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Fatal Cranford house fire filled with 'storage'

By Chuck O'Donnell
Staff Writer

CRANFORD — A house on Hillcrest Avenue destroyed by a fire that killed a man was filled with "storage," according to officials, a factor that could have hampered firefighters. Local Fire and Police departments responded to the blaze at the single-family home at 155 Hillcrest Ave. at about 6:45 a.m. Sunday, according to a press release from the fire department.

Firefighters encountered "heavy fire conditions" that prevented them from entering the house initially, according to the release. Once able to enter, they discovered a man's body on the first floor. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Fire Lt. Matthew Lubin said he expects the Union County Coroner's Office to release the man's identity this week.

The conditions inside the home may have not only impeded firefighters, but could have been a factor in the man's inability to escape.

"There was evidence that he did have a lot of contents in the home," Lubin said. "Generally, anytime you have that it could

make it harder to get in and fight the fire. There was a lot of storage in the home."

A 2009 article on NJ.com, identified the homeowner as Phil Anter. According to the article, a group of neighbors had presented a petition to the Cranford Township Committees seeking a limit on the number of garage sales one resident can hold in a year, and requiring a permit for such sales. The neighbors' objections rose from the fact the house at 155 Hillcrest Ave. was often kept in a "state of perpetual garage sale," with the front lawn covered with items as sales were listed in online classifieds.

Former Cranford health officer Warren Hehl issued a summons for a violation of the property maintenance code, according to the article.

Lubin said that the home will be razed by the end of this week.

"We can't account for the structural stability of the unit due to the fire damage, so it has been ordered to be demolished by the construction department," Lubin said.

Fire crews from several surrounding towns responded through the Union County. See **CRANFORD**, Page 4



Photo by Brian Trusdell

The house at 155 Hillcrest Ave. in Cranford that was destroyed by fire on Dec. 9 was the subject of ire by neighbors less than a decade ago.

Summit Park Line forum on route turns testy

By Liv Meier
Staff Writer

SUMMIT — Concerns about safety and privacy turned a public forum on the Summit Park Line pedestrian walkway into a tense shouting match at times as officials heard from residents regarding the second phase of the park's construction.

At the Dec. 6 workshop meeting hosted by the city, residents on Eggers Court and Henry Street expressed their concerns about trail users peering into their homes, and other issues. While the first phase of the project in front of Overlook Medical Center is nearing completion, the second phase of the 1.2-mile linear park, which will connect the edge of the downtown to Briant Park, will take it through more residential areas.

"I think there's a big privacy issue," Brian Stellar said. "This thing is literally 25 feet from my daughter's window and I don't care about fencing and screening. There's going to be people up there at night and I doubt the police are going to be patrolling this line at night."

The second phase also involves creating a "rail to trail" path around the perimeter of the Celgene campus to connect the abandoned Rahway Valley Railroad line and Hidden Valley Park. Celgene is a global biopharmaceutical company.

The Park Line project is privately funded but its mainte-

nance costs will fall to the city after its completion, since Summit owns the land, which it previously obtained from the state.

Summit officials heard residents' suggestions and concerns after brief presentations from Park Line Foundation president and former Councilman Rob Rubino; Rich Bagger, Celgene executive vice president of corporate affairs and market access and Bob Thomas of Campbell Thomas & Co. Architects, of Philadelphia.

Eggers Court resident Pat Rotondi expressed concerns about noise and privacy due to the proximity of the proposed path to her home.

"Is it going to be right up to my fence? Because that's where (Celgene's) property and my property touch," she said.

Bagger reassured that there would be vegetation on both sides of the path for privacy reasons.

"I'm just concerned because my bedroom is literally right there," Rotondi responded.

Michael Smiley, another Eggers Court resident, said that he and his neighbors are the most impacted by the trail because it will be on both sides of their properties.

"Our property is more impacted than probably any other in the city because we will have this thing on both sides of our property. We will be surrounded by it," he said.

Smiley was also concerned that pedestrians on the rail-

road track would be able to see into his windows. He suggested moving the path to the other side of the rail line.

Thomas discussed how he and another architect had walked the proposed path to come up with a few different fencing and screening alternatives.

"That's really not an acceptable option because there is the possibility of moving it over to the other side, and that would be a much more desirable solution," Smiley added.

In addition his privacy concern, Stellar also characterized the Park Line presentation as "an avalanche of positive information" from the city, saying there isn't a "single organized voice" against the Park Line.

"As far as this is balloons and streamers here, that is not the intent of this meeting. If that was the intent of this meeting, people would have just shown you presentations. You would not have the chance to go ahead and have a public forum," council President David Naidu said. "The elected officials are here because we will eventually have to vote on these plans when they come up."

Naidu added that privacy for Eggers Court and Henry Street residents is the biggest concern and the reason the city is looking for input.

Thomas agreed it would make more sense for the path to be on the other side of the tracks, but said there would need to be a design study done.

See **SHOUTING**, Page 8

Roselle teachers union head chides school board over contract

By Chuck O'Donnell
Staff Writer

ROSELLE — The president of the Roselle Education Association, which represents 400 borough teachers whose contract expired almost 18 months ago, chided members of the Board of Education last week for not negotiating, as a date with a mediator looms.

At the Nov. 19 BOE meeting, REA President Claudia Jo, who represents teachers and support staff who have been without a

contract since July 1, 2017, urged the board to resume negotiations although a Dec. 19 meeting has been set with mediator Anthony Bagliore. She listed several dates of meetings the board canceled and invitations to negotiate that were turned down by the board.

According to Jo, the board canceled four negotiation sessions in 2017: June 5, June 19, Aug. 24 and Sept. 12. And she alleged that the board had turned down several invitations to meet with the REA between December 2017 and March 2018. On March 15, Jo said the BOE announced it was suspending negotiations until after an audit was conducted.

She said the board most recently turned down an invitation by the REA to negotiate Nov. 7, because school was closed. She said union members were willing to meet "on our own time off" but that, while Bagliore has agreed to meet with the board and the union on Saturdays, board members refuse to meet on weekends.

At the Nov. 19 meeting, Jo went on to respond to several comments made by school board member Keyanna Jones at the Oct. 29 BOE meeting, when Jones referred to the REA as "disingenuous" and said the board could not return to the negotiating table before the date with the mediator.

Jo said that although a date with Bagliore is set, "that does not mean that we cannot come to the table. The only thing

that is keeping us from coming to the table is your ultimatum. So, yes, you were wrong when you said we could not turn back. There is a return at this point. You said you have been coming to the table, however five meetings were cancelled and for three months there was no movement because of the board. Never did I try to make anyone look bad, I have been professional and positive and, in return, I was called 'disingenuous' and it was claimed I was not telling the truth."

Toward the end of the Nov. 19 meeting, Jones said, "In reference to the comments made by the union president, I have no comment because, in the words of my granny, 'A hit dog will holler.' I have no need to justify anything, so if it don't holler, we'll just let it lie. We are waiting on our date for mediation. We will continue negotiations as such."

Jones also stated at the Oct. 29 meeting that the board and the teachers had both been coming to negotiation sessions, adding, "I would really appreciate it, in as much as you can tell the truth and tell the whole truth, and let's try not to make each other look bad because that's not what it's about. Because, working under an expired contract does not mean that you don't get paid. It doesn't mean you don't get benefits. It doesn't mean you have to miss out on your stipend."

The exchange at the Nov. 19 meeting was the latest volley between the two sides

at reaching a contract, which has included legal declarations and picketing amid a tumultuous year, including two changes in the superintendent and a board member being dismissed.

In August, BOE Vice President Donna Eleazer announced that the two sides had reached an impasse and that a mediator would be called in, with the main sticking points being health insurance benefits and salaries. Union members are currently working under the terms of the expired contract.

Before the Sept. 24 school board meeting, approximately 75 teachers and support staff picketed outside Abraham Clark High School, and several residents and a councilwoman complained that the board hasn't given teachers a raise, but often hands out six-figure contracts to administrators.

"The teachers are giving more of themselves and all I ask is you consider to pay them," Councilwoman Denise Wilkerson said at that meeting. "Give them a contract. The contract means more than just a number. It means we appreciate you. It means that we respect you. It means we want you to stay and we appreciate what you do for our children. I hope that is the sentiment for this board and with all due respect, please take care of our teachers."

According to state records, the annual median salary for a Roselle teacher during the 2017-18 school year was \$58,125, ranked **ROSELLE**, Page 9

Correction

In a Dec. 6 story about ethics charges being filed with state officials regarding a former member and a sitting member of the Roselle Board of Education, we incorrectly identified Courtney Washington as joining three others in filing a complaint against Keyanna Jones. Washington did not sign that complaint, however, she did sign one accusing former member Archange Antoine with violations. It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the attention of the editor. If you believe that we have made such an error, send an email to Regional Editor Brian Trusdell at btrusdell@thelocal-source.com, or call 908-686-7700, ext 128, weekdays before 5 p.m.

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Springfield gives final approval for downtown project PILOT

By Liv Meier
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — The Township Committee unanimously approved a 30-year tax abatement for a redevelopment project on Morris Avenue at its Nov. 27 meeting, agreeing to the first payment in lieu of taxes for the downtown area.

The property is to house 24 residential apartments above retail space at 226 Morris Ave., at the corner of Church Mall next to the First Presbyterian Church, by developer SPDSAIL Urban Renewal LLC.

Matthew Jessup, an attorney with the McManimon, Scotland and Baumann law firm, which specializes in public finance and redevelopment issues, read the ordinance for a second time at the meeting.

"This project has been evaluated by your own independent consultant, who has determined that if the project were built and taxed conventionally like other commercial projects in town, the project could not be built," Jessup told the committee.

He emphasized that the PILOT would help the developers obtain a better return for their investors and be beneficial for the municipality.

"In this case, the PILOT payment would be less than the otherwise applicable tax, but will generate more income to the municipalities than otherwise applicable taxes would and certainly more than the current taxes being paid," Jessup added.

A PILOT establishes a fee schedule that a property owner will pay over the lifetime of the agreement, exempting it from regular taxation. The town is currently collecting about \$3,700 in taxes on the property; once the project is complete, the projected first year revenue for Springfield, at a standard state mandated rate of 10 percent, is projected to be a little more than \$49,000. The PILOT applies only to improvements to the property; the land will be taxed conventionally, with payments going into the township's regular fund. There is no part of



Photo Courtesy of the Township of Springfield

This artist's rendering shows the 24-unit residential building with first-floor retail that is set to be erected at 226 Morris Ave. in Springfield.

the financial agreement that dictates how the payment must be used.

The payment will be a percentage of the development's annual gross revenue from commercial and retail rents, pet fees and storage fees. Five percent of the PILOT will go to Union County and the other 95 percent to the municipality. After the 30-year period, the project will go back on the tax rolls conventionally.

"This is going to be one of many PILOT programs and many of the things that we're going to come across with the redevelopment," Committeeman Chris Capodice said after the reading. "It's very important to inform the public as much as we possibly

can about what's coming."

The first reading of the PILOT ordinance took place at the Nov. 5 Springfield Township Committee meeting, and had been tabled from the October meeting due to concerns from committee members.

Capodice and Committeewoman Diane Stampoulos, of the Finance Committee, said they were apprehensive regarding the township's return on investment.

"We just wanted to make sure, since this will be one of hopefully six or seven (projects) we might be seeing, that we're making sure to do our due diligence because the last thing I want to see is a downtown full of brand-new buildings and not seeing a

return on our investment," Capodice said before the Township Committee saw the ordinance Nov. 5.

After the discussion, he said his concerns had been put at ease by Jessup's explanations. "I'm very confident now that we're on the right path and we're taking the right steps," Capodice said.

"It's a beautiful project and a beautiful building," Mayor Richard Huber said after the second reading.

Plans for the redevelopment project were approved at the the Springfield Planning Board's Nov. 1 meeting after a lengthy hearing that had carried over from the October meeting.



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Photo by Brian Trusdell

A firefighter clears debris from the attic area of a house that was destroyed by an early morning fire in Cranford on Dec. 9.

Cranford house fire kills one

(Continued from Page 1)
ty Fire Mutual Aid system and helped extinguish the fire.

"While it's very unfortunate that a resident was lost in this fire, I'm thankful for the fast work of our fire and police responders to contain the fire without injury or exten-

sive damage to the neighboring properties," fire Chief Daniel Czeh said in a press release. "The neighborhood was very appreciative and supportive of our responders."

The cause of the fire is being investigated by the Union County Fire Investigation Unit.

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Proposed cell tower at UCC could stretch 140 feet high

By **Chuck O'Donnell**
Staff Writer

CRANFORD — A cell tower that Union County College proposes to build on the northwestern part of its campus could stretch 140 feet into the air, 10 feet higher than previously reported, according to school documents.

According to the minutes from UCC's Buildings and Ground Committee meeting on Sept. 25, AT&T is "interested in being a co-locator" along with Verizon for the monopole. In the report given by Lynne Welch, UCC vice president for financial affairs and treasurer, AT&T would be involved "provided the cell tower is 140 feet high; up from the previously mentioned 130 feet."

Some members of Residents Against Union County College Cell Tower posted on the group's Facebook page that they believe the small, hilly anchor point of the proposed tower — near the William Miller Sperry Observatory — would make the tower extend as much as 150 feet above most of the surrounding area.

