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County continues to 'award' Birdsall

Despite ongoing investigation and a guilty plea, county gives contracts to consulting firm

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

The former marketing director of an engineering consulting firm that has ongoing lucrative contracts with the county pleaded guilty recently for his role in a pay-to-play scheme to circumvent state campaign finance laws.

Phillip Angarone, 40, who previously worked for Birdsall Services Group, admitted that from the time he joined the firm in 2008, he circumvented the state's pay-to-play law intended to stop contractors and vendors from getting lucrative government work in return for political favors.

The former marketing director told the State Attorney

General's Office he and other employees participated in a corrupt scheme to evade New Jersey's pay-to-play law.

The law was enacted to ensure political contributions did not improperly influence the awarding of contracts. Which in this case, they did.

"Illegal corporate contributions like those in this case undermine the fair and open contracting process needed to ensure that government agencies strictly serve the public interest, not the interests of politically connected firms," said Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa said.

The county, which has continued to contract with Birdsall on a regular basis, last week awarded the engineering

firm three additional contracts totaling \$653,000.

The contracts included services for replacement of the East Hazelwood Avenue bridge for \$564,984, environmental well monitoring and remedial activities for a complex in Westfield for \$74,950 and environmental remediation for Miesel Park in Springfield for \$13,350.

At the Nov. 29 freeholder meeting, Garwood resident Bruce Paterson approached the microphone during the public portion suggesting the county was involved with pay-to-play because many consulting firms doing work for the county were also Democrat contributors. To support

See **COUNTY**, Page 14

Springfield Republicans ask for election recount

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Residents will have to wait a little longer to find out whether the Democrats actually won the election this year by a five-vote margin or if there could have been an error by the board of elections.

On Friday, the Republican party decided to file for a recount in Superior Court, hoping this brings closure so the governing body can have a smooth transition in 2013.

The official recount, according to the Administrator for Union County Board of Elections Administrator Dennis Kobitz, will take place Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. as ordered by Superior Court Judge Lisa Chrystal.

Kobitz expects the recount will take about two hours because both mail-in and provisional ballots will be done by hand. Again.

Although the official word came down Nov. 26 that Committeeman Jerry Fernandez lost the election by a very narrow margin to Democrat Margaret Bandrowski, the

Republican party decided when an election is that close, a recount was not out of order.

Springfield Republican Committee Chairman Harold Poltrock commented on the move in a statement made by the party Dec. 7.

"We owe it to the voters to ensure the accuracy of the results," he said, adding that more than 7,000 voters cast ballots this year because it was a presidential election.

Interestingly, he pointed out that although there was a 700 vote difference at the top of the ticket for the presidential race, just five votes ended up affecting the outcome of the local race for township committee.

Fernandez, who has served one three-year term, and Marc Krauss issued a joint statement about the decision to go for a recount.

"When such a small number of votes will decide who takes office for the next three years, this recount is important to

See **SPRINGFIELD**, Page 16



Photo Courtesy of Kenneth Knopps

GO GREEN — Genesis Marques, Sean McCluskey, and Joseph Minogue of Meghan Zampella's kindergarten class at Valley Road School in Clark recently experienced 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas!' by Dr. Seuss.

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File Photo

In Summit, residents gathered for an informal meeting with the mayor and representatives from JCP&L to discuss storm response. The response from the community, however, was frustration with the power company, a sentiment echoed in many municipalities.

Summit holds meeting to discuss storm response

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

SUMMIT — The city is taking a proactive stance when it comes to any future storms that could leave residents without power for days. But the best lesson, according to the mayor, is being aware of what went right and wrong during and after the storm.

The night superstorm Sandy hit, which was downgraded from a hurricane to a post-tropical cyclone before striking land, Summit was as ready as it could be. As ready as any municipality was in New Jersey to take on one of the most catastrophic storms to ever hit the area.

After the storm, when city officials took a look at how Summit fared during the emergency, the answer could be found in the response numbers.

There were 6,971 visitors to city warming centers, 993 hours of overtime put in by police officers, and 1,316 incidents reported to police between the day of the storm and Nov. 12, or 181 more than normal during the peak of a storm. Police also responded to 42 carbon monoxide calls, the majority of which were related to the use of generators.

Firefighters worked non-stop responding to structure calls, one deemed serious. But they were also out on the road continuously using chain saws to remove tree limbs which were blocking roadways, among the countless other duties performed.

There were also 411 volunteers manning shelters and warming stations, where 194 people sought overnight stays at the city shelter, a number that was yet again "unprecedented," officials said.

The Department of Public Works put in 3,481 hours, many of those hours cutting down and removing 225 publically and privately owned trees. There were a reported 39 homes that sustained major damage, 11 homes with minor damage and four homes determined "uninhabitable."

Summit took on 14 code red alerts, received and sent 15,191 text messages, 203 tweets and issued 65 Facebook posts.

Recently dozens of residents met informally at a town hall meeting with Mayor Ellen Dickson, city officials and JCP&L to discuss how Summit fared during Sandy.

Among the many issues surfacing during the meeting was JCP&L's lack of communication and the disorganization and outdated infrastructure that ended up keeping thousands of residents in the dark for more than a week.

With some still feeling the lasting effects of Tropical Storm Irene, residents were frustrated and expressed disbelief that it took 13 days to get power restored to several sections of the city. Restoration of power, they maintained, only happened after subcontractors from out of state showed up to lend a hand.

Dickson explained that while it was her first opportunity as mayor to see the city's

See **SUMMIT**, Page 8

'Widespread violation' of Kean policy

Adjunct teachers union alleges 'widespread violation of the Kean policy on harassment'

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

UNION — After 210 Kean University adjunct professors heard their work hours and pay would be cut Dec. 17, the union president claimed over the weekend this move was just another example of administration bullying tactics.

The adjunct union claimed last week the university violated their contract with the union because they were never notified of the impending changes in writing or designated an official to consult with concerning the abrupt change in policy, which takes effect Dec. 17.

Many of those who received notice that their teaching hours would be cut were notified in March that they would be instructing a certain number of hours, contingent upon adequate enrollment. Subsequently, these adjunct professors turned down teaching opportunities at other universities and colleges because they thought they would be employed for a certain number of hours at Kean.

The union, which fully intends to file a grievance, was shocked that hundreds of the Kean Adjunct Teachers will be on the unemployment line before Christmas. But, surprisingly, the state university intends to hire replacements for the classes they taught.

Kean, which has 1,200 untenured Local 6024 professors and 344 full-time resident-tenured members of the Kean Federation of Teachers, began increasing the number of adjunct professors ten years ago. This is the first year, though, the university decided to change policy on the number of credit hours certain adjunct professors can carry.

The new policy will not allow adjunct faculty to teach more than six credits, when previously most adjunct professors were able to teach 10 credit hours without a problem.

Kean University AFT President Kathleen Henderson, who has taught at the university for 18 years as an adjunct professor, said last week that all communications have broken down with administration over this issue.

Saturday, despite having to juggle several classes in order to speak to the board, Henderson stepped to the podium and told members exactly how she felt about what transpired at the university since the decision was made.

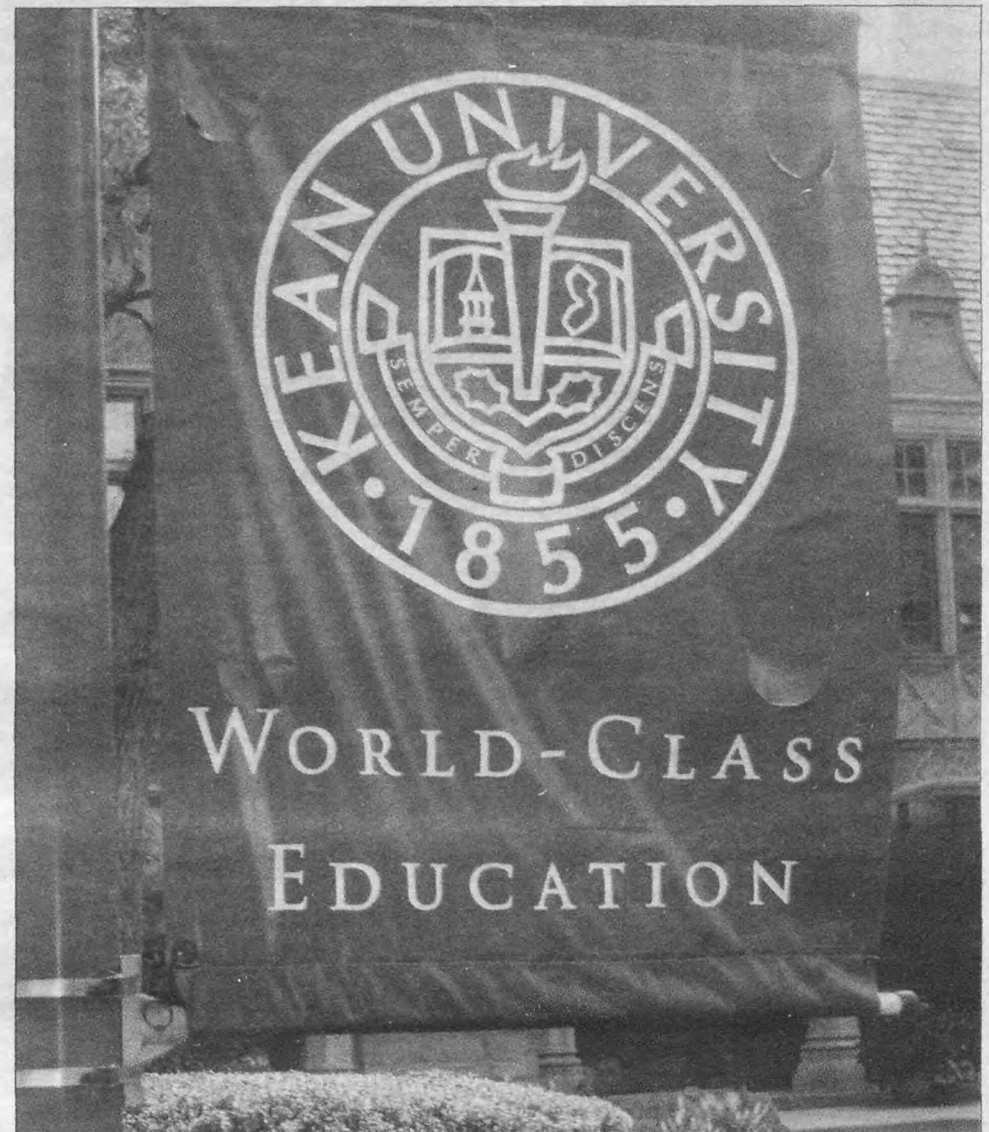
"I am the face of the adjunct faculty member who has been teaching at Kean for 18 years. In 2009 I achieved one of the highest honors Kean can award, that of being voted by students, my peers and administrators as an Outstanding Teaching Professor," said the AFT president.

However, Henderson was not about to let any of the three minutes allotted to speakers be wasted without telling the board exactly how she felt about the situation.

"I must report to you a widespread violation of the Kean policy on harassment, intimidation and bullying," she said, going on to read multiple examples of bullying tactics cited by the Workplace Bullying Institute.

Henderson flatly told the board that intimidation, undermining, constantly changing work expectations, withholding necessary information and even giving wrong information, were all signs of bullying.

See **HARRASSMENT**, Page 6



File Photo

The Kean adjunct teachers union's president went before the school's board of trustees recently and accused the school of violating its anti-bullying and harassment policy toward teachers.

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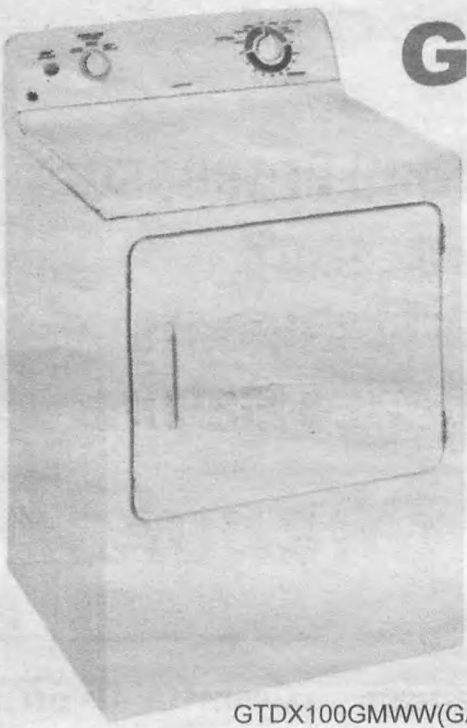
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Harrassment against profs. alleged by Kean staff

(Continued from Page 1)

For instance, Henderson said each time an administrator was replaced or brought in, "there is a manic and compulsive desire to re-assess everything again, thus changing the mission outcome and learning objectives."

"There is no solid foundation or stability to build on," she added.

The adjunct union president also mentioned that "giving employees, or in our case the local union, the silent treatment by not responding to emails in over a year and a half," is not shared governance.

"Those are only a few examples of the bullying and intimidation that goes on under the guise of managerial prerogative and academic judgement here at Kean," she said, adding union members want to know who supervises administration so "they can, without fear of losing their jobs, report these abuses and constant misuse of managerial prerogative and academic judgement at Kean."

Kean Executive Vice President Philip Connelly, who Henderson had communicated with via email about the current situation, responded to the AFT union criticisms at the board meeting. He told the board that no faculty has the right to pick their courses, and administration did not violate any adjunct rights but rather did what was right for students. Connelly also said that although he received a firestorm of emails about the issue, the administration makes decisions and that is its right.

Finally, he told the board he is "the chief negotiator."

This fired up one professor to suggest that the 210 adjunct professors were reaping University President Dawood Farahi's "payback" for the AFT president publicly siding with the Kean Federation of Teachers against him last spring during the board meetings that focused on his falsifying academic resumes and publications.

The board of trustees did not comment on the issue or propose any solution to the ongoing turmoil surrounding the cutting of the 210 adjunct professors' credit hours.

Meanwhile, Henderson sent an email to the board secretary, requesting several documents, including the statement made by Connelly at the meeting.



File Photo

Cranford officials will vote on moving ahead to create a charter study on benefits of changing their form of government.

Cranford considers charter study

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

CRANFORD — As the year comes to an end, the governing body is wrapping up initiatives Tuesday that they put forward. One includes looking into whether another form of government might work better for the township.

On Tuesday, the Township Committee will have a final reading and public hearing of an ordinance that will allow the township to move forward with a referendum to establish a charter study commission that could possibly recommend a change in Cranford's present form of government.

The township currently works under a township committee form of government, one of the oldest in the state, in which five-members are elected at large to serve three-year terms.

The problem with this particular form of local government, some have said, is that one or two seats are up for grabs every year. Depending on which party gains control on the governing body, the chairman of the committee, or honorary title of mayor, changes. Four commissioners on both sides of the political fence agreed that the township committee form of government has contributed to issues not getting resolved.

The Faulkner Act allows municipalities in New Jersey to select from four forms of government.

The town form, which dates back to 1895, includes a mayor elected at large for a two-year term and an eight-member council elected from four wards to serve two-year term.

Another type is the city form of government in which the mayor is elected to a four-year term and serves as the chief executive of the municipality. However, while allowed to attend council meetings, the mayor's vote is only used to break a tie. But, he can veto ordinances.

Another popular form of government is the borough, which has a mayor elected at large to a four year term and six council members elected at large to staggered three-year terms. This particular type is considered to be a "weak mayor and strong council" form of

government. The council, though, is the legislative body of the borough and remains in control of what actually takes place in the municipality.

Although the issue of changing the form of government was bounced around in 2008 when a charter study advisory group received the go-ahead by referendum, any recommendations made by that group fell to the wayside due to political interference.

But now the issue has surfaced again and was strongly supported by Republican Commissioner Lisa Aduato, who, after serving a year on the committee, felt the governing body was spinning its wheels most of the time. All but one governing body member, Democrat Kevin Campbell, agreed.

"I realize that despite very good intentions, what ends up happening is that issues just get recycled over and over again," Aduato said at a public meeting last month.

Fellow Democrat, Deputy Mayor Andis Kalnins, who served on the 2008 charter study group, agreed.

"You have elections every two years and hopefully some actual work can get done," he said, adding that there were many reasons why changing the form of government might add stability to the governing body.

Campbell, however, was adamant that this was not the time to take on something this major with everything else the governing body has on its plate.

"This is coming at the wrong time. We're doing this now in November, almost into December, when we've been crushed by Irene, and humbled by Sandy," he said, adding that the township also is fighting the Birchwood development project, and is trying to find an interim township administrator and a full-time administrator.

"Finding stability in the town is paramount to any change in government at this time," Campbell added.

At the township committee public meeting Tuesday at municipal chambers, residents will have the opportunity to air their views prior to the governing body voting.

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For 33 years, CAU has given as much support as they possibly can

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

For 33 years Community Access Unlimited has continued to support adults with disabilities and at-risk youth throughout the county.

In New Jersey, more than 2,500 people with disabilities are in institutions, and over 8,000 are on waiting lists for essential services as the state faces the enormous challenge of developing enough community-based support to meet the urgent need.

According to CAU President Sidney Blanchard, people with disabilities have choices and control of where they live, how they spend their time and the ability to enjoy the many benefits and responsibilities of community living. And he has 40 great examples of how this is working in Union County.

This year alone, 40 individuals moved into nine new homes, many offering those with mobility challenges the sprawling layout they wanted and needed.

These include four-bedroom homes and a seven-unit apartment building that combines CAU housing units, market rate rentals and commercial space.

Since 1979, Blanchard said, CAU has helped people with special needs move from institutions into more independent living settings.

"We are one of the few agencies in New

Jersey and the only one in Union County," Blanchard said, adding that this agency provides a broad array of support services such as housing, life skill training, vocational assistance, money management, and socialization and civic activities, among others.

"We also support opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision making and civil rights," the executive director said.

One great example of how CAU has helped those with developmental disabilities transition into the main stream is Joy, a 30-year member of CAU, who has been a valued employee of Marshalls in Clark for 24 years.

Blanchard said Joy especially enjoys laying out clothes and stocking the shelves in the children's and infant's department. Using the workplace skills CAU provided her, he added, Joy allots her paycheck for bills, rent and recreational activities and is saving for a cruise to the Bahamas this year.

"Joy is an integrated member of the community, working, shopping, paying bills and paying taxes," Blanchard said, adding that CAU members are living independent lives that are integrated into society.

But there are challenges, he admitted.

