a reimbursement process for expenses and, going forward, vendor contracts and any potential conflicts of interest will be disclosed to the UCA board. The county released the following statement through spokesman Sebastian D'Elia.

“The County of Union is currently in the process of reviewing the Comptroller's report and its recommendations. As the report indicated, the county has already taken a number of steps addressing issues raised by the Comptroller's Office, beginning in 2012. The Alliance, at the urging of the county, undertook corrective actions as per their financial book keeping, and activities. Coupled with these reforms, the county also cut about one third of its annual subsidy to the Alliance, and the organization is now focusing on generating outside income to subsidize its operations.”

“Overall, we believe these reforms will enable the Alliance to play a vital role in assisting the county as a whole and galvanizing private and public sector support for urgent regional business, transportation, planning and economic development initiatives.”

OSC has referred its findings to the Internal Revenue Service, the New Jersey Department of Treasury's Division of Taxation and the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



SATURDAY IN THE PARK...These Scotch Plains kids make the most of last Saturday's four-inch snowfall.

Westfield Reschedules Police Promotions to February 10

By CHRISTINA M. HINKE
Specially Written for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

WESTFIELD — The town council Tuesday rescheduled the police promotions and the New Jersey American Water Company update originally scheduled for the meeting until Tuesday, February 10, due to this week's snowstorm that hit the area.

New Jersey American Water Company is to discuss its water main cleaning and two other projects for line replacements that will most likely begin in the spring. Town Administrator Jim Gildea said at Tuesday's conference meeting.

Councilwoman Jo Ann Neylan sat in for Mayor Andy Skibitsky, who was absent.

The term of Police Chief David Wayman, appointed as the emergency management coordinator, was changed from one year to three years, effective January 1, 2015, per the requirements of the County of Union, Mr. Gildea said.

The council's Policy Committee had its first formal meeting Tuesday, Councilman Jim Foerst said.

Gas-Tax Hike

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Trust Fund that's going to be able to support the investments and manage construction,” Ms. Stender said.

Plainfield Mayor Adrian Mapp said he would like to see a fee on trucks picking up and dropping off loads at New Jersey ports with this revenue going to the Trust Fund.

Mr. Wisniewski said trucks are registered with the state and pay a tax on the weight of the truck and how much they can carry. “That's one of the items that has to be looked at,” he stated. He is opposed, however, to a container tax at the Ports of Newark and Elizabeth, noting he would be concerned about “chasing away” Port business.

He said an increase in subsidies is needed from the state's General Fund in the state budget to help fund weekend one-seat rides on the Raritan Valley Line and maintenance on switches and electrical switches.

Greg Bender of South Bound Brook said the reason people are not supporting the gas tax is because of a “mistrust in what's going to get built with the money.”

In other business, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski said Raritan Valley Rail Coalition members met with NJ Transit officials. Among the topics discussed was adding two more trains during the off-peak afternoon service. She said additional rail service is needed as both the Holland and Lincoln Tunnels will be shut for maintenance with the Pulaski Skyway currently shut for construction.

The Coalition will next meet on Monday, March 23, at the Somerset County Administration Building in the third floor freeholders meeting room.

“We reviewed the numbers with the auditor and the preliminary figures look good so far,” he said.

Mr. Gildea told *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* that budget discussions will begin in a few weeks at regular council conference meetings.

Per resolution, the committee approved the planning board's decision for a demolition of a single-family dwelling and detached garage located at 631 Carleton Road. The tree preservation commission gave its consent as well, Mr. Gildea said. Gialluisi Custom Homes II, LLC, sought a minor subdivision approval by the planning board to subdivide the property and create two fully conforming lots. All existing structures will be demolished and a single-family house will be constructed on each lot, according to the December 1, 2014 Westfield Planning Board agenda.

The area at Saint Marks Avenue where a dump truck fell into a hole and damaged the storm sewer system was repaired at a cost of \$131,000, Mr. Gildea said. In September, a dump truck carrying asphalt fell into a hole where the road was being paved and collapsed the storm sewer system underneath the street.

The council also approved two resolutions authorizing a third change order for the 2014 Various Road Improvements at an additional cost of \$16,000 and a second change order for the 2014 improvement of Seneca Place at an additional cost of \$72.

There were no ordinances on the agenda. The council approved \$820,000 in bills and claims.

SP-F BOE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

would have an extra professional day on June 23, 2016. Draft B also lifts the professional day that would be scheduled on February 12, 2016 in draft A.

In draft A, which was first introduced in the beginning of the month, students are scheduled to go back to school on Friday, September 4, which is the Friday before Labor Day.

Ms. Hayes stated that both options were on the website and that parents were encouraged to cast their votes as to which calendar should be adopted at the meeting tonight, Thursday, January 29.

Finally, it was announced that the Educational Enrichment Fund (EEF) will host a beefsteak dinner on Thursday, March 5, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains. Tickets are \$45 per person unless purchasing a table for 10, when the price is \$40 per person.

The next BOE meeting will be tonight, at 7:30 p.m., in the Administration building on Evergreen Avenue and Cedar Street in Scotch Plains.

Fanwood Council

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dental and life insurance with Brown & Brown to not exceed \$15,000. The borough also will receive a new phone system, as was passed by resolution.

The council passed by resolution to designate Old South Avenue, west of the A&P, as an area in need of rehabilitation. The area will be a continuation of revitalization that began for the downtown of Fanwood, Borough Attorney Daniel McCarthy said. The designation provides the opportunity to give economic incentives to owners to revitalize property to make it more attractive, increase rates, and increase business in the borough, he said.

The Public Works Department is discussing ways to promote pedestrian safety, Councilman Russell

Storm

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Also, my thanks to the men and women of the Garwood Police Department who, as with every storm or incident, are out there in the thick of it to ensure public safety in the borough.”

With schools closed on Tuesday, sledding was available at Briant Park in Summit, Echo Lake Park in Springfield and Westfield, Lenape Park in Cranford, Meisel Park in Springfield and Unami Park in Garwood. In addition, cross-country skiing was permitted at the Ash Brook Golf Course in Scotch Plains, Oak Ridge Park in Clark and the Watchung Reservation.

Huegel said. He said he will meet with the department to develop ideas.

Burns Way is expected to be reconstructed this spring, Mr. Huegel said. Part of the funding will be paid through a grant, he said.

Councilman Tom Kranz urged residents to participate in a survey the recreation commission is conducting to gauge residents' use of the recreation facilities and obtain their input on facilities and programs. The survey is available on fanwoodrecreation.org.

FIOS TV customers will shortly be able to view live the borough council meetings on Channel 24. FIOS constructed a new transmission line “at zero cost to the taxpayers,” said Mr. Kranz, the Communications Committee liaison. It is expected to be up and running by the next meeting in February.

The rescue squad building is becoming too small for the new model ambulances. Councilwoman Mitchell said. “They are running out of space. Two of the bays for ambulances just fit. Ambulances are being built bigger and taller. They won't be able to get ambulances in the garages. We will have to make some decisions on all the buildings,” Councilwoman Mitchell said.

Jan Siegal was named as alternate no. 2 to the board of health.

The Go Red for Women Health Day will be held Friday, February 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Chelsea at Fanwood, Mr. Kranz said. The event will help women recognize heart attack symptoms. Heart disease is the number one killer of women.



GOOD DEEDS...Fanwood residents Amanda Barnett, Courtney Agnello and Michelle Shapiro-Abraham were named Volunteers-of-the-Month by Mayor Colleen Mahr, left, for their work on the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Program. The three women started the program six years ago.



ENJOYING THE DAY...Kids and grownups alike enjoy the day off on Tuesday by sledding, tubing and snowboarding at Unami Park in Cranford. The predicted blizzard turned into a mere five-inch snowfall as the storm moved to the East, leaving parts of New York and Massachusetts with upwards of two feet of snow.



Paul Lachenauer for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

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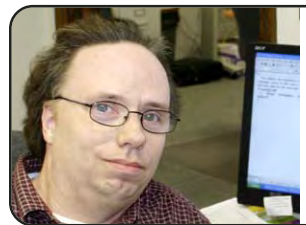
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Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of The Leader/Times

Congressional Members Respond To President's State-of-State

Local Congressional members released statements last week in response to President Barack Obama's State-of-The-Union address.

Rep. Bonnie Watson-Coleman:

"I am proud that President Obama has continued to focus on the issues that New Jerseyans care about most—creating jobs, fostering a fair economic playing field, and improving educational opportunities for all Americans. I share the President's commitment to these issues, and look forward to working with him and my new colleagues here in Washington to make these goals a reality." She called the President's "proposals on manufacturing hubs, investments in cyber security, and the America's College Promise proposal "steps in the right direction."

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th):

"President Obama laid out his vision and agenda for the year to come. And while many of his proposals are misguided and will not pass in Congress, I believe there are a number of issues where we can find common ground and make real progress: Fixing our tax code, promoting trade, increasing affordable American-made energy and improving education opportunities for all. I hope the President will work with Congress on advancing these bills and other bipartisan initiatives that are supported by the American people."

Rep. Frank Pallone, Jr. (D-6th)

"President Obama put forward his plan to ensure that Americans in the middle class, and those fighting every day to join it, are not left behind by an economy that is finally gaining steam. With policy proposals designed to fight stagnant wages and make the costs of higher education more affordable, the President has committed his final two years in office to leveling the playing field for hardworking Americans who are trying to get ahead."

"Most of the President's plan will require Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together, as the failure to do so will result in greater economic inequality and a less vibrant middle class. For far too long Republicans have chosen not to act on issues that would provide Americans with greater economic mobility and security, and President Obama sent a clear message tonight that the American people will no longer tolerate continued inaction..."

NY Assembly Speaker Arrested On Corruption Charges

New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (D), 70, was arrested last Thursday on public corruption charges, according to media reports.

He was accused of using his position to obtain millions of dollars in bribes and kickbacks masked as legitimate income, according to a CBS report.

Mr. Silver said he had been Assembly speaker since 1994.

Mr. Silver was taken into custody at the FBI's New York City office. He faces five counts, including conspiracy and bribery charges, according to the CBS report.

Jamel Holley Appointed to Vacant Assembly Seat

Roselle Mayor Jamel Holley was officially appointed to fill an open seat in the New Jersey General Assembly representing the 20th Legislative District last Thursday night. Mr. Holley was unanimously chosen by the elected members of the Union County Democratic Committee from the 20th Legislative District municipalities of Elizabeth, Hillside, Roselle and Union. He will be sworn-in to the Assembly in the coming weeks and will fulfill the unexpired term of Sheriff Joe Cryan, who resigned the seat earlier this month.

Mr. Holley was nominated for the position by Sheriff Cryan and seconded by Elizabeth Councilman At-Large and Municipal Democratic Chairman Frank Cuesta, and he will also be running for the full two-year term in the June 2015 Primary Election.

The committee meeting was held at L'Affaire Catering Hall in Mountainside and was presided over by Union County Democratic Chairman and Assemblyman Jerry Green (D-22nd, Plainfield) and Vice-Chairwoman, Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr.

Democratic Party leaders like Senator Ray Lesniak (D-20th, Elizabeth), Elizabeth Mayor Chris Bollwage, Assemblywoman Annette Quijano (D-20th, Elizabeth), Sheriff Cryan, Freeholders Sergio Granados and Vernell Wright and many other local mayors, council members and municipal chairs all endorsed Mr. Holley.



RAISING PARADE FUNDS...Union County Freeholders, from left to right, Christopher Hudak, Bette Jane Kowalski, Vernell Wright and Freeholder Chairman Mohamed Jalloh, present a check from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to the 2015 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade General Chairman Tony Brennan, Grand Marshal Margaret McMennamin and Adjutant Kathleen Holmes during the parade committee's Celebrity Bartenders fundraiser at the Kenilworth Veterans Center. The 2015 parade steps off at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 on Morris Avenue in Union.

Gov. Signs Children's Grief Day Awareness Bill

TRENTON — Legislation (AJR-88) sponsored by Assembly Republican Leader Jon Bramnick that permanently designates the third Thursday in November as "Children's Grief Awareness Day" was signed into law January 12 by Governor Chris Christie.

"After suffering a loss, young people can feel alone and misunderstood," said Mr. Bramnick, R-Union, Morris and Somerset. "Unresolved grief, depression and hopelessness can lead to anxiety disorders or substance abuse. Raising public awareness will let them know help is available."

With AJR-88 now signed into law, the first official Children's Grief Awareness Day in New Jersey will be held on Thursday, November 19, 2015.

Mary Robinson, executive director and founder of Imagine, A Center for Coping with Loss in Westfield, stated, "With over 20,000 New Jersey children every year losing a parent to death, raising awareness about grieving children and how to provide support is essential. Children in grief

Bramnick: Trenton Dems Want to Raise Taxes on Top Earners

TRENTON — Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick (R-21st, Westfield) said a report by Phoenix Marketing International that New Jersey lost roughly 10,000 millionaire households is further proof that Trenton Democrat proposals to increase taxes do not work. For years, Republicans have said that raising taxes hurts job creation and our economy. [This] report supports that claim. The out-migration began in 2004 when the first 'millionaire's tax' was passed by Trenton Democrats. New Jerseyans are voting with their feet and their wallets by relocating to places where taxes are lower. This news confirms that we must reverse course and find solutions that keep wealth and jobs in our state."

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Rep. Lance Sponsors Cong. Research Reports Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In an effort to increase transparency and access to congressional research services, Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) has announced that he has introduced the "Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports Act." The Seventh District lawmaker said he was working jointly with Rep. Mike Quigley (R-Ill.) to advance the bipartisan legislation.

The Lance-Quigley measure would direct the Clerk of the House and the Congressional Research Service (CRS) to develop and maintain a centralized, searchable, electronic database of CRS materials for public access. These materials are currently only accessible to members of Congress and congressional staff.

"American taxpayers spend more than \$100 million a year supporting the work of the Congressional Research Service. Their findings, reports and analysis should be public information. It is good public policy to allow educators, students, members of the news media and everyday citizens access to CRS' non-partisan taxpayer-funded reports," Mr. Lance said. "By providing public access to CRS reports, we can elevate our national discourse and make it easier for citizens to cut through the misinformation that too often pollutes the national debate. The American taxpayer deserves access to the same objective and non-partisan CRS analyses on which we rely as members of Congress. What is good for Congress should be good for the general public."

The lawyers, economists, reference librarians and scientists of CRS offer research and analysis to members of Congress and their staff on all current and emerging issues of national policy. CRS provides information and analysis on which to base the policy

decisions. The "Public Access to Congressional Research Service Reports Act" would make the following CRS documents available to the public through website of the Clerk of the House: CRS issue briefs; CRS reports available to members through the CRS website, and CRS appropriations products.

Numerous good government groups and advocates for more congressional transparency have endorsed the measure — including: American Association of Law Libraries, American Association of University Professors (AAUP), American Library Association, Association of Research Libraries, Center for Democracy and Technology, Center for Effective Government (formerly OMB Watch), Center for Responsive Politics, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Data Transparency Coalition, Defending Dissent Foundation, Essential Information, Free Government Information, Government Accountability Project, Humane Research, Jeremy Bigwood, independent researcher, Investigative NewsSource, iSolon.org, National Coalition for History, National Freedom of Information Coalition, National Priorities Project, National Security Counselors, Northern California Association of Law Libraries, Object Management Group, Inc., Open CRS, OpenTheGovernment.org, Project On Government Oversight (POGO), Society of Professional Journalists, The Sunlight Foundation, Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), Understanding Government, Utah Foundation for Open Government, and Washington Coalition for Open Government.

Watson Coleman Votes To Protect Women's Rights, Health Care Access

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On the 42nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-12th) voted against H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015. She said this bill was a last-minute, late-night addition to the House Floor schedule by House Republicans after pulling H.R. 36, the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, "an unconstitutional national ban on abortions after 20 weeks," she added.

Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman released the following statement:

"H.R. 7 and H.R. 36 are radical assaults against women's health care options and reproductive rights. Late last night (January 21st), without notice to members, the majority pulled their original bill and rushed a new one to the floor after Republicans failed to garner enough support for their own extreme measure that would have stripped women of their constitutionally-protected right to manage their own health care deci-

sions. H.R. 7 is no better. This bill denies women access to critical medical care and comprehensive health care coverage."

"I share the consensus with the 78 percent of American voters, including New Jerseyans in the 12th Congressional District, who believe the government should not interfere in a discussion reserved for a woman and her medical doctor. I am committed to protecting women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care services, including access to contraceptives; education regarding all reproductive options; and support for women before, during, and after the birth of a child. I will continue to defend a woman's right to choose and vigorously oppose attacks against it."

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2/13	1:30 pm	TGIF! Sondheim at Carnegie Hall (video)
2/18	7:00 pm	The Gardens of the Garden State
2/20	1:30 pm	TGIF! Great Artists: Vermeer, etc. (video)
2/25	7:00 pm	Book Club: <i>We Are Not Ourselves</i>
2/26	7:00 pm	Computer Class: Advanced Word
2/27	1:30 pm	TGIF! Classic Film: "To Have and Have Not"

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN (Check website for sign up information)		
2/3, 10, 17	10:30 am	Pages for All Ages (Stories & Rhymes)
2/3, 10, 17	1:00 pm	Afternoon Fun for 4's and 5's
2/4, 11, 18	10:30 am	Time for 3's Storytime
2/4	7:00 pm	Scavenger Hunt—must be able to read
2/5, 12, 19	10:30 am	2's on Thursday Storytime
2/6, 13, 20	10:30 am	Playgroup for Babies (0-23 months)
2/6	3:45 pm	Chess Club for Kids
2/7	10:30 am	Tuckers' Tales Puppets (3+yrs)
2/10	6:30 pm	Evening LEGO Club (grades 1-5)
2/14	10:30 am	The Jester Jim Show (3+yrs)
2/17	7:00 pm	A Night of Astronomy (5+yrs)

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Businesses Can Apply For Low-Interest Loans

COUNTY - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders reminds eligible business owners and managers that they can still apply for a low-interest loan to help recover from the impacts of Superstorm Sandy.

The loans are offered through the non-profit Union County Economic Development Corporation (UCEDC). "This loan program was an exemplary recovery initiative when UCEDC first launched it in response to Superstorm Sandy, and I'd like to thank the organization and its president, Maureen Tinen, along with the private sector partner, Investors Bank, for continuing to make this valuable service available to our small business community," Freeholder Chairman Mohamed Jalloh said.

UCEDC's Business Growth Working Capital loan program offers qualified small businesses up to \$25,000 at 2 percent for five years with no collateral requirements. The loan can be used as general working capital, to purchase new equipment or inventory, for renovation or expansion, or to retire more expensive debt.

The program is designed to be easily accessible to small businesses that are still trying to get back up to speed after a Sandy-related setback. Along with the 2 percent interest rate and no collateral requirement, the program has no prepayment penalties, application fees, or processing fees.

For businesses with larger needs, UCEDC continues to provide loans of up to \$250,000 with conventional interest rates and processing periods.

For more information, call UCEDC at (908) 527-1166 or visit ucedc.com.

Muñoz Lauds Report On Waste at Alliance

TRENTON - Assemblywoman Nancy F. Muñoz (R-21st, Summit) commended the Office of the State Comptroller last week for uncovering the wasteful spending of taxpayer dollars by Union County to a non-profit agency.

The comptroller issued a report showing the county issued no-bid contracts to the Union County Alliance (UCA) between 2008 and 2011. The county gave UCA \$1.5 million over a four-year period to market economic development. The only material produced by UCA was the publication of a newsletter that was issued twice a year. Previously, the newsletter had been published by the county.

"Union County taxpayers are picking up an expensive tab and getting little in return," Asw. Muñoz said. "The comptroller did a lot of digging and research to find the lack of accountability and oversight that exists. Homeowners and families are challenged each day to ensure they receive the services they pay for. The county must implement the best practice recommendations made by the comptroller to improve transparency and save wasted tax dollars." "More oversight is needed to make certain competitive bidding for contracts is open and fair," Asw. Muñoz continued. "Union County residents pay more than their fair share in property taxes. They are entitled to know that expenditures are made prudently and are justified."

Legislators Support Lance's Request for Pipeline Hearing

TRENTON - State and local officials in Hunterdon County expressed their strong support for Rep. Leonard Lance's (R-7th) request that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hold a public hearing in the county regarding the proposed PennEast Natural Gas Pipeline.

State Republican Senators Kip Bateman and Mike Doherty, Assembly Republicans John DiMaio, Erik Peterson, Donna Simon and Jack Ciattarelli, were joined by county freeholders and mayors asking FERC to add Hunterdon County to the list of sites where a public discussion will take place.

Last week, FERC announced it will hold five public meetings on the impact of the 100-mile pipeline which will start in Luzerne County, Pa. and extend through Holland, Alexandria, Kingwood, Delaware and West Amwell townships. The only meeting in New Jersey is scheduled at the College of New Jersey, in Mercer County.

Officials agreed with Mr. Lance that county residents should have the opportunity to voice their concerns about the pipeline's impact on the environment and quality of life at a sixth meeting in the county. The approval process is expected to take several years with PennEast indicating it expects construction to begin in late 2017.



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Letters to the Editor

Community Is Thanked for Success of Tiny Tim Carol Night Fundraiser

The members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Tiny Tim Fund would like to thank all those who participated in the annual Carol Night fundraising event on December 3, 2014. Thanks to the involvement of many in the communities, this was a particularly successful fund raising event. Special thanks are extended to Mr. Tom Britt, proprietor of the Stage House Inn and Tavern on Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, who graciously invited us to use his restaurant as the drip-off site for the donation canisters. He and his staff provided delicious refreshments, which were especially enjoyed by all the participating children.

The Tiny Tim Fund is a non-profit organization that provides financial assistance to children in Fanwood and Scotch Plains with medical needs. The organization was established in 1983 and is run by a volunteer Board of Trustees with diverse backgrounds in fields including medicine, religion, education, social work and business. Donations and/or referrals for assistance may be made in writing to: The Tiny Tim Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 181, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

**Barbara Anilo, President
Scotch Plains**

The Strong New Jersey Volunteer EMS Base Serves Again

As we've done many times in the past eight decades, New Jersey's EMS volunteers jumped to the aid of their northern neighbors Jan. 18 when calls for help during the ice storm overwhelmed New York City's 911 system.

Volunteers from several New Jersey State First Aid Council-affiliated squads spent hours answering calls in NYC as EMS responders struggled to keep up with the demand. The 86-year-old nonprofit New Jersey State First Aid Council (NJSFAC) represents more than 20,000 EMS volunteers affiliated with 300 squads statewide.


We've done this many times, particularly in New York and Pennsylvania, when disasters inundated responder resources. Our extraordinarily dedicated volunteer base enabled us to ensure 911-system coverage for our own hard-hit municipalities and still provide help in NYC. NJSFAC volunteers also crossed state lines in recent years to help during blizzards, hurricanes, the "Miracle on the Hudson" plane landing and both World Trade Center attacks.

New Jersey's own Homeland Security officials have affirmed publicly that without its strong volunteer EMS base, this state would be unable to provide adequate disaster response. Without a doubt, our EMS volunteers proved that to be true before, during and after Hurricane Sandy, and again during this recent ice storm.

**Howard Meyer
Summit**

Editor's note: Meyer is president, New Jersey State First Aid Council.

ABCD EFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ



Diction Deception

Below are four arcane words, each with four definitions - only one is correct. The others are made up. Are you sharp enough to discern this deception of diction?

If you can guess one correctly - good guess. If you get two - well-read individual. If you get three - word expert. If you get all four - You must have a lot of free time!

All words and correct definitions come from the board game Diction Deception.

Answers to last week's arcane words.

1. Sasin - The Indian antelope or black buck
2. Vatic - Characteristic of a prophet or seer
3. Scaturient - Gushing forth
4. Versute - Crafty

CUIRASS

1. A light, rounded helmet with a visor
2. A breastplate of leather
3. An ancient flask or jug of leather
4. A footprint

TAWIE

1. Formed or made up of mud
2. A looking glass, small telescope
3. Soft sleet or hail
4. Tame

RENDFICATION

1. The act of making thin
2. The act of building another nest
3. The use of brushwood and thorns for making and repairing hedges
4. Rapid climate change due to a cataclysmic event

TEMIAK

1. An Eskimo coat made of bird skins
2. A deep cut or gash
3. A boat hoisted used for raising and lowering smaller boats
4. A fish net

Ground Hog Day Scandals ChuckGate, Punxsutawney Prattle

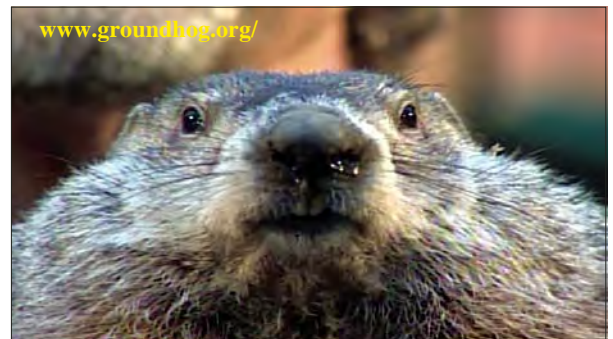
Our investigative committee with the help of wikipedia conducted an independent, non-partisan review of Ground Hog Day. There have been many whistle-pig pretenders to the throne and the celebration is not without its "ChuckGate" scandals.

Our Canadian friends were the center of the infamous 1999 scandal involving their own 22-year-old Warton Willie. Residents of Bruce County found that their Marmot had passed away 2 days before the

not have killed the groundhog, but he may have put an end to a popular tradition. Following the shadowy death of Charlotte - who was subbing for her sleeping brother Chuck - a week after the mayor dropped her on Groundhog Day, Staten Island Zoo officials are mulling a hands-off-the-critter policy."

There's little dispute though that the premier land-beaver is Punxsutawney Phil. Even Bill Murray whole-heartedly agrees, but is it not a scandal that most of the 1993 movie, *Groundhog Day*, was filmed in Illinois, not Pennsylvania? Perhaps not a hullaballoo, Phil has been snarling traffic in the region every February 2 for decades (officially since 1887) when as many as 40,000 visitors pack the small town.