The group was still combing through documents obtained from the school via an Open Public Records Act request earlier this week as it prepared to meet with N.J. state Assembly Minority Leader Jon Bramnick, whose district includes Cranford.

The group had also previously reached out to local officials for assistance in halting the construction of the cell tower. Several Cranford residents, fearing that the tower

would be an eyesore that would drive down their property values, urged the county Board of Freeholders to stop its construction at the freeholders' Nov. 8 meeting in Westfield.

Resident Christine Licata told the freeholders at that meeting that the tower would be built within 1,000 feet of 75 residences, with some as close as 236 feet from the tower, and also within a half mile of Brookside Place Elementary School in Cranford.

Other residents raised concerns about the tower's aesthetics and the widely held belief that close proximity to cell towers is connected to health issues. Cranford homeowner Julie Exarhakos referred to the proposed tower as "a monstrosity."

UCC passed a resolution June 26 to move forward with a two-phase project with Verizon. First, the telecommunications giant would install an in-building distributed antenna system to provide 95-percent coverage throughout the seven main buildings. In the second phase, Verizon would build a 130-foot monopole cell tower.

Joe Hines, public safety director for UCC, invoked the tragic events of the previous evening, when a gunman shot and killed 12 people and himself at a bar packed with college students in Thousand Oaks, Calif., and said the school needs the cell tower to increase reception in and around the campus for security reasons. He also said that under the Clery Act, schools are required to advise

See **OPPONENTS**, Page 24



Photo by Brian Trusdell

The hilly mound that is the proposed location for a cellphone tower on the campus of Union County College's Cranford Campus would make the monopole 10 feet higher than most of the surrounding ground, residents opposed to the structure claim.

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Courtesy of Hillside Board of Education

State Department of Education Commissioner Lamont Repollet watches as two Hillside Enrichment Program students explain Sphero, a spherical robot controlled by their tablet computer Dec. 4.



Photo by Liv Meier

Hillside Enrichment Program students visit the various work stations at Hurden Looker Elementary's Innovation Lab.

Hillside school lab gets boost from Trenton

By Liv Meier
Staff Writer

HILLSIDE — Hurden Looker students excitedly guided New Jersey Commissioner of Education Lamont Repollet through their “innovation lab,” showing him their 3D printer, Sphero robot and other lab technology Dec. 4.

Repollet, who appeared engaged during his visit to the school, asked the children a question.

“Who are you?” he asked.

“Thought leaders!” they shouted.

“I can’t hear you. Who are you?” Repollet asked again.

“Thought leaders!” they cheered.

The exchange was meant to emphasize that a thought leader is a student who is a problem solver, innovator and creator, according to the commissioner.

Repollet’s visit was part of a statewide computer science education week initiative, for which members of the state Department of Education travel to different schools throughout the state to observe “best practices.”

“If I’m here, this means that this is a best practice. The Department of Education feels this is a best practice,” Repollet told the students.

He described a best practice as an activity that has students “engaged and producing finished products.”

The I-Lab, as it’s referred to, is a no-textbook zone where students learn through experimentation and discovery.

As a part of the walkthrough, students were proud to show Repollet the activities set up at each station. It was coding week at Hurden Looker Elementary, so each station revolved around the week’s theme.

The four stations included a robot called Sphero; a cod-

ing station; 3D printing; and an electrical circuit kit.

Sphero is an orb-shaped robot capable of rolling around that can be controlled by a smartphone or tablet. The students were using drawings to program the robot to play the game Simon says.

At the 3D printing station, a student was creating a game piece for a fellow teacher. The lab has a problem bank, where teachers can request items that are missing from the classroom. Other items in the bank included an iPad holder and a doorstep.

“Here, students solve real life problems by selecting a problem from the bank,” Hillside Enrichment Program teacher Marta Tran said.

Students at the coding station used coding to program a computer character to dance; and the prewired electrical connections of a Snap Circuit kit were being connected to create working circuits.

All 500 Hurden Looker students visit the lab — HEP meets with Tran twice a week and all other classes see her every other week.

The stations change about every two weeks, according to Tran, who has set up a board for students to write down what they want to create throughout the school year.

Some of the ideas on the “I Want to Make” board include a unicorn pencil case, slime and a dinosaur robot.

“Kids come in and tell me what they want to make, and hopefully throughout the year, I can eventually get to whatever they want,” Tran said in an interview with LocalSource. “Of course, it’s a lot of planning, but it’s so much fun because the kids love coming here. They enjoy it so much.”

Principal Tracey Wolff gave Tran credit for the lab’s success.

“Mrs. Tran has been the Hillside enrichment teacher for many years, and she’s been doing a lot of great work with technology type based activities like robotics and building an amusement park of Legos,” she said in an interview with LocalSource. “The students love her and she’s just been great with researching everything.”

At some stations, Tran has QR codes — a label machines can read — set up; here students can use the school’s iPad to scan the code and to view a video with detailed instructions on how to complete a task.

“The kids are more independent and (the codes) help keep them on track,” Tran added.

It also helps her keep track of what the students are accomplishing, she said.

Superintendent Antoine Gayles, Hillside Board of Education President Hawaiian Thompson-Epps, board members Joi Stanley and Rayba Watson and various administrators also visited the I-Lab.

“We’re so proud of what’s happening and not even just in this classroom, but throughout the district,” Gayles told the LocalSource after the visit.

While the Hurden Looker lab is the first in the district, two others are in the works at Abraham P. Morris Early Childhood Center and Washington Elementary School.

“As we develop this kind of pre-k through 12 STEAM track, these labs will be the connecting pieces as kids transition through Hillside Public Schools,” Gayles added, referring to the term used to describe science, technology, engineering, art and math study.

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Police arrest man after five-hour Linden standoff

A Newark man who reportedly carjacked a vehicle, led police on a chase and barricaded himself inside a Linden home for about five hours on Sunday, Dec. 9, eventually surrendered without incident and has been charged with a variety of offenses, officials said.

Willie S. Wright, 50, is charged with robbery, carjacking, first- and third-degree weapons offenses, first- and third-degree burglary, eluding police, hindering apprehension, obstruction of justice and criminal mischief, the Union County Prosecutor's Office and Linden police said in a joint press release.

According to the release, at about 9:15 a.m. Linden police responded to reports of an attempted robbery at the Aviation Plaza shopping center at U.S. Routes 1&9 and West Edgar Road, where Wright had allegedly entered a

parked vehicle while the owner was in the driver's seat and demanded he surrender his wallet.

The victim, a 69-year-old Linden resident, refused to give up the wallet and was struck in the head with a handgun.

Wright then allegedly entered another parked vehicle nearby and sped away, police said.

Police located the car Wright was driving and pursued it as he drove north on U.S. Routes 1&9 until he lost control and struck a curb, utility pole and guardrail near South Park Avenue before colliding with a van.

Wright exited the car he was driving, approached the driver of the van, produced a handgun, and attempted to carjack the vehicle, police said.

The driver of the van refused to get out and Wright fled

on foot as arriving officers drew near.

Wright then reportedly broke into the basement of a home on the 600 block of South Park Avenue in Linden, prompting the occupants to flee and escape safely. Members of the Union County Emergency Response Team SWAT Unit surrounded the house and engaged Wright in lengthy negotiations before ultimately entering the home and taking him into custody at approximately 2:30 p.m.

A handgun was later recovered from the rear yard of a nearby home. Wright was lodged in Union County Jail pending a first appearance and detention hearing expected to take place later this week. All persons charged are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Convictions on first-degree offenses are commonly punishable by 10 to 20 years in state prison.

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Shouting marks discussion of Summit Park line route

(Continued from Page 1)

"I can certainly see the benefit of doing it on the north side," he said.

Henry Street resident Larry Costigan said the city is making accommodations for Celgene, but not residents.

"It seems to me that accommodations are being made for this trail to go around Celgene to not be invasive for the company but yet, on Henry Street, it goes right through our backyard," he said.

Rubino said Celgene has an easement from the old rail line on its property that predates the project, so does not have to allow anything to go through its property. Celgene's easement grants the company the legal right to use the property although it does not own the title to the land.

"To put it another way, we really couldn't continue it if Celgene hadn't offered the perimeter of their property," Rubino added. "This is an accommodation they have made for us."

"Well who's looking out for the little man? Because everyone's looking out for Celgene," Costigan responded.

Naidu interrupted the conversation by restating that the purpose of the meeting was to be informative.

"We have what we have and the question is, what do we do with it?" he added.

Joe Gallegos, who lives near phase one of the trail on Denman Place, told the audience that he was first apprehensive about the trail, but he and his family now enjoy its accessibility.

"I was worried about traffic and people walking the trail but, ever since this has been put in, the path has been very clean and my daughter feels safe walking from school to our house using the trail access," he said. "There haven't been people peering into my yard."



Photo by Liv Meier

PROSPECTIVE PARK — A map at a Dec. 6 Summit workshop meeting shows the 'rail to trail' section of the Summit Park Line pedestrian path around the Celgene campus.

"We're worried about pedophiles though," someone in the crowd said.

Naidu interrupted the conversation by stating that this was not the kind of meeting he'd intended to conduct.

"We're not going to do this where people start screaming

at each other. That may be tolerated some place else, but it will not be tolerated here," he said.

Other concerns raised by residents included parking issues, the environmental impact of the park and the project's construction schedule.

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Photos Courtesy of the Clark Recreation Department

MORE THAN A TREE LIGHTING — Clark held its annual tree-lighting event Sunday, Nov. 25, with music provided by the high school and middle school choirs and the Arthur L. Johnson marching band. Santa was on hand to take photos with children, and face-painting, balloon animals, a mechanical bull and a professional caricature artist were also part of the fun.



Roselle teachers union head presses school board on contract

(Continued from Page 2)

ing at 482nd of 659 school districts and charter schools in New Jersey.

"If you're truly willing to talk, as a board member said before, then let's talk," Jo said at the Nov. 19 meeting. "Again, we do not need to wait for a mediator. The contract expired two years ago and while, yes, you said that we were being paid and were still getting our benefits, however, I must question how is that coming to the table in good faith?"

"Staff members still also continue caring

for and educating our students. We continue to stay after hours and take our work home. The expiration date was always set, and it should not have come as a surprise. So again, I question how was that ever coming in good faith?"

According to the New Jersey Public Employment Relations Commission's website, Bagliore is a staff mediator. He has been brought in during contract disputes in the Kearny, Wanaque, Paterson, West Deptford and Jersey City school districts, among others.

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Cranford questions why 750 Walnut soil not tested

By Chuck O'Donnell
Staff Writer

CRANFORD — Members of the Planning Board asked a developer seeking to build a 905-unit apartment complex at 750 Walnut Ave. why it did not test for soil contaminants at the site, which has a long history of commercial use.

Jeffrey Martell, a civil engineer for Hartz Mountain Industries, testified at the Dec. 5 Cranford Planning Board meeting that his company's 60-page environmental impact study focused on existing environmental factors such as topography, wildlife, vegetation, surface water and subsurface water. Although he said he was aware the site has had a long history of commercial and industrial use, the soil was not examined for contaminants.

As previously reported in LocalSource, tenants such as J.B. Williams Co. and Beecham operated laboratories and production centers for household brands such as Geritol, Sominex and Aqua Velva before Hartz Mountain bought the 30.5 acre tract of land located on the Clark border at the corner of Walnut Avenue and Raritan Road in 1988.

The Hyatt Hills golf complex bordering the property to the southwest was built on land once owned by General Motors. Approximately 15 years ago, GM paid tens of millions of dollars to remediate the land that is now a nine-hole golf course. Less than a mile away, the site of the former US Gypsum Paper Plant was paved over and the Clark Commons retail hub was constructed.

After about an hour of testimony, board member and former mayor Daniel Aschenbach asked Martell if it "would have been reasonable" for the town to ask Hartz Mountain to include testing for soil contaminants in its request for an environmental impact study.

James Rhatican, the vice president of



Photo by Brian Trusdell

Although home to a PSE&G call center now, the sprawling complex at 750 Walnut Ave. in Cranford has been a site where brands such as Geritol, Sominex and Aqua Velva were produced.

Land Use and Development for Hartz Mountain, said testing for soil contaminants is not required in the township's ordinance on environmental impact statements. Rhatican offered to show Aschenbach a copy of the ordinance and said it asks for studies to "list and describe soil types."

Rhatican indicated the DEP would provide oversight if any remediation were necessary.

Aschenbach laughed to himself and said, "So you're suggesting the ordinance isn't strong enough to test for contaminants on a site that you're going to develop into a residential property. Yes, you have to meet the DEP standard, but you don't even know if you can meet that now."

Hartz Mountain began its active application before the Planning Board in May to have the site rezoned from commercial to

residential use.

The current zoning for the site allows for limited uses, including professional offices, health care facilities, distribution centers and research laboratories, Rhatican said at the May 16 Planning Board meeting. He said the existing building is about 420,000 square feet and was an industrial and manufacturing facility constructed in the 1940s by Johnson & Johnson. Hartz bought it in 1988.

