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A tale of five tickets: Garretson's attorney gets phone records

By Elana Knopp
Staff Writer

A judge ruled last week that the Hillside police officer who issued five traffic summonses to Hillside Mayor Angela Garretson must turn over emails and cell phone information subpoenaed by the mayor.

Garretson was issued five traffic tickets in July by Hillside police Officer Matt Casterline, former police union president.

Garretson is charged with disregarding an officer's hand signals, obstructing passage of vehicles, improper passing, talking on a cellphone and driving through a safety zone.

The summonses were issued after Garretson allegedly drove through a township construction site that Casterline was working at as an outside overtime time job July 12. Garretson allegedly ignored Casterline's directions as he was controlling traffic.

Garretson also sought the email and phone records of Hillside's acting Chief of Police Louis Panarese, with whom Garretson is in an ongoing legal battle. While the judge ruled that Casterline has to hand over his emails and phone records, the judge denied Garretson's subpoena of Panarese's records.

The case was moved to Union in order to avoid conflict of interest.

Union Municipal Court Judge Kelly Waters denied Garretson's request to have Panarese's emails and phone records subpoenaed.

Garretson's lawyers argued that both Casterline's and Panarese's email and phone records would show that they were colluding to embarrass the mayor, with Garretson's citing Panarese's demotion as a motive for Casterline issuing the tickets.

In court, Garretson's attorney argued that the emails and cell phone information would show that Casterline and Panarese discussed the summonses before they were issued.

Waters ruled that Casterline's emails and some of his cell phone information was relevant and should be given to Garretson's lawyers.

Panarese's lawyer, Christopher Gray, argued successfully that Panarese was not involved in the case and that the request for his emails and other information should be blocked.

Municipal Prosecutor Michael Wittenberg did not return LocalSource's request for comment.

Robert Degroot, attorney for Garretson, told LocalSource that he believes the nature of the case indicates an overt attempt on the part of Casterline to persecute the mayor. "The police officers, in an ordinary course of events, don't ticket a mayor of a town unless something is going on," Degroot told LocalSource.

According to Degroot, animus on the part of both Casterline and Panarese resulted in the issued summonses. "That's why we want the records," Degroot said. "To show there are other things going on here."

But some others have a far different take on the July incident than Degroot. According to Degroot, Garretson noticed a car in the construction zone with its hood up when she pulled up to the site and was just trying to help. "She was trying to get a sense of what was going on," said Degroot.

But other accounts of the incident seem to contradict this, with statements pointing to Garretson's open and willful disregard of the traffic laws at the safety zone, as well as Casterline's directions to traffic. The account alleges that Garretson was in a line of stopped traffic at the construction zone, with one lane closed and Casterline directing the lines of traffic. At

See JUDGE, Page 7

Milton Lake cleanup provides environmental awareness, pride

By Jennifer Rubino
Staff Writer

On Saturday, Nov. 19, students and adults volunteered to clean up Union County's Milton Lake Park in Rahway. The event was hosted by the AmeriCorps New Jersey Watershed Ambassador program and Union County Adopt-a-Park program.

"The Adopt-a-Park program is very active all year round with park cleanups," Deputy Director Tina Casey of Union County Office of Public Information told LocalSource.

Volunteers removed discarded fishing lines, invasive weeds and discarded litter. They were encouraged to dress warmly and wear boots. Gloves, litter grabbers and refreshments were provided.

"The residents do a great job cleaning the parks," Union County Watershed Ambassador Ismail Sukkar told LocalSource. "We have park cleanups quite frequently to increase environmental awareness. As a watershed ambassador, it's my

job to educate the public that everything eventually finds its way into the water."

The Watershed Ambassador program is administered by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. It provides for a traveling educator to present about watershed protection and water conservation to schools and community groups.

"It also gives the public a sense of environmental stewardship to participate in an event like this," Sukkar told LocalSource in an interview. "It's the public's duty to make sure the parks are clean. It's easy to blame others, but it's up to us to keep the earth clean."

Milton Lake Park is just one location that the Watershed Ambassador program partnered with the Adopt-a-Park program to run a volunteer cleanup event. The location was selected after an incident with a fishing line was discovered.

"We chose this location after we found an osprey hanging from a fishing line,"

See RAHWAY'S, Page 10



Photo by Jennifer Rubino

Environmental Specialist Betty Ann Kelly and Watershed Ambassador Ismail Sukkar at the check-in table for the event.



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Union Center slated for continued redevelopment

By Elana Knopp
Staff Writer

When residents pushed for redevelopment in Union's Special Improvement District, township administrators listened, and thus began the he face-lift to the town's economic center.

It started in 2014 with the development of a high-end, mixed-use building on the corner of Morris and Stuyvesant avenues that is now home to two eateries and several retail stores.

Union Mayor Manuel Figueiredo, along with the township committee, recently announced that improvements to Union Center will continue along Stuyvesant Avenue, as American Landmark Developers has acquired several properties near Bonnel Court, with another mixed-use project anticipated in the imminent future.

A similar project is already underway on Stuyvesant Avenue across from O Lagar Bar, Restaurant and Winery.

Figueiredo told LocalSource in an email that the needs of today's communities are changing, and the township must keep up with these changes. "I think it's no secret that the needs of modern Americans are changing and there are a lot of factors contributing to that, including the housing market," Figueiredo said. "The priorities of societies are shifting such that home ownership and the responsibilities that come with it are not so high on the list. As such, we see many cities and states shifting their focus to provide people with more options. So, while I wouldn't go as far as saying that mixed-use is the wave of the future — in a way that would eradicate homeownership — as a township, we need to address the needs of a demographic that is growing nationally."

According to Union Business Administrator Ron Manzella, the township wants to create a vibrant and progressive downtown. "I think that it should be said that the overall goals for many of our redevelopment projects — but especially these taking place in the Center — are two fold," Manzella told LocalSource. "One is very obviously aesthetic, where we want to bring a certain vibrancy back to the area, but also economic as well."

Manzella said that the vision for the downtown area is one of convenience and beauty. "The vision is to have these beautiful new residences and to anchor them with service-oriented businesses that would provide a huge convenience for our residents, like dry cleaners, coffee shops, eateries and food stores," said Manzella. "As a result, people will not only be able to live in a beautiful, state-of-the-art building, but have all of the conveniences they need close enough where we will have a constant flow of foot traffic in the Center. Studies have shown that foot traffic is what, in turn, generates interest from other retailers to set up shop in town — in other words, the tried and true concept, 'if you build it, they will come.'"

Robert Perara, a Union business owner and resident, said he believes the redevelopment is a win-win for everyone. "I own a business as well as live in Union Center and



Photo Courtesy of Union

A schematic site plan for the proposed development project by American Landmark Developers at Stuyvesant Avenue and Bonnel Court. The projects are expected to bring aesthetic vibrancy and economic benefits to the area.

I, for one, am excited to see the redevelopment happen," Perara told LocalSource. "High-end rentals draw city commuters into the business district. They spend their money at local establishments, they have little to no effect on the school system and as long as the town takes care of providing enough parking, I see it as a win-win situation for all involved."

Union resident Craig Luftig is also on board. "This is long past due," Luftig told LocalSource. "I hate having to shop and dine in other communities. Union is totally ripe for this, so looking forward to it."

Union resident Marc Wolf, said he hopes Union Center returns to its days of glory that he recalls as a child. "I miss the old Union Center," Wolf said. "I got all of my shoes as a little boy at Union Bootery, and shopped at Maxine's and Melody Records. Hopefully they can start attracting some quality tenants and add some charm back to the center."

Figueiredo also cites Union's diversity, transit system and location as just some of the reasons developers seek out Union. "The township of Union is not only a community overflowing with diversity, but we are a transit-oriented microcosm," Figueiredo said. "And while we actively try to attract businesses, corporations and developers in order to continue to grow in a progressive direction, developers are actually seeking us out because of our proximity to New York City and our recently reaffirmed AA+ bond rating. We also have several major thoroughfares and modes of transportation which cut right through town, including direct bus service and train service to NYC, which is direct for all but peak hours."

The mayor pointed out that Union Center has been in a state of rebirth for some

time. "What started with our first mixed-use model on Stuyvesant and Morris avenues — which has been highly popular and has a waitlist for residents — has flourished into something greater," said Figueiredo. "The township has worked tirelessly to fill vacancies that have resulted in a new caliber of business, the likes of Gusta Rosso, Calesa, Bon Chon, Woodstack and BCB Bank, which will be opening soon. We also implemented a property tax reward program to which more than 20 businesses have registered."

Manzella said the new mixed-use properties are a boon for the local economy. "This creates a hotbed for economic growth that has the potential to touch the far corners of the township," said Manzella.

Manzella also noted that there is a misconception as far as other properties in the Center. "I think there exists a misconception where a lot of the residents think the township owns them, or that we can tell them what to do with their property — and that just isn't so," said Manzella. "We have been fortunate enough that certain developers have been successful in buying up those that are available and endeavoring to invest in them in a way that will redefine the Center."

In concert with that, said Manzella, the township is actively encouraging other property owners to maintain and update their facades and signage. "We're hoping that the Seabra's and Landmark projects will be the catalyst to get them to do so," Manzella said.

The two mixed-use anchor projects are the next phase in that rebirth, said Figueiredo, referring to the Seabra's project, already underway on Stuyvesant

Avenue across from O Lagar Bar, Restaurant and Winery, and the American Landmark Developers project on Stuyvesant Avenue. According to Figueiredo, the project will span more than 300 linear feet along Stuyvesant Avenue, starting at Terminal Mills. The project will also include the ConnectOne Bank property on Bonnel Court.

Union Deputy Mayor Suzette Cavadas told LocalSource that improvements to the downtown are evident. "I think it's evident that there is a lot going on with the center," Cavadas said in an email. "We are battling negligent property owners who refuse to sell their properties, which has caused some angst among our residents. The township has been, and continues to be, aggressive to re-energize this area and I think it has most certainly begun to pay off."

Cavadas noted that since improvements began, merchants have reported increased foot traffic to the area. "Since the completion of the mixed-use building on the corner of Morris and Stuyvesant avenues, merchants have been reporting increased foot traffic, and we can only hope that will continue to increase with the completion of the Seabra's and Landmark Developers projects."

Manzella said that although it is too early to determine what new businesses will join Union's redevelopment, the township is ready and willing to create a business district that serves the community. "I know that the developers have a vision for who and what they would like to see occupy the spaces, and we will certainly work with them to ensure that what comes is what's best for our community."

YWCA creates special holiday shopping experience

By Elana Knopp
Staff Writer

The YWCA of Union County is already gearing up for Christmas with their annual Project North Pole initiative.

The North Pole Shops simulate a free-of-charge, holiday “shopping” experience for the women in YWCA’s programs, helping to relieve some of the financial burden of the holiday season.

The YWCA helps victims of domestic violence, offering a range of services including a women’s shelter, counseling and case management, legal response teams and child protective services.

Women who visit the North Pole Shops are invited to select gifts for their children and a gift for themselves as they “shop” in a safe environment.

According to Jennifer Vriens, director of development and marketing for YWCA, the experience is empowering to survivors due to the financial abuse they have endured. “The holidays are a really stressful time for the victims of domestic violence, especially if they’ve been uprooted,” Vriens told LocalSource in a phone call. “What we’re trying to do is normalize the holidays for them.”

According to Vriens, the project, in its seventh year, has morphed over time, and has become the highlight of the holiday season for many. “We create a shopping experience,” Vriens said. “We want to empower the women, to give them what they normally would have done, which is to go shopping.”

The shops are set up in the organization’s outreach center, as well as in the women’s shelter to make it more convenient for both residential and non-residential clients.

Volunteers converge on both locations, said Vriens, to help decorate and organize,



Photo Courtesy of YWCA

The North Pole Shop for women in YWCA’s programs is a special experience for all.

and by the time they’re done, the North Pole Shops look something akin to a Toys ‘R’ Us. “This empowers these women to have a holiday for the kids,” said Vriens. “We allocate a certain spot that is organized by age group. It’s just like Toys ‘R’ Us, only they don’t have to pay.”

All donated gifts are brand new, and once the women have finished “shopping,” the YWCA provides them with all materials needed for wrapping the gifts. “The YWCA provides the wrapping paper and bows,” said Vriens. “They get the whole experience.”

One of the generous sponsors of the project is AristaCare at Norwood Terrace, a nursing and rehabilitation facility located in Plainfield. Amanda Gaynor, director of marketing and physician liaison at the facility, told LocalSource the response from

employees was immediate. “AristaCare at Norwood Terrace is delighted to have the opportunity to sponsor donations for Project North Pole,” Gaynor said in an email. “Last year was our first time participating in this event, and we saw the immediate impact it had on both our own employees and hospital affiliates — the response was overwhelming. Being in partnership with Project North Pole, and bringing a small measure of joy to families in need during the holiday season, is certainly its own reward.”

Besides having the women “shop” for their children, the organizations also has the kids shop for their moms. “We have gifts for the kids and the moms. We want them to have something special, too.”

Some past gifts for moms have included fragrances from Victoria’s Secret, as well as

sundries from Bath and Body Works.

Janice Lilien, executive director at the YWCA, said the project helps make universal messages of holiday joy tangible for the organization’s clients. “At this time of the year, all the messages we hear are about joy, gift giving and celebrating,” Lilien told LocalSource. “Yet the families we serve are struggling with trauma, displacement and meeting basic needs such as food and housing. Project North Pole provides our families the ability to give and receive gifts and celebrate the holidays just as everyone else does — and have a time of happiness even amidst their challenging circumstances.”

Vriens said the community has responded to the initiative with enthusiasm. “The community response has been great,” said Vriens. “It’s been amazing. A lot of folks call up and say, ‘What can I do?’”

Last year, said Vriens, the “shops” drew more than 100 women who use YWCA’s services.

Individuals, businesses, organizations and faith communities have, according to Vriens, responded generously to the call by donating a variety of gifts for the project. “Women so appreciate this,” she said. “They can’t afford gifts, and this way kids are getting the holiday experience. It’s just amazing to watch these women be empowered — to see them feel special. It’s an incredibly hard thing they’re going through emotionally, physically and financially.”

The “shops” will be open for two weeks prior to the holidays.

Donations are currently being accepted for Project North Pole. New, unwrapped gifts for moms, teens and children are appreciated, as well as large gift bags, tape and wrapping paper.

For more information on Project North Pole, those interested can email Vriens at jvriens@ywcaunioncounty.org.

Libraries in Union County help ‘check out hunger’

By Jennifer Rubino
Staff Writer

Libraries across Union County are participating in Check Out Hunger, an initiative to collect food for local food banks. The majority of libraries in the county are participating in the program, which takes place from Nov. 21 to Dec. 16, including Summit, Linden, Roselle Park, Roselle, Union, Springfield, Rahway, Cranford, Kenilworth, Mountainside, New Providence, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Plainfield and Hillside.

In addition to this special initiative, Linden and Plainfield libraries collect food year round and Roselle Park Library collects food for animal shelters year round. The Summit Library coordinates the Check Out Hunger for the rest of the libraries in the county.

“I’ve been coordinating this event for all the county libraries for five years,” Summit Library Director Susan Permahos told LocalSource over the phone. “We’ve been doing it for a total of 10 years now.”

Check Out Hunger is a national initiative that works to feed the hungry at food banks across the country. Many of the supermarkets such as Wegmans and ShopRite are

involved with it as well. Each library collects its own food to donate to a food bank of their choice.

“The majority of libraries in Union County participate in the program,” Permahos told LocalSource. “They collect food and send it to a local food pantry of their choice. If they choose not to donate it, we will send it to the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside for them. We all join the initiative together and collaborate on posters for publicity.”

In 2013, the libraries donated approximately 5,000 pounds of food. Some libraries even collect food year round.

“Linden and Plainfield libraries collect food year round,” Permahos told LocalSource. “However this particular drive is for the holidays. It will take place from Nov. 21 to Dec. 16. Here in Summit we only collect the food seasonally. The Roselle Park Library collects food for dogs and cats.”

The Roselle Park Library is the only library in the county that collects food to donate to animal shelters. They also do this year round.

“We usually collect food for dogs and cats,” Interim Library Supervisor Kit Rubino of Roselle Park Library told

LocalSource over the phone. “We are just starting to collect for people for the holiday season. We actually get more donations for the animals than for the people. The majority of the food is for cats and is collected by Alex Balaban, who takes the food to a local shelter. This year, we will be donating the food we collect during the holiday season to the senior activity center in town.”

The Linden Library noticed an abundance of food had been donated just recently, although they collect food to donate year round.

“I noticed a good amount of food was donated recently,” Linden Library Director Dennis Purves told LocalSource over the phone. “I’m not sure if this was just our normal giving or due to the Check Out Hunger initiative. We usually donate our food to the local police to give to the food bank.”

Library patrons across the county are encouraged to bring nonperishable and canned food to the participating libraries this holiday season. Although Linden, Plainfield and Roselle Park libraries collect items year round, this is an especially important time to give and support the Check Out Hunger initiative.

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Photos by Jennifer Rubino

'Then and Now' board displaying photos and 'Memories of the Library,' a piece written by George Yarusavage.



Patrons congregate and volunteers from the community sell tickets at the door to the library's 50-year celebration.

Clark Library celebrates 50-year anniversary

By Jennifer Rubino
Staff Writer

Clark Library celebrated its 50-year anniversary Friday, Nov. 18. The event was organized by Library Director Dawn Jenkin, and volunteers from the community joined to help with ticket sales and donations.

On Nov. 8, 1960, the voters of Clark passed a referendum approving a free public library. The first library opened Nov. 1, 1961 in a small store at 17 Lincoln Boulevard. In April 1963, it was moved to a larger store on Raritan Road. In 1966, the library settled at its final location.

The celebration had a '60s theme, and patrons were encouraged to wear outfits from that era. There was wine, cheese, refreshments and memorabilia to enjoy. The memorabilia included an original Twister game, an 8-track and Polaroid camera. There was also a trivia game that included questions from 1966. The winner of the trivia game would receive three free DVD rentals from the library.

"I thought the trivia was interesting," Carolynne Baykowski, of Clark, told LocalSource in an interview. "It brought back memories."

Sixties music was played and a sign with the prices of everything in 1966 versus the prices of the same items today was displayed. Photos of popular television shows from the era were also on display. There was also a "Then and Now" board with photos of the library in 1966. In the photograph from 1966 is Alan Richer returning the first library book to Library Page Nancy Rosenthal. There was also a piece of writing submitted by

George Yarusavage titled "Memories of the Library." He wrote about his mother volunteering at the library and taking him along each week to return his library book and check out new ones. His sister, Ann Yarusavage attended the celebration.

"My mother encouraged us to read," Ann Yarusavage told LocalSource in an interview. "This library is still nice and quaint to this day. The reference section isn't used as much and there are more computers now. I still check out library books. The smell of a library book is classic. I love the mutual support between the library and local organizations in the community."

Clark Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and Clark police Chief Pedro Matos attended the event to show their support of the public library.

"The library is a cornerstone of every community," Bonaccorso told LocalSource in an interview. "The Clark Library is excellent and well-run."

The evening began with a speech by President of Friends of the Library Karen DeMarco and Vice President of Town Council Angel Albanese. They welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. There were about 100 residents who attended. Friends of the Library raised the funds to build the library in 1966. Since then, it's been refurbished and an addition has been added on.

"I'm a retired teacher who comes to the library at least once a week," Anne Pamdolfo, of Clark, told LocalSource in an interview. "I love it and I want to see it expand. They have a million wonderful things here for kids, adults and seniors. I hope it keeps growing and people keep coming."

1966	Item	2016
\$0.05	Stamp	\$0.47
\$0.99	gallon of milk	\$3.67
\$1.25	Revlon lipstick	\$8.39
\$0.52	gallon of gas	\$2.91
\$1.09	movie ticket	\$10.99
\$4.00	Fiction Book	\$28.95
\$7.00	Hotel Room Atlantic City	\$85
\$234.95	Sears window AC unit	\$169.99 - \$219.99
\$9,130	NJ Public School Teacher average annual salary	\$66,714
\$2,650	New Car	\$33,560
\$21,700	Median Home Sale	\$313,500

The prices of items in 1966 and items today are compared.

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Judge approves request for HPO Casterline's emails

(Continued from Page 1)

the time, the eastbound lane was stopped — the line in which Garretson was. But Garretson allegedly decided to drive despite the directive to stop, and was allegedly heading into oncoming traffic from the westbound lane. Casterline allegedly asked Garretson to stop, and the account alleges that, had he not asked her to stop, she would have kept on driving. Once she was stopped, the account alleges, Casterline then asked Garretson what she was doing, and that is when she allegedly said that she had driven over to see why the hood of a car at the site was raised. After Casterline told her why the hood was up, Casterline asked Garretson to move out of the way of traffic. It is alleged that Garretson defied his order and instead began texting on her cellphone, and continued to text, despite Casterline asking her to move repeatedly.

But Degroot said Casterline has a personal vendetta against the mayor. "He's the union president," Degroot said. "Go look him up online and you'll see a whole bunch of negative things he's said about the mayor."

LocalSource took Degroot up on his directive but was unable to find negative or personal attacks from Casterline against Garretson. Casterline had been interviewed in the past in his capacity as union president, where he spoke with LocalSource about failing conditions at the police department, depleted manpower, and low morale due to what many at HPD cite as Garretson's overt disregard for Hillside's first responders.

Attorney for Panarese, Christopher Gray, of Sciarra and Catrambone, told LocalSource that the mayor is just up to her old tricks and attempting to divert attention away from the fact that she broke the law. "The mayor's conspiracy theories and the fishing expedition by way of these subpoenas are a thinly veiled attempt to divert

attention from the mayor's blatant violations of motor-vehicle laws, which were witnessed by a civilian and the officer on the scene," Gray said in an email.

But Degroot claims that Casterline tried to come up with as many violations as he could nail Garretson for, and ran with it. "He took Title 39 and said, 'How many different tickets can I come up with?'" said Degroot. "It's highly unusual, and anyone who says otherwise is full of doggy dirt."

Most statutes that pertain to motor-vehicle laws can be found in Title 39 of the New Jersey traffic laws.

Degroot also called out Panarese, who he says had a definite motive for collusion with Casterline. "The problems started with the demotion," Degroot said, citing Garretson's demotion of Panarese from chief to captain.

Months ago, after Panarese sent out an email to officers in the department in an attempt to boost morale, Garretson charged him with insubordination, informing Panarese of his demotion just hours before it took effect. Hillside's town council later reinstated Panarese as chief, after which Garretson slammed Panarese and council members with a lawsuit. Panarese later filed a lawsuit against Garretson, charging her with a laundry list of retaliatory measures taken on the part of Garretson against the department. The legal battle is currently ongoing.

Degroot cites Panarese's ego, his position at the HPD, and his finances as reasons for the alleged collusion against the mayor. "The problems started with the demotion," Degroot reiterated. "You can draw the obvious conclusions. We are exploring the possibility that Panarese is behind it and involved in some way. The mayor wishes to aggressively defend herself. We want to see the rest of the story."

Garretson's trial on the summonses is scheduled for Nov. 22.

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DRAPES

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Newcomers' Club makes all feel welcome

**By Jennifer Rubino
Staff Writer**

Female residents new to the area of Cranford, Garwood and Kenilworth are welcome to join the Newcomers' Club, which meets in Cranford and helps adjust residents to life in the area, giving them a chance to meet new people as well as participate in activities and events. Newcomers' Club President Abbie Signore recently discussed how the club helped her meet new people when she moved to Cranford.

"I felt like a foreigner when I moved from Iowa to Cranford," Signore told Cranford Life in an email. "I feel like the club has really given me a sense of belonging in our community. I really do feel that if I wasn't here for some reason, like I went on vacation or got sick, people would ask and care about me. It's such a nice feeling to know that people care and that I have a support system of people to call on for club or non-club related issues. I'm really so happy I joined and have gotten the opportunity to become so involved."

The club members helped her after she had a baby by cooking meals for the family. Signore was so appreciative that she eventually decided to run for president.