"On February 2nd, Phil comes out of his burrow on Gobbler's Knob, in front of thousands of faithful followers from all over the world, to predict the weather for the rest of the winter. According to legend, if Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter weather. If he does not see his shadow, there will be an early spring."



February 2 celebration. Event organizers, *coureur de bois*, presented Willie in a coffin dressed in a tuxedo with a carrot between his paws.

"A scandal ensued when it became known that the real Willie had in fact decomposed, and the body in the coffin was that of an older, stuffed groundhog."

Closer by, Staten Island Chuck (Charles G. Hogg) became prominent in 2009. Chuck didn't get along with New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg. He bit the mayor during his visit to the zoo. The annual visits by the mayor have since withered away.

In 2014 *NY Daily News*, "Mayor de Blasio might

Promoters say Phil has been correct in his predictions as much as 80 percent of the time. Naysayers contend Phil has only been correct 34 percent - the statistical expectation.

Well, it's cold and snowy here in Westfield and we yearn for Phil not to see his shadow. Regardless of the odds, our sure sign of spring comes when Canada Geese fly into the area and nest at Mindowaskin Park.

Happy Ground Hog Day everyone.

New Jersey Was Lucky and Dodged Most of the Blizzard

Weather forecasters, government officials, power companies and emergency personnel were well prepared for the great blizzard Monday. Citizens heeded the warnings. Everyone remembered Super Storm Sandy, and the lessons learned then were put into action.

Fortunately by 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, the roads were open in most of New Jersey though people wisely stayed home as road crews cleared up the snow. Road crews and emergency personnel did a great job working throughout Monday night. The government advised everyone to stay off the roads Tuesday

unless absolutely necessary.

Perhaps 4-6 inches of snow fell Monday night with only flurries by Tuesday morning. The blizzard bounced 55 miles off to the ocean and the area got lucky. Long Island and Boston were hammered.

Air flights were cancelled Monday and were just starting to recover on Tuesday. NY-NJ Transit and subways were getting back on line throughout Tuesday. By Wednesday and Thursday, the situation became mostly normal for winter in the Northeast.

Because we got lucky, let's not become complacent and ignore future warnings.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

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WHO IS THIS GUY, DADDY? HE'S CREEPING ME OUT!

NESEMANO'S THE LEADER/TIMES

Thank You For Publishing My Letter On Thursday, January 22nd

My letter was accurately reproduced, but your editorial staff decided to amplify its proposed title. The new title carelessly reflected the exact opposite of the letter's intent.

The staff converted the proposed title, "Teaching Tolerance," a constructive letter aimed at educating people about prevention of harassment, bullying and intimidation, to its exact opposite.

The altered title of "Teaching Tolerance for Harassment, Bullying and Intimidation" implied that the writer was proposing support of these unacceptable practices.

I find that this change was harmful to the positive tone of my letter, and respectfully request that you acknowledge this incorrect modification in the next issue of *The [Westfield] Leader*.

I hope you will understand that your letter contributors take their subject seriously and will correct this error promptly.

**Dennis Poller
Westfield**

Albany Cesspool Is The Media's Fault

Let the News Editors know that they should be embarrassed for allowing Albany to become the cesspool of corruption that it has become. It could not have happened with out a complicit media.

**John Krutki
Hollis, NY**

Never Shall President of U.S. Refuse to Meet With Prime Minister of Israel

President Obama refuses to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu when the Prime Minister, at the invitation of Speaker John Boehner, addresses a joint session of Congress! The White House objects because the Speaker had invited the Prime Minister without being consulted, because the Prime Minister had not notified The White House, and because the Prime Minister is in the midst of his campaign for reelection as prime minister.

But protocol is not the issue! The issue is Prime Minister Netanyahu strongly opposing the Obama administration's tortuous negotiations with Iran he sees not stopping Iran from building nuclear weapons. Nor stopping Iran, the United States Department of State lists Iran as a "State Sponsor of Terrorism", from its decades old financial, military, and logistical support of Hamas and Hezbollah the terrorist enemies of Israel!

There is another issue! Prime Minister Netanyahu is the political leader of the only democracy in the Middle East. Israel is one of America's staunchest allies. Israel is the Jewish homeland!

Yet President Obama has no trouble normalizing relations with the despotic Castro brothers! Nor meeting with the rulers of Communist China and Communist Russia among other world despots!

Israel fears itself becoming another Sudetenland in the name of appeasement! British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and French Prime Minister Edouard Daladier in Munich on September 30, 1938 signed the infamous agreement with Hitler and Mussolini that permitted Hitler to

annex Czechoslovakia's Sudetenland. They sought to appease Hitler in the hope that he would not seek further conquest! Czechoslovakia was not even invited to the conference!

Chamberlain upon returning to London famously declared outside 10 Downing Street, "I believe it is peace for our time."

Winston Churchill addressed the House of Commons on October 5, 1938. "...we have suffered a total and unmitigated defeat...we have sustained a defeat without a war, the consequences of which will travel far with us along our road.... All is over. Silent, mournful, abandoned, broken, Czechoslovakia recedes into the darkness... We are in the presence of a disaster of the first magnitude, which has befallen Great Britain and France. And do not suppose that this is the end. This is only the beginning of the reckoning. This is only the first taste of a bitter cup which will be proffered to us year by year unless by a supreme recovery of moral health and martial vigor, we arise again and take our stand for freedom as in the olden time."

The future of Israel is on the line because once again appeasement is in fashion! But appeasement never works. It failed big time with Hitler. And it was tried at times with Mao Zedong, Saddam Hussein, Assad, Gaddafi, and Putin!

Americans must declare loudly and clearly that never again shall a President of the United States refuse to meet with a Prime Minister of Israel!

Large countries can afford mistakes. Small countries cannot.

**Stephen Schoeman
Westfield**

Leadership Matters For America PAC, Inc.

America has been a nation that has always controlled events and yet today events control us. Why? Because leadership matters.

It matters if we want to restore America's role in the world, find the political will to take on the entrenched special interests that continually stand in the way of fundamental change, reform entitlement spending at every level of government, and ensure that every child, no matter their zip code, has access to a quality education.

We must support candidates who share our vision. People who know that only through strong, bold leadership we will be able to take on these challenges and act on the promise of a better tomorrow for working and middle-class Americans.

For that reason, today [Monday], we launch Leadership Matters for America PAC, Inc. I hope you will join our effort.

**Governor Chris Christie
Honorary Chairman**

To Reach Us
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WILL SUPERBOWL GET DEFLATED?

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sdelia@ucnj.org

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LD-21 includes Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood, and Summit and Cranford.
LD-22 includes Scotch Plains, Mountainside, Plainfield, Clark and Linden.

NJ Senators Decry Obama Admin. Plan To Drill Oil in Atlantic Ocean

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senators Robert Menendez and Cory Booker (both D-NJ) and Congressman Frank Pallone (NJ-06) released the following joint statement decrying the Department of the Interior's inclusion of the Atlantic Ocean in its Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Draft Proposed Program (Five Year Program) for 2017-2022. The draft proposed Five Year Program, which was announced today, allows for oil and gas exploration in a portion of the Mid- and South Atlantic planning areas, encompassing areas offshore of Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Georgia.

"It is unthinkable that the Administration would open parts of the Atlantic Ocean, a fragile and priceless ecosystem that is home to such a unique array of marine life, to oil and gas drilling and potential damage from pollution and oil spills. An oil spill in the Atlantic Ocean would not occur in isolation. A spill anywhere along the Atlantic coast would cause severe environmental damage to beaches, fisheries, and marine life throughout the Eastern Seaboard, while also seriously threatening the ocean-based economies that rely on them. Opening up the Atlantic coast to drill for fossil fuel is unnecessary, poses a serious threat to coastal communities throughout the region, and is the wrong approach to energy development in this country.

"The economic consequences of an oil spill near the New Jersey coastline would be catastrophic. Our beaches are a tremendous resource for all those who come here to enjoy them, and they are a huge economic engine for our state. They are the primary driver of a tourism economy that supports 312,000 jobs in

New Jersey and generate \$38 billion in economic activities for the state each year. An oil spill near our coast could cause real damage to the state's economy, including the loss of jobs.

"In addition to serious economic concerns, offshore oil drilling threatens permanent and devastating degradation to our environment and natural resources. The Jersey Shore is a priceless natural treasure, providing recreation to generations of families and supporting a thriving ecosystem of marine mammals and sea life that must be protected. As our state continues to rebuild and recover from the unprecedented devastation of Superstorm Sandy, we simply cannot afford a manmade disaster from oil and gas drilling off our coast.

"We learned hard lessons in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon tragedy—offshore drilling poses a substantial risk of economic and environmental devastation for our shoreline communities. This latest plan, however, ignores that reality. We should focus our energy policy on expanding renewable production here at home, rather than jeopardizing the environment or our regional economy for the sake of more polluting fossil fuels.

"The Administration attempted to include oil and gas exploration in the Atlantic Ocean in its last Five Year Plan. Ultimately, however, it was removed due to the ecological and economic resources that would be jeopardized by offshore oil and gas activities. It was a bad idea then and is still a bad idea now. We urge President Obama to remove the Atlantic Coast from this plan to ensure that our pristine natural resources are preserved and protected for generations to come."

DEP Reminds Local Governments On Steps For Proper Snow Disposal

TRENTON – With much of the state expected to see significant snowfall, the Department of Environmental Protection is reminding local and county governments on steps they can take to keep roadways and neighborhoods as safe and clear as possible while protecting the environment both during and after the storm.

The DEP is reminding governments to select snow disposal sites on upland areas, as far away as possible from water bodies and wetlands to protect these ecologically sensitive areas as much as possible from road salt and other potential contaminants.

If governments have no other option due to the volume of the snow and public safety needs, the DEP will consider authorizing disposal of snow in certain larger waterways in emergency situations and on a case-by-case basis only. Such exceptions must be approved by DEP first.

Authorizations to place snow into surface waters can be requested by contacting the DEP Hotline at: 1-877-WARNDEP (1-877-927-6337). They will be restricted to municipalities and counties just for this specific event. This option is not available to private businesses or residents.

Factors to be considered would include the size of the water body, presence of environmentally sensitive areas, flow of the waterway, amount of floating ice or snow this will cause, impact on downstream dams, and impact on channels being blocked.

Excess snow cannot be dumped in

wetlands, small streams, waters that contain shellfish beds or drinking water reservoirs.

DEP approval is required for excess snow disposal, and noted that unapproved disposal into waterways is not permissible because there may be unknown contaminants in the snow that could pollute waterways.

All cities, towns and counties statewide have been notified by the DEP of this potential arrangement for emergency storm events.

"Protecting the state's rivers, bays and lakes, as part of our water supply, is a priority," said DEP Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources Dan Kennedy. "Any town, city or county that wants to put mass amounts of snow in our waters must get DEP approval."

Assistant Commissioner Kennedy also stressed that clearance of snow from storm drains should be a top priority for road crews to allow for proper drainage of melting snow and avert flooding.

Authorities that own and maintain combined sewer outfalls are also advised to make sure that nets designed to trap trash and other floatables are checked and cleared, if necessary, to allow for proper drainage when the snow melts.

For more information on snow removal guidelines and state policy on snow removal, visit: www.nj.gov/dep/snowremoval.html

For other storm-related information from DEP, including impacts on state parks and historic sites, visit the DEP's home page at www.nj.gov/dep/.

Letters to the Editor

Will Mirabella Be Loyal to Scotch Plains or to Union Cty. Dem Machine?

I, like most people in town, hope that Scotch Plains' new town manager does a good job. The town manager's job is very important in Scotch Plains, since the manager is the chief executive officer of the town. Given that role, Mr. Mirabella's success has a more direct bearing on how the town functions than does the town council or the mayor.

At the same time though, I am very disappointed with the way that Mr. Mirabella was hired. The town manager position in Scotch Plains seems to have become a political patronage position. It's clear that 19 people applied for the job. Not one of them, including Mr. Mirabella, was interviewed by the town council. At least a few of the other applicants had considerable prior experience in municipal government administration; Mr. Mirabella has none.

Mr. Mirabella will be continuing in his part-time job as a Union County Freeholder. We don't know if any other applicant expected to also hold a part-time job. The governing majority on the town council (Glover, Gialanella and Co.) has not explained to the public what criteria they used when choosing Mr. Mirabella.

They've said that they're confident he'll do a good job, but they haven't explained why they think that. What we do know is that he's been a Union County Freeholder for years and is a key member of the Union County Democrat machine. Hopefully, Mr. Mirabella's political connections weren't the reasons he was chosen, but we have no way of knowing.

We have no way of knowing why Glover, Gialanella and Co. thought his lack of municipal administrative experience didn't matter. Nor do we know why they thought Mr. Mirabella's part-time job wouldn't impinge on the time he has available for his full-time job here. Nor has there been any discussion of the obvious conflict of interest issues, which now exist because Mr. Mirabella will continue to be a Union County Freeholder.

Will he be loyal to Scotch Plains (where he's been for four weeks) or to the County (where he's been a Freeholder since the 1990's)? No matter how hard Mr. Mirabella will try, surely in good faith, it remains a fact that conflicts of interest are almost always fraught with subtle issues and the appearance of impropriety; they are virtually impossible to deal with without specific rules being agreed upon ahead of time.

We don't know if Mayor Glover or Deputy Mayor Gialanella have any rules in mind or if they even think there's an issue. At last week's council meeting a recalcitrant Mayor Glover disclosed that the Democrat majority on the council has negotiated an open ended contract term

with Mr. Mirabella and that his salary, at least to start, will be \$145,000 a year. That's \$25,000 more than the prior manager was paid. The contract was approved by the town council with no – repeat no – public discussion.

The public has no way of knowing why Mr. Mirabella is being paid 20 percent more than his predecessor, while at the same time holding a \$30,000 a year part-time Freeholder job.

There was a lot of talk about "we can do better," "there's been a lack of civility," etc... before the election a few months ago. A lot of people thought things would be different on the council going forward. And it seems that things are different. Glover, Gialanella and Co. seem to have very little respect for Scotch Plains taxpayers. What else can we think since they have filled the single most important position in the town government with no explanation of why they held no interviews, why the person they chose was the best among 19 candidates, why they are paying him 20 percent more than his predecessor, why they're comfortable with him continuing to hold an important County part-time job and why they are not addressing obvious conflict of interest problems?

Rich Fortunato
Scotch Plains

Employee and Management Training Available at UCC

ELIZABETH – Six new programs are now being offered free to businesses and non-profit organizations (non-government) through the Industry-Business Institute at Union County College. These are: Team Building, Time Management, Problem Solving, Supervisory Skills, Management Skills, and Personal Management and Business Professionalism.

Already available under this grant are: Customer Service Skills, Customer Service Management, Written Communications, Verbal Communications, Spanish for the Workplace, Introduction to Logistics, Basic Math and Measurement and English as a Second Language. Computer skills workshops in MS Excel, MS Word, MS Outlook, MS PowerPoint, and MS Windows are also available.

"This new series allows us to create a comprehensive training plan for our clients," says Dr. Lisa Raudelunas Hiscano, Director of Continuing and Professional Education at Union County College. "Companies and non-profits can book these programs for the professional advancement of their valued employees. These skills are essential at all levels within an organization, whatever size."

For a course to run, class size must reach 10 or more and can be all from a single company, or a group of employers can combine their employees to reach the minimum. Chambers of Commerce, busi-

Kevin Ryan To Speak At Bridges Teen Conference On Homelessness

Bridges Outreach's sixth annual Teens Tackle Homelessness Conference will be held Saturday, February 28 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at The Kent Place School in Summit. This year's theme is "Youth and Homelessness"; the conference is designed by and for high school students.

The Keynote Speaker, Kevin Ryan, leads Covenant House International, one of the largest charities in the Americas devoted to serving homeless and trafficked children and youth. Covenant House reaches more than 56,000 vulnerable young people annually in North and Central America. Ryan's international human rights work to prevent the murder and exploitation of street youth has been awarded the Conrad Hilton Humanitarian Award, the Olaf Palme Peace Prize, the United States Department of State Hero Citation and the Guatemala Hands of Peace Award.

In October 2012, Ryan and former *New York Times* reporter Tina Kelley published *Almost Home*, which became a national bestseller. The book chronicles the extraordinary true journey of six homeless teenagers in the U.S. and Canada as they faced abuse, violence and heartbreak in search of a place to call home.

During the 1990s, Ryan spent nearly a decade on the front lines of Covenant House's work with homeless and trafficked children on the streets of New York and New Jersey, before becoming New Jersey's first child advocate.

His investigative work uncovering

inhumane conditions and overcrowding for children in the state's juvenile detention centers and failures in the child welfare system roused national ire and led to sweeping reforms. He has appeared as a guest on *The Today Show*, CNN, and Fox, and made two appearances on *60 Minutes*.

His advocacy for the most vulnerable children in society has earned front page stories in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Philadelphia Inquirer*.

The Teens Tackle Homelessness



Kevin Ryan

Conference was created to further educate Bridges' teen volunteers and other interested high school students about the causes of and issues related to homelessness. The conference will open with an address from Rachel, a young woman who experienced numerous addictions and traumas early in her life that led to a self-destructive path and eventually homelessness.

Both speakers will take audience questions. Between speakers, there will be interactive sessions regarding homelessness designed by the teen steering committee.

Bridges' Teens Tackle Homelessness Steering Committee, comprised of over 30 teens from more than 15 area high schools, is the driving force behind the conference. The students developed and implemented the program specifically to educate their peers about homelessness. In addition to their work on the conference, the teens go on Bridges Runs (outreach visits) and spend time with sheltered children. Many of the teens take on leadership roles and help to further Bridges' mission to "bring the housed and homeless together in community."

The event is open to all high school students, and free to those who pre-register. The fee will be \$10 at the door on the day of the conference. For more information, or to register for the conference, visit Bridges' website at www.bridgesoutreach.org.

Beth Tulloch, Bridges Outreach Summit

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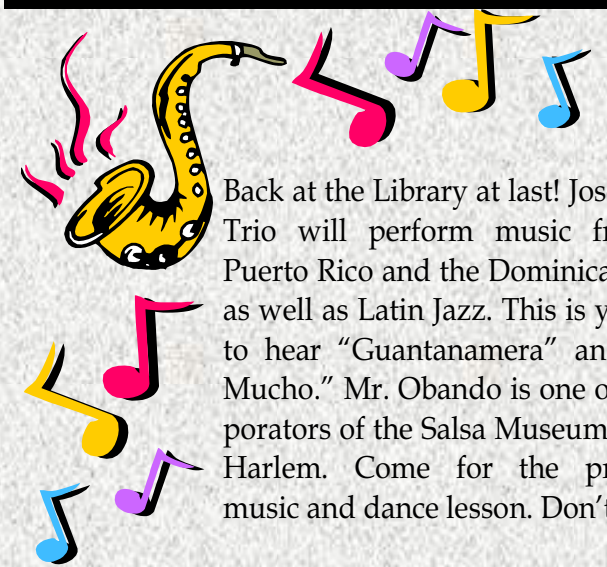
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The Westfield Memorial Library presents Salsa with the José Obando Trio on Wednesday, February 4 at 7:00 pm



Back at the Library at last! José Obando's Trio will perform music from Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic as well as Latin Jazz. This is your chance to hear "Guantanamera" and "Besame Mucho." Mr. Obando is one of the incorporators of the Salsa Museum in Spanish Harlem. Come for the presentation, music and dance lesson. Don't miss out!

It's your Library ... make the most of it



Sign up online at www.wmlnj.org and click on the Calendar link, or call 908.789.4090 option 0.

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Robert L. MacDonald, 85, Businessman; Active In Church and Organizations

Robert L. MacDonald, 85, currently of Tinton Falls, N.J., passed away on Thursday, January 22, 2015.

Robert was born in Grand Rapids, Mich., grew up in Linden, N.J. and formerly resided in Cranford and Toms River, N.J. He was the son of Clarence and Blanche (Clice) MacDonald, who both predeceased him. He is survived by his wife, Muriel (Schait) MacDonald, of 58 years; his daughter and son-in-law, Joanne and Chris Geschickter, and his grandchildren, Ryan and Lindsay, all of Westfield, N.J.

Robert graduated Linden High School in 1948 and Rutgers University in 1964. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1950 to 1954. He was owner and president of Terrill's Office Supplies in Westfield and retired in 1990.

Robert was involved in many organizations in the Cranford/Westfield area, including the Lafayette Lodge, Rotary Club and the Roselle Golf Club. He also was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford, where he served as an elder, deacon, trustee

and president of the Couples Club. While residing in Greenbriar Woodlands in Toms River, he was a member of the camera club and president of the bowling league. Most recently, at Seabrook, in Tinton Falls, he was a member of the men's social club, pool league, "pride" committee for dining experiences and enjoyed taking Tai Chi.

He will be greatly missed by his host of friends and was loved by all who knew him. He was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather, as well as a true friend. He will always be affectionately remembered as Pop Pop.

Robert's Life Celebration was held on Monday, January 26, at Gray Funeral Directors in Cranford, where his funeral service took place on Tuesday, January 27. His final resting place is in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. To view a tribute of Robert's life, please go to grayfuneralhomes.com. Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the First Presbyterian Church in Cranford.

January 29, 2015

Bernard Lamberg, 91, Decorated Vet.; Had 35-Year Career With DuPont

Bernard William Lamberg, of Westfield, died Sunday, January 25. He was 91.

Born in Jeannette, Pa. on 16 April 1923, he was the son of John August Lamberg and Edith Rosenquist Lamberg.

During World War II, Bernie was a tail gunner on the B-29 Bomber, *The Mighty Fine*, which flew 28 missions until V-J Day. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Bernie attended Cook College, Rutgers, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Ornamental Horticulture, and was employed by Bartlett Tree Experts.

He married Helen Walstrom in 1948. One son, John B., was born in 1954. Following Helen's death in 1967, Bernie married Evelyn C. Hall in 1970.

He worked for DuPont, Newark, as a line supervisor, pigments division, for 35 years, retiring in 1980.

Bernie is survived by his wife, Evelyn; son, John Lamberg (JoAnn), and grandson, William Lamberg. He was predeceased by his brother, Art Lamberg, 2012; sister-in-law, Lore Neilsen Lamberg, 2013, and niece, June

Lamberg, 2009.

The funeral is to be held on Monday, February 2, at 10 a.m., at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, at the corner of Clark Street and Cowperthwaite Place, Westfield.

Contributions in his name may be sent to: Westfield Rescue Squad, P. O. Box 356, Westfield, N.J. 07091.

Arrangements were by Dooley Colonial Funeral Home, 556 Westfield Avenue, Westfield.

January 29, 2015

Columbian Club Plans Spaghetti Fundraiser

GARWOOD — The Columbian Club of Garwood will host a fundraising Spaghetti Dinner on Friday, February 6, from 6 to 8 p.m., with all proceeds going to S.A.R.A. (Summit Animal Rescue Association).

The dinner will include spaghetti and meatballs, salad, bread, dessert and coffee, with a cash bar available. There will be door prizes and raffle baskets as well. Advance tickets are strongly recommended.

This event will be held at the building where the Knights of Columbus hold their meetings, 37 South Avenue, Garwood, opposite PathMark. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased there after 4 p.m. on weekdays. On weekends, interested persons are asked to first call (908) 789-9809.

Parking is available behind the building off Willow Avenue. Visitors should turn at Marty Shoes and use the side-door lounge entrance upon arrival.

To make a donation or for more information, visit sararecue.com. S.A.R.A. is a volunteer non-profit animal rescue organization.

U.C. Historical Soc. To Meet February 8

CRANFORD — The Union County Historical Society will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 8, beginning at 2 p.m. It will take place at the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

Dean Poulsen, a veteran music educator, performer and musicologist, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Poulsen will present a program of music of the Civil War in which he will discuss and perform the music and songs inspired by that national conflict 150 years ago. All are welcome. Refreshments and further discussion will follow the meeting. For more information, visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.

Obituaries

Stephen Arbes, Sr., 96, Was Local CPA; Had Owned Elliott Candy Company

Stephen Arbes, Sr., 96, formerly of Westfield, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. He was born to the late James and Fotina Arbes in Elizabeth, N.J., and at an early age moved to Westfield, N.J., where he resided until moving to De Pere, Wis. in 1990. He was a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Fond du Lac, Wis. He was a graduate of Westfield High School and New York University, where he received a degree in accounting. As a CPA he soon became Chief Cost Accountant with Burry Biscuit Co. in Elizabeth, N.J.

Among his many talents he was first violinist with the Jersey City Symphony Orchestra, and in the '50s had his own musical group. He enjoyed hunting and fishing with his two sons and close friends. He was a highly rated chess master, enjoying playing as well as teaching. World War II interrupted his career, but before leaving for North Africa and Italy with the 5th Army he married his childhood sweetheart, Rose (Pasquarella), of Westfield, N.J. Returning home from the war in 1945, he and Rose started a CPA firm. In 1962, they bought Helen Elliott Candy Company, which they soon expanded.

He and Rose retired while still young and were able to enjoy life to its fullest. Stephen loved boating and was a very active member and later commander of the Watchung Power Squadron as well as a member of the Green Bay Power Squadron. They spent many hours boating in the Atlantic and in all the wonderful waters off New Jersey and New York. Rose and Steve traveled extensively in Europe and visited every state in the United States.



Stephen Arbes, Sr.

In 2010, Stephen was made an honorary member of the Desert Veterans of Wisconsin, an honor of which he was very proud. He enjoyed participating in the Memorial Day Parades in De Pere as well as Appleton's Flag Day parades.

He is survived by his wife, Rose (Pasquarella) of Green Bay; son, Dr. Stephen Arbes (Debra) of Green Bay; seven grandchildren, Karinne (Jeff) Overton of Kendall, Wis., Jason (Leah) Arbes of De Pere, Nicole Arbes of Green Bay, Shawn (Michelle) Boknevit of Franksville, Wis., Lynsie (Carl) Franzene of Menomonee Falls, Wis., Jamie Arbes of Westfield, N.J., and James Arbes of Westfield, N.J., and nine great-grandsons, Trevor, Caleb, Mason, Jameson, Eli, Jase, Lincoln, Brayden and Brody.