According to Rhatican, Bank of America leased about 248,000 square feet of space and vacated the building about 10 years ago, but continued to pay rent until its lease expired about a year ago. He said LabCorp occupies about 80,000 square feet in the rear of the building and PSE&G occupies about 22,000 square feet for a call center. A trucking company also leases space.

In the backdrop of Hartz Mountain Industries' application is the township's looming deadline to satisfy its Mount Laurel housing obligations before its immunity to "builder's remedy" lawsuits expires on Dec. 31.

Mayor Tom Hannen confirmed in a Dec. 9 text message that a court ruling two days earlier has extended the township's immunity until March. However, the court ruled the township cannot use "rental bonus credits" to make up for a 20-unit deficit in its Mount Laurel housing obligation.

The township filed a complaint in Superior Court on Nov. 20, asking it to "approve as constitutionally compliant" its plan to satisfy what is known as its third-round affordable housing obligation, township attorney Ryan Cooper said at the Nov. 27 Township Committee meeting.

Cooper said the plan "only anticipates 57 units total units" will be needed to satisfy the town's third-round obligation.

"I think that's really important because the plan goes very far in satisfying our affordable housing plan consistent with the township's master plan which favors greater density downtown in the downtown core rather than greater density in the outer edges of town or in the single family residential neighborhoods of town," Cooper said.

Hartz Mountain's proposed 905-unit apartment complex would include 28 one-bedroom, 82 two-bedroom and 29 three-bedroom units that would be classified as Mount Laurel housing.

As Planning Board members began to prepare for its public meeting Dec. 12 and 13, if necessary, on the township's affordable housing plan, it was unclear to them why Hartz Mountain did not test for soil contaminants.

Several residents at the meeting also expressed concern with the developer.

See **HARTZ**, Page 17



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December 13, 2018

In accordance with New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) regulations for "Notification and Public Outreach", T&F Industries (T&F) is required to provide information relating to environmental conditions and remedial activities being conducted at the above referenced property.

Former operations conducted at the property included the fabrication of plumbing products. Current operations conducted at the property include molding and forming of plastic for retail displays and other retail products. Trichloroethene and tetrachloroethene were the predominant constituents initially detected in the groundwater under the property in 2013. Recently, as a result of ongoing testing performed by T&F, these constituents were found to have migrated onto an adjacent property owned by Union County.

T&F Industries continues to conduct investigative activities in accordance with NJDEP regulations. These additional investigations are being conducted in part to determine the extent of any migration of constituents in groundwater from the property.

For additional information or to obtain a copy of the complete fact sheet for this site, please contact Kenneth Goldstein, the Licensed Site Remediation Professional of record for this property, at 609-584-0090.

OPINION

Keep fire hydrants free from snow

Winter came early this year, as anyone who tried to get home on Thursday, Nov. 15, can attest. On that day, the combination of two storms left much of New Jersey buried beneath 4 to 8 inches of snow, stranding motorists for hours and leaving numerous cars abandoned by the roadside. It reminded us how quickly we can become victims of things out of our control, especially weather.

With that in mind, we urge people to identify the location of the fire hydrant that is nearest to their home and make certain it is cleared of snow throughout the coming winter. It's a safety precaution that can save your life. Here's why.

A pumper/tanker fire engine, which has the primary tank inside the vehicle, holds 1,000 gallons of water. Crosslay hoses typically use 95 gallons per minute. A deluge gun, which is used to put a lot of water on larger fires, shoots out 1,000 gallons per minute. Clearly, a lot of water is needed to effectively extinguish a house fire, more than can be carried by fire trucks. Fire hydrants are not only helpful, they are necessary and, yes, a matter of life or death.

Many states require that homeowners keep the fire hydrants near their homes clear of snow. New Jersey instituted just such a rule, as of Feb. 1, 2016. If property owners don't clear snow away from their sidewalks within 24 hours after a snowstorm, they can face a fine as high as \$75. It is up to each individual municipality to enforce this law, and many have chosen not to do so. Some people have argued this law is

EDITORIAL

unfair, particularly if the neighboring properties are housed by senior citizens or people whose work schedule or home life makes such a task difficult, if not impossible, to accomplish in a timely manner.

Keep in mind, this isn't a cash grab by the town. Rather, it is an encouragement for residents to keep their fire hydrants clear of snow. The reason is obvious: If your home is on fire and the responding firefighters have to dig out a snow-covered fire hydrant, lives may be lost and property damaged or destroyed. This is about protecting your life and property, as well as the lives of responding firefighters. Usually, one fire hydrant is meant to serve several homes in the area, if there is a fire. Instead of putting all the responsibility on one household, neighbors should communicate with one another and set up a system where they take turns keeping the fire hydrant free of snow.

Many fire hydrants are equipped with fire locator poles, making it easier to find them if they are buried beneath snow. Unfortunately, many are without these identifiers.

Locate your nearest fire hydrant and make sure it is clear. This is especially important if snowplows have buried fire hydrants underneath piles of snow. Although no specific distance has been agreed upon, a 3-foot radius of cleared space is recommended. And if you need help, give your town hall a call or visit its website. This is about saving your life and protecting your property.

Challenges of buying, giving gifts in modern times

It's fun to make a holiday gift list. It's even more fun when you are making a list of things that you want other people to buy for you.

My husband and I have had this tiny notebook for years. In this book we write down gifts we would like. There is only one rule. We never discuss what is in the book. If we need a gift idea for the other person, we simply refer to the book. The closest we come to talking about "the book" is

PAUSE & REFLECT

BY LAURA BAKER

when we request that the other person put some ideas in there.

But in today's age of technology, lists just aren't what they used to be. They aren't written on scraps of a paper or in a notebook. They are now "added to your wish list," which is different than "added to your favorites"

or "added to your cart." And if they have been "added," where can I find this list that I have accidentally created. The drop-down arrow to add something to your list is quite long. Options include, but are not limited to, new list, shopping list and create a new list.

The next question is, what do I do with this list that I have created? If I were going to purchase the item for

Continued on Page 14

Greetings and humbugs

LEFT OUT

BY FRANK CAPECE

It's that time of year again.

Humbug to Joanne Rajoppi. The monstrous banners in front of the Westfield County office building urging voter participation, with the county clerk's name boldly displayed would have been enough, but there's more. The endless stream of fluff press releases, the pens with her name at her office and the announcement of her receipt of dubious awards have flowed. Ex-Prosecutor Theodore Romankow was seen as a shameless press hound, but Rajoppi gives him a run for the money.

Greetings to Lynn Karlovich. The dynamic Kenilworth councilwoman supervised a truly wonderful "Carve it out Kenilworth" night at Halloween that brought out a mob of happy kids and approving adults. More recently, her efforts to enhance the planters on the Boulevard have been a big improvement.

Humbug to Joe Hines. The public safety director for Union County College is pressing for a new monstrous 130-foot monopole cell tower adversely affecting local residents. Hines claims a public safety danger and violation of the federal Clery Act for Campus Security. Actually reading the law leads this corner to a simple conclusion — bunk.

Greetings to Jim Carvalho. The Cranford resident is tenacious at tracking down documents and exposing questionable activities. His style, which so bugs Cranford Township Committeewoman Ann Dooley, is one of the most entertaining aspects of the year.

Greetings to Claress Knight. The young student received a degree from Union College. Did we mention she is totally blind? What a courageous lady.

Humbug to Assemblywoman Nancy Munoz. Her proposal to reimburse NJ Transit riders facing delays with a free ride can fairly be described as pandering. The proposal is going nowhere.

Greetings to Superior Court Judge James Hely. His presentation on civility was inspiring and, as attorneys say, "on point."

Greetings to the Union County freeholders. Come January, for the first time in New Jersey, a majority of a freeholder board will be female. Our county is first.

Humbug to Union County nonvoters. The most recent numbers show a 54.7 percent turnout of registered voters, hardly the reason that soldiers gave their lives in battle.

Humbug to Veronica Allende. The newly appointed director of the Division of Criminal Justice is engaging in a needless tug of war by boldly announcing she is not cooperating with immigration officials. The problem is that, by antagonizing the feds, they have stepped up their heavy-handed methods of arrest and little people get hurt.

Humbug to Elizabeth Jeffrey. The director of the Fanwood Division of Economic Development proclaimed that, regarding the N.J. Route 28 corridor from Roselle Park to Elizabeth, "We don't really see ourselves competing. We see ourselves as one market" Yea right!

Humbug to Rahway ex-Fire Chief William Young. After a DWI stint he still was able to recover \$160,000 in sick time at retirement.

Greetings to Dawn Beresford. The Cranford resident has been a courageous fighter to stop overdevelopment on Walnut Avenue. Her troop of Cranford residents fighting against overdevelopment have gone knuckle to

Continued on Page 13

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Gift the right plant to the right recipient

I love giving plants at holiday time. It fits with my horticultural sensibility. Most people appreciate a blooming plant, especially one that will continue to add color and/or interest after the holiday baubles go back in their boxes. But with plants as with all gifts, it is important to match the gift to the recipient. Your sister may welcome the biggest, reddest poinsettia on the block, while your neighbor may think such a thing is tacky or worry that her omnivorous dog will chew the leaves and take ill. Before bestowing a green gift, use the same kind of "right plant, right place" thinking you use when choosing a garden location for a new plant acquisition.

For avid gardeners

People who like to grow plants outside are generally good at keeping them alive inside as well. These individuals are perfect recipients for holiday plants that can be made to rebloom, or a least thrive long after the holidays are over.

Amaryllis or hippeastrum, especially top-quality specimens, fit in this category. They bloom magnificently, sometimes producing three or four flower stalks from one giant bulb. After the flowers die back, the plants sprout long, strappy green leaves. If you keep watering and fertilizing when the top of the soil is dry, this will continue right through the summer.

A good gardener will decide whether he or she wants to go through the rather precise

THE GARDENER'S APPRENTICE

BY ELISABETH GINSBURG

steps required to make the amaryllis bloom at holiday time next year. If he or she is a little more laissez faire, the individual may opt to treat the amaryllis like any other houseplant and wait for the plant to rebloom on its own schedule. No matter which path your amaryllis recipient chooses, he or she will enjoy the plant for a good long time.

If you are buying amaryllis for a plant enthusiast, avoid waxed bulbs. The wax coating seals the bulb, thereby providing a great one-time experience that must inevitably be followed by a trip to the compost pile.

Holiday or "Christmas" cacti - Schlumbergera bridgesii - are also wonderful, long-lived plants that feature orchid-like blooms in shades ranging from white through pinks, peaches, reds and red-oranges. I have a friend who nurtured a small, average-size specimen into a behemoth over the course of a number of years. When not in bloom, Christmas cacti are rather crab-like in appearance, with flat, segmented leaves that arch outward. They are ridiculously easy to care for as long as you don't overwater, and appreciate a summer vacation outdoors every year if you can manage it. Like amaryllis, Christmas cacti can be persuaded to rebloom on a specific schedule, but will also rebloom when their internal

clocks tell them the time is right.

For everyone else

If you don't know whether a particular recipient is a plant lover, choose a one-off gift that will look good during the holidays and leave the scene thereafter. Poinsettias, or Euphorbia pulcherrima, are perfect for this. The array of flower forms and colors increase every year, with classic red plants blooming on garden center pallets alongside specimens that appear to have been tie-dyed. I especially like the rose-form types with curled petal rows.

If you water your poinsettias when the top of the soil feels dry and keep them out of direct sunlight, the petals - which are really a type of leaves called "bracts" - will last for a good long time. Technically speaking, you can take the time and trouble to cosset a poinsettia into rebloom, but most people, even avid gardeners, regard that as a waste of time. Poinsettias are relatively inexpensive and easily replaceable. If you are giving them as gifts, be mindful of households with children and pets. Ingesting plant parts can sometimes cause digestive problems and the milky sap in the stems may irritate skin.

Florists' cyclamen, or Cyclamen persicum, are everywhere at this time of the year, sporting gorgeous marbled leaves and butterfly-like blossoms in pinks, purples, reds and whites. I love them, but keeping them going takes more fortitude than many people have.

Under normal indoor conditions, the plants start to fade after the blooms drop. Leaves depart the scene in an alarming way, making the average person afraid-and-guilty-about "killing the plant." At this point, or sometimes before, they throw the cyclamen away. In fact, patience and knowledge of the plant's habits - including the habit of leafless dormancy - will enable the dedicated plant lover to bring about another season of growth and bloom. However, most people do not have patience and knowledge of the plant's habits. Give cyclamen to those individuals as a glorious one-off, knowing that you can always purchase another one, possibly in a new and different color, next year.

Of course, when you give any holiday present, you relinquish control of that item. Give an Hermes scarf and you hope the individual will wear it joyfully, but she may decide to regift it, store it in the attic, or donate it to a thrift shop. You have to hope for the best, but admit the reality. It is like that with plants too. Do your best to match the plant with the individual and then let go. The energy you save can be better spent coaxing your own cyclamen into rebloom.

Elisabeth Ginsburg, a resident of Glen Ridge, is a frequent contributor to Worrall Community Newspapers. The writer archives past columns at www.gardenersapprentice.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The (in)efficiency of our local government

To the Editor:

My local government - Linden - has a lesson for all of us in how to get things done. I am talking about giving the mayor a raise.

