Park overhaul includes new fields, playground

By KATHY CHANG
Staff Writer

More than a decade after a portion of Veterans Park was closed due to soil contamination, North Brunswick officials are taking steps to remediate and reopen the entire 14-acre park.

T&M Associates of Middletown should be on-site with shovels in the ground by June 26, 2015, according to Timothy C. Kinsella, vice president and group manager of the engineering firm.

"That is the goal," he said at a public session meeting held on Dec. 11 at North Brunswick Township High School (NBTHS).

Kinsella and his team at T&M — Michael Heumiller, principal environmental scientist; Pearse Mackle, supervising environmental scientist; and Evan J. Stone, group manager of landscape architecture — presented a remediation plan to cap the contaminated soil at 2 feet and proposed four conceptual plans of the park for the public to review.

In all the plans, the existing open-air pavilion remains as is. The existing softball field is retained, but it will be rehabilitated with drainage and lighting upgrades as well as dugouts. Kinsella said the drainage issue at the park will be addressed.

In Conceptual Site Plan 1, proposals include 126 additional new parking spaces with parallel spaces on Roosevelt Avenue, the movement of the Veterans Memorial to a new location at the pedestrian entry off Roosevelt Avenue, a new skinned infield softball field, a new multipurpose flat field, the resurfacing of five existing tennis courts, new fencing and lights as needed, the movement of the existing basketball court along Roosevelt Avenue with the addition of a court with a new handball wall, a berm to separate the basketball courts and the new multipurpose field, new connector pathways lit with LED fixtures, and supplemental new landscaping throughout the park with buffer enhancements.

(Continued on page 18)

Interfaith families embrace holidays

By JEREMY GROSSMAN
Staff Writer

Kelli and Pat Antonucci of Monroe used to joke when people would ask what religion their daughters practiced.

"We would say ‘confused,' " Kelli Antonucci said.

Truthfully, she doesn’t think her daughters are “confused” at all, even when the holiday season rolls around. Kelli, who was raised Jewish, and Pat, raised Catholic, have embraced both religions in their family, with daughters Jessica, 15, Amanda, 13, and Rebecca, 11, identifying as both.

"It’s so normal to us that we don’t even think about it," the mom said.

Like the Antonuccis, many interfaith families are tasked with making difficult and unique choices: How will the children be raised? How can each spouse avoid “giving up” his or her religion? How will the house be decorated in December?

Together, interfaith families learn how to answer these questions and define their own sense of “normal,” especially as the trees, menorahs, kinaras, stockings and dreidels are brought out each year.

The Antonuccis, for example, will go to church and temple on major holidays — Christmas, Easter, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur — but the daughters will not have bat mitzvahs, first communions or confirmations.

“They feel like they got kind of gypped on that, but ... I think that what you lose, you gain in some other way," Kelli Antonucci said.

And she’s not just talking about the fact that her daughters receive double the gifts.

“It’s nice that we get presents usually more than other kids would,” Jessica said.

(Continued on page 6)
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Visitors to Historic Allaire Village on Dec. 13 got into the spirit of the season with the Christmas Lantern Tour of the historic village. They enjoyed traditional 19th-century activities such as baking gingerbread, fireside musical performances by a choir, a harpist playing in the chapel and blacksmiths playing carols on the anvil. The lantern tour will be repeated at the village in Farmingdale from 5-8 p.m. Dec. 20.
Miss Black N.J. focuses on social work

NORTH BRUNSWICK — A township resident who aims to serve as a positive role model for children has been named Miss Black New Jersey USA.

Fatmata Savage will represent New Jersey in the Miss Black USA 2015 pageant to be held in Washington, D.C.

Savage, 26, is originally from Sierra Leone and moved to North Brunswick at age 9. She is a graduate of North Brunswick Township High School.

She received her master’s degree in social work from Kean University in Maplewood and was a recipient of the Harriet Bloomfield Scholarship from the National Graduate College.

Savage also served as the student representative on the Academic Review Board at Kean and was a member of the university’s Graduate Senate Committee.

Immediately after graduating, Savage began working as a clinician in the Trinitas Regional Medical Center’s Statewide Clinical Consultation and Training program, which provides mental health assessments and linkages to services for people in crisis.

She is currently working on various activities with the Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

Police charge four in home invasions

By ADAM C. UZIALKO

Police have arrested four Texas residents in connection with the string of home invasions that targeted Indian-American families in Middlesex County in recent months.

Chaka Castro, 39; Juan Olaya, 34; Octavious Scott, 22; and Johnisha Williams, 19, were arrested in their home state last week, Middlesex County Prosecutor Andrew Carey said during a press conference held Dec. 15 in New Brunswick. The police chiefs from Old Bridge, Edison and South Plainfield joined Carey in announcing the arrests.

Carey said the suspects will be returned to New Jersey. Cash bail has been set at $1.25 million, to be paid in full, for each suspect.

“We look forward to getting the defendants back to our jurisdiction,” Carey said. “When that will be, I do not know. We are coordinating with the other jurisdictions that have charges and investigations that are pending.”

More individuals may be charged in connection with the crimes at a later date, Carey said, though he declined to comment further.

According to Carey, Castro was charged with five counts of conspiracy to commit robbery, while the other defendants were charged with multiple counts, including first-degree robbery and kidnapping; second-degree conspiracy, burglary and aggravated assault; third-degree terrorist threats, theft, criminal mischief and hindering apprehension; and pointing firearms at the victims of the invasions, a fourth-degree crime.

The invasions took place in Old Bridge on Oct. 20, Oct. 26 and Nov. 29; in South Plainfield on Oct. 28; and in Edison on Oct. 30.

An investigation by Agent John Selesky and Detective John Marotta, both of the Middlesex County Prosecutor’s Office, determined that Castro allegedly targeted specific homes in the three communities, and directed her co-defendants to commit the crimes, according to authorities.

Scott and Olaya allegedly entered each of the homes with guns drawn, restrained the families and fled with stolen items in each of the five invasions. They also threatened homeowners and smashed cellphones to prevent the victims from calling police, according to Carey.

In all but the most recent invasion in Old Bridge, Williams allegedly waited outside the homes and drove Scott and Olaya from the scenes, police said.

First-degree kidnapping carries a sentence of up to 30 years in prison; first-degree robbery carries a maximum sentence of 20 years; the second-degree charge of conspiracy to commit robbery, along with the gun charges, each carry sentences of up to 10 years; the third-degree charges come with sentences of up to five years; and the fourth-degree crimes carry sentences of up to 18 months, Carey said.

The suspects also allegedly engaged in similar activities in Texas, Michigan, Georgia and New York, where authorities worked with the prosecutor’s office to apprehend the suspects, according to Carey. He added that the suspects targeted Indian-Americans in those cases, as well.

“I would urge the communities to remain vigilant,” Carey said. “Law enforcement will continue to do everything we possibly can to keep you safe. We will continue to cooperate with the Indian community as best as we possibly can.”

Preschoolers organize toy, clothing drive

Throughout December, students at The Learning Experience, 347 Old Georges Road, North Brunswick, will host a toy drive through Dec. 19 to benefit Angel Tree, as well as a hat/mitten drive to benefit needy children throughout the state. For more information, call 732-432-7605.

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Wed. Dec. 31st  9:30am - 5pm
Thurs. Jan. 1st  CLOSED

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Interfaith

(Continued from page 1)

"But it's also nice to know what religion your parents grew up with and to get a taste of both in your life. I really like having two religions, honestly. It kind of defines who I am, and it's something really different about me.

"You don't really talk to a lot of people that have two religions — it's kind of part of who I am and Catholicism.

Jessica said she feels she is able to form her own religion from her experiences with both Judaism and Catholicism.

While the Antenucci's have found comfort in the way they acknowledge religion, some rabbis, such as Rabbi Michael Pont of the Marlboro Jewish Center — a Conservative congregation — are more critical of that approach.

"Ultimately, I think each individual should know who he or she is from a faith perspective. ... I kind of feel like if you're celebrating both, then you're not really embracing either," Pont said.

"That's my concern."

Rabbi Marc Kline of the Monmouth Reform Temple in Tinton Falls echoed Pont's concerns.

"You can be biracial," Kline said. "You can be bisexual. But you can't have two different religious traditions that contradict each other and call them both yours."

James and Monica Brewer of Tinton Falls wanted their children, Jonah, 14, and Lev, 12, to grow up with one clear-cut religion.

"I told my wife I wanted my children to be raised religious, with a religion," James Brewer said. "I wanted them to have that moral background and the moral compass that religions provide a person. I said [to Monica], 'You can choose whether it's Jewish or Christian, but I want them raised religious, and I don't want to do it halfway.'"

Even though Monica Brewer did not grow up as an observant Jew — unlike her husband, who was raised a devout Christian — it didn't change the fact that she wanted her children raised Jewish.

"Ironic, don't you think?" Monica Brewer said. "It's cultural and tribal — that is what it is to be Jewish for me, and I wasn't willing to forgo all of that."