See CAU, Page 9



MAIL CALL -- Santa Claus and EAP Vice Chairman, Sal Coppa, assist a group of local young children who came prepared with letters for Santa to be placed in Santa's Mailbox located at Union Square Plaza in Elizabeth. The mailbox will be available at Union Square until Friday, Dec. 21.



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P.S. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that appropriate adults aged 60 or older get vaccinated with ZOSTAVAX to help prevent shingles.

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Summit meeting addresses storm response

(Continued from Page 2)

emergency operations center in action, it was quite an experience.

Dickson said from when the storm hit she met every day with officials manning the front and was impressed by the amount of work that was accomplished, considering the catastrophic impact.

"We didn't miss a beat on most services," the mayor said, adding "this was maybe the worst storm to ever hit New Jersey."

Dickson also pointed out that she spoke with JCP&L every day following the storm about the city getting power back in a timely manner and without fail, she stressed, the power company would bring up that "this is our Katrina."

She did mention the utility company was honest and up front about the fact it would take seven to 10 days, or more, to complete the work required to get residents and businesses back online. But, there were other disappointments when it came to communication with the utility company.

The mayor said although JCP&L promised they would provide a street-by-street power restoration timeline for Summit, the city never received this information, despite asking for it on a daily basis.

Dickson also explained that every substation sending power to the city sustained some kind of damage from the superstorm and the storm impacted 90 percent of the utility company's customers in Summit. However, the mayor said within two weeks these substations were up and running.

Regardless of how things turned out following the storm, the mayor felt it was crucial for JCP&L to upgrade its infrastructure before the area is hit again by another major storm. Officials and residents, though, thought the problems that surfaced during the storm could have been avoided by the utility company.

For instance, City Administrator Chris Cotter pointed out that power outage numbers received from JCP&L could only be estimated because the equipment was so outdated.

Cotter suggested that if the equipment was updated, both the power company along with city officials would have more accurate numbers available, and the ability to inform residents when their power was expected to be back on.

Also brought up by the mayor was putting power lines underground, like they have been on Main Street since 1908. One resident suggested the city work with JCP&L to bury power lines in the most critical parts of Summit.

"That way," resident Tom Ferguson said, "even if entire neighborhoods were without power, the city would be able to function for residents."

Others felt the city needed more local control so they were not at the mercy of power companies. But gaining that type of control might be easier said than done, according to the mayor.

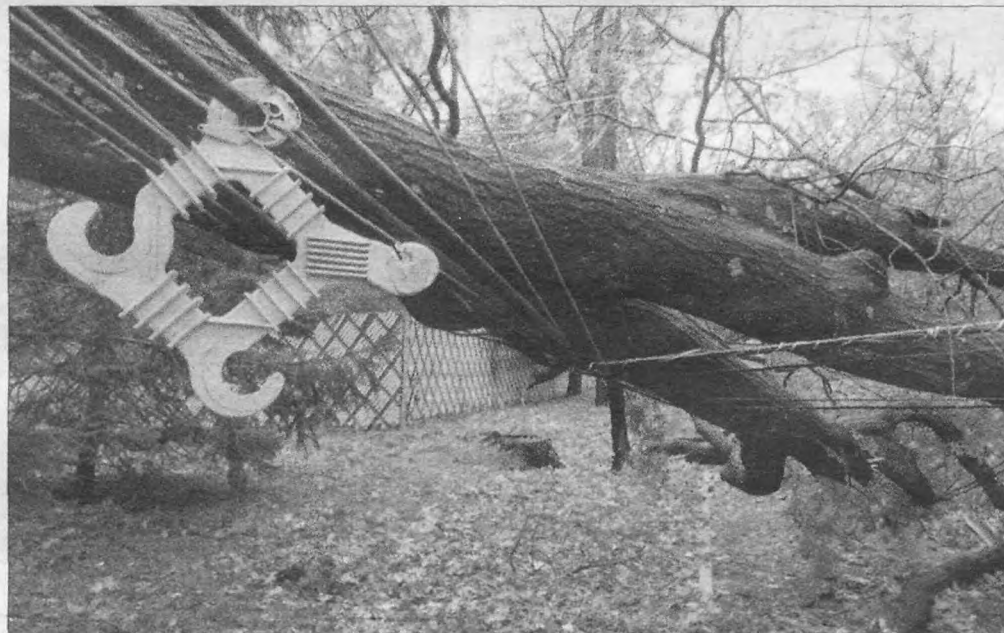
Although there are hundreds of municipalities in New Jersey, only nine actually own their own utilities, Dickson explained.

Aberdeen was the most recent town to try this avenue to utility independence in the 1980s, the mayor said, adding that JCP&L fought the move and the initiative later was



File Photos

Summit was not the only town hit hard by superstorm Sandy. Towns all over Union County suffered power outages and storm damage on an unprecedented scale, but Summit recently held a town meeting to discuss the response.



defeated on referendum. Plus, she said, going that route could take years, involve a number of steps and be very expensive.

"First you have to have a voter referendum," Dickson explained, adding then the city would have to hire an engineer to discover the value of JCP&L's system in Summit. After that, she said, the city would have to approach the utility company about a buyout and such an agreement panning out would be "unlikely."

One resident said even if the city was successful and able to gain more control of power in Summit, there still could be problems. After a storm like Sandy, the resident explained, regardless who owned the power lines, it would still take a long time to repair damaged lines and substations.

Madison is one of the nine towns in the state that own their utilities. Cotter said prior to Sandy hitting, this

municipality hired subcontractors from Delaware and Louisiana in order to be prepared. These subcontractors, he added, hit the ground running right after the storm and began making needed repairs.

In comparison, Cotter said, for Summit it was more than three days after JCP&L made assessments by air and land before linemen were even assigned to the city.

"There is a correlation between local control and more rapid communication," the city administrator added.

A full week after Sandy hit Dickson said the city tried to bring in Madison's line workers to Summit, but that presented a problem because the city required JCP&L's approval. Moving ahead without their approval, she said, would have been very costly for the city.

Cotter explained that because the city has an emergency management plan in place, everyone was ready to put this action plan to work. Still, he also felt it was important to review what was learned and what can be done better.

Residents did express concern about the way the city communicated important information during an emergency. Dickson and Cotter said information is always available on the city's website, Facebook and Dickson's Facebook page, but did not address the problem of using these particular means of communication during a power outage.

In the 20-page After Action Report the city compiled and put on their website, officials pointed out that although the city was well prepared and responded effectively in the emergency situation presented by the storm, there were challenges to overcome. As a result, each department involved with the storm identified areas in need of improvement.

Among the issues presenting problems was the fact the city could have used more generators. With four city facilities operating on generators and the transfer station without power, officials spent a great deal of time maintaining, repairing and acquiring a temporary generator.

Another critical problem involved food and accommodations for municipal employees that had to be housed overnight due to dangerous travel and weather conditions. Parts for equipment also caused issues to arise because of disrupted supply lines.

City officials found the inability of gas stations to power their pumps resulted in a shortage of stations able to supply gas to the public. Long lines of vehicles waiting for gas required substantial city resources to create and maintain traffic and security plans at the stations that were able to open.

Moving forward, the mayor said the city is spearheading a Community Emergency Response Task Force Team, which residents can join. She said as more residents become involved, information about the progress will be posted on the city website. Police Chief Robert Weck urged residents to sign up for Code Red Alerts and Nixle on the city website since this is an excellent means of obtaining important public messages.

CAU has been helping for 33 years

(Continued from Page 7)

While there are positive developments in this area, new challenges are on the horizon. There are 2,500 people with developmental disabilities throughout the state that are still denied community living because they are in institutions.

Blanchard said advocacy has always been at the heart of CAU and members strive to create an atmosphere of equality, acceptance and opportunity for all people, regardless of their abilities.

While it is not easy to do all CAU has managed to get done, Blanchard said, careful planning enables the advocacy group to continue the work they do and still not plunge into debt. For example, in 2011 CAU had revenues of \$32.5 million, and expenses of \$29.4 million, while assets rose to \$48.8 million.

Blanchard pointed out that one of the new efforts of CAU is to bring leadership to the effort along with encouraging participation in democracy, linking with other groups and encouraging activism.

"The movement was formed in February when we were in Washington at a conference on disabilities," said Sid Katz, a self-advocacy field coordinator at CAU and longtime advocate.

"This movement was driven by issues that concern people with disabilities, issues we are fighting for every day," he added.

Their goal? To close all the developmental centers.

"No human should be living in conditions like that," said Gary Rubin, another CAU self-advocacy field coordinator.



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OPINION

Time to put a stop to red-light cameras

We live in a mobile society. Our planet has shrunk considerably, thanks to advances in travel and communication. The same can be said for our country. Distances that once seemed great are now driven daily by many commuters. We drive to work and school, to shopping centers and sports venues, to visit relatives and the beach and to see a movie. We drive everywhere. This is especially true in New Jersey, the most densely populated state in the nation. Is there any wonder why people in the United States burn millions of gallons of gasoline a day?

With all of this driving, accidents are bound to happen, particularly at intersections, where traffic must be controlled to regulate the right of way. But with the current budget reductions at all levels of government, police officers can only do so much to prevent accidents by enforcing traffic laws. Which leads to an apparent solution to our problem: red-light cameras. Developed in the Netherlands in the 1960s, they were used for traffic enforcement in Israel as early as 1969. Now in use worldwide, red-light cameras have been used in the United States since the early '90s, in 26 states and the District of Columbia. In the Garden State, the New Jersey Department of Transportation has just completed the third year of a five-year pilot program utilizing red-light cameras. We ourselves were hopeful at the start of the program, but recent studies have given us pause. Are these lights actually increasing safety, or merely enriching the towns that have installed them and the companies that provided and operate the lights? The original intent in New Jersey for installing red-light cameras was to help save lives by preventing accidents. But somewhere along the line, municipalities realized they could make a considerable amount of money issuing tickets in this manner and, suddenly, there was a scramble to have these cameras. The rush was such that, at first, 63 of the 83 red-light cameras in 25 towns in New Jersey, including all 19 in Newark, had not been calibrated to ensure yellow lights were timed in accordance with the statute that created the pilot program. This problem was eventually resolved.

In the mean time, municipalities were reaping the financial rewards, much to their delight. A single ticket for running a red light is \$85, with no points. And the cameras seemed to have worked. According to a two-year review of New Jersey's red-light camera program released by NJDOT on Nov. 23, statistics report an 86 percent reduction in right-angle crashes after two years, a 42 percent reduction in same-direction crashes after two years, a 57 percent reduction in overall crashes after two years and an 85 percent reduction in red-light camera citations after two years. And numbers can't lie, can they? Actually, in this case, it's not so much

EDITORIAL

that the numbers aren't true, but they only tell part of the story. Those figures just cited are only based on two of the 83 intersections currently with red-light cameras. Those two intersections, both in Newark, are the only intersections in the program with two full years of available data, a requirement of the study. But if you examine data from all 24 intersections where red-light cameras have been installed for at least one year, you find a much different story: overall accidents increased a small amount over the one year — from 577 collisions to 582. Severe right-angle crashes are down just 15 percent, and the number of rear-end collisions for the one-year period have increased a significant 20 percent. Crash costs during this one-year period increased by an estimated \$1,172,800 and the number of citations issued fell by just 50 percent over the 1-year period. Two years remain in New Jersey's pilot program, and, depending on how you read the data, the program is either a big success or a resounding failure. The only certifiable beneficiary of the program seems to be the municipalities, which have been raking in the money this cash-cow provides. While finding new sources of revenue might be commendable, even laudable, it hardly justifies increasing the chances of an accident and the expenses that accompany it. Our gut feeling at this point is that the lights should be discontinued. Just the thought of all those drivers passing through busy intersections focused only on the light to the point where they're distracted and not watching out for kids or slow moving seniors or other cars is scary, really scary.

Instead of red-light cameras, we should be exploring some of the many viable alternatives, choices which are much more affordable and make much more sense to implement. AAA Michigan implemented several simple and low-cost engineering solutions to make the most dangerous intersections in Detroit safer. The size of the colored lenses on traffic lenses was increased by 50 percent to help drivers see them from farther away, left-turn lanes were re-striped, light timing was adjusted and all-red cycles were added to traffic lights to provide extra time for cars to safely clear intersections before cross traffic is given the green light. And, although the cost of the engineering upgrades was minimal, approximately \$35 per intersection, the number of accidents was reduced by 47 percent, with a 50 percent decrease in injuries. Two more years of the red-light camera program will only result in more rear-end collisions and the resultant personal injuries and more severe damage to vehicles. The experiment has failed; it's time to use our heads and examine some of the viable alternatives to save lives and make driving a safer activity. We shouldn't need a flashing light to clue us in that the time has come for change.

Greetings and Humbugs in Union County

The list of "Greetings and Humbugs" in Union County seems to grow each year. So without further delay, let's get started.

Greetings to Liz Weishapl from Union. For the past 35 years she diligently served the auxiliary at Trinitas Regional Medical Center, including the past six as its President. It's hard to calculate the large number of people who benefited because of her fundraising efforts.

Humbug to Cranford Commissioner Ed O'Malley. His cheap shot at outgoing Mayor David Robinson who was on a long ago planned vacation in Florida, with his four kids, when superstorm Sandy struck, was unnecessary. Factually, Robinson stayed in close contact with township officials. It was especially offensive considering that Robinson, always a gentleman, is leaving the governing body this December. For O'Malley, he will soon be in the majority, and here's hoping he can act the part.

LEFT OUT

BY FRANK CAPECE

Greetings to Nancy Mondella from Hillside. This Board of Education member has taken up the challenge of improving the township's sagging participation in the school nutrition program. Especially impressive are her efforts to insure confidentiality so as to leave no stigma for the kids who will benefit.

Humbug to Assemblyman Jon Bramnick of Westfield. Lately he has taken to the "fluff" stuff like promoting food drives, and information sessions on Sandy. The word in Trenton is he is eyeing a U.S. Senate seat in 2014. On the issue of the minimum wage increase he has toed the Republican party line in opposition. It's true there should not be an automatic escalator increase. But opposing raising the raise from \$7.25 to

\$8.50 should make the part-time comedian embarrassed. For those unable to afford decent food, buy clothes or find shelter, there is nothing funny with his stance.

Greetings to Erin Kelly-McGuinness. After discovering a family member had been diagnosed with a rare blood disease, she took on the crusade of running "Playball for Miracles" at the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Her efforts have raised over \$80,000.

Humbug to the "boat people" as aptly described by Gov. Chris Christie. Consider a local police chief, who retired with an estimated \$100,000 in unused sick and vacation time. It's time for the legislature to reign in this unsavory practice.

Greetings to Cranford Police Officer Tim O'Brien. He won't get any commendations, but on a wet windy September night with no fanfare, he bolted out of his police

Continued on next page

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Left Out

(Continued from previous page)
car to move a dangerous obstruction near the Cranford Hotel which could have caused a serious accident.

Greetings to ex-NFL star Tony Siragusa. His recently released biography aptly titled "Goose" is a fun read. The book is full of references to his hometown of Kenilworth. He writes, "Kenilworth is a place you always come back to." Watching the Christmas tree ceremony Saturday night at the town hall, you get a sense as to what he meant.

Greetings to Barbara El-Khoury at the Kenilworth Diner. She is this year's winner as the top Union County waitress for great service and kindness.

Humbug to Union County Counsel Robert Barry. He dismissed criticisms as to the selection of engineer Birdsall Services for another in a series of big county contracts — the company which has seen suspensions and indictments for abuses of the pay to play law. Barry rejected charges that the company's big time political contributions to school board, local and county campaigns influenced the selection process. He boldly said "any allegations to the contrary are not accurate." Yeah, right.

Humbug to N.J Transit which due to poor planning had more than 300 locomotives and rail cars damaged when Sandy flooded a storage yard in Hoboken and the Meadowlands. Somebody should get canned.

Greetings to Steven Thorpe from Winfield who has taken a lead on the County Transportation Board in setting out the arguments for more mass transit opportunities.

Greetings to John Kennedy from Roselle Park. This Knights of Columbus leader moved all the barriers placed before him to lead a wonderful kids Halloween party in his borough. His group also found time to provide food and shelter for a whole lot of people ravaged by the storm.

Humbug to ex-Cranford Mayor George Jorm. Three years ago he accepted a position on the Cranford Senior Housing Board. He has made a grand total of attending one meeting in all that time.

Greetings to State Senator Nicholas Scutari of Linden. From day one he defined the controversial red-light program as one not living up to safety benefits its proponents said would result. A recent DOT report study backed him up concluding the cameras are not reducing the number of accidents.

Greetings to Summit Mayor Ellen Dickson for holding a productive meeting in her city to develop better methods to deal with problems caused by sudden weather incidents.

Greetings to Pat Bennett and everyone else involved at St. Teresa of Avila Church in Summit for English as a Second Language and U.S. citizenship preparation programs.

Greetings to the Mountainside Historic Restoration Committee for their brick pro-

gram honoring veterans.

Humbug to Hillside Special Counsel Richard Bauch for the nasty tone he took in his feud with local Mayor Joseph Menza over legal bills. It's not wrong to debate the value of services. He crossed the line with his silly comments challenging Menza to put his comments in "an affidavit."

Greetings to Mike Presley, head of the Rahway Sanitation Department. One of the hardest hit communities from Sandy was Rahway. The word is this guy and a lot of others were tireless in their efforts to get the city running again.

Greetings to Thomas Garvey, president of the Summit Taxpayers Association. Agree or disagree, his arguments on budget excess are a true community service.

Humbug to everyone in Union County making such a big deal over the alleged improper borrowing of generators. As someone who slept in sweat pants, under three blankets, I'm as bugged as anyone. The proper approach was to let the county investigate and when necessary take personnel action. Do we really need county law enforcement jumping in the fray?

Greetings to Deborah Pomianek of Union. Her caregiving services on behalf of the Arc of Union County were recognized nationally. She is praised for her expertise in contracts and budgets, often a weakness in service providers.

Greetings to Deborah Mathis for her year-round efforts on the Minority Task Force on Aging in Union County. They provide valuable services for a vulnerable population.

Humbug to those opposing legislative efforts to reign in the explosion of state vehicles in use. Here's hoping that during the budget review, county and local officials will take a hard look at just who is taking vehicles home, including law enforcement officials.

Greetings to the Kawameeh Middle School in Union for the "Week of Respect." The creative plan included anti-bullying education, and the wonderful plan of "Walk a mile in their shoes."

