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W1: Responsible Journalism – Public Service, Lloyd P. Burns Memorial Award
Déjà vu all over again

For some officials in Bayonne, the recent announcement by the Hoboken Municipal Hospital Authority Chairwoman Toni Fornarotto that a private entity affiliated with Bayonne Medical Center is the final bidder in the process to purchase Hoboken University Medical Center is a bit of déjà vu.

"To tell you, I was a little alarmed when I heard it," said former Councilman Gary La Pelusa, who was instrumental in providing city funds to help in the rescue of Bayonne Medical Center three years ago.

The Hoboken Municipal Hospital Authority, according to a member of the BMC transition team, entered into a non-binding agreement with HUMC Holdings LLC, one of the principal owners of BMC, late last week, beginning the process that could result in the purchase of the ailing Hoboken hospital, making it into a for-profit hospital modeled after BMC.

By Al Sullivan
Report Staff Writer

Some see Hoboken hospital deal as history repeating itself

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The Hoboken Reporter

"Déjà Vu All Over" “What is Private”
“Surprise Deal” “Will Hospital Cancel Insur”
“Good Buy, Healthcare”
“Local Hospitals Unlikely Consolidate”
“Hospital Authority Pushed”
“Between: Christie Helps Friends”
“How the Deal Went Down”

Al Sullivan, Ray Smith, Assata Wright
Consolidation panel gets finance report

By Victoria Hurley-Schubert
Staff Writer

A baseline report detailing the current state of services and finances in Princeton Borough and Township was released Joint Consolidation/Shared Services Study this week.

The commission will use the 173-page tome, "Municipal Services and Financial Overview," to explore consolidation and shared services options, said Anton Lahmton, chairman.

"It doesn't make much sense to consider looking at consolidation or any more shared services without a reasonable understanding of what currently exists," said Mr. Lahmton. "That's why I like to call the report "who does what and what does it cost," that's what the report really does talk about."

The report contains a complete picture of the current state of services and financials in the two municipalities.

"It helps to raise questions and comments to give us pointers and direction as we begin to think about moving forward with some of the options and possibilities," he said. "It's a stimulus for that. We're going to help people understand the elements and how to digest the report and what questions does it raise? What does the public want to tell the commission from the report?"

The baseline report will be discussed at a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Jan. 26 at John Witherspoon Middle School.

The commission's next meeting is on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Township Municipal Complex. The group will be preparing for the public meeting the following week. Commission meetings are open to the public.

The report can be downloaded at www.cgr.org/princeton.
9/11: A decade on

On a modest monument in Watchung Plaza are the names of nine people who resided in Montclair or grew up in town. These nine people were among the 2,753 killed in the terrorists’ attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Twenty-four days from now will mark the 10th anniversary of 9/11, which also resulted in the deaths of 214 people in the Pentagon and 40 in Pennsylvania. This Sept. 11, Montclair will hold ceremonies and events that celebrate the people who died and those who were injured during and after the attacks, reflect on the past decade and examine our town, our nation and the world as the future unfolds.

The Montclair Times, today, offers our readers the first article in a series, “Remember,” on the local impact of 9/11. Other features will include stories that students are learning in local schools, religious perspectives, readers’ remembrances, and previews of our town’s events to remember 9/11.

It’s a decade on, and many of us retain memories of the moment and the people we loved.
W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment
Nutley Sun

“Keep Action on Mat”
“Motorcycle Club Runs Over Community Event”

Owen Proctor
W2: Responsible Journalism - Editorial Comment

Well, they had to start somewhere

Whenever someone in government starts talking about "efficiency," the people can be sure of one thing - one way or another it is going to cost them. The Rockaway Borough Council voted to eliminate one of the two times at its public meetings that residents are allowed to address the council. It was done "to avoid repetition" in the words of new Councilman Tom Donofrio, who made the motion, and for "efficiency" according to Mayor Russ Greuer, who narrowly avoided having to actually vote on the motion when Councilman Joe Vicente arrived just in time to break a 3-2 tie.

Greater Parsippany, a large township with more than 80,000 residents is an example of a municipality that holds one public portion at its meetings. Rockaway Borough has less than 7,000 residents. Borough Attorney Ed Weiss helpfully pointed out to some residents at the meeting who expressed surprise at the change that the council is "obligated" to hear the public once at a meeting.