Now, Monica Brewer is a vice president at the Monmouth Reform Temple, and James Brewer — while not allowed to hold the Torah, among other restrictions for non-Jews — is an active member and participant of the synagogue.

Each year, the Brewers put up a Christmas tree after Hanukkah is over in order to let the Jewish holiday have its time to shine.

James Brewer, who still considers himself Christian, said he appreciated that his sons were still able to have Christmas in their lives, despite being Jewish.

"They don't have to go to school and say, 'I didn't have Christmas,' which I think can be rough for a Jewish kid to see all the Christian kids enjoying this magical holiday, ... There's a magic that doesn't happen if you don't celebrate it," James said.

Some families don't even put a label on religions.

Sam and Henna Khan of Edison are neither Christian nor Jewish, yet they celebrate Christmas and Hanukkah, as well as Ramadan and Diwali.

"It doesn't matter if you're Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jew," Sam Khan said. "I'm a strong believer of God."

Although Sam Khan was raised Muslim and Henna Khan was raised Hindu, they decided to welcome all religions and faiths into their lives. Their daughters, Alisha, 14, and Michelle, 9, are free to embrace any religion they choose.

As the founder of the South Asian Community Outreach Group, Sam Khan holds an Interfaith Holiday Party each December at the Royal Albert Palace in Edison. Families of all faiths are encouraged to attend.

"I believe in unity — my motto is to bring all the communities together and live peacefully and enjoy every single holiday," Sam Khan said. "Holiday is nothing but joy and happiness and a celebration of life."

Felice and Jon Shaloum of Middletown have taken a similar approach to the holiday season, even though every member of their family, including Ethan, 11, and Francesca, 8, is Jewish.

"We don't live in a really Jewish area," Felice Shaloum said.

"All of my kids' friends are Catholic ... and I just don't want my kids to feel like there's something wrong with them because Santa doesn't come to our house."

Every year, the Shaloums put up what they refer to as a "tree of life." In addition to receiving gifts for Hanukkah, Ethan and Francesca will open gifts from under the tree on Christmas Day.

"It's not that her children 'celebrate' Christmas, Felice Shaloum said, but rather that they have "an appreciation" for it.

"They are very, very aware that they're Jewish, and they take pride that they're Jewish," she said. "I just don't want them to lose out on Christmas, because it is a really fun holiday, and I want them to celebrate with their friends. ... Perhaps if we lived in a Jewish area, I would feel different, because they would have more Jewish people to connect with."

Regardless, Felice Shaloum said her mother is not too thrilled that she has a tree in her house.

"I just try not to make such a big deal out of it, because it's not a big deal," she said. "We don't go to church. We don't do anything religious. It's just a fun day, and it's stupid to make it into a big deal, because it's not. It's a fun holiday, and everybody celebrates it, so why can't we?"

Ultimately, the holiday season looks different for everybody. And for the Fernandez family of Monroe, the season looks like a Christmas tree decorated in menorah and dreidel ornaments.

"We have a snowman on top," said Sara Fernandez, who was raised Jewish. "There's no religious reference."

The tree is put up every year out of respect for her husband, Ray, who was raised Catholic. Ray said, that she has a tree in her house.

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OPINION

YOUR TURN

Today’s officers are best in nation’s history

Our nation is reeling from two unfortunate tragedies: the death of Michael Brown and the death of Eric Garner.

The reaction to these incidents shows that it will take a long time for our communities to heal, and our profession will be impacted forever by these two events. The divide and passion in the debate over these deaths is deep and palpable, and I certainly respect a person’s right to peaceful and lawful protest. The freedom of speech is the greatest part of our democracy.

To offer some perspective, approximately 34,000 persons were arrested by officers every single day throughout our country in 2011. In New Jersey, that was approximately 930 arrests per day. A majority of those arrests take place without any incident whatsoever. They are transported, processed, entered into our criminal justice system and given their day in court.

As sad and tragic as it is to admit, when 12.4 million people get arrested in one year, statistically there are cases that come to an unfortunate end. We are not infallible, and we make mistakes. Our officers must often make life-or-death decisions in split seconds. We have no time to resort to law books, case law, legal opinions, experts, attorneys, supervisors or clergy. Grand juries, juries and the public are left to scrutinize that decision for months and years to come. Lives on both sides of the equation are changed forever.

That is not to suggest that law enforcement officers are always indifferent in the performance of their duties. Are there those among over 900,000 sworn law enforcement officers in this country that are racist or abuse their authority? Absolutely. Despite rigorous testing, interviews and psychological tests, they still get into our profession. But the overwhelming fact remains that in 2014 we have the most professional, best-educated, best-trained and best-equipped law enforcement professionals in our nation’s history.

Consider that when the millions of “calls for service” and non-arrest statistics are factored in, the number of times an officer removes his gun from his holster is so statistically insignificant that you probably have a better chance of being struck by lightning than staring down the barrel of an officer’s gun. That is because of great training, good people and good relationships between a community and its officers.

I was not an eyewitness on Aug. 9 in Ferguson, Missouri. I was on the grand jury, nor was anybody I know. I was ready to accept whatever verdict was rendered in both St. Louis County and Staten Island. Our grand jury system is certainly not perfect, but it is the best system we have. Over my years as a detective, the grand jury system has surprised me, disappointed me and satisfied me. Whatever the results were in any of my cases, I accepted them and moved on.

Deadly force is not an easy option. The public has to realize that there is a gun at every single call — it is our gun. Our badges do not make us super-human. We cannot effect an arrest on everyone we meet just because we wear a uniform.

It should come as no shock that not everyone complies with an arrest.

In my 23 years as a police officer, I have never once witnessed a person that complied with a lawful order get even a single scratch. Not once. At the very core of this issue, both Eric Garner and Michael Brown were violating a law. When they were given a lawful order by an officer, neither of the men complied. When they were being placed under arrest or ordered to stop, they resisted that order. When they resisted, they were tragically killed.

In the simplest of terms, if Michael Brown and Eric Garner had complied with the lawful commands of those police officers, they would both be alive today.

Patrick Colligan is the president of the New Jersey State Policemen’s Benevolent Association. The NJSPBA represents almost 33,000 local, county, state and federal law enforcement officers throughout New Jersey.

LETTERS

Council president thanks staff, volunteers

Benjamin Franklin said, “The doors of wisdom are never shut.” As 2014 comes to a close and I reflect upon my year as your North Brunswick council president, I am once again aware of the endless support of our residents. From your sensible understanding to your prudent oversight, you have helped guide the governing body in its work. Thank you for your support of our residents. From your council president thanks staff, volunteers and acumen.

Further thought leads to the staff of North Brunswick. This group of hard-working individuals clearly operates each day with the best interest of the township in mind. They are dedicated, accountable and knowledgeable. From the offices in the municipal complex to the streets in and around town, these people get it done and get it done right.

I want to give special recognition to North Brunswick’s finest: our Police Department. These days, we are keenly aware of the challenging nature of their job and the respect that they deserve. They keep us safe and protected in our homes, neighborhoods, businesses and highways. Thank you for being our guardians and for your resolve.

Of course, any contemplation must include our volunteers. Our firefighters, rescue and first aid squad, and all those who serve on boards and committees, thank you for your generous donations of your time and acumen.

In the waning days of 2014, we can confidently and wisely look back on our work and our accomplishments in North Brunswick. Thank you to our mayor and my council colleagues for another positive experience as your council president.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very joyous and sacred holiday season. God bless you.

Cathy Nicola
North Brunswick

LETTERS

Governor’s veto of crate bill criticized

Compassionate people across the country are dumbfounded that Gov. Chris Christie vetoed a bill that would ban gestation crates for pigs.

Most mother pigs spend their entire adult lives confined to these cramped crates, imprisoned by cold metal bars and forced to lie in their own feces. The cages are so small that the pigs can’t lie down comfortably or turn around.

Piglets are taken away from their mothers when they are less than a month old, and the mothers are impregnated again. The cycle of forced breeding and imprisonment continues.

The intensive confinement, loneliness and depravation often cause mother pigs to go insane, and they engage in repetitive behaviors such as neurotically chewing on their cage bars.

Gestation crates are so barbaric that they have been banned in several U.S. states as well as the United Kingdom and Sweden. New Jersey should follow suit.

Michelle Kretzer
The PETA Foundation
Norfolk, Va.
Volunteers needed to assist with blood drives

New Jersey Blood Services, which supplies blood products and services to 60 hospitals throughout the state, is in need of volunteers at blood drives.
Volunteers assist donors with registration, perform escorting and canteen duties, and watch for post-donation reactions.

Volunteers should have the ability to relate to the public, be able to perform different jobs as needed and have the willingness to follow the rules.
For more information, contact R. Jan Zepka at 732-616-8741 or rzepka@nybloodcenter.org.