Greetings to the Union County Division on Aging for their annual caregiver conference. The training for caregivers of person's with Alzheimer's and other types of dementia was especially valuable.

Greetings to Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno for taking time to present a piece of original steel from the World Trade Center to Summit First Aid Squad as part of the memorial for Ian Thompson who died in the attack.

Humbug for most media outlets for not making a big deal over the fact that New Jersey's high school graduation rose to 86 percent this year, an increase of 3 percent over last year. We simply have to understand that 75 percent for African-American students and 77 percent for Hispanic students means we must do more.

For everyone else, here's hoping 2013 is a lot more prosperous economically and much calmer weather wise.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Let's bring change, good government to our county

To the Editor:

All elected officials, taxpayers and residents in Union County should watch the video that is up on the Berkeley Heights official website at www.berkeley-heightstwp.com. It's called "Cup of Joe" and has an interview with Berkeley Heights mayor Joe Bruno and Councilman Bob Woodruff. In the video, they are discussing the reasons and procedures for their town's 2013 non-binding referendum for succession from our Union County.

At the 20-minute mark, the mayor brings up two paramount issues regarding Union County that motivates their referendum: Is government spending wisely, and, is government doing what it's supposed to do? The Berkeley Heights council has been deliberating this the last few months and found the county has failed in this charge.

As residents and taxpayers, we should all approach our town councils and request they also deliberate on these charges. Our elected officials must be responsible for revenues and expenditures not only on the local level, but also where our taxes go up the ladder to the county with their expenditures and services.

Roughly one quarter of our tax dollars

go to the county. This is not a Democrat or Republican political issue, but an issue of the people wanting good government. All towns would find that Union County has not performed in their best interests.

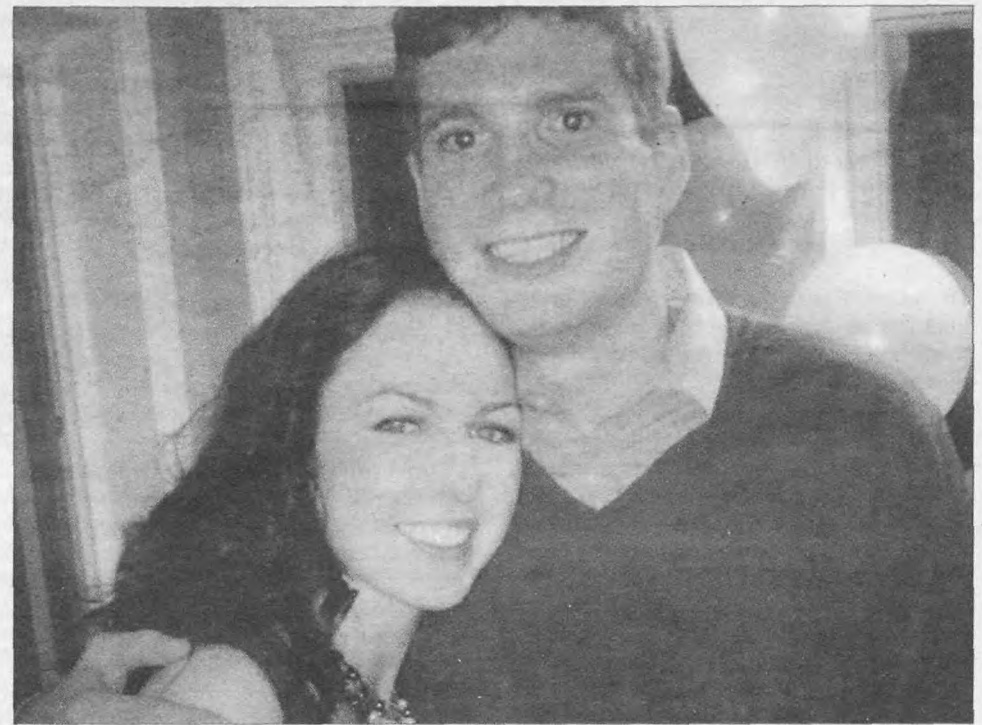
Presently, the county budget is nearing \$500 million, yet each town would find minimal return on this money. I personally attend the weekly freeholder meetings as a resident and I am amazed at the lack of accountability for their actions. When pointed out, they simply will not change. This all should be motivation enough to put heat to your town's elected officials to do something.

A fact in each general election: 12 to 14 towns out of 21 county towns normally vote against the incumbent freeholders, implicitly rejecting the county system in place. This should send a message to all our elected officials that the county is not servicing our towns properly.

With conclusions at hand, then town discussions of succession, districting, even dissolution of Union County, resolutions of condemnation or fairness, or a town's self-imposed cut of taxes being sent to the county should be considered as the next step in truly serving the public's interest and bringing good government to our county.

Bruce Paterson
Garwood

LIFESTYLE



Sarah Margaret Quinn and Matthew Joseph Ross plan an August, 2013 wedding.

Quinn plans to wed Ross

Mr. and Mrs. Sean Quinn of Bronx, NY and formerly Succasunna, NJ announce the engagement of their daughter, Sarah Margaret Quinn, to Matthew Joseph Ross.

Ross is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ross of Cranford.

The Bride-to-be graduated from UMDNJ Newark in May 2012. She is completing her residency in Psychiatry at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx. Her fiancé graduated from the College of New Jersey in 2009.

He is a 6th grade science teacher at Branchburg Central Middle School. The couple plans to marry in August 2013.

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RAHWAY NEWS

Registration open for Arts Guild classes begin Jan. 14

Registration is open for winter art classes for adults, teens, to 16 years old, and children, seven to 11, at Arts Guild New Jersey. Winter classes begin the week of Jan. 14, including several new options, in addition to familiar favorites. Classes meet once a week for eight weeks. Whether students are challenging themselves by taking their skills to the next level, or trying a new technique for the first time, there is something for everyone at Arts Guild New Jersey.

For complete course descriptions and class schedules, access the online course catalog at www.agnj.org, Art Classes page, or call 732-381-7511 to request a printed

flyer. Class locations specified next to each class description: either 1670 Irving St. for traditional Arts Guild New Jersey building on Irving Street, or Senior Center Annex, 125 W. Milton Ave., for the Annex space on Milton Avenue. Registration is accepted online, in-person, or by mail. To register in person, visit the office at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway, Monday to Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RHS trumpet player accepted into All State Ensemble

Phillip Schroeder, a sophomore trumpet player at Rahway High School, was accepted into the New Jersey All State Jazz Ensemble after auditions earlier in the school year. Schroeder is one of five trum-

pet players in the state to perform in this ensemble. The New Jersey All State Jazz Ensemble under the direction of David Dempsey, performed Nov. 16 in concert at Newark's NJPAC.

Rahway High School's Marching Band finished its competitive season on Nov. 11, at Washington Township High School in Sewell, at the USBands New Jersey State Marching Band Championships, moved from Rutgers Stadium because of the effects of Hurricane Sandy. After two days of rehearsing to recover time lost due to the hurricane, the Marching Indians performed and finished with a score of 92.5, the second highest score in school marching band history. The Marching Indians

finished in sixth place among the best bands in the state. On the following day, Sunday, Nov. 12, the marching band participated in a ceremony honoring the city of Rahway's Veterans Day Program. As the competitive season is finishing, the Rahway High School Bands and Band Booster Association have invited the community to the beginning of a new Rahway tradition for the holidays. On Dec. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon, it will welcome the Rahway community to a "Pancakes Breakfast with Santa" in the Rahway High School cafeteria. There will be live holiday music, a pancake breakfast, an opportunity to meet and take a picture with Santa Claus, and even a reading of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."



CLASS PROJECT — A volunteer group of students from Kean University removed 47 bags of trash from Mattano Park in Elizabeth in a single cleanup visit last month. The group has returned to the park three more times since then. For information on Adopt-A-Park, contact Betty Ann Kelly at 908-789-3683 or bkelly@ucnj.org.



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County continues Birdsall dealings

(Continued from Page 1)

this, he brought up the fact the board approved contracts to consulting firms that evening totaling \$1.5 million.

Included was the \$653,000 in contracts awarded to Birdsall Services.

Paterson also said he believed the Union County Improvement Authority Executive, Charlotte DeFilippo, chair of the County Democratic Party, was giving out those contracts.

"To me it looks like there is some kind of abuse possibly going on," he told the freeholders, but admitted he could not prove the allegation.

County Counsel Robert Barry, though, responded saying the county is in "complete compliance" with state pay-to-play legislation, noting that all awards are done through a fair and open process.

"Any allegations to the contrary are not accurate," the county legal counsel said, adding that the contracts awarded by the county are "exclusively on the recommendation of the county engineer, director of the department of engineers, public works and county manager Al Faella "and no one else."

Barry pointed out that engineering firms contracting with the county are on a pre-qualified list and there is a competitive process for county work.

Birdsall, according to the State Attorney General's Office, attempted to avoid the pay-to-play law by making corporate political donations to campaigns and political organizations that would normally have disqualified them from public contracts awarded by certain government agencies.

Had Birdsall made the campaign contributions legally, it would have disqualified them from receiving public contracts.

Angarone admitted that since he joined the firm he began participating in an "previously existing scheme" to avoid the state's pay-to-play laws.

The former employee said he helped pass bundles of personal checks written by Birdsall employees to various political campaigns. The checks, less than \$300 each, were not required by law to be reported to the state Election Law Enforcement Commission,

or ELEC.

Birdsall, the state attorney general's office said, would then illegally reimburse these contributors, along with bonus payments, omitting the illegally reimbursed payments in documents filed with ELEC.

"This elaborate scheme continued for years and involved scores of purported personal contributions that were under the \$300 reporting threshold.

In October 2010 Birdsall was slapped with an 18-month suspension for violating state's pay to play laws. The suspension had ties to Union County and specifically, Hillside.

According to Democrat sources with knowledge of this issue's history, the suspension was the result of two donations, a \$1,500 contribution to the Hillside Democratic Organization, a group also chaired by DeFilippo, and a \$6,000 contribution to the Piscataway Democratic Organization. Both were a direct violation of the state statute prohibiting political contributions from state vendors like Birdsall.

Although the engineering consulting firm appealed the suspension to the Department of Treasury, it was denied and the state treasurer eventually upheld the suspension.

In May, Birdsall offices were searched by State Attorney General's Office investigators, who removed computers and files from the premises.

In 2011, Birdsall donated nearly \$130,000 to various campaigns, and received \$28 million in contracts throughout the state.

Among the hundreds of donations made by Birdsall Services Group over the years to Democratic political campaigns in Union County include \$2,750 between 2008 and 2011 to Democrat Sen. Ray Lesniak; \$48,000 for Democrat freeholder candidates from 2009 through 2011; \$1,500 to the Hillside Democratic club in 2010; \$2,500 to the reelection campaign of County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi; \$2,500 to the campaign of Ralph Froehlich for Union County Sheriff; and \$7,800 to the Union County Democratic Committee. The attorney general said "our investigation into alleged illegal corporate political contributions on behalf of Birdsall Services Group is continuing."

LINDEN NEWS

Disaster Center opens

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center opened in Linden at the Gregorio Center at 330 Helen St., and will subsequently remain open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. The Disaster Recovery Center is to support residents of Union County who suffered damage from the Megastorm Sandy. Disaster recovery specialists from various local, state and federal agencies will be at the center to assist individuals and answer questions regarding disaster assistance.

Food drive underway

The Linden Police Department will hold a food drive for the food banks in Linden. Below are some examples of non-perishable items that could help: Peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned soup, canned fruit, canned vegetables, boxed stuffing and cereal.

The drop off will be at the Linden Police Department's Front desk 24 hours, or at the Linden Police Department's Records Bureau.

Blood drive, Dec. 20

Linden Public Library will be host to a blood drive on Dec. 20 from 12:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Columbia Bank Room. The library is located at 31 E. Henry St. For questions about eligibility, call 800-NJBLOOD.



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YOUNG SCHOLAR — Rosa Cuppari, a senior residing in Kenilworth, scored a perfect 800 on the Writing section of her college entrance SAT exam. Rosa hopes to attend Yale University in the fall and double major in International Studies and Political Science. As the Vice President of Union Catholic's Student Council, she is on her way.

Police throughout Union County respond to incidents

Roselle Park

• Nov. 30: Wally Zamor, 28, of Roselle was arrested at 9:47 p.m. at the Roselle Police Department on a \$750 warrant for contempt of court. Zamor was unable to post bail and was transferred to the Union County Jail.

• Dec. 1: Sgt. David Pitts was patrolling the Woodside Gardens apartment complex at 8:54 p.m., when he observed a parked vehicle in a darkened corner of the west side building. As he approached the vehicle, he observed the female driver conceal an item or items in the center console area. He contacted the driver and quickly detected the odor of burning marijuana. Alexandra E. Hopkins, 19, of Scotch Plains was arrested after Sgt. Pitts found one container of marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

• Dec. 2: While on foot patrol of the Sunrise Village apartment complex, at 1 a.m., Patrolman Kostantinos Vathianakis observed a loud group near Building 153 and saw one of the individuals discard and conceal unknown items in the nearby bushes. Sebastian Sepulveda, 18, of Roselle Park was found in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. He also was found possessing alcohol. He was later released to a family member.

• Dec. 3: While on foot patrol of the Roselle Park Train Station at 12:05 a.m., patrolman Vathianakis approached an individual who smelled of burning mari-

POLICE BLOTTER

juana. A warrant check revealed that individual, Keyon S. Brevard, 24, of Linden was wanted by the Linden Municipal Court for a \$500 traffic warrant. Brevard was found in possession of a butterfly knife, a prohibited weapon, an other legal knives. Brevard was charged with possession of a prohibited weapon and unlawful possession of a weapon and lodged in Union County Jail on a \$5,000 warrant.

• Dec. 3: At 4:30 p.m., Patrolman Mitchell White stopped a 2000 Mercedes Benz for traffic violations on East Westfield Avenue. While speaking to the driver, Lee R. Caraballo-Figueroa, 26, of Elizabeth, White detected the strong odor of marijuana coming from within the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed a bag of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Caraballo-Figueroa was transported to the Roselle Park Police Department. During processing, an iPhone that was in Caraballo-Figueroa's possession was displaying a message that the phone was stolen. Shortly thereafter, a 27-year-old Rutgers law student called and stated that he tracked his stolen iPhone by way of GPS to the Roselle Park Police Department. The caller stated his iPhone was stolen during a carjacking earlier in the day in Newark. The caller

stated that he was held up by a suspect armed with a handgun, who stole his iPhone, car keys and 2010 Toyota Corolla.

A further search of Caraballo-Figueroa's belongings revealed that he did possess a key ring containing the keys to the victim's automobile and was charged with receiving stolen property, two counts, and possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was unable to post the \$35,000 bail and lodged into the Union County Jail. Roselle Park Police Department detectives are now assisting the Essex County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit with the carjacking investigation.

• Dec. 3: Edwin Antonio Flores-Solano, formerly of Roselle Park, was charged last week by authorities in Deltona, Fla., with committing unlawful sexual acts and not informing the victim he was HIV positive. Flores-Solano, 46, is currently being held in the Volusia County Jail on \$25,000 bail. The victim in that case told police that Flores-Solano sexually abused her from early 2008, when she was 17 years old living in Roselle Park through early 2012, while she was living in Florida.

Over the last week, RPPD detectives were assisted by Volusia County Sheriff's investigators in gathering enough evidence to warrant charges here in Union County. On Nov. 30, Flores-Solano was charged with sexual assault, sexual assault by force and committing acts of sexual penetration

knowing that he was infected with HIV. Bail was by a Union County Superior Court judge at \$400,000. Solano-Flores was served with the warrant while in custody in Volusia County, where he remains pending an extradition hearing.

• Dec. 3: Tara Schultz, 22, of Cranford was arrested at 10:52 a.m. by Patrolman John Fitzgerald on \$750 Roselle Park Municipal warrant. Schultz was later transferred to the Union County Jail.

• Dec. 3: Theodore Medina, 20, of Perth Amboy was arrested at 11:09 p.m. by patrolman Kostantinos Vathianakis for criminal mischief. Medina was traveling through Roselle Park when he became embroiled in a dispute with a friend in his vehicle. Medina stopped the car on Route 28 at Walnut Street, where both parties exited the car and argued with each other. A resident in the area notified police about the dispute. Upon arrival at the scene, police learned that Medina temporarily restrained his friend then broke the friend's iPhone. Medina was processed at Roselle Park Police Department, then released.

• Dec. 4: Hughes J. Pamphile, 20, of Roselle was arrested at 8:04 p.m. by patrolman Joshua Medrano during a traffic stop on Locust Street. Pamphile was found to be in possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

See POLICE, Page 16

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Springfield to vote on study of town's form of government

(Continued from Page 1)

verify the results so residents have confidence in the outcome of this most unusual election," the Republican party members said.

Both also added that while the decision to go forward with a recount was not taken lightly, but party members are hopeful the results gives everyone closure so there is a smooth transition for the incoming governing body.

The Union County Board of Elections certified the results of the Nov. 6 election on Nov. 26, officially announcing that Bandrowski and David Barnett were the winners.

It was not expected that Fernandez would challenge the certification by county clerk Joanne Rajoppi, who was certain the certification would be the end of the issue.

"There is no margin of error. It's not like we have ten thousand votes here. Someone has to petition the court for a recount after I certify it," Rajoppi told *LocalSource* two weeks ago, adding there is no automatic recount in an election this close.

Kobitz explained Tuesday that he did not expect the recount to change the results certified on Nov. 26 because of the circumstances surrounding the election this year in Springfield.

"Normally the provisional ballots are done by machine but because this was a new machine, we counted the provisional by hand," he said.

Kobitz also said that because voters sometimes do not fill in the circle of the candidate of choice, as instructed, there can be mistakes.

"Often voters will put a check mark, or circle a candidates name and that can't be picked up by the counting machine. Under normal circumstances a recount would pick up these mistakes, but because we did the original count of these ballots by hand, it is unlikely there will be any change in the five-vote margin," Kobitz added.

After the recount is certified, Kobitz said there are options if a candidate is still not satisfied. At that point, he added, a candidate can file a contested election with the court, but they have to show why the vote count might be skewed.

For example, they might have proof that certain residents were not suppose to vote at all, or others were turned away at the polls for any number of reasons.