Of course, all this talk of "efficiency" would have been more impressive if the meeting which started at 7:30 p.m. hadn't been over in about 20 minutes. Shared services such as combining police departments for efficiency? Not for Rockaway Borough. Farleigh for workers, negotiating a zero salary increase? Not for Rockaway Borough.

Saving a few minutes of one's Thursday night "obligation" to meet and conduct the public's business in front of the public by eliminating one of the two chances residents get to speak? Ah, yes, that's the one. We must be efficient at all costs, after all. As for politicians talking about avoiding repetition - really? They get to use their positions as soapboxes for as long as they like at public meetings. Heaven knows, if we had a nickel for every time we watched politicians go on and on and on, we would be very rich indeed.

Councilman Tom Maljian and Councilwoman Joyce Kanigel voted against the motion. Councilwoman Melissa Barriez voted for it along with Donofrio and Vicente. Councilman Jay Wilber was absent.

We're a bit surprised at Donofrio, the son of the late Patrick Donofrio, a former mayor and longtime councilman. Forget the rights and wrings of it all, it was politically silly to be the sponsor of a motion that can easily be spun by a future political opponent as anti-open government. A rookie mistake, perhaps, but it may yet come back to haunt him. Perception is everything in politics and it makes these officials look as if they find listening to the public an annoying inconvenience. They ought to try sitting in the audience once in a while.

The Citizen of Morris County

"Well They Had to Start Somewhere"

"We Like It!"

Audrey Davie
Say it ain’t so, Joe

This has been a bad week for Essex County Executive Joseph DiVincenzo.

News reports over the weekend revealed that a loophole in state regulations is allowing the county exec to collect a pension and a paycheck for the same job.

Apparently, he retired last year and started collecting his pension. It doesn’t matter, his re-election to a third term in office added more than $68,000 to his salary.

DiVincenzo says it was all done above board. Sure, he filed legitimately for the pension, but he certainly didn’t send out the usual self-congratulatory press releases to let us all know.

DiVincenzo says he did it for his family. That makes us want to dig up once again his political opponents’ campaign literature that shows the DiVincenzo family tree sprouting all throughout Essex County government.

Don’t get us wrong. There’s a lot we like about DiVincenzo. A bigger cheerleader for Essex County would be hard to find. There’s no denying the energy and enthusiasm he brings to his position.

He’s cut debt, lobbied for state support of the county’s criminal justice system, renovated deteriorating buildings and revitalized our parklands. Ironically, he also established an active Board of Ethics for the county.

But at a time when he – and his bipartisan chum, Gov. Christie – are pushing for pension reform, this is more than an embarrassment.

It smacks of the same sort of shenanigans that are pulled by bankers getting top bonuses while Short Hills residents have to appeal for the Down the Block grassroots group to help with utility bills. These are the sort of shenanigans that school superintendents pull when they retire across the state lines, collect their hefty pensions while getting paid a quarter of a million dollar salaries in towns like Millburn.

It’s all legal, we’re told.

Yeah, and it smells like you know what.

The governor finally denounced DiVincenzo’s actions this week after much pressure and publicity. With union contracts at all levels – from state to municipal to school districts – currently being negotiated, the governor and every single legislator should make it a priority to close the double dipping loopholes.
New way

"A genuine leader is not a searcher for consensus but a molder of consensus.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Montclair’s plight is palpable. Our town is immensely taxed, and this year’s upcoming property-tax assessment is guaranteed to be the fee that all homeowners must pay. Finally, it bills the taxation that all property-owners must pay. The higher tax will impact landlords to increase the rents on residential and retail tenants.

Many parents of children attending public schools are now forced to bear the brunt of rising costs. As a result, expenditures on textbooks and educational materials have increased, resulting in increased costs for the Montclair School District. Meaning that parents will be required to pay even more – and probably more than they expected – to educate their children.

Our town has borrowed more than $200 million. Residents must start repaying this debt. Starting soon.