Sophomores, juniors can enter essay contest

The Jersey Blue Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution announced the third annual contest for the Middlesex County Good Citizenship Award.
The contest is open to all Middlesex County high school sophomores and juniors who are in good academic standing with a “C” average and above, and who exemplify the characteristics of a good citizen of the United States.
Contestants are required to submit an application that includes a fact sheet outlining the student's accomplishments in leadership positions, organizations, awards and community service; a written essay; and two recommendations — one from their school's faculty member and another from an adult associate other than family, such as a coach, employer, member of the clergy, scout leader or 4-H leader.
The topic for this year's essay is “What is the importance of patriotism in today's world?” The essay should include specific examples of the student's patriotism as it relates to their community service and should be two to three pages in length.
One winner will be selected and notified no later than Feb. 20. The winner will receive a check for $250, a medal and a certificate during a presentation on March 7 at Buccleuch Mansion in New Brunswick.
To request the complete guidelines and forms, contact Mary Kwietniak at 732-846-0633.
World War II, Cold War survivor celebrates 100th birthday

NORTH BRUNSWICK — A township woman who lived through World War II and the Cold War will be celebrating her 100th birthday this week.

Born on Dec. 18, Haya (Eva) Mogilever will be honored at a family celebration on Dec. 20.

Mogilever was born in the Ukraine to a farmer’s family in 1914. Her parents also owned a carbonated beverage factory, according to her granddaughter, Natalia.

Mogilever was the oldest of seven children and the only one to make it to 100 years old.

Her family lived through the Russian Revolution, followed by the programs and then the civil war.

She married Leo Mogilever in 1935 and had three children.

Mogilever and her family were forced by Nazis into concentration camps during World War II. More than half of her entire family fell victim. Mogilever hid from the Nazis in the forest and left on horseback, lucky enough to escape going to the camp and save her children.

However, she lost her oldest son, Jacob, who was only 7 years old when he died of pneumonia. He was removed from the train so that others would not catch the disease, Natalia said.

Mogilever’s family lived in the USSR during the Cold War. Being Jewish in Russia affected their lifestyle, so Mogilever immigrated to the United States in 1991 with her husband, children and grandchildren, she said.

She now has two children, four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Volunteers needed for local snow removal

Volunteers are needed to assist North Brunswick seniors in the event of snow removal.

For more information, contact Jessica Zink at 732-418-2222 or jzink@northbrunswicknj.gov.

Santa to visit lights display on Dec. 20

BK’s Lawn Service and Kloos Family Lights have set up their 10th annual holiday display at 13 Sterling Court, East Brunswick.

From 5-11 p.m. nightly through Jan. 3, the house will be lit up with thousands of lights and Christmas decorations. Santa will visit 7-9 p.m. Dec. 20.

For more information, visit face­book.com/kloosfamilylights.

Yiddish Hanukkah music show slated

The Stein Residence, 350 Demott Lane, Somerset, will feature Yiddish Hanukkah music from Dan Nadel, a resident’s grandson, at 11 a.m. Dec. 21. For more information, call 732-568-1155, ext. 302.

Plastic materials needed for fundraiser

The South Brunswick Senior Center, 110 Kingston Lane, Monmouth Junction, will collect Brita products, chip wrappers, cellphones, laptops and ink cartridges, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. weekdays. Eco-wise business Terra Cycle will upcycle the goods into eco-friendly products. For more information, call 732-329-4000, ext. 7670.

American Legion hosts Dec. 19 karaoke dance

American Legion Post 401, 148 Major Road, South Brunswick, will host a karaoke dance at 8 p.m. Dec. 19. Karaoke is free and open to the public. For more information, call 732-329-9861.
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25-30 Blooms............ 3 for $30

LARGE SELECTION OF WREATHS
Undecorated • Double-faced (Actual size of wreath much larger)

12" ring size......................... $5.00 ea.
16" ring size......................... $7.00 ea.

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Brew-haha

Jason Pappas pours a sample of his award-winning beer for Brian Bender during an "Advanced Home Brewing Q&A: Beyond Extract" class for experienced home brewers, which was hosted by the Rutgers Cooperative Extension at the Rutgers University Cook Campus in New Brunswick on Nov. 21. Pappas was incorrectly identified in a recent issue of the Sentinel.

More than $12K raised for injured Monroe teen

By ADAM C. UZIALKO
Staff Writer

MONROE — A fundraiser for Mikey Nichols, a high school ice hockey player who suffered a spinal cord injury in January, grossed more than $12,000 for the foundation supporting his recovery.

Gasko’s Family Farm and Greenhouses hosted its annual Christmas Open House on Nov. 29, when donations were accepted and tickets to Broadway shows and sporting events were raffled to benefit the MikeyStrong23 foundation.

“We're still getting checks pretty much every day,” co-owner Peter Gasko said of the ongoing support.

The winter festival, which was paid for by the Gasko family, is an event held every year to show gratitude to customers, he said.

This year, the Gasko daughters, Tina and Kirsten, wanted to promote the event as a way to support Nichols, who was paralyzed from the chest down when he sustained a fracture to the C5 vertebra in his neck during a game against Vernon High School.

Mikey Nichols, an 18-year-old senior at Monroe Township High School, played in 69 varsity hockey games during his career as a four-year letter winner, with nine goals and 19 assists.

Following his injury, he was airlifted to Morristown Medical Center, where he received surgery for the fractured vertebra. Several weeks later, he was transferred to Kessler Rehabilitation Center in West Orange. He was able to return home during the summer.

Nichols attended the event for the first hour with his parents, brother, youngest sister and girlfriend, according to Michelle Ross of the MikeyStrong23 foundation.

“Sue [Gasko] visited the Nichols at their home [on Nov. 30] and presented them with the funds raised as well as a very generous donation from her family,” Ross said. “The Nichols were overwhelmed with the generosity of all and made sure that Sue left with some ‘Mikey Merch’ as a small token of their gratefulness.”

Peter Gasko said his teenage daughters were very encouraged by the turnout at the open house and the success of the fundraiser.

The total donations raised thus far, with more still rolling in, easily eclipsed the $10,000 goal the Gaskos had hoped for.

One hundred percent of the proceeds went to the MikeyStrong23 foundation.

Peter Gasko said the generosity of the community in rallying around Mikey Nichols is commendable, and extended his family’s gratitude to all who contributed.

“A big ‘thank you’ from the Gasko family to everybody — both for supporting our farm and Mikey that night,” he said.

American Legion contest features safety

The American Legion Safety Essay Contest, administered by American Legion Post 401 in South Brunswick, will be themed “What Safety Means to Me” this year.

Students who live in South Brunswick and attend the sixth, seventh or eighth grade at a public, private or parochial school may write an essay of 300 to 450 words. Handwritten essays receive extra credit.

Coverage of topic, grammar, neatness, spelling, originality and general appearance will be factors in the judging.

The essay must also be certified by the child’s teacher and then sent to Post 401, P.O. Box 82, 148 Major Road, Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852. Deadline for submission is Jan. 10.

For more information or to participate, email alpost401@hotmail.com.

Indo-American group slates Dec. 20 party

The Indo-American Cultural Society Inc. will sponsor its 24th annual Christmas celebration at 6:30 p.m. Dec. 20 at Royal Albert’s Palace, 1050 King Georges Post Road, Fords.

Vegetarian and nonvegetarian food, drinks, music and dance will be included. Tickets for adults are $40 for members and $50 for guests. Tickets for children under age 12 are $40 for members and $20 for guests.

Santa Claus will give gifts to children under age 12, and family Christmas pictures will be taken 6:30-8:30 p.m. Dance performances will be given by students of Satrangi School of Fusion, Arya Dance Academy and Moksha Dance Academy.

For more information, call 732-259-6874 or email peter@quicktravelinc.com.

For more information about community events in the Sentinel, visit www.gmnews.com under the North & South Brunswick Sentinel heading.
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ENTER TO WIN THIS $7,000 DIAMOND BRACELET!
Livoti’s honors Jewish community

By JEREMY GROSSMAN
Staff Writer

MARLBORO — In celebration of Hanukkah and the local Jewish community, Livoti’s Old World Market in Marlboro Plaza, Route 9, is displaying a 5-foot-tall menorah in the store.

Hanukkah, which is known as the Festival of Lights, began on Dec. 16 and will continue for eight days.

On Dec. 12, owner John Livoti and general store manager Mike Ali, who is Livoti’s son-in-law, presented the menorah alongside Rabbi Yossi Kanelsky of the Center for Jewish Life, Marlboro.

“There is a big influx of Jewish people who shop here ... and I would like to participate in celebrating their holiday as much as I celebrate my holiday,” Livoti said. “In fact, my wife is Jewish, and my children are half-Jewish and half-Italian.”

Even though the market, which also has a location in Aberdeen Township, is known for its Italian specialty foods, the store also sells kosher foods and products from Israel.

Since the Marlboro location is only a few months old, Livoti said, he did not know the percentage of Jewish shoppers in the store, but estimated that the percentage in Aberdeen is about 35 percent.

Kanelsky said when the Marlboro location opened in May, Livoti approached him and indicated he wanted to embrace the local Jewish community.