Days after the re-election of our mayor, an ordinance was introduced to adjust compensation for city employees. It does not mention the increase for the mayor. Instead, it is cloaked in the verbiage of an ordinance that would require the citizen to go to see the city clerk to decode what it says. Within the schedule is the new salary for the mayor, which includes an increase of at least \$30,000, to \$103,000-plus. An increase approaching 40 percent. It also includes adding a chief of staff for \$45,000 to work for the mayor and supervise his staff of one.

So while Florida was still counting votes for the umpteenth time, a city council member crafted, reviewed and submitted an ordinance giving a 40-percent wage increase, and it passed the first step.

This couldn't have happened before the election? Seniors will be given a 2.8-percent increase from Social Security. Emergency personnel may see a 1- to 3-percent increase in their pay, and the rest of the employees may see a 2-percent increase in theirs, but the mayor gets 40 percent, a \$30,000 increase and a helper for \$45,000?

I take issue with the audacity to push forth such an absurd increase days after re-election. Yes, he is the mayor and, like his

council members, his day may not end at 5 p.m. During the campaign, the mayor touted the reduction in property taxes. True, our city taxes were reduced. Not the county, nor the Board of Education. How much were our property taxes reduced? \$12.87.

That leaves \$9,600 for me to pay. He also celebrated the repeal of the \$120 garbage fee. So why only \$12.87? Yes, the mayor can be given a raise, but it shouldn't be anymore than any other city employee. He can align himself with the other city employee increases, but in no scenario is he, nor any other city employee, ever eligible for a 40-percent increase. Placing the onus on the citizen to ask the clerk is an unnecessary burden.

What if the ordinance synopsis stated: "An Ordinance that will grant an increase for the mayor of 40 percent in salary"? But no, it is hidden in the obscurity of vagueness.

Now, if only this efficiency could be applied into real issues facing the city.

Scott Gavitt
Linden

Schnauzer rescue

To the Editor:

As a former Union County resident and a New Jersey Schnauzer Rescue Network volunteer, I'm glad that several of my fellow NJSRN volunteers live in Union County, including Dorian Roll, who is the president of our organization and who resides in Scotch Plains. I fondly remember when our colleague, Lois, former colleague Sherry and myself saved an adorable miniature schnau-

zer from a New York City AC&C shelter.

My life has been enriched and blessed by God through my three schnauzers: Max, who we saved from a shelter; Pistol, who howled in unison with my currently departed boyfriend Mike and myself; and Connie, who my friend and relative Barbara saved from a

shelter and gave to me to adopt in 1996.

Miniature schnauzers are intelligent, loyal, affectionate canine companions.

I'm proud to be a New Jersey schnauzer girl from Union County.

Martha McLoughlin
Lakewood

More greetings and humbugs

(Continued from Page 12)
knuckle with the paid professionals pushing the project.

Humbug to Cranford Superintendent of Schools Scott Rubin. After hearing his sugary pitch for the revamping of Cranford schools, you were left wondering where to buy the Ginsu knives. And while on the subject, humbug to Terry Darling. The newly elected member of the Cranford Board of Education boldly announced he is neither in favor nor opposed to the new plan. Hardly a profile in courage.

Greetings to Kimberly Cook. The newly elected member of the Hillside Board of Education is proof that soft-spoken, thoughtful views can be appreciated by the voters.

Greetings to Pedro Matos. The Clark chief of police trying to end to auto break-ins pushes the slogan "Lock it Up!"

Greetings to Dan Stanley. This Linden fireman, along with his colleagues, has diligently worked to clean up all veterans monuments in their city.

Greetings to the Arbor Terrace Section of Mountainside. Its barbecue honoring first responders deserves praise.

Humbug to the Buckeye Partners. The petroleum distributor is planning a jump in the number of oil trains traveling through Union County. It must be stopped.

Greetings to Jenn Bonanno. The Roselle Catholic High School guidance counselor goes the extra 2 miles to help her kids get into college. She deserves some hugs.

Greetings to Merck & Co. The Rahway company is investing big research dollars into Keytruda, a cancer drug that harnesses a patient's own immune system to fight tumors.

Greetings to Family Process. The wonderful Summit group climbed another hilltop in snagging Robert Marbut, one of the country's experts in fighting homelessness, to serve on its board.

Greetings to Linden School No. 2. For the second year, its "Walk and Talk with Dad" was a community joy.

Humbug to Frank Krause of Cranford. In keeping with tradition this year, Krause's opposition to a small kiddie display in the park across from the post office was infuriating. As Charles Chaplin said, "Some people deserve a swift kick in the backside."

Gift giving has new challenges in modern times

(Continued from Page 12)
myself — which is frowned upon in the month of December — I would not have added it to some list that I can no longer locate! Time to click on the “share” button.

Share options include, but are not limited to, email, Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest. Some of these options sound easy enough, right? Wrong!

Click on the email button and you get more options. Do I want to use Comcast, Google or Yahoo? Are they asking which email I use or which the recipient uses? Forget that, I'll try Facebook. With that link they want me to “say something about this item.” Like what, “If you really love

me you will buy me this awesome T-shirt”? And who sees this post? All my Facebook friends? What if they all buy me the shirt? Option three is tweeting. Who tweets a gift suggestion?

I thought tweeting was all about gossip and what celebrity is eating where. And how many characters can I cram into a tweet. Most tweets will now fit 280 characters, up from 140. How much do I have to say about this darn T-shirt. I don't even want it anymore! If you click the Pinterest icon, you are brought to a screen that says “Choose Board.” I'm done! Enough about what I want. What if I am shopping for someone else? I found a great item, awesome! Let's buy it and call it a day. Not so

easy. More options ... great! Do I want: A. Add to cart, B. Buy now, or C. One-click ordering. I think I want to do all three, right? I want to add it to my cart, then buy it and do all this with one click. Perhaps “one click” sounds like moving too fast. Can you undo one-click ordering? Let's go with the traditional buy now. “Now” is up to interpretation. “Now” has many steps. These steps include, but are not limited to: order summary, shipping address, payment method, reviewing items and shipping, and then, wait for it, placing your order! You think you are done? No such luck. Let the emails begin. Thank you for your order. Your order has been processed. Your order has been shipped.

There's even a “now arriving” email. Your order has been delivered.

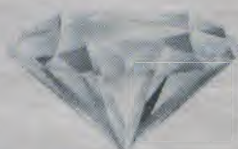
Would you like to give some feedback on your order? Oh, I don't think they want my feedback. But if I did choose to share my thoughts, should I use email, Facebook, Twitter or Pinterest? I know, I'll make a list and put that in my cart!

Laura Baker has lived in West Orange for 20 years, and is wife to Paul; mother to Josh, a college freshman; and Emily, a junior at West Orange High School. She works as a Weight Watchers leader and as a spin instructor at LA Fitness.

UNION *Tis the Season*

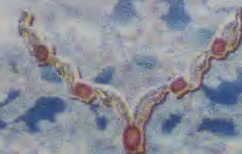
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Drugs, intoxicated driving occupy local police

Union County police departments have released the following reports of incidents to which officers recently responded:

Cranford

• Dec. 3: At 9:37 a.m., during a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue East and John Street, police arrested James Mollo, 28, of Cranford for possession of a hypodermic syringe. He was processed and provided with a court appearance date. In addition, he was issued a motor vehicle summons for a seat belt violation.

POLICE BLOTTER

• Nov. 30: At 12:14 a.m., during a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue and Garden State Parkway, police arrested Catharine Strom, 37, of Cranford for driving while intoxicated. She was processed and provided with a court appearance date. In addition, she was issued motor vehicle summonses for an illegal U-turn, careless driving, failure to observe a red traffic signal and for an unregistered vehicle.

• Nov. 29: At 7:08 p.m., during a motor vehicle stop on North Avenue East and Centennial Avenue, police arrested Khayri Hudeen, 22, of Elizabeth for possession of under 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was processed and provided with a



SANTA IN BLUE — Union Committeeman Manuel Figueredo and student volunteers take part in the sorting event for Union Police Department's 'Santa in Blue' toy drive in 2015. Donations for local families are being accepted at municipal buildings through Friday, Dec. 14, for this year's drive.

court appearance date.

In addition, he was issued motor vehicle summonses for a seat belt violation and possession of a controlled dangerous

substance in a motor vehicle.

Springfield

• Nov. 30: Police arrested a 31-year-old

Plainfield woman for driving under the influence as a result of a motor vehicle accident investigation on Meisel Avenue.

• Nov. 30: Police arrested a 47-year-old Dunellen man for driving under the influence as a result of a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

• Nov. 29: Police arrested a 38-year-old Newark woman for obtaining a controlled dangerous substance by fraud.

• Nov. 26: Police arrested a 33-year-old Florham Park man for possession of marijuana.

• Nov. 22: Police arrested a 59-year-old Newark man for driving under the influence after the vehicle he was operating was observed driving erratically on Route 22.

• Nov. 22: Police arrested a 37-year-old Warren man for driving under the influence as a result of a motor vehicle stop on Route 22.

• Nov. 17: Police arrested a 29-year-old East Orange woman for driving under the influence after the vehicle she was operating was observed driving erratically on Morris Avenue.

This information is provided by the Union County police departments in accordance with the Open Public Records Act. All persons charged are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



FRAUD FOILED — Postal clerk Jennifer Goodwin was commended by Cranford police recently for preventing two separate fraud cases within the township within two weeks. She intercepted two elderly Cranford residents at the Cranford post office who were sending cash through the mail for activity linked to scams. Goodwin alerted the Cranford Police Department, preventing the residents from being defrauded in common scams aimed at the elderly.

Bomb threat seals Linden High School

Linden High School was sealed off for approximately 2 1/2 hours on Friday, Dec. 7, after officials received an anonymous bomb threat about 45 minutes after classes had begun, school and police officials said.

District officials said in a release that they received the threat of a bomb outside the school at about 8:45 a.m., immediately notified police and placed the school under a "shelter-in-place" order. During a shelter-in-place declaration, classes and movement go on normally, but no one is allowed to enter or leave the building.

Emergency personnel, including the Union County Bomb Squad and Union County Sheriff's K-9 units, responded and assisted with a systematic search of the facility, Linden police said in their release. At approximately 11:15 a.m. the school was declared safe and the shelter-in-place order was lifted.

"We take all threats against our students and staff extremely seriously, and took every precaution in this matter," Superintendent of Schools Danny A. Robertozzi said. "We want to thank all of our emergency personnel for responding quickly and doing a thorough search to ensure everyone's safety."

At the same time, School No. 5 was under shelter-in-place order due to a suspicious

package outside the building. Police responded and found that the package posed no threat. That shelter-in-place order was quickly lifted, the district said.

The high school incident remains under investigation, and anyone with information regarding this threat is urged to contact the Linden Police Juvenile Bureau at 908-474-8520.

Woman robbed at gunpoint at Union's Whole Foods

A woman putting groceries in her car was robbed at gunpoint in the parking lot of the Whole Foods on Springfield Avenue, according to a Dec. 5 release from the Union Police Department.

The victim was putting her groceries in her trunk at about 8 p.m. on Nov. 27 when a man approached her, displayed a handgun and demanded her money. The victim turned over her bag, which contained her wallet, money and credit cards. The perpetrator was last seen running toward Springfield Avenue. He was described as a black male, 40 to 50 years old, and wearing a facemask, police said.

Police said they were following a few leads, but could use help from anyone who has information regarding the crime.

STUDENTS

FDU names students to dean's and honors lists

Union County residents have been named to Fairleigh Dickinson University's Florham Campus dean's and honors lists for the spring 2018 semester. Honors list students have earned a grade-point ratio of at least 3.5, and dean's list students have earned a 3.2.

The following students have been named to the dean's list: Trent Hartwig, Justin Barbosa, Cheryl Blackmore, Karrelly Herrera, Kevin Reyes, Corinne Spies, Kelly Sullivan, Edward Palmadessa, Sean Pentz, Anthony Primavera, Daniel Carvalhoso, Ashley Paulino, Alivia Pitts, Brian Gomez, Kathryn Gomez, Iryna Melnyk, Noah Miller, Ashley Moura, Cristofer Tamayo, Danielle Owens, Stephanie Daniels, Catherine Hodic, Larissa Belo, Emily Blum, Joselle Dabu, Michael Denicolo, Judy-Mae Lima, Kelly Maciel, Isaiah Richardson and Bradley Norris.

The following students have been named to the honors list: Benjamin Collins, Teagan Haddad, Matthew Kamis, Laura Laroche, Evan Midgley, Connor O'Keefe, Elena Schwartz, Tatiana Nieto, Brandon De Oliveira, Geneva Loconte, Joyce Cotton, Lucas Daneri, Valeria Espinel, Danielle Matos, Ever Nolasco, Mayra Quintero, Ryan Depaul, Gildato Da Silva, Ema Dias, Ashley Pinto, Maria Silva, Deanna Vagueiro, Sabrina Awad, Olivia Campos, Christina Carvalhoso, Hakeem Ibrahim, Magdalene Kozak, Helena Marchwinski, Isabel Rivera, Madison Rosa, Miranda Rosa, Kaitlyn Shrubsall, Nicole Tarnawski, Melissa Quinn, Nicholas Sepe, Lizet Rivera, Jennifer Turcios-Reyes, Chariene Nkengfack, Michelle Campana, Alyssaminna Manongsong, Alanna McNamara, Sarah Barbosa, Mudia Ogbevire, Kayla Peterpaul, Brittney Oliveira, Sydney Smith, Joe Chavez, James Patania, Emily Sickinger, Jamie Srydinski, Daniel Araya, Vienna Holmes, Maria Sanchez-Najera, Samra Shakeel, True Tran, Gideon Boah, Ashley Donaldson, Sofia Dos Santos, Kathleen Falcon, Nicole Fazendeiro, Payal Iftekher, Sarah Osborne, Abbas Qayyum, Erin Roberts, Joshua Siniscal, Marena Trusso, Amber Van Dunk, Breyonna Williams and Julia Pikaart.