Steve was preceded in death by his son, James Stephen; brothers, Sam and Spiro, and a sister, Helen.

Family and friends may visit at the Cotter Funeral Home, 860 N. Webster Avenue, De Pere, on Saturday, January 31, 2015, from 10 to 11 a.m. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. at the funeral home, with the Reverend Peter Pappademetriou officiating. Full Military Honors will follow, led by the Desert Veterans of Wisconsin. Online condolences may be sent to www.cotterfuneralhome.com.

The family wishes to thank the caregivers at Wyndemere Estates who lovingly cared for Steve during his long stay there.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be sent to the Desert Veterans of Wisconsin, 1253 Scheuring Road, De Pere, WI 54115.

January 29, 2015

Dorothy Chiemingo, 94, Loved Family; Was Westfield Resident For 40 Years

Dorothy V. Chiemingo (Dot), 94, of Westfield, N.J. passed away on Sunday, January 25, at Overlook Medical Center in Summit, N.J.

She was born in Elizabeth, N.J. and lived in Westfield for 40 years. She was a devoted wife and mother, and her greatest love of all was her entire extended family. The family would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Peter F. Barry, for all of his compassion and care in her final days.

She was predeceased by her husband, Stanley, and her parents, Christian M. Wade and Emma Wade, as well as her brothers, Christian Jr., Raymond and Russell, and her sisters, Bertha Fleeson, Evelyn Noyes and Eleanor Davis. Dorothy is sur-

vived by her daughter, Marlene Chiemingo of Westfield, N.J., and her sister, Marie J. Brunt of Toms River, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, February 1, at the Gray Funeral Home, 318 East Broad Street, Westfield. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on Monday, February 2, at St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Westfield. Interment will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield. In addition to flowers, donations to the Westfield Rescue Squad would be appreciated (www.westfieldrescuesquad.org/donate).

January 29, 2015

Garwood Library Sets Date For Health Event

GARWOOD — Dr. Orest Pelechaty, clinic director of the Center for Integrated Holistic Medicine in Springfield, will present a program on Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m., at the Garwood Public Library.

Dr. Pelechaty's focus is on comprehensive natural healthcare for the whole family, and his presentation will include ways to stay healthy during the winter, using natural approaches to maintaining optimum health during the cold weather months.

With 27 years of experience, Dr. Pelechaty will discuss methods to prevent common ailments and ways to improve health year-round. He

will offer information on seasonal nutrition and remedies to deal with colds, flu, fevers and other ailments.

Registration is required for this event and can be done by calling the library at (908) 789-1670, registering in person or logging on to the library's website and registering through its interactive calendar at youseemore.com/garwood.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, behind the Lincoln School complex. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Henry S. 'Ted' Lewis, Jr., 84, Veteran; Licensed P.E. and Avid Photographer

Henry S. "Ted" Lewis, Jr. passed away peacefully at home at age 84 on Saturday, January 24, 2015. He lived for 43 years in Westfield, N.J. before moving seven years ago to Charlottesville, Va.

Ted was an avid photographer and backpacker. He loved history, books, pretzels, and nutty chocolate candy. And he could really throw a football.

Ted is survived by Jean C. Lewis, his loving wife of 58 years; four children, Stephen of California, Michael of Oregon, Susan of Virginia and James of New Jersey; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Ted was educated at Rutgers University (BSME) and Newark College of Engineering (MSME). He served actively for two years as First Lieu-

tenant, U.S. Army Signal Corps in West Germany, and six years in Inactive Reserve, and in the New Jersey National Guard as a Corporal.

Ted was employed by Manning & Lewis Engineering Co., General Electric Co., CF Braun & Co., and Foster Wheeler USA Co. for a total of 39 years. He also was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code Committee, and was a Licensed Professional Engineer in New Jersey and New York.

A memorial service was held in Charlottesville, Va. yesterday, Wednesday, January 28. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.hillandwood.com.

January 29, 2015



Henry 'Ted' Lewis

Anthony DeChellis, 81, Had Operated Westfield Plumbing and Heating

Anthony J. DeChellis, a former resident of Westfield and Mountainside, passed away at his residence, Winchester Gardens, in Maplewood, on Friday, January 23. He was 81.

Mr. DeChellis was very active in the community beginning with his contributions as a young man to the Westfield Rescue Squad, where he met his late wife, Joan. He also became an active member of the Lions Club.

Mr. DeChellis was only 18 years old when he took on the responsibilities of running his ailing father's business, the Westfield Plumbing and Heating Supply Company. He expanded the company and eventually moved it to its larger and most recent site on North Avenue in Westfield. Mr. DeChellis also was a founding member of the Plumbing Supply Club, now known as the New Jersey Wholesalers Association. In addition, although he had officially "retired" from business, he played a major role

in developing important institutions in the town, such as the founding of the Town Bank of Westfield, now known as Two River.

"Tony" was a welcome and active participant in Winchester Garden activities and known for his passion both for reading and political discussion groups.

He is survived by Debbie, Paul, Brian and Joey Dunn of Scotch Plains; Jeff DeChellis and Gene Mayer, Meagan, CarolAnne, Michelle and Brady Mayer-DeChellis, all of Middlesex; Rick DeChellis and Paula Schmitz of Scotch Plains, along with Rene Schmitz and Alexis Hernandez of Metuchen, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Services were handled by Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home in Westfield, N.J.

Condolences can be sent to the family at www.higginsandbonner.com.

January 29, 2015

Joel R. Zingerman, 78, Merck Scientist; Devoted Family Man and Watercolorist

Joel Ronald Zingerman, 78, of Suwanee, Ga. died on Saturday, January 24, 2015.

Born in New York City, he was the son of the late Marie and Nils Bryant Zingerman. He is survived by his twin brother, James Zingerman of Oklahoma. Joel's siblings, Aleda Siemion, Mari Demarco and Bryant Zingerman, predeceased him.

Joel graduated as a chemist from New York University. He began his career at the Boyce Thompson Institute in New York, then spent the majority of his career as a pharmaceutical development scientist at Merck in Rahway, N.J., having authored numerous patents, publications and a book chapter.

He was a talented and commissioned watercolorist and a member of the Georgia Watercolor Society. He

loved tennis, fishing, sailing, traveling and spending time with his family.

Joel is survived by his beloved wife, Rina Zingerman of Suwanee, Ga.; children, Joel Zingerman of California, Karen Greer of Texas and Karla Weeden of Georgia, and much-loved grandchildren, Zoe, Julia, Jessica, Courtney, Harrison, Emily and Charles.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 31, 2015, at St. Benedict Catholic Church in Johns Creek, Ga.

Condolences may be expressed at www.mcdonaldandson.com.

Arrangements are by McDonald and Son Funeral Home, 150 Sawnee Drive, Cumming, Ga. 30040; (770) 886-9899.

January 29, 2015

Westfield Library to Host Jose Obando Salsa Trio

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Memorial Library, located at 550 East Broad Street, will present the Jose Obando Salsa Trio on Wednesday, February 4, at 7 p.m. Mr. Obando is one of the incorporators of the Salsa Museum in Spanish Harlem and its former executive director. Salsa is an American musical genre amalgamated by Nuyoricans, a combination of New Yorkers and Puerto Ricans, and Puerto Ricans in El Barrio.

Mr. Obando established Lubona Corporation, an education consultancy, and serves as the executive director. His consultancy includes the Department of Musical Instruments of The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Juilliard School, The Cathedral of St. Patrick, the New York Public Library and

Garwood Library Plans 'Recyclable' Fun

GARWOOD — The Garwood Public Library will host an arts-and-crafts event for children of Garwood residents, ages 6 to 10, on Saturday, February 7, beginning at 11 a.m. This program will be limited to 20 children, and space is restricted, so registration is required.

Award-winning journalist, author and public speaker Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta and Bridget Briant, an artist/yoga teacher/children's yoga teacher, will conduct the art session.

Whether it is making robots out of old cereal boxes, dolls out of Q-tips, puppets from old socks or "designer" footwear from old buttons, children will have an opportunity to explore their creativity during this informative, fun, interactive class.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street. Registration for this event may be done in person at the library; by calling (908) 789-1670, or at the library's interactive calendar found at its website at youseemore.com/garwood.

many other prestigious institutions. The trio will perform music from Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic as well as Latin Jazz. Among their selections will be "Guantanamo" and "Besame Mucho." The music and presentation will be followed by a dance lesson.

This program will be free and open to Westfield Memorial Library and MURAL cardholders. MURAL cardholders belong to libraries that are part of the Middlesex Union Reciprocal Agreement Libraries. Individuals seeking to find out if their library participates should check the Westfield Memorial Library website at wmlnj.org. To register for the program, visit wmlnj.org and click on the Online Calendar, or call (908) 789-4090, option 0. Library hours are 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

For more information on library programs and services, call (908) 789-4090, visit wmlnj.org and sign up for the monthly e-newsletter, "Library Loop," or stop by the library for a copy of its award-winning, quarterly newsletter, "Take Note."

Wardlaw-Hartridge To Focus on Hunger

EDISON — The Wardlaw-Hartridge (W-H) School in Edison will hold a symposium today, Thursday, January 29, to address the local, national and international causes of hunger.

The symposium will give W-H students a better understanding of what it means to be hungry, what solutions have been made, the number drop from more than a billion hungry people a decade ago to 900,000 people today, and what the root causes are for nearly 20 percent of New Jersey residents to be hungry.

For more information, call Barbara Drake, Coordinator of Sustainability, at (908) 754-1882, extension no. 139.

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Prayer to

The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me! Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads so that I may attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank You as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen.

Say this prayer on three consecutive days. Publish this prayer after the favor is granted.

A.O.B.

Prayer to

The Blessed Virgin

(Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, Fruitful Vine, Splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me! Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none who can withstand your power. Show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads so that I may attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want in this short prayer to thank You as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Amen.

Say this prayer on three consecutive days. Publish this prayer after the favor is granted.

M.M.

Professor Kedar to Discuss 'Future of the Middle East'

SCOTCH PLAINS AREA — The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey invites members of the community to attend a presentation by Professor Mordechai Kedar on "The Future of the Middle East" on Monday, February 16, beginning at 2 p.m. It will take place at Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, located at 111 Valley Road, Clark.

A professor of Arabic Studies at Bar Ilan University in Israel, Mr. Kedar has served for 25 years in the IDF Military Intelligence and is a reserve lieutenant colonel. He specializes in Islamic culture and politics. Professor Kedar is fluent in Hebrew, English and Arabic and frequently is asked for his insights by both the Israeli Knesset and the U.S. Congress.

His interview on Al Jazeera, seen by hundreds of thousands on YouTube, made him one of the few Arab-speaking advocates for Israel to be seen on Arab television.

Light refreshments will be served. The cost is \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Individuals also can sponsor this event for \$36, which includes an admission ticket, reserved

seating and dinner with Professor Kedar after the lecture.

This presentation follows Professor Kedar's standing-room-only lectures in the local area on "Understanding the Moslem Middle East" and "Jerusalem — What are the Claims all About?"

The Israel Support Committee of Central New Jersey consists of representatives from Congregation Beth Israel of Scotch Plains, Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael of Springfield, Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, Temple Shalom of Scotch Plains, Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah of Clark, Congregation Anshe Chesed of Linden and Temple Beth El/Mekor Chayim of Cranford. The committee's mission is to disseminate information about issues affecting Israel and to provide support for the people and State of Israel.

To register or obtain additional information, contact Conrad Nadell at conradwho@gmail.com or call (908) 654-3169. Checks can be made out to The Israel Support Committee and mailed to Congregation Beth Israel, 18 Shalom Way, Scotch Plains, N.J. 07076.



T. Campbell Anthony and Miss Jordan E. Deombeleg

Miss Jordan E. Deombeleg To Wed T. Campbell Anthony

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Deombeleg of Bernardsville, N.J. and Nantucket, Mass. are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Jordan Elizabeth Deombeleg of New York City, to Mr. T. Campbell Anthony of Washington, D.C. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Anthony of Westfield, N.J. and the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. B.L. Campbell and the late Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Anthony, all formerly of Westfield, N.J.

The future bride is the granddaughter of Mr. Joseph Ohidy and the late Mrs. Joseph Ohidy of Westfield, N.J. and the late Mr. and Mrs. David Orselet of West Chester, Pa.

A graduate of Morristown-Bear

School in Morristown, N.J., the bride-to-be earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and History in 2010 from Bucknell University, Lewisburg, Pa. She is the manager of the Financial Services Information Technology Division of Michael Page in New York City.

The future bridegroom graduated from the Delbarton School in Morristown, N.J. and in 2005 from Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N.C., with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business. He is an investment analyst at The Brookings Institute in Washington, D.C.

A September wedding in Nantucket, Mass. is planned.



LUNCH BUNCH...A group of women from the Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW), along with other invited friends, spent time together recently at Giovanna's Restaurant in Plainfield enjoying lunch followed by playing bridge and other card games. The WCW's recreation department sponsors this activity. Non-members are welcome to join the fun. Pictured, from left to right, are: Gladys Johnson, Joan Kirner, Marjorie Weisman, Rosemary Pramuk and Evelyn Berry.

Mountainside Seniors Club Posts St. Pat's Celebration

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Senior Citizen Club of Mountainside, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, invites members of the community to join the club for a Saint Patrick's Day celebration on Sunday, March 15.

Participants will travel by bus to Doolan's Shore Club in Spring Lake for dining and to see Mike Byrne's All Star Productions. The menu will include soup or pasta; an entrée choice of roasted herb chicken, salmon or corned beef and cabbage; sides including potatoes and mixed vegetables, and dessert, coffee and tea. There also will be a one-hour open bar.

The bus will depart at 9:45 a.m. from the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, located at 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside.

The cost for the trip is \$55. Checks should be made payable to The Senior Citizen Club of Mountainside. For further information, call Eve Vitale at (908) 789-8568.

Caregivers' Meeting To Be Held Monday

WESTFIELD — A support group for individuals who are caring for elderly or chronically ill loved ones meets on the first non-holiday Monday of every month at the parish center of St. Helen's Roman Catholic Church on Lambert's Mill Road in Westfield.

These are information and sharing sessions. The next meeting will take place on Monday, February 2. For more information, call Marilyn Ryan at (908) 232-1214.

FUMC, Family Promise Help Homeless Families

SCOTCH PLAINS — In keeping with Outreach ministry and responding to the communities' needs, the First United Methodist Church, in coordination with Family Promise of Union County, hosted homeless families at the church facility during the week of January 11 to 18. Three similar hosting events are expected to take place as the year progresses and as it has done in past years. Guests for this period included three single mothers, a single father and children ages 2, 3, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 13.

However, January's hosting event was unique. The heating system failed in all parts of the building, including all areas in which the church serves guests, making it necessary to move the families' sleeping area to the sanctuary and volunteers to the narthex.

Supporting congregations for meals, overnight supervision and general care for this venture included: Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church of Westfield; Kingdom Life Cathedral of Scotch Plains; Oasis Church of Clark; St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Westfield, and Wesley United Methodist Church of South Plainfield.

The First United Methodist Church is located at 1171 Terrill Road, Scotch Plains. For more information, call Nancy Lowrie at (908) 322-9222 or Pastor Carletta Aston at (973) 495-4303.

Westfield Area Y Announces Spring 1 Session Registration

WESTFIELD — Registration for the Westfield Area Y's Spring 1 session will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, February 5, for Gold and Silver members, and at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, February 9, for Program and non-members. The Spring 1 session runs from March 1 to April 25.

New offerings this session include My Playroom; Super Hero Fit; Future Flyers; Princess Ballet; Disc Golf Clinic; Girls Ultimate and Arts Mural Painting.

Programs for Special Health Groups this session include The Drag-onfly Program for young adults with special/adaptive needs; Delay the Disease: Exercise to Fight Parkinson's Symptoms; Arthritis Exercise Program; Project Healthy Bones for those with osteoporosis; and Special Population Personal Training.

Active Adults can discuss current and classic literature or play bridge. A variety of Lunch and Learn programs this session include "Healthy Eating/

Healthy Aging" on Wednesday, February 11; "Tech Talk" on Friday, March 13, and "River Cruising" on Wednesday, April 15. Additionally on March 13, a "Celebrate Spring Event" will be held. Advance registration is required.

The Y also continues to offer swim lessons, water fitness classes and competitive swim teams.

A range of childcare options are available with programs in Westfield, Mountainside, Garwood and Cranford.

The Westfield Area Y also offers various youth sports programs ranging from climbing and soccer to Tae Kwon Do, t-ball, ballet and fencing. Participants in the Y's Flyers Cross Country Track Club learn proper distance running technique and build cardiovascular endurance through interval training, games and drills.

For information on any programs, or to receive a complete Program Guide on all programs, services and events at the Westfield Area Y, call (908) 233-2700 or visit westfieldynj.org.

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DWC Gives Mr. Christakos Hale Volunteer Service Award

WESTFIELD — At its recent annual Holiday Open House, the Downtown Westfield Corporation (DWC) honored Jeffrey Christakos as the recipient of the Lee M. Hale Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Christakos was recognized for his volunteer service and dedication over the years as a member of the Economic Development Committee and as a volunteer at many downtown events.

The award was introduced in honor of Lee M. Hale, a Westfield resident known for his active volunteer service to many community organizations, including the DWC, having served as a board member, treasurer and chairman of the Organization Committee until his death in January 2012.

His work spanned many years since the original Main Street organization was founded in 1993. Mr. Hale was credited with many DWC accomplishments, including Westfield's win of the Great American Main Street Award in 2004 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

"Jeffrey is a thoughtful and gracious volunteer and is a huge supporter of downtown, filling the roles of property owner, business owner and resident of downtown," said Sherry Cronin, executive director of the DWC. "He is very active and engaged in the Westfield community."



Jeffrey Christakos

Lee would be proud to know that Jeff received an honor in his name."

Mr. Christakos is president of Westfield Wealth Management, based in Westfield. His firm helps individuals and families achieve their lifelong financial goals. The firm's customized services include strategic planning for tax sensitive clients and diligent investment management. Mr. Christakos is a frequent contributor to *The Wall Street Journal*, *CNBC*, *USA Today* and *Morningstar* on wealth management issues.

In the September/October 2014 issue of *New Jersey CPA* magazine, the New Jersey Society of CPAs spotlighted him

as among its members who are practicing at the highest levels in a specific accounting discipline. He was selected for his work in the field of Financial Planning. Mr. Christakos recently joined Nichols Patrick CPE as a program leader on Tax and Financial Planning Strategy courses. Nichols Patrick CPE is a recognized leader in developing and providing live seminars and web-based training for CPAs across the United States.

Mr. Christakos also is an Adjunct Professor — Financial Planning at Fairleigh Dickinson University. To learn more about Mr. Christakos and his family-based Westfield Wealth Management firm, visit westfieldwealth.com.

Annual F.O.P. Comedy Show To Take Place on March 21

MOUNTAINSIDE — The 14th Annual Comedy Show entitled "A Benefit For F.O.P." will be held on Saturday, March 21, beginning at 7 p.m., at the Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church Parish Hall, located at 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside.

F.O.P. (Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva) is a disease in which muscles, tendons and/or ligaments turn to "bone" if that particular area were to receive trauma. These new "bones" then start to grow throughout the body, and often a "second skeleton" develops within the confines of the normal skeleton.

Funds raised through the annual comedy benefit are earmarked for the designated purpose of purchasing any part of a specific "wish list" of equipment for the F.O.P. Research Lab located at the University of Pennsylvania. The generosity of those who have supported the benefit over the past 13 years has enabled the purchase of an assortment of much-needed and vital research equipment that has greatly aided the researchers at the F.O.P. Lab.

Reservations are necessary to attend the comedy show. The cost is \$50 per person, with a minimum table of eight. Special accommodations for larger groups also can be made. Individual tickets will be sold

upon availability. Attendees are invited to bring their own snacks.

Checks should be made payable to the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. Checks and reservation requirements should be mailed to: 14th Annual Comedy Show, c/o Gary W. Whyte, 289 Old Tote Road, Mountainside, N.J. 07092-1835.

Donations are accepted if individuals are unable to attend the show, and corporate sponsors and matching gifts programs also are sought. For more information, contact Gary Whyte at gwhyte982@gmail.com.

Women's Heart Health To Be Program Topic

FANWOOD — A free women's heart health fair will be held on Friday, February 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at The Chelsea at Fanwood, located at 295 South Avenue.

Sponsored by The Chelsea and the Little Hearts Big World Training Center, this event will include speakers, a mini yoga class, blood pressure checks, healthy food cooking demonstrations, a raffle and some healthy snacks. For more details, go to the Little Hearts Big World Training Center page on Facebook at facebook.com/pages/Little-Hearts-Big-World-Training-Center/394731350624641.

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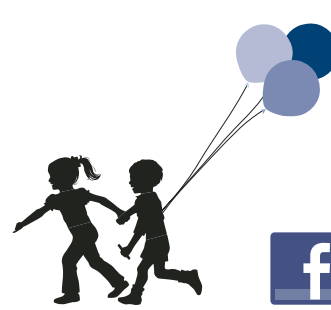
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THE WEEK IN SPORTS

Sports Section
Pages 9-14

MELE SINKS 16 PTs, LaCORTE 13 PTs, MURRAY 11 PTs

St. Mary's Cagers Hold On, Edge Blue Devil Boys, 58-55

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Five top-20 teams in Union County and the Westfield High School boys basketball team has come within a gnat's eyelash of toppling two of them. The first came in a one-point loss to previously top-20 ranked Union Catholic on January 13 then on January 20 in Westfield, the Blue Devils took it to the final seconds with the No. 20 St. Mary's (Eliza-

beth) Highlanders only to experience a 58-55 setback.
"We came up short. It's frustrating, because we feel like we are right there against a lot of these teams that are more talented than us, bigger than us and more athletic. We feel one of these times we are going to break through and knock somebody off," Blue Devil Head Coach Daryl Palmieri said.
The 6-5 Blue Devils also had an

opening season loss to the Highlanders on December 20.
"Frankly, they shot the ball well today. Last time we played, they really didn't shoot the ball much. We kind of said if they are going to beat us, let's make them beat us from the outside. They made some outside shots," Coach Palmieri said.
The Blue Devils did have spurts of offensive brilliance, especially in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



DRIBBLING PAST A HILLTOPPER...Blue Devil senior Danny Mitchell, No. 13, dribbles around a St. Mary's Hilltopper at Westfield High School on January 20. The Hilltoppers held off the Blue Devils, 58-55.



More photos at Ballyhoo Sports

WATCHING THE LOOSE BALL...Blue Devils Lil Scott, No. 20, and Jackie Knapp, No. 2, and Raider Micaiah Battle keep an eye on the loose ball. The Blue Devils defeated the Raiders, 55-40, in Westfield on January 22.

SCOTT BUCKETS 23, STEALS 7; KNAPP 18 PTs, 4 THEFTS

Blue Devils' 'Thievery' Clips Lady Raider Cagers, 55-40

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times
Featuring the "Jaq and Lil Show", the Westfield High School girls basketball team found much success converting steals to assists that led to easy lay-ups and a 55-40 victory over the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders in Westfield on January 22. As a team, the Lady Blue Devils totaled 17 steals and seniors Jackie Knapp and Lil Scott combined for 11 of them.
That combination allowed Scott (7

steals, 3 assists, 4 rebounds) to put in 23 points, including three 3-pointers, and Knapp (4 steals, 3 assists, 5 rebounds) to sink 18 points, including 4-for-5 from the line. Additionally, junior forward Shannon Devitt (4 points, 7 rebounds) added a pair of steals and a pair of assists. Junior Olivia Luzzi (5 points, rebound, block) had a steal and two assists. Danielle Rinaldi and Grace Elliott each had two points, and Amalia Montes added one point. Jamie Miller

had an assist and a steal.
"Our defensive plan for the game was to definitely jump them. Lil and I were playing on the top and we knew we could count on the people behind us, if we decided to take a gamble and jump the girls, to rotate and cover our backs. We were able to take a lot more risks, which generated a lot more steals," Knapp said. "And we do look for each other for easy lay-ups."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

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BLUE DEVIL BOYS, RAIDER GIRLS SET RECORD IN 200MR

Blue Devil Boys, Raider Girls Win UCT Swim Championship

The Westfield High School boys and the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls captured their respective Union County swim championships at Rutgers University in Piscataway on January 25. The boys meet was mostly a battle between the Blue Devils with 482 points and the Raiders at 443, while the girls meet was a three way battle with the Raiders (362), Blue Devils (308.5) and Cranford (259).

For the boys, Blue Devils Aedan Collins and Stephen Husch were double individual winners, while Raider Alex Skoog also was a double winner. The Raiders won three individual events, while the Blue Devils won four individual events.

Kevin Clauss, Husch, John Lindros and Ryan Daniel won the 200-Medley Relay with a meet record time of 1:36.95. The Raiders took second at 1:38.61. Collins touched first in the 200-freestyle at 1:45.87, followed by Raider Eric Chang at 1:48.6 and Blue Devils Griff Morgan at 1:48.74 and Ryan Bebel at 1:50.61. Raider Kevin Fleck finished sixth at 1:52.59.

Raider Nolan Kearns took top honors in the 200-Individual Medley with a time of 1:56.52. Clauss was second at 1:58.56, followed by Raider Chris Bondarowicz at 2:01.69 and Blue Devil Jack Rose at 2:01.87. Blue Devil Lucas Fan took sixth at 2:05.21. Dave Hua (New Providence) won the 50-free at a meet record 21.54, followed by John Lindros at 21.94, Cougar Matt Kaczynski at 21.95, Raider Matt Marino at 22.13, Ryan Daniel at 22.58 and Raider Nick Heath at 22.68.

Husch took first in the 100-fly at 53.35, followed by Marino at 53.6. Ryan Daniel took fourth at 54.39 and Colin Daniel took sixth at 55.37. Skoog won the 100-free at 47.07, followed by John Lindros at 47.64, Kaczynski at 48.47, Heath at 49.66, Ryan Bebel at 49.72 and Raider Mike Rash at 49.91. Collins won the 500-free with a time of 4:52.74. Raider Fleck finished fourth at 4:59.04, followed by Morgan at 4:59.14 and Blue Devil Nick Youssef at 5:03.58.