“From day one, [John] has shown that he is a community man and he wanted to reach out to everyone, and we were very grateful for him to allow us the opportunity to bring the message of Hanukkah to his shoppers and to everyone around,” he said. “I think today the menorah lights are something that people from all cultures and backgrounds identify with.”

Kanelsky said the idea of Hanukkah is about religious freedom.

“My ancestors and my parents are both from the former Soviet Union, where celebrating any holiday — Jewish or any of the like — was not allowed,” he said. “And being able to do so today in a public store with an endorsement from the owner ... is very special and very unique.”

In celebration of Hanukkah, Livoti’s Old World Market, Marlboro, has placed a menorah in the store, courtesy of the Center for Jewish Life, Marlboro. Rabbi Yossi Kanelsky speaks with co-owners John Livoti and Mike Ali.
Whether leaving cookies out for Santa or simply spreading some holiday cheer among family and friends, the following recipe for Soft Glazed Gingerbread from Elizabeth M. Prueitt and Chad Robertson’s Tartine is sure to please this holiday season.

**Soft Glazed Gingerbread**

Yields 12 to 20 cookies

To make the dough, stir together the flour, cocoa powder, ginger, cloves, cinnamon, baking soda, salt, and pepper in a mixing bowl. Set aside. Using a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment, beat the butter on medium-high speed until creamy. Slowly add the granulated sugar and mix on medium speed until the mixture is completely smooth and soft. Stop the mixer and scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula as needed. Add the egg and mix well.

Add the molasses and corn syrup and beat until incorporated. Stop the mixer again and scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour mixture and beat on low speed until a dough forms that pulls away from the sides of the bowl and all the ingredients are well incorporated. Remove the dough from the bowl, flatten it on a large piece of plastic wrap into a rectangle about 1 inch thick, cover the dough with plastic wrap, and refrigerate overnight.

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper or a non-stick liner.

Unwrap the dough and place on a floured work surface. If using a plaque with a design, roll out the dough 1/8-inch thick, lightly dust the top with flour, press your cookie molds over the dough, and then cut the shapes with a small knife and place on the prepared baking sheet, spacing them about 1 inch apart. Alternatively, using the mold as a guide, cut around it with a small knife, flip the mold over so the design is facing you, and place the dough over it, pressing it into the design. Unmold the shapes onto the prepared baking sheet, leaving about 1 inch between them.

If using a patterned rolling pin, lightly dust the lined baking sheet with flour and transfer the dough to the pan. Lightly dust the top of the dough with flour and roll it into a rectangle about 1/3-inch thick with a plain pin. Then, using the patterned pin, roll over the dough with enough pressure to ensure a clear impression of the design. Trim the sides with a small knife. It is not necessary to cut into smaller sizes before baking.

Bake the cookies until lightly golden along the sides but still soft to the touch in the centers, 7 to 15 minutes. The timing will depend on the size of the individual cookies, or if you have made a single large patterned piece that will be cut after baking. While the cookies are baking, prepare the glaze. In a small bowl, whisk together the confectioners’ sugar and water until smooth.

When the cookies are ready, remove from the oven and let cool on the pan on a wire rack for about 10 minutes. Then, while the cookies are still warm, using even strokes, brush a light coat of glaze on top of each cookie, evenly covering it. Let the cookies cool completely. When the glaze dries, it should leave a shiny, opaque finish. If you have used a patterned pin to make a single large plaque, cut into the desired sizes with a small, very sharp knife. The cookies will keep in an airtight container in a cool place for about 2 weeks. They do not freeze well, however, as glaze becomes watery when they are thawed.
Christmas Worship Services

Lighthouse Christian Fellowship
100 Hardenburg Lane, East Brunswick, N. J.
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SAT. & SUN. ~ Dec. 20th & 21st at 7PM
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Rev. David Mazzella, Pastor
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United Methodist Church
323 George St. (at Livingston Ave.)
New Brunswick
732-545-8975
Every Sunday
9:30 AM - Adult Sunday School Classes
11 AM - Worship Service & Children
Christmas Eve 7:30 PM - Candlelight Service
New Year’s Eve 10:45 PM - Watchnight Service
website: www.umcnb.org

Aldersgate United Methodist Church
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Sunday, Dec. 21st @ 5 pm
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
Wednesday, Dec. 24th
4:30 pm – Family Service
7:30 pm – Traditional Service
11:00 pm – Candlelight Communion Service
568 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick
732-254-7361
www.aldersgatemc-eb.com

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www.stjamesedison.org
2136 Woodbridge Ave.,
Edison, NJ 08817
732-985-2023
The Rev. Kristen C. Foley, Pastor
Christmas Schedule:
Christmas Eve - Children’s Service 6:30 PM
- Festive Candlelight Service 10:45 PM
(Includes Carol Sing, Special Music)
Christmas Day - Holy Communion 10 AM

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Celebrate Christmas
With Us
Christmas Eve Services at:
4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.
Commemorate the birth of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
90 Leonard Avenue, S. River NJ 08822
www.holytrinitysc.org

Nativity Evangelical Lutheran Church
552 Ryders Lane, East Brunswick
You, your family and friends
are invited to join us for
Christmas Eve Worship Services:
December 24th
Christmas Eve Services
Children’s Service - 4:00 PM
Family Service - 7:30 PM
Candlelight Service - 10:00 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME

First Presbyterian Church of Cranbury
22 South Main Street, Cranbury, NJ 08512
609.395.0897 • www.cranburypres.org
Christmas Eve Services: Wednesday, December 24th
5:00 Service of the Bells for Children of all ages
8:00 Family Worship
11:00 Candlelight Communion Service
Weekly Worship
9:15 Sunday School • 10:30 Worship

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Christ Memorial Lutheran Church
11 Old Stage Road, East Brunswick
732-251-5454

Trinity Presbyterian Church
367 CRANBURY ROAD, EAST BRUNSWICK, NJ 08816
Tel.: 732.257.6636 Trinity-pc.org
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TIMES:
7 & 10 pm Candlelight Services
All Are Welcome!
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Love God and Serve God”

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Newspapers
Two suspects charged after alleged burglary

NORTH BRUNSWICK — Police have charged two North Brunswick teenagers with multiple crimes, including burglary and theft.

Kevin Carpenter, 18, and Shaquille Jones, 19, were charged on Dec. 10, according to North Brunswick police.

Earlier that day, police responded to a burglary and theft on Birchwood Court. The resident reported several items removed from his home, including several electronic items.

During the investigation, detectives located evidence that, once compared to other evidence in the area, led to the identification of two possible suspects, according to police. The investigation led to additional evidence that tied all the pieces together and led to the arrest of both males.

A short time later, all stolen proceeds were recovered, along with some additional contraband, police said.

Bail for both suspects was set at $10,000. They were processed and transported to the Middlesex County Adult Correction Center in North Brunswick.

'Spamalot' auditions will be held Jan. 3

The North Brunswick Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services will hold auditions for the 45th annual community theater musical “Spamalot” on Jan. 3 at North Brunswick Township High School, 98 Raider Road.

A meeting for the entire company and those interested in working behind the scenes will be held at 10 a.m.

Vocal and dialogue auditions will be held at 11 a.m. for principal and featured roles, including King Arthur, Sir Robin, Sir Lancelot, Patsy, Sir Galahad, Sir Bedevere and the Lady of the Lake. Those auditioning should prepare at least 16 measures of a song from any Broadway show — though songs from “Spamalot” are preferred — and be ready to read from the script.

Production dates will be March 5-7 at the high school.

For more information, email mhritz@northbrunswicknj.gov or call 732-247-0922, ext. 475.

Puzzle answers

CREPE COS LOGO
LAGAN MBA AUGHS
AGISTM OIL CLEAT
WESTERN VAQUERO
ASH TOLU
BUT HEBEB BIDGAS
ONITURAL TRUCK
OSLO MACAO ZITI
NADIR WHIG GODIN
EYELLET ECHO ENS
GOER ARC
COVERED SMEETER
ELOPEFLEWEGOODY
PILOT MARGOSTA
BOTS AGE NESTS
Veterans Park

(Continued from page 1)

Conceptual Site Plan 1A is the same as the first plan, except the existing basketball court will remain in the northeast corner of the park, but will be moved and rebuilt; a new restroom/concession building would be built in the location of existing bathrooms; the garage building is removed; and two bocce courts and one new fitness pad are proposed along Roosevelt Avenue.

Conceptual Site Plan 2 includes 116 new parking spaces with a new parking lot on Roosevelt Avenue, the creation of a new entrance instead of from Fillmore Drive, the location of the Veterans Memorial being at a pedestrian entry off Roosevelt Avenue or in a newly created central circular island drop-off area, a new restroom/concession building built in the location of the existing playground, and the upgrading of the playground equipment. The rest of the plan follows Conceptual Plan 1.

Conceptual Site Plan 2A is the same as Conceptual Site Plan 2, except 149 parking spaces are proposed with the expanded parking lot on Roosevelt Avenue. The Fillmore Drive entrance is maintained.