"My personal story is that I joined about a month before my first baby was born," Signore said. "I had been looking for a way to meet people and become more involved and some of the other local clubs weren't exactly the right fit. But Newcomers' Club was awesome from Day 1. After my son was born, I was put on the family meals meal train list where other women could sign up to cook my family a meal and help with the chaos that can happen after delivering a baby.

"I was so grateful and impressed by the generosity of the club, I signed up to help other new mothers as soon as possible. Then I got involved in a playgroup for babies and met some wonderful women who truly helped me become a mom. I was offered a position on the board and served for two years as the nominations member, the person who fills empty board positions. It was a great way to learn more of the ins and outs of the club, as well as meet more and more people. When the vacancy for president opened, I volunteered and was warmly received. And here I am!"

And Signore is not the only new resident who was welcomed by the Newcomers' Club when she moved to Cranford. Meal train coordinator Gwyneth Murray Nolan also found comfort and support with the group when she moved from Hoboken to Cranford in 2014.

"I was involved with the Junior Women's Club when I first moved to Cranford," Nolan told Cranford Life in a recent phone interview. "My neighbor introduced me to the group, but it was mostly older women, and we didn't have much in common. One day my neighbor said she wished she'd gotten involved with the Newcomers' Club, so I decided to give it a try and I loved it. We were all young moms in similar situations with the same values. We all wanted to find the best schools and parks for our



Photo Courtesy of Liz Jackson

An afternoon hayride is an example of the variety of activities the club hosts.

kids. After I had my second baby, I was hospitalized for six weeks. The women had meals delivered to me every other day. They also took care of my husband and 2-year-old. It was incredible to be treated so kindly by strangers. I decided to get involved with the family meals program and do the same for other women. We all help each other through the tough times."

Other members agree that they immediately felt welcomed by the group.

"I moved to town September 2009 from New York and read about the group in the local paper," Nicole Consorte, of Cranford, told Cranford Life in an email. "Seeking new friends and to become involved in my new town, I went to a meeting and joined that night."

Recently, the Newcomers' Club participated in the Scarecrow Stroll, an event for which local residents, businesses, schools and organizations donate scarecrows that are displayed downtown as festive decorations for the fall season.

"This is the Newcomers' Club's second year participating in the Scarecrow Stroll," Signore told Cranford Life in an email. "Our scarecrow this year was inspired by a board member who said, 'Sounds like we are making magical Cranford moments' at our first board meeting. I felt like it was a good slogan for the year, so I conjured up the idea of our lady wizard scarecrow who is brewing up her magical potion which produces a pineapple, our club's symbol of hospitality."

Liz Jackson, who handles public relations for the Newcomers Club, told Cranford Life in an email that the nonprofit social club has been active in the community since the 1960s.

"While the primary objective of the club is to welcome newcomers to town, we do have many women who have lived here awhile who join when they have a child and are looking for other women in the same situation," Jackson said. "The club offers a way to make new friends, hear the latest events that are going on in town and get recommendations on all things Cranford."

The club also focuses on children and organizing events for them to get to know one another while giving mothers the chance to socialize.

"I actually lived in Cranford for more than five years before becoming a member of Newcomers," Tina Re Browning, of Cranford, told Cranford Life in an email. "I joined after having my kids, to get involved with playgroups and meet other moms in town. I love the variety of events you can participate in, especially adult nights out. I've felt lucky to make so many friends through the group, and as a real estate agent, I highly encourage my clients to join!"

The club is known for its variety of events as well as its focus on mothers and children, and prides itself on helping others.

"The club consists of about 150 women and is organized by a board of 38 members," Jackson told Cranford Life in an email. "The club plans a wide variety of activities for the members including events for the children, like hosting Halloween and Valentine's Day parties and organizing playgroups. We have a lively book club that meets monthly. Our advocacy group holds monthly events that help support those in need. We're especially proud of our involvement in the 'Adopt-a-Room' program run by the YWCA of Union County, where we rehabilitated a room to be used by a mother and her baby to escape an abusive situation.

"In addition to the local social activities that we run, we also organize the progressive dinner in the spring, where successive dinner courses are prepared and eaten at the homes of different hosts throughout the night. Since each course is at a different location, it's a great way to mix and mingle with other couples."

To join the Newcomers' Club, attend at meeting at the Hanson House or visit the club's website at www.cranfordnewcomers.com.

"Our next monthly general meeting is Dec. 13, at 7:45 p.m. at the Hanson House," Jackson told Cranford Life. "The Hanson House is located at 38 Springfield Ave. and is home to the Cranford Historical Society."

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47216

CRANFORD NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

New museum pass is now available at the library

The Cranford Public Library recently added the Stickley Museum at Craftsman Farms, located in Morris Plains, to its museum pass program. The Stickley Museum, a 30-acre national historic landmark, is the home of Gustav Stickley's early 20th century country estate, the Log House, which was built in 1911, and is one of the most significant landmarks of the American Arts and Crafts movement. The library also lends passes to the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial, the Frick Collection, Grounds for Sculpture, the Guggenheim Museum, the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum, Liberty Hall Museum at Kean University, the Montclair Art Museum, the Morris Museum, the Museum of the Moving Image, Newark Museum, and the Yogi Berra Museum and Learning Center.

Purchased for the library by the Friends of the Cranford Public Library, the passes can be borrowed by adult Cranford Library cardholders and adult members of the Friends of the Cranford Public Library with MURAL borrowing privileges. Passes circulate for two days and are available on a first come, first served basis. They cannot be reserved or renewed. To see if a pass is available, search the library catalog by museum name.

For more information about the library pass program, visit www.cranfordlibrary.org and click on the "Museum Passes" tab. Present a valid Cranford Public Library card at Liberty Science Center to receive a \$3 discount off the price of admission.

Cranford DAR volunteers at VA medical center

The Crane's Ford chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution's Volunteer Service to Veterans Committee teamed up with the CDC Community Theater of Cranford and the Musical Club of Westfield on Nov. 12 to entertain hospitalized veterans at the VA Lyons Medical Center in Bernards Township. With donations of gift cards from Costco, ShopRite, Stop & Shop and Wegmans, the DAR purchased refreshments for the veterans. Maureen Monroe from the Musical Club of Westfield, along with Anjanette Valiante from the Cranford Dramatics Club, organized the program of patriotic songs, joined by young adults Maeve Brady, Eilidh Brady, Elizabeth Molfetto and Josh Hunt.

DAR Veteran Committee Chairwoman Alice Birtwistle, of Bayonne and Chapter Regent Mary Leonard, of Roselle Park, planned and organized the afternoon

along with the following DAR members: Barbara Krause, Betty Duckworth, Diane Recinos and Cathy Sienicki. The following daughters of members joined in helping the DAR: Amanda Sienicki, Allison Sienicki, Ashley Sienicki, Nicole Birtwistle and Rachel Birtwistle. The Crane's Ford DAR has been volunteering with annual parties for the Lyons facility veterans for more than 40 years. The Cranford Dramatic Club has been collaborating for the past 13 years.

CALENDAR

Chamber of Commerce holiday event is Nov. 25

The Cranford Area Chamber of Commerce presents a holiday event Nov. 25 in Mayor's Park on the corner of Springfield and North Union avenues.

- At 11 a.m. the holiday tree will be decorated by the Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors.
- At 1 p.m., there will be with a face painter and balloon maker, an inflatable for children and a horse-drawn wagon ride in Parking Lot No. 7 on Miln Street. The Cranford Jaycees will provide hot chocolate.
- At 4 p.m. the Celebration Singers will perform on the stage located by the holiday tree.
- At 5 p.m. the Cranford High School Madrigals and the brass ensemble performs.
- At 6 p.m. Santa will arrive for the lighting of the tree, escorted by the Cranford Fire Department. The Chamber will be available to take photos of children with Santa and each child will receive a candy cane from Santa. Each family will receive an American Express "Small Business Saturday" canvas bag filled with information and coupons from local businesses.

Santa's mailbox will be inside the post office through Dec. 20. Letters to Santa must have a return address, as Santa replies to each letter received.

Estate plan information session will be Nov. 30

Nicholas Giuditta presents "Why Every Parent Should Have an Estate Plan," on Wednesday, Nov. 30, at 3 and 7 p.m. in the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Giuditta, a Cranford resident, is an attorney with a law practice in Westfield that specializes in estate planning.

The program will include information about setting up an estate plan and how parents can use wills and trusts to protect and provide for their families. It will also include a question-and-answer period. Admission is free and all are welcome. The program is sponsored by the Cranford Public Library.



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Photos by Jennifer Rubino

A volunteer picks up litter at Milton Lake Park during the cleanup event.



Volunteers spread throughout the park to pick up litter and raise awareness at the Milton Lake Park cleanup event.

Rahway's Milton Lake cleanup a huge success

(Continued from Page 1)

Environmental Specialist Betty Ann Kelly told LocalSource in an interview. "We've had a lot of issues with fishing lines not being discarded properly in park, and we thought this would be a good way to educate the public. Fishing lines are often

found tangled in trees throughout various parks in the area."

One of the 16 volunteers that arrived to participate in the event reported that her husband was a fisherman. He also volunteered to help with the cleanup event.

"We love the park and our kids used to

fish here," Sylvia Keker of Rahway told LocalSource. "My husband is also a fisherman."

It is important that parks near bodies of water remain clean, and Milton Lake Park is fairly clean because of the consciousness of the community.

"The neighbors of this park are pretty good about keeping the park clean," Kelly told LocalSource. "There also isn't a picnic area at this park, which helps. It's just important that we keep our water clean because Milton Lake runs to the Rahway River which goes to Arthur Kill, and that's a huge body of water."

STUDENT UPDATE

Locals make dean's list

The following local residents were among 467 students recently named to Caldwell University's spring 2016 dean's list:

- Michaela Marie Oliveira of Clark;
- Alma Veatris Barraza of Elizabeth;
- Brianna Martins of Hillside;
- Kevin James Leary of Kenilworth;
- Evan Abilio Marques of Linden;
- Erin Marie Fitzpatrick of Rahway;
- Danny Salazar of Rahway;
- Christopher Santana of Rahway;
- Samantha Curiel of Roselle;
- Kristin Blair Kelley of Springfield;
- Ashley Christine Carreiro of Union;
- Nicole Tiffany Grandeza of Union;
- Kristin Marie Karlo of Union;
- Pablo Loza of Union;
- Krizia Joyce Mendoza of Union; and
- Kathryn T Reilly of Union.

In order to achieve this honor, students must maintain a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and complete at

least 12 credits during the semester. Caldwell University is located in Caldwell.

Students recognized for academic achievement

Students from Union County have been named to the president's and dean's lists at Berkeley College for the spring 2016 quarter. Berkeley College students who achieve a grade-point average of 4.0 with a minimum of 12 academic credits qualify for the president's list. Students who achieve a grade point average of 3.5 or better with a minimum of 12 academic credits qualify for the dean's list.

President's list: Stephanie Rodriguez of Clark, Christina Peguero of Elizabeth, Melanie Sanna of Elizabeth, Kimberly Ugalde of Elizabeth, Jason Smith of Elizabeth, Stephanie Pacheco of Hillside, Tyree Thompson of Hillside, Kelly Almeida of Linden, Kathia Philogene of Linden, Laqzaria Boney of Plainfield, John Noel of Plainfield, Cindy Aquino of Rahway, Alisha

Gonzalez of Rahway, Corina Hicks of Rahway, Patricia Sanchez of Rahway, Carla Taias of Rahway, Vanessa Parker of Roselle, Quelly Salinas of Roselle Park, Alexandra Ribau of Springfield, Sheevan Berthaud of Union, Jennifer Dorsainvil of Union, Rachelle Gonzalez of Union, Angela Capone of Westfield.

Dean's list: Malaica Beaubrun of Elizabeth, Nicole Campos of Elizabeth, Arleen Gonzalez of Elizabeth, Joseph Jean of Elizabeth, Danielle Laurole of Elizabeth, Maria Martinez of Elizabeth, Jessica Ramos of Elizabeth, Joana Ribeiro of Elizabeth, Star Roman of Elizabeth, Stephanie Starling of Elizabeth, Jerry Ubah of Elizabeth, Nathalia Vazquez of Elizabeth, Tiffany Goodman of Elizabeth, Jorge Morocho of Hillside, Ahmad Pearson of Hillside, Vanessa Aviles of Kenilworth, Ashley Barnansky of Kenilworth, Shannon Ayala of Kenilworth, Euris Almanzar of Linden, Natalie Coelho of Linden, Nisaa Ismael of Linden, Christian Rosas De La Vega of Lin-

den, Katherine Sanango of Linden, Izabela Suchocka of Linden, Lauren Trimarco of Mountainside, Jonathan Cocha of Plainfield, Raymond Cox of Plainfield, Danielle Mcinnis of Plainfield, Takia Nash of Plainfield, Elyber Rodriguez of Plainfield, Milicent Mack of Rahway, Marie Etienne of Roselle, Jose Daniel Millan Vega of Roselle, Angelica Reyes of Springfield, Janeisha Allen of Summit, Safiatu Ali of Union, Olivia Campbell of Union, Rachel Lines of Union, Sulfise Dutreuil of Union.

Champlain honors locals

The following students have been named to the Champlain College dean's list for achieving a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher in the spring 2016 semester:

- Jacob Beckerman of Clark;
- Mariana Franzetti of Cranford;
- Harold Hodges of Westfield; and
- Alex Sabatell of Scotch Plains.

Founded in 1878, Champlain College is located in Burlington, Vt.



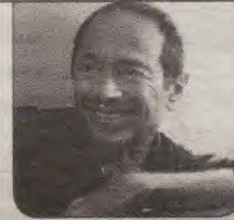
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St Joseph's provides for a memorable Thanksgiving

By Elana Knopp
Staff Writer

At Elizabeth's St. Joseph's Social Service center, Thanksgiving is truly about giving.

On Monday, St. Joseph's made the holidays a little brighter for many local families, as volunteers gathered at the center to help hand out turkeys and all the trimmings for families in need in the area.

More than 800 turkeys and 1,000 bags of food were distributed at St. Joseph's headquarters, located on Division Street in Elizabeth.

The initiative has been held at the center since it opened in 1986.

More than 800 families signed up this year, and donations of food were sent to St. Joseph's from all over Union County.

Volunteers of all ages gathered at the center to sort the food into 21 different categories, ranging from soup to pasta and vegetables to desserts.

Sister Jacinta Fernandes, of St. Joseph's, told LocalSource that the center responds to the needs of the low-income and homeless populations of the greater Elizabeth area. Services offered throughout the year include a food pantry, soup kitchen, sandwich program, daily bread distribution, health services, job program, counseling and case management. "For Thanksgiving, we distribute approximately 800 bags of food and turkeys," Fernandes told LocalSource. "At Christmas time, we distribute gifts to more than 2,000 people."

Elizabethtown Gas and its employees have been involved in the annual event to help provide Thanksgiving meals to these local families since the late '80s, according to Tina Earley, manager of government and community affairs for Elizabethtown Gas. "Like many of our community partnerships, we first got involved with St. Joseph Social Service Center through the work of our employees," Earley told LocalSource in an email. "Since that time, we've continued our support of St. Joseph, which is a testament to our employees' dedication to giving back to the communities where we live and work. Our employees look forward to this experience each year, and some of our retired employees even come back to lend a helping hand."

According to Earley, Elizabethtown Gas holds a food drive to collect donations for the event. Each year, "our company holds a

food drive and our employees generously donate items that make up the trimmings for the Thanksgiving event," Earley said. "On the day of the event, we help sort food into different categories. Once the food is sorted, each volunteer goes "shopping" to fill their bags with all of the ingredients for a Thanksgiving feast. It's busy, but fun," she said of the event at St. Joseph's.

Fernandes said that donations to St. Joseph's come from all over. "Donations come in from churches, businesses and individuals," Fernandez said. "On the Monday and Tuesday before Thanksgiving, a few hundred volunteers come from churches and businesses to help sort and pack the donations of food that we have received."

According to Fernandes, clients signed up for the program in September and came to receive the turkeys and food bags Monday and Tuesday. Those who did not sign up could still stop by on Wednesday morning to see if there were extra turkeys and food bags still available.

Fernandes said volunteers come from all over to help out with the initiative. "The volunteers come from all over the county, some from churches and businesses and some on their own," she said. "We also have local community volunteers. It's hard to put a number on the volunteers. Some come in groups, some alone. It ends up being a few hundred spread out through the three days."

Fernandes said that the reaction from everyone involved has been enthusiastic. "For the recipients, it is a blessing," Fernandes said. "Many of them barely make it through the month. They are very grateful for the extra help. Volunteers enjoy helping and donors are generous. We usually get a lot of extra help at holiday time."

Earley said that the event is a rewarding experience for her company. "The most rewarding part of this experience is being able to show how much we are a part of this community," said Earley. "We serve more than 283,000 customers in New Jersey, including 140,000 right here in Union County, where many of our employees reside and are proud to call home. We'd like to think we're more than just a natural gas utility. We're your neighbors, and an important part of this community. We volunteer to make someone else's life better; there is nothing more rewarding than helping others."

ROSELLE NEWS

Zumba class at Grace Wilday Junior High School Dec. 1

The Grace Wilday PTO and School Wellness Committee present Zumba classes in the Grace Wilday Junior High School Gymnasium, 400 Brooklawn Ave., on Dec. 1, 8 and 15. Classes are open to staff, students and the general public and are led by a certified Zumba instructor. A signed waiver is required to participate. There is a discount for advanced payment and all proceeds will help offset the costs of school activities. For more information, contact at apotts@roselleschools.org.



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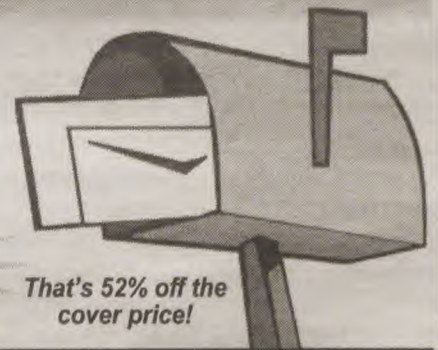


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A time for giving thanks

If the abundance of turkeys showing up in newspaper advertisements and supermarket windows hasn't tipped you

EDITORIAL

off yet, Thanksgiving is here. Perhaps more than any other holiday, Thanksgiving is a time for families to come together, especially extended families, to eat, drink and socialize, often followed by a nap on the couch. Children are home from college to regale us with tales of late-night study sessions and upcoming finals. The television is often on in the background, tuned to the traditional football games that have become staples of this holiday, be it the Lions, Cowboys or a rotating third game. And don't forget the numerous college rivals that square off every year on "Turkey Day," as well as countless high school matchups. There's some action for everyone.

It's hard to believe this holiday traces its roots to 1621 and a feast at Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts to celebrate a good harvest. While some historians quibble about the exact date or year, the gist of the story is that the Pilgrims had sailed from England to the New World the previous year, only to find the supplies they had brought with them insufficient. If not for the generosity of Native Americans from the Wampanoag tribe, the settlers would not have survived through that winter, and, in fact, roughly half of them didn't make it. Following a successful harvest the next year, the 53 remaining survivors from the Mayflower invited 90 Native Americans to a three-day feast, where they ate and gave thanks to God for their good fortune.

The menu for these earlier settlers would have been much different than the foods to which we are accustomed, although certain foods would find a place on both tables. Pilgrims had gotten good at fishing, catching plenty of cod, bass and other fish. There would have been turkeys, in addition to waterfowl, and venison would also have been served. Of course, there had to be Indian corn, although the mashed potatoes with gravy, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, sweet corn, various fall vegetables, squash and pumpkin pie that are common fare today would certainly have surprised both natives and settlers alike 400 years ago. But the spirit and camaraderie would have felt very familiar and pleasant to anyone invited to the feast.

Those who attend today's Thanksgiving feasts don't have to worry about unfriendly natives, wild animals, starvation or sickness to put a damper on the festivities, although there are a few new culprits that we need to address. The first is food preparation. The risk of bacterial contamination is great when handling any raw meat, so thoroughly wash your hands before handling it and keep it separated from other foods. Sanitize all surfaces that come into contact with raw meat. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends oven temperatures should be no less than 325 degrees

when cooking turkeys, which should be completely thawed before cooking. A food thermometer must register a safe minimum temperature of 165 degrees inside a turkey before it is served. Make sure you refrigerate all leftovers within 2 hours of the end of the meal. And make sure you inform people with allergies about how the food was prepared, to avoid exposure to allergens.

One of the most common injuries on Thanksgiving is cuts with knives, specifically carving knives that cut fingers or hands. Be careful when slicing food and, more specifically, do not rush. More accidents occur when carving or cutting too quickly. If possible, allow someone experienced in handling sharp knives do the cutting and carving. Burns are also common, especially around the oven or grill, so take your time, don't rush and, if you don't need to be there, stay out of the kitchen. And remember, if you are deep frying your turkey, research the proper way and use extreme caution, as this can be very dangerous and cause severe burns and fires. Frying a turkey should be done a safe distance from the home or any other flammable structure, and never attempt to deep fry a frozen turkey.

The key to any Thanksgiving meal is to approach it with moderation. There will be plenty of food, so don't race through your meal to get seconds or to the next course. You'll only make yourself sick. For those people with medical conditions, such as congestive heart failure, kidney disease or high blood pressure, excess salt is dangerous. Monitor your sodium intake and make sure you take your necessary prescription medications, as you would on any other day. Eat your food slowly and, when you're satisfied, take a break and allow your body some time to digest the meal. You'll find the holiday much more enjoyable.

Remember to pace yourself if you and your family decide to play some sports, such as football or basketball, before or after the meal. Injuries can occur quite easily for those not used to routine exercise. If you must play a traditional "Thanksgiving game," emergency physicians recommend not to overdo it. It's especially important to pace yourself after a big meal. There have been far too many trips to the ER for people who've suffered sprains, strains and fractures during these sessions on this holiday, so try to take it easy.

Finally, Thanksgiving is a huge holiday for traveling, with an estimated 42 million people expected to be driving somewhere. With more cars on the road, more crashes will occur. Avoid injuries by making sure you drive carefully, don't text and drive or talk on a cell phone, always wear your seat belt, make sure younger children are strapped in, and obey all traffic laws. It's also important to be rested while driving. And it goes without saying, but we'll say it anyway: don't drink and drive. The life you save may be your own.

We wish everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

Day in court

LEFT OUT

BY FRANK CAPECE

It's not something you see very often. In the criminal courtroom of Judge William Daniel last week, there was hugging, smiles and a heavy dose of good feeling.

Daniel presided over the 32nd semi-annual commencement and graduation of the Union County Drug Court program. The state official statement includes: "The mission of drug court is to stop the abuse of alcohol and other drugs. They are unique in the criminal justice environment because they build a close collaborative relationship between criminal justice and drug treatment professionals."

Daniel provided a human face and stirring remarks. He used expressions of, "putting lives together one piece at a time." He added the participants "earned this recognition, and we are so very proud."

The judge went to some lengths to acknowledge the work of the professionals, including the drug court probation officers and the drug court criminal divisions he called the "team."

The ornate court was filled with a mix of professionals and the stars of the day. From drug probation officer Ann Mullan and her staff, the office of the drug court, criminal division, and even the graceful presence of acting County Prosecutor Grace Park, you wished there were more days like this in the criminal justice process.

There was candor in the speeches. Some of the commencement celebrants didn't always have a smooth transition. There were sometimes steps backward. But, as Mullan said, "Together we help people get their lives back together." The youngster in the audience, who cheered, "yea daddy," brought a big smile to his father, one of the commencement celebrants.

But there is more than positive emotion going on. Daniel rolled off some amazing statistics. An estimated 300 have graduated from the program. Eighty-five percent have attained employment in the ensuing time. While driver's licenses are a rarity for entrants, 61 percent have attained that privilege by graduation.

Daniel touched on the importance of the network of support. It's not an easy road for the offenders. An individual who is accepted into the program must initially agree to a probation period as well as an alternative sentence if the individual does not complete the program. The drug

See A HAPPY, Page 15

Union County LocalSource

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It's time to overturn the mandates

Eight years of the Obama administration are about to come to a close. When he came into office, President Barack Obama had been dealt a bad hand. The economy was in a shambles. The financial meltdown had forced the country into deep recession. There was a real chance that we could slip into severe recession.