The 200-free relay ended up in a tie with Blue Devils J. Lindros, E. Bebel, Collins and R. Daniel, and Raiders Marino, Kearns, Rash and Heath at 1:29.46. Skoog won the 100-backstroke at 52.52, followed by Clauss at 53.96, Dave Lindros at

54.45, Chang at 54.82 and Rose at 55.58. Husch won the 100-breaststroke at 59.12. Bondarowicz took third at 59.72, followed by Kearns at 1:00.54 and Blue Devils Steve Warren at 1:01.19 and Stefan Crigler at 1:01.86. Rash, JB Walling, Chang and Kearns won the 400-free relay at 3:19.58, followed by Westfield at 3:19.86.

In the girls' events, Raider Sarah Davis won two events. First she won the 50-free at 23.76, followed by Cougars Isabella DeSimone at 24.64 and Emily Wilson at 24.77. Raider Amanda Banasiak placed fifth at 24.95. Davis also won the 100-free at 51.82. Wilson took fourth at 53.86 and DeSimone took fifth at 54.74.

Cougar Julie Byrne also won two events, which included breaking her own meet record in the 200IM with a time of 2:05.74. Blue Devil Caroline Basil touched fourth at 2:12.02, followed by Raider Rachel Maizes at 2:13.9. Byrne also took first in the 100-fly at 56.76. Raider Stephanie Judge took third at 58.35.

Erica Wirth (New Providence) set two meet records. She won the 200-free at 1:52.48 (Raider Isabella Iacona was fifth a 2:01.389 and Blue Devil

Courtney Day was sixth at 2:01.74) then she touched first in the 500-free at 4:57.64. Iacona was third at 5:20.07, followed by Cougar Sarah Turkavage at 5:24.15 and Blue Devils Amy West at 5:24.82 and Emily McGann at 5:26.43.

Raiders Erika Frasier, Rachel Brown, Judge and Davis won the 200-MR with a meet record time of 1:47.53. Cranford took second at 1:48.73 and Westfield took fourth at 1:50.19. Banasiak, Judge, Maya Dunchus and Maizes finished first in the 200-free relay at 1:39.29, followed by Westfield at 1:39.49. Kathleen Miszkiewicz (Oak Knoll) won the 100-backstroke at 56.7, followed by Basil at 58.51. Judge took fourth at 59.58, followed by Blue Devil Muriel Maloney at 1:01.45.

Reeve Lanigan (New Providence) won the 100-breaststroke at 1:07.76, followed by Blue Devil Gwyn Devin at 1:07.83 and Maizes at 1:08.37. New Providence's Sara Misiukiewicz, Isabelle Malinowski, Wirth and Donnelly won the 400-free relay in 3:34.84. Cranford took second at 3:37.29, followed by the Raiders at 3:37.77. Westfield took fifth at 3:46.28.

Blue Devil Matmen Stun Highlanders by Criteria

Just six days after one of its most dismal performances in the Union County Tournament (UCT) the Westfield High School wrestling team quickly regrouped to stun the Governor Livingston (GL) Highlanders, who were coming off one of their best UCT performances, by a 38-37 criteria in Westfield on January 23. Both teams won seven weight classes, but the Blue Devils prevailed in head-to-head match-ups due to the Highlanders receiving three forfeits, while Westfield received just one.

As to the UCT on January 17, the Blue Devils, who also defeated Linden on January 21, finished in a tie for last with Plainfield, accumulating only 52 points, while the Highlanders placed second with a total of 159. Additionally, the Highlanders claimed one champion, one second place finisher and three third place finishers, while the Blue Devils claimed only one second place finisher and a third place.

With the dual meet beginning with the 138-lb bout, the Highlanders got a 6-0 team jump when Quinn Haddad pinned Ben Kwok in 1:42. At 145-lbs, GL's Turner Haddad decided Kevin Miller, 3-0, then at 152-lbs, GL's Nick DeLuca received a forfeit to make the team score, 15-0. Jarek Gozdieski put the Blue Devils on the scoreboard when he pinned Mike Rhodes in 3:56 at 160-lbs.

Blue Devil Devin Anderson followed at 170-lbs with a 1:49 fall over Sam Burke. GL's Jack Blasch

received a forfeit at 182-lbs then Blue Devil Phil Ricca received a forfeit at 195-lbs. Cotter Spurlock put Westfield into a 24-21 lead when he pinned Ben Collins in 32 seconds at 220-lbs, but Sean Tomlinson put GL back on top, 27-24, when he received a forfeit at 285-lbs.

Blue Devil Chris Hoerle knotted the team score when he earned a 3-1 decision over Jake Pecorelli at 106-lbs. GL's Nick Mele, the UCT champion at 113-lbs, pinned Zach Rabinowitz in 1:51 then Danny Hoerle retied the team score when he pinned Matt Hoy in 1:47 at 120-lbs. John Fuller claimed a 14-4, major decision over GL's Andrew Gallitelli at 126-lbs then GL's Austin Senkarik claimed a 14-6, major decision over Al Dente at 132-lb to tie the team score at 37-37 prior to the criteria.

Cougar Cagers Topple Lady Hilltoppers, 54-44

Junior Lindsay Pace paced the Cranford High School girls basketball team past the Summit Hilltoppers with a team-high 16 points, including two 3-pointers, on January 22. Pace also had six rebounds, three steals an assist and a blocked shot.

Cougar Camryn Wilhelm sank 15 points, including a 3-pointer, and added five rebounds, three steals, two assists and a block. Sarah Ross, who had four points with a 3-pointer, dished out four assists and added four rebounds and two steals. Julia Schork netted four points, four rebounds, three blocks and an assist. Bela Speer had three points, five rebounds and a block, while Katarina Polyviou had two points, two rebounds and a pair of assists, and Lisa Silvestrini added two points and two rebounds. Cassidy O'Malley led the Hilltoppers with 18 points and Christina Richson put in 12 points.

Summit	12	8	14	10	44
Cranford	19	5	14	16	54



Devil's Den

You Can't Judge a Book By Looking at the Cover

By BRUCE JOHNSON
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

When you see scores in a newspaper they can be deceiving, oftentimes extremely so. And that goes even more for headlines.

When the WHS boys tennis team beat Christian Brothers Academy, 4-1, in the 1978 All-Groups final, you see the score and you might think, 'Wow, 4-1, it was an easy win.' But all five matches went three sets. And the winning third sets at second and third singles were both by a 7-6 margin. That 4-1 victory "wasthisclose" to being a 3-2 loss.

The 2002 swim team "rolled" to a 97-73 sectional final "rout" of Vernon. Well, not exactly. Yes, the score was a 24-point difference, but Vernon won eight of the 11 events. It's just that the Vikings were outscored 33-11 in the three races they didn't win. Otherwise, the meet was a tossup.

The great tennis team of 2007 also "wasthisclose" to losing to West Windsor-Plainsboro South in the Group 4 final before posting a 3-2 win. Wins were by Ravi Netravali 6-7, 7-6, 6-4 at second singles, and the teams of first dubs Akis Evangelidis and Dean Thompson 6-3, 6-4 and second dubs Graeme Stahl and Justin Snyder 6-0, 7-6 were the narrow difference.

Or how about this past Thanksgiving morning, when Westfield completely dominated Plainfield from start to finish, yet was one slipped tackle from defeat all game, and was forced into overtime before winning, 6-0. Plainfield had negative yards for the snow-filled game and WHS moved the ball at will, but a glance at the newspaper the next day would make you think it was a close game.

There are literally hundreds of results over the years where the score of the event was no indication of its competitiveness, or lack thereof.

And so it was that last Thursday morning, when the newspaper headline read "No. 1 CBA cruises past No. 2 Westfield." To cruise past makes it sound like a walk in the park. The final score was 98-72, and there was mistaking CBA's claim to its top ranking. But I knew there would be phone calls coming from Faithful Readers Steve from Washington and Jeff from Pittstown about how WHS had been clobbered. And, like clockwork, both calls came.

What they didn't know, and what that score and especially that headline, didn't show was how well the Blue Devils swam.

"We power pointed 4,934 in a 26-point loss," coach Jeff Knight said.

Power points are a system that gives each swimmer's, or each relay's time a point equivalent; the faster the time, the more power points. It's a great indicator of how someone swam, rather than "he finished fourth."

There was a time when 4,000 power points in a dual meet were like running a four-minute mile once was, or high jumping 7 feet. It was usually unreachable, and then mostly only in the state finals, when everybody is at an emotional peak.

But high school swimmers have gotten significantly faster over the past decade, and now 5,000 power points has become the unreachable number... at least before CBA did it on Wednesday. WHS's 4,934 is a state public school record.

To do what CBA and WHS did, in a mid-season dual meet at the Raritan Bay Y, was pretty spectacular.

Westfield, the three-time defending state Public A champion, swims against teams like Bergen Catholic and CBA, the five-time reigning state Non-Public A champions, to create "power point meets" that will earn the highest seed possible in next

month's state tournament.

Westfield and CBA have met 12 times since the first meeting in 1994. The Colts have won 11 of the 12, though there have been some close ones - 90-80 in '94, 88-82 in '95, 92-78 in '14. WHS's only win was 89-81 in 2009.

The Blue Devils opened last Wednesday's meet with a school record in the 200 medley relay. The foursome of Kevin Clauss, Stephen Husch, John Lindros and Eric Bebel clocked 1:37.18, breaking a 23-year-old mark. The previous record of 1:37.28 was set by Darren Hertell, Dave Schwartz, Tom Mann and Sean Schafer in the 1992 state Group A championship victory that ended St. Joseph's 12-year reign as state champs.

And the record before that was set back in 1965, 28 years earlier, when John Ketcham, Dave Perkowski, Harvey Gerber and Peter Heesch won the state title in 1:39.50. That foursome also captured the YMCA national championship a month later. Ketcham had a legendary career at Wesleyan; Perkowski, who swam at Indiana, was at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics; Gerber swam collegiately at Yale, and Heesch competed at West Point, and later in the jungles of Vietnam.

WHS also got a sub-1:40 out of its 'B' medley team of Dave Lindros, Stefan Crigler, Colin Daniel and Ryan Daniel, who were third in 1:39.66.

Sophomore Aedan Collins went 1:44.17 to win the 200 freestyle in a race that saw CBA's third swimmer (the fourth-place finisher) clock a 1:46.68. Collins' time is No. 4 on WHS's Top 15 List. And his 48.56 in the 100 free was No. 12 and bumped 2004 speedster Ryan Bartholomew out of the Top 15.

Clauss finished second in the 200 individual medley in 1:58.28, No. 5 on the Top 15 List. The names he's behind are Hertell, Pat Daurio, Tim Romano and Chris McFadden - four all-timers!

Knight later moved Clauss from his normal 100 backstroke and put in the 500 free. "We knew CBA was gonna probably get 1-2 in the back, so we tried to go 1-2 in the 500," Knight said. Lindros won the event and Clauss was third, just .11 of a second from second. But his time of 4:49.84 was No. 7 in school history, and his time damped Paul Kolterjahn out of the Top 10.

It was Kolterjahn's 4:53.54 at the 2000 state semifinals that remains one of the all-time legendary upsets in WHS swimming history. Kolterjahn cut 19 seconds from his previous best time to upset Somerset County champion Glenn Sudol (younger brother of Hillsborough coach Todd Sudol) and win the 500 free in an event that was the lynchpin of a stunning, 86-84 victory over Bridgewater-Raritan. And it set the stage for the shocking state final win over Cherry Hill East.



Dave Perkowski (right) gets off to a quick start en route to winning the 100-yard breaststroke at the 1965 YMCA National Championships at the Wallace Pool. That was one of the races that ignited the Westfield Y to the first of its back-to-back national titles. Note that the starting blocks were at the shallow end then. Also note the scaffolding where the judges and timers were located.

Cougar Matmen Rap Minutemen, 45-21

The Cranford High School wrestling team won nine of the 13 contested bouts to defeat the Elizabeth Minutemen, 45-21, on January 23.

- BOUT SEQUENCE:**
 182: — Niko Cappello (C) p Dan Stewart, 0:29
 195: — Quincy McCallum (E) d Nick Ballas, 6:3
 220: — Dave Tobe (E) d Alex Esposito, OT SV
 Hwt: — Lloyd Jackson (E) p Kevin Doran, 5:03
 106: — No match
 113: — Mike Anaya (E) p Jake Quinn, :24
 120: — Tom DiGiovanni (C) p Kevin Bazan, 3:17
 126: — Chris Scorese (C) p Ancyto Valcin, 4:21
 132: — Vince Concina (C) p Ruben Martinez, 3:28
 138: — Mike Nigro (C) d Ruben Arias, 9:2
 145: — Brian McGovern (C) p Malachi Dye, 1:01
 152: — Gavin Murray (C) p Reggie Adams, 3:30
 160: — Andrew Tompkins (C) p Shaquille Mars, 1:39
 170: — Eden Germain (E) d Dylan Budnik, 5:3

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SPF Raider Grapplers Take Down Brearley Bears, 48-19

By ALEX LOWE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Scotch Plains-Fanwood dominated the David Brearley High School Bears with a 48-19 victory in wrestling action on January 21 at Scotch Plains. Wrestling for the second time in two days, the Raiders scored seven victories by falls in the superior performance. Sam Wustefeld, Brandon Miguelino, Jaylen Bryant, Frank DiNizo, Justin Sidebottom, Jack Cannon and William Benavides got credit for six points each in pinning their opponents.

"I'm happy with the performance," said Raider Head Coach Thomas Gavor. "We had a pretty big win over Edison last night so we had to juggle the line-up a little bit tonight. We gave some kids a rest like Alex Mirabella and Tom Cunningham. We had other guys step up and do a nice job for us."

Brearley's Charley Buckley started off the evening well for the Bears, earning three points by virtue of his 7-3 decision over Nicholas Palazzolo at 138 pounds. Buckley controlled the action, scoring two points on a takedown midway through the first period and again in the second period on his way to an impressive win.

After Scotch Plains-Fanwood's JT Beirne was awarded six points for a forfeit at 145 pounds, the Raiders really got rolling. At 152 pounds, Wustefeld got the run of falls started by besting Aly Mohamed in 4:14. Wustefeld was well on his way to victory when he got the fall, already

leading 9-0 after the second period.

Miguelino followed at 160 pounds, earning a quick fall over Brearley's Kevin Wheat in 1:23. Trailing 18-3, The Bears got a victory at 170 pounds when Eoghan Savona scored a 4-0 decision over George Ramos. Still the result could be looked at as disappointing for the Bears given that Savona finished second in the Union County Tournament. Ramos hung in there and kept Brearley from earning six points in a spot where they expected to get a fall.

Bryant got the Raiders back on track with a pinfall victory over Nick Nazario in 1:44 at 182 pounds.

"Jalen Bryant did a nice job in his match," said Gavor. "He really controlled the opponent. He has been on a tear lately."

At 195 pounds, Frank DiNizo scored bonus points for the Raiders with his pin fall victory over Nicholas James in 1:24. The win gave Scotch Plains a commanding 30-6 advantage. "Frank DiNizo stepped up nicely," said Gavor. "It was good to see him perform like that as it was his first big varsity effort. He moved up to wrestle at 195 for us. Real solid performance."

Brearley stud Salverio Salcfas stopped the bleeding for the Bears at 220 pounds. The UCT champ bested Raider Christopher McMahon via fall at 2:13. After a double forfeit at 285 pounds, Raider Sidebottom defeated Rebecca Pizuto via fall (5:14) at 106 pounds.

At 113 pounds Brearley's Emanuel Montero rode the momentum estab-

lished in scoring two first period takedowns to defeat SP-F's Jacob Perone via 8-0 major decision. In one of the more impressive performances of the evening, Raider freshman Cannon scored a fall over Kevin Scozzarro in 2:24 at 120 pounds.

"I turned right away and caught him on his back," said Cannon. "I secured him and put an arm bar on him. I'm glad I was able to score points for us tonight. Being a freshman it is not easy to make your mark. I'm just looking for opportunities to help this team."

Benavides earned a fall in 5:05 over Liam Savona at 126 pounds. Benavides was in complete control throughout the match. In the final bout of the evening, Tim Murphy earned three points for Brearley via a 7-2 decision over Guilliame Hardin at 132 pounds. Murphy was a second place finisher in the UCT and had an opportunity to score six points for Brearley but a game effort by Hardin kept the total to three points.

The win improved SP-F's record to 10-6. Brearley fell to 4-9.

- 138: Buckley (B) d Palazzolo, 7-3
- 145: Beirne (S) won forfeit
- 152: Wustefeld (S) p Mohamed, 4:14
- 160: Miguelino (S) p Wheat, 1:23
- 170: Savona (B) d Ramos, 4-0
- 182: Bryant (S) p Nazario, 1:44
- 195: Frank DiNizo (S) p James, 1:24
- 220: Salcfas (B) p McMahon, 2:13
- 285: Double Forfeit
- 106: Sidebottom (S) p Pizuto, 5:14
- 113: Montero (B) md Perone, 8-0
- 120: Cannon (S) p Scozzarro, 2:24
- 126: Benavides (S) p Savona, 5:05
- 132: Murphy (B) d Hardin, 7-2

LEONARD PUMPS IN 12 POINTS, NORTON NOTCHES 10

G.L. Highlander Boys Rout Cougars in Basketball, 68-44

By ALEX LOWE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Long-range gunner Robert Imbalzano scored 33 points for Governor Livingston (7-4) as the Highlanders made quick work of Cranford, 68-44, on January 20 in Cranford. The 6'7" super senior poured in 21 points during the first half and knocked down five 3-point attempts for the game. The Cougars meanwhile were paced by Sean Leonard (12 points) and Joe Norton (10 points). "He [Imbalzano] shot the ball really well for them and that was a big part of the problem for us," said Cou-

gar Head Coach Ryan Huber. "It is not every night you see a high school kid go 5-for-5 from beyond the three point line. He is tall kid, 6'8" or something like that, but it is still a matter of simply matching up and challenging the shot. We didn't do that very well tonight."

In an earlier match-up this season, won by Governor Livingston, 46-36, the Cougars held Imbalzano to just seven points. It was a different story this time around. Imbalzano started off the game hot and stayed that way. He drained a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers to give GL a 6-2 lead in the

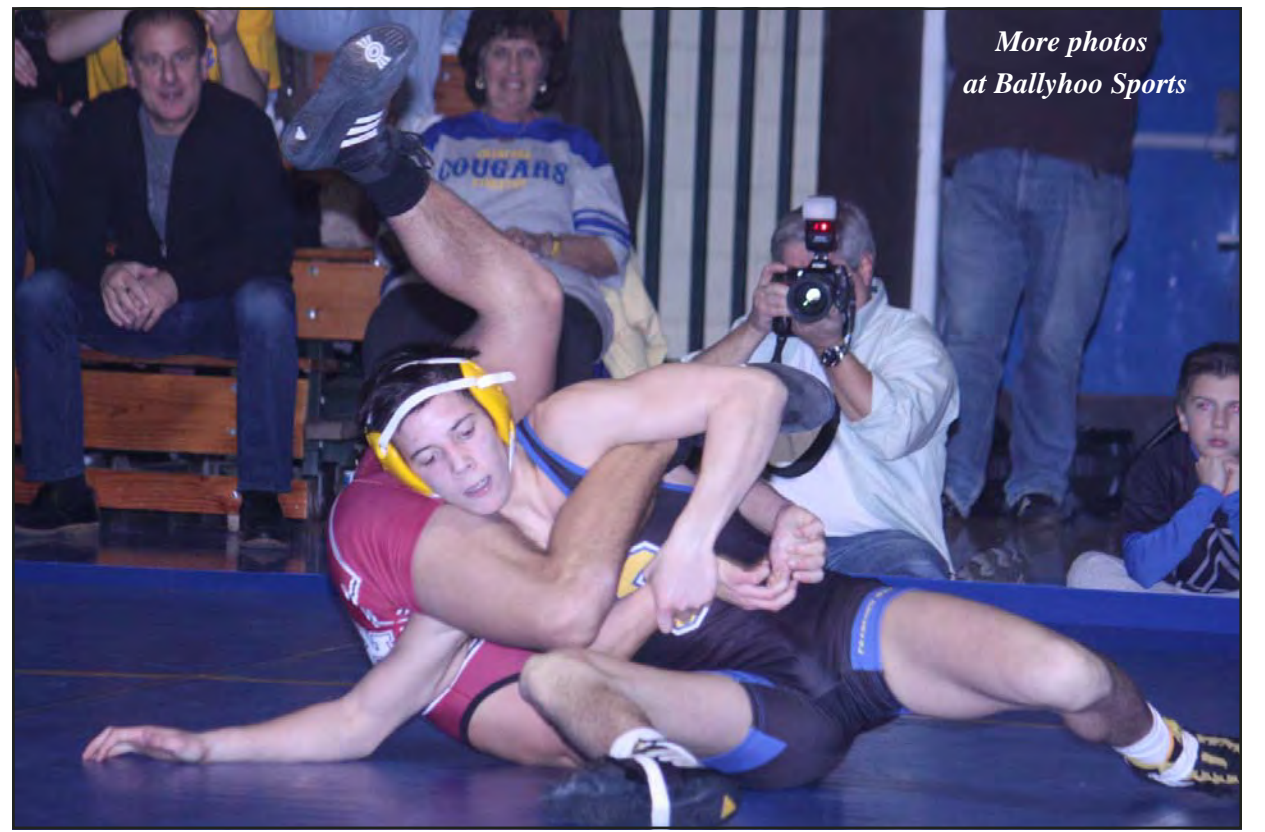
first minute and a half of play. Imbalzano finished with 10 points in the quarter as the Highlanders built a 19-14 lead.

Imbalzano then sank a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers to start the second quarter, putting the Cougars in a 25-14 hole. It was not just Imbalzano though. Time and again in the first half, Highlander players found their way behind the Cranford defense on quick cuts to the basket for easy layups. GL ruled on the backboards and in the paint with John Iorio and Jimmy Longo scoring on post up moves and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12



CONCENTRATING ON HIS SHOT...Cougar Joe Norton concentrates on his free throw in the game against the Governor Livingston Highlanders in Cranford on January 20. The Highlanders beat the Cougars, 68-44.



More photos at Ballyhoo Sports

COMING AROUND FOR THE TAKEDOWN...Cougar Vince Concina puts Panther Mike Figueredo in a bad way in the first period of his 132-lb bout. Concina defeated Figueredo, 9-5, and Cranford beat Roselle Park, 36-21.

NIGRO STUNS GERGICH, GURAL (106) BEATS CAPECE

Cougars Top Panther Matmen In 'Alumni Night' Mat Rivalry

By DAVID B. CORBIN
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Alumni Night! Traditional rivalry! Packed house! The stage was set for some outstanding performances and they happened in the Cranford High School wrestling team's 36-21 victory over Roselle Park in Cranford on January 21.

The most outstanding performance came five bouts into the match at 145-lbs when Cougar sophomore Mike Nigro jumped up from the JV squad to face Josh Gergich, one of the Panthers' toughest wrestlers. After yielding a takedown and an escape and trailing, 3-1, Nigro reached deep down inside and recorded a takedown to knot the score at the end of two periods then added an escape and another takedown to claim a 6-3 victory.

"Mike Nigro would start varsity on a lot of teams in our county. It's just that he's in a spot where we got a lot of tough kids all crammed into a couple of weights. I try to get him in when I can, because he is a gamer and

Raider Matmen Quiet Edison in Final Bout

Trailing by three team points entering the final bout, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School wrestling team turned out the lights on Edison, 31-28, when Jaylen Bryant pinned Chris Cuevas in 27 second at 182-lbs in Scotch Plains on January 20.

- 195: Alex Mirabella (S) won forfeit
- 220: Vladimir Torres (E) p Karl Williams, 5:34
- 285: Keith Serio (E) p Chris McMahon, 1:13
- 106: Justin Sidebottom (S) d Ryan Maurath, 11-8
- 113: Nadin Korkmaz (S) d Julian Burke, 7-3
- 120: Robert Cleary (E) md Jack Cannon, 14-5
- 126: Peter Tomasino (E) d Jashmar Philippe, 10-6
- 132: Tom Cunningham (S) p Ryan Naiduk, 4:20
- 138: JT Beirne (S) md Joseph Montouro, 9-1
- 145: Brian Lapham (S) d William Povalac, 3-1
- 152: Eric Nolan (E) d Sam Wustefeld, 7-3
- 160: Rus Rivella (E) d Julio Devia, 9-7
- 170: Alexander Robinson (E) d George Ramos, 7-3
- 182: Jaylen Bryant (S) p Christopher Cuevas, 0:27

can do things like that. He works extremely hard in the room. That pays off in a match like tonight when everyone in town is here to see."

Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said. "He [Coach Gorman] told me to stay physical. I am used to being on the JV team and coach pulled me up because he believed in me," Nigro said. "He told me, 'I trust you and I know that you work hard enough. I know you are going to win this match if you believe that you can win this match.' I was on the mat. I was coughing. I felt like I couldn't do it anymore then I just remembered that coach believed in me and my teammates believed in me and that I could push through for them, for me and everybody else watching."

The match began in the 120-lb class and Cougar Tom DiGiovanni put six points on the scoreboard when he turned George Perez with an Olympic arm bar and pinned him in 2:40 with a double grapevine/head smother. A calculator was needed in the 126-lb bout when Cougar Chris Scorese amassed three takedowns, three nearfalls and two escapes before settling Sean Daly in 4:43 also with a double grapevine.

The next two bouts were ones that many wanted to watch closely. At 132-lbs, Cougar Vince Concina got a 4-0 jump on Mike Figueredo with a takedown followed by a Turk ride to a tilt. In the third period, Figueredo battled back with a pair of takedowns and an escape, but during that spurt, Concina added three escapes and a takedown to win, 9-5.