Police respond to incidents

(Continued from Page 15)

• Dec. 4: Wade C. Foster Jr., 24, of Hillside was arrested at 9:32 p.m. by Patrolman Jeffrey Rapach during a traffic stop on Sherman Avenue. Foster was found in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. Foster also is charged with tampering with evidence after he was observed eating and swallowing a small amount of marijuana.

Linden

• Nov. 30: Linden police responded to Vikos Party Rentals, 218 W. Elizabeth Ave. at 6 p.m. on a report of an armed robbery. Officers spoke to the owner, victim, male, 36, who told them that a man had entered the business with a black hooded sweat-shirt and a blue face mask brandishing a large kitchen knife. The robber demanded money from the owner and when the victim resisted, both men began to struggle to gain control of the knife. The victim sustained a laceration to his right hand, but was able to pull the mask from the suspect's face. It was at this time that the victim recognized the robber as a past customer of his business. The victim then was able to strike the suspect in the head with a folding chair before the suspect fled from the store empty-handed. Police searched the immediate area and was able to recover the knife. The suspect was later identified as an Oscar S. Camacho, 24, who has addresses in Elizabeth and South Plainfield. A warrant was issued for his arrest charging him with robbery, aggravated assault, possession of a weapon for an

POLICE BLOTTER

unlawful purpose and unlawful possession of a weapon. The Linden Fire Department ambulance responded and treated the victim's hand injury. Anyone with information on Camacho's whereabouts is asked to contact Linden Detective Ken Mikolajczyk at 908-474-8542 or the Linden Police at 908-474-8500.

Union

• Nov. 30: Two Union police officers arrested Earl Holley at a motor vehicle stop at 2657 Route 22 for warrants.

• Nov. 30: An arrest was made by a Union police officer at a motor vehicle stop at 1509 Morris Ave. of Abdullah Halliru for driving while suspended from a previous DWI and hindering arrest.

• Dec. 1: An arrest was made by two Union police officers at Vauxhall Road and Cross Street of Karida Walker for possession of CDS with intent to distribute.

• Dec. 3: Union police investigated a report of harassment at Juliat Place, where an ex-girlfriend's mother harassed her daughter's former boyfriend.

• Dec. 3: Police responded to a report of fraud at Costco. An individual gave a bad check for merchandise.

• Dec. 3: An investigation was made by Union police of an employee theft at the Home Depot on Springfield Road. Arrested was Jovan Hunter.

IN MEMORIAM

- ALLEN — Elijah, of Hillside; Nov. 29. Was eight years old.
 BARBELLA — MaryAnn T., formerly of Kenilworth; Dec. 1. Retired admitting clerk in hospital.
 BRACCO — John F., of Cranford; Dec. 5. Was self-employed architect.
 BROCK — Ezekiel, of Roselle; Dec. 3. Was former barbershop owner.
 CASE — Shirley Ruth, of Clark; Dec. 2. Was school teacher.
 CIASULLI — Thomas, of Springfield; Dec. 1. Owned auto body shop.
 COBLE — Mary Critchfield, formerly of Roselle; Dec. 6. Resided in Point Pleasant.
 COFFEY — Gerard H. "Gerry" Sr., formerly of Clark; Dec. 2. Was athletic Hall of Fame inductee.
 DALLEY — Richard L. Sr., formerly of Clark; Dec. 4. Was United States Army veteran.
 ELLERBUSCH — Henry Wilhelm, of Roselle Park; Nov. 30. Was longtime electrician.
 FABIAN — Olga, of Mountainside; Dec. 2. Was member of Rescue Squad.
 GELBER — Rose F., of Hillside; Dec. 2. Graveside service held.
 GIANNOBLE — Vincenzo, of Cranford; Dec. 4. Was mason for companies.
 GILL — Jeffrey C.; formerly of Cranford; Dec. 3. Gravestone services held.
 HRAB — Anna, of Linden; Oct. 23. Was Elizabeth church member.
 ISEMANN — Ann, of Rahway; Dec. 4. Retired from RCA Corp.
 KIRCHNER — Irene, of Union; Nov. 28. Was member of Republican Club.
 LENGYEL — John O., of Roselle Park; Dec. 1. Was retired warehouse manager.
 MACRINA — Anita Marie, formerly of Hillside; Nov. 24. Memorial Mass scheduled.
 MARTIN — Helen A., of Linden; Dec. 4. Was volunteer at hospital, center.
 McDOUGALL — Dorothy C. "Claire," of Linden; Dec. 5. Was longtime resident.
 MERKLINGER — John Joseph Sr., of Mountainside; Dec. 2. Was superintendent of projects.
 RYAN — Elaine A, of Rahway; Dec. 6. Retired operator.
 SPAGNUOLO — Vincent, of Linden; Dec. 5. Owner of lawyer service.
 THORNTON — Harold V. Sr., of Mountainside; Dec. 2. Was retired brewer.
 WOLFF — Barbara Brewster, of Linden; Dec. 4. Was retired executive secretary.
 YACKANIN — John, of Linden; Dec. 1. Was retired service representative.
 POCCHIA — Esther J., of Linden; Nov. 27. Funeral held in Clark.
 RADICE — Felicia V., of Kenilworth; Nov. 25. Was auxiliary member.
 RIZKALLA — Frederick Abdo, of Cranford; Nov. 29. Was building supply foreman.
 RUBY — Emilia M., of Clark; Dec. 1. Retired postal clerk.
 SCHNEIDER — Frances, of Union; Nov. 25. Was Eucharistic minister at three sites.
 SCHROPPE — Roger W., formerly of Clark; Oct. 26. Was member of Elks Lodge.
 SHANAHAN — John T., of Summit; Nov. 29. Was leader in industry organizations.
 SIMON — Jack, of Roselle; Nov. 26. Had position in family business.
 SMITH — Hughes Edward "Facin" Sr., of Roselle; Nov. 26. Was longtime resident.
 TONGUE — Olive May, formerly of Rahway; Was crossing guard.
 VAN DER MEIREN — Georgia A., of Linden; Nov. 30. Longtime resident.
 VAN DYKE — Arthur W., of Mountainside; Nov. 20. Owned Interfaith Group.
 VOGEL — Seymour H., of Clark, formerly of Rahway; Dec. 1. Was co-founder of Vogel's Music.
 YURCHUK — Mary, formerly of Rahway; Nov. 23. Lived in Florida.
 WISNIEWSKI — Emellie, of Union; Nov. 25. Mass held in Irvington.
 ZARZYCKI — Mary, of Rahway; Nov. 24. Retired owner of nursery.

Obituaries are special notices submitted by Funeral Directors or families to be published on these pages and online. To place a paid obituary fax 908-686-4169 or send an email to obits@thelocalsource.com. Obituaries must be received by noon Monday. Family and friends' submissions must include sender's name, address, phone and the name of the funeral home. Call 908-686-7850 for assistance.

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Photo Courtesy of Jim Lowney

T'is the season

This year's Christmas tree arrives at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. The tree, donated by Rocco Rosania of Kenilworth, will be on display in the Courthouse Rotunda during the holiday season. The public is invited to view the tree on weekdays until it is removed just before New Year's Day.

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Holiday Gift Guide 2012

Layaway plans are returning to the American mainstream

Business prognosticators once said that the layaway option would go the way of the dinosaur. The concept would be archaic and essentially extinct, as credit cards overtook layaway plans. Although many stores dropped their layaway policies for much of the late 20th and early 21st centuries when business was booming and credit was easy to secure, layaway has since made a comeback.

Many stores have resuscitated their layaway programs in recent years. Spurred on by the poor economic climate and consumer desire to avoid post-holiday debt, layaway is gaining in popularity. Polling through Frugal Living indicates that of the nearly 5,000 respondents, 87 percent plan to use layaway this year. The growing number of stores that are offering layaway serves as an indicator of how popular layaway has made a comeback.

Babies 'R Us, Toys 'R Us, WalMart, Kmart, Burlington Coat Factory, Hallmark, Marshall's, TJ Maxx and Sears are some of well-known retailers now offering layaway. In addition, some antique stores, jewelry stores and other merchants may offer their own layaway programs. It doesn't hurt to ask, especially because layaway can be beneficial to merchants and consumers alike.

Paying incrementally enables many

Toys 'R Us, WalMart, Kmart, Burlington Coat Factory, Hallmark, Marshall's, TJ Maxx and Sears are some of well-known retailers now offering layaway.

shoppers to afford higher-quality items. Furniture, appliances or jewelry can be put on layaway and shoppers won't have to accrue any debt.

While buyers are able to enter stores and shop for exactly what they want, without having to settle for lower-priced gifts, retailers benefit by increased profits on higher-end merchandise. Because there are penalties in place if a person defaults on their layaway order, and since merchandise is not leaving the store before it is paid for, there is a very low risk assumed by stores that offer layaway.

Increased competition for layaway shoppers has led many retailers to remove traditional layaway fees. Stores may waive deposits on layaway accounts, making layaway an even more attractive option to shoppers.

Once the balance on a layaway account is paid in full, the merchandise can be taken out of the store. Unlike shoppers who pay for items with a credit card and get

stuck paying down that holiday debt for months and years to come, consumers who choose layaway are debt-free once the account has been paid in full. Although layaway isn't risk-free, any fees tacked on to the account for failure to pay are likely to be less expensive than fees and penalties implemented by credit card companies.

Stores looking to increase foot traffic may want to consider instituting a layaway option. Layaway requires a shopper make several trips to a store, and each of these trips presents the opportunity for a retailer to offer new merchandise or deals for shoppers, who may be inclined to increase their layaway tally. Layaway gets shoppers into the store, increasing the likelihood they will spend more and more money.

In a world where buy now/pay later has become the norm instead of the exception, layaway reinforces the fiscally responsible trend of only getting what you can pay for, a valuable lesson for kids and adults alike. Taking children along to make layaway



Many merchants, including jewelers, have once again instituted layaways to entice consumers.

payments can teach them the concepts of budgeting and living within your financial means.

Layaway has re-emerged as a sensible way to pay for holiday gifts and other big-ticket items without being racked with post-holiday debt.



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Five Points Wellness Center Branch - 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union

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Holiday Gift Guide 2012

Business gifting can build relationships if it's done right

When among the masses shopping for holiday gifts, consumers might want to take a close look at the expressions on their fellow shoppers' faces. Note the ones whose eyes are glazed over, who are anxiously biting their bottom lips or seem to be exhibiting recurring facial twitches. These are not individuals on the verge of a nervous breakdown. In fact, many are otherwise well-adjusted people in the throes of choosing holiday gifts for their co-workers or bosses.

While there is nothing inherently complicated about choosing tokens of appreciation for one's associates or superiors, the challenge is not just choosing the right token, but in choosing something without the potential to offend or confuse the recipient.

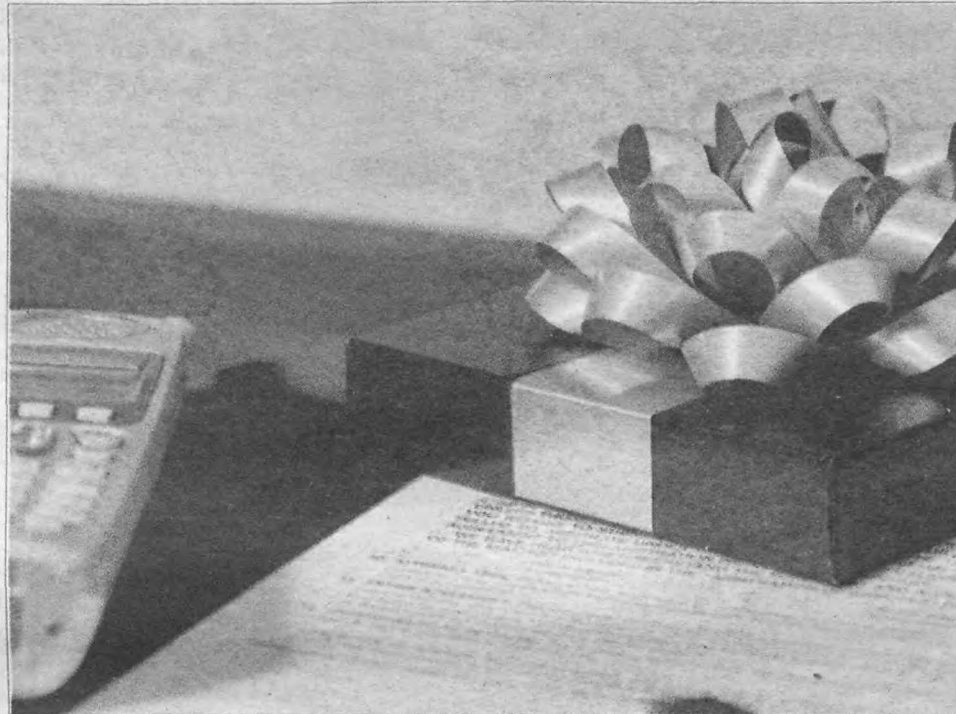
To help make the process go smoothly from purchase to presentation, here are some of the chief do's and don'ts for office gift-giving.

Do

Make sure that you know your company's policy on gift-giving. For example, are there specified or unstated spending limits?

- Be clear about who should be on your gift list. Do you get gifts for everyone in your department or just those individuals with whom you interact most frequently?

- Choose thoughtful and tasteful gifts,



Presenting gifts to co-workers can be disastrous, or they can strengthen a relationship. As with many traditions, there's a right way and a wrong way.

whether buying a different item for each person or the same item for all.

- Consider gifts that can be used in the office, such as distinctive office supplies, a

photo frame, gadget, calendar or pen.

- Go for gifts that can be shared either at home or work, such as gourmet food items, books or plants.

The magic of mistletoe

Chances are, holiday revelers will find themselves underneath the mistletoe at least once this holiday season. While they might know what to do when that time comes, they might not know the history of that plant above their heads.

Especially sacred to Celtic Druids, mistletoe was believed to bestow life and fertility, while also protecting against poison and serving as an aphrodisiac.

Nowadays, mistletoe is typically hung in doorways or entryways from one room to another. This tradition can also trace itself back several centuries to the Middle Ages. During the Middle Ages, branches of mistletoe were hung from ceilings to ward off evil spirits. Throughout Europe, mistletoe was placed over doorways in the house as well as the stables as a means to preventing the entrance of witches.

The tradition of kissing underneath the mistletoe likely stems from the belief that mistletoe bestows fertility and is often associated with the Roman festival of Saturnalia, a period of merrymaking that pre-



Mistletoe has been a part of the holiday decorations and tradition for hundreds of years.

dated Christmas. In 18th century England, a young lady standing underneath the mistletoe could not refuse to be kissed. Once kissed, the kiss would signify deep romance or eternal friendship.

History also suggests that mistletoe was a symbol of peace. In Scandinavia, mistletoe was considered a plant of peace. When standing underneath the mistletoe, enemies could declare a truce and spouses could end any marital turmoil with a kiss

- Find out if colleagues have food or plant allergies before selecting gifts in those categories.

- Take the time to package and wrap gifts with care.

Don't

- Overspend, especially when purchasing a gift for your boss.

- Give presents to colleagues outside of your "gift circle" in order to make a good impression or curry favor.

- Choose "joke" or "gag" gifts, even for co-workers you think you know well. While the recipient might appreciate the gesture, it could be misinterpreted by others.

- Re-gift or give items that are used or in anything but pristine condition.

- Stray outside the limits of "good taste." In other words, don't even think about gifts that could be considered too personal — including clothing, perfume or jewelry — or are in any way political, religious, racial or sexual. And unless you are absolutely certain of the recipient's tastes and habits, steer clear of alcoholic beverages of any kind.

- Give gifts that can be misconstrued as having a hidden meaning or agenda, such as flowers, cash, lingerie or personal hygiene products.

- Leave anyone out. Hurt feelings are hard to overcome and can strain otherwise productive working relationships.

On your mark, get set, shop!

It's almost upon us — the holiday season. During this hectic season, people take on more responsibilities and commit to more events and get-togethers than any time of the year. All of this extra work can put a strain on the body if the average person is unprepared. Surviving the holidays requires thinking of them as athletic activities and training for the work ahead. Think about how the holidays are akin to an athletic event.

- During shopping a person can unknowingly walk several miles in a store or mall.
- Individuals often tote around heavy packages and/or lift weighty items.
- Long hours are spent on one's feet.
- Fast decisions have to be made on purchases.
- Holiday decorating may entail climbing up and down a ladder or bringing heavy boxes out of the attic.

- People may keep long hours traveling to social engagements, taxing their bodies. These are just a few demands on the body. In order to prevent fatigue or more serious injury from holiday activities, consider these pointers.

- Stretch out before you hit the stores. Warm up stiff muscles to prepare for the day ahead.

- Drink plenty of water throughout the day. Dehydration can tax the body and lead to feelings of sluggishness or even induce headaches.

- Wear comfortable shoes with plenty of cushioning to withstand the impact of walking all day.

- Use a backpack to tote essentials along. Plus, packages can be stuffed into the backpack to free up hands or balance the weight of purchases.

- Don't carry around more than you can handle. Plan frequent trips to the car to drop off purchases. If lockers are available in the mall, use them.

- Take breaks every hour and sit down to rest feet and de-stress.

- Eat light, healthy foods. Greasy fast food could strain overstressed organs. Heart attacks during the holidays are common. Healthy foods can also help combat the average six pounds of weight a person gains during the season of overindulgence.