Local Saint Peter's Prep students are named AP scholars

Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City has announced that 50 high school students were named AP Scholars, having demonstrated college-level achievement through



DOWN THE SHORE — A marine biology class from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark visited Sandy Hook to gather data from the salt marsh, beach and dunes recently, and students observed vegetation, deer and a few harmless garter snakes.

their work in AP classes and exams. AP Scholars scored 3 or higher on three or more AP exams. AP Scholars with Distinction received an average score of 3.5 or greater on all exams taken and 3 or more on at least five exams. The following Union County students have been recognized:

- from Cranford: Marek Wlodarski and Andrew Tobin were named AP Scholars with Distinction;
- from Mountainside: Keith Schmidt was named an AP Scholar;
- from Summit: Declan Alvidrez was named an AP Scholar with Distinction;
- from Union: Kevin Keegan, Joseph Mastrodonato and Joaquin Matamis were named AP Scholars with Distinction; and
- from Westfield: Brendan Kane was named an AP Scholar with Distinction.

Saint Peter's Prep honors local residents

Students from Saint Peter's Preparatory School in Jersey City were awarded honor certificates for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as medals in various subjects. Students with a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher, and no individual semester grade lower than a B, received certificates. The following local residents were recognized:

- from Cranford: James Anderson, Patrick Keenaghan, Jacob Quinones, Andrew Schmutter and John Scheurer;
- from Fanwood: Liam Christman, Aidan Christman, and Patrick Corrao;
- from Hillside: Ian Lozano;
- from Plainfield: Aidan Nolte and

Alexander Gray;

- from Rahway: Sean MacLaney;
- from Scotch Plains: Ethan MacMillan;
- from Summit: Ian Bradshaw, Niccolo Colucci, Henrik Murer, Michael Uy and Chase Bradshaw;
- from Union: Bryan Barahona, Matthew Moreira and Joaquin Matti;
- from Vauxhall: Khyree Robinson; and
- from Westfield: Patrick Johnston, Mark Lovito, John Pettit, Andrew Cherry, Colin Elliott, Salvatore Imbornone, Stephen Jennings, Jr., Christopher Larkin, Brian Mikovits, Peter Munkittrick, Michael O'Neill, Jack Riley, Liam Mooney and John Thorburn.

In addition, Andrew Schmutter won the silver medal in history; Alexander Gray won the silver medal in mathematics and the gold medal in history and French 1; Michael Uy won the silver medal in fine and performing arts and the gold medal in Spanish 2; and Chase Bradshaw won the silver medal in religion and gold medals in classical languages and science.

Lin and Hening named National Merit Scholars

Arthur L. Johnson High School seniors Ivy Lin and Erin Hening, of Clark, were recently named National Merit Scholars. They received a commendation from the school and the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. Commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the 2019 competition by taking the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualify-

ing Test.

Watchung students are honored

The following students at Mount Saint Mary Academy in Watchung have been named National Merit Commended Scholars: Shreya Karthikeyan, of Somerset; Emma King, of Berkeley Heights; and Erica MacDonald, of Westfield. They placed among the top 5 percent of more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the PSAT this last fall. They are being recognized for the exceptional academic promise demonstrated by their outstanding performance on this test.

Hubbard is named to dean's list

Peter Hubbard, of Summit, has been selected for inclusion on St. Lawrence University's dean's list for academic achievement during the spring 2018 semester. To be eligible for the dean's list, a student must have completed at least four courses and have an academic average of 3.6 based on a 4.0 scale for the semester.

SLU is located in Canton, N.Y.

Oak Knoll students recognized as AP Scholars

Local Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child students earned AP Scholar Awards for their performance on Advanced Placement tests, while several members of the Class of 2018 earned other AP awards, which are given each year to students who earned scores of 3 or higher in three or more AP exams. Current seniors named as AP Scholars include:

- from Mountainside: Kyra Kozar;
- from Summit: Kayleigh Massengill and Carmen Van Volkenburgh;
- from Union: Ana Bui-Martinez; and
- from Westfield: Bridget Quinn.

Megan Brennan, of Summit, earned an average score of 3.25 on all AP exams and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams.

Brown and Ibezim are inducted in 3.0 Club

American International College inducted David Brown, of Vauxhall, and Cyriacus Ibezim, of Union, into the Athletic Director's 3.0 Club. The annual induction ceremony, held at the beginning of fall semester, recognizes those returning student-athletes who achieve at least a 3.0 cumulative grade-point average after attending AIC for one year or more.

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CELEBRATING THE VETS — From left, Anderson Ponce, Danny Kinahan, Jaylynn Soto, Ashley Gonzalez and Kylah Womack pose with some of the 200 bags of candy that members of the Blue and Gold Club at Franklin Elementary School in Rahway put together for distribution to former and current military servicemen and women for Veterans Day. Every student in the school wrote a thank-you letter to hand out with the bags. Volunteers from the school-based community service group attended the service at Veterans Memorial Park in Rahway on Sunday, Nov. 11, and presented a bag to each veteran. The club also sent goody bags to an Airborne National Reserve Squadron in North Carolina and Atria Assisted Living in Cranford, as well as letters to the veterans at Veterans Memorial Home in Menlo Park.

Hartz's environmental study irks Cranford opponents

(Continued from Page 11)

T.J. Elgin said it was “discerning” that Hartz Mountain had done the minimum when it came to the environmental study, saying, “With the understanding that there was documentation in your possession and did not forward to your civil engineer, it appears your report and possibly other things lack integrity. And, we are needing integrity as residents want to know that you are going to partner with us to build the best and use this land in the best way possible, not only to benefit Hartz Mountain, but to benefit the community of Cranford.”

Rhatican said that Hartz Mountain is “not insensitive” to the residents’ concern.

“We understand that there are concerns in the community and by the municipality with respect to the environmental condition of the property,” he said. “It is not a requirement of the environmental impact study or your ordinance to address that. It will be addressed at the appropriate time. The Department of Environmental Protection has jurisdiction over that and it would be addressed. But, we’re confident that the site can be developed ultimately as a residential use with the DEP oversight. I don’t want anyone to have the sense that we’re utterly insensitive.”

At the Nov. 28 Planning Board meeting, Charles Reese, vice president of sales and leasing for Hartz Mountain, said that the developer has continued to market the vacancies in the sprawling office complex even as its application continues to be heard

by the board.

He said Hartz Mountain has been sending out “email blasts” to more than 500 brokers with the listing of 750 Walnut Ave. Reese also said the available space has been listed for lease on Hartz Mountain’s website and it has been posted on popular online real estate marketplaces, CoStar and LoopNet.

During the 2 1/2 years Hartz Mountain has been marketing the site, Reese said three or four companies have made serious inquiries.

Members of the Planning Board and local residents, however, question the efforts made by Hartz Mountain Industries to attract tenants.

Residents Don Smith took Reese and Rhatican to task at that meeting for not doing enough to market the space.

“At what date and time did Hartz Mountain decide, come hell or high water, we’re going to move to change this to residential versus pursuing commercial rentals?” Smith asked.

“I don’t have the answer to that,” Reese said. “I continue to market it and show it to potential clients as long as they’re interested.”

Smith then referenced the fact that Hartz Mountain has testified that its plans for a 905-unit complex would add almost 2,000 people to the township. That would represent about an 8 percent increase to Cranford’s population, and “impact the infrastructure” of the township, according to Smith.

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From soup to knickknacks for Christmas



Photos by Brian Trusdell



PRACTICAL TO THE PECULIAR — The Cranford United Methodist Church's eighth annual Christmas Holiday Shoppe and Soup Fest on Saturday, Dec. 8, brought out vendors selling all kinds of items and eager shoppers looking for everything from the functional to the unique. More than 45 vendors offered a large variety of merchandise, crafts and gifts. Specialty homemade soups sold out within two hours while carolers entertained with Christmas music.



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UNION COUNTY ENTERTAINMENT



The Shopkins, Jessicake, Bubbleisha, Peppermint, Rainbow Kate, Coquette, Polli Polish, will make their theatrical debut at the Union County Performing Arts center on Sunday, Dec. 16.

Shopkins live at UCPAC

On Sunday, Dec. 16, Shopkins will make their theatrical debut in an original new live show at the Union County Performing Arts Center, featuring musical performances by Jessicake, Bubbleisha, Peppermint, Rainbow Kate, Coquette, Polli Polish and more. Purchasers of VIP seating may take part in a meet and greet with the Shopkins themselves.

For tickets or additional information, visit the box office at 1601 Irving St., Rahway or www.ucpac.org/events.

Kean Stage launches live family performances

Kean Stage will present two upcoming family performances: "Pete the Cat," on Sunday, Jan. 27, at 3 p.m., and "Pinkalicious, the Musical," on Sunday, April 7, at 3 p.m.

For tickets and additional information, visit <http://www.keanstage.com/>.

Apply for Premiere Play Festival by Dec. 15

Premiere Stages, the professional theatre company in residence at Kean University, is accepting submissions for the 15th annual Premiere Play Festival through Saturday, Dec. 15. Any submissions received after this submission window will not be considered.

Four finalists will be selected by early March 2019. The festival winner will be awarded a \$2,500 advance and receive a full Equity production in September 2019; the runner-up will receive \$1,000 and an Equity 29-hour staged reading June 2019; and the two remaining finalists will each receive an honorarium of \$750.

Submission guidelines are available at <http://www.premierestagesatkean.com/play-festival>.

Rising Star Awards applications available

The deadline for submissions for the Paper Mill Playhouse Rising Star Awards for Excellence in High School Musical Theatre is Wednesday, Jan. 9, at 5 p.m. Any New Jersey school that produces a legally-licensed musical between Jan. 17 and April 14, 2019, is eligible to participate. Applications are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis and only the first 100 schools to apply will be able to participate in the program. The application for schools to participate is now available at <http://www.papermill.org/education/rising-star-awards/award-application.html>.

Jon Secada to close season at Kean

Kean Stage has announced that Grammy Award-winner Jon Secada will close out the season with a concert on Saturday, May 4, at 7:30 p.m. at Enlow Recital Hall, 215 North Ave., Hillside. Tickets are available at the Kean Stage Box Office in Wilkins Theatre, by phone at 908-737-7469, or at www.keanstage.com.

Exhibit at Les Malamut

Bertolotti, a Kenilworth resident and painter, has been featured in gallery shows in Italy, Los Angeles and New York. Her newest work, "Tis the Season for Magic and Music," is displayed at the gallery on the lower level of the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave. It is a mix of holiday record covers including vintage, new, pop, classical, and comedy. The colorful covers span more than five decades of recording history and feature art work by well known artists Thomas Nast, Norman Rockwell and Joseph Low and more. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular library hours.

Mixed media art displayed

The mixed media artwork of New Providence resident Marie Burns will be on exhibit in the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Free Public Library throughout December in a show called "Outside the Box."

The Donald B. Palmer Museum and the Springfield Free Public Library are located at 66 Mountain Ave. More information about the library and the Palmer Museum can be found at www.springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

Carolyn Dorfman Dance company announces its 2018-19 Season

Carolyn Dorfman Dance, a modern dance company based in Union and New York City, will celebrate 36 years of dance and performance with its 2018-19 season. The highlights this year include an appearance at the Dance Union Festival in Rahway in early February and the company's annual appearance at NJPAC in April.

New play to explore little-known black history

On Saturday, Feb. 2, at 3 p.m., United Youth of New Jersey will present "Harlem

Renaissance: Another Black Wall Street," the ninth in the nonprofit group's series of plays detailing pivotal moments in African-American history, at the Ritz Theater, 1148 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth.

Tickets and sponsorship packages are on sale now. For more information on the show and how to buy group tickets or sponsorships, contact Charlotte Brown, 908-943-8116 or 908-220-5279, or at uynj1995@gmail.com.

To purchase individual tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com.

'Reclamation' on exhibit in Mountainside

"Reclamation," and exhibit of art by Nikolina Kovalenko, will be on display through Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at the Watchung Reservation's Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside. In 2017, Kovalenko visited the Amazon rainforest in Brazil to document the results of the logging process.

While there, she created graphite rubbings of harvested trees; the artwork presented in this show is for sale and a portion of the profits will be donated to local communities in the Brazilian Amazon to help fund reforestation projects. Visit ucnj.org/trailside for more information.



GRAPHITE RUBBINGS — Artist Nikolina Kovalenko's graphite rubbings of trees from the Amazon rainforest in Brazil document the results of the logging process. Her exhibition, 'Reclamation,' will be on display until Tuesday, Feb. 12 in the Watchung Reservation's Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd. in Mountainside.