The president and Congress, then controlled by the Democrats, leapt into action. They continued the policies started in the last days of the Bush administration to bail out the banks. They moved to prevent the collapse of the U.S. auto industry and they began to push through legislation to fundamentally change the U.S. economy.

Two very major pieces of legislation were passed in those early years, the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, and the Dodd-Frank Act, which severely changed banking and investment in the country. Both these pieces of legislation were passed on a partisan basis. There was nothing approaching a consensus.

The result, of course, was the rise of the Tea Party and the loss of control of first the House of Representatives and later the Senate by the Democrats. It also was the beginning of the virulent divisiveness which has reached new heights during the presidential campaign.

I'm covering all this history because this era of divisiveness has resulted in more than just an increasing coarseness in dialogue. It also has led to a fundamental change in

GUEST COLUMN

BY JIM COYLE

the way we are governed.

So the folks who run Congress, the Republicans, have consistently refused to enact legislation suggested by the president and the president has consistently refused to sign legislation passed by Congress. Stalemate.

Well, normally it would be stalemate but the Obama administration came up with a great end-around. If Congress won't pass what's needed, we'll just do it anyway. Or as Obama notoriously said, "We're not just going to be waiting for legislation in order to make sure that we're providing Americans the kind of help they need."

In essence, the president said that if Congress would not do what he wanted, he would consider them irrelevant and he would do what he thought was needed. And that is exactly what he has done, by unleashing a series of wide-reaching executive orders.

It is not true that President Obama has issued more executive orders than anyone else. In fact, both the Clinton and Bush II administrations issued more executive orders than the Obama administration. What differentiates the Obama administration is how far-reaching these orders are and how often they are in direct contradiction to the will of

Congress. It is an amazingly brazen usurpation of power.

The Obama administration has used executive orders to issue many environmental, labor, health and immigration regulations that Congress had refused. Many of these regulations have had very adverse effects on business. Because they are issued by decree rather than through the normal legislative process, little thought has been given to their consequences. They are very one-sided.

Whether or not you agree with President Obama's intent in all or some of these executive orders, the manner in which they have been implemented is very troubling. The Constitution was written to give Congress primacy. It is the originator of laws. It has sole authority to tax and to spend. It is the only branch of government that can declare war. The president — any president — should not be able to simply decree what they want.

The new Trump administration should move immediately to overturn these executive orders. Not only are they opposed to our very form of government but they also provide a dangerous precedent that the Trump administration should not be tempted to use itself.

Jim Coyle is president of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. This column first appeared in the December 2016 issue of Inside Business, the chamber's newspaper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank you, neighbors

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you the residents of Union for your support in the Board of Education election. Your encouraging words and positive comments were truly humbling.

I am excited to assume my position as a board member, and will work diligently to ensure that the ideas outlined by the Children First Team will become reality. This includes improving residency policies, ensuring technology for all students, reinstating the Saturday Academy and improving special education programs. I look forward to carrying these ideas to fellow board members.

I will strive to be a voice for all when serving on the Board of Education, and to ensure that each discussion and decision will be in the best interest for our children.

Once again, thank you to the residents of Union; my Children First running mates, Mary Lynn Williams and Gary Abraham, for all their hard work and dedication; and my family and friends for your love and support.

Nancy Minneci
Union

Tale of two cities

To the Editor:

How a community embraces and embodies the patriotic spirit of their military personnel is evidently in full flower, with the adjacent communities of Linden and Rahway. Both communities are home to scores of residents who died defended their country, while heroically serving in armed forces, from World War I through Vietnam.

A Star Ledger article from May 25, 2009, written by Mark Di Ionna, revealed the vast abyss that starkly identifies the means that each community commemorates the spirit of their fallen American warriors. Interviewed for the article, George Malsam, Grand Marshall of a Rahway Memorial Parade — a community and commemorative activity that has not been exhibited for generations in Linden — revealed that in Rahway, in order to construct a spiritual and physical monument to honor their war dead, have established a remarkable 65 streets and parks in a solemn salute for their war dead. Let it be noted that the 2014 population of Rahway is approximately 28,000 souls.

Linden, in contrast, with a population of approximately 41,000 souls, perpetuates the memory of their war dead with the creation of only a handful of parks and street signs, if any.

There are approximately 180 calendar days between Thanksgiving this year and Memorial Day, 2017. One is confident, that an alliance of the Linden VFW, the American Legion, along with the Linden veterans committee, will function seamlessly with due diligence, in recalibrating a more responsive and patriotic approach for Memorial Day, 2017.

Michael Smith
Linden

Thank you for supporting AHA

To the Editor:

When the holidays near, we are reminded to be grateful during this giving season. It is the season of giving gifts, of giving time, of giving good will — and most importantly, of giving thanks.

As a volunteer, I want to thank every

person who has supported the American Heart Association and American Stroke Association. Perhaps it's a donation, attending a Heart Walk, championing a healthy change or supporting your child in a Jump Rope For Heart program. No matter how you've shown support, I want you to know that you have made a difference.

At the age of 41, I had a heart attack. I failed to recognize the signs — chest pains, upper respiratory congestion, nausea and fatigue. When I finally went to the hospital, I needed a catheterization, an angioplasty and two stents. I'm lucky to be alive because I had 100 percent blockage in my right coronary artery, along with two other blocked arteries.

I am grateful for the advancements in the treatment of heart disease and stroke because of research. We've seen workplaces make a shift toward workplace wellness to support the health of employees. We've witnessed children saving lives because they've learned CPR. We've heard the push of making the healthy choice the easy choice for all Americans.

Thank you for the support that you've given and for the support you will give as we move forward to a day where heart disease and stroke are no more. And if you are interested in supporting the American Heart Association, consider volunteering, participating at an event or making a donation at www.heart.org/donate.

Sherril Maloney
Union

Learn from history

To the Editor:

On the eve of the last free elections in pre-Hitler Germany, Joseph Goebbels, the mastermind of modern propaganda, wrote,

"we must appeal to the lowest instincts of the masses." This is the motto of all fascist movements in the world. It certainly was the motto of Donald Trump during his campaign. The lowest instincts of the masses lead them to hate foreigners, the members of minorities, the sexually different, many diverse faith groups and above all "the elites." These instincts lead them to believe in conspiracy theories; the wilder the better. They lead them to believe that dark forces are at work, undermining our beloved country, our heroic soldiers, stabbing their surviving parents in the back, demeaning all women, frightening our children, ridiculing the handicapped and pulling nasty, dirty tricks on Hillary Clinton. In every country there are people who ardently believe in this type of nonsense. They trust their Nazi-like leader, hate their enemies, and curiously enough want their country to be "great" again. My family is from Eastern Europe. Two of my father's Lithuanian uncles died fighting Russia after Yalta. My grandmother's Polish family sent her here with a neighbor as a teenager. She spoke Yiddish, German and Polish. She had a job as a translator for a Jewish "lady doctor" in New York City. She never saw any of her Polish Catholic family again.

Arlene Murphy
Roselle

The deal with the devil

To the Editor:

On the subject of the American Televised media: First of all, let me begin by congratulating Donald Trump for his election to the office of President and to all supporters, job well done. To my Democratic
See **LETTERS**, Page 14

UNION COUNTY NOTABLE PEOPLE AND PLACES

Givelber helps foster youth for Eagle Scout project

When he approached Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County, Gabe Givelber of Boy Scout Troop 77 in Westfield didn't know just how his Eagle Scout service project would ultimately take shape, but he knew he wanted to impact kids less fortunate than himself.

"I'm a lucky kid. I live in a nice house with my parents, brothers, cat and dog. There's always plenty to eat and I have a nice place to sleep each night. My parents have good jobs and I'm able to participate in most activities I'm interested in."

Noting this isn't the case for the 600 Union County children in foster care, he added, "Many of these kids have been removed from home because their parents can no longer take care of them. Many of the parents suffer from mental illness or substance abuse. Sadly, these kids are neglected, or physically or mentally abused."

Givelber met with staff and quickly found a pressing need: organization of a conference room that had become makeshift storage, as toys, books, school supplies, pajamas and CASA marketing materials were stashed in every nook and cranny. After hearing about time spent searching for items and the difficulty in assessing what's on hand and what's not, Gabe hatched a plan: inventory the room, build and install shelves, sort and organize items into bins, create an inventory spreadsheet by shelf location, and provide a tablet on which staff could manage inventory electronically.

To make it happen, the Scout raised \$2,150 from family, friends and troop members; mapped the space; ordered supplies; devised a two-day work schedule; and recruited help.

"Staff spends their time working with our volunteers, attending court, training advocates and managing cases. The storage space had gotten out of hand but we just hadn't been able to dig in and devote time or resources. Gabe's planning, fundraising and commitment brought about a result well beyond our expectations. He's made our job easier, which means he's absolutely helping us more easily impact the lives of abused and neglected children from his own county. We thank him, and our kids thank him," CASA Executive Director Marla Higginbotham said.

CAU Home Health Care program gets accreditation

The Home Health Care program of Community Access Unlimited has received "full accreditation" from the Commission on Accreditation for Home Care Inc., which has been setting the standards for quality home care services in New Jersey since 1986. As New Jersey's only state based accrediting body, CAHC is dedicated exclusively to New Jersey's home care providers and delivering the highest standard of service to our local communities and families.

"CAHC is dedicated to promoting the highest quality and safety standards in the New Jersey home care service industry," the commission said in a statement. "Community Access Unlimited shares our commitment to such excellence and has undergone our accreditation review allowing us to monitor their compliance with established guidelines and industry best practices.

"Community Access Unlimited having passed our review is duly entitled to display our official emblem and promote itself among the elite of home care providers

attaining such distinction within its provision of home health care services."

CAU's Home Health Care program is administered by the agency's Home Health Care Service Firm and provides support to any member of the community who needs home care, according to Jo Anna Hamilton, director of nurses and lead instructor at CAU. Services include care management, behavior management, dementia and Alzheimer's care and respite care for caregivers. They also include personal assistance, errands and transportation, light housekeeping, chores such as yard work and companionship. Care is primarily provided by Certified Home Health Aides, who must complete a 76-hour training curriculum approved by the New Jersey Board of Nursing; complete a competency evaluation by a licensed home health aide services agency; and pass federal and state background checks.

"We match the person's needs with our home health aide's strengths and areas of expertise," said Ewelina Oksien, nursing supervisor. "We've had patients tell us they love our aides and when they have a day off, they can't wait for them to come back. They really become members of the family."

Hamilton and Oksien perform an in-home assessment of a new patient to determine their needs and properly assign a home health aide. They follow up with 30- and 60-day reassessments to ensure all patient needs continue to be fulfilled.

Earning accreditation was a one-year process, according to Hamilton. It required creation and implementation of policies and procedures to meet all CAHC standards, commission review and a site visit. CAU also created a quality improvement program to ensure continual improvement of service and belongs to the Home Care

Association of New Jersey, which provides ongoing training and support.

CAU is an ideal agency to provide home care services, according Hamilton. CAU is a statewide Elizabeth-based nonprofit organization with more than 37 years experience providing support programs and services to adults with disabilities as well as youth served under the Department of Children and Families to enable them to live independently in the community, providing supports in areas including housing, vocational skills and life-skills training, education, advocacy and recreation.

Linden resident is grand marshal in NYC parade

Jeffrey B. Krowicki of Linden was chosen and served as the Linden Grand Marshal of the General Pulaski Memorial Parade in New York City on Sunday, Oct. 2. Sue Lukenda, president of the 2016 Pulaski Day Parade Committee, was presented with a check in support of the parade committee by Union County Freeholders.

St. Peter's Preparatory School honors students

James C. DeAngelo, principal of Saint Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City, announced AP Scholars and National Merit Scholars, and awarded honor pins for the 2015-2016 school year. Students with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher and no individual semester grade lower than a B qualified to receive pins.

The following local residents were recognized: From Springfield, Jack Burgess was named an AP Scholar; from Summit, Matthew Gallo, Nicholas Gallo, Declan Alvidrez, Jack Carey and William White all earned honor pins.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 13)

Facebook friends and Hillary Clinton supporters I offer my sympathy. Now that the dust has settled and the office won, it is time for us to unite together as one nation.

The recent riots and demonstrations are of a grievous nature. Now look, it is just and right that we as Americans protest what we believe to be wrong. In fact it is our responsibility. Having said that, rioting, destroying property, injuring people in the name of righteousness is a fraud. It is in fact anarchy.

You, the law breaker, the one with rocks in hand or your fiery cocktails, burning and looting, blocking traffic, spitting and cursing at people, do you believe you are hurting Trump? Emphatic No. You are hurting everyday people like yourself. You are destroying the lives of small merchants, injuring innocent people, destroying your neighborhoods and creating hateful and resentful backlash.

You, the press, are the agent provocateur of this national disgrace by you constantly showing the rioters in the background of your news casts. Your calling them protest-

ers is a far cry from the actuality that these people are rioters, vandalizing property, injuring citizens and denying the first amendment rights of the innocent. If these people are the example of the Clinton philosophy, it is blessed that Trump won. You are pouring gasoline for your own pleasure. It is obvious the media was hurt because your candidate, your puppet, lost. It can be seen in the eyes of these reporters as they light up on speaking about these anti-Trump riots and somehow making people believe that these riots are his responsibility.

We as a people must keep ourselves focused in the reality of time and support our democracy without prejudice.

Walter Sosnosky
Kenilworth

Changing the system

To the Editor:

On Nov. 9, I woke up to what was the biggest nightmare of my life...

Donald Trump was elected president of the United States of America.

As a child in school I was told by my teachers that anyone growing up in this great land of America could be our president someday. Really?

That was the way our founding fathers wanted it to be. But that was back in the '17 and 1800s when we were just 13 small colonies struggling to become the great nation that we are today. Their vision was that in a national vote, the president would be elected by the people of our nation. But because of the way the population was in that young country, they put in what they thought was a safety valve to protect us. They called it the Electoral College, where small, budding states would get some votes to help select the new president, and the winner would have to attain 270 votes from this Electoral College, then be declared the president-elect. It did not matter if he attained the most popular vote across the nation.

That's where I am very concerned. They say every vote counts; they say you must vote on election day. Then they throw out

all your votes and this outdated relic called the Electoral College decides who will be the next president — regardless of who is the winner of the most popular votes — regardless of the will of the majority of the citizens of this country.

Do we call this fair? Do we call this democracy?

Today we are a different nation than when this system was created, yet there are some people who would keep this outdated system for their own selfish needs.

It's time for all Americans to stand up and start a national movement to scrap this phony Electoral College for real democracy in the selection of our presidents.

If we don't act to change this, this will be the second time in 240 years that the wrong man was given the presidency without the full consent of the citizens of our nation.

We need a national petition to change this system. Will you join me in getting this started? Call me!

William D. Caruso
Clark

A happy day in criminal court

(Continued from Page 12)
 court has strict attendance rules, with the participants having to appear in court once per week.

Before entering the program, the applicants must undergo a legal review and clinical assessment by drug court personnel. Violent offenders are not permitted in

the program. There is also the possibility of random drug testing.

Sandra Thaler-Gerber, the personable Civil Division manager at the courthouse, took a seat in the back row. She had previously advised this corner about the emotionalism and positive results of the program. On this

day, she didn't have to keep a system moving, but with a smile of satisfaction, for a few minutes she got to enjoy a success.

Often during the activities, Daniel would rise to applaud the commencement and graduation celebrants. There probably is a need to applaud Daniel, as well.

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Caggiano graduates

Alexandra Caggiano, of Westfield, received a B.A. degree on May 22, at the commencement ceremony at Curry College in Milton, Mass.

Local students honored at Colgate University

The Dean's Award for academic excellence at Colgate University is awarded to students with a 3.30 or higher term average. The following students have earned Dean's Award recognition for the spring 2016 semester.

- Morristown-Beard School graduate John McDonald, of Summit;
- The Chapin School graduate Samantha Puchert, of Summit;
- Summit High School graduate Michael Williams, of Summit;
- Westfield High School graduate Jacob Wasserman, of Westfield;
- Oak Knoll School graduate Sarah Kelly, of Summit;
- Governor Livingston High School graduate Katelyn Reilly, of Berkeley Heights;
- Summit High School graduate Brynn Johnson, of Summit;
- Westfield High School graduate Alexandru Ionescu, a Biology major in the Colgate Class of 2019, of Westfield.
- Westfield High School graduate Sarah Chandler, of Westfield;

STUDENT UPDATE

- Summit High School graduate Jack Kalin, of Summit;
- Summit High School graduate Matthew Miller, of Summit;
- Union Cty Acad of Al Health Sc graduate Patricia Moscicki, of Kenilworth;
- Cranford High School graduate Lucy Allen, of Cranford;
- Summit High School graduate Sean Kennedy, of Summit;
- Summit High School graduate Kelly Haberl, of Summit; and
- The Pingry School graduate Rachel Lima, of Summit.

Colgate University is located in Hamilton, N.Y.

Pratt Institute announces graduating Class of 2016

Pratt Institute awarded degrees at its 127th annual commencement ceremony at Radio City Music Hall on May 17. Daniel Mandelbaum of Westfield received a degree in fine arts; Alexandra Price of Fanwood received a degree in fine arts; and Marc Valega of Clark received a degree in communications.

Founded in 1887, Pratt Institute is located in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Antivo interns for nonprofit

Rahway native Jeremy Antivo, who graduated from American International College in May, recently began an internship with the Spirit of Springfield, a private, nonprofit

corporation that produces large-scale events in Springfield, Mass. Spirit of Springfield's mission is to promote community events and encourage civic pride. Antivo will work to broaden the organization's social media presence in an effort to reach younger audiences. According to Antivo, the internship has provided real-world experience.

"I'm learning about how great these opportunities are as well as learning how social media impacts marketing and advertising," he said.

American International College is located in Springfield, Mass.

Students make dean's list

The following students with at least a 3.50 grade point average were honored at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y.:

Carly Bayroff of Scotch Plains, Brian Cattafe of Plainfield, Harrison Glatt of Summit, Justin Gump of Summit, Rebecca Kaufman of Westfield and Talia Paradiso of Scotch Plains.

Maxwell Graeb spends semester abroad Miami University student Maxwell Graeb, of Summit, spent the spring 2016 semester in Luxembourg as part of a study-abroad group.

With about 38 percent of Miami undergraduate students studying abroad for credit by the time they graduate, Miami is ranked second among public doctoral institutions nationwide for students studying abroad.

Miami University is located in Oxford, Ohio.

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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.

EPISCOPAL

ST. ELIZABETH EPISCOPAL CHURCH, A church for all People 305 N. Broad St., Elizabeth 908-289-0681 Cantor Andy Moore Sunday Eucharist 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. All Are WELCOME Free Parking Available.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM
Springfield, NJ (973) 379-5387 visit
www.shaarey.org Rabbi: Renee Edelman Cantor: Amy Daniels Inspiring services and creative programs and events. Religious School, PreSchool, active Sisterhood and Brotherhood, Renaissance (Seniors), classes, trips, speakers and much more.

METHODIST

BETHEL AFRICAN 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

www.bethelvauxhall.com

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 telephone 908-687-8077. Office hours by appointment. Sunday service at 11:00 AM includes a children's sermon. Sunday School at 10:00. Youth Sunday School during the main service. Communion the first Sunday of the month. Choir and Praise Team. UMW group meets 2nd Saturday each month. Friday evening bible study with the pastor at 7:30 PM. We are a friendly, multi ethnic/cultural church and we welcome all!

NON-

DENOMINATIONAL

KENILWORTH GOSPEL CHAPEL
Newark and 23rd Street, Kenilworth, 908-272-6131, Pastor Donald Dunkerton. Sunday 9:30 am Breaking of Bread, 11:00 am Family Bible Hour and Sunday School for all ages, Tuesday Women's Bible study at Chapel 7:00 pm, 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 10:30 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.

THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CONGREGATION OF CONNECTICUT FARMS,

corner of Stuyvesant Ave and Chestnut St., Union. Sunday School 10 am, Sunday Worship Service 10 am with nursery care, Holy Communion first Sunday monthly. Church office 908-688-3164; office hours are M-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm www.ctfarms.org, Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith, 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

PROTESTANT REFORMED

REFORMED CHURCH OF LINDEN, 600 N. Wood Ave. (corner of Wood & Henry), Linden. 908-486-3714. Serving Christ and the community since 1871. Sunday worship 10:30 am. Sunday School 9:30 am. Rev. Wilfredo Rodriguez, Pastor. All are welcome, please join us, www.rclinden.com

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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)

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 3639

Union, N.J. 07083



A GIANT CLEANUP — More than 40 people joined in a recent cleanup of Warinanco Park in Elizabeth and Roselle, including: Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Sergio Granados, Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, retired NY Giants stars Chris Snee, Rich Seubert, Charles Way and Deon Grant, members of Univision AM and FM Radio, Coors Light, Operation Rebound, representatives of the Elizabeth Board of Education, Union County and members of the NY Giants organization. Dozens of garbage bags were collected in the effort for the third year in a row.



PEER MEDIATORS — Fifth- and sixth-graders at Rahway's Franklin Elementary School earn certificates recognizing them as official peer mediators in a ceremony Tuesday, Oct. 25, that signified the completion of a six-hour training course designed to prepare students to facilitate peaceful conflict resolutions among other students at the school. The students are pictured with Franklin School Principal Francis Gavin, classroom teachers and school counselors.

UNION COUNTY ENTERTAINMENT

Arts, entertainment and events are taking place around Union County. See what's happening and take advantage of local attractions.

'Holiday Sound and Light Show' begins on Nov. 25

Union County will hold the "2016 Holiday Sound and Light Show," one of the largest model train displays in New Jersey, complete with special sound, narration and lighting effects, at the A. Paul Mallery Model Railroad Center in Union County's Lenape Park. The show opens Friday, Nov. 25, from noon to 10 p.m. It will continue to operate from 7 to 10 p.m. on Fridays; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturdays; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sundays until Dec. 11.

There is a snack bar, gift shop and tod-

dlar play area on site. Discount advance tickets are available online on The Model Railroad Club Inc.'s website at www.tmrcl.org/annual-show.html.

NJWA will entertain in downtown Westfield Nov. 26

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts presents the Brass Quintet in downtown Westfield on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26, from 2:30 pm to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Downtown Westfield Corporation. The group will also perform traditional holiday music from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Sundays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18.

On Saturday, Dec. 3, from noon to 1 p.m.; and Dec. 10 and 17, from 2 to 3 p.m., the International American Alphorn Ensemble will recreate the seasonal sounds

of the Alps on the corner of East Broad and Elm streets.

For more information, call NJWA at 908-789-9696 or visit www.njworkshop-forthearts.com.

CHS Class of '81 reunion will be held on Nov. 26

The Cranford High School Class of 1981 will hold its 35th reunion Saturday, Nov. 26, from 7:30 to 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 37 South Ave. in Garwood. A \$20 fee includes appetizers, beer, wine and soft drinks. Make checks payable to CHS Class of 1981 Reunion or Wanda Chin Monahan; mail to Wanda Chin Monahan, 33 Herning Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016.

For information, send an email to wmonahan@scclegal.com.

Orchestra Christmas concert set for Nov. 27

The Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea will perform at Our Lady of Peace Church, located at 11 South St., New Providence, on Sunday, Nov. 27, at 3 p.m., in a concert benefitting the Dominican Nuns of Summit Centennial Campaign. The 42-piece orchestra will perform traditional music, popular favorites and holiday classics, featuring soprano Victoria Cannizzo as well as additional guest soloists.

Tickets for the concert must be purchased in advance and are available at www.501auctions.com/christmasconcert, or by contacting the director of development at development@summitdominicans.org or 201-452-4996.