Among our elected leaders – the Township Council’s seven members – there’s a commonality in many of their exchanges and a shortage of constructive dialogues. During this week that commemorates the profound legacy of the late Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., it’s definitely time for fresh thinking.

It’s time, in Montclair, for a new way.

To practice the purposes and the all-important pursuit of leadership, Township Manager Mary D’Saik, Schools Superintendent Franti Vlahos, Library Director David Holmberg, and Parking Authority Executive Director John Towler, could regularly meet – every two weeks? Every month? These or similar meetings could also include other important municipal executives such as Police Chief David Sabin, Fire Chief Kevin Allen.

Throughout these meetings, they can develop an agenda for the sharing of services, employees, facilities and pooling of their individual visions for Montclair’s way forward in our watch every dollar.

Our legislative leaders also could regularly meet. Mayor Tony Pirahman alongside Board of Education President Shelly Lombard, Library Board President Frank Lavanchy Jr., and Parking Authority Board President Greg Matthews, to discuss, debate, deliberate on concepts and ideas that could save money and simultaneously preserve or enhance local services.

Citizen participation is imperative. Numerous Montclairians and Montclair-based organizations possess the skills, knowledge and aptitude for teamwork. Their qualifications can contribute to the school district, the municipal government, the library, and the parking authority.

Include the folks with the skills, knowledge and aptitude for teamwork. There are citizens’ groups of financial and governmental professionals, along with local nonprofits with insightful executives. Whether expressing their insights in letters to The Times, on the Watermelon website or in other venues, there are individuals who have one or a dozen potentially important perceptions, proposals and talents.

Some people construct, develop or sustain an impression. Someone designs a banner.

Someone then carries this banner to the forefront, around which the rest of us rally and coalesce on the quest to qualitatively change the status quo.

In an observation relevant to Montclair and other municipalities struggling in 2011, Martin Luther King Jr. had noted that improving the status quo requires proactive, often courageous, leadership.

“Almost always, the creative dedicated minority has made the world better.”
Need to find silver lining

The annual Memorial Day parade is a special event for a number of reasons.
First, it’s the only parade held in the borough on a regular basis. Other federal holidays such as the Fourth of July pass with hardly a notice here, as many local residents are away for the summer. What makes the Bernardsville parade so special are the proud veterans that line its history. The members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and the parade, which draws much deserved applause from hundreds of flag waving residents who line the route.

The parade is immediately followed by solemn services that usually include a speaker from the military. During war time the speakers are especially poignant.

This year’s parade, however, featured two additional events: a large group of Paraguayan marchers and an addition to the annual American Legion Post 220 color guard. The former continues its tradition, while the latter was a new addition to the parade. The residents of Bernardsville, many of whom remember the 2004 attack on the American consulate in Buenos Aires, were thrilled to see the marchers carrying flags and bunting from the nation’s independence.

Unfortunately, the meaning of Memorial Day has become lost on many who consider it a day off. However, the ceremony held in the community, which included the presentation of the American flag, commemorated the men and women who gave their lives for our country.

On the flip side are the marchers who are against the idea of a parade. They argue that these parades and other events such as the national parade on the Fourth of July are a way to glorify war and that these events should be attacked.

Our hope is that eventually this dialogue can be transformed into an educational tool that can bring the community together instead of dividing it apart.

It is our sincere belief that the numbers of the Americans’ community come to be the parade with honor and dignity. In a letter sent to the town before the parade, the organizers of the parade stated that the parade was not a political event but an opportunity to bring the community together.

We observed during the parade that many people celebrated in both locations; the young men of Paraguay carried flags from both nations, a fact noted by an American flag that was probably the largest in the event.

We will agree with those who acknowledge that the celebration of the bicentennial on this day was appropriate. It should be a day to remember the sacrifices made and the loss of life that has occurred. Nonetheless, instead of commemorating the men who gave their lives, we should view this moment as an opportunity to emphasize the true meaning of Memorial Day, not only for our own community but also for the children who watch the parade from the benches of their schools and organizations.

We have, however, witnessed the tradition of lining up early to watch the parade, as it is a moment of unity. People from all walks of life, from the elderly to the young, come together to honor the men and women who served.