ICE arrests 10 in Union County in statewide operation

Ten people in Union County were among 105 arrested during a five-day operation in New Jersey by U.S. Immigration and Custom Enforcement officials that was aimed at individuals in the country illegally, the federal agency said in a Dec. 7 news release.

Of the 105 arrested, 80 percent had prior criminal convictions and/or pending criminal charges, ICE said, and four individuals in the country illegally were wanted on Interpol warrants based on crimes they allegedly committed in their home countries.

The raids came after a directive issued by state Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal

on Nov. 29 to all state, county and local police that limited their cooperation with federal authorities regarding immigration enforcement.

ICE said the raids had been previously scheduled and were not resulting from the directive.

"ICE will of necessity have to conduct additional enforcement operations, if local police departments and county jails do not refer criminals and gang members they encounter to ICE for review and possible arrest on immigration violations," the federal agency said.

The operation, spearheaded by ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations, tar-

geted at-large criminal aliens, illegal re-entrants and other immigration violators, and was supported by ICE's Homeland Security Investigations and U.S. Customs and Border Protection's New Jersey Field Office, ICE said.

Those arrested will go through removal proceedings before an immigration judge; for those under a final order of removal, arrangements will be made to remove them from the country. The individuals arrested are citizens of 24 different countries, 10 of which are in Latin America. The largest number of people were from Mexico, 28, followed by the Dominican Republic, 10, El Salvador, eight, and Honduras, seven.

The largest number, 24, were arrested in Hudson County; 14 were arrested in Monmouth County; 12 in Mercer; and 11 in Passaic.

The arrestees ranged from 18 to 65 years old and most were previously convicted of a variety of offenses. Some of these convictions include: sexual assault on a minor, child abuse, possession of narcotics, distribution of narcotics, extortion, fraud, domestic violence, theft, possession of a weapon, robbery, promoting prostitution, aggravated assault, resisting arrest, endangering the welfare of a child, credit card fraud, insurance fraud, driving under the influence, shoplifting and illegal reentry.

Carols, Children and Christmas by Candlelight at First Presbyterian Church of Cranford

Dec 9, 5pm: Service of Healing and Hope

Dec 23, 10am: "Lessons and Carols" by the Chancel Choir

Dec 24, 4pm: Children's Pageant "Christmas Special Delivery"

Dec 24, 8pm: Traditional Family Candlelight Worship

Dec 24, 11pm: Candlelight Service with Holy Communion

Dec 31, 10:30pm: Labyrinth Walk

firstprescranford.org
(908) 276-8440



11 Springfield Ave
Cranford, NJ 07016



Christmas Spirit of 2018

Kenilworth Gospel Chapel 557 Newark Ave. & S. 23rd Street Kenilworth



Oh come let us adore Him.

Christmas Program for the Entire Family
On Sunday, December 23rd at 11 AM
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Christmas Message

Open To All

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Monday, December 24th at 7:30 PM
Christmas Music and Message

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
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Web: springfieldpresbyterian.com

Family worship services Every Sunday 10:15 a.m.



Dec. 23rd - Christmas Cantata, "Let the Whole World Sing"
During the 10:15am worship service

Dec. 24th - Christmas Eve Service
4:00pm Family Service with Pageant
11:00pm Candlelight Communion Service

Dec. 30th - 10:15am Service of Lessons and Carols

IN MEMORIAM

- ANDERSON — Joyce M., of Hillside; Nov. 28. Sister, aunt.
- BARBUTO — L. Elaine, formerly of Cranford; Dec. 3. Great-grandmother, 100.
- BATTIATO — Walter M., of Union; Nov. 30. Lithographer, grandfather, 87.
- BAUKNIGHT — Rev. Dr. Clarence W. Jr., of Linden; Nov. 27. WWII USAF vet.
- CAMPBELL — Joan Rooney, of Cranford; Nov. 29. Great-grandmother, 84.
- COLEMAN — Pierre, of Union; Nov. 22. Beth Israel Medical center employee.
- DALY — Sally, formerly of Kenilworth; Nov. 30. Volunteer, grandmother, 90.
- JOHNSON — Dorothy L., of Roselle; Dec. 1. Great-grandmother, 101.
- LUBNIEWSKI — Mary T., of Clark; Nov. 28. Rosary Society member. Mother, 87.
- MAGUIRE — Jo Ann, of Cranford; Dec. 4. Counselor. Wife, grandmother.
- MCHUGH — William H., of Springfield; Dec. 2. ShopRite manager, husband, 88.
- PAZDRO — Sophie, of Kenilworth; Dec. 3. Was 86.
- SALERNO — Clemente, of Roselle; Nov. 27. Retired business owner, father.
- SANDLIN — Rudolph, of Rahway, formerly of Roselle; Nov. 30. Husband, father.
- SHEAFFER — Lisa, formerly of Springfield; Dec. 3. Wife, mother, sister, aunt.
- SMITH — Albert D. Sr., formerly of Rahway; Nov. 23. Rahway police officer.
- STIGLITZ — Louis, of Springfield; Dec. 4. Carpenter, master gardener, father.
- STROMEYER — Norman Aaron, of Springfield; Dec. 3. WWII Army vet, father.
- THEOBALD — Ann Louise, formerly of Nutley, Springfield; Nov. 29. Mother, 85.
- TYBURCZY — Theodore J. "Ted," of Union; Dec. 2. Husband, father, brother.
- WILLIAMS — Virginia, of Union; Nov. 27.
- ZARZECKI — Mary C., of Cranford; Dec. 3. Great-grandmother, 83.

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.



CENTER OF ATTENTION — New York Jets center Jonotthan Harrison hands an autographed football to Linden School No. 5 fifth-grader Calen Brown, who was named an 'upstander' for working to end bullying as part of the Jets Tackle Bullying program.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

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

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AHM YISRAEL, Springfield NJ (973) 376-0539, visit www.tbaynj.org Senior Rabbi: Mark Mallach. We offer many exciting events throughout the year. Women's League, Men's Club, a nurturing Early Childhood Program, a warm Religious school, Adult education and so much more!

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM Springfield, NJ (973) 379-5387 visit www.shaarey.org Rabbi: Renee Edelman Cantor; Jason Rosenman 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
557 Newark Ave., 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, 888 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. Sunday Worship Service 11:00 am with nursery care, Holy Communion first Sunday monthly. Church office 908-688-3164; office hours are M-F 9:30 am - 4:30 pm Fri till 3:00. 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 9:30am. 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)

THE CHURCH OF ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA, 1000 North Broad Street, Hillside, NJ 07205. 908-351-1515. WEEKEND MASS: Saturday 5:30pm (English); 7:00pm (Spanish); Sunday 8:00am (English); 9:15am (Portuguese); 11:00am (Spanish); 12:30pm (English). WEEKDAY MASSES: 7:30am English (Pastoral Center); Reconciliation: Saturday 4:00pm to 5:00pm or 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

TOWN NEWS

Berkeley Heights

Dec. 15 worship service at Little Flower

There will be a Holiday Worship Service for those who are stressed, lonely or hurting on Saturday, Dec. 15, at 11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Little Flower, 310 Plainfield Ave. Light refreshments will be served.

Cranford

Perrotti helps CWC scholarship program

Nick Perrotti, of Perrotti's Quality Meats at the corner of S. Union Avenue and Cherry Street in Cranford, was instrumental in selling over a \$1000 in Coloring Books for the College Women's Club of Cranford Scholarship Program. He allowed the books to be prominently displayed and went out of his way to encourage patrons to purchase them.

CPL staff trained for mental health aid

On Oct. 12 and 19, the Cranford Public Library closed its doors from 1 to 5 p.m. to train its staff in Mental Health First Aid. All participants received a nationally recognized three-year certification in Mental Health First Aid. Anyone in crisis may call 908-232-2880.

Girl Scouts cadettes earn Silver Award

Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey has awarded Girl Scout cadettes Sofia Pollack and Caroline Willis, of Girl Scout Troop 42870, the Girl Scout Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout cadette may earn.

The Scouts donated four reusable pet oxygen-mask kits to the Cranford Fire Department. The masks will be kept on the fire department's first responder vehicles to help Cranford's pet community in the

event of an emergency. As a result of this effort, as well as more than 50 hours of related service, the Silver Award represents the girls' leadership in their community.

Register by Dec. 14 for Holiday Decorating Contest

Join the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department for Cranford's fourth annual Holiday Decorating Contest. Fill out the registration form and note the house entered in the contest by Friday, Dec. 14. Forms can be found at Facebook, Instagram, at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., and online at <https://www.cranfordnj.org/recreation-parks/news/cranfords-4th-annual-holiday-decorating-contest>. Prizes will be a gift certificate to a local establishment and a lawn sign for winning houses. A committee will be put together to vote. Winners will be announced Thursday, Dec. 20.

Email the registration form to recreation@cranfordnj.org or drop it off at the Community Center. For more information, call 908-709-7283.

Zolonski receives scholarship

The Lightbridge Foundation recently awarded a scholarship to Cranford High School senior Taylor Zolonski. She plans to pursue a degree in education, which aligns with the foundation's values of a desire to better the lives of children.

Kenilworth

Library closing dates

The Kenilworth Public Library will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24 and Tuesday, Dec. 25, in observance of Christmas.

It will reopen on Wednesday, Dec. 26, at 10 a.m. In addition, the library will be closed on Monday, Dec. 31 and Tuesday, Jan. 1 in observance of New Year's. The library will reopen on Wednesday, Jan. 2, at 10 a.m.

Roselle

Annual senior holiday jazz luncheon announced

Borough seniors are invited to the annual Senior Holiday Jazz Luncheon on Friday, Dec. 14, from 12 to 3 p.m. at Costa's Italian Restaurant, 120 Chestnut St., Roselle Park. For transportation and tickets, contact Doris Reid-Worthington or Melanie Daniels at 908-245-6717, dworthington@boroughofroselle.com or mdaniels@boroughofroselle.com.

Annual holiday concert set

The 2018 Annual Holiday Concert will be on Saturday, Dec. 15, from 7 to 10 p.m. at Abraham Clark High School, 122 East 6th Ave. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. Special entertainers will include Roelle's own "Flavor Band" and Celebrity Guest Comedian "Brooklyn Mike" Troy. Also performing live will be the "Urban Guerilla Orchestra" from Philadelphia. This concert is in loving memory of the late Councilman Ronald Hayman, Jr. For more information contact Donald Shaw at (908) 634-4502 or dshaw@boroughofroselle.com, Genia Simms at (908) 259-3036 or esimms@boroughofroselle.com, or Bob Sumner at sumnertime24@comcast.net.

Springfield

SPL presents Ella Fitzgerald Tribute

The Springfield Free Public Library will offer a concert tribute to Ella Fitzgerald, performed by Sonny and Perley, on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. in the library's Donald B. Palmer Museum. This program is free and open to all members of the general public.

The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave. More information about the library can be found at www.springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

New exhibit at SPL

The Springfield Library's Palmer Museum displays the new exhibit, "Over There and Over Here: Springfield, New Jersey and the World during the Great War" through the end of April 2019. Items on display include many belonging to longtime Springfield resident Donald B. Palmer, the benefactor of the museum and a World War I veteran.

The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave. For more information about the library and the museum, visit www.springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

Marie Burns art show in Palmer Museum

The mixed media artwork of New Providence resident Marie Burns will be on exhibit in the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Public Library during the month of December.

The works displayed are 3D amalgams of photography and acrylic painting which the artist refers to as "Outside the Box." More information about the library and the Palmer Museum can be found at www.springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

Union

Library is hosting December Bag Sale

Throughout the month of December, canvas bags will be available for purchase at the Main Library and the Vauxhall Branch to fill with as many books, CDs, and DVDs as can fit inside.

The Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. and The Vauxhall Branch is located at 123 Hilton Ave.

For additional information, contact the Main Library at 908-851-5450, the Vauxhall Branch at (908) 851-5451, or visit www.uplnj.org.

What's Going On?

OTHER

FRIDAY

DECEMBER 21st, 2018

EVENT: Live Nativity Story
PLACE: Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green, 147 Broad Street, Bloomfield (973)-743-1796
TIME: Tour at 7:00 pm, Followed by Carol Singing
DETAILS: Music provided by Bloomfield Chorale, directed by Ruth Hsu. Refreshments in Parish House. Proud Sponsors: VanTassel Funeral Home & Investors Bank
ORGANIZATION: Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green

OTHER

SATURDAY

DECEMBER 15th, 2018

EVENT: Annual Christmas Cookie Sale and mini craft sale
PLACE: St. John's Orthodox Church, 211 W. Grand Street Rahway NJ 07065
TIME: 10:00am to 2:00pm
DETAILS: Cookie and Mini Craft Sale. All home made cookies \$7.00 per pound.
 For information call Marlane 732-382-3669
ORGANIZATION: St. John's Orthodox Church



INTERNET DIRECTORY LOCALSOURCE.COM

Coldwell Banker.....	http://www.ColdwellBankerMoves.com
ERA Village Green.....	http://www.eravillagegreen.com
The Gateway Family YMCA.....	http://www.tgfyymca.org
JRS Realty.....	http://www.century21jrs.com
Mountainside Hospital.....	http://www.Mountainsidenow.com
Summit Area Jaycees.....	http://www.angelfire.com/nj/summitjc
Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce.....	http://www.suburbanessexchamber.com/secc
Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....	http://www.summitems.org
Union County LocalSource.....	http://www.UnionNewsDaily.com

To be listed call 908-686-7700



It's Hanukkah time and that means fooling around with different root vegetables to fry! Try these the week of Hanukkah or any time you want something delicious and decadent to munch on! If you don't care about them being gluten free, use regular wheat flour.