UNION COUNTY QUALITY OF LIFE

Union County offers resident ways to improve themselves, improve the community or help others. Find out where to volunteer, donate, check up on health, take classes or attend workshops.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FoodBank announces GivingTuesday campaign

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey recently announced the launch of its first advertising campaign in support of Giving Tuesday, Nov. 29, a national day that kicks off the holiday season by encouraging charitable giving. This year, the FoodBank will receive a monetary contribution from an anonymous donor, who has issued a matching gift challenge for Giving Tuesday; on that day every gift to the FoodBank will be doubled. Monetary donations are particularly critical to the FoodBank because every dollar donated results in the ability to provide five meals for New Jersey's hungry men, women and children, according to the release. Donations can be made at FeedNJkids.org.

Nominations still accepted for Women of Excellence

Nominations are being accepted until Dec. 1 for the 25th annual Women of Excellence Awards. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women, the awards program celebrates women who live or work in Union County and have made important contributions of professional or volunteer work.

This year, the new Union County Office on Women joins in sponsoring the Women of Excellence Awards. The award is open to all women, 21 years or older, who live, work or volunteer in Union County. Women can be nominated for their contributions in the categories of Arts and Humanities, Business and Entrepreneurial, Community Service, Education, Government, Law, Law Enforcement, Medicine and Health Care, or Women's Advocacy.

Awardees will receive a Freeholder Resolution in their honor and will be celebrated at the annual Women of Excellence Gala Awards Dinner on March 24, 2017, at the Clubhouse at Union County's Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth.

Questions about the nomination process can be emailed to Jane O'Hara, johara1217@gmail.com.

All nominations should be mailed to O'Hara at 708 Newark Ave., Westfield, NJ 07090, and postmarked no later than Dec. 1. For additional information, visit ucnj.org/women-of-excellence-award.

New rule for travelers

A new U.S. State Department rule requires people who normally wear glasses to remove them for passport photos, and

covers passport applications submitted on or after Nov. 1, 2016.

The no-glasses rule is designed to help the State Department process passport applications more quickly, by ensuring that the applicant's eyes are clearly visible in the photo.

The Union County Clerk's Office will take passport photos for residents at 2 Broad St. in Elizabeth or 300 North Ave. East in Westfield. For more information about passport services, call the office at 908-527-4966, 908-654-9859 or visit ucnj.org/county-clerk.

Elizabethtown Gas shares info on utility scammers

Natural gas and electric utility companies across the United States and Canada are joining forces to protect customers against utility scams, designating Nov. 16 as Utilities United Against Scams Day.

There are a currently number of scams used to cheat utility customers. For one, a customer receives an unsolicited phone call from an individual who falsely claims to be a company representative warning that the customer's gas service will be cut off if a payment is not made within a short timeframe.

Scammers also can duplicate a company's Interactive Voice Response system, so when customers call phone numbers provided by the scammer, it appears to be legitimate. Some of these scams also use caller ID spoofing to replicate a company's customer service number.

The following are red flags for scam activity:

- The scammer becomes angry and tells the customer his or her account is past due and service will be disconnected if a large payment isn't made, usually within less than an hour.

- The scammer instructs the customer to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card and call back to make a payment.

Protection measures for consumers:

- Elizabethtown Gas field service representatives and contractors visiting residences or businesses always provide identification. Contact customer care at 800-242-5830 to confirm that a representative has been scheduled to perform work at the premises.

- Elizabethtown Gas customer service representatives contacting consumers by phone regarding the status of an account will identify themselves as such.

- To verify that a call is legitimate, consumers should request to have the representative confirm information about the account that only the consumer and the company would know, including the date of the last payment, the amount of the last payment and the account number.

- Elizabethtown Gas will never demand payment by one method such as prepaid debit or ATM card, or checking account.

- Any customer who doubts the legitimacy of any call from Elizabethtown Gas, especially one in which payment is requested, should hang up and call the provider directly.

Customers who suspect or experience fraud, or feel threatened during contact with an individual posing as a company representative, should contact local authorities, and then the Customer Care Center at 800-242-5830. For more information, visit www.elizabethtowngas.com.

Ethics Institute partners with public schools

The Ethics Institute at Kent Place School presented a series of assemblies entitled "Ethics 101 - Jr." at Lincoln-Hubbard Elementary School in honor of NJ Respect Week in October.

The goal of the assemblies was to promote the value of respect and kindness through the use of video prompts, discussion groups, engaging stories, role-plays and reenacted case studies. In a developmentally sensitive fashion, students were introduced to the concept of values and to the EIKPS ethical decision-making model. The highlight of the program was an interactive role-play of an ethical dilemma presented by KPS Middle School peer mediators.

Presenters at the event from Kent Place School included Dr. Karen Rezach, director of the Ethics Institute; Ethics Institute Program Coordinator Dr. Eva Lazar; Primary School Director Dr. Adunni Anderson; Amy Heuer, a Kent Place Primary School teacher; and Kent Place Middle School Peer Mediators.

The Ethics Institute at Kent Place School and Summit Public Schools share a common mission of raising awareness and promoting discussion surrounding values and ethical decision-making. The series of assemblies hosted at Lincoln-Hubbard School gave students the tools and framework needed to feel empowered to develop their own sense of values with which they can make competent and thoughtful ethical decisions. Making ethically thoughtful decisions is a character strength that all students need the opportunity to develop. The EIKPS assemblies helped students cultivate the confidence and competence to make vital decisions that are in line with personal values. Confidence in making ethical decisions helps increase independence, competence as global citizens and courage for leadership.

Both EIKPS and local Summit schools believe that children who receive an ethical education today will become adults who have the courage to lead tomorrow. This event served as an opportunity to exercise a rich partnership between the private and public schools within the wider Summit community.

For information about the Ethics Institute at Kent Place School, visit www.kent-place.org/ethics.

Warm up with winter squash and get healthy, too

Experts from the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County recommend trying out new recipes that take advantage of all the nutrition and tasty "comfort food" flavors packed into winter squash.

In a new article, "Why is Winter Squash so Healthy for You to Eat," Rutgers Extension head and nutrition expert Dr. Karen M. Enslie of Rutgers University details some recent findings. Butternut squash, for example, has a high fiber content that helps to lower blood cholesterol and stabilize blood glucose levels. It is rich in the antioxidant beta-carotene, which enhances skin and eye health. Its high mineral content also helps the heart to beat normally, which can assist with exercise and fitness activities.

Modern winter squash is can trace its roots back to wild varieties found in an area between Mexico and Guatemala and used for food thousands of years ago. Now it is cultivated around the globe.

"From South America to Africa to India and Asia and even in some parts of the United States, no single food provides a greater percentage of certain carotenoids than winter squash," said Dr. Enslie.

Visit the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County online at ucnj.org/rce or call the Extension offices in Westfield, 908-654-9854. For recipe tips and more information about winter squash, and other news about nutrition and community health, visit the "Health Tips" link at ucnj.org/rce.

Police Firearms ID Unit provides critical assistance

The Union County Police Firearms ID Unit provides investigative leads to law enforcement. In Elizabeth, Union County Police investigate crime scenes and put evidence into the Integrated Ballistic Identification System, a national forensic computer network operated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that contains an electronic database of test shots from submitted firearms and crime scene evidence. IBIS is often used to find similarities between cases to help generate suspect leads for investigators.

In a recent Elizabeth case, once the evidence was compared, the Union County Police Firearms ID Unit was able to determine that the same gun that killed three people and wounded another in Elizabeth were related. After further investigation, the UCPD determined that the gunman fled to eastern Pennsylvania and participated in several more shooting incidents. Using the IBIS forensics system to compare evidence, the Pennsylvania Police Department discovered a potential match between the two series of events and arrested a suspect. The Pennsylvania

Continued on Page 19



Photo Courtesy of Jim Lowney

RESIDENTS RECOGNIZED — Union County Emerald Society President Bill Singer congratulates Elizabeth Police Chief Pat Shannon and Kathy Curren of the Kenilworth Veterans Center, the 2016 Irishman and Irishwoman of the Year, respectively, during the organization's 35th annual Pub Night. The Union County Emerald Society, a fraternal organization of law enforcement officers and firefighters of Irish descent, celebrates Irish heritage and culture while also supporting causes such as Project Children and the Union County Baseball League.

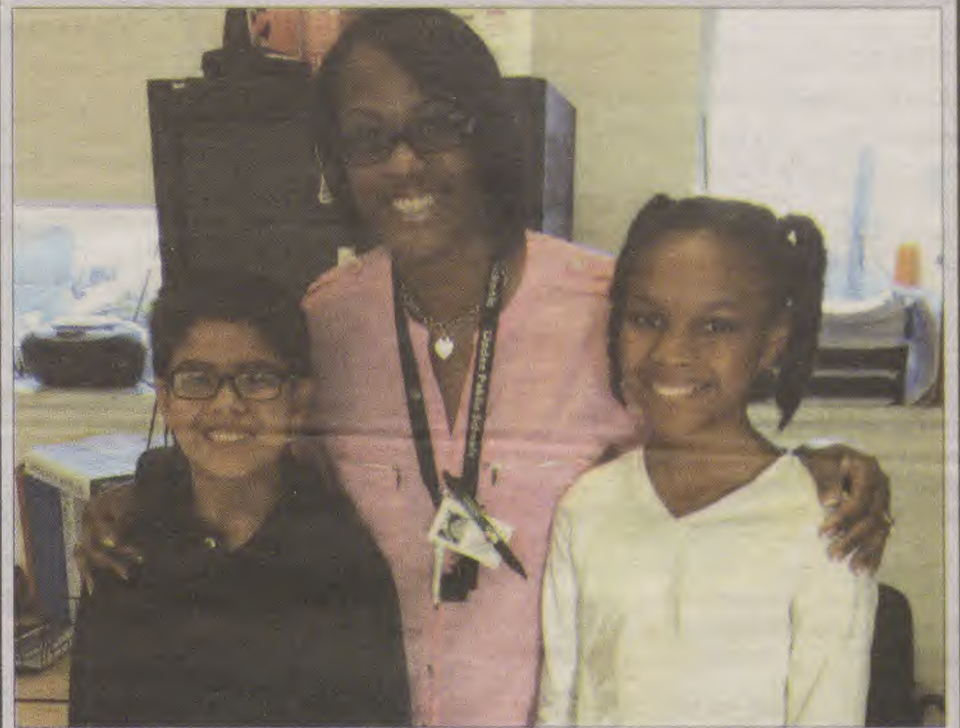


Photo Courtesy of Linden School No. 2

APPRECIATING VETERANS — Linden School No. 2 fifth-graders Celeste Tyler and Santiago Negrón won a Veterans Day project competition to become the 'Voice of School No. 2' and the chance to visit the 'Veterans Corner' radio show on WRSU 88.7 FM, at Rutgers University in New Brunswick, on Nov. 30. The show broadcasts Wednesdays, from noon to 1 p.m., to more than 1 million listeners. The students responded to the prompt: 'Veterans Day is celebrated to say thank you to all of the men and women who served in our military during wartime and peacetime. They are considered heroes. How can you teach others about our everyday heroes and show your appreciation to them?' Celeste and Santiago will read their projects Monday, Nov. 7, and meet the radio personnel of the 'Veterans Corner.'

UNION COUNTY QUALITY OF LIFE

(Continued from Page 18)

Police Department matched the gun to the crimes in Pennsylvania, and the same gun to the crime scenes in Elizabeth. The Leica FSC Microscope played a significant role in assisting investigators in tying seven major incidents throughout Elizabeth and eastern Pennsylvania to one suspect and one gun.

The Leica FSC Microscope is two microscopes connected through one optical bridge so the operator can view two pieces of evidence on separate stages through one binocular to compare the images side by side under the same lighting conditions, magnifications and focal depth. It's used to compare evidence to evidence, and evidence to test shots. The microscope is an essential tool to help provide leads to investigators in solving gun crimes and can provide intelligence that enables law enforcement to focus its resources to help prevent the next shooting.

CALENDAR

Black Men Rise 5K Unity Run to be held on Nov. 25

The Visions Community Development

Corporation is seeking runners, sponsors and vendors for Black Men Rise, a Run for All Lives 5K unity run and walk planned for Friday, Nov. 25, from 8 a.m. to noon at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

Businesses and nonprofit organizations are invited to promote products suitable for the family-friendly event. For more information on vendor and sponsorship opportunities, contact Cristina at 908-447-3964 or via email at blackmenruntogether@gmail.com.

To register for the event or become a sponsor, those interested can visit the website, www.eventbrite.com/e/black-men-rise-and-run-for-all-lives-tickets-27503704320.

Westfield Y annual tree lot sale begins on Nov. 26

The Westfield Y's Men's Club annual tree lot sale at the Elm Street Field in Westfield kicks off Saturday, Nov. 26.

It will be open weekdays from 5 to 9 p.m. and weekends 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., until Dec. 23. All proceeds benefit the Westfield Area YMCA and other community organizations.

Grand opening of new CAU headquarters is Nov. 28

Community Access Unlimited will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and grand opening of its new headquarters Monday, Nov. 28, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at 80 West Grand St., Elizabeth.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will feature CAU Executive Director Sid Blanchard and local dignitaries who have supported the agency. It will be followed by tours of the building. For more information, contact Cara Pavia at 908-354-3040, ext. 4376, or cpavia@caunj.org. Members of the community are invited.

'Too Much Stuff' support group meets Nov. 29

Every other Tuesday at 1 p.m., the Mental Health Association in Union County, located at 2333 Morris Avenue, Building C, Suite 206-208, invites those who collect and keep too much stuff to join a support group. Upcoming dates are: Nov. 29, and Dec. 13 and 27.

The group provides education, tips and strategies and offers a safe place for individuals with an emotional attachment to things

to discuss their challenges, with a goal to help begin the journey toward recovery. For more information, contact Anne Lopez at 973-571-4100, ext. 113, or Laverne Williams at 973-571-4100, ext. 130.

Giving Tuesday fundraising campaign ends Nov. 29

The Trinitas Health Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides vital financial support for Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, launched the "#GivingTuesday" awareness and fundraising campaign through social media and grassroots efforts to support the new Trinitas Emergency Department on Nov. 1.

The campaign will conclude on the national day, "#GivingTuesday," Nov. 29 with a live Facebook event hosted by New York Giants legend Ottis Anderson and other guest celebrities, such as Joe Piscopo. To donate funds through the Trinitas Health Foundation website portal, visit <https://www.genestorasp.com/trinitasdonations/securedGT.aspx>.

For more information about "#GivingTuesday," contact Lisa Marie Latino at 973-521-7159 or email lisamarie@hipnewjersey.com.

UNION COUNTY NOTABLE PEOPLE AND PLACES

Union County Academy for Performing Arts recognized

The Academy for Performing Arts high school has been named a 2016 National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. APA is one of the five full time, award-winning public high schools that are part of the Union County Vocational-Technical School District. The Vo-Tech campus is located at 1776 Raritan Road in Scotch Plains.

"The Blue Ribbon designation is a significant mark of distinction for APA," said Union County Freeholder Linda Carter, a liaison to the Vocational-Technical School Board of Education. "On behalf of the Freeholder Board I would like to recognize the entire Vo-Tech community — students, families, faculty and staff — for creating an environment that fosters an outstanding experience for all."

APA is one of only 10 New Jersey high schools to receive the Blue Ribbon designation in 2016. Nationwide, 329 schools were selected for the recognition.

"For all of our schools, the emphasis is on teamwork, mutual respect, and the development of the whole person as a member of the community," Peter Capodice, superintendent of schools for the Union County Vocational-Technical School District, said. "We are honored to be part of the Blue Ribbon program, and we look forward to sharing our experiences with other school districts nationwide."

The U.S. Department of Education developed the National Blue Ribbon program in 1982 as a way to recognize academic excellence among public and private schools, and to identify core elements that are most effective at enabling students to succeed. The program is designed to improve education nationwide by providing schools with an opportunity to learn and share best practices from each other.

The Department of Education nominates schools that meet Blue Ribbon standards. Nominated schools must then send in an application to be considered for the award. This year is the fifth time a Union County Vocational-Technical School has been named a Blue Ribbon School. Magnet High School was honored twice, and the Academy for Information Technology and the Union County Technical High School were each honored once.

APA has an enrollment of about 200 students who dedicate their time to learning various aspects of the performing arts; students can major in dance, theater or technical theater. They enroll in college-level courses at Kean University for their senior year.

The school has a 100 percent graduation rate, with all students attending a four-year college or university after graduation.

Among other recognitions, in 2013 Newsweek ranked APA as one of top schools nationwide. U.S. News & World Report also named APA as a one of the Best High Schools in 2015.

For more information about all Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, visit ucvts.org.

Merck Pitches in for Union County Adopt-a-Park

An group of Merck employees and interns joined the Union County Adopt-a-Park program at Michael S. Bezega Park in Rahway last month to remove litter, clear trails and cut away invasive vegetation in the park.

"The volunteers did a great job and their hard work is greatly appreciated," said Union County Freeholder Chairman Bruce H. Bergen. "This park is a good example of reclaimed open space, and volunteers can make a big difference in maintaining the ecosystem and making it attractive for everyone to enjoy."

Michael S. Bezega Park is a wetland that helps to absorb excess stormwater while providing the public with green space. It was created in 2002 as a flood-management project, after 11 homes that experienced chronic flooding were bought and removed from the floodplain of the Rahway River. State, county and local stakeholders combined resources to acquire the site and re-landscape the grounds for flood control. Adopt-a-Park volunteers helped to plant more than 20,000 native trees, shrubs and perennials.

"The native plants act as a natural buffer to filter out pollutants in the storm water," said Bergen. "By clearing out invasive species, the Merck volunteers have made a valuable contribution to the health of the park and the river."

The Merck group also spread gravel and woodchips along trails, pruned native plants, separated recyclables from other litter and removed downed tree limbs.

To join the Union County Adopt-a-Park and Adopt-a-Trail program, call the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-789-3683 or visit atucnj.org.

Eagle Scout project brings life back to tennis court

A real grass tennis court made its debut at the Deserted Village of Feltsville in the Watchung Reservation as part of the Four Centuries in A Weekend celebration across Union County Oct. 15 and 16.

The grass tennis court was popular when the village was a summer resort called "Glenside Park," from 1882 to 1916. Not used for decades, it succumbed to the forces of nature and time, but that has changed as a result of Garwood Boy Scout Nathan Kramer, who chose to restore the tennis court as his Eagle Scout project.

"Nathan did an incredible job," Union County Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski said. "All the overgrown vegetation is gone. There is new fencing so that players won't have to chase tennis balls into the woods, and there is a beautiful new gateway welcoming visitors to the court. Players will really get to experience what it was like playing on that court decades ago."

Freeholder Mohamed Jalloh honored by the NAACP

The Rahway branch of the N.A.A.C.P. hosted its 82nd Freedom Fund and Awards Banquet on Friday, Nov. 4, and honored Union County Freeholder Mohamed S. Jalloh with the Community Service Award.

"I am humbled and honored that an organization that I revere and respect has chosen to honor me for something that I believe should come naturally to everyone," Jalloh said. "The importance of service was instilled in me at a very young age, and I have continued to stress that to my family, friends and students."

The Freedom Fund event brings together community leaders to celebrate the achievements of America's oldest and largest civil rights organization and highlight the contributions of community leaders that support diversity and inclusion, social justice and the advancement of civil rights. This year's theme for the event is "Our Lives Matter, Our Votes Count."

Jalloh holds a B.S. in communication and African-American studies from Syracuse University, where he was a member of the Talented Tenth Leadership Institute and a founding member of the African American Male Congress Honors Society. He holds a law degree from the Rutgers University School of Law, where he was a member of the Association of Black Law Students and the Association of Latin-American Students.

Freeholder Jalloh is an adjunct professor at Kean University, where he has taught negotiation, debate, citizenship and public speaking. His private law practice is in Linden, where he is also the municipal prosecutor.

Jalloh is on the advisory board for Roselle Catholic High School, and has been a member of various professional and social organizations including the N.A.A.C.P. and the Garden State Bar Association.

He has received the Distinguished Community Service Award by the National Organization of Sierra Leoneans in North America and been honored by the Garden State Bar Association with the Young Lawyer Award. He is also the founder of Civic Knights, an organization dedicated to inspiring professionals to be active in service.

Freeholder Vice Chairman Sergio Granados honored

The Hispanic Law Enforcement Association of Union County formally honored Union County Vice Chairman Sergio Granados honored at its 25th Anniversary Gala on Oct. 22 at the Renaissance in Elizabeth. The organization honored Granados as a community leader for his commitment to the Union County community and his continued efforts to achieve social unity and economic equality among all residents.

"It is truly an honor to be recognized among this year's law enforcement and community leader honorees. ... Achieving diversity in law enforcement and commu-

nity leadership builds trust in the community and helps to establish effective policing by public safety officials and leaders who are sworn to serve," Granados said.

Granado was hailed as "a leader in our community who works tirelessly to unite and improve all of the communities throughout Union County. His diligence has made monumental strides throughout and even more for our association," by Louis DeMondo of the HLEAUC.

HLEAUC is a nonprofit organization comprised of law enforcement officers and community leaders from throughout the county that aims to bridge the gap between law enforcement and the Hispanic community, to reaffirm commitment to diversity in employment and to promote integrity and professionalism in law enforcement.

Granados, a native of Elizabeth and a community activist who has worked with several nonprofit and volunteer organizations, was elected to his first full term to the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholder in 2013, becoming the youngest Democratic freeholder ever elected in the state. He holds a masters degree in public administration from Kean University.

Through his work on the Freeholder Board, he has emphasized community outreach and fiscal reform, workforce initiatives that have created more than 1,000 job opportunities in 2015 alone, parks and educational improvements, and additional initiatives to benefit veterans and individuals with disabilities.

In 2015, Granados founded Moving New Jersey Forward, a community-based nonprofit group that aims to raise awareness and education efforts at the local and national level about social justice issues. In addition, Granados has served with Hispanos Unidos, the Elizabeth Lions Club, the Portuguese Instructive Social Club, the Elizabeth Portugal Day Committee, Union County Latino-American Chamber of Commerce, New Leaders Council-New Jersey & Shaping Elizabeth.

Hofstra students volunteer at the presidential debate

Lyndsey Shulman of Springfield and Nicole Buckley of Clark were among the nearly 400 students who worked as volunteers during the first presidential debate between candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump at Hofstra University on Sept. 26. Along with a monthlong series of panels discussions, lectures and performances on election issues, the volunteer opportunity provided an educational experience that inspired students to engage in the democratic process and embrace their responsibility as citizens and voters. Hofstra University is the only institution in the nation to host three consecutive presidential debates, and its recent debate was the most widely watched in American history.

Hofstra University is located in Hempstead, N.Y.

SUMMIT NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving schedule for trash pickup announced

The Summit Department of Community Services announced the schedule for trash and recycling pickups during Thanksgiving week. Curbside recycling will be picked up Friday, Nov. 25, instead of Thursday, Nov. 24. Trash pickup will follow its regular schedule and be picked up Thursday, Nov. 24. The Transfer Station will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24, and will be open Friday, Nov. 25, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 26, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.

For more information contact the Department of Community Services at 908-273-6404.

SFPL joins #GivingTuesday

The Summit Free Public Library has joined #GivingTuesday on Nov. 29, a global day of giving that harnesses the collective power of individuals, communities and organizations to encourage philanthropy and to celebrate generosity worldwide. The library will collect funds to benefit the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library, the Summit Library Foundation, the New Jersey Library Association Books for Kids program and Summit Helping Its People.

#GivingTuesday is held annually on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. In 2015, the fourth year of the movement, #GivingTuesday brought together more than 45,000 partners in 71 countries and helped raise nearly \$117 million online in the United States.

The library wishes to use the funds collected for the benefit of the Friends of the Summit Free Public Library and the Summit Library Foundation. During the past year the Friends of the Library have supported programs for children, lectures for adults, museum passes for the community and more. The Foundation contributed more than \$25,000 to the recent renovation of the Children's Room. In addition, the library would like to collect funds for the NJ Library Association's Books for Kids program, which provides books to children who may not otherwise have them. The library also wishes to share some of the funds collected to supplement the seasonal food collection program to benefit SHIP, which serves the homeless and at-risk homeless in Summit.