At 138-lbs, Cougar Dave Busch used his snaky moves to his advantage to record a takedown, a step over reversal and another takedown to defeat Andy Santamaria, 6-0. After Nigro won his bout, Cougar Brian McGovern jumped up to 152-lbs and recorded an ankle pick takedown, an escape and another takedown to top Dave Forstenhauser, 5-3. At 160-lbs, Cougar Gavin Murray recorded three takedowns and a standing reversal to defeat a stubborn Joe Devito, 8-2, to give the Cougars a 27-0 lead at the midway point of the match.

Another highly observed bout came at 170-lbs between Panther Bradley Carle, third in the county at that

weight, and Andrew Tompkins, second at 160-lbs. Carle got the jump with a takedown and went on to grab a 3-0 decision. The 182-lb bout was quick when Cougar Niko Cappello clamped Carey Mimy with a cradle in 1:08.

At 195-lbs, Panther Will Ferdinando had a 5-1 lead but was stunned temporarily when Dylan Budnik took him to his back with a double-leg takedown for a four-point move. Ferdinando recovered and pinned Budnik in 3:36 with a half nelson. At 220-lbs, Cougar Nick Ballas escaped in the third period to nip Tyler Loneker, 1-0.

The 285-lb bout became the longest of the evening when Panther Sebastian Leo and Alex Esposito went to overtime tied 3-3, but Leo got the takedown to win, 5-3.

The 106-lb bout between Panther Chris Gural and Anthony Capece had much on the line with reference to seeding for the Region 3 tournament. Gural, who defeated Capece only four days earlier for the county title, proved he was worthy when he turned Capece with a power half for three points and added an escape to earn a 4-0 victory.

The final bout of the evening at 113-lbs ended when Panther Jon Mejia pinned Jake Quinn in 1:40 with a tight waist/half nelson.

"We have a very talented squad and we are young. I knew there was going to be some bumping around. I wasn't sure who they were going to send at Niko when we lost [170-lbs], but we were ready to go toe-to-toe with whoever they were going to send out," Coach Gorman said. "We have a long season left. It's a building point after winning the counties that we didn't come down after that highlight. We got the job done."

- BOUT SEQUENCE:**
- 120: — DiGiovanni (C) p Perez, 2:40
 - 126: — Scorese (C) p Daly, 4:43
 - 132: — Concina (C) d Figueredo, 9-5
 - 138: — Busch (C) d Santamaria, 6-0
 - 145: — Nigro (C) d Gergich, 6-3
 - 152: — McGovern (C) d Forstenhauser, 5-3
 - 160: — Murray (C) d Devito, 8-2
 - 170: — Carle (P) d Tompkins, 3-1
 - 182: — Cappello (C) p Mimy, 1:08
 - 195: — Ferdinando (P) p Budnik, 3:36
 - 220: — Ballas (C) d Loneker, 1-0
 - Hwt: — Leo (P) d Esposito, 5-3 OT
 - 106: — Gural (P) d Capece, 4-0
 - 113: — Mejia (P) p Quinn, 1:40

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Alex Lowe for The Westfield Leader and The Times

MAKING ALL THREE OF HIS FREE THROWS...Blue Devil senior Sean Elliott, left, made all three of his free throws after being fouled on a 3-point attempt against the Raiders. The Blue Devils defeated the Raiders, 66-54, on January 22.

RAIDER RAMOS SCORES 29; WF's HESS, MELE 15 EACH

Blue Devil Boys Jump Early, Defeat Raider Cagers, 66-54

By ALEX LOWE
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Starting time for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School boys basketball team seemed to be 7:15, but the visiting Westfield Blue Devils began their game at 7:00 p.m. and raced to a 25-9 first-quarter lead en route to a 66-54 victory on January 22.

"We played well tonight, but once again we had lapses," said Raider Head Coach Dan Doherty. "We fell way behind very early in the game and gradually we crept closer and closer, but Westfield is too good to expect to be able to rally from that kind of deficit."

While the Raiders started slowly, Westfield (7-5) had no such problems. Back-to-back 3-pointers by junior guard Parker Hess helped the Blue Devils build a 10-0 lead two minutes into the contest. A 3-pointer by Raider junior Marquel Taylor made it 10-3, but it would be the only interruption in a 19-3 run by the visitors. Westfield nailed three 3-pointers in the quarter and committed three steals that led to fast break baskets.

"We were just not ready to play in the first quarter," said Raider junior Aaron Lee. "For whatever reason, we were flat footed on defense and we did not do a good job boxing out to prevent second chance baskets. On offense, we were standing around too

often, not running our motion. We came together after that, but it was too late."

The 3-9 Raiders awakened in the second quarter. Trailing 28-9, the Raiders began to run their offense with purpose and fought for rebounds that were uncontested earlier. Back-to-back lay-ups by senior guard Leo Ramos and Taylor were part of an 8-2 run that helped the Raiders close the gap to 35-21 at the half.

Despite inching closer to the Blue Devils by halftime, the Raiders were having trouble getting their ace scorer untracked. Ramos, who averages 23.8 points per game and scored 57 points in a game earlier this season, had just 10 points at the break.

"We did a real nice job on him," said Westfield Head Coach Daryl Palmieri. "Even in the second half when he began to heat up for them, he had to create a lot of shots for himself. It was a real credit to him and the kind of scorer he is that he was able to do that."

Ramos finished the game with a game-high 29 points, which included a couple of acrobatic twisting lay-ups. Westfield, meanwhile, was getting a balanced scoring effort across its starting unit. Hess and junior Nick Mele led the way with 15 points, while junior Owen Murray chipped in with 14 points. Mele was particularly effective by scoring on drives through the lane and along the baseline that broke down the Raiders' defense.

"Nick is starting to feel good about himself right about now," said Palmieri. "He had some rough spots early in the season, but he is playing better right now. We are a better team when he is playing well. He needs to string together a few games in a row and that would be great for his confidence."

The gains the Raiders made in the second quarter were quickly lost at the start of the third period. An 8-2 burst helped the Blue Devils build a 20-point spread at 43-23. The three-minute sequence included Westfield senior Sean Elliott (9 points) converting on 3-of-3 foul shots after being fouled on a three-point attempt.

"Again, another bad stretch to start that third quarter and we are back in a deep hole," said Doherty. "Westfield has some good players. Number 23 [Mele] is very athletic and Parker Hess drilled a lot of three point shots for them. For us, moving forward, it is about hustle. We've got to box out and we've got to stay disciplined. We've got to want it as much as they do."

The Raiders spent the rest of the third quarter chipping away at the 20-point deficit. A pair of free throws by Ramos at the end of the quarter cut the lead to 50-35. The Raiders then got as close as nine, cutting the score to 59-50 after a 3-pointer by Ramos with 3:17 remaining. But a lay-up by Mele, followed by a put back by Murray and a back breaking 3-pointer by Hess with 1:45 left was enough to seal the deal for Westfield as they charged back out to a 66-50 lead.

Blue Devil Matt LaCorte finished with eight points, including a pair of 3-pointers. Pat McCormack had three points and Jelani Pierre had two points. Taylor finished with seven points, Aaron Lee sank 12 points, Dan Lopez netted four points and Emendo Thomas added two points.

"We are used to playing teams that are bigger and more physical than we are," said Coach Palmieri. "Tonight that wasn't the case. We were bigger than they were and while they played hard, we were able to exploit that advantage. We are getting better as a team when it comes to rebounding the ball. Tonight we did a really good job in that respect."

St. Mary's Cagers Edge Blue Devil Boys, 58-55

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

second quarter when they outscored St. Mary's, 17-11, to grab a 29-27 halftime lead. Juniors Owen Murray and Nick Mele took turns driving to the basket and finished by putting English on the ball to spin it into the basket. Mele sank four of his team-leading 16 points in the quarter, while Murray spun in six of his 11 points. Murray, who had four assists, also had six rebounds and blocked two shots. Mele, who had two assists, grabbed five rebounds, made five steals and added four deflections.

"That's the kind of group we have. We have some kids, who have ability. I love my kids. They battle. They are half their size and they still go to war with them to win these rebounds," Coach Palmieri said.

Sophomore Matt LaCorte (2 rebounds) also held a hot hand and scored eight of his 13 points in the first half, with five in the first quarter. Nine of his points came from 3-point range. Chris Boutsikaris hit a 3-pointer and added four rebounds,

three steals and a block. Danny Mitchell dished out five assists, while netting two points, two rebounds and a steal. Sean Elliott (2 steals, 2 rebounds, assist) sank a 3-pointer and added a free throw. Junior Parker Hess finished with six points, including a 3-pointer, and added a pair of rebounds.

The 7-3 Highlanders began to separate themselves from the Blue Devils in the third quarter when Ahmad St. Fleur (11 points) hit back-to-back 3-pointers then he and his teammates followed up with several steals that were converted to lay-ups. By the beginning of the fourth quarter, St. Mary's had a 46-39 lead.

"Of course, there's games you would like to have back, there's plays you would like to have back. They are a good team and they made plays toward the end. They made more plays than us. We played them pretty even for most of the game. We just fell behind by too many at the end," Coach Palmieri said.

Mele sank four free throws and a lay-up, Hess sank a lay-up, Boutsikaris banged his 3-pointer and LaCorte hit a two then sank his third 3-pointer to bring the score to 58-55 with 11.1 remaining but the Blue Devils could not quite make up the difference.

Will Sessoms put in 16 points for the Highlanders, while Donlay Julius scored 12 points. Frank Rokins, who sank seven points, led in rebounds with 15.

"We still feel like we are not peaking yet. We can get better from where we are. We played a couple of nice games in a row on Thursday and Sunday [win over Union]," Coach Palmieri said. "We can't let this one linger. We got to come back. We have Scotch Plains Thursday. We got to do what we did to them the first time. We have to move on quick. There's not enough time to feel sorry for yourself."

Scoreboard table showing St. Mary's 58 and Westfield 55.

Blue Devils' Thievery Clips Lady Raider Cagers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

"It's been four years with each other. We know how the other one plays. One of our strong suits playing together has been to read each other on defense and then knowing, if one person has the ball, the other one immediately gets down the court. We are always looking for each other, especially on the fast break, which I think is fun with the chemistry we have together," Scott said. "It shows in our play."

Raider junior forward Micaiah Battle turned out not to be the person to foul as she hit nine of 10 free throws and finished with a team-high 17 points.

"My last couple of games I noticed that I was slacking on my free throws. It is just hard work. You got to get in the gym and correct what you are doing incorrectly on the court. You got to improve everyday. I went into the game thinking I had to improve on free throws, and that's what I did at the end," Battle said.

Battle also was efficient under both boards with six rebounds, which included a pair of put backs.

"I know that my energy is all about helping my team. I noticed that we were lacking in rebounds, so I just went in and did what I had to do to help my team," Battle said.

"She's a good player. We talked about her during halftime and made sure we had a body on her," Knapp said.

The Raiders had several girls, who were strong under the boards, which included Nya Downing, who grabbed five rebounds, scored five points and added an assist. Center Thabitha Dwunfour pulled six rebounds and scored two points. Kara Foley sank eight points, grabbed four rebounds and added an assist. Junior guard Caroline Babis (3 steals, 2 assists) had three rebounds. Laura Charros sank a pair of 3-pointers and Brianna O'Brien had two points, an assist and a rebound.

"We didn't necessarily emphasize

on one player. We knew they were big and athletic. We weren't going to out-jump them, so our big girls did a great job of boxing out. They held them off and we were able to get good outside passes and generate the fast break," Knapp said.

"There was not necessarily one person, but we were aware of their strength. They are a very large team and can be a threat in the post getting rebounds, so we made sure that we would limit them to one shot, and Shannon Devitt, Abby Demers and Amalia did a good job of preventing their big girl from being effective today," Scott said.

"Jaq and Lil" enacted their ledger-demean immediately and rolled to a 16-8 lead by the end of the first quarter. Scott got the action started with her first 3-pointer and Luzzi added a 3-pointer at the midway point.

Devitt scored the first two points of the second quarter, but then rhythm got switched with some chaos and the 3-10 Raiders took advantage with an 11-3 run until Knapp hit a pair of free throws and Scott banged a 3-pointer to give the 8-4 Blue Devils a 26-19 lead at the half.

"It was a little bit hectic. It wasn't very controlled. We were out of our element a little bit, but at the same time, I think that energy got us a little fired up, which allowed us to gain some momentum going into the half-time," Scott said.

The momentum revved up and Scott and Knapp combined for 13 of the Blue Devils' 17 points in the third quarter to extend the lead to 43-30. Then Scott and Knapp took turns scoring the first eight points of the fourth quarter to stretch the lead to 21 points. From that point onward, it was cruise control.

"Whenever you play Scotch Plains, it's a rivalry, so the intensity of the game is always going to be up another level. The beginning of the second quarter wasn't easy for us, because we made turnovers and we made a few mistakes. But by the end of the second quarter, we got our momentum back and we felt really confident going in at halftime, so we were able to come out on fire again. We pushed them back. They weren't expecting us to come out like that," Knapp said.

Scoreboard table showing SC Pfanwood 40 and Westfield 36.



David B. Corbin for The Westfield Leader and The Times

FIRING A PASS...Raider Brianna O'Brien, No. 2, fires a pass to her teammate as Blue Devil Amalia Montes, No. 23, looks on.

Reading is Good For You advertisement with a cartoon character and subscription information.

SHERIFF'S SALE advertisement for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, detailing a foreclosure sale.

SHERIFF'S SALE advertisement for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, detailing a foreclosure sale.

SHERIFF'S SALE advertisement for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, detailing a foreclosure sale.

GL Highlander Boys Rout Cougar Cagers, 68-44

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Imbalzano ended the quarter just as he had started it by nailing a long-range 3-pointer at the buzzer that gave GL a commanding, 37-19, lead at the half. While the Highlanders appeared nearly perfect, Cranford looked sluggish and listless.

"Most of the time this year we've shown good effort even in the games

we've lost," said Huber. "I mean we played Mt. Olive, which last time I looked was undefeated and we played a good hard game against them despite losing. The effort has been there. Tonight was the first night where I did not see that same effort on display. We've got to correct that."

Imbalzano hit an inside basket to start the third quarter. With the Cranford starters unable to mount a serious run and trailing by 19 points, Huber opted to make a mass substitution with a little over a minute left

in the third quarter. Joe Norton, Colin Scanlon, Albert Gargiulo Kevin Trotter and Will Fries came onto the court against the Highlander starters and immediately helped Cranford make its only real push of the game.

"We put the second unit in there because I was not seeing what I wanted to see from the first group," said Huber. "We lacked energy. It was like we were feeling sorry for ourselves out there. I'll tell you this much, we got a better effort from our second line guys tonight and they were able to cut into the lead a little bit."

Fueled by the tough inside play of Fries, the Cougars went on a 12-6 run over the next four minutes to pull within 13 at 53-40. Fries, a junior, was especially impressive, scoring immediately on a strong inside post move and his presence in the paint seemed to slow down a lot of the Cougars all night.

"Will Fries showed something when we put him out there," said Huber. "He showed energy. He did some good work on the boards and played solid defense. It is all about match ups really. On some nights he is going to create match-up problems for the opponent. He is a big kid, plays well inside. He has good size but would not have been effective in guarding their perimeter player (Imbalzano)."

GL turned the tide when point guard Javon Reis-Wilson connected on a 3-point and 4:25 remaining. Iorio sank a lay-up. After Fries hit a pair of free throws, making the score 58-42, the Highlanders answered with an 8-0 run with just over a minute to play.

Governor Livingston sank seven 3-pointers and sank nine of 13 free throws. With the loss, Cranford dropped to 2-9 on the season.

Scoreboard table showing Gov. Livingston 49 and Cranford 36.

SHERIFF'S SALE advertisement for the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, detailing a foreclosure sale.

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730 AUSTIN STREET, WESTFIELD
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666 DORIAN ROAD, WESTFIELD
OFFERED AT \$769,900



231 ELIZABETH AVENUE, WESTFIELD
OFFERED AT \$799,900



1053 PROSPECT STREET, WESTFIELD
OFFERED AT \$1,795,000



128 WOODLAND AVENUE, WESTFIELD
OFFERED AT \$1,395,000



111 PROSPECT STREET 4B, "THE SAVANNAH" WESTFIELD
OFFERED AT \$1,998,000



Frank D. Isoldi
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COLDWELL BANKER

RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE



Courtesy of Doug Wisniewski for The Westfield Leader and The Times

SLICKING BEHIND THE GOALIE... Raider Logan Condon, No. 9, skates behind the Oratory goalie after scoring his second goal of the night with 51 seconds remaining in the third period.

SPF Raider Icemens Bombard Oratory Prep Icemens, 9-1

Jared Figueroa netted three goals and had two assists to lead the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Ice hockey team to a 9-1 victory over Oratory Prep at the Rock Ice in Dunellen on January 23.

Logan Condon scored two goals and had an assist and Davey Leong, Ian Gordon, Jonny Scheer and Matt Halpin each scored a goal as well.

John Bruckman contributed three assists.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood scored two power play goals and was two-for-five on the power play for the night. The Raiders out-shot Oratory Prep, 34-10. Michael Illanovsky made nine saves in net for the Raider icemen and Brian McGovern had 25 saves for Oratory Prep. Jack Bizub scored Oratory's lone goal with the assist by Nick Yoder.

The SPF Raiders remain in first place in the Union County league's B division and were to face off against Dayton-Breareley on January 26 at Warinanco Rink in Roselle and then will face Governor Livingston this Friday, January 30, at 9:10 p.m. at Union Sports Arena in Union.

Reading is Good For You

goleader.com/subscribe

Probitas Verus Honos

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF AUDIT REPORT FOR PUBLICATION
SUMMARY OR SYNOPSIS OF 2013 AUDIT REPORT OF TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S. 40A:5-7
COMBINED COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEETS

	DECEMBER 31, 2013	DECEMBER 31, 2012
ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Investments	\$ 15,508,382.57	\$ 12,986,345.79
Investment in Length of Service Award Program	651,599.31	520,748.79
Receivables from Federal and State Government	118,830.48	230,846.83
Other Accounts Receivable	19,624.35	21,613.20
Taxes, Assessments, Utility Charges and Liens Receivable	1,955,221.36	2,241,549.78
Emergency Authorizations	21,000.00	828,000.00
Fixed Capital	175,000.00	150,000.00
Deferred Charges to Future Taxation	18,690,384.55	18,126,569.55
Fixed Assets	34,445,297.00	33,806,326.69
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 71,585,339.62	\$ 68,912,000.63
LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE		
Serial Bonds and Notes Payable	\$ 15,700,000.00	\$ 16,155,000.00
Improvement Authorizations	2,996,108.24	1,909,427.15
Accounts Payable, Other Liabilities and Special Funds	6,805,043.86	6,514,425.95
Reserves for Certain Receivables, Appropriation Reserves, Amortization and Other Assets	7,601,484.28	7,130,193.36
Investment in General Fixed Assets	34,445,297.00	33,806,326.69
Fund Balances	4,037,406.24	3,396,627.48
TOTAL LIABILITIES, RESERVES AND FUND BALANCE	\$ 71,585,339.62	\$ 66,912,000.63

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on **February 9, 2015, at 7:30 pm**, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to hear the application of **K. & K. Developers, Inc.** for 2030 Lamberts Mill Road, Block 13502, Lot 17.01, R-2 Zone who propose a minor subdivision of one lot into two conforming lots. No variances are required for this application.

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The plans pertaining to this application are in the Office of the Planning Board and available for public inspection during normal office hours.

Barbara Horev,
Secretary to the Board
1 T - 1/29/15, The Times Fee: \$18.87

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Secretary to the Board
1 T - 1/29/15, The Times Fee: \$18.87

Four Flyers Named USATF Jr. Olympic Athletes of Year

Four athletes from the Westfield Area "Y" Flyers Track Club were named Junior Olympic Athletes of the Year by the New Jersey chapter of the United States of America Track and Field Junior Olympic Association (USATF NJ). The awards were presented on January 17 at the annual awards gala at the Pines Manor in Edison. These awards are presented annually to athletes, who have excelled at the State, Regional and National Junior Olympics.

The selected athletes are: Age 7-8 Boys - Cross Country Distance Runner of the Year: Eamon Mason; Age

9-10 Girls - Distance Runner of the Year: Abigail Granrath; Ages 11-12 Girls - Race Walker of the Year: Grace Endy; Ages 15-16 Girls - Race Walker of the Year: Melissa Endy.

In addition to the above awards, Melissa Endy was also the winner of the Women's Race Walk Grand Prix for the State of New Jersey.

The Westfield Area Y Flyers Track Club is a USATF certified club that serves over 700 athletes throughout the year. For more information, please contact the club at: www.yflyerstrackclub.com, or call Paul Garwood at (908) 233-2700x258.



JR. OLYMPIC ATHLETES OF YEAR... Pictured, left to right, are: Melissa Endy, Grace Endy, Abigail Granrath and Eamon Mason. Behind are Coaches Wayne Baker and Jolene Hatzisavvas.

SPF's Breznitsky Finalist For National Coach of Year

Scotch Plains-Fanwood (SPF) High School boys soccer Head Coach Tom Breznitsky has been selected as a finalist in the National High School Athletic Coaches Association's National "Coach of the Year" (COTY) program. The National COTY Awards banquet will be held during the NHSACA National Convention on June 16-20 in Rochester, Minn.

Breznitsky, whose career record rose to 676-159-56 after finishing 23-3 last season, which included a Union County Tournament title, a sectional title and a North Jersey title, has a long sleeve of achievements in his career at SPF, including seven NJSIAA state championships, 13 North Jersey state titles, 14 state sectional titles, 16 Union County crowns and 25 conference championships.

Eight finalists from across the nation will be honored during The National COTY Awards Banquet at the Kahler Grand Hotel in Minneapolis, Minn. on the evening of June 20. The highlight of the banquet will be the naming of the NHSACA national coach of the year in 19 recognized sports categories.



Tom Breznitsky

This selection was based on longevity, service to high school athletics, honors, championship years, and winning percentage. The nominees and finalists are evaluated by experts in the field of coaching using a sport-specific rubric to assign points in each category. The National High School Athletic Coaches Association is the oldest coaches association in the nation formed by coaches, for coaches, and has been recognizing national coaches of the year since 1978.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-006356-14
FILE NO. 18397-14

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ; MRS. XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, WIFE OF XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon PELLEGRINO AND FELDSTEIN, LLC, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 290 Route 46 West, Denville, New Jersey, an Answer to the Amended Complaint filed in a Civil Action, in which PARK FINANCE II, LLC is the plaintiff and XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, ET ALS; are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, UNION County and bearing Docket No. F-006356-14 within thirty-five (35) days after January 29, 2015 exclusive of such date. If you fail to answer or appear in accordance with Rule 4:4-6, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

You are further advised that if you are unable to obtain an attorney you may communicate with the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of Venue and that if you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of Venue. The telephone number of such agencies are as follows: Lawyer Referral Service 908-353-4715 - Legal Services Office 908-354-4340.

THE ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the following tax sale certificate:

1. A certain tax certificate 2011-11-045, sold on 11/22/2011, dated 11/22/2011, and was recorded on 11/10/2012 in Book 13245 at Page 83, made by RACHEL J. POMPEI, Collector of Taxes of ROSELLE PARK, and State of New Jersey to PARK FINANCE II, LLC and subsequently assigned to plaintiff, PARK FINANCE II, LLC. This covers real estate located in ROSELLE PARK, County of UNION, and of the State of New Jersey, known as LOT 21 BLOCK 1114 as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of ROSELLE PARK, and concerns premises commonly known as 386 WESTFIELD AVENUE, EAST, ROSELLE PARK, New Jersey.

YOU, XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because you are the owner of a property which is the subject of the above entitled action.

YOU, MRS. XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, WIFE OF XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because plaintiff has been unable to determine whether defendant XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ is married, and if married, the name of XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ's spouse. If XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ is married, the plaintiff joins MRS. XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ, WIFE OF XHEMA HUSENAJ, A/K/A XHEMA HISENAJ as a defendant for any possessory or marital rights you may have.

DATED: January 23, 2015
 Michelle M. Smith, Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey
 PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
 Denville Law Center
 290 Route 46 West
 Denville, New Jersey 07834
 (973) 586-2300
 1 T - 1/29/15, The Leader Fee: \$79.56



GREAT SEASON ON THE MAT... The Westfield Recreation wrestling team has had a great season, including winning numerous medals at two tournaments and wrestling hard in 10 competitive matches during the season.

UC Hot Stove Dinner Honors CR, Linden, WF Athletes

MOUNTAINSIDE - Four local baseball legends - Jorge Comas (Elizabeth), Barry Kaverick (Kenilworth), Richard McCormack (Elizabeth) and Jack Shaw (Roselle Park) - will be inducted into the Union County (UC) Baseball Hall of Fame during awards ceremonies at the 79th Annual Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner on Sunday, February 8. The awards dinner begins at 1 p.m. at the L'Affaire Banquet Center in Mountainside.

The dinner is sponsored by the UC Baseball Association, in cooperation with the UC Board of Chosen Freeholders and the UC Department of Parks and Recreation. Tickets are \$45 each. Proceeds will help fund the UC Summer Youth Baseball League for youngsters 8 to 15 years, and the Fall Teen League.

The special guest speaker at the dinner will be Roy White, the former New York Yankees All-Star outfielder and two-time World Series champion.

Comas played four years of varsity baseball at St. Mary's High School in Elizabeth. Kaverick, a pitcher, made a name for himself as one of the best players in Roselle Catholic High School history. McCormack played at St. Mary's in Elizabeth. Shaw began coaching baseball at Roselle Park High School in 1976, retiring in 1999

with a 279-191 varsity record.

Young athletes from Union County also will be honored for their achievements in 2014.

Nick Christiani (Linden), the Gatorade New Jersey High School Player of the Year as a senior at Seton Hall Prep, who was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in 2009 out of Vanderbilt and has pitched for the Reds in parts of the 2013 and 2014 seasons, will receive the Chris Zusi Award for outstanding male athlete.

Chrissy Ferraro (Westfield), who led the Blue Devils to a second consecutive UCT Championship in 2014 with a .505 batting average and was named UC Player of the Year, will receive the Banyasz Brothers Award for most valuable scholastic softball player.