Gluten Free Parsnip Fritters/Latkes

Ingredients

2 cups grated parsnip, grated on the large holes of a cheese grater or on the attachment of a food processor
1 tsp. fennel seed - anise
1/2 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. sugar
3 Tbs. almond flour
1 egg
olive oil for frying
chopped cilantro for topping/garnish

Steps

Combine all ingredients (up until and including the egg) until combined. Squeeze out excess liquid and mold pancakes into 3-inch circles and set aside on a plate.

In a medium- to large-sized non-stick pan over medium to high heat, heat up enough oil to fully coat the pan - one to two Tbs.

Throw a piece of grated parsnip on the pan and if it sizzles, it's ready. With a spatula, slide pancakes into oil leaving at least an inch or two between pancakes.

Fry for a few minutes until golden and then flip over. When both sides are golden, remove with a spatula.

Set aside on a paper towel-lined plate loosely covered with foil so they stay crispy.

Add more oil to pan if necessary and repeat until all the fritters are done. Serve with sour cream or any other sauce you like and chopped cilantro.

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.

COMMUNITY

Caroling in the gardens

"Caroling in the Gardens," a weeklong caroling event, will take place through Friday, Dec. 14, at 5:30 p.m. in The Mills at Jersey Gardens in Elizabeth.

Majestic Winds concert scheduled for Dec. 13

On Thursday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m., Majestic Winds, the professional wind band of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, will perform a free concert at the Ehrhart Gardens, 100 Francis Court, Union.

For additional information about NJWA or Majestic Winds, call 908-789-9696 or

emailnjwaband@att.net.

Sing along to 'White Christmas' at Kean

On Sunday, Dec. 16, at 3 p.m., Kean Stage will host the "White Christmas Sing-Along." The 1954 holiday film starring Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye, Rosemary Clooney and Vera Ellen will be screened in the North Avenue Academic Building Auditorium at the corner of Morris and North avenues in Union on the campus of Kean University. The lyrics will be shown on the screen. Wear an ugly sweater or crazy holiday costume for a chance to win a prize. Refreshments will be served.

Opponents of cell phone tower at UCC seek to enlist Bramnick's help

(Continued from Page 5)
members of the campus community and the surrounding area of any serious security or safety concerns.

The federal Clery Act requires colleges participating in federal financial aid programs to maintain and disclose campus crime statistics and security information.

"We had an incident a couple of months ago where they actually wanted to send a text message of a suspect, but was unable to do so because lack of cell phone service," Hines said. "The office I occupy — and am I'm responsible for sending out emergency alerts and notifications by law under the Clery Act to our students — I receive zero cell phone coverage. So, if I were to send out a text message through my desktop, in theory, sending out to my cell phone, I have no way of knowing if that message was actually seen by the students."

Several residents who live near the campus said they don't have trouble with their mobile phone service and wondered if dollar signs rather than phone signals are motivating UCC to build the tower.

According to the resolution, Verizon will lease the land from the college for \$34,800 with a 2-percent annual increase and a "50 percent co-locator rent paid to the college for a five-year term with the option for four successive five-year renewals to build a 130-foot monopole cell tower on college property that would accommodate four carriers, at no cost to the college."

Cranford resident David McDonald asked at the meeting: "Is this a vehicle that is merely intended to improve the quality of communication on the campus or is it a vehicle with which to generate revenue opportunities?"

A 2012 report entitled "Union County College Wireless Communications Needs Assessment — Cellular," which the residents' group obtained through an OPRA request, recommended the construction of a monopole for several reasons. The second on the list behind "Best chance of all carriers participating" was because it "maximizes revenue potential for UCC (\$24K/yr/carrier)." The

report also noted that "monopole cost is estimated at \$250K, and may be funded by lead carrier (in exchange for lease abatement)."

Freeholder Chairman Sergio Granados repeatedly stated that the UCC Board of Trustees is an autonomous body and, when asked who will ultimately decide if a cell tower will be constructed, he said, "Union County College fully has the final say."

Despite Granados' comment, the Cranford Township Committee already has strengthened the language in its ordinance to amend the township's land development regulations with regard to cell towers.

At its Nov. 27 meeting, the committee voted to adopt Ordinance No. 2018-17, which requires applicants seeking to construct a cell tower to "present documentary evidence at time of site approval application" regarding the need for such equipment. This would include written documentary evidence by professionals in the telecommunications industry and testimony by a telecommunications expert regarding the "suitability of such tower equipment."

The ordinance also requires applicants seeking to build a wireless telecommunications tower to provide "documentary evidence that a legitimate attempt has been made to locate the antennas on existing buildings or structures."

The committee is hoping the ordinance gives it some leverage in the face of the federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, which gave wide-ranging powers to companies such as Verizon and AT&T that seek to construct towers.

"It allows the town to have a little bit more say in where the sites are chosen," Mayor Tom Hannen said at the meeting committee meeting. "We currently have an ordinance on the books. This adds some additional language to it, and it's in the land development code. So, this kind of tightens it up a little bit and as I said earlier, gives the township a little more say."

Hannen said he is not aware of any current applications to build a cell tower, but he pointed out that the application would go through local zoning or planning boards.

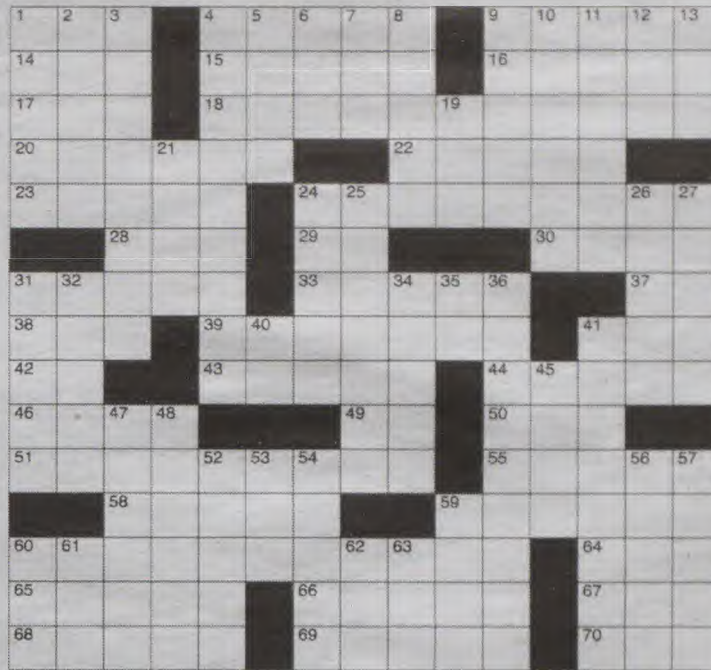
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What is your non-profit organization working on? Let us know today!

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

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

1. Characters in one inch of tape
4. In a hold
9. Jewish mystic
14. A way to souse
15. A small sharp knife
16. Frogs, toads, tree toads
17. Brew
18. Rowdy carouser
20. Poetries
22. ___ salts, remedy
23. Expect eagerly
24. Obstructing the view of something
28. Denotes three
29. Expression of uncertainty
30. Greek portico
31. Bureau
33. Electric battery
37. Vapor density
38. Radioactivity unit
39. Strive to equal or match
41. Cologne
42. Carrier's invention
43. Highest in degree or quality
44. Female horses
46. Serbian
49. Publicity
50. Actress Lupino
51. Supporting structures
55. Jobs
58. Indian founder of Sikhism
59. Capital of Zimbabwe
60. Woman of charm and good looks
64. Order
65. Draft animal in desert regions
66. Unaccented syllable verse
67. Fail to keep pace
68. Sheath or shirtwaist
69. Moss stalks
70. ___ Lilly, drug company

CLUES DOWN

1. Exclamation of praise
2. 200 island Pacific nation (alt. sp)
3. Repeated
4. Hungers
5. School of Business, UCB
6. Bobby ___, NHL champ
7. Lease
8. More parched
9. Medieval merchant guild
10. Negative ions
11. Top
12. One of the Gershwins
13. Dekalitre
19. Imitate
21. Gentlemen
24. Dawn
25. A citizen of Chile
26. Bright stars
27. Codfish genus
31. Extremely unrefined
32. Diacritical mark
34. Correspondences
35. Indicates position
36. Small cup
40. 12th Greek letter
41. Capable of being eliminated
45. 12th Jewish month
47. Rechristen
48. In a way, imputes
52. Hydroxyls + 2C
53. Follows sigma
54. Vegetable shrubs
56. South African village
57. Monetary unit of D.R. Congo
59. First Chinese dynasty
60. Divides evenly into (Math)
61. Household god (Roman)
62. Pakistani rupee
63. American time

ANSWERS APPEAR IN OUR CLASSIFIED SECTION

HOROSCOPE

AQUARIUS, Jan. 21 to Feb. 18

In your hurry to impress someone you could take on too much this week and look silly when you have to admit you are not up to the job. If you are not sure what yours are you need to find out quickly.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20

You must tell the truth, even if it risks hurting the feelings of people you love and respect. It will hurt them a lot more in the long-term if they discover that what you have been saying and what you have been doing are two very different things.

ARIES, March 21 to April 20

You will need to make an important decision over the next few days and you must get it right. Find a quiet place where you won't be disturbed and give the issue serious thought.

TAURUS, April 21 to May 21

You cannot be expected to make an even-handed decision about a situation where your own financial interests are at stake, and anyone who thinks you will is deluding themselves. Do what is best for you and don't feel guilty about it.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21

Don't worry about what other people might think of what you say and do. If you go over the top in word or deed and offend colleagues or friends, well, that's just the way it is. If you watch every word you say you'll never get much said!

CANCER, June 22 to July 22

You can be a bit gullible at times, especially when faced with someone who knows how to push your emotional buttons. Check everything that you are told this week – then check a second and a third time just to be sure.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 23

It would appear that you are seriously thinking about giving up on something that you can't get to work. Since when have you been such a quitter? Resolve here and now to redouble your efforts and see it through. You WILL win in the end.

VIRGO, Aug. 24 to Sept. 22

You will need to make allowances over the next week for those people who do not possess your levels of intelligence and skill. Not everyone can be a Virgo – it's a very special calling – so accept that some people are going to fall behind.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23

Yes, it may be the case that you are being a bit too cautious at the moment, but if your sixth sense tells you to tread carefully you must not ignore it. Time is very much on your side over the coming week, so there's no need to rush.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 22

Someone will make you a tempting offer but you must not commit yourself just yet. If you play hard to get they can most likely be persuaded to turn their good offer into a great one.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21

Sometimes even a Sagittarius needs to be alone with their thoughts and this is one of those times. A few days from now, you will be back to your talkative best. Until then, stay silent.

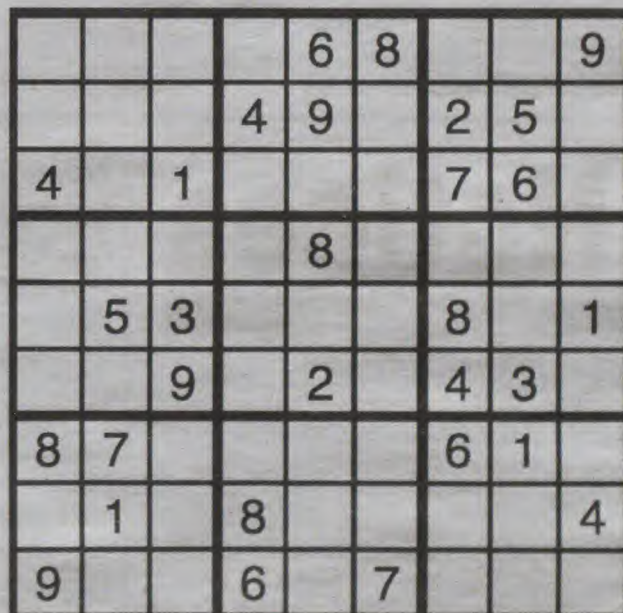
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 20

If you owe someone a favor then you must find a way to repay it over the next two or three days. This is a debt that you don't want to be tied to for too long.

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!