An argument could be made that this activity is not the most important aspect of Memorial Day, and that other activities, such as picnics or gatherings, are more appropriate. However, this is not the case. The parade is a way to honor the men and women who served and to remember their sacrifices.

A more reasonable answer, though, is that this is an opportunity to teach children about the importance of Memorial Day and the sacrifices made.

The parade is a way to honor the men and women who served and to remember their sacrifices. It is a moment of unity and a way to teach children about the importance of Memorial Day and the sacrifices made.

The Bernardsville News

“Need to Find Silver Lining”
“Blackout”

Charlie Zavalick
When spirit lived

The “captain” was like “a king holding court.” Patrick Hayes was that captain, earning that title through year of unabashed support for Bergenfield athletes.

When Mr. Hayes died two weeks ago at the age of 91, his passing assuredly prompted some to recall seeing him along the sidelines of many a Bergenfield High School football game, the image of spirit and support.

Bergenfield Schools Superintendent Dr. Michael Kuchar was one of those remembering him and helping to keep his memory alive, saying that Mr. Hayes “was a fixture at our sporting events forever.”

“He was like a king holding court,” Dr. Kuchar said.

Indeed, the “king” had a long reign, his involvement with local sports dating back to 1953, when he began coaching his son’s baseball team. He coached 9- and 10-year-olds for 20 years, and 11- and 12-year-olds for an additional 16 years, all the while coaching town-sponsored basketball and youth boxing.

Attending innumerable local sporting events — his grandson said he missed only four football games in 42 years — Mr. Hayes became a local icon, the kind of which, unfortunately, comes along only rarely.

It was almost ironic that, when learning about his death, a photo we found to run with his obituary was one of him with Eric Hochloch, another memorable nodal of team spirit.

Eric, who had the birth defect spina bifida, was another familiar figure on the Bergenfield athletic scene, sitting in his wheelchair along the sidelines, the place where Mr. Hayes was usually found.

When he was a student at Bergenfield High School, Eric threw himself into athletics, although his condition precluded his competing. He could be found among the football players and the wrestlers, the teams of which he managed. He was proud of the varsity letters he received in both sports.

Eric died in 2008, succumbing to pneumonia. He was 24 years old.

But, it was his determined attitude which earned him much respect.

We recall him saying that, just because someone could not play the game, did not mean they could not be part of the team.

As with “Captain” Hayes, such spirit is seldom seen. His passing leaves a void in Bergenfield spirit.

And so it is that the photo accompanying this commentary is a touching visual reminder of what spirit is all about.

‘Captain’ Patrick Hayes gives a pat on the head to Eric Hochloch in this 2002 photo.

Bill Slossar
WB: Responsible Journalism - Enterprise
Irene leaves her mark on village
Residents prove to be resilient

BY KELLY EBBELS

Village residents were proud of their efforts to clean up after Hurricane Irene. "We didn't have a lot of damage," said Village Mayor Rick Knauss. "I think we did a pretty good job." The village was able to reopen to residents on Sunday.

Cleanup effort is ‘unified’

BY KELLY EBBELS

Residents of Ridgewood were proud of their efforts to clean up after Hurricane Irene. "We didn’t have a lot of damage," said Village Mayor Rick Knauss. "I think we did a pretty good job." The village was able to reopen to residents on Sunday.

Damaged sports fields not fit for play

Temporary locations approved by school board

BY JOSEPH CRAMER

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‘Village Checks In on Residents’

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“Hurricane Irene Coverage:
Irene Leaves Her Mark on the Village”
“Residents Prove to be Resilient”
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“Village Checks In on Residents”

Kelly Ebbels
Joseph Cramer
Gauging the Relationship Between Addiction, Suicide

By Maria Karidis

Not only is drug abuse a problem in Belleville, it is also raising questions about how many residents are falling victim to suicide. "The new thing now with the kids is pills; it's out of control. It's so easy to get them. They're the No. 1 thing out there," said Belleville Police Lt. James Giudice. "When we respond to a call for a pill overdose, and there are a lot of them, you wonder: Was this a suicide? How do we know if the overdose was accidental or not?"

...Especially when self-poisoning is one of the most common methods of suicide – particularly for females – according to a Centers for Disease Control 2010 report.