To donate to the Friends of the Summit Library, visit <https://summitfriendsofthelibrary.wildapricot.org/Donate>; to donate to the Summit Library Foundation, visit <http://www.summitlibrary.org/about/support-the-library#summit-library-foundation>; to donate to the NJ Library Association Books for Kids program or SHIP, mail a check made out to "Summit Free Public Library" to 75 Maple Street, Summit, NJ 07901, or bring it to the library Tuesday, Nov. 29.

SFPL seeks donated jewelry

The Friends of the Summit Free Public Library will hold a sale of donated jewelry Dec. 3 and 4. The sale is open by invitation only to members of the Friends of the Library on Dec. 3, from 10 a.m. to noon; from noon to 5 p.m., the sale is open to the public, and continues Dec. 4, from 1 to 5 p.m.

Donations of women's and men's jewelry are still being accepted. Both costume and fine jewelry are welcome, including broken pieces, findings, and single earrings. Deposit donated jewelry in the box at the circulation desk, where receipts are available. The Friends of the Summit Free Public Library is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, and all donations are tax deductible.

The Summit Free Public Library is located at 75 Maple Street. For information, call 908-273-0350 or visit www.summitlibrary.org.

Summit offers valet parking in Tier Garage downtown

In an effort to create more parking for downtown employees, the Summit Parking Services Agency will offer valet parking service in the Tier garage, 444 Springfield Ave., from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. from Monday, Nov. 28 to Friday, Dec. 26.

An employee parking permit is required and the vehicle key must be left with the valet. After 11 a.m., the valet service will be available for shoppers and other downtown visitors.

For more information, visit cityofsummit.org or call 908-522-5100.

CALENDAR

Shop small Nov. 24 to 27

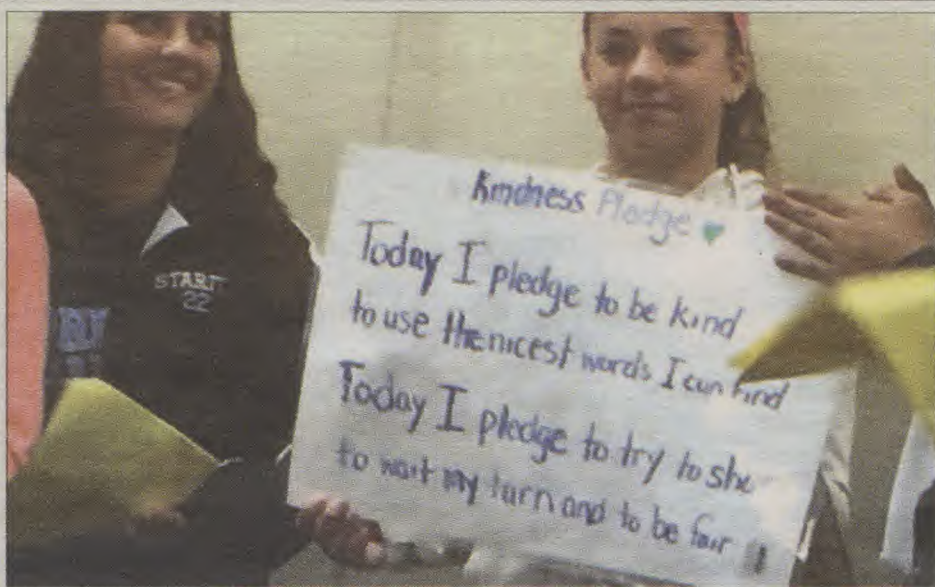
Many local Summit businesses will feature special promotions and sales on Black Friday, Nov. 26. Parking downtown will be free from Nov. 24 to 27, and Summit Downtown Inc. will set up a table at 408 Springfield Ave. to give patrons a chance to win a prize. Shoppers will pick a card on the table and win the prize that's on it. Prizes range from tote bags to gift certificates.

Old Guard meeting Nov. 29

Tom Moran, an op-ed editor from the Star Ledger, will speak to the Summit Old Guard Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the New Providence Municipal Center, 360 Elkwood Ave. A coffee hour starts at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. business meeting and a speaker.

Moran will discuss "the election of 2016," offering insights from the viewpoint of a political veteran.

Old Guard members participate in sports, bridge, hikes, trips, plays, concerts and other cultural events. Call Jim Hewitt at 908-233-5507 for more information or visit www.summitoldguard.org.



GOOD MANNERS — The Key Club, led by Ellen Zamboni, a school counselor at Arthur L. Johnson High School, presented a unit on manners to the children of the Clark Preschool on Oct. 27. The main objective of the Key Club, sponsored by Kiwanis International, is to serve the children of the world. The high school students provided hands-on experiences to teach and reinforce manners. The high school students sang about manners to the tune of the Barney song, 'I Love You,' and played other manners-related games with the younger children, ending the presentation by reciting a kindness pledge.

ELIZABETH NEWS

EPL hosts hands-on musical experience for kids on Nov. 29

The Elizabeth Public Library will host a hands-on musical experience for children on Tuesday, Nov. 29, at the LaCorte Branch, 418 Palmer St., at 5:30 p.m. After reading and listening to "The Nutcracker," Touch the Music owner Claudia Lemmerz will discuss each instrument, after which the children have the opportunity to try them all out. To register, call 908-463-1866.

KENILWORTH NEWS

Kenilworth library closes for Thanksgiving on Nov. 24, 25

The Kenilworth Public Library will be closed Nov. 24 and 25 in observance of Thanksgiving. It will reopen Saturday, Nov. 26, at 10 a.m.

SPRINGFIELD NEWS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temple celebrates its anniversary with a concert

The 60th anniversary of Temple Sha'arey Shalom was celebrated Nov. 13 with "An Afternoon of Romantic Duos for Harp and Violin," a concert featuring Christopher Collins Lee on violin and Meryn Adams on harp. The program included pieces by such composers as George Frideric Handel, Charles Camille Saint-Saens, Edward Elgar, Giacomo Puccini, Jules Massenet and Manuel de Falla, among others.

Lee, a Julliard graduate, has performed throughout the world with noted conductors and recorded for major labels. He has served as concertmaster for several orchestras, including the NJ Symphony, American Symphony and Brooklyn Philharmonic. He has received numerous award and

prizes and is currently an "official musical ambassador of the United States."

Adams has performed with several symphonies and ensembles, including the NJ Symphony, and the off-Broadway show, "Fantasticks." She has won international awards and is often heard in area churches, including St. Patrick's Cathedral.

CALENDAR

Book discussion to be Dec. 1

The Springfield Free Public Library Book Discussion Group will meet Thursday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m., at the Staff Room of the library, 66 Mountain Ave., to discuss "My Brilliant Friend," by Elena Ferrante. This is the first book in the author's best-selling series of Neopolitan novels. New members are welcome. To reserve a copy of the book, call 973-376-4930, ext. 228, or send an email to questions@sfplnj.org.



When I lived in NY, I had an American neighbor who married a Brazilian woman. I remember one day they had us over for ice cream and he was so proud of his new bride and the berry sauce she made for the ice cream. He said that in Brazil, they had a secret ingredient for their berry sauce and could I guess what it was? I couldn't, but it was butter. I should have known — butter makes everything taste better. Every time I make this I think of them. Enjoy!

Buttery Berry Sauce

Ingredients

2 cups frozen berries, defrosted, or 2 cups fresh berries of your choice
1 Tbs. sugar
1 Tbs. butte

Steps

Cook all the ingredients together over a low flame until the sugar is dissolved and the sauce reduces to a thickness of your liking.
Serve hot or cold over your favorite dessert.

Alma Schneider, a licensed clinical social worker and cooking coach, provides individual sessions, corporate presentations and group workshops helping individuals overcome their practical and psychological obstacles to cooking. Alma has appeared on the Today Show, TV Land and has presented at the TEDx Talks. She has also been featured in Family Circle Magazine and numerous other publications. A cookbook is in the works! For more information, contact her at alma@takebackthekitchen.com or visit her website at www.takebackthekitchen.com.

IN MEMORIAM

- ALFORD — Loretta, formerly of Linden; Nov. 8. Order of Eastern Star member.
- ANDERSON — William D. Jr., of Rahway; Nov. 13. Engineer, project manager.
- BARANOWSKI — Irene E., of Cranford; Nov. 2. Retired from Western Electric.
- BENIGNO — Louise A., of Springfield, formerly of Summit; Nov. 10. Mother.
- BEYE — Glenn, of Union; Nov. 15. Graphic web designer, husband, grandfather.
- CROWLEY — Charlotte, of Clark, formerly of Rahway; Nov. 11. Grandmother.
- CUPPARI — Dr. Girolamo Giovanni, of Kenilworth; Nov. 10. Honored by Vatican.
- GERBER — Marjorie, of Mountainside, formerly of Roselle; Nov. 13. Mother.
- HORNLEIN — Gloria Soriano, of Cranford; Nov. 11. Bookkeeper and accountant.
- KIKIDAKIS — Barbara, of Union; Nov. 11. Teacher, wife, mother.
- KUZMA — Juanita C., of Springfield; Nov. 11. Grandmother, 92.
- LAWSON — Brandon L., of Rahway; Nov. 1.
- LEONARD — Janice, formerly of Hillside; Nov. 15. Payroll clerk, grandmother.
- MACHRONE — William B., formerly of Union; Oct. 30. Technology journalist.
- MACK — Anthony "Tony," of Cranford; Nov. 13. Business owner, grandfather.
- MARIANINO — Cynthia D., of Springfield; Nov. 10. Grandmother, 84.
- MCINTYRE — Randolph Sr., of Roselle; Nov. 7. Company foreman, grandfather.
- NOLL — Lydia M., of Springfield; Nov. 15. PSE&G legal secretary, grandmother.
- PASEK — Zdzislaw, of Cranford; Nov. 12. Tool-and-die maker, husband, father.
- PENCZAK — Helen, of Roselle; Nov. 16. Was 90.
- PLAUT — Jonathan, of Summit; Nov. 15. Chairman of NAFTA panel, father.
- RAUDONIS — Genevieve Patricia, of Cranford, formerly of Union; Nov. 11.
- ROSS — Charles J., formerly of Union; Nov. 14. WWII vet, great-grandfather, 95.
- RUTLEDGE — Mary E., of Union; Oct. 30. Was 96.
- SABBA — Joseph M., of Clark; Nov. 10. Customer service representative.
- SAWICKI — Maryann A., formerly of Rahway; Nov. 8. Grandmother, sister.
- SCHEITINI — Florence, formerly of Summit; Nov. 10. Real estate broker, 88.
- STAWASZ — Mary Catherine, of Garwood, formerly of West Orange; Nov. 10.
- STRAIN — Rev. William H., formerly of Nutley; Nov. 9. Former rector in Summit.
- YOUNG — Florence M., formerly of Clark; Nov. 13. Licensed practical nurse.

In Memoriam is a weekly feature compiled by the news staff from various sources. We also provide the opportunity for families and funeral directors to publish a more extensive, special notice about their loved one called an obituary. These notices are published on our website immediately and then in the next edition of this newspaper. To place a paid obituary send an email to obits@thelocalsource.com or fax to 908-688-0401. Family and friends' submissions must include sender's name, address, phone and the name of the funeral home. Call 908-686-7850 for assistance.

LINDEN NEWS

Honor Society inductees announced at Linden High School

On Tuesday Nov. 1, the Linden High School Rho Kappa History Honor Society held its annual induction ceremony. The society celebrates students who have demonstrated superior work in their social studies classes and have been active participants in the the school community.

Rho Kappa was founded in 2014 and named after Linden resident John Russell Wheeler. Members of Rho Kappa are encouraged to pursue a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of all the disciplines under the social studies umbrella; they will be working throughout the year to learn more about the history of Linden and will work to bring that knowledge to the larger community.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3, 2016

EVENT: BIG INDOOR
FLEA MARKET

PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School
350 Raritan Road, Roselle

TIME: 9:00AM - 4:00PM

ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

CLASSIFIED ADS
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CALL US AT

908-686-7850

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 12:00pm on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Office is located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, NJ 07083.

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

CRIME, COURTS, CONVICTIONS

Elizabeth man indicted on attempted murder of officers

A Union County grand jury has returned a 30-count indictment against Ahmad Khan Rahami, an Elizabeth resident and federal terror suspect, who is charged with trying to kill police officers in Linden approximately two months ago, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Nov. 16.

Rahami, aka Ahmad Khan Rahimi, 28, is charged with five counts of first-degree attempted murder of a law enforcement officer, multiple counts of second-, third-, and fourth-degree aggravated assault, two second-degree weapons offenses and fourth-degree possession of a high-capacity magazine.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 19, the owner of a bar on East Elizabeth Avenue in Linden called police to report that a man — later identified as Rahami — was sleeping in the vestibule directly outside the bar's front door.

The first responding officer, a uniformed Linden patrolman, arrived at the scene moments later and began questioning Rahami, who allegedly produced a handgun and shot the officer in the torso, striking his protective vest. Additional patrol officers responding to the scene engaged Rahami in an exchange of gunfire that ended when he was shot multiple times outside an auto repair shop on East Elizabeth Avenue, several blocks west of where he was initially approached.

A handgun was reportedly recovered from Rahami at the scene, after which he was immediately transported to a local hospital for treatment. Two police officers struck by gunfire did not suffer life-threatening injuries.

Bail for Rahami was set at \$5.2 million by state Superior Court Judge Regina Caulfield. A first appearance in the case was held via video conference last month, while Rahami appeared in federal court for the first time last week.

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York and the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey both have filed federal criminal charges against Rahami for allegedly conducting and attempting to conduct bombings in New York City and various locations in New Jersey on the two days immediately prior to his arrest.

Convictions on first-degree criminal charges filed in Superior Court are commonly individually punishable by 10 to 20 years in state prison, while second-degree charges typically result in terms of five to 10 years.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Man charged in connection with Scotch Plains homicide

A Middlesex County man has been arrested and charged in connection with

the 2004 fatal shooting of a Plainfield resident in Scotch Plains, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park, Plainfield Police Director Carl Riley, and Scotch Plains Police Chief Ted Conley jointly announced Nov. 10.

David Ghigliotto, 35, of South Plainfield was arrested without incident at his home and lodged in Union County Jail, charged with first-degree murder and two second-degree weapons offenses in connection with the death of 26-year-old Taji Pile.

Shortly after 10:45 p.m. on June 22, 2004, Scotch Plains police officers responded to the 1300 block of Rahway Road on the report of a male injured in the street. Pile was rushed to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead the next day.

An investigation involving the Union County Homicide Task Force, the Plainfield Police Division, and the Scotch Plains Police Department ultimately resulted in Ghigliotto being identified as a suspect.

Bail in the case was set at \$1.5 million by state Superior Court Judge Frederic McDaniel.

Convictions on first-degree murder charges are commonly punishable by 30 years to life in state prison.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Man indicted for role in police chase, fatal accident

A Union County grand jury has returned a nine-count indictment against the truck driver who led police on a vehicle pursuit that ended in a fatal accident in Elizabeth earlier this year, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Nov. 10.

Danny Clyde Williams, 57, a.k.a. Danny Clyde Burnam, who has known addresses in California and Colorado, is charged with first-degree aggravated manslaughter, second-degree vehicular homicide, two counts of second-degree aggravated assault, four counts of second-degree eluding police, and a single count of third-degree aggravated assault.

At approximately midnight on July 9, Williams was driving a Freightliner cab-style commercial tractor in the area of First Street and Elizabeth Avenue when he allegedly struck a vehicle, according to the investigation. The uninjured driver of the struck vehicle attempted to get Williams to stop, but instead Williams allegedly headed northwest on Elizabeth Avenue.

Moments later, near the intersection of North Broad Street and Elizabeth Avenue, an off-duty Union County Police Department officer spotted Williams driving erratically and also attempted to intervene; during this encounter, the officer fired a single round from his service weapon.

Williams then drove north at a high rate of speed on North Broad Street, where he struck multiple parked and moving vehicles. When he approached the area of North Broad Street and Parker Road,

where police had set up a barricade, two Elizabeth Police Department officers also fired their service weapons multiple times, striking Williams.

Yet Williams drove through the barricade, and approximately a half-mile north of that area, near the intersection of North Avenue and Newark Avenue, collided head-on with another vehicle, killing an adult male passenger, 24-year-old Elizabeth resident Jeffrey Oakley, and injuring the two other occupants of the vehicle.

Convictions on first-degree manslaughter charges are commonly punishable by terms of 10 to 30 years in state prison, while second-degree crimes result in terms of 5 to 10 years.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. Each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Defendant sentenced to 13 years in eluding, drug case

An Essex County man who attempted to elude police three times in four months in 2012, twice being caught with significant quantities of illegal drugs, has been sentenced to 13 years in state prison for the crimes, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Nov. 10.

Ron Sanders, 35, of Irvington will be ineligible for parole during the first six years of that sentence under the terms set down by state Superior Court Judge Stuart Peim.

During the first incident, at approximately 10:35 p.m. on June 22, 2012, an Elizabeth Police Department officer on routine patrol attempted to pull over a man later identified as Sanders on Cross Street in Elizabeth for a traffic violation, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Armando Suarez, who prosecuted the case.

When the officer activated his patrol vehicle's lights and sirens, Sanders immediately accelerated and refused to stop before a brief vehicle pursuit resulted in his arrest, Suarez said. A small quantity of heroin Sanders had discarded out his window during the pursuit was recovered from the scene, while drug paraphernalia was recovered from his vehicle.

During the second incident, at approximately 12:45 p.m. on Nov. 14, 2012, Elizabeth Police Department officers spotted Sanders conducting a suspected drug transaction from his vehicle on North Broad Street. The officers immediately began a vehicle pursuit that was unsuccessful, after which 70 envelopes of cocaine and drug paraphernalia were recovered from the vehicle belonging to the person with whom Sanders had conducted the suspected drug transaction.

Five days later, on Nov. 19, 2012, Elizabeth Police Department officers on patrol in the same area again spotted Sanders in the area of Newark Avenue and Clinton Place, and they again attempted to arrest him. Yet upon their arrival, Sanders suddenly accelerated into an officer's patrol vehicle, causing the vehicle door to strike

the officer in the chest, then drove onto a sidewalk, struck a tree and sped away. A subsequent vehicle pursuit was terminated in Newark.

Sanders was arrested later that same evening as he sat on the front steps of a residence on North Broad Street in Elizabeth. Several glass vials containing cocaine were recovered from his person, while a search of his home revealed 630 envelopes containing heroin, some bearing stamps that matched the envelopes recovered five days earlier.

In February 2016, Sanders pleaded guilty to charges including second-degree eluding and three third-degree drug offenses.

Union man gets 36 years for knife, hatchet attack

A Union man who brutally attacked three people with a hatchet and knife in 2011 has been sentenced to 36 years in state prison for the crime, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced June 3.

Morgan Mesz, 30, earlier this year had been convicted of two counts of first-degree attempted murder, third-degree aggravated assault, and related weapons offenses after several hours of jury deliberation spread over two days following a nearly month-long trial before state Superior Court Judge Stuart Peim.

A little before 6 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 7, 2011, two female residents, both in their 50s, of a home on Longview Road in Union, noticed that items that had been stored in their shed had been strewn across their backyard, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Albert Cernadas, Jr., who prosecuted the case. When they went to investigate, a man later identified as Mesz emerged from the shed and used the hatchet and knife to strike and stab both women several times, causing injuries Peim repeatedly described in court Friday as "unbelievably horrendous."

"It's a miracle these ladies are still alive," Peim said, paraphrasing the trauma physician who treated the pair and testified at trial.

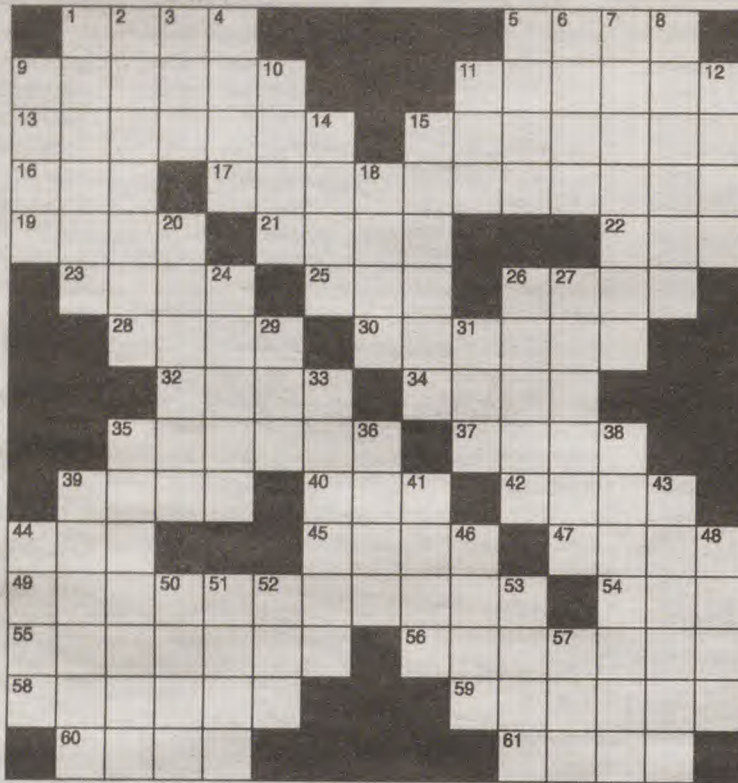
As the attack on the women was in progress, neighbor Hernan Agudelo retrieved a small souvenir baseball bat from his vehicle, and used it to subdue Mesz at the cost of several non-life-threatening stab wounds of his own, Cernadas said. Shortly thereafter, arriving police arrested Mesz at the scene.

The female victims were rushed to University Hospital in Newark for emergency medical treatment and surgery. Agudelo and both of the women later testified at trial.

Mesz was sentenced to consecutive 16-year sentences for the attempted murder charges, with at least 85 percent of both terms to be served prior to the possibility of parole, plus a four-year term on the aggravated assault charge.

See **CRIME**, Page 33

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Reverberation
5. Sonny's ex wife
9. Drives elephant
11. High-spirited tomboy
13. Plans
15. Gather materials together
16. Brew
17. Discovery child star
19. Stalk of a moss capsule
21. Capital of Yemen
22. Local area network
23. Belgrade River
25. Straight or bobby
26. Tennis player rank
28. Helped (archaic)
30. Lounges
32. Dove sounds
34. Int'l relief organization
35. Planted crops
37. Gobblers
39. Animal companions
40. Firth of Clyde city & river
42. Korean writer Mogeum
44. 007's creator Flemming
45. Ursine animal
47. Voyage
49. Pageant title
54. A woman's undergarment
55. A treeless grassy plain
56. Anarchic
58. Gun dog
59. Coat of wool
60. These (old English)
61. Somalian shilling

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Birds of prey | 27. Clysters |
| 2. Fastest land animal | 29. Leguminous fruit |
| 3. Judge's moniker (abbr.) | 31. Large tub |
| 4. Part of Uttar Pradesh | 33. Member of U.S. Navy |
| 5. Italian crooner Perry | 35. Having physical sensation |
| 6. Syringe | 36. Colors clothes |
| 7. Articles fit to eat | 38. Plural of 33 down |
| 8. Replace spent bullets | 39. Grouped by twos |
| 9. International metal polish | 41. Fence bar |
| 10. New Mexico artist town | 43. Cherry brandy |
| 11. Elf (Brit.) | 44. Pixies |
| 12. Glowing gas element | 46. Canadian flyers |
| 14. Break suddenly | 48. Emit coherent radiation |
| 15. Blue colored | 50. Lot |
| 18. Br. children's author Blyton | 51. Area units |
| 20. Limicoline bird | 52. Russian space station |
| 24. Burn plants | 53. Tools for holes |
| 26. Gulf of, Aegean Sea inlet | 57. 5th sign of the zodiac |

ANSWERS
APPEAR
IN OUR
CLASSIFIED
SECTION

HOROSCOPE

ARIES, March 21 to April 20

Tell it as you see it this week, without wavering on the value-position you're taking... but do it with awareness of your responsibility to hold space for all involved parties.