North Brunswick Business Administrator Robert Lombard said T&M Associates was hired by the township last year to come up with a remediation plan and make improvements to the park. About one-fourth of the 14-acre park is contaminated and has been closed since 2003.

He explained that when the addition was being put on NBTHS around 2003, the contamination in the soil in the area came to light.

“The area was used as a dump in the late 1940s and 1950s,” said Lombard, adding that various companies dumped at the location. “The dump closed in the 1950s, and the town acquired the area through foreclosure.”

A parcel was then sold to the Board of Education, which constructed Judd Elementary School and NBTHS.

“The soil was found to have high elevations of trichloroethylene, lead and heavy metals,” Lombard said.

From 2003 to 2004, the township worked with the Board of Education to conduct an environmental study to find out the extent of the contamination.

“Our focus was to enable the construction of the addition to the high school because they had to pay out delayed contracting fees,” he said, adding that $7 million was spent to completely remove the contaminated soil.

In 2006, the addition to the high school was completed.

The contamination that remains in the park is in the soil — not the groundwater, Lombard said.

“It has not made any movement for 50 years,” he said.

Lombard said since the contamination has not moved, township officials decided to seek out funding sources from the allegedly responsible parties. The litigation that was brought against 11 companies has come to a settlement of $2.4 million, which enabled township officials to hire T&M Associates last summer, Lombard said.

“The park has been closed way too long,” said Councilman Carlo Socio, liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Socio said once the park is reopened, the hope is to have the girls and boys varsity or junior varsity soccer teams play at one location. Recreation and travel teams will have an option to use the fields at Veterans Park, as well.

Members of the public who attended the presentation suggested a fitness trail at the park, and alternate combinations of the conceptual plans were presented.

Remediation will be done next summer when school is not in session, then basic construction will start next year, officials said.

The proposed time frame to have the park reopens is 2016, and the sporting facilities with the proposed turf fields would open in 2017.

Township officials said the public can provide input by contacting Parks & Recreation Director Lou Ann Benson at lbenson@northbrunswicknj.gov.

Contact Kathy Chang at kchang@gmnews.com.

Program to explore environmental issues

Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Middlesex County will offer the Environmental Stewards Program next year.

The curriculum will introduce nonscientists to the science underlying key environmental issues in the Garden State.

The classes will be held at the EARTH Center in Davidson’s Mill Pond Park, 42 Riva Ave., South Brunswick, on Wednesday evenings from Jan. 7 to May 13.

The 60-plus hours of training does not replace a science degree, but it helps citizens educate themselves when presented with a real-world environmental problem. Communication, conflict resolution and leadership skills are also taught, enabling stewards to be effective in community action and political discourse.

To register, visit envirostewards.rutgers.edu or call 732-398-5275.

Surgeon will discuss weight-loss methods

The South Brunswick Senior Center and Princeton HealthCare System will host a lecture on how achieving and maintaining a healthy body weight can help one feel good, prevent disease and prolong one’s life 10:45-11:45 a.m. Jan. 5.

Blood pressure checks will be held 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 20 in the Wellness Center.

For more information, call 732-329-4000, ext. 7670.

Celebrating Chanukkah at Anshe Emeth!

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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 11AM
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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 7:30PM
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FAMILY MAX: $50

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Avoiding pitfalls that can derail your diet

Diet and exercise make great bedfellows for men and women looking to live a healthier lifestyle. A combination of a healthy diet and regular exercise makes it easier for men and women to maintain a healthy weight while lowering their risk of various ailments, including heart disease and diabetes.

A heightened awareness of what makes for a healthy and unhealthy diet, coupled with the increased availability of healthy foods, has helped many people smoothly transition to a healthier diet. But many people still struggle to find time to exercise every day. Commitments to work and family can make it difficult to squeeze in regular workouts, and the call of the couch is often more appealing than a trip to the gym at the end of a long day juggling both personal and professional obligations. But exercise is integral to a healthy lifestyle, so it’s important that men and women take steps to incorporate exercise into their daily routines.

**Figure out when you’re free.** Finding free time is perhaps the biggest hurdle adults must clear when attempting to exercise more. Track your daily schedule for a week or two, making note of down times during the day when you might be able to squeeze in 30 to 60 minutes of exercise. If you notice you’re spending your lunch hours catching up on personal emails or surfing the Internet, then consider joining a gym near your office and turning those lunch hours into workouts. If your mornings are not dominated by getting the kids ready for school, then wake up a half hour earlier each morning to squeeze in some time on the treadmill. You likely have some down time with regard to your daily schedule, and identifying such time is the first step toward making better use of it.

**Make it a team effort.** Daily exercise is not just good for adults; it’s great for kids, too. Parents looking to fit more physical activity into their daily routines should consider involving their children, many of whom are dealing with a fitness crisis of their own. According to a 2014 report in the Journal of the American Medical Association, childhood obesity has more than doubled in children and quadrupled in adolescents over the last three decades, putting youngsters at increased risk for cardiovascular disease, prediabetes, bone and joint problems, and sleep apnea. Parents can make daily exercise a family affair, which increases the time they spend with their children while ensuring their kids stay fit as well. Men and women without families also can make daily exercise a team effort by working out with a friend or significant other. The buddy system often proves motivational, encouraging men and women to exercise even on those days when the couch is calling.

**Make exercise more interesting.** Many workout routines fall by the wayside because they simply do not engage men and women no matter how motivated they are to lose weight. An hour on the treadmill can seem like an eternity to certain men and women, who can benefit by choosing workout routines that are less monotonous. For example, Zumba is a combination of dance and aerobic exercise that is growing in popularity. In lieu of spending an hour on the treadmill or elliptical machine, Zumba participants get an equally if not exceedingly challenging cardiovascular workout that many find more fun than traditional aerobic exercise thanks to its incorporation of dance. For those without such happy feet, bring a tablet along to the gym and catch up on your favorite television shows or a good book during your cardiovascular routines. The more interesting you find your workout routine, the more likely you are to find time for that routine every day.

**Choose an accessible routine.** When planning your workout, make it as accessible as possible. While sports like kayaking and mountain bike racing make for great exercise, such activities are not readily accessible to many working professionals with busy schedules. Join a gym that’s only a short drive from home, or purchase some gym equipment you can set up in your own home. The more accessible a workout routine is, the more likely you are to embrace that routine.

The call of the couch can be difficult to ignore. But the side effects of a sedentary lifestyle can be grave, so men and women should work to find ways to include exercise in their daily routines.
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ACROSS
1. French pancake 48. Shoe hole
2. Trig function 49. Triple ___ loop in skating
3. Practical motivation 51. ___ Trail, spanning east-west
9. "The steam motive drove Western growth" 20. Watery discharge from eyes or nose
13. Flotsam and jetsam alternative 22. Priestly garb
14. Earned at Kellogg School of Management 24. "She often worked in one room in Old West"
15. In any degree at all, archaic 25. "The Wilderness Road trailblazer"
17. Black gold 27. Found over "n" in Spanish
18. Traction aid 29. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
21. Precursor to cowboy 32. "Sacagawea, e.g.
23. Type of tree 33. To ___ a play
24. Cough syrup balsam 34. "They were often traded
25. Contrary conjunction 36. Work hard
28. Heracles' wife 38. Nonclerical
29. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 39. Triple ___ loop in skating
30. Blacken 42. Early Irish alphabet
31. Curved molding 45. Bemoan
32. Football great ___ Graham 46. Shoe hole
33. Female sheep 47. Non-English
34. Capital of Norway 48. Shoe hole
35. "Put a lid ___!" 49. Triple ___ loop in skating
36. A chronic drinker, pi. 50. Audio bounce-back
37. Russian mountain chain 51. ___ Trail, spanning east-west
38. Tubular pasta 52. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
39. Contrary conjunction 53. Frecuentes
40. Capital of Noway 54. Swelling
41. Special Administrative Region of China 55. ___ de Triomphe
42. Early Irish alphabet 56. Intimate
43. Tubular pasta 57. Large edible mushrooms with a brown cap
44. Rock bottom 58. Assortment
45. "Artillery burst" 59. Unit V
46. ___ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent 60. Assortment
61. "Beauty or babe" 61. Bone-dry
63. "Lofty homes" 63. Prep for publication
64. "Black gold" 64. Swedish shag rugs
65. "Black gold" 65. "Two shoes"
66. Spring month 66. Female sheep
67. Plural of ostium 67. Tail action
68. "oot and ___ shoes" 68. LT.'s inferior, in the Navy
69. 10. Curved molding
70. Spring month 11. Blacken
71. Bird weapon 12. Football great Graham
72. Angry display 13. Flotsam and jetsam alternative
73. Beauty or babe 14. Earned at Kellogg School of Management
74. Cough syrup balsam 15. In any degree at all, archaic
75. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 16. Discrimination against elderly people
76. Contrary conjunction 17. Black gold
77. Special Administrative Region of China 18. Traction aid
78. Tubular pasta 19. 'Spaghetti ___'
79. Contrary conjunction 20. Watery discharge from eyes or nose
80. Capital of Norway 21. Precursor to cowboy
81. Special Administrative Region of China 22. Priestly garb
82. tubular pasta 23. Type of tree
83. To ___ a play 24. "She often worked in one room in Old West"
84. Non-English 25. "The Wilderness Road trailblazer"
85. "Take it back!"
86. Found over "n" in Spanish
87. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
88. Rice-like pasta 26. "Take it back!"
89. Rancher's wife 27. Found over "n" in Spanish
90. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 28. Heracles' wife
91. Curved molding 29. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
92. Cough syrup balsam 30. Blacken
93. Tubular pasta 31. Rice-like pasta
94. Rock bottom 32. "Sacagawea, e.g.
95. "Artillery burst" 33. To ___ a play
96. ___ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent 34. "They were often traded
97. Non-English 35. "Put a lid ___!"
98. Capital of Norway 36. Work hard
99. Capital of Norway 37. Russian mountain chain
100. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 38. Nonclerical
101. Blacken 39. Triple ___ loop in skating
102. Capital of Norway 40. Capital of Norway
103. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 41. Special Administrative Region of China
104. Blacken 42. Early Irish alphabet
105. Capital of Norway 43. Tubular pasta
106. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g. 44. Rock bottom
107. "Black gold" 45. Bemoan
108. Capital of Norway 46. ___ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent
109. Capital of Norway 47. Norse deity and husband of Frigg
110. Capital of Norway 48. Shoe hole
111. Capital of Norway 49. Triple ___ loop in skating
112. Capital of Norway 50. Audio bounce-back