Belleville police have caught residents as young as 15 abusing prescription medications, often taking five to 10 pills each day, the lieutenant said. "The abuse of these medications is skyrocketing; there's a huge illicit market for OxyContin, Percocet, and all those opiate analgesics... and with teenagers, the biggest problem is that they're using mom's and dad's medication supplies," said Dr. William Amiri, attending psychiatrist and chief of Dual Diagnosis Services at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center. "We'll get calls sometimes from doctors that want to find out if a [drug] patient has a psychiatric history, in the patient depressed... and sometimes it can be really hard to tell I think a lot of families tend to cover up these kinds of facts."

As a result, suicide attempts might be a bigger problem in Belleville than analysts show, both the police lieutenant and psychiatrist said. "The numbers are probably skewing on the low side... drugs and alcohol are fools' courage," Amiri said, noting 80 percent of the people on murder-suicide row were in "alcohol-related blackouts" when they killed their victims. "The numbers are staggering. That's what it does to people, same with suicide," he added.

The National Violent Death Reporting System reveals that, of those tested in 16 states, one third of suicide victims were positive for alcohol at the time of death, and one in five were positive for opiates, including prescription pain killers. Likewise, 60 percent of suicide victims have a "significant psychiatric illness" at the time of their death, reported the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. The "most common suicide" in both cases is alcohol, according to AFSP, a national organization.

"Drug and alcohol use is often a short-term solution for a long-term issue," Amiri said. "They numbers for teens are the scariest because they tend to get much better for a long while, and now, they are relapsing back up."

Cigarettes and marijuana are particularly present in his juvenile patients lately, which doesn't bode well, Amiri said. "They are gateway drugs, and while some people don't agree with that concept, I definitely do," Amiri said. "It's very, very rare that an addict in an inpatient services just suddenly picked up cocaine at 22 years of age. It's extremely rare. I believe me. Usually it starts with a can of beer and a smoke in high school, and off you go."

Suicide

The average age of confirmed suicide victims in Belleville, during

See Suicide Page 19

Maria Karidis
Town’s Hispanic population nearly doubles

Editor’s note: This is the first article in a series.

BY MARIA KARIDIS
of Belleville Times

Another page of Belleville history was written this month, in Spanish.
Across decades, as a predominantly white community, Belleville is now—officially—mostly Hispanic, according to 2010 U.S. Census data released on Feb. 4.

The Census bureau reports 14,133 Hispanics in Belleville, compared to 13,888 whites. And, those numbers may not paint the most realistic portrait of Belleville. According to some experts, Belleville’s Hispanic headcount is probably higher than noted.

“I’m always curious, especially for New Jersey, how accurate the numbers really are because it was in New Jersey where a Hispanic pastor boycotted the census and encouraged Latino immigrants not to be counted,” said Arturo Vega, executive director of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

“How many Latinos in New Jersey are not counted? Every individual who said not to fill out the census form... we’re missing out on a horrible opportunity for our people to progress.”

“Another issue concerns undocumented Hispanics not accounted in the census. New Jersey housed approximately 550,000 illegal Hispanic immigrants in 2010, according to Pew Hispanic Center report released on Feb. 1. According to the report, 6.2 percent of New Jersey’s population is made up of undocumented Hispanics, ranking fifth in the nation. The reality is that there are several Hispanics who are undocumented,” said Rian Schermer of St. Peter’s Church in Belleville. Schermer’s commitment to raising awareness about the Hispanic population in Belleville.

The Santa Luzia Churrascaria on Washington Avenue is one of several Belleville businesses that cater to the town’s growing Hispanic population.

The Belleville Times

“Town’s Hispanic Population Nearly Doubles”

“Growing Hispanic Population Finds Belleville ‘a Nice Safe Town to Live In’”

“Changing Look for Belleville Businesses”

Maria Karidis
District should ‘follow the law’

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Is the Board of Education above the law? According to 140 families due money from the district, that decision is now in the hands of the Council for Unfunded Mandates.

A few weeks ago, the state told the school district in no uncertain terms that they are required by law to pay the 140 township families with children in private schools a total of $61,880 annually or face having 2011 state aid held back. This year, the Springfield School District is expected to receive $328,859 in state aid.