TAURUS, April 21 to May 21

To get a particular task accomplished, you may have to broker a difficult reconciliation with a person or entity unlikely to ever share your particular stake in this matter.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)

This is not the time to back away from what needs to be said, whether you're the one who absolutely has to say it or the one who'd darn well better listen.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22

The clearer idea you can give another person about everything you're nursing inside of you when you meet up again this week, the more fully they'll be able to meet you where you are.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 23

Express your intentions to (or ask for feedback from) valued participants but limit the amount of discussion to only what's pertinent to the task-at-hand. Don't mistake talk for action.

VIRGO, Aug. 24 to Sept. 22

The true answer to whatever question currently weighs on your mind will not be found by reworking the data. This truth resides in your heart. Look at what's contained therein, you'll recognize it's rather unambiguously straightforward.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

You'll be much happier if you meet all of your actual social obligations like a champ this week, but remember to reserve the rest of your energy for your own private purposes.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 22

Avoid cutting too quickly to the functional chase, dispensing with time-consuming interpersonal investments because you're trying to 'keep things moving.' Be patient with others.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21

Navigate yourself within that narrow channel between feel-good rhetoric and self-indulgent pontification, and you will effectively prove your communicative prowess this week.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 20

The key to 'cashing in' is to take the long view, as opposed to jumping in with a fiery response that's more about immediate emotional release than a judicious, self-serving endgame.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 21 to Feb. 18

Even as your present efforts require unflinching courage and boldness, you should probably describe them only in fairly prudent, discreet, unremarkable terms... at least for now.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20.

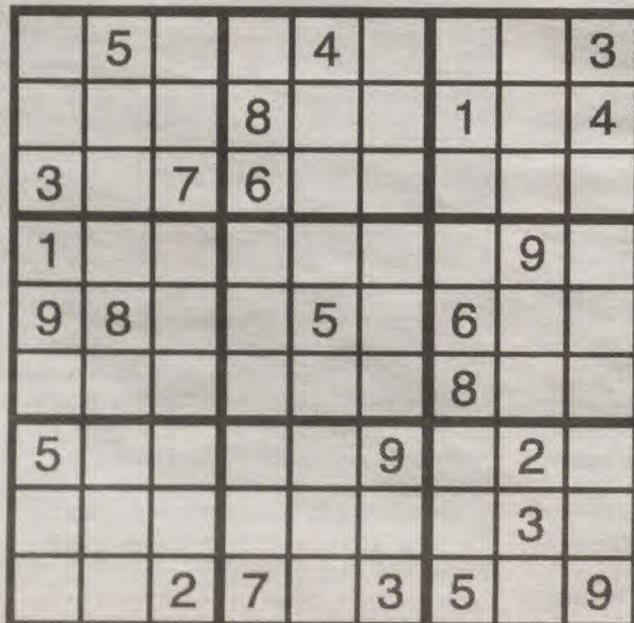
Avoid falling under anyone else's persuasive spell this week. Don't offer statements or agree to anything you wouldn't be proud to have your trustiest peeps witness and sign off on.

SUDOKU

Here's How It Works:

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: Advanced



A GREAT DONATION — Former Jets players lend a hand at the Community FoodBank of New Jersey in Hillside on Monday, Nov. 14. Tony Richardson tosses a turkey to Fred Baxter while Marty Lyons, an ESPN Jets radio analyst, unloads food donated by ShopRite. The Jets alumni teamed with ShopRite and the charity to help unload 2,300 frozen turkeys, 2,000 pounds of carrots and 2,000 pounds of potatoes donated by the supermarket for Thanksgiving.



SCHOLASTIC OLYMPICS — On Oct. 26, Nancy Pakulski and Deacon Joe Caporaso are pictured with Scholastic Olympics award-winners from St. Theresa School: Abigail Donovan, Shawna Stevens, Kiara Renteria, Sean Martin and Adam Grova. The 45th annual event was held at Roselle Catholic High School with 12 schools competing. From St. Teresa's, 16 students competed in various subjects: Marcus Carpenter and Isabella Nunes competed in spelling; Donovan and Andre Lissinna competed in religion; Eric Gonzalez and Gabriella Ronquillo competed in science; Grova and Klarisse Rivera competed in math; Christopher Hnatowski and Stevens competed in current events; Michael Huss and Renteria competed in history; Mia Lissade competed in forensics; Martin competed in art; and Christopher Mattos and Fiona Morales competed in English. Renteria won first place for history; Stevens won first place for current events; Donovan won second place for religion; Grova won second place in math; and Martin won third place in art.

UNION COUNTY NOTABLE PEOPLE AND PLACES

Summit Family Aquatic Center earns award

Summit's Family Aquatic Center has been recognized by the World Waterpark Association with their Wave Review Award for Excellence in Promotion. This year's award for a facility with fewer than 100,000 visitors was for the city's promotional work on the "World's Largest Swim Lesson." Summit won three Wave Review Awards in 2015 and one in 2014; this year's award was presented at the 2016 World Waterpark Association's annual conference in New Orleans, La.

Summit was recognized for its comprehensive marketing and promotions plan for the World's Largest Swim Lesson held Friday, June 24, in which more than 80 children participated. The city was recognized for its video production pieces promoting the event, event coverage, social media campaign and print media about the event.

The World's Largest Swim Lesson was held at the Summit Family Aquatic Center; the event was a citywide effort that included The Connection, the Summit Area YMCA, Hometowne TV, New Wave Swim School, and Summit Police, Fire and EMS.

Judith Leblein Josephs, director of the department of community programs, accepted the award on behalf of the Family Aquatic Center, stating, "this was a total team effort between all the agencies in the city that work toward teaching children to be safe in and around the water."

For more information about the Summit Family Aquatic and the Swim Lesson Program, visit www.summitcommunityprograms.com

Overlook named 100 Best Hospitals for General Surgery

Overlook Medical Center recently announced it has been recognized by Healthgrades, a consumer health care ratings group, as the only hospital in New Jersey to be named one of "America's 100 Best Hospitals for General Surgery in 2017." The hospital was also named one of "America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care and Critical Care."

In addition, Overlook Medical Center is the only hospital in New Jersey to be recognized in the top 5 percent nationally for both Neurosciences and Treatment of Stroke in 2017, which means Overlook is the only hospital in New Jersey to receive both the Healthgrades 2017 Stroke Care and Neuroscience Excellence Awards. The medical center is also recognized among the top 5 percent of hospitals in the nation for general surgery, critical care and bariatric surgery.

These achievement mean Overlook Medical Center outperforms other hospitals in the nation in these categories, according to a press release from the hospital. For its analysis, Healthgrades evaluated nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide, assessing hospital performance relative to each of 32 common conditions and procedures, as well as an evaluation of comparative outcomes in appendectomy and

bariatric surgery using all-payer data provided by 18 states.

"To be recognized as one of the best hospitals in the nation for Stroke Care, Critical Care, and especially as the only hospital in New Jersey for general surgery, demonstrates our consistent dedication to quality and safety for the patients and community we serve," Alan Lieber, president of Overlook Medical Center, said in the release.

Regarding the Bariatric Surgery Excellence Award, Lieber stated: "As a hospital that performs among the highest number of bariatric surgery cases in New Jersey, we are pleased to be recognized among the top 5 percent in the nation for outstanding quality and outcomes for this complex procedure."

For the 2017 Report to the Nation, Healthgrades compared Specialty Excellence Award recipients as a group, to all other hospitals, as a group, and found that from 2013-2015, patients treated at hospitals receiving the America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care Award have, on average a 34.4 percent lower risk of dying than if treated in hospitals that did not receive the award.

From 2013-2015, patients treated at hospitals receiving the America's 100 Best Hospitals for Critical Care Award have, on average a 30 percent lower risk of dying than if treated in hospitals that did not receive the award.

"Studies from Overlook Medical Center were published earlier this year in the journals Stroke and Neuro Critical Care, citing our hospital for achieving exceptional out-

comes in the speed and quality of stroke treatment and in reducing infection rates in the neurocritical patient population," Lieber added.

The complete Healthgrades 2017 Report to the Nation and detailed study methodology can be found at the website, www.healthgrades.com/quality.

Multicultural center is dedicated to James Kellogg

Union County Freeholder Chairman Bruce H. Bergen, Vice Chairman Sergio Granados and Freeholders Bette Jane Kowalski and Vernell Wright joined Gail Kellogg, Proceed Inc. Executive Director Teresa Soto Vega, United Way of Great Union County President & CEO James Horne Jr. and James Kellogg Jr. in cutting the ribbon officially naming the James Kellogg Multicultural Family Success Center during a dedication ceremony in Elizabeth.

Renaming the facility was in honor of the memory of James Kellogg whose J C Kellogg Foundation provided a multiyear grant that helped the Family Success Center opened its doors in August 2013.

The James Kellogg Multicultural Family Success Center, sponsored through a partnership of Union County, the United Way and Proceed Inc., works to integrate workforce development, social service and family-support strategies to assist residents in need in Elizabeth and throughout Union County.

Several members of the Kellogg family attended the dedication ceremony.

Holiday Gift Guide 2016

Gift ideas are bountiful for the gardener on your list



The gift of an indoor garden kit can make year-round gardening easy.

The holiday season is a great opportunity to give those with green thumbs the tools they need to support their hobby.

Here are a few thoughtful gift ideas to make the holidays brighter for the gardeners you love. Some can be used during the cold winter months while others will be kept until the warm weather arrives.

Handy items

Every gardener needs top-notch tools to make regular tasks more comfortable and convenient. For example, pruning is no fun with shears that are rusted or hard to handle. To upgrade your gift recipient's gardening tool box, look for a rust-resistant stainless steel blade and a no-slip rubber grip. For safety, the shears should be able to lock into place when not in use.

Gifts that keep on giving

When there's a chill in the air, consider focusing your attention on gardening gifts that can be used indoors.

One unique gift for a gardener of any level is an indoor garden kit, such as those from the Miracle-Gro AeroGarden line of gardens.

Hydroponic gardens like the AeroGarden grow fresh herbs, vegetables, and flow-

ers in water, not soil. And they actually grow five times faster than soil gardens. Automated LED lights and reminders to add water make growing fun for seasoned gardeners and easy for even those with no gardening experience.

Well-suited for a kitchen countertop -- this is a safe, healthy and easy way to grow fresh herbs and vegetables year-round.

To learn more visit AeroGarden.com.

Enjoy the results

Half the fun of gardening is reaping the benefits of one's labor. Help gardeners turn their harvest into something delicious. An herb chopper makes a great stocking stuffer. To speed up herb preparation and help gardeners avoid bruising the leaves they worked so hard to grow, look for one with multiple rounded blades.

Another great gift for herb and vegetable gardeners is a salad dressing maker that has pre-marked settings for oil, vinegar and herbs, which can take the guess work out of meal preparation during busy week nights.

With a few creative ideas, it's easy to make a gardener smile this holiday season.

— StatePoint

For the perfect gift, think: What makes the person unique?

When gift-giving has you stumped, turn to what you know: the characteristics and interests that make your recipient unique. A thoughtful gift that shows you recognize and care about the qualities that make your loved one or friend special is a sure winner every time.

For the adventurer

Trying to match the thrills an adventurer finds in his/her outrageous pursuits can be a challenge, but a certificate toward a thrilling experience may just fit the bill. Whizzing through a zip line course or taking the plunge with a sky-diving simulator are two ways to feed the need for adrenaline. With more and more cities adding these pseudo-extreme adventures to their local attraction lists, you can easily find an adrenaline-inducing activity that will excite your loved one. Tuck a gift certificate for the experience into a brochure, and if you find yourself intrigued, make the certificate amount good for an adventure for two.

For the creative one

For many, adult coloring has become a fun individual or group activity and a creative way to de-stress during the hectic holiday season. As most artists know, the tools you use to create a masterpiece make all the difference, so why not arm your loved ones with the quality tools they need to bring their artwork to life? Help them take

their coloring to the next level with the Prismacolor Adult Coloring Kit.

Featuring a variety of coloring tools, including professional artist-quality soft core colored pencils, an illustration marker, a premier kneaded eraser, sharpener and a whimsical coloring booklet, this kit has everything adult colorists need. The colored pencils deliver a smooth application, superior blendability, subtle gradation and rich color saturation that will make their coloring pop.

For the techie

Whether they're waiting in line at 5 a.m. for the latest gadget release or scoping out the newest trends in tech, finding presents to gift your tech-obsessed friends and family is no easy feat. To determine the type of gift that suits them best, think about other activities they enjoy. For avid runners and fitness buffs, consider a personalized fitness activity tracker or smart watch. On the hunt for a gift for the music lover in your life? Maybe a portable speaker or pair of new headphones would catch their eye. If all else fails, a gift certificate to their favorite store is always a good option.

When it comes to giving meaningful gifts, focus on personal traits and you'll quickly transform an empty list into one filled with possibilities for making this holiday season joyful and bright.



Adult coloring classes are growing in popularity and special pens and coloring books are now coming on the market.

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Holiday Gift Guide 2016

Books for everyone on your list this holiday season

No matter who is on your list this holiday season, great books make for great gifts.

Here are five titles to consider giving knowledge-seekers to enjoy during the season, or as stocking stuffers:

Gem lovers

Produced in association with the Smithsonian Institution, "Gem" is a visual guide to precious and semiprecious stones, organic gems, and precious metals, and features more than 1,000 specially commissioned images. "Gem" reveals the science, natural history, mythology, and true stories behind the most celebrated gems and jewel-laden artifacts, including the Hope Diamond and Queen Elizabeth's pelican brooch.

Readers can learn about the exquisite jewelry of cultures around the world, find out what characteristics are needed for a record-breaking gem, and follow the history of the world's most famous jewelry houses and designers.

Star gazers

Chart the wonders of the cosmos with "The Stars." Packed with three-dimension-

al artworks of each constellation and new imagery from the Hubble Space Telescope, ground-based observatories and more, this guide features fascinating objects like glittering star-birth nebulae and supermassive black holes.

The position, size and color of every night-sky object are revealed and a three-dimensional model of the celestial sphere that surrounds Earth charts all 88 constellations. From the Big Bang to the search for extraterrestrial life, astronomy and cosmology topics are covered in an easy-to-digest visual format.

Automotive enthusiasts

Classic car collectors and enthusiasts will enjoy "Classic Car," a visual guide created in association with the Smithsonian Institution. Featuring the most iconic classics of every decade from the 1940s to the 1980s from the Aston Martin DB5 to the Chevrolet Corvette, the book offers detailed profiles of trademark models, as well as the famous designers and manufacturers behind them, featuring more than 1,300 photographs and two prints suitable for framing.



Photo by BillionPhotos.com-Fotolia.com

Inventors

Readers can build and explore 28 kid-safe experiments, crafts and activities with "Maker Lab." Created in association with the Smithsonian Institution and supporting STEAM education initiatives, the book will get young inventors' wheels turning, making science fun.

Explaining science through photographs, facts and real-world examples, each activity is appropriate for kids ages 8 to 12 years old. Requiring only household materials, young makers can build an

exploding volcano, make bath fizzies, construct a solar system and more.

Budding builders

Encourage builders to look at their LEGO bricks in new, creative ways with "365 Things to do with LEGO Bricks," an interactive book featuring imaginative play and building ideas, from projects that take just a few minutes to those that keep one occupied for hours.

Activities include building a LEGO pet, challenging friends to make the tallest tower while working against the clock, and organizing a LEGO bricks treasure hunt.

American Girl fans

Offer American Girl fans a treasured bookshelf addition with "American Girl: Ultimate Visual Guide," which includes images of every BeForever and Girl of the Year doll, an expanded section on the TrulyMe dolls and a detailed timeline of the company. Readers can learn about favorite dolls, historical eras, outfits, pets, accessories and more.

This holiday season, give a gift that inspires endless wonder.

— StatePoint

Consider gifts that can help lower a person's stress level

On top of the everyday stress of life, the holiday season can be one of the most hectic times of year. Unfortunately, all this additional stress can take its toll on the body, mind and soul. For those you love, make the holidays and beyond brighter with these gift ideas that help promote rest and relaxation, while alleviating tension, stress and anxiety.

Yoga class

Yoga is associated with a wealth of health benefits, including stress reduction. For seasoned yogis, consider assisting loved ones with their practice. Great yoga accessories and gear, or a gift certificate to a favorite studio would be much appreciated.

For newbies, you might want to start smaller with a pass to one or two classes.

Any time massage

"The medical community increasingly views massage as a necessary tool for achieving optimal health, not just as an extravagance," says Randi N. West, a licensed massage therapist. "And everyone — from desk workers to active individuals to moms who often report back pain from lifting children — can benefit from massage therapy in terms of injury prevention and improved exercise performance."

Research suggests the benefits of massage include reduced muscle tension, stress and pain; and an increase in serotonin and dopamine.

But regular massage therapy can be expensive and time-consuming. Give a gift that keeps on giving with an at-home massage cushion that can be used daily as a self-care tool. For a stylish option that won't get buried in the closet and forgotten, check out M Cushion, which looks like a stylish designer pillow, but actually offers four shiatsu massage nodes, soothing heat and comforting memory foam.

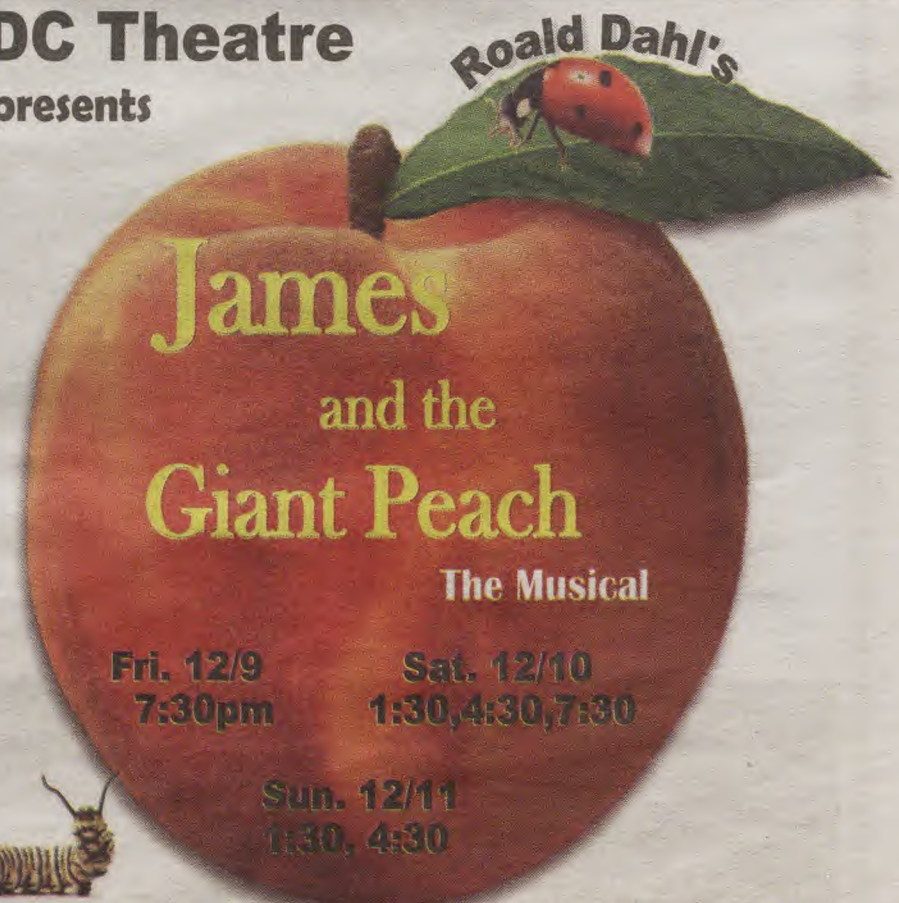
"I use it to relieve my body aches after a busy day providing massage services to my clients," says West. More information can be found at mcushion.com.

Meal-kit planners

Busy work weeks can mean scrambling around in the evening to put dinner on the table. Your gift recipients may find themselves resorting to pizza delivery more often than they like. To help take the stress out of healthy weekday dinners, consider gifting a meal-kit plan to someone you love.

— StatePoint

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Holiday Gift Guide 2016

Three ways to get resourceful this year with gift wrapping



Wrapping a gift in two different style prints can add flair to the package.

After spending hours searching for the perfect gift, it's only fitting that the wrapping is just as special as the gift itself. Luckily, elaborate wrapping doesn't have to be pricey — you can easily find ways to personalize your gift with what you have left over from last year and everyday items.

- Use what's around you. You don't have to buy fancy, expensive wrapping paper to make a gift special. Use household items like newspapers, paper bags and even magazines for unconventionally wrapped gifts that still give off a wow-factor. If you have extra bakers twine, use it to create a shabby-chic bow and adorn the present with a small sprig from your Christmas tree. These household items can give gifts a handmade and homey touch that friends and family will love.

- Don't let anything go to waste. Get the most out of gift wrapping by using every last bit of your supplies. If you're at the end of two rolls of different wrapping paper, use the scraps to create a perfectly mismatched present by covering 2/3 of the gift with one paper and the remainder with the other. Use Scotch GiftWrap Tape where both papers meet to create a seam that

blends flawlessly into the wrapping paper and top with a bow. If you have leftover birthday paper, using it for a holiday gift is no problem. Flip the paper inside out to use the white side, then simply adorn the gift with decorative tapes to add pizzazz, texture and dimension.

- Accessorize and personalize. Embellish your present with personal touches and accessories to make it stand out. There's no need to go out and buy fancy bows and ribbons when you can turn everyday items into personalized decorations directly related to the gift itself — like decorating with crayons if you're giving a coloring book. For quick, DIY monogramming you can do at home, simply use stencils to cut out the letters of your recipient's name and tape them directly onto the box. If you're worried about choosing the perfect card, save your money and easily create your own out of cardstock or construction paper for a special touch and personalized message. Whichever way you choose, the time and care you put into personalizing your gift will not go unnoticed.

Find more resourceful gift wrapping tips at ScotchBrand.com.

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Holiday Gift Guide 2016



Gifts all foodies will love

Whether one aspires to culinary greatness or prefers whipping up cozy family meals, all cooks appreciate quality kitchen equipment. Here are some ways you can beef up your kitchen in time to prepare large holiday feasts, and some ideas to help you shop for the chefs and foodies in your life.

High-quality cookware

Go-to staples need to be high-quality and highly functional. A fry pan, for instance, should heat evenly, be very responsive to temperature, and ideally be ergonomic.

While great cookware such as this usually comes with a premium price tag, you can usually capitalize on good deals at this time of year. For example, Hammer Stahl, an American made kitchenware brand known for quality and performance, is currently offering a two-piece set of stainless steel multi-clad fry pans – 8.5-inch and 10.5-inch – with a lifetime warranty at half the regular price, giving holiday shoppers an opportunity to affordably stock up kitchens with premier go-to pans. Great for frying, sauteing, searing and browning, their flat bottoms and curved sides make tossing and flipping food easy.

Immersion blender

Space-saving, versatile and affordable, an immersion blender is perfect for any cook, however many people find their kitchens without one. Perfect for creating smooth purees, soups, and pesto, they also require less cleanup than full-size blenders or food processors, something to keep in mind when prepping a complicated holiday feast, or looking to simplify weeknight dinners.

Professional-quality cutlery

Good knives are the foundation of a well-equipped kitchen. No other tool will improve the joy of cooking quite like a good chef's knife. A dull, awkward knife is not only a hassle to use, but dangerous too.

Both advanced chefs and beginner cooks will benefit from top-quality high-carbon, stainless steel knives, such as the new Hammer Stahl 6-inch chef knife and the 5.5-inch Santoku knife. Made in the tradition of the great German knife makers, the handles are ergonomically designed with a comfortable grip to reduce fatigue. All Hammer Stahl knives are heirloom quality and guaranteed for life. For more information, visit hammerstahl.com/holidaygiftguide.

"These are not intimidating knives. A shorter blade gives you more control over the knife, and is excellent for most basic tasks like slicing vegetables or chopping fresh herbs," said Bobby Griggs, vice president, Hammer Stahl.

— StatePoint

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Holiday Gift Guide 2016



Scented candles can forever evoke a certain mood or time of year.