DOWN
1. Bird weapon 48. Shoe hole
2. Angry display 50. Audio bounce-back
3. Shining armor 52. Lt.'s inferior, in the Navy
4. Fusilli, e.g. 53. Frecuentes
5. Catch in a net 55. ___ de Triomphe
6. Ke$ha's 2012 hit 57. "Type of Wild West wagon"
7. 10. Curved molding
8. Artillery burst 59. Unit V
9. Beauty or babe 60. Assortment
10. Curved molding 61. Bone-dry
12. Football great Graham 63. Prep for publication
13. Beauty or babe 64. Swedish shag rugs
14. Capital of Norway 65. "Two shoes"
15. In any degree at all, archaic 66. Female sheep
16. Discrimination against elderly people 67. Tail action
17. Black gold 68. "oot and ___ shoes"
18. Traction aid 69. RAF member
19. 'Spaghetti ___' 70. Spring month
20. Watery discharge from eyes or nose 71. Plural of ostium
22. Priestly garb 73. "Billy the Kid's was less than 20 when killing his first" 74. Lofty homes
23. Type of tree 75. Methane or carbon dioxide, e.g.
24. Cough syrup balsam 76. Contrary conjunction
25. Contrary conjunction 77. Bird weapon
26. Artillery burst 78. Heracles' wife
27. Found over "n" in Spanish 79. To ___ a play
28. Heracles' wife 80. Capital of Norway
29. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish 81. Tubular pasta
30. Blacken 82. Tubular pasta
31. Rice-like pasta 83. To ___ a play
32. "Sacagawea, e.g.
33. To ___ a play 84. Nonclerical
34. "They were often traded 85. "Put a lid ___!"
35. "Put a lid ___!" 86. Capital of Norway
36. Work hard 87. Brightly colored and showy, Scottish
37. Russian mountain chain 88. Rice-like pasta
38. Nonclerical 89. Rancher's wife
39. Triple ___ loop in skating 90. Capital of Norway
40. Capital of Norway 91. Curved molding
41. Special Administrative Region of China 92. Capital of Norway
42. Early Irish alphabet 93. Tubular pasta
43. Tubular pasta 94. Rock bottom
44. Rock bottom 95. Triple ___ loop in skating
45. Bemoan 96. ___ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent
46. ___ Party, Manifest Destiny opponent 97. Norse deity and husband of Frigg
47. Norse deity and husband of Frigg 98. Capital of Norway

Answers are on page 17
MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP
Noreika's Farm at Scooter Corner
- Choose & Cut Your Own Tree
- Large Selection of Sizes up to 12'
- Choose from Blue Spruce, Norway Spruce & Douglas Fir
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- Pony Rides - 4-H Club
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Dine on a scrumptious buffet featuring omelette stations, carving stations, enticing entrees and sensational desserts while enjoying the ambiance and views from our Highlands Ballroom.

Sunday, December 21st
Seating times from 10:00am–2:00pm
Reservations are required.
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ON STAGE

A Christmas Carol: A Staged Radio Play & Victorian Party
Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m.
Old Franklin School
Middlesex Ave. (Route 27), Metuchen
Tickets: $25

A Christmas Carol
Dec. 19 at 8 p.m., Dec. 20 at 4 p.m., Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.
Playhouse 22
East Brunswick Cultural Arts Center
721 Cranbury Road, East Brunswick
732-254-3939; www.playhouse22.org

Lucky Stiff
Dec. 19-20 at 8 p.m.
Edison Valley Playhouse
2196 Oak Tree Road, Edison
Tickets: $20: $15 students/seniors
908-783-4854; www.evplayhouse.com

All In the Timing
Monmouth Players
Dec. 19-20 at 8:15 p.m., Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.
Navesink Arts Center
149 Monmouth Ave., Atlantic Highlands
Tickets: $20; $18 seniors/Students
732-291-9211; www.monmouthplayers.org

Pigions, Knishes & Rockettes
Dec. 19-20 at 8 p.m., Dec. 21 at 3 p.m.
The Grange Playhouse
721 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands
Tickets: $18; $15 seniors/students
Reservations: 732-768-2709
cafeatheatrenj@gmail.com

Hostages for the Holidays
Through Dec. 20; Fri. and Sat. at 8:30 p.m.
Dec. 18 at 8:30 p.m.
First Avenue Playhouse
123 First Ave., Atlantic Highlands
Reservations: 732-291-7552
www.firstavenueplayhouse.com

Holiday Jubilee 2014
Multicultural show featuring the music of Motown through Dec. 21
Thurs. through Fri. at 8 p.m.; Sat. and Sun. at 3 p.m.
Crossroads Theatre Co.
7 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
Tickets: $30: free for one child under age 12 with adult
732-546-8100; www.crossroadstheatrecompany.org

ON STAGE
**MUSIC**

Jazz Jam Session, Dec. 18, 7:30-10 p.m.
Joe Vitiello, solo vocalist, Dec. 20, 7-9 p.m.
La Tavola Cucina Ristorante
700 Old Bridge Turnpike, South River
732-238-2111; www.latavolacucinanj.com

Holiday Express Benefit Concert
Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.
Count Basie Theatre
99 Monmouth St., Red Bank
tickets: $25-$125
732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

Handel’s Messiah
Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall
Princeton University
tickets: $25-$80
800-255-3476; njsymphony.org

Gloria! A Concert for Christmas
50-voice Tower Hill Choir, chamber orchestra and harp
First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank (Tower Hill)
255 Harding Road, Red Bank
towerhillchurch.org

Holiday Show
bluegrass, country and traditional music by area bands
Santa will lead a Christmas sing-along during the 8 p.m. set
Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Albert Music Hall, 131 Wells Mill Road, Waretown
admission: $5; free for children age 11 and under
www.albertthehall.org

Jana Kramer in Concert
Dec. 20 at 6 p.m.
iPlay America
110 Schanck Road, Freehold
tickets: $20-$50 premium ticket
732-577-8200; iplayamerica.com

New Jersey Gay Men’s Chorus Masters of Good Cheer
Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.
Trinity Episcopal Church
503 Asbury Ave., Asbury Park
Princeton University
609-258-9220; princeton.edu/tickets

Festive Flutes
Dec. 20 at 1 p.m.
Wall Branch of Monmouth County Library
2700 Allan Road, Wall
732-922-2273; www.festiveflutes.com

Princeton Brass Band
Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.
Richardson Auditorium, Alexander Hall
Princeton University
609-258-9220; princeton.edu/tickets

Santa For... Starring Brian Kirk and the Jirks with Special Guests
Dec. 20 at 8 p.m.
Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank
tickets: $25-$80
732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

A ‘Soul’d’ Out Christmas Starring Miss Darlene Love and Felix Cavaliere’s Rascals
Dec. 21 at 7 p.m.
Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank
tickets: $39-$99
732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

Kevin Hildebrandt, Dec. 21, 5-9 p.m.
Siam Garden Thai Restaurant, 2 Bridge Ave., Red Bank

Christmas Concert
works for choir, organ, string quartet, voice
Dec. 21 at 5 p.m.
United Methodist Church
47 N. Main St., Milltown
reception follows concert, free admission
www.umcmilltown.org

Hope Concert VII Featuring Bobby Bandiera & Friends
proceeds to benefit Horizons and the Count Basie Theatre’s arts education and outreach programs
Dec. 22 at 9 p.m.
Count Basie Theatre, 99 Monmouth St., Red Bank
tickets: $20-$375; $500 VIP ticket
732-842-9000; www.countbasietheatre.org