Meanwhile, the 140 families with children in private schools, who depend on this state mandated payment in lieu of transportation funding to help defray the cost of transporting their children to school, have no other recourse but to wait for these funds.

See PARENTS, Page 12

“District Should Follow the Law, Board Will Pay Parents”

Cheryl Hehl
Cardiac arrests the leading cause of firefighter deaths

Kimberly Redmond

Cardiac arrest is the leading cause of firefighter deaths. Each year, firefighters face a higher risk of cardiac arrest than the general population. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), in 2010, there were a total of 72 on-duty firefighter deaths in the United States, 65 of which were cardiac-related. These deaths are highest among firefighters ages 40-59, who make up the largest number of fatalities. The NFPA says that, of the 39 deaths in that category, 34 were cardiac-related.

Dave Fгрупп, director of Government Relations for the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), says, "When you're in the fire service, you're at a higher risk of heart attack. A study is the Harvard Medical School showed that if you're a firefighter, when the alarm goes off, your heart attack is your body's first response. That's why we have to be aware of these risks." The NFPA also recommends that firefighters undergo medical evaluations and receive annual check-ups.

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Diversity is on the rise

Locally, the black or African American population saw large gains within the last 10 years, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. In Lyndhurst and Rutherford, the black or African American population grew by over 200 percent from 2000 to 2010. The Hispanic/Latino population also rose, with that population rising from 191 to 406 and North Arlington’s from 70 to 205.

First Census numbers give snapshot of the growing cultures among us

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Managing Editor

Populations are on the rise in South Bergen and with the diversity of those populations, according to the latest data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, driven by black, Puerto Rican, Asian, and Hispanic/Latino population growth. From 2000 to 2010, when the two most complex censuses were conducted, out of six South Bergen townships, only Rutherford saw a dip in its population, slightly down by less than half a percent. On the flip side, Lyndhurst has seen a marked increase of 20,000 residents and saw the largest population increase with a 24 percent rise. In all townships, cultural diversity also expanded, with the census data showing growth in all major racial and ethnic groups.

The Hispanic/Latino population skyrocketed in the five South Bergen townships with over 5,000 residents. According to the 2010 U.S. Census data, Lyndhurst saw the largest increase in Hispanic/Latino residents, with that population soaring 313 percent in the borough.

Michael Lamendola
Kelly Nicholaides

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“Diversity Is on the Rise”
“The Diversity Among Us”
“Will Our Schools Burst Under the New Baby Boom?”
“More Gays Calling South Bergen Home”
W4: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – News Writing
Leonia Life

“Snowfall Brings Down Trees and Powerlines”

Max Almenas

WEATHER
Snowfall brings down trees and powerlines

BY MAXIM ALMENAS
Staff Writer

FORT LEE — Just two months after Hurricane Irene and weeks after a tornado-like microburst storm, area residents were once again put to the test after an unlikely nor’easter on Oct. 29 dropped 6-10 inches of snow and turned Halloween weekend into a winter nightmare.

The wet snow weighed down tree branches that snapped like reeds, taking power lines with them, leaving thousands of homes without power, heat or hot water.

“We had at least four high rises completely without power, and fire areas are three of them,” said Fort Lee Fire Chief Jeff Silver on Oct. 31. “And we have a lot of buildings with partial outages, and we had a fire today.”

Most residents from 201 Bridge Plaza North were evacuated and the area was closed off to vehicular traffic after firefighters responded to an underground...
Police pursuit ends at Nutley house

BY MEGHAN GRANT
Staff Writer

A van of criminals crashed into a Nutley family’s home early last Thursday morning on Satterthwaite Avenue, police reported.

“It sounded like a bomb hit the house, the whole house shook,” said John Papa, who had been asleep in the house with his parents. “The van landed on top of my father’s car; it’s totaled.”

From the inside, “it looks like there’s a giant hole in the wall” of their stairwell and living room area.

Authorities ordered them to vacate the house since a main support beam was struck, Papa said. His family will likely be staying with relatives, he added.