Mix traditional decorations with hints of modern flair

We all love our holiday traditions, and that includes the way we deck the halls — from special ornaments to favorite festive wreaths. However, you may be looking for ways to revamp the tried-and-true look, especially when entertaining friends and family.

Here are some unique ideas for adding a twist to your usual holiday decorating routine.

Mix and match

Add dynamism and vitality to your home by infusing older, vintage elements that you've had and enjoyed for years with more modern pieces that speak to you today.

You can also breathe new life into these items by using them differently this year — for example, moving your favorite garland from the bannister to the mantel, or hanging a wreath on a wall instead of a door.

Think scent

When many people plan their holiday decorations, they start with visuals. Why not try mixing it up by focusing on fragrance first? Scent is closely associated with memory, so adding holiday fragrances to your home allows you to both build new memories for future seasons and reflect on happy times in the past. For inspiration, draw on the vibrant spirit and brisk weather that the holidays bring.

Use candles to add a finishing touch to a holiday gathering. They also make for a great host or hostess gift.

Check out the new holiday fragrance lineup from Yankee Candle, which offers both classic favorites, as well as new modern takes on traditional themes. Fragrances include "All is Bright," a blend of citrus on warm musk, "Bubbly Pomegranate," a mix of juicy berries, pomegranate and citrus, "Alpine Martini," a tart concoction spiked with mountain berries and fresh snipped pine, and "Christmas Thyme," a lemongrass and thyme scent that's mingled with sandalwood and musk. For holiday inspiration, visit www.YankeeCandle.com.

Get cozy

Incorporate wintry throw pillows, quilts and blankets into living areas. Fabrics like table runners and tapestries can also add warmth around the house. Crank up the fireplace. Be sure that all your efforts work to combat the brisk season with a touch of coziness.

Beautiful tablescapes

When hosting guests, don't just set the table, create an impressive and unforgettable tablescape. One sleek and modern way to do so is to add candles, tumblers, vases, ornamental table toppers, fresh greens and seasonal flowers.

Tumbler candles, such as those from Yankee Candle, come in various sizes and designs, so you can stagger the heights for eye-catching appeal. Consider using their Pure Radiance candles that feature a crackling LumiWick, creating a soothing sound that evokes a fireside.

This season, add fragrance, beauty, and brightness to your home with unique twists on traditional holiday themes.

— StatePoint

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CRIME, COURTS, CONVICTIONS

(Continued from Page 23)

Fugitive wanted in Plainfield murder apprehended

A fugitive charged with beating a man to death in Plainfield in 2007 before fleeing the country has been apprehended in Guatemala following a search involving a dozen municipal, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park, FBI-Newark Special Agent in Charge Timothy Gallagher, U.S. Marshal for the District of New Jersey Juan Mattos Jr., and other representatives of those agencies jointly announced Nov. 1.

Welder "Dario" Morente Dubon, 30, formerly a resident of Plainfield, was arrested late last week in San Francisco El Alto, Guatemala, by FBI agents and members of the Guatemalan police of the Transnational Anti-Gang Unit, after investigators received information that he was living and working in the western-central area of the country.

On March 29, 2007, Dubon was working at a tire shop on the 1600 block of South Second Street in Plainfield when 23-year-old Joseph Tremarco of the Millington section of Long Hill, the principal of his own scrap metal salvage business, arrived there to conduct a transaction with him, according to the investigation.

Following an argument, Dubon allegedly beat Tremarco to death with a blunt instrument, moved the victim's body into his own pickup truck, and parked the vehicle on a residential street in neighboring North Plainfield before fleeing the area.

Tremarco's body was discovered the next day. Dubon was subsequently charged with first-degree murder, and a warrant was issued for his arrest. However, investigators believe that he had already fled to Central America.

An extensive investigation and search for Dubon ultimately grew to also leverage the resources of the U.S. Marshals Service, the FBI's Newark office, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. State Department, U.S. Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Attorney's Office for the

District of New Jersey, New Jersey State Police, Union County Sheriff's Office, Plainfield Police Division, North Plainfield Police Department, Long Hill Police Department, and Keyport Police Department, in addition to the Diplomatic Security Service and the Guatemalan National Police.

In September 2009, the case was profiled on the television program "America's Most Wanted," and in October 2011, a federal arrest warrant was issued for Dubon in U.S. District Court, charging him with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. The New Jersey State Police also added Dubon to its 12 Most Wanted list of fugitives.

Investigators received numerous tips of possible sightings of Dubon from areas across the United States and in multiple other countries, with investigators traveling to many areas to follow up on leads.

Prosecutor Park thanked members of all assisting agencies in announcing the arrest.

"The apprehension of Mr. Dubon is a testament to the power of cooperation in law enforcement and the unbreakable tenacity of the individual investigators who simply refused to let the tragic death of a young man ever be forgotten," Park said. "We hope that this news offers some semblance of closure to Joseph's family and friends."

Dubon is expected to be extradited to New Jersey during the coming months to face the charges against him. Anyone with information about this matter, or anyone who may have come into contact with Dubon since March 29, 2007, is urged to contact Detective Danika Ramos at 908-451-7739.

Convictions on first-degree murder charges are commonly punishable by 30 years to life in state prison. These criminal charges are mere accusations. Each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Arrest made in Elizabeth homicide after investigation

An Elizabeth resident has been arrested and charged with fatally shooting a neighbor early Oct. 31, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Nov. 1.

Jimmy Kearney, 18, is charged with first-degree felony murder, first-degree murder, first-degree robbery and two related weapons offenses in connection with the death of 61-year-old Robert Rouse.

Elizabeth Police Department patrol units responded to the 400 block of Walnut Street in Elizabeth shortly before 6 a.m. Monday to find the body of Rouse, who was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Armando Suarez, who is prosecuting the case.

Kearney was identified as a suspect and arrested without incident late in the afternoon of Oct. 31, Suarez said. He was lodged in Union County Jail on \$750,000 bail set by state Superior Court Judge Regina Caulfield.

Anyone with information about this matter still is being urged to contact Homicide Task Force Sgt. Jose Vendas at 908-358-3048 or Detective Juan Velarde at 908-418-7066.

Felony murder charges are commonly punishable by 30 years to life in state prison. These criminal charges are mere accusations. Each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Hillside man is charged with killing girlfriend

A Hillside man has been arrested and charged with killing his girlfriend, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Oct. 28.

Emmanuel Dike, 22, is charged with a single count of first-degree murder in connection with the death of 20-year-old Christa Capers of Jersey City.

Hillside Police Department officers responding to a report of an unresponsive female found Capers in an apartment on the 1500 block of Schley Street on Thursday, Oct. 20, according to the investigation. She was pronounced dead at the scene.

An investigation involving the Union County Homicide Task Force, Hillside Police Department and the Union County Sheriff's Office Crime Scene Unit resulted

in Dike being identified as a suspect in the case. Following an intensive multiday search spanning multiple states, Dike's vehicle was located Thursday by a Hillside police officer at a hotel on Routes 1&9 in Newark, after which he was taken into custody. Bail for Dike was set at \$1 million by state Superior Court Judge Frederic R. McDaniel.

The investigation into the death of Capers is ongoing. Anyone with information about this matter, or anyone who had any contact with Dike during the last week, is being urged to contact Homicide Task Force Sgt. Johnny Ho at 908-403-8271 or Detective Brendan Sullivan at 908-966-0999.

Convictions on first-degree murder charges are commonly punishable by 30 years to life in state prison. These criminal charges are mere accusations. Each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Man arrested for robbery and aggravated assault

Months of detective work by a member of the Union County Sheriff's Office Fugitive Unit resulted in the arrest Aug. 9 of a man wanted for first-degree armed robbery, burglary and aggravated assault in Union five months ago, Sheriff Joseph Cryan announced Aug. 10.

Raymond Oliver of Irvington is accused of slaying a 35-year-old woman after forcing his way into a Chilton Place residence on March 9, and demanding money.

According to Union Township police, Oliver, 53, fled the residence with \$100 after cutting the victim with a box cutter. The woman received 13 stitches on her left hand. At the time, there was a warrant out for Oliver for failure to pay child support. Sheriff's Investigator George Gyure tracked Oliver to an address in Irvington, where he and members of the United States Marshals Service located the suspect. Oliver was arrested without incident and transported to the Union County Jail where he is being held without bail.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HILLSIDE

SHERIFF'S SALE

Sheriff's File Number: CH-16004781
Division: CHANCERY
Docket Number: F2721713
County: Union
Plaintiff: NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC
VS
Defendant: ROGERIO SILVA, MRS. ROGERIO SILVA, HIS WIFE, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Sale Date: 12/14/2016
Writ of Execution: 07/22/2016
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH-TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
The property to be sold is located in the TOWNSHIP OF HILLSIDE, County of Union, and State of NJ.
It is commonly known as 139 VALLEY VIEW RD., HILLSIDE, NJ 07205
It is known and designated as Block 1305, Lot 15.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The dimensions are approximately 65 feet wide by 115 feet long.
Nearest cross street: Blackburn Road
Prior lien(s): Sewer due in the amount of \$276.90.
*Subject to any unpaid taxes, municipal liens or other charges, and any such taxes, charges, liens, insurance premiums or other advances made by plaintiff prior to this sale. All interested parties are to conduct and rely upon their own independent investigation to ascertain whether or not any outstanding interest remain of record and/or have priority over the lien being foreclosed and, if so the current amount due thereon.
Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.
THE SHERIFF HEREBY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN THIS SALE WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION.

PUBLIC NOTICE

JUDGMENT AMOUNT: \$372,539.77***Three Hundred Seventy-Two Thousand Five Hundred Thirty-Nine and 77/100***
Attorney: STERN LAVINTHAL & FRANKENBERG, LLC
105 EISENHOWER PARKWAY - SUITE 302
ROSELAND NJ 07068
973-797-1100
Sheriff: Joseph Cryan
A full legal description can be found at the Union County Sheriff's Office
Total Upset: \$381,271.63***Three Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Two Hundred Seventy-One and 63/100***
November 17, 23, December 1, 8, 2016
U46549 UNL (\$150.92)

HILLSIDE

SHERIFF'S SALE

Sheriff's File Number: CH-16004800
Division: CHANCERY
Docket Number: F04022115
County: Union
Plaintiff: ISERVE RESIDENTIAL LENDING, LLC
VS
Defendant: YAKOUBOU IDRISOU, HALISATON KOENZO, ABOUDOU S. OUMOROU, BASSAROU OUKPEDJO, MARILYN CASTRO
Sale Date: 12/14/2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

Writ of Execution: 05/11/2016
By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH-TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.
MUNICIPALITY: Hillside Township
COUNTY: UNION STATE OF N.J.
STREET & STREET NO: 218 Winans Avenue
TAX BLOCK AND LOT: BLOCK: 422 LOT: 20
DIMENSIONS OF LOT: 120.00' x 40.00'
NEAREST CROSS STREET: 100' southeasterly line of Common Terrace
SUPERIOR INTERESTS (if any):
HILLSIDE TWP - TAXES - QTR3 2016 holds a claim for taxes due and/or other municipal utilities such as water and/or sewer in the amount of \$2,174.54 as of 09/15/2016.
HILLSIDE SEWER DEPT. holds a claim for taxes due and/or other municipal utilities such as water and/or sewer in the amount of \$143.00 as of 09/15/2016.
The Sheriff hereby reserves the right to adjourn this sale without further notice through publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Surplus Money: If after the sale and satisfaction of the mortgage debt, including costs and expenses, there remains any surplus money, the money will be deposited into the Superior Court Trust Fund and any person claiming the surplus, or any part thereof, may file a motion pursuant to Court Rules 4:64-3 and 4:57-2 stating the nature and extent of that person's claim and asking for an order directing payment of the surplus money. The Sheriff or other person conducting the sale will have information regarding the surplus, if any.
JUDGMENT AMOUNT: \$224,543.67***Two Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Forty-Three and 67/100***
Attorney: POWERS KIRN - COUNSELORS
728 MARNE HWY
P.O. BOX 848 - SUITE 200
MOORESTOWN NJ 08057
(856)802-1000
Sheriff: Joseph Cryan
A full legal description can be found at the Union County Sheriff's Office
Total Upset: \$232,872.68***Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Two and 68/100***
November 17, 23, December 1, 8, 2016
U46551 UNL (\$145.04)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Additional Work and its Necessity: Increases in material and labor

Original Price: \$993,500.50

Total of Change Order #1: \$25,564.50

Total of Previous Change Orders: \$0.00

Total Contract to Date: \$1,019,065.00

Rosalía M. Licatése, City Clerk

Dated: 11/14/16
U47193 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$14.70)

SUMMIT

CITY OF SUMMIT
ZONING BOARD
OF ADJUSTMENT CITY HALL
512 SPRINGFIELD AVENUE
SUMMIT, NEW JERSEY 07901
UNION COUNTY
APPLICATION ZB-16-1841

NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS AND OTHERS ENTITLED TO SERVICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, that the undersigned, Ali Enterprises, LLC has made Application to the City of Summit Zoning Board of Adjustment for property located at 6 River Road, Summit, New Jersey and further known and designated as Block 201, Lot 12 on the Tax Map of the City of Summit, Union County, New Jersey. The subject property is located in the L-I Light Industrial Zoning District. The Applicant is requesting Board approval to remove the existing service garage and to construct a 2,560 square foot convenience store in the approximate location of the service garage. The Applicant also seeks to modify the existing parking configuration and realign the existing fuel islands. Other site improvements will include parking, paving, landscaping, lighting, buffering and other normal site amenities. The Applicant will seek the following relief:

1. Preliminary and Final Site Plan approval pursuant to the Land Use Development Ordinances of the City of Summit as well as the Municipal Land Use Law.

2. Any and all use, bulk, dimensional and/or accessory variance relief or exceptions from the Land Use Development Ordinances of the City of Summit and the Municipal Land Use Law which may be required including, but not limited to, the following:

a) A Use Variance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d.(2) in that gas stations are not expressly a permitted use in the L-I Zone and, therefore, an expansion of a non-permitted use is being requested.

b) A Use Variance pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70d.(1) in that this Application also includes a new principal use, namely, a convenience store which is not permitted in the L-I Zone.

c) Proposed rear yard setback of 8.9 feet where pursuant to the DRO Schedule of Bulk Regulations a minimum of 25 feet shall be provided.

d) An accessory canopy structure 18.29 feet in height where pursuant to DRO 35-4.2-2C.1 no accessory structure shall exceed 15 feet in height.

e) An accessory canopy structure in the front yard where pursuant to DRO 35-4.2-2C.2 no accessory structure shall be permitted in the front yard.

f) Gas pumps 17.5 feet from the street right-of-way where pursuant to DRO 35-4.4-2B.8 gasoline devices shall be at least sixty (60) feet from the street right-of-way-line.

g) Proposed driveway widths of 40 and 39 feet where pursuant to DRO 35-4.4-2B.3 driveway widths shall be at least 18 feet wide but no more than 25 feet wide.

h) Proposed 14 total on site parking spaces where pursuant to DRO 35-5.2-15F.1, a total of 17 parking spaces are required.

i) No loading space is provided where pursuant to DRO 35-5.2-15H.1 retail stores up to 20,000 square feet in area shall have at least 1 off street loading space. The Applicant also identifies a variance for improper load space dimensions which is subsumed into this variance.

j) Proposed angled parking in a two-way parking lot where pursuant to DRO 35-5.2-15L.1 a one-way drive aisle having a minimum of twenty (20) feet shall be provided for parking having an angle of 60 degrees.

k) Applicant requests several dimensional variances for signage with regard to the freestanding sign, the building mounted sign, directional signs, and arrow entry signs. Variance relief is requested with regard to required maximum sign area; maximum sign height; minimum setback from the curb line; minimum setback from the side boundary line; and required maximum letter/symbol height size. The specific dimensions regarding signage can be found on the Site Plans which are a matter of public record.

l) The maximum height for all light fixtures shall not exceed 15 feet, whereas the proposed canopy light fixtures are set at 15.5 feet.

The Applicant may also apply for such other variance relief, exceptions, waivers, permits, approvals or licenses that are deemed necessary or appropriate by the Applicant or the Zoning Board, and which may arise during the course of the hearing process.

The public hearing for this matter has been scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016, at 7:30 p.m. or as soon thereafter as it may be heard, at City Hall, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit New Jersey 07901. Any person affected by this Application will have an opportunity to present any comments to the proposed development, however, the Board reserves the right to exclude irrelevant or repetitious testimony. All

PUBLIC NOTICE

documents relating to this Application may be inspected by the public at the Board Office, City Hall, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey during normal business hours.

ALI ENTERPRISES, LLC
BY: Louis P. Rago, Esq.
U47161 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$61.74)

SUMMIT

NOTICE OF CONTRACT AWARDED

The Common Council of the City of Summit has awarded a contract under the procedures for Competitive Contracting pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-4.1 et seq. This contract and the resolution authorizing it are available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk.

Awarded to: Park Plus Valet Services, Inc.

For the Period: January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2017

Services: Valet Parking Concession - Broad Street East Lot

Cost: 6-115 cars: Per Car: \$9.00/City \$1.00/Vendor
116+ cars: Per Car: \$5.50/City \$4.50/Vendor

Rosalía M. Licatése, City Clerk

Dated: 11/14/16
U47192 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$13.23)

SUMMIT

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Summit, New Jersey, will hold a hearing on Monday, December 5, 2016 at 7:30 PM in the City Hall Council Chambers, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ, to consider an application affecting the property whose street address is known as 3 Lorraine Road, Block 1204, Lot 5.

The conditions affecting this property and the reason for the application being heard are as follows: additions to a single family residence require variances for Floor Area Ratio, Combined Side Yard Setback, Building Coverage and garage doors facing street.

Applicant requests any other waivers or variances as may be required by the Board or its professionals at the time of the hearing.

The application forms and supporting documents are on file in the Department of Community Services, 512 Springfield Avenue, and may be inspected on any workday during business hours, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and participate therein, subject to the rules of the Board.

Jay Flamme
Applicant

U46804 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$15.68)

SUMMIT

NOTICE OF HEARING

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Summit, New Jersey, will hold a hearing on December 5, 2016 at 7:30pm in the City Hall Council Chambers, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey, to consider an application affecting the property whose street address is known as 738A Springfield Avenue, Block 2901, Lot 12.

The conditions affecting this property and the reason for the application being heard are as follows: Petitioners wish to construct first and second floor additions. First floor addition to construct two car garage and relocate HVAC units. Second floor addition to modify kitchen and construct a new breakfast room and roof deck. Requesting ratification of pre-existing minimum lot area and lot width. Requesting variance for minimum side yard set back. Requesting expansion of pre-existing, non-conforming maximum lot coverage. Requesting variance for floor to area ratio.

Applicant requests any other waivers or variances as may be required by the Board or its professionals at the time of the hearing.

The application forms and supporting documents are on file in the Department of Community Services, 512 Springfield Avenue, and may be inspected on any workday during business hours, 8:30am to 4:00pm. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and participate therein, subject to the rules of the Board.

Applicants: Adel Botros & Carolyn Stramka
U47117 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$18.62)

SUMMIT

PUBLIC NOTICE
SUMMIT HOUSING AUTHORITY
CHANGE OF MEETING DATE

Please be advised that the meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of the City of Summit originally scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2016 has been RESCHEDULED to Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 5:00pm to be held in the Community Room - Vito A. Gallo Building, 12 Chestnut Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. Formal Actions will be taken.

Joseph M. Billy, Jr.
Executive Director
11/17/2016

U47333 OBS November 23, 2016 (\$9.80)

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table with columns: bldg, address, ltypes

Table with column: ltypes

Table with column: name

Table with columns: address1, total

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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SPORTS

THIS IS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

It used to be - from 1975-1997 - that when you made the playoffs you were automatically one win away from playing for a state championship.

Why?

Because each section in the state included only the top four teams based on the power points system at the time.

When the NJSIAA voted to expand the sections to eight teams beginning in 1998 - so that no 7-1 teams would fall short after not having enough power points - that added a round.

Now you have to win two playoff games - there are some exceptions - to get to the championship game in your section.

The teams that win one game and fall short in the second also fall one game short of playing for a state championship, which is a goal most teams set out to achieve once official practice commences in the middle of August.

Two of those teams this past weekend - Elizabeth Friday night and Union Saturday - saw their playoffs end on the road.

Elizabeth actually had a touchdown lead in its game before falling at Bridgewater-Raritan 23-9 at John Basilone Memorial Field.

Union was not as fortunate, although the Farmers outscored host Westfield by seven points in the second half before dropping a 21-7 decision at Gary Kehler Stadium.

For the seniors on both Elizabeth and Union, the emotion of realizing that the teams they played on fell just short of reaching a championship game can be a lot to deal with.

For Elizabeth, the season ended, with the Minutemen finishing 5-6.

For Union, the Farmers still have a game on Thanksgiving at home vs. holiday rival Linden.

When you're a senior and something comes to an end, especially in defeat, it hits you hard. Kudos to all the seniors who came up just a bit short.

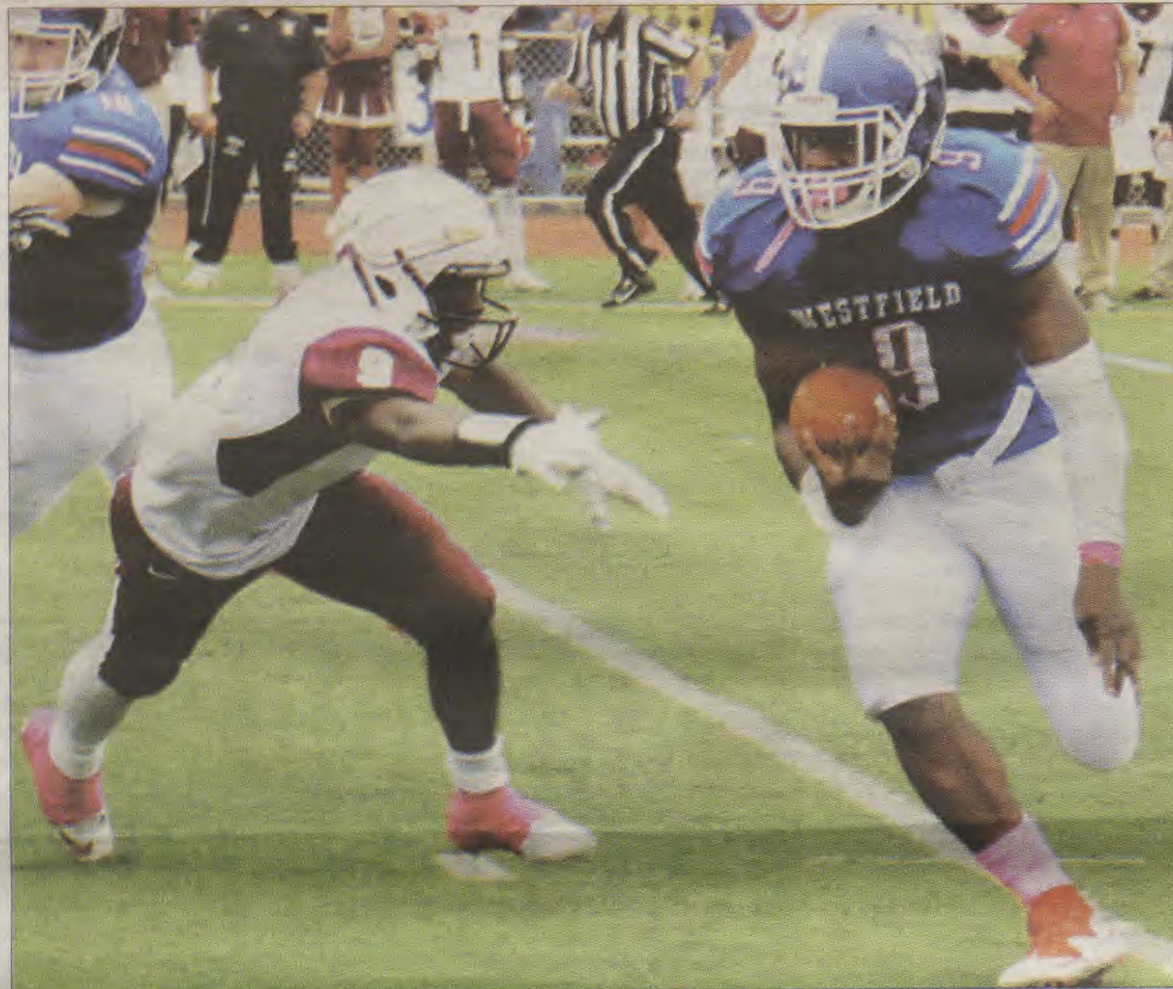


Photo courtesy of Gene Nann

Union and Westfield clashed twice this season, with the Blue Devils winning both times, including last Saturday's North 2, Group 5 semifinal at Gary Kehler Stadium. Westfield defeated Union at home in last year's and this year's N2, G5 semis and also downed Union at home in the regular season this year. Union will host Westfield next year for the first time since 2012 when Union won 35-23 at Cooke Memorial Field. Union won at Westfield 25-14 in 2013 and then the teams did not play each other in the regular season in 2014 and 2015.