Holiday Gift Guide 2012

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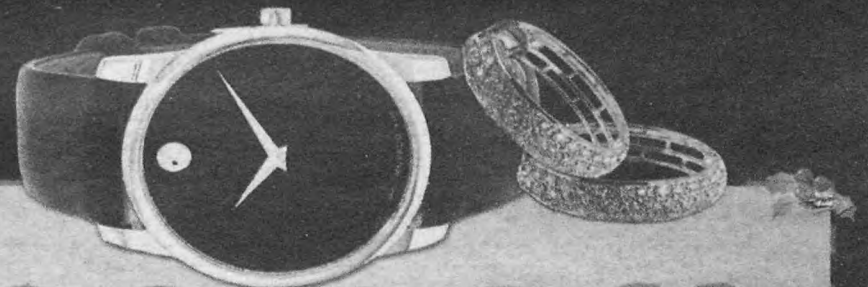
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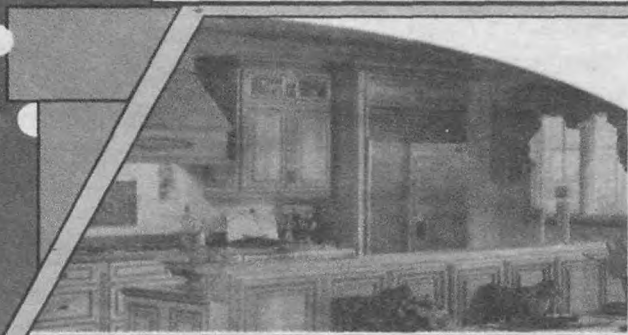
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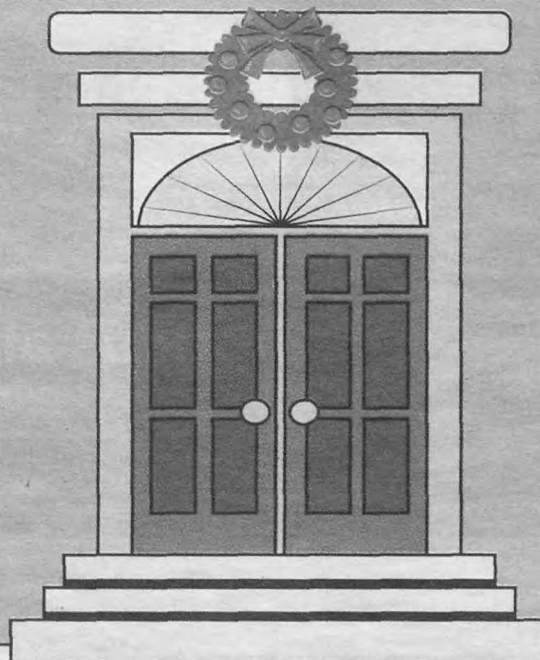
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SCOUTING AHEAD — JP Seebode is congratulated by Betty Ann Kelly, environmental specialist from the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal, upon completion of his Eagle Scout Project. Seebode is a member of St. John the Apostle Troop No. 330. The project improved the Rahway River Trail in Clark and Winfield Park for walkers, hikers and fisherman. The project involved over 200 hours of intense work where JP led more than 25 scout, youth and adult volunteers. Seebode is currently a junior at Union Catholic High School.

Ice skate with Santa Claus at Warinanco Park, Dec. 16

Santa Claus will visit the ice skating rink at Warinanco Park in Roselle on Saturday, Dec. 15, and Sunday, Dec. 16, from 1 to 3 p.m.

Presented by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal, ice skating with Santa offers families a cool way to enjoy an afternoon out together during the holidays.

"Come skate along on the ice with Santa and warm up later by the fireplace as you listen to your favorite Christmas carols," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander

Mirabella. "These family-oriented afternoons will offer a mixture of holiday classics, candy canes and an opportunity to take photos with Santa on ice skates."

Regular admission fees apply: Adults \$5; youths 17 years and younger \$4; seniors, 62 and older, \$4. Ice skate rental is available for an additional \$3.

The Warinanco Ice Skating Center is located in Warinanco Park, off St. Georges Avenue on the Roselle/Elizabeth border. For further information visit the Union County website, www.ucnj.org or call 908-298-7850.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

**SUNDAY
DECEMBER 23, 2012**

EVENT: Holiday Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ 07109
TIME: 9AM - 5PM Indoors/Outdoors
ADMISSION: FREE
DETAILS: For information call 201-998-1144 or events@icpromotions.info

There will be exhibitors selling an array of quality merchandise such as sports collectibles, gift items, toys, gloves & scarves, jewelry, pocketbooks, socks, one of a kind items, garage/tag sale items and so much more all at bargain prices!
This is the last Flea Market before Christmas, so come to do your last minute Holiday Shopping with us
ORGANIZATION HOST: BHS Athletic Advisory Council.

FLEA MARKET

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 22, 2012**

EVENT: Holiday Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave., Clark, NJ 07066
TIME: 9AM - 5PM Indoors/Outdoors
ADMISSION: FREE
DETAILS: For information call 201-998-1144 or events@icpromotions.info

There will be exhibitors selling an array of quality merchandise such as clothing, sports collectibles, gift items, toys, gloves & scarves, jewelry, pocketbooks, socks, one of a kind items, garage/tag sale items and so much more all at bargain prices!
This is the last Flea Market before Christmas so come to do your last minute Holiday Shopping with us.
ORGANIZATION HOST: Clark UNICO

What's Going On?

Includes:

**FLEA MARKETS
THRIFT SHOPS
CULTURAL EVENTS
SCHOOL CONCERTS
GARAGE SALES
FUNDRAISERS
AUCTIONS, ETC.**

What is your non-profit organization working on? Let us know today!

908-686-7850

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PRE-PAID and costs only \$20.00 for 2 weeks in Essex or Union County and just \$30.00 for both counties. Your notice must be in our office by 4:00pm on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Office is located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union.

You can e-mail us at: class@thelocalsource.com



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Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce.....<http://www.suburbanessexchamber.com/secc>
Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....<http://www.summitems.org>
Turning Point.....<http://www.turningpointnj.org>

To be listed call 908-686-7700

ROSELLE PARK NEWS

Casano Center's Home Decorating Contest deadline is Dec. 14

The Casano Community Center will sponsor the fourth Annual Roselle Park Holiday Exterior Home Decorating Contest. To register for the contest applications must be completed and returned to Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut St., no later than Dec. 14. Applications can be picked up at Casano Community Center, Veterans' Memorial Library, 404 Chestnut St., or Borough Hall, 110 East Westfield Ave. Applications also can be sent and completed by way of E-mail by request or found on the Roselle Park website www.rosellepark.net. Winners will be recognized at the Dec. 20 Roselle Park Council meeting.

For additional information call the Casano Community Center, 908-245-0666.

Fifth grader wins poster contest

Mariana Rivera, a fifth grader at Sherman School in Roselle Park, won First Place in her age category in the "What's My Anti-Drug?" Poster Contest, which is sponsored by Union County Prevention Links. Her artwork was

selected as one of three finalists in the county; these finalists were then voted on by the public to choose a winner. Mariana received her award at the Union County Red Ribbon Day on Oct. 20 at Oak Ridge Park in Clark.

Boy Scouts Troop 56 holds open registration

Troop 56 Boy Scouts of America, which has been serving the Roselle Park community for more than 75 years, is holding an open registration for young men, 11 to 18 years of age. The troop meets Monday evenings during the school year at 7:30 p.m. in the Sherman School cafeteria at 375 East Grant Ave. According to the Boy Scouts of America, scouting helps boys learn responsibility to family, community and nation, in addition to teamwork and leadership. For more information, contact Stu Cox at 908-370-7157 or stuart.cox@merck.com.

Events include chess, English classes

The following Roselle Park Library events have been announced:

- The Children's Chess Club with Joao meets every Monday at 3:15 p.m. All ages and levels are welcome.
- Conversational English classes meet every Thursday at 11 a.m.

Historical group to meet at Museum

The Roselle Park Historical Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at The Roselle Park Museum, 9 West Grant Ave.

Weekly Zumba class puts accent on fitness

The Casano Community Center in Roselle Park will offer a Zumba class on a weekly basis. Every Wednesday, the center will hold a Zumba class from 7:15 to 8:15 p.m. There is a fee for each class; class level will be determined by an evaluation of participants. The class must consist of at least 12 participants for the center to maintain the activity. Pre-registration is required. To take the Wednesday class, visit or call the center at 908-245-0666 to make a reservation. The center is located at 314 Chestnut St.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD "One Great Church - Two Locations!" Main Campus: 953 West Chestnut St., Union. 2nd Campus: 172 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. www.CalvaryAssembly.tv. 908-964-1133.

(Please note: All events and services are held at the Union campus unless otherwise noted.)

Sunday Schedule:

Morning Worship - 8:45am & 11:00am
Morning Worship (Berkeley campus) - 11:00am

Berkeley Sunday School 10:00am

*All Sunday morning services include childcare and Kidz Church for ages 2-10!
Sunday School for All Ages - 10:00am

Evening Service - 6:30pm

Weekday Schedule:

Ladies Bible Study - Wed. @ 10:00am

Family Night - Wed. @ 7:30pm

(includes Adult Bible Study, Boys & Girls programs)

Youth Night - Fri @ 7:30pm

College & Career - Fri @ 7:30pm

Visit us at: www.CalvaryAssembly.tv

UKRAINIAN EVANGELICAL ASSEMBLIES OF GOD
2208 Stanley Terrace, Union (908) 686-8171
Rev. Walter Cebula, Pastor

**Note: All services are in English.

(Ukrainian & Spanish translation available)

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday Evening: 6:30 PM

Food Pantry (Wednesday) 5-6:45 PM

Wednesday Family Night: 7:00 PM

Spanish Service (Saturday): 7 PM

BAPTIST

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 640 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield. Rev. Clarence Alston, Pastor. Church phone (973) 379-1465. SUNDAY: 9:30 A.M. Family Bible School; 11:00 A.M. Worship Service. WEDNESDAY: 7:30 P.M. Mid-Week Service. Holy Communion every First Sunday. Nursery Care available every Sunday. If transportation is needed call the church office. Everyone is Welcome at Antioch.

JEWISH - REFORM

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www.shaarey.org Rabbi: Ari Rosenberg
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JEWISH-EGALITARIAN CONSERVATIVE

CONGREGATION B'NAI AHAVATH SHALOM, 2035 Vauxhall Road (corner of Plane Street), Union. Tel: (908) 686-6773. Harvey Speizer, Spiritual Leader. David Gelband, President. Congregation B'Nai Ahavath Shalom is a Egalitarian conservative congregation with a full range of programs. DAILY SERVICES: Friday evening: 8pm; SATURDAY: 9:00am. Call for additional services.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AHM YISRAEL 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0539 - a friendly inclusive Conservative Egalitarian congregation, welcoming to the broader community of mature couples, singles, "traditional" Jewish families, gay and lesbian Jews, and interfaith families. Dedicated to enriching the lives of our community by providing an inviting environment for spiritual education and social interaction, we offer a year-round NAEYC certified Early Childhood Program, Religious School, Teen Institute, Men's Club, Women's League, Hazak (Seniors), minyan services twice daily, and a full variety of activities and Shabbat services for all ages. Visit www.tbaynj.org for service and activity dates and times or call (973) 376-0539. PLEASE JOIN US! Rabbi Mark Mallach (rabbim@tbaynj.org), Shiri Haines, Executive Director (execdirector@tbaynj.org).

METHODIST

BETHELAFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
241 Hilton Ave.,
Vauxhall. NJ 07088

Phone: 908-964-1282
Pastor: Rev. Dennis E. Hughes
Sunday - Church School 9:AM
Worship Service 10:AM
Wednesday - Bible Class 6:30 to 7:30
ALL ARE WELCOME

COMMUNITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

301 Chestnut St.,
Roselle Park. NJ 07204
Phone: 908-245-2237
www.roselleparkumc.org
Pastor: Rev. Manuel P. Cruz, Jr.
11:00 AM Worship Service
11:00 AM Sunday School
Childcare Available

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF UNION. 2095 Berwyn Street, Union, NJ 07083. Rev. James G. Ryoo, Pastor. Church office telephone 908-687-8077. Sunday services at 11:00 AM include a children's sermon. Sunday School at 10:00 AM. Communion the first Sunday of each month. Choir and Praise Team. Women's, Men's and Youth groups. Wednesday evening Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:30 PM. We are multiethnic/cultural church, and we welcome all!

MORAVIAN

BATTLE HILL COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH, 77 Liberty Ave., Union, 908-686-LAMB. Rev. Percival Gordon, Pastor. Sunday Worship 10:30 am. Sunday School 9:15 am. Women's Group meets first Wednesday of every month 1:30 pm. Men's Group meets every other Wednesday 9:00 am. Wednesday, Bible study and Prayer Group 7:00 pm.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

JESUS THE ROCK FELLOWSHIP THE CHURCH OF ALL NATIONS
www.JTRF.org (You can hear services)
2 Denman Ave., Clark. Gerry Gregoire, Senior Pastor. Church: 908-358-6089; Pastor: 908-419-5640 Sun. Services 3:00 PM, Tues. Prayer 7:00 PM, Sat. 6:00 PM 1st Bible Study; 6:00PM 2nd Men/Women's Fellowship/6:00PM; 3rd Healing Service 4th Outreach TBA.

KENILWORTH GOSPEL CHAPEL Newark and 23rd Street, Kenilworth, 908-272-6131, Pastor Donald Dunkerton. Sunday 9:15 am Communion, 11:00 am Family Bible Hour and Sunday School for all ages, Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer and Bible Study, (childcare provided), Friday 7:00 pm Youth Activities for Grade School age, Jr. High and Sr. High. kenilworthgospel.org

PRESBYTERIAN

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092. You are invited to join us in Worship Services on Sundays at 10:00 am. This is a place for you to enjoy uplifting music and relevant messages that will energize and inspire you. We offer a warm and friendly environment with Bible study, Sunday school and active adult and youth groups. For further information, please contact Dr. Christopher Belden, Pastor at 908-232-9490.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF RAHWAY Corner of West Grand Ave. & Church St., RAHWAY. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. Worship Service on Sundays at 10:30 am; Fellowship Hour 11:30 am.; Nursery 10:30 am - 11:30 am. Office Hours: Mon - Thurs 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. 732-382-0803 www.rahwayworship.org.

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 829 Salem Road, Union. Worship and Church School Sundays at 10:00 A.M. Nursery Care during all services. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. We offer opportunities for personal growth and development for children, youth, and adults. We have two children's choirs and an adult Chancel Choir. We also have a youth fellowship, regular adult Bible Study, a Book Club and Summer Vacation Bible School. Come and worship with friends and neighbors this Sunday. Townley Church is a growing congregation of caring people. Church Office 686-1028. Rev. Christopher Taylor, Pastor.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SPRINGFIELD 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, NJ 07081, 973-379-4320. Rev. Victoria Ney, Pastor. Sunday Worship begins at 10:15am followed by Fellowship Hour. Church time nursery and Sunday School for infant to second grade avail.

Sunday School for grades 3-12 begins at 9:00am in the Parish House @ 37 Church Mall. For more information about Church groups and community activities or to contact Pastor Ney, please call the Church Office at 973-379-4320, or e-mail FirstPCoffice@verizon.net.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside, 908-232-1162. Celebrate the Lord's Day: Anticipated Mass 5:00pm, Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am. Weekdays: Monday-Friday 7:30am, Saturday 8:00am, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday at 1pm. Perpetual Adoration Chapel for personal prayer and devotion. www.ollmountainside.org, office@ollmountainside.org.

St. JAMES THE APOSTLE PARISH COMMUNITY, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081.973-376-3044. www.saintjamesparish.org. SUNDAY MASS: Saturday 5:00pm (anticipated), Sunday 7:30, 9:00, 10:30am and 12:00 noon. WEEKDAY MASS: Monday-Friday 7:30am, Saturday 8:00am. RECONCILIATION: Saturday 11:00am (any time by appointment).

ST. JOSEPH PARISH, 767 Prospect Street, Maplewood (1 blk. S. of Springfield Ave.); 973-761-5933, since 1914 serving Maplewood and adjacent areas of Union and Millburn. Our faith community welcomes you to join us for worship, service opportunities and spiritual support. Varied activities for adults, youth group, K-8 religious education classes. Mass celebrated in our beautiful church, Sunday 7:30, 9:00 and 11:30 a.m.; Saturday 5:30 p.m.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication.

Please address changes to:

Connie Sloan
1291 Stuyvesant Ave. P.O. Box 1596
Union, N.J. 07083

UNION NEWS

Municipal Band to play holiday concert, Dec. 17

The Union Municipal Band, under the direction of John H. Bunnell, will present a free band concert featuring the music of the holiday season at Hannah Caldwell School, 1120 Commerce Ave., on Dec. 17. The concert will start at 7:30 p.m., and the public is invited to attend. The trombone section will be featured and play a selection arranged for a trombone trio. For more information, call the Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

PACE invites community to meeting, Dec. 17 at Union library

Parents and others for Academic Excellence have invited members of the community to a meeting on Dec. 17 at 6:30 p.m. in the Meeting Room at Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave. PACE is a volunteer group whose mission is to encourage academic excellence in the public schools in Union and to continue the progress started by the current superintendent of schools. PACE started with a small group of concerned parents and other community members who wanted to make a difference in children's education. Last March, PACE sponsored NJASK workshops that attracted more than 1,600 attendees. PACE cooperates with the township schools, but is an independent group. PACE is open to everyone in the community. For further information, call 908-851-9869.

Union PD to host toy drive, Dec. 16

On Dec. 16, the Union Police Department will be host to a Toy Collection and Sorting Event from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Union High School gymnasium. The volunteer effort will feature appearances by such guests as celebrities, radio deejays and sports players. All the toys and gifts collected will be donated to the victims affected by Hurricane Sandy. "Over 75,000 people in New Jersey were affected by Hurricane Sandy, and we are trying to help them out," said Sgt. Michael Boll, who is organizing this event.

The event is open to the entire state of New Jersey. The public is encouraged to attend sporting its individual town or school colors. New or slightly used toys will be accepted; especially certain indispensable items such as video games, bicycles, skateboards, and other types of athletic equipment. The toy drive will continue after the collection and sorting event until Dec. 31. For more information contact Sgt. Boll at 973-332-1556.

Chamber of Commerce food drive

In the spirit of holiday giving, the Union Township Chamber of Commerce and its member businesses are con-

ducting a food drive during this month. Members of the community are invited to visit the participating businesses and donate a non-perishable item or supermarket gift card.

"Proceed from this drive will go the Union Food Pantry, which will see that the items are delivered to those in need from our area," said James Masterson, chamber executive director.

"We are grateful to one of our newest members, the Leaf Group of Union, for helping us to coordinate this important effort."

Locations for drop off are: Caldwell Parsonage, 909 Caldwell Ave.; Maplecrest Ford Lincoln, 2800 Springfield Ave.; Omega Financial, 1872 Morris Ave., and Paul's Garage, 983 Lehigh Ave. All are located in Union.

The drive will commence immediately and end on Dec. 21.

Library to hold college planning seminar, Dec. 22

The Heartland Institute of Financial Education, a national non-profit organization, whose mission is to promote financial literacy across America, will conduct a program providing families with college planning solutions at Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., on Dec. 22 at 1 p.m. This is an admission free program.

It is the goal of HIFE to help young Americans obtain a college education. For those who have a student that is entering college or currently in college, this is an opportunity to find out more about how to position a student to qualify for grants, student loans and scholarships and to learn more about how to "Fund The Future" for a child's education.

For additional information, please visit www.youseemore.com/UnionPL/default.asp.