Anthony Olivo, 33 of Paterson, and two others were inside the van, police said. They were allegedly fleeing police after a botched motorcycle theft. They were speeding on Washington Avenue before losing control while attempting a turn at the intersection with Satterthwaite Avenue. The vehicle narrowly missed a hydrant, before ascending a small hill and striking the house, police added.

Nutley officers John Meeka and Ted Durand were patrolling River Road at 3:12 a.m. when they observed a van backed into a driveway and the occupants attempting to steal a motorcycle, authorities reported.

“What happened next was textbook police work,” Nutley D.D. Anthony Montarant said.

Catching sight of the officers, the suspects jumped into their white Ford Econo, reported stolen out of Paterson, and attempted to flee. Nutley police gave chase west on East Center Street, then north on Washington Avenue before the van crashed.

“The two jumped out of the van and fled on foot through the rear yards of Nutley homeowners,” Montarant said. Olivo was found hiding in a shed several houses away. A Nutley sergeant apprehended him.

The Essex County Sheriff’s Department K-9 Unit tried to track the two others described by police as “light and dark-skinned Hispanics.” The scent was lost by Park Avenue, where they were presumed to have been picked up by a vehicle.

After the crash, Papa said he emerged from the house armed with a golf club, and he saw the armed police run after the sus-
Eleven-year-old helps rescue her neighbor, age 88

BY MOLLIE GRAY
Managing Editor

It hadn't been dark very long when 11-year-old Cianna Winkler noticed her elderly neighbor stumbling in the snow. She yelled to her mom “Turn the car around, there is something wrong!”

Cianna was a passenger in the car her mother was driving along Lynnwood Road. They were returning to their Verona home from Cianna's dance class and passing the neighbor’s house when the fifth grader, who attends H.B. Whitehorse, witnessed the man tumble.

He fell backward off his front steps into the snow.

Art Ferber, 88, had just come home from grocery shopping. He'd fallen on his way into the house and was wedged between a snow bank and his front stoop. The Winklers were just a few houses away from their home when Cianna happened to look out the car window and witness Ferber in trouble around 7 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 5.

Her mom, Beverly, turned around and pulled into Ferber’s driveway. She handed Cianna her cell phone and Cianna dialed 911. Beverly Winkler told the dispatcher what had happened as Cianna called her father from her cell phone and ran next door for help.

The Winklers live about five houses down from Ferber. Cianna's dad, Wayne, and her brother, Zach, were running down the street.

As they waited for emergency officials to arrive, Zach took off his North Face thermal fleece coat and laid it on Ferber. “It was pretty cold out. I was afraid he would go into shock,” said Zach, 15.

Cianna, her brother, mother and father all came to the aid of Ferber that night. Several inches of snow had fallen the night before and it was dark when Ferber fell. Police and Ferber's family members said it wasn’t for Cianna seeing him fall, and react-

See rescue. Page 17

Cianna and Zach Winkler sit with their neighbor, Art Ferber. The Winklers came to the assistance of Ferber when he fell outside his house the night of Feb. 5.

Verona-Cedar Grove Times

“Eleven-Year-Old Helps Rescue Her Neighbor, Age 88”

Mollie Gray
Homicide victim’s family seeks custody of her daughter

BY LINDA MOSS
THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

A year ago, Shazmina Khan was in England, joyfully celebrating her brother’s wedding there. Nearly a year later, the Montclair woman was found dead in her apartment. Now her siblings are desperately trying to get custody of her 8-year-old daughter, Samara.

“I spoke to a few people in the states where they are very close to my sister,” Nadeem Esmail told The Times in a phone call from London. “They have explained that Shazmina, before her death, had come with us if anything happened to her, that her daughter would be sent to the UK, to her family.”

Late last week, Esmail, a 55-year-old London resident, finally succeeded in getting permission from his sister’s body being transported from New Jersey to England, where most of Khan’s family lives. But the issue of Samara’s custody is still unresolved.

Khan and her three siblings were all born in Kenya and the family now has several hundred members living in Great Britain, in cities such as Liverpool and Manchester. Shazmina’s brother Esmail was also one of her two older siblings. Nadeem Esmail resides in London. Another sister, Saleem Esmail, lives in Tamaqua.

Nadeem Esmail has been working with authorities in the United States to get her and get custody of Samara.