Rebecca Rotola (Linden), whose pitching helped Kean University win the 2014 NCAA Division III Softball Union Regional Championship over number one seed Lebanon Valley College, and who finished the season with a 12-3 record, will receive the Joseph Lombardi Award for outstanding female athlete.

Tommy Trotter (Cranford), who led the Cougars to their third straight sectional title in 2014 with his .462 batting average out of the leadoff spot and his strong outfield defense, and was named UC Player of the Year, will receive the Edward Cooper Award for most valuable scholastic baseball player.

Since 1937, the Hot Stove League Dinner has been the primary fundraising effort for the UC Baseball Association's summer and fall programs. Over the years, the awards dinner has honored many local and national baseball luminaries - including Phil Rizzuto of Hillside, Don Newcombe of Elizabeth, Joe Collins of Union, Jeff Torborg of Mountainside, Willie Madson of Summit, and Elliott Maxwell of Union.

Tickets are available by visiting www.UCBA-NJ.org. For more information, please call Jim Iozzi at (908) 917-2523.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SCOTCH PLAINS PLANNING BOARD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that on **February 9, 2015, at 7:30 pm**, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing in Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 430 Park Avenue, Scotch Plains to hear the application of **K. & K. Developers, Inc.** for 2030 Lamberts Mill Road, Block 13502, Lot 17.01, R-2 Zone who propose a minor subdivision of one lot into two conforming lots. No variances are required for this application.

All interested persons may be present and be heard. The plans pertaining to this application are in the Office of the Planning Board and available for public inspection during normal office hours.

Barbara Horev,
Secretary to the Board
1 T - 1/29/15, The Times Fee: \$18.87

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-030713-14
FILE NO. 18872-14

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: RALSTON JONES, INC.;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon PELLEGRINO AND FELDSTEIN, LLC, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 290 Route 46 West, Denville, New Jersey, an Answer to the Complaint filed in a Civil Action, in which FWDLSL & ASSOCIATES LP is the plaintiff and RALSTON JONES, INC., ET ALS; are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, UNION County and bearing Docket No. F-030713-14 within thirty-five (35) days after January 29, 2015 exclusive of such date. If you fail to answer or appear in accordance with Rule 4:4-6, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

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THE ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the following tax sale certificate:

1. A certain tax certificate 091240, sold on 6/10/2009, dated 6/12/2009, and was recorded on 6/23/2009 in Book 12723 at Page 1, made by MARIA GLAVAN, Collector of Taxes of PLAINFIELD, and State of New Jersey to CITY OF PLAINFIELD and subsequently assigned to plaintiff, FWDLSL & ASSOCIATES LP on 5/14/2014 and was recorded on 6/3/2014 in Assignment Book 1416 at Page 880. This covers real estate located in PLAINFIELD, County of UNION, and State of New Jersey, known as LOT 8 BLOCK 606 as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of PLAINFIELD, and concerns premises commonly known as 326 EAST 4TH STREET, PLAINFIELD, New Jersey.

YOU, RALSTON JONES, INC., are made party defendant to the above foreclosure action because you are the owner of a property which is the subject of the above entitled action.

DATED: January 23, 2015
 Michelle M. Smith, Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey
 PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
 Denville Law Center
 290 Route 46 West
 Denville, New Jersey 07834
 (973) 586-2300
 1 T - 1/29/15, The Leader Fee: \$62.73

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-042010-14
FILE NO. 63312-1

STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CHEMICAL CONTROL CORPORATION, A NEW JERSEY CORPORATION; NORTH EAST POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION;

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to serve upon the Law Offices of Goldenberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pfeffer, Bonchi & Gill, A Professional Corporation, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 660 New Road, Suite 1-A, Northfield, New Jersey 08225, an answer to the Amended Complaint filed in a civil action in which DENGEL ENTERPRISES LLC D/B/A CONSTRUCTION & MARINE EMBROIDERY is plaintiff and CHEMICAL CONTROL CORPORATION, A NEW JERSEY CORPORATION, et al. are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, within 35 days after January 29, 2015, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 971, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625, in accordance with the rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. You are further advised that if you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county where you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. The names and telephone numbers of such agencies are as follows: Lawyer Referral Service: (908) 353-4715. Legal Service: (908) 354-4340.

THE ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing Tax Sale Certificate:

(A) #2011 dated October 16, 1979 made by Anthony R. Chioldo, Collector of Taxes of the City of Elizabeth, County of Union, and State of New Jersey, to the City of Elizabeth and covers real estate located at 23-43 S. Front Street in the City of Elizabeth, County of Union and State of New Jersey, known as Lot 1438-C, Block 4, as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of the City of Elizabeth. Said tax sale certificate was assigned to plaintiff, which assignment was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on May 27, 2014, in book 13766 of mortgages, page 0972, as instrument #588135. By Jones' Act assignment dated July 23, 2014, said tax sale certificate was assigned to plaintiff, which assignment was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on August 4, 2014, in book 1418 of assignments, page 356, as instrument #157511.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-042010-14
FILE NO. 63312-1

STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO CHEMICAL CONTROL CORPORATION, A NEW JERSEY CORPORATION; NORTH EAST POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION;

YOU ARE HEREBY summoned and required to serve upon the Law Offices of Goldenberg, Mackler, Sayegh, Mintz, Pfeffer, Bonchi & Gill, A Professional Corporation, Attorneys for Plaintiff, whose address is 660 New Road, Suite 1-A, Northfield, New Jersey 08225, an answer to the Amended Complaint filed in a civil action in which DENGEL ENTERPRISES LLC D/B/A CONSTRUCTION & MARINE EMBROIDERY is plaintiff and CHEMICAL CONTROL CORPORATION, A NEW JERSEY CORPORATION, et al. are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, within 35 days after January 29, 2015, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, P.O. Box 971, Trenton, New Jersey, 08625, in accordance with the rules of Civil Practice and Procedure. You are further advised that if you cannot afford an attorney, you may call the Legal Services office in the county where you live or the Legal Services of New Jersey Statewide Hotline at 1-888-LSNJ-LAW (1-888-576-5529). If you do not have an attorney and are not eligible for free legal assistance, you may obtain a referral to an attorney by calling one of the Lawyer Referral Services. The names and telephone numbers of such agencies are as follows: Lawyer Referral Service: (908) 353-4715. Legal Service: (908) 354-4340.

THE ACTION has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing Tax Sale Certificate:

(A) #2011 dated October 16, 1979 made by Anthony R. Chioldo, Collector of Taxes of the City of Elizabeth, County of Union, and State of New Jersey, to the City of Elizabeth and covers real estate located at 23-43 S. Front Street in the City of Elizabeth, County of Union and State of New Jersey, known as Lot 1438-D, Block 4, as shown on the Tax Assessment Map and Tax Map duplicate of the City of Elizabeth. Said tax sale certificate was assigned to plaintiff, which assignment was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on May 27, 2014, in book 13766 of mortgages, page 0972, as instrument #588135. By Jones' Act assignment dated July 23, 2014, said tax sale certificate was assigned to plaintiff, which assignment was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on August 4, 2014, in book 1418 of assignments, page 356, as instrument #157511.

YOU, CHEMICAL CONTROL CORPORATION, A NEW JERSEY CORPORATION, are made a defendant in the above entitled action because you are the record owner of the properties being foreclosed.

YOU, NORTHEAST POLLUTION CONTROL CORPORATION, are made a defendant in the above entitled action because on April 30, 1970 and March 23, 1971, C.F. Elizabeth Front, Inc. [predecessor in title] executed mortgages to you. The first one on April 30, 1970 in the amount of \$100,000, was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on May 6, 1970, in book 2871 of mortgages, page 1972, and the second one on March 23, 1971 in the amount of \$200,000, was recorded in the Clerk's Office of Union County on April 1, 1971 in book 2901 of mortgages, page 56.

The nature of which and the reason that you and each of you are joined as defendants is set forth with particularity in the Amended Complaint, a copy of which will be furnished you on request addressed to the attorneys of the plaintiff at the above mentioned address.

DATED: January 29, 2015
 MICHELLE M. SMITH, Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey
 GOLDENBERG, MACKLER, SAYEGH, MINTZ, PFEFFER, BONCHI & GILL
 A Professional Corporation
 660 New Road, Suite 1-A
 Northfield, New Jersey 08225
 (609) 646-0222
 1 T - 1/29/15, The Leader Fee: \$123.42

PUBLIC NOTICE

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, January 19, Robert A. Lueders, 45, of Union was arrested following a motor vehicle stop in the area of East Broad Street. He was wanted on warrants from Hackensack, with \$2,500 bail; Paterson, with \$500 bail; Tinton Falls, with \$150 bail, and Newark, with bail of \$101. He was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting the full cash bail for each warrant.

Monday, January 19, Joan Portaro-Christopher, 48, of Elizabeth was taken into custody at police headquarters and processed with regards to an outstanding Westfield warrant. She posted \$201 bail and was released.

Monday, January 19, Jonathan Viera, 22, of Newark was arrested at police headquarters on an active Ridgefield Park warrant. He paid the \$469 bail and was released.

Monday, January 19, Vanessa Hernandez, 25, of Newark was arrested at police headquarters on a Westfield warrant for which she paid the \$178 bail and was released.

Thursday, January 22, Kelly Grant, 50, of North Plainfield was arrested after a motor vehicle stop on an outstanding Plainfield traffic warrant. Grant was transported to police headquarters, processed and released after posting \$250 bail.

Friday, January 23, Juan Betancur-Calderon, 18, of Elizabeth was arrested at police headquarters on an outstanding Westfield traffic warrant. He was processed and released after posting \$114 cash bail.

Scotch Plains
Thursday, January 1, a motor vehicle belonging to a resident of Donato Circle was reported to have been entered sometime overnight.

Friday, January 2, Kenneth Blanks, 25, of Rahway was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Friday, January 2, a resident of Hatfield Avenue reported a car burglary overnight. The resident said the vehicle was unlocked.

Friday, January 2, Lawrence Kaplan, 62, of Kitneysville, Pa. was arrested on an outstanding warrant.

Saturday, January 3, a resident of Spruce Mill Lane reported an incident of check fraud/identity theft.

Sunday, January 4, Taylor Johnson, 23, of Scotch Plains was arrested on an outstanding warrant following a motor vehicle stop.

Monday, January 5, Frank Russo, 22, of Warren was arrested and charged with possession of a Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) following a motor vehicle stop.

Monday, January 5, a resident of Clydesdale Road reported being the victim of identity fraud.

Wednesday, January 7, an employee of a gas station on Route 22 East reported a suspect left without paying for gas.

Thursday, January 8, a resident of Valleyscent Avenue reported a burglary at the residence between 4 and 8 p.m. Several electronics and some personal papers were reported stolen.

Thursday, January 8, a resident of Garwood reported that several items of jewelry, including a Michael Kors watch and bracelets, were stolen from the Performing Arts building at 1776 Raritan Road.

Friday, January 9, a burglary was reported at a Front Street residence that occurred between 6:30 and 10 p.m. Laptop computers and a passport were reported stolen.

Sunday, January 11, Brandon Holden, 22, of Staten Island, N.Y. was arrested on an outstanding warrant after a motor vehicle stop.

Tuesday, January 13, a resident of Rivervale Court reported being the victim of identity theft.

Wednesday, January 14, a resident of Valley Avenue reported that a package had been stolen from the porch between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Saturday, January 17, Josephine El Raheb, 27, of Clark was arrested and charged with suspected DUI (driving under the influence) after a motor vehicle stop.

Saturday, January 17, a resident of Mountain Avenue reported that a GPS unit had been stolen from his unlocked motor vehicle sometime overnight.

Cranford
Friday, January 16, Raul Mendez, 25, of Union was charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI) following a motor vehicle stop.

Friday, January 16, Ian Fidalgo, 24, of Bloomfield was arrested on charges of possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop.

Friday, January 16, Nicholas Maffei, 23, of Staten Island, N.Y. was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop.

Monday, January 19, Francesca Catananzi, 21, of Linden was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop.

Wednesday, January 21, Patrick Noon, 19, of Cranford, Kaeley Hay, 20, of Garwood and Patrick McKell, 20, of Cranford were arrested and charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop.

Monday, January 19, Francesca Catananzi, 21, of Linden was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of paraphernalia following a motor vehicle stop.

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Probitas Verus Honos

Concert Series to Feature Peter and the Wolf Feb. 6

SUMMIT — The St. John's Summit Concert Series (SJSCS) has announced that its fifth performance will take place on Friday, February 6, at 7 p.m., featuring members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra performing Prokofiev's *Peter and the Wolf*. This performance, which is intended to appeal especially to families with young children, will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church, located at 587 Springfield Avenue, Summit.

The performance will feature members of the woodwind family including the flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon and French horn. In addition to Prokofiev's beloved music, the performance will include narration and other musical selections designed to highlight individually each of the instruments. Following the performance, the audience is invited to attend an informal reception where activities and opportunities to learn more about the instruments will be featured.

"This performance is a chance for the Concert Series to expand on what

we have done so far in our inaugural season, by offering music that tells a story and engages young children as well as adults," said Kenneth Bryson, president of SJSCS. "This is an opportunity for the younger members of our audience to learn more about music and instruments with which they may not be familiar."

The SJSCS sponsors a diverse array of musicians, having already presented the Vienna Boys Choir and internationally-renowned pianist Haochen Zhang. It was established in 2014 as a non-profit, church-sponsored organization dedicated to bringing a variety of musical genres to the surrounding community that will appeal to a broad audience, regardless of faith, background or tradition.

General admission is \$20 per person; children age 12 and under may attend for free. For tickets or to learn more about the SJSCS, including how to support the program, visit stjohsummit.org/concertseries or go to Facebook at facebook.com/stjohsummitconcertseries.



FESTIVE FLOWERS...Nancy Peck of Westfield holds a dried flower arrangement she made on January 15 as part of an ongoing horticultural therapy program at SAGE Eldercare's Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center in Summit. Rutgers Master Gardeners are leading the program and helping clients create a variety of horticulture projects. Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station Cooperative Extension in its mission to deliver horticulture programs and information to the general public. For more information about SAGE Eldercare, call (908) 273-5550 or visit sageeldercare.org.

Free Training Offered for MS Office Suite Applications

ELIZABETH — The Industry-Business Institute at Union County College (IBI) has announced that its program of free computer classes for employers in New Jersey will continue in 2015.

"Our traveling computer lab allows us to bring training to a business or non-profit organization (non-government) at their premises. Classes must reach a minimum size of ten students per session to qualify for this mobile service," says Lisa Hiscano, Director of Continuing and Professional Education. "Our mobile lab allows us flexibility in scheduling these eight hour workshops. We can break the program into two four-hour sessions to accommodate the demands of the workplace."

For companies with only a few staff members requiring training, IBI offers these same classes on an open-enrollment basis. These are held at Cranford and Elizabeth on Wednesdays and Fridays.

"Many professionals are self-taught on the basics. These workshops build upon the obvious features of MS Office applications and increase an

individual's productivity, which, of course has impact on profitability overall," Ms. Hiscano states. "Often, our students are surprised and delighted at the time-saving features they learn in our programs."

"This is a very flexible program because in today's business world, it has to be," says Ms. Hiscano. "Small business owners and entrepreneurs have sent employees to our open enrollment workshops, and our mobile lab continues to be in high demand. We have partnered with local chambers of commerce and industry associations who see the value of this. A company can host and invite employees from partners, vendors or their own clients to attend."

Call the Industry-Business Institute at (908) 965-2359 or (908) 527-7207 to book the mobile lab for your employee training program or for information and registration on open-enrollment classes you can call or email IBI@ucc.edu.

For the open enrollment schedule, go to www.ucc.edu/go/ibi and select "Ongoing Grant Funded Programs."

Remembrance Center Offers Gathering Space to Families

WESTFIELD — The Fairview Cemetery Board of Trustees recently announced the completion of the newly expanded Memorial Remembrance Center, located at the entrance to the cemetery at 1100 East Broad Street, Westfield.

The newly completed Memorial Remembrance Center will be available to families for a gathering prior to or following the burial of a loved one. This space offers families the opportunity to gather and share stories and remembrances of loved ones, in the privacy of a warm and intimate setting.

The Memorial Remembrance Center will comfortably accommodate 45 people for services. The room

doubles as a state-of-the-art media center with the capacity for video conferencing, wireless skype and video projection. Inquiries regarding the rental of the room can be made to the executive director, or to the office, which can guide families through the decision-making process on a personalized basis, at (908) 232-0781.

Needle Nite Group to Meet; Preparing For Quilt Show

FANWOOD — The monthly Needle Nite program at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church is scheduled for Friday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the church's Westminster Hall. Visitors are asked to enter from Marian Avenue.

The quilters will continue to work on their quilts. The patterns are "Button holes from Jellyrolls" and "Zipper." The goal is to have them finished by the March meeting and ready for the Harvest Quilt Show on Saturday, March 28. The knitters and those who crochet will work on the projects they make for charity and also to be shown at the Quilt Show.

On January 9, 24 women returned to the Needle Nite gathering to show what they had worked on over the holidays and to hear the schedule for 2015. Three women came to see the activities and pitched in to help. All are welcome to come and see what is being done and to join the group.

If fabric, batting or yarn is needed, Needle Nites will e-mail their requests to needlenite@fanwoodpc.org. Donated materials end up in many forms usable by the charities that receive them. Needle Nite participants then take their newly learned skills for their use at home.

For further information about these projects or directions to the

Fanwood Presbyterian Church, call the church office at (908) 889-8891, e-mail admin@fanwoodpc.org or check the website at fanwoodpc.org.



CUDDLY CREATIONS...During the January Needle Nite meeting at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, Nileema Joshi shows the sweater, hat and bootie set she made for a newborn at Beth Israel Hospital. The next Needle Nite session will take place on Friday, February 6, at 7:30 p.m., in the church's Westminster Hall.



A PLACE FOR REMEMBERING...The newly completed Memorial Remembrance Center at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield, pictured above, offers families a place to gather, share memories and honor the lives of their loved ones. For more information, call (908) 232-0781.



ROTARY WELCOME...Hedy Knapp of Westfield, pictured, was inducted into the Rotary Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains at its January 21 meeting at the Stage House Inn in Scotch Plains by Rotarian Steve Goldberg, shown at right. Ms. Knapp is the Daily Money Manager at Knapp Paperwork Partners, Inc. When asked why she joined the club, she said, "I have always enjoyed volunteering, and I look forward to participating in Rotary events."

Networking Group to Focus On Age in the Job Search

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains-Mountainside Public Libraries' Career Networking Group will meet on Monday, February 9, at 6:30 p.m., at the Scotch Plains Public Library. Career Coach Linda Trignano will present "The Age-Old Issue of Age — in the Job Search."

This program will focus on options for potential employees considered "old" by hiring managers and companies and how job seekers can address the perception that older workers are not "as capable" or "as qualified" as their younger counterparts. Participants will learn the things they can do to present themselves as a valuable contributor who has lots of "life" left in their career.

As a career coach, Ms. Trignano has helped hundreds of managers and executives ace interviews. With more than 22 years facilitating individuals and teams, she focuses her skills on preparing people to shine in the job interview by identifying

their career goals, finding their dream job and learning how to interview and outshine others who are interviewing for the same job.

Ms. Trignano's background includes business coaching and working with teams to develop leaders both professionally and personally. For more information about Ms. Trignano, visit trigianoconsulting.com, and for Ace the Interview coaching, visit lindatrigiano.com.

This program will be free and open to all. Individuals may register online at scotlib.org, by calling (908) 322-5007, extension no. 204, or by emailing library@scotlib.org. They also may connect with the library's Career Networking Group on LinkedIn, CareerNetworking Group at SPPL.

The Scotch Plains Public Library is located at 1927 Bartle Avenue, one block from Park Avenue, in the center of the township.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-028322-14
FILE NO. 18855-14

NOTICE TO REDEEM

FWD&S & ASSOCIATES, L.P.; PLAINTIFF VS. MARY E. TYLER, HER HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND HIS, HER, THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST, ET AL.S. DEFENDANT(S)

TO: MARY E. TYLER, HER HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND HIS, HER, THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST; ANTHONY TYLER; MRS. ANTHONY TYLER, WIFE OF ANTHONY TYLER; CRAIG TYLER; MRS. CRAIG TYLER, WIFE OF CRAIG TYLER; DIANE M. TYLER; HOSPITAL CENTER AT ORANGE;

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on January 20, 2015, the Superior Court Fixed March 6, 2015 between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, prevailing time, at the office of the Tax Collector of PLAINFIELD, located at 515 WATCHUNG AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07060 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 1 BLOCK 238 on the tax duplicate of PLAINFIELD. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 11-179 is \$38,062.60, together with interest from December 31, 2014 and costs of \$1,414.04.

And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted up until the entry of final judgment including the whole of the last date upon which judgment is entered.

Michael G. Pellegrino, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
290 Route 46 West
Denville, New Jersey 07834
(973) 586-2300

1 T - 1/29/15, The Leader Fee: \$57.63

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION
UNION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-031889-13
FILE NO. 17643-13

NOTICE TO REDEEM

PRO CAPITAL FUND I, LLC BY ITS CUSTODIAN, US BANK; PLAINTIFF VS. CHARLES G. WHITE; LOURDES A. WHITE, HIS WIFE; THOSHA MCLENDON; A/K/A; TOSHA MCLENDON; MONMOUTH COUNTY TREASURER; WAYNE KOCH; BANK OF AMERICA NA USA; RIGGINS INC; AMERICAN EXPRESS CENTURION BANK; OIMH RADIOLOGY; OIM RADIOLOGY GROUP, P.A.; KENNETH STEINER, MD; RURAL METRO AMBU-LANCE; CAPITAL ONE BANK; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; DEFENDANT(S)

TO: THOSHA MCLENDON A/K/A TOSHA MCLENDON; OIMH RADIOLOGY; OIM RADIOLOGY GROUP, P.A.; PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an order made on January 20, 2015, the Superior Court Fixed March 6, 2015 between the hours of nine o'clock in the forenoon and four o'clock in the afternoon, prevailing time, at the office of the Tax Collector of ROSELLE, located at 210 CHESTNUT STREET, ROSELLE, NEW JERSEY 07203 as the time and place when and where you may pay to the plaintiff the amount so found due for principal and interest on its certificate of tax sale as follows:

LOT 37 BLOCK 4201 on the tax duplicate of ROSELLE. Total amount required to redeem tax sale certificate no. 11-038 is \$27,189.98, together with interest from April 30, 2014 and costs of \$1,495.76.

And that unless, at the same time and place, you or one of you redeem by paying the aforesaid sum so found due to plaintiff, then you, and each of you shall be debarred and foreclosed of and from all right and equity of redemption of, in and to the lands and premises above set out and described in the complaint and every part thereof, and that the plaintiff be vested with an absolute and indefeasible estate of inheritance in fee simple in said lands and premises.

Anything to the contrary notwithstanding, redemption shall be permitted up until the entry of final judgment including the whole of the last date upon which judgment is entered.

Michael G. Pellegrino, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff
PELLEGRINO & FELDSTEIN, L.L.C.
290 Route 46 West
Denville, New Jersey 07834
(973) 586-2300

1 T - 1/29/15, The Leader Fee: \$58.65



RETURNING GRADS...Seven graduates from the Class of 2014 returned to The Wardlaw-Hartridge School in Edison on Tuesday, Jan. 6 to share their early college experiences as members of a panel on College Day. Pictured, from left, front row: Divya Mehta of Edison (Princeton University), Mairead Forrest of Parlin (College of the Holy Cross), Cliff O'Brien of Sayreville (Dickinson College) and Emily Wexler of Scotch Plains (University of Miami). Back row: Mike Olano of South Plainfield (University of Richmond), Ishmael Mennis of New Brunswick (New Jersey Institute of Technology) and Mike Anastasiou of Scotch Plains (New York University).

Woman's Club of Westfield Awards Gray Scholarships

WESTFIELD - The winners of the Robert M. Gray 2014 scholarships have been announced by the Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW). The funds for these awards are bestowed by the club through the benevolence of the Gray Family Foundation headed by Mrs. Marie Gray. Each winner will receive an award of \$1,000. The following is a list of the winners.

Nicholas Attanasio, is the son of Antonia and John Attanasio. Nicholas is a 2011 graduate of Westfield High School where he was a top student and standout athlete on the WHS varsity ice hockey team, scoring over 100 points and serving as assistant captain. He was a leader with the WHS transition team. Nick is a senior at Fairleigh Dickinson University, volunteers for St. Joseph's Soup Kitchen and is an assistant junior varsity WHS ice hockey coach. He majors in communications.

Ryan Elliot is the son of Mary and Richard Elliott, and is a 2012 graduate of WHS. The oldest of five children, he was an outstanding high school student who gained National Society recognition, was elected its vice president and led the football team. Ryan is a junior at Holy Cross College where he is a member of the Dean's List, plays rugby and has chosen a double major of economics and mathematics. Ryan works grading papers for economics and mathematics professors.

Thomas Gerris is the son of Madeline and Jeffrey Gerris and is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School. He was a motivated and a classroom leader. Thomas suffered his third sport concussion sophomore year but was able to overcome the effects and showed just how committed and strong he could be. He was a leader for Habitat for Humanity and a member of Westfield crew team. Thomas attends Ohio State University where he is a sophomore majoring in biology as part of a pre-dental program.

Katelyn Kelly is the daughter of Patricia and Brian Kelly and is a 2013 graduate of Westfield High School. While in high school, she excelled in track, field hockey and soccer. Katelyn had also been an Overlook Hospital volunteer and bedside companion. She assisted at Children's Specialized Hospital. In college Katelyn is a member of Chi Omega

sorority which sponsors work toward The Make A Wish Foundation. She attends Sacred Heart University as a sophomore nursing major.

John Kirna is the son of Robin and Carl Kirna. He is a 2012 graduate of Westfield High School where he was a committed, well rounded student. John was a stand out on the WHS track teams, led as captain and broke many of the school's track records. He earned the Boy Scout prestigious Eagle award. John is a junior at Bucknell University where he runs cross country track, majors in global management, and continues to pursue his grass roots development interest in Nicaragua.