Library programs in December

The Children's Department of the Union Public Library has scheduled programs at the main library during the month of December:

The Saturday Storytime and Craft Program will be held on Saturday, Dec. 22 at 11 a.m. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend. No registration is required.

Children can come in pajamas for songs, stories and games at a Bedtime Storytime to be held on Monday, Dec. 17 at 7 p.m. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend. No registration is required.

The December meeting of the Homeschooling Group will be held on Dec. 17 at 10:30 a.m. This is a place to meet and share information and ideas with other homeschoolers

and also become familiar with the library and the resources offered. Families are encouraged to bring their own board games to the meetings. Call or email Mary Pritting at mpritting@uplnj.org or 908-851-5450 Ext. 3 for more information.

Rosomer graduates from Lackland

Air Force Airman First Class Brian A. Romoser graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Rosomer earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is the son of Nancy Romoser of North 12th Street, Kenilworth, and Charles Romoser of Holly Hill Road, Manchester.

Vauxhall library programs in December

The Children's Department of the Union Public Library has scheduled the following programs at the Vauxhall Branch during the month of December:

An After School Movie Presentation of "I Like Mike," will be held on Dec. 13 at 3 p.m. Children of all ages are welcome to attend. No signup is required.

Game Day for children, ages three to five, and their caregivers will be held on Dec. 18 at 11 a.m. Space is limited. Signup is required.

An annual Community Kwanzaa Ceremony and Celebration will be held Dec. 26 at 5:30 p.m. Entertainment, children's activities and a community table will be provided. Space is limited. Register by calling, 908-851-5451.

Game Day Part Two for children in grades one through six and their caregivers will be held Dec. 27 at 3 p.m. Space is limited. Signup is required.

Police reports now online

The Union Police Department has implemented a new online program for obtaining copies of traffic accident reports.

The public will be able to access accident reports 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If the report one is looking for is unavailable, call the Records Department at 908-851-5090 Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The link to access these reports is <http://uniontwpnj.policereports.us/>.

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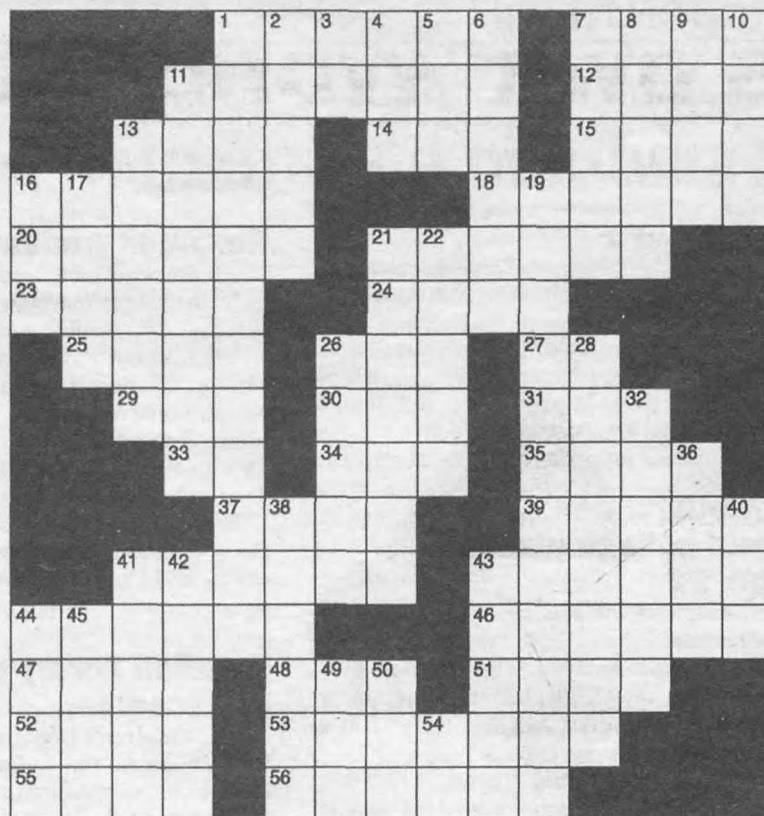
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Afraid
7. Love grass
11. Hepburn/Grant movie
12. Opposite of good
13. Whale ship captain
14. A major U.S. political party
15. Rate of walking
16. A ceremonial procession
18. Unfolded
20. More pretentious
21. Ribbon belts
23. Himalayan wild goats
24. 100 = 1 kwanza
25. Japanese wrestling
26. ___ asty; family of rulers
27. Luteinizing hormone
29. British Air Aces
30. Being a single unit
31. Opposite of gee
33. National Guard
34. A stratum of rock
35. Have a yen for
37. Cornell tennis center
39. Iranian monetary units
41. Settings in a play
43. Olfactory properties
44. AKA platyfish
46. Free from deceit
47. Ireland
48. 007's Flemming
51. & & &
52. Kidney, fava or broad
53. W. African country
55. ___ Frank's diary
56. Induces vomiting



CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Jame's "Fifty ___" | 22. Wheatgrass adjective |
| 2. Scottish game pole | 26. U. of Texas residential center |
| 3. Atomic #18 | 28. Estate (Spanish) |
| 4. Tattered cloth | 32. Pilots and Blues |
| 5. Tokyo | 36. Right angle building wings |
| 6. Force from office | 38. Store fodder |
| 7. Wigwam | 40. Supersonic transport |
| 8. Dynasty actress Linda | 41. Brand of plastic wrap |
| 9. Small mongrel | 42. Comb-plate |
| 10. Rapidly departed | 43. Puppeteer Lewis |
| 11. A corporate leader | 44. Tatouhou |
| 13. King of Camelot | 45. Security interest in a property |
| 16. Mrs. Nixon | 49. Direct a weapon |
| 17. Macaws | 50. One point E of due N |
| 19. Symphony orchestra | 54. Latin for "and" |
| 21. Cunning | |

HOROSCOPE

ARIES, March 21 to April 20.

Aries, you may need to take a leap of faith when someone close to you asks for your assistance. Act first and ask questions later. It will be worth it.

TAURUS, April 21 to May 21.

Taurus, there is bound to be a learning curve when you begin a new job or a new task. Do not be hard on yourself if it takes you a little longer.

GEMINI, May 22 to June 21.

Gemini, thoughtful reflection certainly may provide some of the answers you seek. But another way is to simply get out there and ask other people what they think.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22.

Cancer, sad situations may come up, but you have a way of deflecting the situation and showcasing the bright side of things. You may find you are a person providing support this week.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 23.

Leo, many opportunities to entertain family and friends are on the horizon. Honor all of your commitments and enjoy all of the festivities.

VIRGO, Aug. 24 to Sept. 22.

Virgo, while you aspire to have many friends, you just may find that there are only a few special people who hold the strings to your heart. It is OK to keep them close.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23.

Libra, sit down and enjoy some peace and quiet. You may enjoy the break from the frenetic pace you have been keeping the last few months.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 22.

Ever an ideas person, Scorpio, now you have to put some follow-through into those plans. You can likely find a few friends to join you on your next adventure.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21.

Sagittarius, things certainly go on when you're not around, but others may notice they just may not be as fun. You often lend joviality to anything you attend so spread your cheer.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 20.

Capricorn, bide your time and you just may end the year on a bang. Don't be afraid to add other things to your last-minute wish list because your goals just may be met.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 21 to Feb. 18.

Aquarius, you enjoy social situations but that doesn't mean you have to be the life of the party. Keep this in mind as you attend holiday gatherings.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20.

Pisces, while others are thinking about what presents they want under the tree, you may be thinking of how to give back to others.

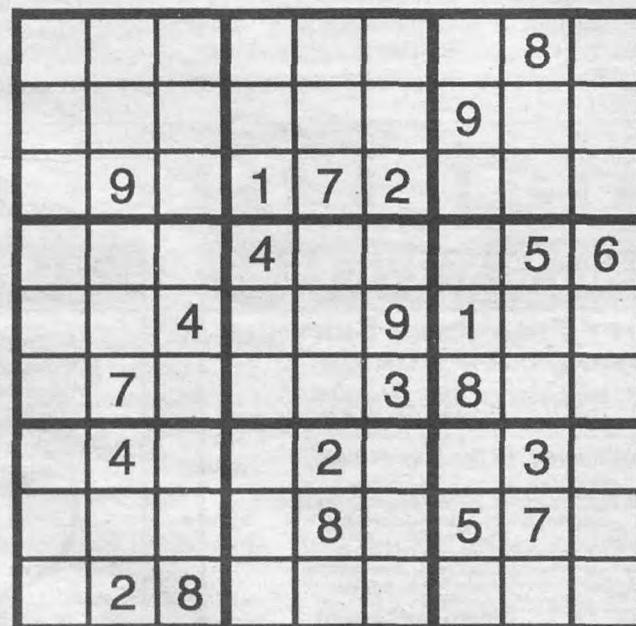
ANSWERS
APPEAR
IN OUR
CLASSIFIED
SECTION

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Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

ANSWER APPEAR IN
OUR CLASSIFIEDS SECTION



Level: Intermediate

Shatner rocks his own 'World' at NJPAC

Versatile actor stands triumphant in his one-man performance

By David VanDeventer
Correspondent

Look up the word "restraint" in any dictionary and there is little chance you will find a picture of William Shatner.

And *that* is a very good thing.

The same drive and exuberance that has propelled the actor, singer and entrepreneur through one of the longest and quirkiest careers in Hollywood was on full display at Sunday afternoon's near sold-out performance at NJPAC in Newark.

SPOILER ALERT: "Shatner's World: We Just Live In It" is a whole lot of fun.

Prowling every inch of the stage like a gray panther. Gesturing madly. Dancing with his chair. Shouting. Whispering. Just plain emoting. At an age when most folks are being groomed for a nursing home, the 81-year-old Canadian dynamo shows no signs of slowing down. From the opening moments that utilized the theme song from the classic 1960's "Star Trek" television series, the crowd sensed they were in for something different.

Comprised of live theater, archival photographs, video clips, and even a song, "Shatner's World" is pure energy.

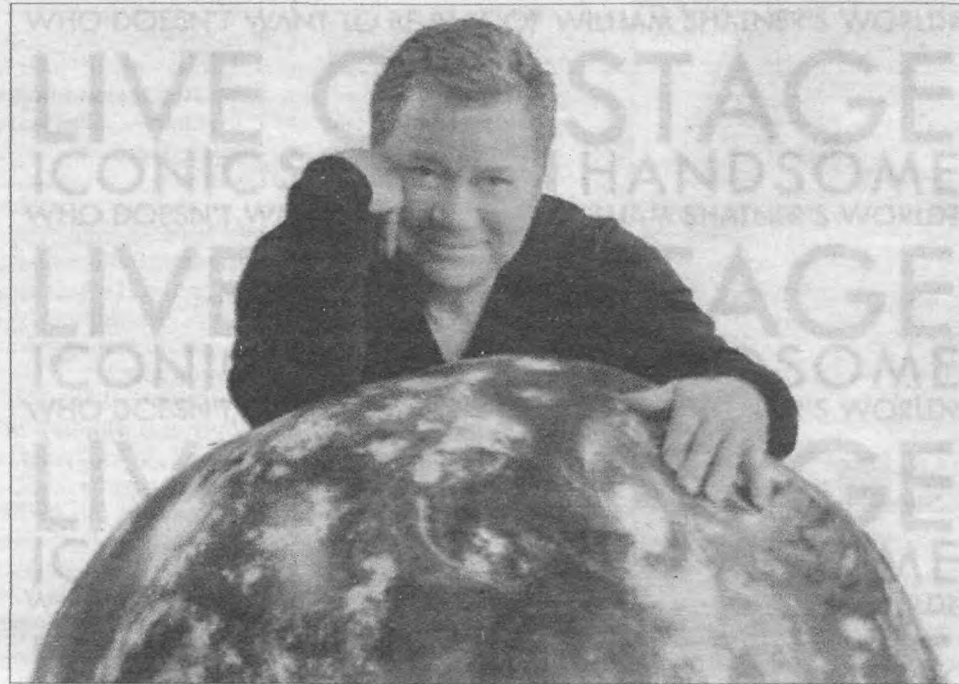
Fascinating, yet highly illogical at times, the actor spends over 95 minutes reflecting upon both the highs and the lows of a celebrated life in the public eye.

His earliest years are marked by wistful stories of his mother, summer camp, burlesque shows in Montreal and an illicit, nighttime love affair with a neighbor's motorcycle. When a young Shatner tells his disappointed father that he wants to become an actor, the elder man requests that his son at least make the attempt to become an accountant.

"So I passed my course and I got my degree," Shatner recalls, "which was incredible because I was the *worst* student who ever went to McGill University." Then, in 2011, the school from Quebec came back into his life. "Just awhile ago," he said, "McGill asked me if I would accept an Honorary Doctorate of Letters. Wait a minute — I spent four years getting a bachelor's degree and all I have to do now is say 'yes' to get a doctorate? Hell yes!"

Stories from his early days in the 1950s with Ontario's famed Stratford Shakespeare Company included the time he was an understudy for lead actor Christopher Plummer. So intent on preparing for the role, Shatner would flush the toilet in his tiny apartment to camouflage the fiery delivery of his loudest "Henry V" passages. When Plummer fell ill before show time, Shatner nervously stepped in and went completely blank on a key line. He recovered in time and the production was a hit.

The anecdotes covering his years on live television from the '50s were hilarious. He tells of "Sherlock Holmes" movie star Basil



A STELLAR 'WORLD' OF FUN — The irrepressible actor and pop-culture phenomenon William Shatner wowed a packed house at NJPAC in Newark during a recent Sunday afternoon performance of his popular one-man show.

Rathbone getting his foot stuck in a bucket and having to complete the entire show with the bucket on his foot. Horror king Lon Chaney Jr. freezes up during a live broadcast and epically flubs an elaborately rehearsed fight scene with Shatner.

The video clips and personal photos perfectly underscore the entertainment icon's recent foray into self-deprecation. There's George "Mr. Sulu" Takei cursing out Shatner at a Comedy Central roast. There's Shatner about to be molested by an overly amorous 800-pound gorilla. There's Shatner being lovingly punked by the fanboys over at NASA. And, best of them all, there's William Shatner crashing a "Salute to Star Wars"-type awards show. The awkward silence and haughty looks of George Lucas, Harrison Ford and the rest of the SW gang are simply priceless.

Also worth mentioning is the epiphany that the man once and forever known as Capt. James T. Kirk has during an enlightening interview with fellow Starfleet commander, actor Patrick Stewart. After years of deriding and distancing himself from the role that made him a household name, Shatner finally and proudly acknowledges his science fiction legacy as the swashbuckling space stud.

Oddly enough, his favorite film role of the 1960s was "Alexander the Great." Attempting to solve an audio problem due to the creaking sound of his armor, it was at that moment he embraced the notion of "an actor and a historical figure fused as one. And I love horses. Playing Alexander on horseback fanned that passion into a burning flame."

The actor suggests, "Grief and laughter are two sides of the same coin." And a defining moment in both the NJPAC show and his life hammers this point home. It's the summer of 1969, and "Star Trek" has just been cancelled. Divorced, broke and now unemployed, the homeless actor is forced to take up residence in his truck's camper bed, "out in the wilds of Long Island," he said.

You could have heard a pin drop in the theater as Shatner recalled, "I'm lying there, looking up at the moon with a 4-inch black-and-white television set on my chest. One of the greatest moments in mankind's history is taking place. The astronaut is stepping down on the moon, saying, 'One small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind.' And in some small, small, tiny, tiny way, I *had* made some itsy-bitsy contribution to this moment. And the glory of what was happening in front of me, and the misery of my condition as I fell asleep, ... the irony was not lost on me."

Shatner said that the next morning, a 6-year-old boy knocked on his camper, asking, "Are you Capt. Kirk?" "Yes," he answers. "Is this your spaceship?" the boy inquires. "Yes," replies Shatner. "Can I see your spaceship?" asks the boy. "Come on in, kid," replies Shatner.

And the NJPAC audience erupts in laughter.

"Shatner's World" is by no means perfect. Hardcore Trekkers will be put off by the dearth of any decent Spock, Bones or Scotty stories. The wonderful Leonard Nimoy is mentioned only once. And the casual Shatnerite could easily feel the show

was far too self-indulgent. Tales of teenage Bill hitchhiking across America, transporting a fussy rabbi to Chicago and trying to salvage "The World of Suzi Wong" drag on just a little too long.

But for every ball that Shatner fouls off, he homers again and again with his insider's tales of wacky Hollywood. His honest account of the infamous "Tonight Show" appearance when he butchers The Beatles' "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" in front of a horrified Johnny Carson is alone worth the price of admission. And when he beams about selling his "Boston Legal"-era kidney stone for \$100,000 to benefit Habitat for Humanity, you realize that you are in the presence of a great storyteller.

After his father died, the sorrow of the event is tempered by the bittersweet realization that his frugal father would have approved of his son's purchase of the inexpensive pine-box casket. At the funeral service, Shatner's sister asks him, "That's nice, Bill. Did you buy it used?"

The actor even maps out his dream scenario for his own final act with a nod to comedian Dick Shawn, who died on stage during a performance.

"That's the way I want to go," quips Shatner. "Just not tonight."

Life, love, loss and risk and the spectre and the acceptance of death all play pivotal roles in "Shatner's World."

The crushing pain from the sudden death of his third wife precedes a slow rebirth ushered in by the introduction of his current wife of 13 years, whom the performer obviously cherishes.

Surviving and still thriving after 60 years in a notoriously cutthroat business that routinely devours its young, Shatner espouses the transformative power of love. "I've discovered that love is like water, it seeks its own level."

He declares, "I am a risk-taker, and life is risk. There is a risk to saying 'yes' to new love, 'yes' to new thoughts, 'yes' to new opportunities, 'yes' to doing a one-man show in Newark, New Jersey, but ..." At this point, the NJPAC crowd explodes into laughter and applause. Shatner finishes: "Just think how much more richer our lives would be if we just said 'yes.'"

With those words, Shatner the man had just eclipsed Shatner the mystique. As if to reinforce that thought, the entertainer closed the show with his Brad Paisley-penned song called "Real."

The repeated lyric that floats over the audience as we depart is this: "Sorry to disappoint you, but I'm real."

And *that* is a very good thing.

David VanDeventer is a reviewer of the arts for Worrall Newspapers and can be reached at dvander-man@yahoo.com.