**COMEDY**

Free Comedy Night
hosted by Mike Bonner
featuring top comedians from the tri-state area
Dec. 12, starts at 8 p.m.; no cover
Station Bar & Grill Restaurant
2625 Route 130 South, Cranbury
609-655-5550; stationbarandgrill.com

Gloria! A Concert for Christmas
50-voice Tower Hill Choir, chamber orchestra and harp
First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank (Tower Hill)
255 Harding Road, Red Bank
towerhillchurch.org

Jana Kramer in Concert
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
State Theatre
173 Main St., Manasquan
732-345-1400; www.statetheatrenj.org

American Repertory Ballet’s The Nutcracker
Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21 at 1 and 4:30 p.m.
State Theatre
Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick
tickets: $32-$67
732-246-7469; www.statetheatrenj.org

The Snow Queen
Princeton Youth Ballet
Dec. 20-21 at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., tickets: $23.54
Princeton High School, 151 Moore St.
800-838-3006; princetonyouthballet.org

A Charlie Brown Christmas
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
tickets: $29-$46
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20 at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., tickets: $22-$40
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
21 Bridge Ave., Red Bank
732-246-7469; www.statetheatrenj.org

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
tickets: $20; $15 children
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

FOR KIDS

A Charlie Brown Christmas
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
tickets: $15-$25
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

The Very Hungry Caterpillar and Other Eric Carle Favorites
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m., Dec. 20 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
tickets: $20; $15 children
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

**DANCE**

The Nutcracker
New Jersey Youth Ballet
Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.
Kelsey Theatre at Mercer County Community College
1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor
609-570-3333; www.kelsystemc.com

American Repertory Ballet’s The Nutcracker
Dec. 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Dec. 20-21 at 1 and 4:30 p.m.
State Theatre
Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick
tickets: $32-$67
732-246-7469; www.statetheatrenj.org

Memorial Dance Academy
Dec. 20 at 1 and 6 p.m.
Strand Theatre
400 Clifton Ave., Lakewood
732-364-5200

The Snow Queen
Princeton Youth Ballet
Dec. 20-21 at 1 and 4:30 p.m.
State Theatre
732-445-1400; www.bearcreekassistedliving.com

**THE EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES**
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

**THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES**
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

**THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES**
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

**THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES**
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
Algonquin Arts Theatre, 173 Main St., Manasquan
732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

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Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
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732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

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732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

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732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

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732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org

**THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES**
Algonquin Youth Ensemble
Dec. 20-21 at 4 p.m.
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732-528-9211; algonquinarts.org
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Getting set for season opener

South Brunswick High School and Bishop George Ahr High School played each other in a preseason scrimmage on Dec. 13 in South Brunswick. Both teams were getting ready for the start of the regular season on Dec. 19.

Raiders look to athleticism, defense for girls hoops success

By WARREN RAPPLEYEA
Correspondent

North Brunswick Township High School’s girls basketball team will rely on its athleticism to force the pace of games and use its defense to create scoring opportunities.

The Raiders, 10-12 a year ago, have lost their top two scorers. Nicole Fosko graduated in June and Kyra Fox’s family moved to Montclair. The duo combined to average more than 30 points, and North Brunswick depended on them.

“Our offense will be totally different this season,” coach Shaun Morrell said. “I’m looking for some of the girls who played support roles last year to step up and score. Our offense is a question mark, so we’ll be looking to play a pressure defense to force turnovers so we can score as much as possible in transition.”

Sophomore guard Alex Walker, who averaged 7.5 points and three rebounds, should be more of a factor this time around. A 3-point threat, Walker can also take the ball to the hoop. Gritty junior Tatum Altman will run the offense from the point. Morrell noted that both Walker and Altman are members of the Raiders’ Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) championship lacrosse team, and their experience is a plus.

Guard Gaby Rodriguez, the team’s lone senior, saw substantial playing time a year ago, and Morrell is counting on Rodriguez to provide leadership. Junior Megan Illes and sophomores Tory Tucci and Rhica Austin provide depth in the backcourt. Illes and Tucci are also members of North Brunswick’s girls lacrosse team.

Up front, Morrell will count on 5-foot-10 junior Danielle Segerholm to provide a rebounding presence. Samantha Mehalick will alternate between the frontcourt and backcourt, and Nicole Lopez will also see time up front.

“We don’t have a lot of size, so everyone will be crashing the boards,” the coach said. “We’re going to have to be smart and outwork teams underneath.”

Morrell has been impressed with two freshmen in the early going. Guard Khayla Flemmings, who has a “scorer’s mentality,” is likely to see action right away, while forward Emily Farrell will be eased into the lineup as the season progresses.

“Our goal is to be competitive in every game and to do that we need to play well defensively, especially early in the season as our offense finds its footing,” Morrell said. “We’ll be looking to hold our opponents in the single digits for each quarter.”

North Brunswick has played two scrimmages against Hillside High School and West Windsor-Plainsboro High School North. The Raiders have held their own, although Morrell was disappointed in his team’s combined eight-of-21 performance from the free-throw line. Needless to say, the coach has been focusing on foul shots in recent practice sessions.

Morrell’s team has two scrimmages remaining before opening the season at Colonia High School in a GMC White Division matchup on Dec. 20. On Dec. 23, the Raiders visit J.F. Stevens High School for another divisional contest. Over the holiday break, they will compete in the Arthur L. Johnson Holiday Tournament in Clark, which also includes South Plainfield High School and Morris Knolls High School. The Raiders will open against Johnson on Dec. 27.
Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report ranks N.J. among top five states with highest listing price

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage has released its 2014 Home Listing Report, which found New Jersey to have the highest average home listing price in the nation, at $440,354 for a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home.

The Coldwell Banker Home Listing Report, which additionally ranked 128 major metropolitan markets in the U.S., found N.J. to have the fourth highest average listing price in the nation, at $440,354 for a four-bedroom, two-bathroom home, while California topped the list with a state average of $569,909.

In New Jersey, market performances varied widely, the report said. Home listings in the more dynamic urban centers, bedroom communities, scenic mountains to beautiful beaches, New Jersey has something to offer for just about every buyer.

In addition to providing a look at the most expensive and affordable markets in the state, the Home Listing Report also provides data for the nation. To compare marketplaces here in New Jersey and elsewhere across the nation, said Hal Maxwell, president of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, New York. "The report also demonstrates the diversity of marketplaces and lifestyles available in the state which ranges from dynamic urban centers, bedroom communities, scenic mountains to beautiful beaches. New Jersey has something to offer for just about every buyer."

The top 10 most affordable New Jersey real estate markets, based on average listing price, are:
1. East Orange, $120,000
2. Bernards Township, $832,878
3. Roselle, $173,419
4. Westfield Town, $720,221
5. Livingston Township, $720,787
6. Woodcliff Lake Borough, $678,623
7. Chatham Township, $892,489
8. Warren Township, $718,909
9. South Orange, $678,561
10. Millville, $219,052

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, New York, a leading residential real estate brokerage company, operates 55 offices with approximately 2,000 affiliated sales associates serving all communities from Rockland County, N.Y. to Monmouth County. Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y. is part of NRT LLC, the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. Visit www.coldwellbankermoves.com for more information.
RE/MAX Platinum agent leads successful annual holiday food drive

Lifelong North Brunswick resident Roy Minieri is fully committed to making a difference in his community. It could be spending his limitless energy building a reputation at RE/MAX Platinum, or it might be pursuing nothing that has to do with business — helping those who are less fortunate.

The imprint Minieri has made in North Brunswick comes from a deep-rooted love for the community where he has spent his entire life. Minieri’s focus is driven by a keen desire to enable prospective homeowners to enjoy the benefits his community offers.

However, his passion for helping the disadvantaged has been fueled in a similar way. For the past six years, Minieri and a complement of other RE/MAX agents have spent hours collecting food donations at the Shoprite Supermarket on Route 130. On Dec. 13, Minieri’s volunteers again asked customers to donate food or cash with the proceeds delivered to the township food bank. Monetary donations were turned into Shoprite gift certificates and presented to the food bank for distribution to those who could best benefit from them.

“I’m proud to say this (the Shoprite table) has turned into an annual event,” said Minieri. “Those who work that day are my associates but, believe me, our primary purpose is to reach out to the community where we all live and make a difference.”

Minieri’s team has certainly done that. Last year was the best yet with more than 170 bags of groceries collected along with cash donations that were turned into $500 in gift cards.

“I was told by the director of the food bank that our efforts helped 40 families,” he said. “It’s gratifying to know what we do goes directly to those who need it.”

Minieri’s efforts have not gone unnoticed by his peers. In 2008, the Middlesex County and New Jersey Association of Realtors named him the Realtor Associate of the Year who best exemplified community involvement.

“I was asked to make a presentation at the New Jersey Realtors Convention about the importance of giving back to the community,” Minieri said. “Believe me, I’m not the most comfortable person in front of 400 of my peers but what I said came directly from my heart and that wasn’t hard.”