Michael Mondone is the son of Rosaria and Robert Mondone. He is a 2012 graduate of Westfield High School where he was a standout baseball and football player, member of the National Honor Society and an AP Scholar. He worked as a referee, trainer and counselor. He is a junior at the University of Rochester where he is a school baseball pitcher and a bio/chemistry major. Michael is a member of VCAAC made up of representatives from each of the school's varsity teams dedicated to help the Ronald Mac Donald House.

Sarah Seitz is the daughter of Beth and Charles Seitz. Sarah graduated from Westfield High School in 2013 where she was an important member of the school's softball team, volunteered for Habitat for Humanity and sang with the Woman's Chorus of NJ. She has worked as a camp instructor and child care provider. Sarah attends the College of New Jersey and majors in English. Sarah sings with A cappella, an all female singing group and tutors freshman students with Humanities and Social Studies.

Meghan Sullivan is the daughter of Maryellen and Charles Sullivan. She is a 2011 graduate of Westfield High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and earned the respected Girl Scout Gold award which is the highest level of Honor in girl scouts. As a lover of the arts, Meghan was involved with the WHS theater program. She helped create and was president of the anti-bullying club. She is a senior attending The Tish School at New York University majoring in playwriting. Meghan enjoys an internship in the field of theater.



SCHOLARSHIPS OFFERED...The Woman's Club of Westfield (WCW) invites all Westfield High School seniors (boys and girls) to fill out applications for a WCW 2015 spring scholarship. This past May ten \$5,000 one time scholarships were awarded to worthy Westfield High School (WHS) seniors, pictured above, who excelled academically, were scholarship worthy, demonstrated community service and possessed leadership ability along with good character. Applicants are asked to please use the common application, include two letters of recommendation, an essay and photo. Please refer any questions to the WHS Guidance Department where applications will be collected. The deadline is Tuesday, March 17. Winners will be notified before Friday, May 1.

Deadline Set for Westfield Preschool Applications

WESTFIELD - The Westfield Public School District is now accepting applications for the Integrated Preschool Program for the 2015 - 2016 school year. Located at Lincoln School's Early Childhood Learning Center at 728 Westfield Avenue, the integrated program, which uses the Creative Curriculum for Preschool, is comprised of general education students and students who have been found eligible for special education. General education students will be selected for this program by lottery. Deadline for applications is Thursday, February 26.

Preschool classes will meet Monday through Friday, from 8:45 to 11:15 a.m. for the 3 year old morning session and from 12:30 to 3 p.m. for the 4 year old afternoon session.

Applicants must be residents of Westfield and three or four years of age before October 1, 2015. Applications for the lottery are available on the Lincoln School website. During school hours, applications may also be ob-

tained in person at Lincoln School, the Office of Special Education Services and the main office of any of the elementary schools in Westfield. All applications must be returned to Lincoln School no later than 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 26.

The lottery drawing will be held at Lincoln School, 728 Westfield Ave. on February 26 at 3 p.m. All applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by phone and or email.

An original birth certificate with raised seal and proof of residency will be required for those new students admitted to the program. A tuition fee of \$330 per month will be charged for participation for general education students in this program for the 2015-2016 school year. Students who qualify under the income eligibility guidelines set forth under the Federal Child Nutrition Program may be eligible for a reduced charge.

For more information, please call Lincoln School at (908)789-4455.

Students Kick Off 2015 with Donate to Educate Campaign

UNION COUNTY - The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is pleased to announce "Donate to Educate," a new countywide community service campaign developed entirely by a group of high school students representing all parts of Union County. The 21 students in the group came together as participants in the second annual Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program (UC STEP) for high school students, held last December.

"UC-STEP is designed to provide our future leaders with a chance to collaborate and engage the entire Union County community in pursuit of leadership skills, personal growth and civic engagement," said Freeholder Chairman Mohamed Jalloh. "On behalf of the Freeholder Board I'd like to thank all 192 students who participated enthusiastically in the second annual UC STEP summit."

As a highlight of each UC STEP summit, groups of participants develop proposals for a countywide civic engagement project. The winning project is selected by popular vote on the UC STEP website, ucj2.org/uc-step. The students then work with the Freeholder Board and other community organizations to plan, implement, and publicize the campaign.

Of the more than 3,200 votes tallied, the Light Blue team received the most. The team's "Donate to Educate" campaign will kick off in the coming months. Donate to Educate will enlist schools all over Union County to serve as collection points for school supplies to help students in need.

UC STEP is a youth development program initiated by Freeholder Linda Carter during her term as Chairman in 2013. The program is designed to bring students together from all walks of life,

and provide them with an opportunity to work with the Freeholder Board to enlist their fellow Union County residents in a common goal.

"The students involved in the first UC STEP campaign, Support 4 Soldiers, did a great job of enabling Union County residents to connect with members of the military who are serving overseas," said Mr. Jalloh. "The Freeholder Board looks forward to helping ensure a successful campaign for Donate to Educate, too."

Details on how to contribute to Donate to Educate will be available soon. For more information about UC-STEP, and to view a video explaining the Donate to Educate campaign, visit ucj2.org/uc-step or call the Union County Department of Economic Development, (908) 527-4103.

Alfred University

Alfred Univ. names SPF Grad to Dean's List

ALFRED, NY - Joanna L. Carroll, a resident of Rochester, NY, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester at Alfred University (AU). She is a senior in the School of Art and Design. Students must earn at least a 3.5 grade point average to qualify for Dean's List.

Carroll is an Art and Design major at AU. The 2015 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings list AU at number four among 15 institutions selected as Great Regional Schools at a Great Prices in the north.

A graduate of Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School, Carroll is the daughter of Edward Carroll & Nelida Melendez-Carroll of Rochester, N.Y.

Westfield Rotary Calls for Scholarship Applications

WESTFIELD - Monday, March 16 is the deadline for graduating seniors to submit their applications to the Westfield Rotary Club Foundation Scholarship Committee. To be eligible for undergraduate scholarship assistance applicants must be residents of Westfield and members of the Class of 2015 at Westfield High School or other accredited high school.

Westfield High School applicants may only apply through the guidance department. Applications and other supporting data may be downloaded from the high school's website, www.westfieldnj12. Graduating seniors from other high schools may complete Rotary's supplemental form found at westfieldrotary.com and mail to Marc Millet, Westfield Rotary Scholarship Committee, Westfield

Area Y, 220 Clark St., Westfield, NJ 07090.

Applications prepared electronically will not be considered.

Due to the generosity of a Rotarian now deceased, one scholarship is available to a Westfield High School alumnus/alumna who is now a college graduate and will be attending law school. Such applicants will find instructions and an application at westfieldrotary.com

The Westfield Rotary Club Foundation Scholarship Program is the oldest and largest in the town having awarded nearly \$2.6 million in scholarships to more than 1,650 students since its inception in 1923 according to Marc Millet, who chairs this year's Rotary scholarship selection committee. Other committee members are Rotarians Mary Ellen O'Boyle, Liz Ensslin, Philip Richardson, Mark Swingle and Margaret Subhas.

The criteria for consideration, according to Mr. Millet, are academic achievement, financial need and evidence of significant community service. He explains, "The Rotary motto is 'Service Above Self,'" therefore, the service aspect of each applicant's resume is particularly important to the committee."

Mrs. Subhas, who is chairman of the Rotary foundation board, states, "Rotary's group of scholarships, none of which is less than \$1,000, are financed by proceeds from the club's annual Pancake Breakfast, other fundraisers during the year, and a managed fund comprised of donations and bequests by Rotarians, their families and friends. In addition to its own scholarship program, the club's foundation also administers several scholarships on behalf of the community-based Westfield Foundation."



UConn Announces Dean's List Students

STORRS, CT - The University of Connecticut recently announced the students who attained the Dean's List for the fall 2014 semester. To make the Dean's List, students must be taking at least 12 credits, finish the semester with a grade point average that is among the top 25 percent of students enrolled in their school or college, and have no grade below a "C."

Among the students named to the Dean's List were: Peter Apicella and Jennifer Leigh Pires of Mountain-side; and Jessica Digiacomo of Scotch Plains.



William & Mary Announces Dean's List

WILLIAMSBURG, VA - The following residents were recently named to the Dean's List at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2014 semester: Erin Margaret Brown, Scotch Plains; Isabel Jane Docampo, Westfield; and Sophia Terese Palia, Westfield.

In order to achieve Dean's List status, a full-time degree seeking undergraduate student must take at least 12 credit hours and earn a 3.6 Quality Point Average during the semester.



UW-Madison Announces Dean's List

MADISON, W.I. - The University of Wisconsin-Madison has recognized students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2014-2015 academic year.

Students who achieve at a high level academically are recognized by the dean at the close of each semester. To be eligible for the Dean's List, students must complete a minimum of 12 graded degree credits in that semester.

Anna Simon of Westfield, College of Engineering was named to the Dean's Honor List.

Natalie Tupper of Westfield, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences was named to the Dean's List.

Naval Academy Accepting Appl. for STEM Program

ANNAPOLIS, M.D. - Applications are now being accepted through Wednesday, April 15 for the United States Naval Academy Summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program. The Summer STEM Program is held in three sessions: June 1 to 6 for rising 9th graders; June 8 to 13 for rising 10th graders; and June 15 to 19 for rising 11th graders.

The Summer STEM Program is an overnight academic program designed for rising students in good academic standing who have a keen interest in math and science. Summer STEM 2015 will have the theme "Land, Air and Sea: Exploring Navy Technology on All Fronts."

The STEM Program gives students the opportunity to experience real-life applications of math and science principles through hands-on practical learning. Students will learn from distinguished Naval Academy professors in world-class lab facilities that provide a unique learning environment outside the traditional classroom. The academy's current students, called midshipmen, help run the Summer STEM Program and act as mentors to students.

Summer STEM accepts 640 students for their three sessions from roughly 6,300 applications each year.

All students selected to participate pay \$425 for this academic summer program and are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

Founded in 1845, the U.S. Naval Academy today is a prestigious four-year service academy that prepares midshipmen morally, mentally and physically to be professional officers in the naval service. More than 4,400 men and women representing every state in the U.S. and several foreign countries make up the student body, known as the Brigade of Midshipmen. Midshipmen learn from military and civilian instructors and participate in intercollegiate varsity sports and extracurricular activities. They also study subjects like small arms, drill, seamanship and navigation, tactics, naval engineering and weapons, leadership, ethics and military law. Upon graduation, midshipmen earn a tax-payer funded Bachelor of Science degree in a choice of 25 different subject majors and go on to serve at least five years of exciting and rewarding service as commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy or U.S. Marine Corps.

For more information about the Summer STEM Program and the application process, visit http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html or call (410) 293-1858. Applicants will be notified of their application status by Friday, May 1.

For more information about the Naval Academy, please visit: www.usna.edu or our Facebook page.

See more education news on Page 17

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Sunday, January 25, 1 - 3 PM

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Mountainside Board Of Education

Beechwood School,
1497 Woodacres Drive, Mountainside, NJ 07092

*** P.E.A.K. PROGRAM ***
(Preschool Education for All Kids)

- Available to children who will be four years old on or before October 1, 2015 and who are Mountainside residents
- Tuition is \$250 per month (\$80 less than last year)
- General education students are selected through a lottery held on February 3, 2015

Please access the homepage of the district website, www.mountainsideschools.org, for an application or at Beechwood or Deerfield Schools. All applications are to be returned by Friday, January 30, 2015, to:

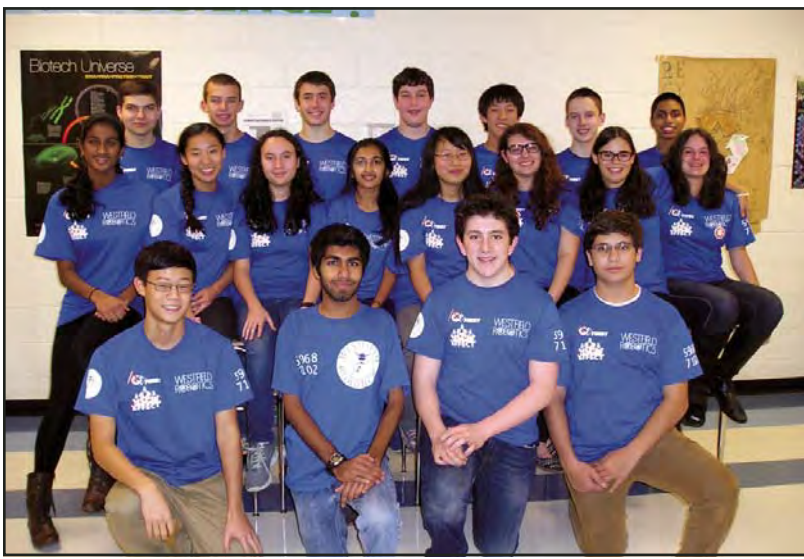
Mrs. Julia Goerlich
Deerfield School
302 Central Avenue
Mountainside, NJ 07092

*** KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION ***
Call now at 908-301-9104, Ext. 100



IT'S A REAL GAS...Lindsay Geschickter and Daniel Genlot are captivated by the result of their dry ice experiment in Barbara Leparulo's science class at Edison Intermediate School in Westfield. Ms. Leparulo and Ms. Squillace, both veteran science teachers at the school, conducted the dry ice lesson to demonstrate how some solids can skip the liquid state and go directly to the gas state. Throughout the day in sixth grade science classrooms, gloved students dropped the dry ice into a half glass of water and watched as it produced carbon dioxide. Other experiments with the CO2 included snuffing out a candle, expanding a balloon, and watching a bubble float on top of dry ice. Students were also instructed to record their observations on sublimation. The teachers thanked the family of Danielle Ardenne for the donation of the dry ice.

More Education News



WINNING ROBOT MAKERS...The members of the Westfield Robotics Team recently will move on to the State Championships following their recent competitions. Front row (left to right): Mike Carides (vice-captain), Neil Makhija (captain), Spencer Fishman (captain), and Alistair Kapadia (vice-captain); middle row (left to right): Saranya Turimella, Christine Rogers, Fiona Gillespie, Trisha Mukhopadhyay, Rachael He, Anna Glueck, Linzy Rosen, and Ashley Rosen; back row (left to right): Joe Detrano, Jack Mulvanerty, Jordan Hindes, Eli Zidel, Thomas Han, Hank Sacco, and Vivek Sreenivasan.

Robotics Teams Win Awards, Move on to Championship

WESTFIELD – Westfield High School's (WHS) Robotics teams, Team 5968 and Team 7102, advanced to state championships in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Coached by WHS teachers Valentino Scipioni and Susan Marie Terra the Robotics teams competed in multiple qualification tournaments to earn spots in the state competitions. On December 6, the teams traveled to Ambler, P.A. where 33 teams from four states competed in the Eastern Pennsylvania Regional Qualifying Tournament. On December 14, the two teams competed against 34 other teams in RoboJoust at Livingston High School in Livingston, and on January 3 Team 5968 competed against 24 teams at the Liberty Science Center Qualification Tournament.

Both teams were nominees for the Inspire Award, the highest award of achievement in FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC). The Inspire Award is given to the team that truly embodies the challenge of the FTC program. The team that receives this award is chosen by the judges as having best represented a 'role-model' FTC Team. This team is a top contender for all other judging categories and is a strong competitor on the field. Working as a unit, this team will have demonstrated success in accomplishing the task of creating a working and competitive robot. Team 5968 placed 3rd for the Inspire Award in Pennsylvania and 2nd for the Inspire Award at Liberty Science Center, while Team 7102 placed 3rd for the Inspire Award at the RoboJoust. These awards qualify the teams to compete in the

state competitions in February and March 2015.

Mr. Scipioni, the teams' head coach, was thrilled with the teams' performances. "It is exhilarating watching young kids today actually use their hands to build something from scratch. The process of engineering is alive in today's kids and working with these particular kids and watching the problem solving that goes into building something as intricate as these robots really gives you faith that knowledge and creativity are still alive" said Coach Scipioni.

The two Westfield teams were also acknowledged for other awards. At the RoboJoust, Team 7102 was the winner of the Connect Award which applauds a team's efforts in contacting specialists, professionals involved in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and their spread of robotics to the community. At the Eastern PA Qualifier, Team 5968 was nominated for the PTC Design Award, Rockwell Collins Innovate Award, and Connect Award.

At the Liberty Science Center tournament, Team 5968 won the PTC Design Award. The PTC design award is "presented to teams that incorporate industrial design elements into their solution. These design elements could simplify the robot's appearance by giving it a clean look, be decorative in nature, or otherwise express the creativity of the team. The winning design should not compromise the practical operation of the robots but complement its purpose".

Gifted Resources Seminar to Be Held at Edison School

WESTFIELD – Families with children in grades K-12 are invited to attend the annual Gifted Resources Seminar, a free event organized by the Westfield Gifted Ed Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) to provide a wide range of information and enrichment opportunities to the community about a variety of programs designed for children of different ages and interests. Admission criteria for these programs varies. The event will be held on Wednesday, February 4 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Edison Intermediate School located at 800 Rahway Avenue. Admission to Westfield's Gifted Program is not a prerequisite to attend this event.

There will be a screening of *RISE: The Extraordinary Journey of the Exceptionally and Profoundly Gifted*. This documentary follows twelve exceptionally and profoundly gifted children, providing a window into their lives and those of their parents and

teachers. The movie begins at 7 p.m. in the Edison auditorium.

Throughout the evening, representatives from HEROES, Rutgers Pre College, Montclair State Gifted Program, the Writer's Circle, New Jersey Association for Gifted Children, MENSA and Summer Institute for the Gifted will be stationed outside the auditorium to provide information and materials about their programs as well as offering engaging activities for students.

This event is sponsored by the Westfield Gifted Ed PTC and is open to parents, teachers and students. The mission of the Gifted Ed PTC is to promote and support the intellectual curiosity of all students in the Westfield school district. The committee also provides support to the students and families that are admitted to and participate in Westfield's Gifted Education Program.

Un. Catholic Students Attend Leadership Conference

SCOTCH PLAINS – On December 12 ten Union Catholic (UC) sophomore Emerging Leaders attended the 2nd annual Union County Student Training and Enrichment Program (UC STEP) Leadership Conference held at Kean University with Mrs. Jennifer Dixon, Director of School Counseling at Union Catholic. UC sophomores Melissa McGloin of Scotch Plains and Cassandra Lamadieu of Union were part of the winning team (Team Light Blue). With over 3,200 votes cast, the 2015 Civic Engagement Project earning the most votes was "Donate to Educate". Donate to Educate will enlist schools all over Union County to serve as collection points for school supplies to help students in need. Melissa and Cassandra were invited to attend the Union County Freeholder Meeting tonight to the recognized.

The Summit was a day-long program that invited high school sophomores and juniors from throughout Union County to participate in activities focused on leadership, responsibility and community. The Civic Engagement Challenge, the headline item on

the agenda, brings students from different schools together to brainstorm and create a county-wide community service campaign. UC students were split up and placed in intermixed groups with students from other schools. These groups presented their campaign idea to the freeholders and other attendees. Students voted and then polls opened online for the community to vote for one of the top four winners. The service initiative that received the most votes at UC STEP and via the online poll would become the countywide project undertaken by participating Union County high schools.

Last year's winning community service initiative was "Support 4 Soldiers," which involved a coordinated drive to collect items for care packages to be shipped to our military troops overseas. 250 care packages were prepared for our troops in conjunction with Union County's partner, Bonds of Courage. Union Catholic alone collected over \$500 to cover shipping costs for the items and collected 280 items to be mailed in the care packages last year.

Scotch Plains Fanwood Arts Association to Meet Sunday

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Scotch Plains Fanwood Arts Association (SPFAA) is a group of fine artists, crafters, photographers and sculptors forming a social group to express and enjoy their talents. SPFAA's mission is to promote and foster an appreciation of the arts and related cultural activities, and to provide an organization for local artists to meet and share their talents while providing an atmosphere of collaboration and empowerment. All are welcome who want to use their creative skills to share, appreciate and grow with others. A main goal of the Scotch Plains Fanwood Arts Association is the integration of the arts into daily life. We strive to achieve this through informative demonstrations, discussions and group trips.

On Sunday, February 1 there will be

a class in Botanical Drawing. Members and guests will learn methods to accurately render flowers. Using graphite pencils you can achieve finished pieces, with shading and form. The instructor, Sandra Cerchio, started as a portrait artist working in graphite and pastel. She will demonstrate techniques and methods, and will share her experience and talents. Please bring a drawing pad, 2H and HB pencils, an eraser and pencil sharpener.

SPFAA meets the first Sunday of the month from September thru June, at 1 p.m. Meetings are held at the Scotch Hills Country Club, 280 Jerusalem Road, Scotch Plains.

The class is free for members. Guests pay \$5 at the door.

Please visit the SPFAA website at SPFAA.net or call Ms. Cerchio, President, at (908) 868-8909.

Retired Westfield Teacher Publishes Poetry Book

WESTFIELD – Carol Nolde, a Westfield English teacher for thirty years, has published her latest collection of poetry *Comfort in Stone*. Published by Finishing Line Press, an award-winning poetry publisher, the poems in the chapbook speak of the many changes in rural life from the days of Mrs. Nolde's childhood on a small farm in Sullivan County, New York.

As well known poet Molly Peacock describes the collection: "Carol Nolde calls out to a rural past in her new chapbook, *Comfort in Stone*, crafted as expertly as a hand-made table."

Mrs. Nolde and her husband Frank are retired Westfield teachers and long time residents of Westfield. Sullivan County, New York natives, they have maintained a home in the hills where

Nolde's great-grandparents once farmed. The sense of the history of the region drives much of her poetry.

As award winning poet Charlotte Mandel describes the work: "The poems in Carol Nolde's collection *Comfort in Stone* are unforgettable, generous in wisdom, clear-eyed in observation, musical in language."

As a writing teacher, Mrs. Nolde encouraged her students to submit work for publication. In fact, it was the success of her students' being published by *Merlyn's Pen*, a national magazine of student writing, that resulted in Mrs. Nolde being asked to work as an associate editor at the magazine, which she did for many years.

Comfort in Stone can be ordered online from Finishing Line Press book store page or through Amazon.

Tango Buenos Aires to Perform at Enlow Hall

UNION – Tango Buenos Aires will perform Song of Eva Perón at Kean University's Enlow Recital Hall on Sunday, February 15 at 3 p.m. One of Argentina's great cultural exports, Tango Buenos Aires is known throughout the Americas, Europe and the Far East as the most authentic and uncompromising representative of the Tango. Song of Eva Perón is a Tango dance and music presentation inspired by the most important feminine character in Argentinian history, Eva Perón. Tracing her epic life – from her ascent to fame in the 1930s to her death in 1952 – this is a sparkling and poignant spectacle that is not to be missed.

The Song of Eva Perón presents the flowering of a humble and beautiful woman. Starting from nothing but propelled by the influence of the Tango, which she first heard while growing up in the slums of Buenos Aires, Eva attains stardom and blooms to be Argentina's First Lady. Her story brought her worldwide acclaim and still resonates with her millions of admirers.

Tickets to the Tango Buenos Aires in Enlow Hall are \$35 - \$45 and can be purchased by calling Kean Stage Box Office at (908) 737-SHOW (7469), online at <http://EnlowHall.kean.edu> or in person at Kean University's Wilkins Theater Box Office at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union.

Situated on Kean University's East Campus, 215 North Avenue in Hillside, Enlow Hall is renowned for its

superb acoustics and elegant design. With just 300 spectacular seats, Enlow Hall has been praised by noted performers and patrons for its intimate ambiance and close proximity between musicians and audience members. Free onsite parking is available at every concert.

For complete Enlow Hall Season information, please visit enlowhall.kean.edu.

Orquestra Sinfonica To Perform at Kean

UNION – Direct from Mexico City, Kean Stage presents Orquestra Sinfónica del Estado de México on Sunday, February 8, 2015 at 3 p.m. Conductor Enrique Batiz leads the orchestra founded in 1971 in a program featuring Manuel de Falla's *Noches en los Jardines de Espana* with Piano Soloist Irina Chistiakova, Manuel Ponce's guitar concerto *Southern with Guitar* Soloist Alfonso Moreno and Johannes Brahms' *Symphony No. 3* in F major, Op. 90 with Violin Soloist Dalia Kuznecovaite.

Wilkins Theatre is located on Kean University's main campus at 1000 Morris Avenue in Union, N.J. Tickets are \$35 Standard; \$20 Senior, Student, Child and are available at the Wilkins Theatre Box Office on campus, by calling (908) 737-SHOW (7469), and online at www.keanstage.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Township of Scotch Plains
Planning Board
County of Union, State of New Jersey

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC ("AT&T") received temporary approval on October 10, 2012, for height variance, front yard setback variance, rear yard setback variance, variance for building coverage and preliminary and final site plan approval to construct a temporary 140' monopole with AT&T antennas at 120' and 130' on the pole. Related equipment cabinets and federally mandated GPS antennas were placed at the base of the pole. The property which was the subject of this application was located at 1610 Raritan Road, Scotch Plains, New Jersey which was located in the R-1 Zoning District and is designated on the Tax Maps as Block 14001, Lot 1.

The Applicant is now seeking a twelve (12) month extension of this approval and extension.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Applicant also seeks such approvals, waivers and variances from the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance as may be deemed necessary or required by the Planning Board at the hearing in this matter.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Township of Scotch Plains Planning Board will meet at 7:30 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2015 in the Township of Scotch Plains Municipal Building, Council Chambers, 430 Park Avenue at which time opportunity will be given to all those in interest to be heard and at which time the Board may approve, modify or deny the application. Any interested party may appear at the aforesaid hearing, either in person, or by their attorney, and be given the opportunity to be heard.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the letter requesting the extension is on file in the Office of the Planning Board, 430 park Avenue, Scotch Plains and available for inspection during regular business hours.

New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Pinielis Halpern, LLP
Judith A. Fairweather, Esq.
160 Morris Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
Attorneys for the Applicant
1 T - 01/29/15, The Times Fee: \$47.36

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Township of Scotch Plains
Planning Board
County of Union, State of New Jersey

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The Applicant is now seeking a twelve (12) month extension of this approval and extension.