Pair of local youngsters cast in 'The Sound of Music'

Summit 9-year-old cast as young von Trapp

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Gracie Beardsley of Summit, a 9-year-old professional actress and singer, who portrays Marta, one of the seven von Trapp children in the Paper Mill Playhouse production of "The Sound of Music," has had a unique way of studying her role. She watched the classic movie "every week" and she still does.

"It's cool," she murmured during a recent telephone chat. "It's a really good movie. I study the music in the film, and I study the actress who plays Marta. The whole thing is a cool experience."

Little Gracie, who has appeared frequently at the Summit Playhouse in such roles as the Milky Way in "Into the Woods, Jr.," the narrator in "Winnie the Poo," an orphan in "Annie," and a munchkin in "The Wizard of Oz," explained how she obtained the role of Marta.

"My mom heard about an audition for 'The Sound of Music' at the Paper Mill. So, she brought me over to audition. Then I got a call from the theater and found out that I got cast." Gracie laughed. "I was screaming with joy when I found out," she exclaimed.

The youngster still manages to attend school at Franklin in Summit. "I do get tired sometimes. But my teachers are really kind about it. And because I knew a lot of the songs even before I went into the show, it made it easier for me. And my parents are really happy about my being in the show. I also have a supportive brother, who is 8-years-old. He saw the show, but he loves sports and



Gracie Beardsley

he'd rather play baseball."

Gracie mentioned that everyone, especially the children, get along with each other. "They are all so nice to me," she admitted. "We are all best friends."

The child explained that doing eight shows a week can be trying. "You know," she said, "it's actually kind of weird. Like after doing a matinee, I sometimes think the day is over. But then there's an evening performance, too. It can get me all confused. I had some problems, but I was able to get over them."

Looking into her bright future, Gracie mentioned that "I am going to audition for the Conservatory at the Paper Mill Playhouse this summer."

What part would she like to play in the future?

"Actually," she said, "my dream is to appear on Broadway in 'The Sound of Music,' and in the starring role of Maria."

Maplewood teen, 13, cast as in Paper Mill production

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Hunter Kovacs of Maplewood — at the age of 13 — is a seriously ambitious performer. In addition to enacting the role of Kurt von Trapp in "The Sound of Music" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, and attending Maplewood Middle School, he has been singing and acting for the past three years.

Hunter plays the guitar, clarinet and tenor sax, has done commercials for Kentucky Fried Chicken on Spike TV, and a radio spot for Arm & Hammer Tooth Tunes Toothbrush. The teenager also appeared in Junior Musical productions at Morrow Musical Theater, including playing the white rabbit in "Alice in Wonderland," "The Cat in the Hat" in "Seussical," and Charley Bucket in "Willy Wonka." In addition, he has done some voiceover work and recently cut three songs on a KidzBob CD, which were released this past summer.

Still, Hunter found a lot of competition while auditioning for the role of Kurt. "I went to an open call with 400 other kids. They picked 75 from that audition," he explained during a recent telephone conversation. "That was the first audition. There were others. I was in a first line, and one of the creative directors, Patrick, asked me to sing again, only this time with a smile."

Hunter chuckled. "I did exactly what he wanted. After another callback, they gave me a song and a script. Later that day," he said, "I got called back again. And they had me do the script. At that point, there were about 40 people. I said a couple of lines, and finally, they called me back into another room and gave me more music. I was called back in the evening. I sang a high note from 'So Long, Goodbye,' and then a solo from 'The Sound of Music.' It came down to two other kids and me."

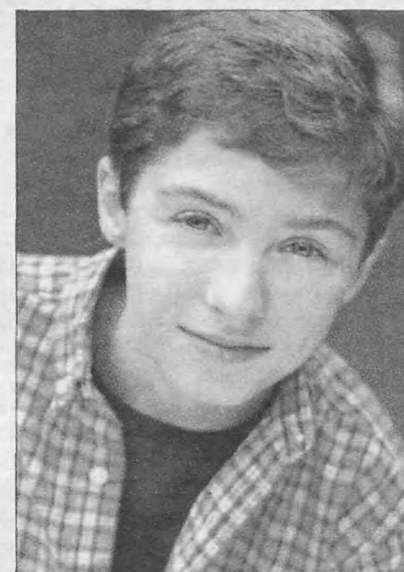
Hunter said, "I couldn't sleep that night, and the next day, I couldn't concentrate on school. I had to go to an acting class at the Paper Mill, so around 5 p.m., my mom called me. She said, 'Kurt!' and suddenly, I knew I had the role. I actually screamed my head off. It was so exciting," he exclaimed. "It was awesome."

Hunter sighed. "You know, the Paper Mill has given me a real experience. Everything is really, really nice. They really do a phenomenal job. And the kids are just as excited as me," he said. "We really relate. We've all become great friends. And," he said proudly, "even after the storm, when we had rehearsals in New York, we had to come by buses. The trains weren't working. And our director, James Brennan, was really wonderful. Through him, we were able to work together, and in three days we were able to put everything together. That's incredible."

As far as the movie, "The Sound of Music" is concerned, Hunter said, "It's amazing. Once you've seen it, you never forget it. It's an American classic. It really is one of my favorite things," he laughed.

"An awesome thing happened the other day," said the young man. "You know that after Gaylord and Marie married, the von Trapps had three more children. Christina von Trapp, the daughter of the youngest child, came to see the show here in Millburn. She explained that Maria was her grandmother. My God, I thought, I was speaking to a real von Trapp. And I also discovered that the name I played, Kurt, was actually Werner. They changed it for the show."

What are Hunter's plans for the future? "Hopefully," he said, "I want to do more Broadway auditions, more musicals. I also want to be a screen actor as well."



Hunter Kovacs

In search of the ghosts of Christmas past

Last week, in need of a minor adventure, I went to Ramapo College in Mahwah. On the face of it, a 38-minute drive to the northern part of the state might not seem like the stuff of which adventures are made. However, I was in search of history and the remnants of gardens. Those things are always exciting because they involve memory and imagination.

THE GARDENER'S APPRENTICE

BY ELISABETH GINSBURG

Ramapo has a beautiful setting, on the edge of the mountains of the same name. It is easy to see why sugar baron Theodore Havemeyer chose the area as a country get-

away back in the 1870s. He purchased a total of about 2,300 acres, dubbed the property "Mountainside Farm," and renovated an existing house into an impressive Italianate dwelling for himself and his 9 children. Later, Havemeyer built a second house, now referred to as the Birch Mansion, for his oldest daughter, Natalie, and her husband, John Mayer. In 1969 a por-

tion of the Havemeyer property, which had been sold by the Havemeyers to a family friend, Stephen Birch, was purchased by the state of New Jersey and Ramapo College was built on the site. Both houses are still standing. Theodore Havemeyer's mansion now serves as the home of the college president and a site for various official

Continued on next page

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Gardener's Apprentice

(Continued from previous page)
functions. The Birch Mansion contains the college's administrative offices.

Unlike their contemporaries the du Ponts, the Havemeyers have not gone down in horticultural history as great garden builders. Theodore Havemeyer was more interested in the sport of golf, but did establish a model dairy farm on his property. His daughter-in-law, Katherine Aymar Sands Havemeyer, 1871-1951, was noted for her horticultural interests, and her legacy, in the form of namesake peonies, lilacs and phlox, lives on. Katherine's garden was on Long Island, at an estate called Cedar Hill.

Little remains at Ramapo of gardens that may have surrounded the Birch and Havemeyer houses, but there are tantalizing traces.

I was able to walk all the way around the Birch Mansion, which is in on top of a hill at the center of campus. The views from all sides are wonderful, especially in the winter when the trees are bare. You can see clearly where the various doors opened onto terraces or garden areas. On one side of the house a bench remains, along with a single concrete urn, which I thought might formerly have been one of a pair.

I was most intrigued by the remains of a small sunken garden. This kind of formal or semi-formal layout was common in gardens designed at the end of the Victorian period. The layout of the Birch Mansion's sunken garden is rectilinear, though now the outlines are a little blurred by the presence of a large shrub in each of the little

garden's four quadrants. Perhaps they are pruned during the growing season to keep things tidy. In the middle of the space, a round concrete basin tells the story of the pool that was once the focal point.

Downhill from the sunken garden, you can still see portions of old retaining walls that terraced the rolling terrain. There are also some fine trees, most likely planted in the Havemeyer's time.

These days, the most notable garden at Ramapo College is the six-year-old Havemeyer Edible Garden, a plot where students grow and learn about plants, sustainable eating and nutrition, using a curriculum devised by Jacqueline Ehlert-Mercer, registered dietician and wife of Ramapo's president, Peter Mercer. A variety of vegetables, fruits and herbs flourish in the Havemeyer garden during the growing season.

It is both very fitting and somewhat ironic that a garden devoted to healthy eating should be installed on property that once belonged to a man whose fortune was based on sugar.

As the Christmas holiday draws closer, it also seems fitting to experience a place where the "ghosts" of gardens past, present and possibly even future live in close proximity.

Elisabeth Ginsburg, a resident of Essex County, is a frequent contributor to Worrall Community Newspapers. The writer archives past columns at <http://www.gardener-sapprentice.com>.

WESTFIELD NEWS

Majestic Winds to perform Sandy fundraiser, Dec. 20

On Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Majestic Winds, the professional wind band of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will perform its inaugural concert for the benefit of victims of hurricane Sandy. This performance will take place at the Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield at 229 Cowperthwaite Place. This event is open to the public, and while there is no charge for admission, a freewill offering for the benefit of storm victims will be accepted. The Majestic Winds will be under the direction of Howard Toplansky, a staff instrumental music instructor at the NJ Workshop for the Arts.

The program also will offer "Folk Dances" by Dimitri Shostakovich and several marches, which include "The Governor's Own" by Alton Adams and "Symphonia" by Merle Evans. Adams has the distinction of having been the first African-American United States Navy Bandmaster and Evans was the director of the Barnum and Bailey Circus band for more than 50 years. He was the considered the "Toscanini" of circus conductors. Rounding out the concert will be "Waves of the Amur" Waltz by Max Kyuss, "La Bella Roma" by John

Cacavas and "Rhapsodic Episode" by Charles Carter. For more information about the concert or to learn how to become a member of the Majestic Winds, call 908-789-9696 or e-mail at njw-band@att.net.

Brass concert, Dec. 15

The Imperial Brass will present "Holiday Brass" on Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Westfield.

The 27 piece ensemble, under the direction of Lawrence Markiewicz, will play an array of unique holiday arrangements including such classics as "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," arranged by Mark Freeh; "White Christmas," by Irving Berlin and "March of the Toys" by Victor Herbert. Markiewicz is the newly appointed conductor of the Imperial Brass. He also also the artistic director and conductor of the Somerset Valley Orchestra and the Raritan Valley Symphonic Band. Since the mid-1990s, Markiewicz has performed as a guest conductor-clinician and brass pedagogy specialist across the United States.

The concert will be held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 229 Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield. There is a charge for tickets. For more information, visit www.redeemerlutheranwestfield.com.



Holiday recipe contest: Win a prize!

Get ready for the holidays by sharing your favorite recipes and win a prize in the process! Oxo brand kitchen gadgets has teamed up with Take Back the Kitchen and Worrall Newspapers and will donate their fabulous kitchen tools for first, second and third prize in each of the following categories: appetizer, entrée and dessert. Get your recipes emailed by midnight Dec. 15 to alma@takebackthekitchen.com and win yourself some of the best kitchen tools around. These recipes do NOT need to be your own creations, but they must be simple, delicious and festive. The winners will be announced in the Dec. 20 newspaper edition. Good luck and happy cooking!

Pretzel pecan hake fillets

Often times we don't have an ingredient that we need to complete a recipe and we throw up our hands and order in. No need to do that if we think outside the ingredient box! Recently, when I realized I had no breadcrumbs on hand, I substituted crushed pretzels and the outcome was better than the original recipe.

Ingredients

6 hake or similar fish fillets, 4 to 5 oz. in weight. I get the Wild Caught Hake from Costco
1 beaten egg
1 cup pretzels, plus one cup pecans, ground together in a food processor
3 Tbs. butter for frying
salt and pepper to taste

Method

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Defrost hake fillets or other fish you are using if frozen and dry them as much as possible with paper towels.
Grind up the pretzels and pecans so they look like coarse breadcrumbs and set aside in a shallow bowl.

Beat an egg and set aside in a shallow bowl.

Salt and pepper the dry fish, dip in egg and then dip in crumbs, letting loose crumbs fall off. Set aside on a separate plate

In an ovenproof skillet over a low to medium flame, heat up the butter. When butter is melted and bubbling, lay down the fillets and fry for about 4 minutes on each side until golden brown and then place in the oven for 7 to 10 minutes, or until opaque in the fattest part of the fillet.

Serve immediately with a creamy sauce or just a lemon wedge, a grain and a side salad.

Alma Schneider, licensed clinical social worker and self-trained chef, provides individual sessions and group workshops helping individuals overcome their practical and psychological obstacles to cooking. Alma has been featured on the "Today" show on NBC TV, the TV Land network, and in Family Circle Magazine for her Community Work in N.J. Her nonprofit, Give Back the Kitchen, offers assistance to at-risk populations to help overcome the obstacles to healthy cooking. A cookbook is in the works! For more information, contact her at alma@takebackthekitchen.com or visit her website at www.takebackthekitchen.com.

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SPORTS

THIS IS H.S.
FOOTBALLBy JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Two former Union County mentors had highly-successful campaigns coaching elsewhere this year.

Former Dayton head coach Joe Goerge guided South Brunswick to its first playoff championship, while John Wagner - Roselle Park's winningest coach with 150 victories in 25 seasons as the head coach - almost guided Point Pleasant Beach to only its second title contest and first in 30 years.

Goerge, along with defensive coordinator Bob Martin, brought Dayton football back with a junior varsity team in 2005 after the Bulldogs did not field a team from 2001-2004. Goerge and Martin, who previously coached together for a long time before continuing at Dayton, got the Bulldogs back in the playoffs for the first time in 21 years in 2009. Dayton made the playoffs again in 2010 and won its first playoff game since 1981.

Goerge left Dayton after the 2011 season, with Martin staying on as defensive coordinator under first-year head coach Steve Trivino. Dayton made the playoffs again.

Goerge landed the South Brunswick job and guided the Vikings to a 6-2 record at the cutoff date, which earned them the second seed in the first Central Jersey, Group 5 section. The only losses were to playoff teams Piscataway and Sayreville - squads that ended up losing state championship games.

South Brunswick defeated Hillsborough 35-21 at home in the quarterfinals and after a Thanksgiving Day win at North Brunswick 34-7, the Tigers downed top-seeded Manalapan 33-22 in last Saturday night's final at Rutgers.

Wagner guided Point Pleasant Beach to a school-best 10-1 record and a second consecutive trip to the Central Jersey, Group 1 semifinals.

The Gulls, also seeded second in their section, won every game by double digits before falling at home to eventual champ Florence 17-14.



Photo by JR Parachini

Summit played in its first North 2, Group 3 championship game since 1986 and captured its first N2, G3 crown since 1980. The Hilltoppers also became the first Union County team to finish 12-0 twice. Summit was 12-0 for the first time in 2009 when it won North 2, Group 2.

Summit football captures 7th playoff championship Blanks Palisades Park for N2, G3 crown

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

EAST RUTHERFORD — The mission is complete.

It was a 12-month march to glory by a Summit team that a year ago walked off the field at Kean University after having lost the title game it played in by 40 points.

Led by a senior class sparked by the likes of Mike Badgley, A.J. Iarussi, Andrew Oristanio and Nick Liberato, the Hilltoppers were not going to be denied in 2012, especially on Dec. 8.

Facing a Palisades Park-Leonia co-op team for the first time last Saturday, Summit erased the misery of last Dec. 1 by putting together a complete effort, excelling on offense, defense and special teams.

Badgley scored twice — the second time on an interception return — and Iarussi, running the ball like Larry Csonka, rushed for two TDs, while Oristanio and Liberato led a bend-but-not-break defensive perform-

ance to lift top-seeded Summit to a more-than-convincing 30-0 win over third-seeded Palisades Park in Saturday afternoon's North 2, Group 3 championship game at MetLife Stadium.

"This is one of the happiest moments in my life," said Iarussi, who led all rushers with 186 yards on 25 carries.

Summit lost last year's North 2, Group 2 final to defending champion Madison 47-7. Both teams entered the game 11-0 and Summit was considered a slight favorite.

"Last year was heartbreaking, so we had to work extra hard to get back here and win," said Iarussi, who with his barreling, straight-ahead running style even knocked down a referee while gaining yardage.

Summit won its seventh playoff championship in 11 games and third in N2, G3 in four tries. Summit previously won North 2, Group 3 in 1976 and 1980 and lost the final in 1986.

See HILLTOPPERS, Page 38

UNION COUNTY
HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL••
LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:
NJSIAA FINALS

Friday, Dec. 7 (2 games)
North 2, Group 5
at Kean University
Elizabeth 37, Piscataway 33
North 2, Group 1
at Met Life Stadium
Hoboken 39, Roselle Park 9
Saturday, Dec. 8 (1 game)
North 2, Group 3
at Met Life Stadium
Summit 30, Palisades Park 0

•
JR'S FINAL PICKS RECORD
FOR 2012 SEASON:

Last week: 2-1
This year: 97-34 (.741)
Best bets: 11-1
Upset specials: 3-10

•
JR'S FINAL UNION COUNTY
TOP 10 FOR 2012:

1. Elizabeth (11-0)
 2. Summit (12-0)
 3. Cranford (7-3)
 4. Linden (4-7)
 5. Union (5-4)
 6. Johnson (6-4)
 7. Rahway (5-5)
 8. Roselle Park (9-3)
 9. New Providence (8-3)
 10. Scotch Plains (5-5)
- Others: Dayton (4-6), GL (2-8), Brea'ley (2-8), Westfield (2-8), Roselle (2-8), Hillside (1-9), Plainfield (0-9).

NOTES: Seven teams produced winning records and two more - Rahway and Scotch Plains - finished .500 as the 2012 season came to a conclusion in East Rutherford last Saturday with Summit capturing North 2, Group 3 for the first time since 1980. Eleven teams made the playoffs, with just two doing so with records under .500 - Linden and Dayton. Of those 11, three won two games to advance to championship contests, with two going all the way. Union County produced two state champions - Elizabeth and Summit - for the first time since 2006 when Elizabeth and Brearley captured crowns. After not producing a state champion in 2003, 2004, 2005, 2007 and 2008, Union County has now produced at least one state champion the past four seasons and five total. Summit won North 2, Group 2 in 2009, New Providence North 2, Group 1 in 2010, Cranford North 2, Group 3 in 2011, Elizabeth North 2, Group 5 in 2012 and Summit N2, G3 in 2012.