Union stopped once more by a better Westfield team

Can clinch winning season on Thanksgiving

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD — The host Blue Devils employed what I will call the "007 Offense" in taking down Union County football rival Union once again.

You could say that Westfield likes its Martini Shirk, not stirred.

That's because it was the air show of senior quarterback Philip Martini throwing the ball down field to senior wide receiver Jack Shirk that proved Union's undoing.

Three times Martini connected with Shirk for touchdowns in the first half - covering 19, 65 and 68 yards.

Those scores stood up as Union County's best defense nearly pitched a shutout en route to a commanding 21-7 win.

Second-seeded Westfield's victory over sixth-seeded Union in Saturday's North 2, Group 5 semifinal played at Gary Kehler Stadium might not have been a Blue Devils masterpiece, but it was good enough to get Westfield back to the N2, G5 final.

Westfield, which improved to 10-0 and will next move to 11-0 with an expected win at Plainfield on Thanksgiving, will once again take on an 11-0 Bridgewater-Raritan team in the final.

The game is scheduled to be played Saturday, Dec. 3 at 1 p.m. at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford.

Westfield held on to defeat BR 10-7 at MetLife on a Thursday night in last year's championship game, with the Blue Devils winning North 2, Group 5 for the first time and capturing the program's first state championship in the playoff era since 1977.

BR was making its first appearance in a state championship game last year. This is the ninth time the Panthers have qualified for the playoffs.

Westfield also defeated BR 24-14 at home in the first round of the 2014 N2, G5 playoffs.

Westfield, winners now of 23 straight overall and 14 consecutive games (including playoffs) at home, was making its third straight appearance in N2, G5 semis.

See **FARMERS**, Page 53

UNION COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

THIS WEEK'S SCHEDULE:

Thanksgiving rivalries

Thursday, Nov. 24 (5 games)

Linden at Union, 10:30 a.m.

Johnson at Rahway, 10:30 a.m.

GL at New Providence, 10:30 a.m.

Roselle at Roselle Park, 10:30 a.m.

Westfield at Plainfield, 11 a.m.

Off: Brearley, Summit, Dayton, Elizabeth, Hillside, Cranford, Scotch Plains.

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

NJSIAA Semifinals

Friday, Nov. 18 (2 games)

B-Raritan 23, Elizabeth 9

Middletown North 20, Summit 0

Saturday, Nov. 19 (2 games)

Westfield 21, Union 7

Manasquan 31, Roselle 27

THIS WEEK'S PICKS (5):

Union over Linden

Rahway over Johnson

GL over New Providence

Roselle Park over Roselle

Westfield over Plainfield

Best bet: Westfield

Upset special: Roselle Park

Last week: 2-2

This year: 89-36 (.712)

Best bets: 10-1

Upset specials: 5-6

JR'S UNION COUNTY

TOP 10:

1-Westfield (10-0)

2-Cranford (7-3)

3-Summit (8-3)

4-Union (5-5)

5-Elizabeth (5-6)

6-Linden (5-4)

7-Roselle (9-1)

8-Rahway (6-3)

9-Johnson (5-4)

10-Gov. Livingston (3-6)

Others:

Brearley (5-5)

Hillside (4-6)

Roselle Park (3-6)

Dayton (3-7)

Plainfield (1-8)

New Providence (1-8)

Scotch Plains (1-9)

SPORTS

Farmers still have winning campaign to compete for

(Continued from Page 52)

Westfield repeated as the Mid-State 38 Conference's Watchung Division champion this year and BR repeated as the Delaware Division champ.

"Bridgewater-Raritan is a really good team," Westfield head coach Jim DeSarno said. "It's a credit to our league and both towns that you can have two teams that built their way to this."

Martini connected with Shirk eight times for 205 yards and three touchdowns. Shirk caught five balls for 177 yards in the first half.

"We lost (senior) Mike Moriarty last week, so Jack had to take on a little more," DeSarno said. "When he's out there catching the ball and doing his thing it's special to see."

Martini, who connected on 12-of-21 passes for 242 yards, three touchdowns and two interceptions, had a bit of a rough beginning. Two of his initial passes were thrown right at Union defensive backs which could just not hold on to the ball.

"The game started off a little sloppy for us," DeSarno said. "To his (Martini) credit he grinded it out."

Union's lone score came in the third quarter when senior running back Al-Tariq Jones, who scored four touchdowns in Union's 41-38 double overtime first round win at Ridge, broke free down the left sideline for an 80-yard score.

Before that Jones was held to just 27 yards on 12 carries. He finished with 106 yards on 14 rushes.

Westfield has given up just 92 points in 10 games so far and for the second straight year has the No. 1 scoring defense of any Union County team.

"We had to stop 2 (Union quarterback Justin Beckett) and 6 (Jones)," Westfield defensive coordinator Ken Miller said. "We felt good going in. Our defensive line is the best in the state."

That unit includes senior Owen Kessler, senior Nicholas Maher, senior Jeffrey Gagum and senior Jake Vall-Llobera.

Union, which fell to 5-5, only rushed for 126 yards and if you take away the one 80-yard run by Jones it was 46 yards on 26 carries.

Beckett completed 5-of-12 passes for 49 yards and two interceptions in the first half and was 2-of-8 for just 22 yards in the second.

Westfield's linebackers include junior Drew Ortiz, junior Shea Elliott and junior Jake Dayon, with senior Ben Kelly, junior Steven Barden and junior Adam McDaniel in the secondary. Barden had Westfield's second interception.

"We had a great scheme vs. their zone read and were able to take that away," Miller said. "We practice hard.

"All of our linebackers are coming back and our secondary really locked down their receivers today."

In the second quarter Union had a chance to cut Westfield's 14-0 lead when it had the ball in Blue Devils territory. However, an interception by McDaniel in the Westfield end zone set up Westfield's final score.

An interception by Union senior Rowland Miller in the Union end zone set up the lone Farmer touchdown.

"They made more plays than we did," Union head coach Lou Grasso Jr. said. "Sometimes it's not an easy game and it doesn't go your way."

Senior linebacker Bryce Wilson had an interception for Union in the second quarter following Westfield getting the ball back on a kickoff the Farmers failed to pick up and return.

Union limited Westfield's running game of running backs Vall-Llobera, Juandre House and Jake Kaplan to just 62 yards on 27 attempts.

"I was proud that we gave a good account and didn't let the game get away from us like in the past," Grasso said. "Westfield was the better team."

Big-time defensive plays in the game included a sack of Beckett for an 11-yard loss by Dayon, Union senior defensive end Mike Tverdov batting down a pass and also recovering a fumble, a sack for a two-yard loss by Union senior end Zakee Sally, another Union sack of Martini by senior defensive end Chris Bourne and Sally for a four-yard loss, a sack by Gagum of Beckett for a 15-yard loss and a sack by Kessler for an eight-yard setback.

NOTES: Union lost consecutive sectional semifinal games on the road to the same team for the first time since falling at Phillipsburg 56-14 in 2005 and at Phillipsburg 42-20 in 2006 in North 2, Group 4 play.

Union and Westfield are both scheduled to play on Thanksgiving — Thursday, Nov. 24.

Union will host Linden (5-4) at 10:30 a.m., with the winner to clinch a winning season. Union will seek to avoid a second straight 5-6 finish.

Westfield seeks a fifth straight win over Plainfield (1-8) when the two will clash at Plainfield's Hub Stine Field beginning at 11 a.m.

The last time Plainfield defeated Westfield was in the 2011 game at Westfield. The Cardinals, only 2-7 at the time, stunned Westfield 22-21.

Westfield was upset at home by Bayonne 13-7 in that year's North 2, Group 4 semifinals.

Summit and Roselle fall in semis again

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

For the second time in three years both Summit and Roselle were defeated in sectional semifinal football play.

Third-seeded Summit lost at second seed Middletown North 20-0 last Friday night in North 2, Group 4. The Hilltoppers lost at home to Parsippany Hills 14-0 in North 2, Group 3 two years ago.

This year's Summit squad closed with a record of 8-3.

The Hilltoppers, who began the season 5-0, captured their first playoff win in a Group 4 section by downing Colonia 42-7 at home.

Second-seeded Roselle lost at home in the Central Jersey, Group 2 semifinals for the second time in three years, this time falling to third-seeded Shore Conference power Manasquan 31-27.

Two years ago, the top-seeded Rams were defeated by fifth-seeded Delaware Valley 28-12 in the semifinals.

Both times Roselle attempted to reach the program's first state championship game since 1990.

Roselle is now 9-1 and will play at Roselle Park on Thanksgiving.

Roselle won last year's holiday game by the score of 41-33 at home to finish 4-6.

NORTH 2, GROUP 5 SEMIFINAL AT GARY KEHLER STADIUM

6-UNION (5-5)	00	00	07	00 - 07
2-WESTFIELD (10-0)	07	14	00	00 - 21

FIRST QUARTER:

WESTFIELD — Jack Shirk 19 pass from Philip Martini, Aidan Boland kick (W 7-0)
6 plays, 53 yards, 2:58 used

SECOND QUARTER:

WESTFIELD — Jack Shirk 65 pass from Philip Martini, Aidan Boland kick (W 14-0)
2 plays, 64 yards, :51 used

WESTFIELD — Jack Shirk 68 pass from Philip Martini, Aidan Boland kick (W 21-0)
3 plays, 80 yards, 2:00 used

Westfield capitalized on a turnover — an interception in the Westfield end zone by Adam McDaniel.

THIRD QUARTER:

UNION — Al-Tariq Jones 80 run, Mike Matullo kick (W 21-7)
1 play, 80 yards, :14 used

Union capitalized on a turnover — an interception in the Union end zone by Rowland Miller.

NORTH 2, GROUP 5 PLAYOFFS:

SEEDS: 1-Bridgewater-Raritan. 2-Westfield. 3-Ridge. 4-East Orange Campus. 5-Elizabeth. 6-Union. 7-Bayonne. 8-Columbia.

FIRST ROUND:

Friday, Nov. 11

Union 41, Ridge 38 (2OT) - at Ridge
Elizabeth 42, East Orange Campus 13 - at EOC
Bridgewater-Raritan 42, Columbia 0 - at BR

Saturday, Nov. 12

Westfield 48, Bayonne 0 - at Westfield

SEMIFINALS:

Friday, Nov. 18

Bridgewater-Raritan 23, Elizabeth 9 - at BR

Saturday, Nov. 19

Westfield 21, Union 7 - at Westfield

FINAL:

Saturday, Dec. 3

at MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford

2-Westfield (11-0) vs. 1-Bridgewater-Raritan (11-0), 1 p.m.

WESTFIELD IN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES (3-1):

2015: North 2, Group 5

Westfield was the second seed and Bridgewater-Raritan the top Westfield 10, Bridgewater-Raritan 7 - at MetLife Stadium

1998: North 2, Group 3

Morristown was the top seed and Westfield the third Morristown 37, Westfield 14 - at Giants Stadium

1977: North 2, Group 4

Westfield was the second seed and Barringer the fourth Westfield 33, Barringer 12 - at Giants Stadium

1976: North 2, Group 4

Westfield was the top seed and Plainfield the third Westfield 14, Plainfield 0 - at Westfield

SPORTS

Elizabeth football gives all in close playoff loss at BR

Michel scores for Minutemen on 66-yard run

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

BRIDGEWATER — For almost the entire first half visiting Elizabeth, a clear underdog, had the look of a team most capable of pulling off an upset.

With just over two minutes to go in the second quarter the Minutemen held host Bridgewater-Raritan to a field goal for its first score and still led the owners of a perfect 10-0 record by four points.

To be ahead that late in the first half was surely a home run for Elizabeth.

However, on first-and-10 from their own 20, the Minutemen turned the ball over on a fumble.

Like good teams do, BR capitalized on the Elizabeth miscue by reaching the end zone for the first time five plays later to take the lead for good.

The Panthers then overcame a blocked punt by Elizabeth that resulted in the Minutemen registering a safety to pull to within one point early in the third quarter. BR, which was held to minus 15 yards of total offense and no first downs after its first two possessions of the first half, answered by scoring single touchdowns in each of the third and fourth quarters in addition to clamping down Elizabeth's running game.

"That was huge, the way our kids responded after the blocked punt," said BR head coach Scott Bray, now in his 10th season at the helm of the Panthers.

It added up to top-seeded BR downing fifth-seeded Elizabeth 23-9 in last Friday night's North 2, Group 5 semifinal played at BR's John Basilone Memorial Field.

BR improved to 11-0 for the second straight year and is headed back to the North 2, Group 5 final the first weekend in December. After never reaching a state championship game, the Panthers have now made two straight.

This is the ninth time BR qualified for the playoffs, with the Panthers still seeking their first state championship in the playoff era.

Elizabeth concluded its 2016 campaign at 5-6. When looking

back on this season for the Minutemen it will be noted that they finished a game under .500, yet they were winning the playoff game that led to the state championship game in their section until there was only 36 seconds remaining in the first half.

The key play in the game was Elizabeth's turnover after BR pulled to within 7-3 following a 20-yard field goal from solid senior kicker Justin Davidovicz.

The Minutemen were 2:17 away from taking that 7-3 lead — or even a bigger one — into the locker room at intermission.

However, BR junior linebacker Chike Nwankwo had other ideas when he came upon Elizabeth senior quarterback Jahmin Muse.

Nwankwo was able to wrestle the ball away from Muse while Muse was spinning to gain yardage. Senior free safety Ricky Tate was there to recover the fumble for the Panthers, giving them a first down at the Elizabeth 19 with 2:09 to go in the second quarter.

It was the first of three big plays Tate was the integral player on.

"Chike had him (Muse) from behind," Tate said. "The ball was just there for me to pick up."

"Chike slid over, did his job and made a great tackle," Bray said.

"It was such a big play, to continue our momentum into the second half."

Three runs by junior running back David Usewick got the ball to the six. Senior quarterback Nick Attanasio then gained three yards before being stacked up at the three.

BR was pushed back five yards to the eight after being called for illegal procedure. That made it third-and-goal from the eight with 46 seconds remaining before intermission.

On third down, Attanasio scrambled and then rolled left. With a burst of speed, he was just able to sneak into the end zone, stretching the ball slightly past the pylon for BR's first of three touchdowns.

Instead of being up by four at

the half, Elizabeth was now down by three at 10-7, with BR getting the ball to start the second half.

"Once we took the lead at 10-7 we just had to keep going," Tate said.

Elizabeth not only survived BR's first possession of the second half by producing a three-and-out, but the Minutemen were also able to block Davidovicz's punt. Khamran Rodriguez came through the line and batted it cleanly, with the ball then spinning its way into the end zone.

Davidovicz was able to fall on the ball to prevent Elizabeth from scoring a touchdown. Instead, the Minutemen received two points from the safety to get to within one point at 10-9.

Elizabeth had to punt the ball away after its next two possessions, while BR had to follow its next.

Then the Panthers took possession at their own 49 with 2:30 to go in the third. The big play in this drive was a 36-yard pass that Tate went up, caught and brought down vs. double, right-side coverage.

On the next play senior running back Matt Alesandro went in from the one to increase BR's slim, one-point advantage to a touchdown now.

On BR's next possession, the game now in the fourth quarter, Usewick found a hole up the middle and raced 41 yards untouched for the final six points of the game. For the first and only time the Panthers were up by two touchdowns and now truly in control with 8:18 to go.

Tate's third big play was an interception at the BR 14 to halt Elizabeth's next possession.

The Minutemen, who received a 66-yard touchdown run down the left side by senior Max Michel midway through the first quarter, threatened to score again late in the fourth, but their drive in BR territory and the game ended when Alesandro sacked Muse for a 10-yard loss.

"Muse is a special player and we had to contain him," Bray said.



Photos courtesy of Gene Nann

GOING FOR 10TH WIN ON THANKSGIVING - Roselle, above sparked by senior quarterback Gerald Hairston III (No. 11 at left) and senior lineman Xavier Young (No. 50) and by below senior wide receiver Junior Jean (No. 8), will attempt to finish 10-1 when it plays at holiday rival Roselle Park this Thursday morning.



SPORTS

Johnson athletes sign for college

On Nov. 15, various staff members and administration at Johnson High School participated in a signing day ceremony to honor Gianna Randazza's and Vincent Campbell's years of service to Crusader Athletics and commemorate their signing of Nation Letters of Intent to play NCAA Collegiate Athletics.

Johnson's senior student athlete Gianna Randazza signed her letter of intent to continue her athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where she will continue playing softball at Boston College for the Eagles. The senior pitcher had an outstanding season for the Crusaders as she led her team to a Divisional, County, and State Championship in softball. Gianna also was named first team all state in the sport of softball. As one can see, Gianna has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

Johnson's senior student athlete Vincent Campbell signed his letter of intent to continue his athletic and academic career at the collegiate level, where he will continue playing lacrosse at Mercy College for the Mavericks. The senior defenseman had an outstanding season for the Crusaders as he led his team to a Divisional Championship in lacrosse. As one can see, Vincent has had a wonderful athletic career as a Crusader.

Gus Kalikas, Athletic Director at Arthur L. Johnson High School, had this to say about the event. "Gianna and Vin have been integral parts of the success of our athletic programs while attending Arthur L. Johnson High School. More importantly, they have been model student athletes that did things the right way both on the fields, in the classroom, and throughout our community. Although it will be sad to see them leave, the Crusader's loss is Boston College's and Mercy College's gain."



Photos courtesy of Johnson High School

Above, Johnson pitcher Gianna Randazza signs her letter-of-intent to continue playing softball at Boston College. Below, sitting next to coach Anthony DelConte, is senior Vincent Campbell, who signed a letter-of-intent to continue playing lacrosse at Mercy College.



N2G1 champ Dayton BS closes 16-8-1

The Dayton boys' soccer team closed its sectional championship 2016 season with a 1-0 loss to Verona in last week's Group 1 semifinal played at Indian Hills. The Bulldogs, who captured North 2, Group 1, finished 16-8-1.

Team members include: Jared Horowitz, William Hodic, Nico McNamee, Chris Montes, Arenea Randriamanana, Bryce Forys, Lee Roth, Nick Ulizio, Sean Martin, Anthony Nagy, Derrick Lobo, Miquel Barros, Scott Maran, Jordan Wendolosky, Mark Gragg, Esteban Mena, Jagger Kebea, Vincent Pulice, Hunter Kapengut, Elie Barros, Diogo Barros, Jose Meha, Wilfred Bai, Patrick Machado, Ian Dragowitz and Christian Mancini.

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2017 TLX 8-Speed Dual-Clutch P-AWS

\$239 a month for 27 months
\$1,499 due at signing

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SPRINGFIELD Acura

Closed-end lease for 2017 ILX 8-Speed Dual-Clutch vehicles (DE2F3HJW) available now through January 3, 2017, available to well-qualified lessees approved by Acura Financial Services. Not all lessees will qualify. Higher lease rates apply for lessees with lower credit ratings. MSRP \$28,930.00 (includes destination, excludes tax, license, title fee, registration, documentation fee, options, insurance and the like). Actual net capitalized cost \$21,241.61. Net capitalized cost includes \$595 acquisition fee. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect actual lease payment. Total monthly payments \$5,103.00. Option to purchase at lease end \$17,358.00. Price includes ILX loyalty incentive and Acura Military Appreciation Offer. Must take new retail delivery on vehicle from dealer stock by January 3, 2017. All Lessee responsible for maintenance, excessive wear/tear and 15¢/mile over 7,500 miles/year for vehicles with MSRP less than \$30,000, and 20¢/mile over 7,500 miles/year for vehicles with MSRP of \$30,000 or more. See Springfield Acura for more details.

Closed-end lease for 2017 TLX 8-Speed Dual-Clutch P-AWS vehicles (UB1F3HJW) available from now through January 3, 2017, available to well-qualified lessees approved by Acura Financial Services. Not all lessees will qualify. Higher lease rates apply for lessees with lower credit ratings. MSRP \$32,840.00 (includes destination, excludes tax, license, title fee, registration, documentation fee, options, insurance and the like). Actual net capitalized cost \$25,777.50. Net capitalized cost includes \$595 acquisition fee. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect actual lease payment. Total monthly payments \$6,453.00. Option to purchase at lease end \$21,017.60. Price includes TLX loyalty incentive and Acura Military Appreciation Offer. Must take new retail delivery on vehicle from dealer stock by January 3, 2017. All Lessee responsible for maintenance, excessive wear/tear and 20¢/mile over 7,500 miles/year for vehicles with MSRP of \$30,000 or more. See Springfield Acura for more details.



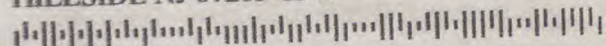
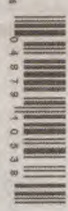
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*****CAR-RT LOT**C010
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Auto, AC, ABS, Great on Gas! Certi-Care, Plenty of Space.
Stk# 034502AA, 42,544 miles.

\$9,995



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Auto/AC/ABS/ PW/PL/Good on Gas!!
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57,952 Miles

\$9,995



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2014 FORD FOCUS SE

Auto/AC/ABS/Bluetooth/Alloy PW/PL/Leather/Camera
Stk# 215539HH
24,417 Miles

\$9,995



2014 NISSAN SENTRA S

Manual/AC/ABS/PW/PL/ Good on Gas!!
Stk# 208720HH
38,736 Miles

\$9,995



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2015 NISSAN SENTRA S

Auto/AC/ABS/PI/PW/ Bluetooth/ Good on Gas!!
Stk# 649799HH
28,808 Miles

\$9,995



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2014 FORD FUSION SE

Auto/AC/ABS/Great on Gas!! Bluetooth/Plenty space
Stk# 221411HH
69,053 Miles

\$10,995



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2013 CHEVROLET MALIBU

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Stk# 175906HH
64,866 Miles

\$10,995



2013 Honda CIVIC LX

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Stk# 251814AA,
27,340 miles

\$11,995



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2014 Nissan Sentra SR

Auto, AC, ABS, Bluetooth, PW/PL, Good on Gas!
Stk# 674591AA,
21,458 miles

\$12,495



2014 Honda CIVIC LX

Auto, AC, ABS, Camera, Bluetooth, PW/PL, Eco Assist.
Stk# 215188AM,
12,531 miles

\$12,995



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2013 Honda CIVIC EX

Auto, AC, ABS, Cam, Bluetooth, PW/PL, Eco Assist, Sunroof.
Stk# 232539HH,
21,768 miles

\$12,995



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2013 Honda CIVIC EX-L

Auto/AC/ABS/Leather Alloy Wheels/PW/PL/Cam/BT
Stk# 221306HH
33,605 Miles

\$13,995



HIGHER STANDARD OF PRE OWNED

Garden State Honda 225 River Drive, Passaic

*The Certi-Care Limited Powertrain Warranty coverage begins when you purchase the vehicle and continues for 10 years from Jan. 1 of the vehicle model year or up to 125,000 miles on the odometer, whichever occurs first. All offers exclude taxes, title, DMV and doc fees. See dealer for complete details. Not responsible for typographical errors. Some photos for illustration purposes only. Must take delivery by 11.30.18.