Minieri’s community involvement isn’t just helping those in need. If you visit his YouTube page, you can view videos of him with local merchants acting like an out-of-control automobile salesman launching into expressive reasons why viewers should buy their products.

Minieri’s passion for community service is literally in his blood. It was passed down to him by his 92-year-old father, Felix, whom he says, “was always the first in line to help somebody.”

When Minieri watched his nephew’s aunt suffer from the effects of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and the impact her condition had on the families involved, he incorporated messages on his YouTube page about how to give to organizations that support research for a cure when he recorded one of his online commercials.

Minieri plans to expand his reach in the community through social media by recording more infomercials that publicize the multitude of local services and letting folks know what makes them special.

Minieri can be reached by calling 732-821-6400. The office is located at 966 Shoppes Blvd., North Brunswick. Visit the RE/MAX Platinum website at www.platinum.remax-nj.com.

Weichert, Realtors appoints Giannetto as regional vice president

Weichert, Realtors has announced that Dan Giannetto has joined the company as regional vice president. Giannetto will be responsible for the management and growth of Weichert sales offices in Burlington, Camden, Atlantic and Gloucester counties in New Jersey.

Giannetto brings more than 10 years of real estate experience to his new role. After becoming a licensed attorney in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey, Giannetto began his career in real estate as a sales associate at Coldwell Banker Preferred, where he was named the Rookie of the Year in 2004. He later rose within the company to become the sales manager of Coldwell Banker Preferred’s Old City office, where he managed, coached and trained more than 100 real estate sales agents closing more than 1,400 transactions annually.

Prior to entering real estate sales and management, Giannetto was an associate in the real estate department at Saul Ewing LLP.

“We are extremely proud to welcome someone of Dan’s ability to the Weichert team,” said Jacelyn Botti, head of residential sales for Weichert, Realtors. “Dan’s depth of experience, real estate acumen and knowledge of the Greater Philadelphia and southern New Jersey markets positions us well both for immediate success and long-term growth within the region.”

Giannetto is a member of the National Association of Realtors, Pennsylvania Association of Realtors and Greater Philadelphia Association of Realtors. In addition to his work in the real estate industry, Giannetto was a board member for the Elfreth’s Alley Association, which works to preserve the alley’s historic structures while interpreting the 300-year history of the nation’s oldest residential street.

A resident of Moorestown, Giannetto graduated from Elon University, earning a bachelor of science degree in history and education, and received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

For more information about Weichert, Realtors or to find your local office, visit www.weichert.com.
ANNABELLA is a 1 year old female and is an amazing girl. She is friendly, loves to lay on the couch and cuddle. She can be a bit shy at first but warms up quickly. She is spayed, tested, vaccinated and microchipped. Call 732-921-0616.

BROTHERS is a gorgeous long haired little girl. She has a curly mane that you just can’t resist! She is about 1 year old. She is spayed, tested, vaccinated and microchipped. Call 732-921-0616.

CHLOE IS A 2 YO Indoor/Outdoor Girl who loves her humans. She would prefer to be the only kitty but she is OK with another kitty that she can be friends with. She is spayed, tested, vaccinated and microchipped. She is a little boy who needs a home. She is spayed, tested, vaccinated and microchipped. Call 732-921-0616.
Rise of the gears

We are car shopping and finding many vehicles are now six-speed instead of four- or five-speed, and one sales guy told us eight-speed may be coming soon. Is this a gimmick or is more actually better?

In this case, more is usually better, and most carmakers are either offering or eyeing seven-, eight- or 10-speed transmissions. BMW and Audi models, to mention just a couple of examples, have eight speeds; the 2014 Land Rover Evroque and the Jeep Cherokee boast nine-speed automatic transmissions; Volkswagen is one of a small handful that reportedly have 10 speeds in development.

The idea of adding more is essentially to keep the engine operating at all times in a range in which it has the best performance and the lowest fuel consumption. With four-speeds, the periods during which the optimum combination does not occur are frequent.

Some carmakers are saying six-, eight- and nine-speeds are getting or will get 10 to 15 percent better fuel mileage.

As to whether more is always better in this case: theoretically, probably, but as with all new technologies, some will more successfully achieve the desired results than others. The 2014 Jeep Cherokee nine-speed, for example, has been brouhahaed with issues and consumer complaints since it rolled out, most of them having to do with rough shifting or too- late shifting. Software updates have been ordered more than once for the Jeeps. Some reviewers found similar, though not as dramatic, shifting lags with the Evroque nine-speed.

This is more evidence, in my opinion, that would-be buyers should wait at least a year (until the next model year) before purchasing completely redesigned cars or brand-new technologies. With luck, the companies will have sorted through the bugs before you buy!

Meanwhile, another approach you’re seeing on an increasing basis is CVT transmissions (continuously variable automatic transmissions). Pulleys constantly adjust the gear ratio so the car is always in the most efficient gear.

Where is the Hyundai Sonata built?

Montgomery, Alabama. The company boasts that in that plant, each vehicle “goes from sheet metal to street-legal in exactly 19 hours flat.”

Most efficient electric cars

Electric vehicles use no gasoline and produce zero tailpipe emissions; they’re becoming more affordable, but several of them are sold only in limited areas.

By Jim Gorzelany
CTW Features

The most energy-efficient car in the U.S. for the 2015 model year isn’t an unadorned “econobox,” but rather it’s the futuristically styled and sporty BMW i3 four-door all-electric hatchback that gets the equivalent of 124 mpg.

While many remain prohibitively costly, the sticker prices of some electric vehicles now approach conventionally powered models, especially after deducting the one-time $7,500 federal income tax credit that’s available to EV buyers.

Owning an EV isn’t for everyone, however. For starters, one must have access to an electric outlet to charge the battery pack for between four and eight (or more) hours at a stretch, which usually limits their use to homeowners or those fortunate enough to have charging stations in their apartment- or office-building garages. Charging can take eight hours or more with standard 110-volt service; a quicker, though costlier alternative would be to have a dedicated 240-volt power line installed.

At that, EVs suffer from a limited operating range, which is typically less than 100 miles on a charge, can run even shorter depending on temperature, vehicle speed and other factors.

What’s more, many EVs aren’t available to all buyers in the U.S. Several are only sold in California and perhaps a handful of states that are considered major markets; those limited to California are so-called compliance cars made available to fulfill the state’s requirement that major automakers sell at least one zero-emissions vehicle.

Here’s a quick look at the top EVs available to consumers, listed according to their combined city/highway electric (“e-mpg”) fuel economy equivalents as certified by the Environmental Protection Agency. Prices noted are current as of this writing and do not include options or delivery charges.

- BMW i3: 124 e-mpg (with range extender: 117 e-mpg/39 mpg); $41,350. BMW claims a range of 80-100 miles on a charge for this uniquely styled hatchback. The i3 is the only EV to offer an optional gasoline engine that essentially turns it into a plug-in hybrid with virtually unlimited range, though it uses much more energy while running on gas.
- Chevrolet Spark EV: 118 e-mpg; $26,820. Sold only in California and Oregon, this subcompact hatchback is estimated to run for 82 miles on a charge.
- Fiat 500e: 116 e-mpg; $31,800. Offered only in California and Oregon, this cute little coupe gets a projected 87 miles on a charge.
- Nissan Leaf: 114 e-mpg; $29,010. One of the most affordable EVs, the curiously curvy Leaf is rated to run for 84 miles on a charge.
- Mitsubishi i-MiEV: 112 e-mpg; $22,995. Sold nationally, this is the cheapest way to own an EV this side of buying a golf cart, though it’s about as satisfying as driving one, and runs for only an expected 82 miles on a charge.
- Smart ForTwo Electric Drive: 107 e-mpg; $25,000. Available as either a tiny two-seat coupe or the only EV convertible on the market, it’s rated to run for 68 miles on a charge and is sold only in California, Oregon and eight Northeastern states.
- Kia Soul Electric: 105 e-mpg; $33,700. Only offered via select California Kia dealers, the funky styled Soul EV delivers an estimated 93 miles of operating range on a charge.
- Ford Focus Electric: 105 e-mpg; $35,170. Available nationwide, Ford says the EV version of the compact Focus sedan can run for around 76 miles on a charge and reach a top speed of 84 mph.
- Tesla Model S: 89-95 e-mpg; $69,900. The dramatically cast Model S luxury/sport EV delivers a stunning 208-265-mile operating range depending on which of two available battery packs are chosen, with a 0-60 mph time in as little as 4.2 seconds.
- Mercedes-Benz B-Class Electric Drive: 84 e-mpg; $41,150. Offered only in California, Oregon and eight Northeastern states, this crispely styled four-door hatchback is estimated to run for 87 miles on a charge.
- Toyota RAV4 EV: 76 e-mpg; $49,800. Sold only in California, it’s based on the previous generation RAV4 crossover and is costly, but delivers an estimated 103 miles on a charge.

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