SPORTS

Hilltoppers are sparked by Badgley and Iarussi efforts

(Continued from Page 37)

Palisades Park, which had a seven-game winning streak snapped, finished a fine season at 9-3. The Tigers were playing in only their second championship game and first since winning North 1, Group 1 in 1991.

They defeated Union County foes Rahway at home and defending champion Cranford on the road in the first two rounds.

Not only did Summit win, but the Hilltoppers were also able to post their second shutout this year and second championship game shutout, while Badgley was also able to kick one more field goal. The next field goal he kicks might be at a high profile Division 1-A school.

Summit, with the win, became the first Union County school to finish 12-0 twice. The Hilltoppers are now 44-2 in their last 46 games dating back to the beginning of the 2009 season, which was the first year they finished 12-0 and their last championship season before this year.

In that span Summit has been to three title games, won two titles, is a perfect 36-0 in the regular season, is 8-2 in the playoffs and has won four Mid-State division crowns.

Summit will begin its 2013 season with a 36-game regular season winning streak — the Hilltoppers last lost a regular season game in Nov. of 2008 — and a Union County leading 12-game winning streak.

Saturday's win was Summit's ninth straight by double digits. A big reason for that was the Hilltopper defense limiting Palisades Park to only 32 yards rushing — 26 in the first half and just six in the second. The Tigers were held to just 137 yards of total offense.

"We had a great game plan going in," Oristanio said. "We had to stop the run and we did."

Liberato stepped up his game and made numerous key tackles, including a second-half quarterback sack, which was good for a nine-yard loss.

"This was a lot of hard work, discipline, trusting each other and trusting the game plan," Oristanio said.

Badgley carried 17 times for 78 yards and scored points — 18 total — in all three phases — offense, defense and special teams.

Iarussi scored the only touchdown of the first half when he completed Summit's third possession with a five-yard run.

Badgley's first score was a one-yard TD run to cap Summit's first second-half drive.

Badgley completed a 38-yard pass to senior Kyre Negron that set up Summit's third score — a two-yard touchdown run by Iarussi.

In the fourth quarter, Badgley kicked a 29-yard field goal and returned an interception 40 yards for the game's final points.

NOTES: Union County produced two state championships for the first time since 2006 when on a Friday night at Rutgers Elizabeth came back to defeat defending champion Phillipsburg 14-9 in the North 2, Group 4 final and then the next morning Brearley came back and then held on to beat Verona 21-20 in the North 2, Group 1 final at Giants Stadium. Elizabeth won its first title since 2000 and Brearley since 1991.

Union County has produced a state champion four straight seasons now, totaling five since 2009.

Union County produced two undefeated state champions for the first time since 1993 when Summit-North 2, Group 2 - and Roselle Park - North 2, Group 1 - won titles, both at 11-0.

Badgley has won a state championship the past three seasons, including ice hockey and lacrosse last year.

•
NORTH JERSEY, SECTION 2, GROUP 3 FINAL AT METLIFE STADIUM, EAST RUTHERFORD

3-PPL (9-3) 0 0 0 0 - 0
1-SUMMIT (12-0) 7 0 14 9 - 30

•
FIRST QUARTER:

SUMMIT — A.J. Iarussi 5 run, Mike Badgley kick (S 7-0)
9 plays, 81 yards, 2:19 used

•
THIRD QUARTER:

SUMMIT — Mike Badgley 1 run, Mike Badgley kick (S 14-0)

9 plays, 58 yards, 2:41 used

SUMMIT — A.J. Iarussi 2 run, Mike Badgley kick (S 21-0)

2 plays, 40 yards, :20 used

•
FOURTH QUARTER:

SUMMIT — FG Mike Badgley 29 (S 24-0)

13 plays, from own 5 to Palisades Park 12, 4:11 used

SUMMIT — Mike Badgley 40 interception return, kick failed (S 30-0)

The extra point that was wide left was kicked by sophomore Chris Zanelli.

•
2012 SUMMIT HILLTOPPERS (12-0)

(H) Summit 41, Somerville 7

(H) Summit 17, Johnson 13

(A) Summit 30, Cranford 27

(A) Summit 31, North Plainfield 12

(H) Summit 39, Rahway 20

(A) Summit 27, Roselle 6

(H) Summit 41, Warren Hills 14

(A) Summit 35, Delaware Valley 21

(H) Summit 50, Hillside 0

(H) Summit 44, Newark West Side 6

(H) Summit 30, Parsippany Hills 13

(N) Summit 30, Palisades Park-Leonia 0

Head coach: John Liberato, sixth season.

Section: North 2, Group 3

Conference: Mid-State 38

Division: Raritan 6-0, champions

Record: 11-0

Home: 6-0

Away: 4-0

Neutral: 1-0

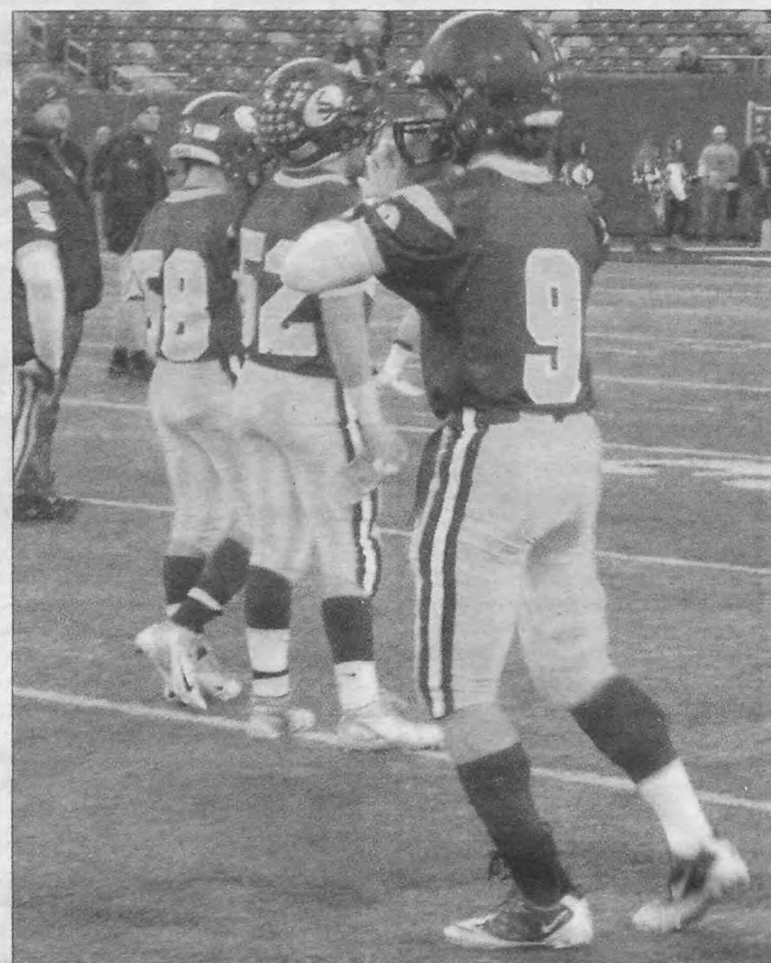
Points for: 385

Points against: 126

Shutouts: 2

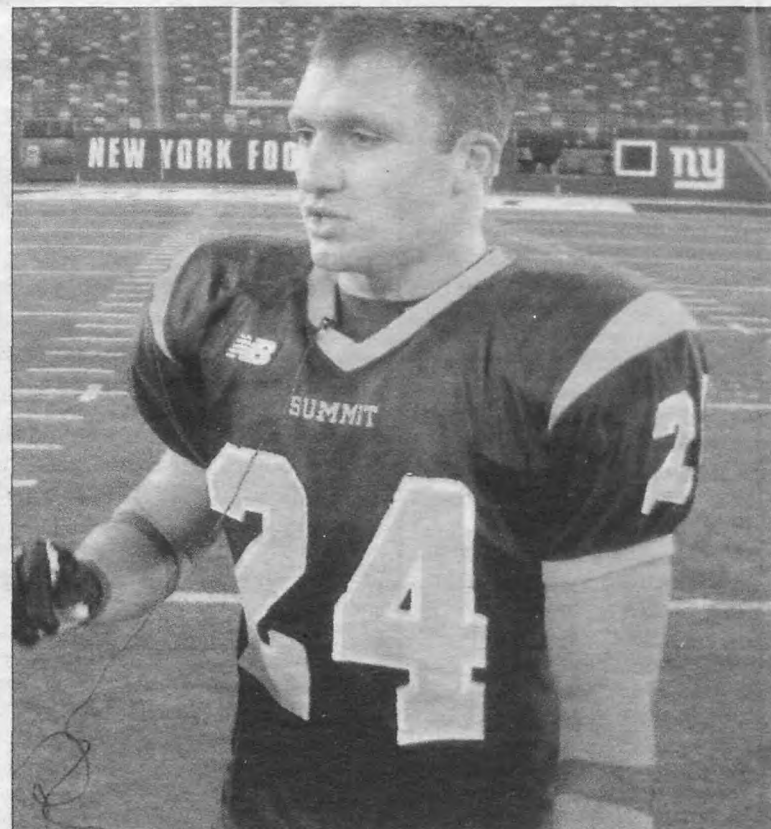
Overtime: 0-0

•
Summit is now 3-1 in North 2, Group 3 championship games, with wins in 1976, 1980 and 2012 and a loss in 1986. The Hilltoppers are also 4-3 in North 2, Group 2 title contests, winning in 1988, 1993, 1994 and 2009 and losing in 1992, 1995 and 2011.



Photos by JR Parachini

Above, Summit senior quarterback Tyler Carbone (No. 9) came back from an injury to complete one of two passes in the first half against Palisades Park. Below, the Hilltoppers received an outstanding game from senior running back A.J. Iarussi (No. 24), who carried 25 times for a game-leading 186 yards and two touchdowns. See Summit championship game scores with story at www.unionnewsdaily.com.



SPORTS

Senior QB Walker lifts squad to amazing title game win

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

UNION — Phillip Walker threw an interception in the final minute of last year's championship game vs. Piscataway.

In the final minute of last Friday night's championship game, he more than made up for that by throwing a touchdown pass for the game-winning points.

You can say it was the ultimate display of the agony of defeat to — 12 months later — the joy of victory.

Walker's fourth touchdown pass, good for 49 yards to senior running back Jahad Thomas, with 36 seconds remaining lifted top-seeded Elizabeth to a thrilling, come-from-behind, 37-33 victory over third-seeded Piscataway in the first-ever North 2, Group 5 final held last Friday night at Kean University's Alumni Stadium.

Thomas caught the ball over the middle, ran to the right sideline and then reversed field back over the middle as he outraced every Piscataway defensive player on his way into the end zone.

Elizabeth, which lost to Piscataway 41-34 in last year's North 2, Group 4 final at Rutgers, won its eighth championship in the playoff era and finished 11-0 for the first time since 1989 when it repeated as N2, G4 champs. This year and 1989 are the only two seasons that Elizabeth has finished undefeated during the playoff era, which began in 1974.

In addition, Elizabeth won its first championship and Piscataway lost to a Union County opponent in the playoffs — both for the first time since 2006. Piscataway entered with a 24-4 playoff record since 2002, which included an 8-1 mark against Union County foes since 2003.

Piscataway, which was led by senior Cameron Nash's four touchdowns and 222 yards rushing in 28 carries, finished 8-3. The Chiefs, who captured North 2, Group 4 the past two seasons, had an eight-game playoff winning streak snapped.

Elizabeth's defense had to stop Piscataway first before it could drive for the winning touchdown. On fourth-and-goal from the Elizabeth two-yard line with 2:01 to go, Nash was stopped by a host of Elizabeth defensive players, with senior Akram March-Williams leading the way.

"We had to settle down and play assignment football," Williams said. "I had to mirror their fullback, No. 13 (Kevin Butler), and then I saw Nash and shot through the gap to get to him."

Elizabeth, behind Walker, then went 98 yards in three plays to score the winning points. The drive started with 1:15 to go and both teams out of timeouts.

"This is very satisfying," said Elizabeth senior wide receiver Kason Campbell, who rushed for a touchdown and caught a TD pass. "After last year's game we knew we could play with them and beat them. PJ just played outstanding and made so many great throws."

Walker — once again on the biggest stage — completed 13-of-23 passes for 351 yards, four touchdowns and no interceptions. Elizabeth head coach John Quinn — who has now won playoff championships with three teams, including two with New Brunswick and one with Roxbury — said the Temple-bound Walker was "the best player in the state, bar none."

Walker proved that again and now he leaves Elizabeth with a state championship. Walker started every varsity game since the very beginning of his freshman season in 2009, finishing with a 26-17 record that includes a 5-1 playoff mark, one undefeated season, two championship games and one championship.

It might also include Player of the Year and/or Team of the Year honors.

Walker, who also rushed nine times for 68 yards, threw a touchdown pass on the third play of the game, connecting with Thomas on a 51-yard completion.

Walker's touchdown pass to Campbell was good for 30 yards and came with 8:08 to go.

The only turnover and sack came on the very last play of the game when Williams tackled Piscataway senior quarterback Nadir Barnwell, with the ball coming loose and sophomore David Tobe recovering. Piscataway's final play started from the Elizabeth 31, with 13 seconds to go.

NOTES: Elizabeth produced 494 yards of total offense and Piscataway 470 for a whopping combined total of 964.

There was only one punt in the game, by Piscataway in the first half.

Elizabeth had the ball just once in the third quarter.

Elizabeth scored the game's final 13 points — all in the fourth quarter — to win by four. In the 2006 North 2, Group 4 final at Rutgers on Dec. 1 of that year — also a rainy Friday night — Elizabeth scored the game's final 14 points, all in the fourth quarter, to beat defending champion Phillipsburg by five — 14-9.

There was one tie and then four lead changes.

Nash scored one touchdown in each quarter.

Elizabeth captured North 2, Group 4 playoff championships in 1981, 1988, 1989, 1997, 1999, 2000 and 2006.

• See complete game scoring with story at www.unionnewsdaily.com.



Photo by JR Parachini

Head coach John Quinn, in his third year at the helm, guided Elizabeth to the first North 2, Group 5 championship. The former interim head coach at Cranford and assistant coach at Union from 1991-1995, Quinn previously guided New Brunswick to two championships and Roxbury to one.

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SPORTS

R. Park football produced an outstanding campaign

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Although the Roselle Park football team fell one victory short of capturing its first North 2, Group 1 championship since 1993, the Panthers accomplished a great deal in 2012 and should be very proud of the season they put together.

Second-seeded Roselle Park lost to top-seeded Hoboken 39-9 in last Friday night's North 2, Group 1 final at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford.

Roselle Park, which finished 9-3, got the game to 13-9 in the third quarter before the Red Wings from Hudson County scored the game's final 20 points.

Here's a look at the many firsts-in-a-long-time that Roselle Park achieved this season:

ROSELLE PARK FOOTBALL FIRSTS IN A LONG TIME:

- * First win over Brearley since 2001, snapping 10-game losing streak.
- * First win over New Providence since 2001, snapping 10-game losing streak.
- * First winning season since 2006.
- * First time qualified for playoffs since 2001.

- * First playoff win since 1993.
- * First time reached North 2, Group 1 semifinals since 1996.
- * First time reached North 2, Group 1 final since 1993.
- * First time faced an opponent twice in season since 1996.
- * First time played New Providence twice since 1996 and first time defeated New Providence twice since 1993.
- * First time finished at top of division situated in since 1996.
- * First time reached nine wins since 1996.
- * First time won two playoff games since 1993.
- * First time played two playoff games at home since 1993.
- * First time playing in a championship game at a professional stadium.
- * First time scored points in a championship game since 1993.
- * First time scored points vs. Roselle since 2007.
- * First time defeated Roselle since 2007, snapping four-game losing streak.



Photo courtesy of Johnson High School

JOHNSON FOOTBALL ALUMNI GATHER - Former Johnson head football coach Bob Taylor (1993-2002) poses with the assistant coaches that he won the 1995 North 2, Group 2 title with. Pictured, from left, are Alumni Dinner Organizer Ken Drake, current Athletic Director Gus Kalikas, current head football coach Mike Mancino, Coach Albano, Bob Taylor, Carl Peterson and current Director of Curriculum Ed Grande. Taylor also guided the Crusaders to the 2002 North 2, Group 2 title in his final season as a head coach

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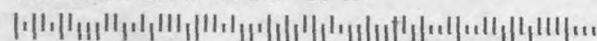
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Photo courtesy of Roselle Catholic

RC standout sophomore bowler Nick Campanelli has already rolled two 300 games this season.

RC bowler Campanelli off to impressive start

Roselle Catholic kegger Nick Campanelli has sprinted out of the starting blocks to start the scholastic bowling season.

Campanelli, a sophomore, actually ended the preseason on a roll: bowling a perfect game at Jersey Lanes during a Roselle Catholic practice on Thanksgiving Eve, Nov. 21, and bowling a 300 at the Pin Gobbler Tournament on Nov. 23 in Linden.

In the RC season-opener against Union High School on Nov. 30, Campanelli rolled a 700 series - 216-248-236 - to lead the Lions over the Farmers in a Union County Conference match at Jersey Lanes in Linden.

Campanelli, MVP of last year's bowling team, is one of several returning keggers for Roselle Catholic, whose lineup includes Chrissy Campanelli, Nick's older sister, Jimmy Gramiak, Sam Ramirez, Rocco Fresco and Tavia West.

The Lions and first-year coach Jeanette Rondeau, who replaced Tom Byrnes, competed in the Bishop Ahr Tournament two weeks ago at Carolier Lanes in North Brunswick and was to bowl in last Saturday's Westfield Tournament at Jersey Lanes.

UNION COUNTY SPORTS

Share your Sports News or Photos:
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Deadline for submissions on Monday at noon

Hoops, wrestling begin

The winter campaign will kick in tomorrow and Saturday with basketball and wrestling making their regular season debuts.

Tomorrow at 4 p.m. in Berkeley Heights, a rematch of last year's girls' basketball Union County Tournament title contest is scheduled, with Watchung Division rivals Cranford and defending champ Governor Livingston to clash. GL beat Cranford twice in three tries last year.