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New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC (AT&T)
Pinielis Halpern, LLP
Judith A. Fairweather, Esq.
160 Morris Street
Morristown, NJ 07960
Attorneys for the Applicant
1 T - 01/29/15, The Times Fee: \$48.43



SPEEDING TO THE CDC...Pictured from left are: Jonathan Fishman, Mike Burdick and Kate Bader who will be appearing in *Speed The Plow* at CDC Theatre which opens on Friday, February 6.

Speed The Plow Begins at CDC Starting February 6

CRANFORD – *Speed The Plow*, written by the celebrated American playwright David Mamet, opens on Friday, February 6 at CDC Theatre in Cranford. Located at 78 Winans Avenue, CDC Theatre is the oldest community theatre in New Jersey. A satirical dissection of the American movie business in Hollywood, *Speed The Plow* focuses on two high-powered Hollywood executives who have come up from the mail room together, Bobby Gould, played by Mike Burdick, and Charlie Fox, played by Jonathan Fishman. Mr. Fishman is also directing the production.

"I have wanted to be in *Speed-The-Plow* since the indelible experience I had when I saw the original play on Broadway in 1988" said Mr. Fishman at a recent rehearsal. "The play felt like a touchstone representing the kind of brand-new visceral in-your-face theatre I connected with and wanted to do. The thrill of taking an audience on a journey through a performance where the characters are all in desperate pursuit of finding themselves, willing to fight for the thing that they believe in, and in doing so requiring them to give of themselves completely leaving it all-out there on the stage floor. I have picked up the script many times over the years, my desire to do the play never diminishing with each read. Although no longer a new piece of theatre, I find a fresh perspective and strong connection with the material every time."

When asked about his dual role in this CDC production, Mr. Fishman re-

Opera and NJFO to Present Love Triangles

BASKING RIDGE – On Sunday, March 8 at 3 p.m. the Opera at Florham and New Jersey Festival Orchestra (NJFO) will present: *Love Triangles* – Comic and Deadly, a performance of two operas, Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana* and Scarmolin's *The Interrupted Serenade*.

The performance will take place at Basking Ridge High School, 268 South Finley Ave, Basking Ridge.

Tickets range from \$13 to \$75. For tickets and information call (973) 408-5600 or visit www.njfestivalorchestra.org

sponded, "I have directed and performed in many shows but never before at the same time and I find there is certainly a big difference between directing the scenes I am in, and those I am not. When I am in the house, I can really take in what Kate and Mike are doing and offer suggestions that capitalize on the best of what they are bringing. Switching between listening from the perspective of my character, Charlie, providing performance energy and focus to properly be in-the-moment as the character in support of my co-stars, while also listening to them in order to provide feedback and guidance is very challenging, but can also be very liberating. Directing and acting in the same piece, this piece, is an exciting challenge that I am thoroughly enjoying!"

Speed The Plow will run weekends from Friday, February 6 through Saturday, February 21. Visit www.cdctheatre.org or call (908) 276-7611 for details and tickets. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

Organ Recital to be Held in Millburn

MILLBURN – Alejandro D. Consolacion II, organist and composer from the Philippines, will play the second recital in the 45th season of Beckerath organ recitals at St. Stephen's Church, 119 Main Street, Millburn, on Sunday afternoon, February 8, at 4 p.m.

His program will feature organ works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Carl Philip Emanuel Bach, and Felix Mendelssohn, as well as more recent compositions by Jehan Alain and Guy Bovet. Alejandro Consolacion is presently working on his Graduate Degree in Organ Performance at Westminster Choir College under Dr. Matthew Lewis.

Admission to the recital is by donation at the door (\$10 suggested). Children accompanied by an adult are cordially invited to come as guests. A reception for the artist follows the recital. For further information the church can be reached at (973) 376-0688, or consult www.ststephensmillburn.org

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Arts & Entertainment

Fearlessly Forging Ahead... 'Kicking and Swearing' Part of a Dream Realized

By SUSAN MYRILL DOUGHERTY
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Brian Remo, the CFO and founder of Fearless Productions, an exciting new theatre company, admits he began acting late in life. Once he was bitten by the bug, he's been busy acting, directing and producing. It's been about a year since Fearless Productions was born. "I've always been good with ideas - they've been easy for me - but maybe a little weak in bringing them all to fruition." That was then, this is now and his theatre company is taking off like a California wildfire.

A recognized accomplished actor, writer, director and producer, Mr. Remo's productions have been nominated for 12 NJACT Perry Awards in the last two seasons. He seemingly can do it all. Yet a good leader knows he shouldn't do everything himself and Mr. Remo is stellar at leading with his energy, talent and insight.

What excites him most about the theatre company is that ideas are contagious. "It's almost like the company is an idea machine...one member gets a brainchild and others on our board or in our network bring it to life."

The most recent inspiration is *Kicking and Swearing*, a competition of 15 original one act plays that will be presented in The Loft, a black box space in Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway. "We're excited to be able to showcase new talent of playwrights as well as actors," Mr. Remo told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* in a phone interview. "Some 45 people are involved in this week-long event. The actors are rehearsing in their own space in each other's homes and will perform nightly the week of Monday, February 2 at the Loft in UCPAC and all repeated on Saturday, February 7. According to Mr. Remo, this is a festival that uses reduced space and minimal props, but relies heavily on creativity and inspiration.

A "conglomeration of energy" is what Mr. Remo calls the company that is helping produce a show each month in various venues in the area. With 150 members, he wants to keep the actors, producers and directors

busy. "We maintain an enormous family atmosphere. We are here to support and cheer on each other by attending their shows and trading talent." He feels that "All of the cards seem to have fallen into place for us."

He credits the mayor of Rahway and various members of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for opening their doors to welcome the group to the city of Rahway. This summer Fearless Productions will offer a free acting camp for children who will produce two different musicals.

In December, Fearless Productions held the finals of Fearless Icon, an American Idol type contest that found the best voices in New Jersey. Held at the historic Union County Performing Arts Center in Rahway, the five finalists sang two songs for an enthusiastic audience and nine judges. This writer had the honor of being one of those judges and was amazed at the caliber of the talent. Each finalist had a professional performer as a mentor to guide him or her in the process of

presenting themselves in the best light. This is scheduled to be an annual event that will, no doubt, draw more attention.

And additionally to help hone musical and acting talents, Fearless Productions offers workshops: "The Fearless Truth: An Actors Workshop" and "Constructing the Fearless Instrument." Outlets for the blossoming talent are copious. Upcoming in March is the musical *Nine* that will be produced on the Hamilton Stage in Rahway. Also, Green Day's *American Idiot* will open in July, again on the 300-seat Hamilton Stage.

Of the company itself, Mr. Remo says on his website, "We have come together in friendship, in love and in the name of our passion for the craft that was fueled by a collaborative spirit that can only be referred to as Fearless." Their motto is their name; their work exemplifies it.

For more information about the upcoming season, visit their website at www.fearlessprod.com and be amazed at the ambitious 2015 season.



ENDLESS ENERGY...The founder and Chief Financial Officer of Fearless Productions Brian Remo is contemplative in the role of director. The theatre company, founded almost a year ago, is breaking new ground with a production every month in Rahway.



A NIGHT OF LOVE SONGS...The Westfield High School Choraleers will present A Night of Love Songs on Friday, February 6, at 7 p.m., in Westfield High School Cafeteria B. This event will feature both group and solo performances by members of the Choraleers, Concert Choir, and Bella Cora. Many performers are also members of the NJMEA All State Chorus or CJMEA Region Chorus. Desserts and coffee will be served; there will be a raffle of wonderful gift certificates and baskets courtesy of Utopia Salon and Day Spa, Savory Spice Shop, Lord & Taylor, Hilton Short Hills, and other local businesses. Suggested donation is \$10 per adult and \$5 per student. Proceeds of this event will help support the choir's upcoming Scotland/England performance tour. Please contact Judy Augustino at judyandalan1@verizon.net for more information or to make a donation.

tick, tick...Boom! to Open This Weekend At Rahway's Hamilton Stage

RAHWAY - American Theater Group, New Jersey's newest professional theater company in residence at Hamilton Stage at Union County Performing Arts Center (360 Hamilton Street, Rahway), will present Jonathan Larson's rock musical *tick, tick...BOOM!*. The production will run open Saturday, January 31 at 8 p.m. Directed by Igor Goldin, with music direction by Vince Di Mura, the cast will feature Nicholas Park, Shannon O'Boyle, and Michael Luwoye. Before he wrote the Broadway blockbuster *RENT*, Jonathan Larson had another story to tell...his own.

tick, tick...BOOM! opens on a Saturday night in 1990. Jon is about to turn 30, his show *Superbia* will have its first public performance—a workshop—in a few days, and he's worried that he may have made a wrong career choice. We meet his girlfriend, Susan, and his best friend, Michael, who reveals that he is HIV-positive, Jon thinks about their lifetime of friendship; about what led him to choose a career in the theater, and about whether he should give up

his dreams of success as a composer. Finally, as his 30th birthday actually arrives, he ponders the choices we face in life, and thinks about how we translate those decisions into everyday living. Containing the kind of powerhouse musical numbers that helped make *RENT* a smash hit, *tick, tick...BOOM!* is an endearing, engaging look at making your dreams a reality.

Nicholas Park who has been seen in the off-Broadway productions of *Bedbugs!!!*, *Mr. Irresistible*, and *Dear Edwina* will play the role of Jon.

Shannon O'Boyle, who plays Susan, recently made her Broadway debut as standby for *Girl in Once*. Regional favorites include the title role of the new rock musical *Lizzie*, and *Legally Blonde*.

Michael Luwoye, who plays the best friend, has numerous stage credits including *Empty House*; *Fable*; *Witness Uganda*; *The Three Musketeers*; *Once on This Island*; *Hairspray* and *Guys and Dolls*.

Director Igor Goldin is known primarily for developing and directing

new plays and musicals for the stage. Most notably the regional and Off-Broadway productions of the WWII musical *YANK!*. Mr. Goldin has developed and directed a total of 11 new musicals for the New York Musical Theatre Festival.



Music Director Vince Di Mura serves as the Resident Composer and Musical Director for Princeton University's Lewis Center of the Arts, where his collaborations are entirely dance based. He has performed in concert halls and arts centers throughout North America.

Performances are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, with 3 p.m. matinees on Sunday, February 12 and February 19, with added performances on Wednesday, January 8 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, February 19 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$35, with \$20 student and senior tickets with valid ID. For tickets, visit www.americantheatergroup.org; call (732) 499-8226; or in person at the Union County Performing Arts Center box office located at 1601 Irving Street/4)

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NIGRO STUNS GERGICH, CONCINA DEFEATS FIGUEREDO (132), GURAL (106) BEATS CAPECE

Cougars Top Panther Matmen in 'Alumni Night' Mat Rivalry

By **DAVID B. CORBIN**

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Alumni Night! Traditional rivalry! Packed house! The stage was set for some outstanding performances and they happened in the Cranford High School wrestling team's 36-21 victory over Roselle Park in Cranford on January 21.

The most outstanding performance came five bouts into the match at 145-lbs when Cougar sophomore Mike Nigro jumped up from the JV squad to face Josh Gergich, one of the Panthers'

toughest wrestlers. After yielding a takedown and an escape and trailing, 3-1, Nigro reached deep down inside and recorded a takedown to knot the score at the end of two periods then added an escape and another takedown to claim a 6-3 victory.

"Mike Nigro would start varsity on a lot of teams in our county. It's just that he's in a spot where we got a lot of tough kids all crammed into a couple of weights. I try to get him in when I can, because he is a gamer and can do things like that. He works

extremely hard in the room. That pays off in a match like tonight when everyone in town is here to see," Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said.

"He [Coach Gorman] told me to stay physical. I am used to being on the JV team and coach pulled me up because he believed in me," Nigro said. "He told me, 'I trust you and I know that you work hard enough. I know you are going to win this match if you believe that you can win this match.' I was on the mat. I was coughing. I felt like I couldn't do it anymore then I just remembered that coach believed in me and my teammates believed in me and that I could push through for them, for me and everybody

else watching."

The match began in the 120-lb class and Cougar Tom DiGiovanni put six points on the scoreboard when he turned George Perez with an Olympic arm bar and pinned him in 2:40 with a double grapevine/head smother. A calculator was needed in the 126-lb bout when Cougar Chris Scorese amassed three takedowns, three nearfalls and two escapes before settling Sean Daly in 4:43 also with a double grapevine.

The next two bouts were ones that many wanted to watch closely. At 132-lbs, Cougar Vince Concina got a 4-0 jump on Mike Figueredo with a takedown followed by a Turk ride to a tilt. In the third period, Figueredo battle back with a pair of takedowns and an es-

cape, but during that spurt, Concina added three escapes and a takedown to win, 9-5.

At 138-lbs, Cougar Dave Busch used his snaky moves to his advantage to record a takedown, a step over reversal and another takedown to defeat Andy Santamaria, 6-0. After Nigro won his bout, Cougar Brian McGovern jumped up to 152-lbs and recorded an ankle pick takedown, an escape and another takedown to top Dave Forstenhauser, 5-3. At 160-lbs, Cougar Gavin Murray recorded three takedowns and a standing reversal to defeat a stubborn Joe Devito, 8-2, to give the Cougars a 27-0 lead at the midway point of the match.

Another highly observed bout came at 170-lbs between Pan-

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

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ther Bradley Carle, third in the county at that weight, and Andrew Tompkins, second at 160-lbs. Carle got the jump with a takedown and went on to grab a 3-0 decision. The 182-lb bout was quick when Cougar Niko Cappello clamped Carey Mimy with a cradle in 1:08.



At 195-lbs, Panther Will Ferdinando had a 5-1 lead but was stunned temporarily when Dylan Budnik took him to his back with a double-leg takedown for a four-point move. Ferdinando recovered and pinned Budnik in 3:36 with a half nelson. At 220-lbs, Cougar Nick Ballas escaped

in the third period to nip Tyler Loneker, 1-0.

The 285-lb bout became the longest of the evening when Panther Sebastian Leo and Alex Esposito went to overtime tied 3-3, but Leo got the takedown to win, 5-3.

The 106-lb bout between Panther Chris Gural and Anthony Capece had much on the line with reference to seeding for the Region 3 tournament. Gural, who defeated Capece only four days earlier for the county title, proved he was worthy when he turned Capece with a power half for three points and added an escape to earn a 4-0 victory.

The final bout of the evening at 113-lbs ended when Panther Jon Mejia pinned Jake Quinn in 1:40 with a tight waist/half nelson.

"We have a very talented squad and we are young. I knew there was going to be some bumping around. I wasn't sure who they were going to send at Niko when we lost [170-lbs], but we were ready to go toe-to-toe with whoever they were going to send out," Coach Gorman said. "We



have a long season left. It's a building point after winning the counties that we didn't come down after that highlight. We got the job done."

BOUT SEQUENCE:

120: — DiGiovanni (C) p Perez, 2:40
126: — Scorese (C) p Daly, 4:43
132: — Concina (C) d Figueredo, 9-5
138: — Busch (C) d Santamaria, 6-0

145: — Nigro (C) d Gergich, 6-3
152: — Brian McGovern (C) d Dave Forstenhausler, 5-3
160: — Murray (C) d Devito, 8-2
170: — Carle (P) d Tompkins, 3-1
182: — Cappello (C) p Mimy, 1:08
195: — Ferdinando (P) p Budnik, 3:36
220: — Ballas (C) d Loneker, 1-0
Hwt: — Leo (P) d Esposito, 5-3 OT
106: — Gural (P) d Capece, 4-0
113: — Mejia (P) p Quinn, 1:40



COUGAR JR. SEAN LEONARD PUMPS IN 12 POINTS, JR. JOE NORTON NOTCHES 10 POINTS

G.L. Highlander Boys Rout Cougars in Basketball, 68-44

By ALEX LOWE

Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

Long-range gunner Robert Imbalzano scored 33 points for Governor Livingston (7-4) as the Highlanders made quick work of Cranford, 68-44, on January 20 in Cranford. The 6'7" super senior poured in 21 points during the first half and knocked down five 3-point attempts for the game. The Cougars meanwhile were paced by Sean Leonard (12 points) and Joe Norton (10 points).

"He [Imbalzano] shot the ball really well for them and that was a big part of the problem for us," said Cougar Head Coach Ryan Huber. "It is not every night you see a high school kid go 5-for-5 from beyond the three point line. He is tall kid, 6'8" or something like that, but it is still a matter of simply matching up and chal-

lenging the shot. We didn't do that very well tonight."

In an earlier match-up this season, won by Governor Livingston, 46-36, the Cougars held Imbalzano to just seven points. It was a different story this time around. Imbalzano started off the game hot and stayed that way. He drained a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers to give GL a 6-2 lead in the first minute and a half of play. Imbalzano finished with 10 points in the quarter as the Highlanders built a 19-14 lead.

Imbalzano then sank a pair of back-to-back 3-pointers to start the second quarter, putting the Cougars in a 25-14 hole. It was not just Imbalzano though. Time and again in the first half, Highlander players found their way behind the Cranford defense on quick cuts to the basket for easy

lay-ups. GL ruled on the backboards and in the paint with John Iorio and Jimmy Longo scoring on post up moves and put backs.

Imbalzano ended the quarter just as he had started it by nailing a long-range 3-pointer at the buzzer that gave GL a commanding, 37-19, lead at the half. While the Highlanders appeared nearly perfect, Cranford looked sluggish and listless.

"Most of the time this year we've shown good effort even in the games we've lost," said Huber. "I mean we played Mt. Olive, which last time I looked was undefeated and we played a good hard game against them despite losing. The effort has been there. Tonight was the first night where I did not see that same effort on display. We've got to correct that."

Imbalzano hit an inside basket to start the third quarter. With the Cranford starters unable to mount a serious run and trailing by 19 points, Huber opted to make a mass substitution with a little over a minute left in the third quarter. Joe Norton, Colin Scanlon, Albert Gargiulo Kevin Trotter and Will Fries came onto the court against the Highlander starters and immediately helped

Cranford make its only real push of the game.

"We put the second unit in there because I was not seeing what I wanted to see from the first group," said Huber. "We lacked energy. It was like we were feeling sorry for ourselves out there. I'll tell you this much, we got a better effort from our second line guys tonight and they were able to cut into the lead a little bit."

Fueled by the tough inside play of Fries, the Cougars went on a 12-6 run over the next four minutes to pull within 13 at 53-40. Fries, a junior, was especially impressive, scoring immediately on a strong inside post move and his presence in the paint seemed to slow down a lot of the penetration from back door cutters and ball handlers that had plagued the Cougars all night.

"Will Fries showed something

when we put him out there," said Huber. "He showed energy. He did some good work on the boards and played solid defense. It is all about match ups really. On some nights he is going to create match-up problems for the opponent. He is a big kid, plays well inside. He has good size but would not have been effective in guarding their perimeter player (Imbalzano)."

GL turned the tide when point guard Javon Reis-Wilson connected on a 3-point with 4:25 remaining. Iorio sank a lay-up. After Fries hit a pair of free throws, making the score 58-42, the Highlanders answered with an 8-0 run with just over a minute to play.

Governor Livingston sank seven 3-pointers and sank nine of 13 free throws. With the loss, Cranford dropped to 2-9 on the season.

Probitas Verus Honos

Gov. Livingston	19	18	12	19	68
Cranford	14	5	11	14	44



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**** Westfield Blue Devils' 'Thievery' Clips Lady Raider Basketballers, 55-40 ****





HAVING A BLAST...Families enjoyed the snow non-event by sledding and tubing at Unami Park in Cranford. The storm, which was predicted to be a blizzard, turned into a mere five inch snow fall as the storm moved to the east leaving parts of New York and Massachusetts with upwards of two feet of fresh powder.

Cranford Hires Employee, Appoints Bd. Members

By **CHRISTINA M. HINKE**
Specially Written for *The Westfield Leader*

CRANFORD — The township committee Monday at its workshop meeting authorized the appointment by resolution of a part-time employee with the health department at a rate of \$30 per diem. Jessi Powell was hired as a part-time registered environmental health specialist. Township Business Administrator Terrence Wall said the health specialist performs approximately eight inspections a month in the township of Cranford. The position was previously paid by the Westfield Regional Board of Health, where he was hired as a full-time employee. The township expense for the Westfield Regional Board of Health is to be reduced by the amount to be paid for this contractual employee, Mayor Andis Kalnins told *The Westfield Leader*. In 2014, the township budget for the

Westfield Regional Board of Health was just over \$79,000, Mayor Kalnins said in a workshop meeting in November.

The committee voted on resolutions on the consent agenda slated for the official meeting originally to be held Tuesday, but was canceled in light of the impending storm, Mayor Kalnins said. The committee authorized 2014 budget transfers and tax refunds. The committee also authorized a leave of absence for Mary Valdivia, violations clerk with the Cranford Municipal Court, pursuant to the Family Medical Leave Act.

Upon returning from closed session, the committee passed the following resolutions. The committee authorized the appointment of David Solomon as an alternate no. 1 member to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a two-year term ending December

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



Paul Lachenauer for *The Westfield Leader*

Garwood Library Sets Date For Health Event

GARWOOD — Dr. Orest Pelechaty, clinic director of the Center for Integrated Holistic Medicine in Springfield, will present a program on Wednesday, February 11, at 7 p.m., at the Garwood Public Library.

Dr. Pelechaty's focus is on comprehensive natural healthcare for the whole family, and his presentation will include ways to stay healthy during the winter, using natural approaches to maintaining optimum health during the

cold weather months.

With 27 years of experience, Dr. Pelechaty will discuss methods to prevent common ailments and ways to improve health year-round. He will offer information on seasonal nutrition and remedies to deal with colds, flu, fevers and other ailments.

Registration is required for this event and can be done by calling the library at (908) 789-1670, registering in person or logging on to the library's website and registering through its interactive calendar at youseemore.com/garwood.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street, behind the Lincoln School complex. Hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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Probitas Verus Honos

Garwood Library Plans 'Recyclable' Fun

GARWOOD — The Garwood Public Library will host an arts-and-crafts event for children of Garwood residents, ages 6 to 10, on Saturday, February 7, beginning at 11 a.m. This program will be limited to 20 children, and space is restricted, so registration is required.

Award-winning journalist, author and public speaker Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta and Bridget Briant, an artist/yoga teacher/children's yoga teacher, will conduct the art session.

Whether it is making robots out of old cereal boxes, dolls out of Q-tips, puppets from old socks or "designer" footwear from old buttons, children will have an opportunity to explore their creativity during this informative, fun, interactive class.

The Garwood Public Library is located at the corner of Third Avenue and Walnut Street. Registration for this event may be done in person at the library; by calling (908) 789-1670, or at the library's interactive calendar found at its website at youseemore.com/garwood.

U.C. Historical Soc. To Meet February 8

CRANFORD — The Union County Historical Society will hold its next meeting on Sunday, February 8, beginning at 2 p.m. It will take place at the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue, Cranford.

Dean Poulsen, a veteran music educator, performer and musicologist, will be the featured speaker. Mr. Poulsen will present a program of music of the Civil War in which he will discuss and perform the music and songs inspired by that national conflict 150 years ago. All are welcome. Refreshments and further discussion will follow the meeting. For more information, visit unioncountyhistoricalsocietynj.org.



Paul Lachenauer for The Westfield Leader

ENJOYING THE DAY...Kids and grownups alike enjoyed the day off on Tuesday by sledding, tubing and snowboarding at Unami Park in Cranford. The predicted blizzard turned into a mere five-inch snowfall as the storm moved to the east, leaving parts of New York and Massachusetts with upwards of two feet of snow.

CF Hires Employees

31, 2016. Maureen Tinen was authorized as an owner member to the Downtown District Management Corporation to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2016. She will replace Barry Donovan, owner of Kilkenny House, who resigned. Anthony Durante was appointed as a resident member to the Downtown District Management Corporation for a three-year term ending December 31, 2017.

The committee is expected to begin the municipal budget review process at its next meeting on February 9.

The committee also discussed fire and police personnel matters, the FEMA elevation project, and legal matters in closed session, according to the agenda.

Speed The Plow Begins at Cranford Dramatic Club Starting February 6

CRANFORD – *Speed The Plow*, written by the celebrated American playwright David Mamet, opens on Friday, February 6 at CDC Theatre in Cranford. Located at 78 Winans Avenue, CDC Theatre is the oldest community theatre in New Jersey. A satirical dissection of the American movie business in Hollywood, *Speed The Plow* focuses on two high-powered Hollywood executives who have come up from the mail room together, Bobby Gould, played by Mike Burdick, and Charlie Fox, played by Jonathan Fishman. Mr. Fishman is also directing the production.

the characters are all in desperate pursuit of finding themselves, willing to fight for the thing that they believe in, and in doing so requiring them to give of themselves completely leaving it-all-out there on the stage floor. I have picked up the script many times over the years, my desire to do the play never diminishing with each read. Although no longer a new piece of theatre, I find a fresh perspective and strong connection with the material every time."

When asked about his dual role

in this CDC production, Mr. Fishman responded, "I have directed and performed in many shows but never before at the same time and I find there is certainly a big difference between directing the scenes I am in, and those I am not. When I am in the house, I can really take in what Kate and Mike are doing and offer suggestions that capitalize on the best of what they are bringing. Switching between listening from the perspective of my character, Charlie, providing performance energy and focus to properly be in-the-moment as the character is very challenging, but can also be very liberating. Directing and acting in the same piece, this piece, is an exciting challenge that I am thoroughly enjoying!"

tickets. Funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Dept. of State, a Partner Agency of the

National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs.

"I have wanted to be in *Speed-The-Plow* since the indelible experience I had when I saw the original play on Broadway in 1988" said Mr. Fishman at a recent rehearsal. "The play felt like a touchstone representing the kind of brand-new visceral in-your-face theatre I connected with and wanted to do. The thrill of taking an audience on a journey through a performance where

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SPEEDING TO THE CDC...Pictured from left are: Jonathan Fishman, Mike Burdick and Kate Bader who will be appearing in *Speed The Plow* at CDC Theatre which opens on Friday, February 6.

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