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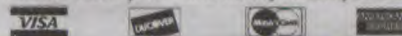
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SPORTS

UNION COUNTY
CONFERENCE

BOYS' BASKETBALL

ALIGNMENTS FOR
THE 2018-2019 SEASON:

WATCHUNG DIVISION

(4 schools):

Linden
Patrick School
Roselle Catholic
St. Mary's, Elizabeth

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

(4 schools):

Elizabeth
Plainfield
Union
Union Catholic

VALLEY DIVISION

(4 schools):

Rahway
Scotch Plains
Summit
Westfield

SKY DIVISION

(5 schools):

Cranford
Gov. Livingston
Johnson
New Providence
Roselle

RIVER DIVISION

(5 schools):

Dayton
Brearley
Hillside
Oratory Prep
Roselle Park

2017-2018
CHAMPIONS:Watchung Division:
Roselle Catholic (8-0)Mountain Division:
St. Mary's, Elizabeth (6-0)Valley Division:
Rahway (12-0)Sky Division:
New Providence (9-1)
and
Johnson (9-1)

Union, which last year captured the Matawan Tournament, will host its 4th Annual St. Jude Classic Friday at its Louis J. Rettino Gymnasium. The Farmers, guided by eighth-year head coach Kevin Feeley - at left - will host Plainfield in the first game at 4 p.m.

4th Annual St. Jude Classic features boys' tripleheader Opener has host Union against Plainfield

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Three hoop mentors will be making their coaching debuts with their teams as part of the 4th Annual St. Jude Classic that will be held at Union High School's Louis J. Rettino Gymnasium this Friday.

An Opening Night boys' basketball tripleheader features:

Plainfield vs. Union at 4 p.m.
Linden vs. Piscataway at 5:30 p.m. and
Westfield vs. Rahway at 7 p.m.

Plainfield is now guided by alum and former assistant coach Mike Gordon.

Anthony Drejaj was promoted to head coach at Linden, while Jim McKeon is now the new head coach at Westfield.

Union is guided by head coach Kevin Feeley, now in his eighth season at the helm of the Farmers. Feeley's record is 90-91, including four winning seasons and one .500 finish.

Union has finished above .500 the past three years, including last year's 16-11 mark.

This is the third year in a row that the St. Jude Classic is taking place on Opening Night.

The first one occurred in early January of 2016.

"We're really excited," Feeley said. "We were able to secure three varsity boys games this year and are appreciative of the teams giving up home games."

Feeley reported that so far funds totaling \$21,000 have been raised the first three years.

"Our goal is to try to beat what we did the year before," Feeley said.

Feeley also said that communities have been more behind the event, with local businesses donating food or money or whatever was necessary to help the fundraising effort.

All proceeds go to the St. Jude's Pediatric Research Hospital in Manhattan.

"Two women - Cheryl Fiske and Dana Bobertz - do all the stuff behind the scenes to really make the event go," Feeley said. "Cheryl does everything around at school and Dana (former UHS cheerleading coach) is in charge of the student section - the Farmer Fans."

Feeley has two part-time starters back - seniors Val Julien and Ezra Glover - in addition to Columbia transfer Russ Ayala - a starter the past three seasons at the Maplewood and South Orange school.

See **FARMERS** on next page

UNION COUNTY
CONFERENCE

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

ALIGNMENTS FOR
THE 2018-2019 SEASON:

WATCHUNG DIVISION

(5 schools):

Cranford
Oak Knoll
Patrick School
Roselle Catholic
Westfield

MOUNTAIN DIVISION

(6 schools):

Johnson
New Providence
Scotch Plains
Summit
Union
Union Catholic

VALLEY DIVISION

(6 schools):

Dayton
Elizabeth
Gov. Livingston
Kent Place
Linden
Plainfield

SKY DIVISION

(6 schools):

Benedictine Academy
Brearley
Hillside
Rahway
Roselle
Roselle Park

2017-2018
CHAMPIONS:Watchung Division:
Patrick School (9-1)Mountain Division:
Oak Knoll (8-2)
and
Summit (8-2)Valley Division:
Dayton (11-1)Sky Division:
Kent Place (8-0)

SPORTS

Farmers in first game then Westfield vs. Rahway in 3rd

(Continued from previous page)

"Ayala is your old-school, prototypical point guard," Feeley said. "He distributes and handles the ball well and is a good defender. He can hit the open shot and make the guys around him better."

Julien and Glover are also guards.

"Both started on and off last year, Val more than Ezra," Feeley said. "Julien is our all-around guy - one who can rebound, shoot, defend and basically do whatever is asked of him."

"Ezra can shoot from the outside and also get to the rim."

"We're not a very big team this year, so we will be relying on our guard play."

Union has scrimmaged against Woodbridge, Bishop Ahr, Bridgewater-Raritan, Irvington and Dickinson.

The Farmers remain situated in the Union County Conference's Mountain Division, but the division is different this year. It includes just these four teams: Union, Elizabeth, Plainfield and Union Catholic.

St. Mary's of Elizabeth moved up to the Watchung Division and Elizabeth down to the Mountain.

For the first time there are five divisions, including the River Division.

"Again, we have only six scheduled (division) games," Feeley said. It's a little difficult to get out-of-conference games, but everyone is in the same situation.

"We secured Linden and Roselle Catholic from the higher division and also play every team from the lower division."

"The nice thing is that we see more and more teams. However, it's their option to play you - they have to agree to play you, they are not forced to."

"What was nice for us was that the schools in the division below us agreed to play us."

A link to Union's donation page is <http://fundraising.stjude.org/site/TR/TeamUpVarsityAS/Events?pg=entry&fr id=104451>

UNION FARMERS BOYS' BASKETBALL

2018-2019:

SENIORS:

Val Julien (6-2) guard
Ezra Glover (6-1) guard
Russ Ayala (5-11) guard

JUNIORS:

Andrew Sanborn (5-11) guard
Rache Thomas (6-0) guard
Ahmir Robinson (6-3) forward
Aaron Myrick (5-8) guard
Markeith Hinnant (5-8) guard

SOPHOMORES:

Jakin Edmond (6-2) forward
Ronn Flood (6-1) forward



Photo courtesy of Roselle Catholic

Roselle Catholic senior center Taniyah Hanner signed a national letter-of-intent last month to continue playing collegiately at the University of Albany.

Hanner brings a lot to the table

Will continue career at Albany

Taniya Hanner will transform herself from a great Lion to a Great Dane at the next level.

Hanner, who helped propel Roselle Catholic to the Union County Tournament championship last season, when she averaged 15.4 points and 8.1 rebounds per game, signed a National Letter of Intent on Nov. 14 to continue her academic and athletic career at the University of Albany.

"I picked Albany because it had everything I was looking for in a school," said the 6-foot-1 Hanner, who inked her letter in the Roselle Catholic Library in front of family, friends, teammates and coaches. She plans to pursue a degree in human biology.

"Basketball-wise, I feel like Albany can get me to where I want to be in life, which is to play (professionally) overseas," said Hanner, who picked UAlbany over UMass and Rhode Island.

"Taniya is one of the hardest-working players I ever coached," said Roselle Catholic assistant coach Charlie Wischusen, who's getting ready for his 12th season on the Lions' bench. "Her determination to get better every day is the foundation of her development on the court. Her infectious smile belies the fact that she is terror on the court."

"She has grown immeasurably both personally and athletically since her freshman year. Taniya is a great teammate and pleasure to coach."

A Union County Conference All-Watchung Division selection, Hanner registered 15 points and 13 rebounds in the Lions' 55-52 victory over The Patrick School in the UCT final at Kean University last Feb. 24.

"So far my high school highlight would have to be winning the UCT last season," Hanner said. "Feeling like a champion is a way of knowing that all the hard work is paying off. As much as it hurt my freshman year when we fell short against Cranford (in the UCT final) that hurt motivates me to go even harder and to remember that I never want to feel that pain again."

See **LIONS** on next page



Photo by JR Parachini

Rahway, guided by head coach Jeff Lubreski, went 23-4 last year and reached the North 2, Group 3 quarterfinals. The Indians were outright UCC-Valley Division champions at 12-0.

SPORTS



Photos courtesy of Roselle Catholic

Here Taniyah Hanner is with her Roselle Catholic family - coaches and teammates - as she is honored for signing on to play in college at Albany.

Lions look forward to having Hanner for one more season

(Continued from previous page)

"Taniya is a really good basketball player, but an even better young lady," said Roselle Catholic assistant coach Allison Skrec, the Union County Player of the Year in 2009 and 2010. "I loved coaching her last year; she is super receptive and a great teammate."

Hanner, a strong forward, is one of three returning starters (Jenissa Encarnacion and Kayla Haywood) for the Lions, who went 22-5 last season. "Taniya is very dedicated and a hard worker," said RC assistant coach Dennis Quigley.

"I have high expectations as a senior," said Hanner, an Honor Roll student following the first quarter of her senior year.

"I know what everybody is capable of. We have a lot of talent, but as a team we need to find the pieces to put this wonderful artwork together."

Albany, which competes in the America East Conference, brought a 1-2 record into its game vs. Rutgers.

The Great Danes are under the direction of first-year head coach Colleen Mullen, who was an assistant coach at Army West Point the previous seven seasons.

"UAlbany is really, really lucky to have her and her family as a part of their program," said Skrec, who played at Manhattan College and was part of the WBB staff at Seton Hall University. "Looking forward to seeing Taniya have a big senior year."

A Hillside resident, who played AAU basketball for IExcel, Hanner came to Roselle Catholic from Holy Spirit School. She'll enter her senior season with 861 career points and 512 career rebounds.

"Taniya will go down in RC basketball history as one of the best who ever played here," Wischusen said. Then she'll be a Great Dane.



Here Hanner is with her head coach Joe Skrec. Hanner helped lead Roselle Catholic to last year's Union County Tournament championship, which was the program's sixth and first since 2014.

Jacobs vs. Jacobs perfect RC match Sisters square off in college

In the battle of Jacobs vs. Jacobs, Roselle Catholic High School graduate Kamille Jacobs (RC '16) and The College of St. Elizabeth scored a 60-52 victory against Victoria Jacobs (RC '18) and Centenary College on Nov. 17 in Hackettstown.

"It wasn't just a regular game," Victoria Jacobs said "I was more excited than usual, especially knowing I'd be playing head-to-head quite a bit against Kamille. I went out there thinking it was a big game because I was playing against my sister."

Kamille Jacobs finished with 10 points, five rebounds, five steals, three blocked shots and two steals for the CSE Eagles, who evened their record at 1-1.

"It was really different; we never played against one another before," Kamille Jacobs said. "We've always played on the same team."

"It was kind of like playing against a friend. I'd compare it to playing a high school game against one of my AAU teammates."

"To be honest, there were times I was guarding (Kamille) when I had to try hard not to laugh," Victoria said. "She made a few remarks that were really funny."

Victoria Jacobs nearly posted a double-double with 11 points and nine rebounds. She added one steal and one assists for the Cyclones, who trailed by 10 points at the half, but forged a tie with five minutes left in the non-conference contest.

See RIVALS on next page



Photo courtesy of Roselle Catholic

Victoria Jacobs, at left, is a freshman on the women's basketball team at Centenary College. Her older sister Kamille, at right, is a junior on the women's team at The College of St. Elizabeth. Both are Hillside residents who played their high school basketball at Roselle Catholic.

SPORTS



Photos by Brian Trusdell

UNION ATHLETES SIGN - Above, from left, Kayla Miller-People, Zach Fernandez and Gabby Lamadiou sign their national letters-of-intent to continue playing sports collegiately. Miller-People and Lamadiou will play soccer at LaSalle and NJIT, respectively, while Fernandez will play baseball at the University of Rhode Island. Below, Miller-People and Lamadiou are surrounded by their soccer teammates. Miller-People and Lamadiou - two of the top players in Union County - helped lead the Farmers to a 13-7-1 record this past season. Miller-People was second on the team in goals with 13 and also second in assists with eight.



Rivals will see their paths cross again

(Continued from previous page)

With her team securing the victory, Kamille Jacobs might have scored the last laugh, but both of the Jacobs sisters walked away with highlights and memories of the sibling battle.

"I got a steal - I think I stole it as they tried to pass it to Kamille - and she was trailing me as I went to the basket," Victoria said. "I stopped, pumped fake, Kamille flew by me and I made the layup."

Kamille confirmed Victoria's account of the play - "It was a really good jump stop," she said -- but added: "Did she tell you about her shot I blocked?"

"We both played well, we both played hard and both of our teams did well," Victoria said. "The game was really everything we could have asked for."

"I think we're in kind of similar situations," Kamille said. "We can play different positions, we have a lot of responsibilities and both of our coaches are looking for us to be leaders."

Family and friends of the Jacobs Sisters attended the non-conference contest, but "nobody wanted to pick sides," Victoria said.

Kamille (College of St. Elizabeth) and Victoria (Centenary University) will play against each other twice next season (2019-20) when their teams play in the same conference.

The Jacobs Sisters were teammates on Roselle Catholic's varsity team in 2015-16 - following a season as teammates on the RC JV - which reached the Union County Tournament championship game at Kean University. The Lions finished 16-9 in 2016.

Last season, Kamille played and started in 24 games for St. Elizabeth, averaging 10.1 points, six rebounds, and 3.1 assists per game. She scored a career-high 21 points and tallied four steals in the Eagles' 73-65 win over Cazenovia on January 13.

Victoria averaged eight points, five rebounds, two assists and one steal per game to help the Lions win the Union County Tournament.

Both Kamille and Victoria earned Union County Conference All-Watchung Division recognition following their senior seasons.



Photo courtesy of Roselle Catholic

Kamille Jacobs, at left, and Victoria Jacobs, at right, are now college rivals. The sisters from Hillside will compete again vs. each other next season.



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