Police: Khan violated restraining order

BY DAN PROCHILO
THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Shazmina Khan, a Montclair woman who was found dead on July 4 in her apartment, had a final restraining order against her husband, 43-year-old Khali Khan, who is suspected of committing the homicide. Assistant Essex County Prosecutor Richard Salsito said, “We have a witness to have been there.”

Khali Khan

“Police: Khan Violated Restraining Order”
“Homicide Victim’s Family Seeks Custody of Her Daughter”
“Trying to Help Shazmina Khan’s Child”

Dan Prochilo
Tanya Drobness
Linda Moss
POLICY

Law limiting where teachers can live has some educators concerned

BY MARC LIGHTDALE
Staff Writer

HARRINGTON PARK – The New Jersey First Act has created a lot of buzz from local superintendents, who feel it’s a hindrance to hiring the best teachers available.

The act requires all teachers, state and local officials hired on or after Sept. 1 to either live in the state or after their date of employment begins to relocate to New Jersey within a year, unless exempted under state law.

Adam Fried, superintendent of the Harrington Park Public School District, said that some teachers who currently live in New York will be grandfathered in. The idea, Fried said, was to probably keep the tax dollars in the state of New Jersey.

“It’s very dangerous,” Fried said. “It seems a little draconian,” he said. “I have no doubt that this is the Governor’s thing.”

Cresskill Superintendent Loretta Bollina said she agreed with some of the criticisms.

“I don’t think it’s fair to force a person to move to the state,” she said. “In this part of Bergen County, we are close to New York. It limits us to looking at certain candidates. I hate to be in position where we want to hire and you have to move. I don’t see how that is fair or how that is any way to improve education.”

Englewood Public Schools Superintendent Donald Carlisle said there are teachers in his system who are grandfathered but he does not like the law’s limitations.

“Lots of folks cross the bridges, there’s a huge pool of folks both experienced and not experienced [that this will affect],” he said. “People living in New York State may not be in a position to move or their spouses might not be able to.”

Tenafly Superintendent Lynn Trager echoed the sentiments from others.

“I think it limits the talent that’s available to us. There are people who are so close to Rockland County, to say we can’t hire from them,” she said. “We have at least 12 educators who live in New York (that are grandfathered in).”

Trager suggested a call to the Governor’s office would be in order.

“What about the quality of the person even if they happen to live 10 minutes away in Rockland County or Manhattan?” Trager said.

In Demarest, Superintendent Michael Fox said it could affect hiring if the district was looking to hire somebody from New York State because they would have one year to change their residency.

“We’re trained to hire and maintain the best teachers possible. If it decreases the pool [that could be a problem],” Fox said.

“Our proximity to New York is four to five miles. Finding the best instructional staff regardless of where they live becomes more challenging.”

Fox said none of the currently-employed teachers will have to move, and questioned whether the law accounted for moving via marriage, asking what happens if a teacher marries someone who lives and works out of state, and moves in with them.

“Do they get married and she doesn’t teach?” he said.

Fox wanted to know more about how the exemptions will work.

Haworth K-8 Superintendent Paul Arlotta agreed that the law appears to limit the pool of talented teachers.

“In the future, it puts us in a very poor position to recruit the best and the brightest. If we have to limit our search to NJ or tell someone from NYC, Rockland or lower Westchester, etc., they have to move to the state,” he said.
Flood zone lives up to its name

**FAIRFIELD TAP** - For the fifth time in six years, the Passaic River has risen, forcing residents to leave their homes. Flood waters have closed schools and businesses, and many residents are unsure when they will be able to return.

When it was over, the Passaic River had officially crested at 16 feet at the Locks Road bridge. A total of 26 homes were affected, and there was no way to get to the upper levels without a boat or a high road.

**REPORTER’S NOTEBOOK**

It was a day I’ll never forget. I was walking down the street when I saw the water. I didn’t know what to do, but I knew I had to get out.

The river was rising fast, and I knew it wouldn’t be long before it was too late. I ran to my car and got in, but the water was already up to my windows.

I drove as far as I could, but I got stuck. I tried to find a higher road, but there was none.

I pulled over and called my family. I told them I was in trouble, and I needed help.

They came as fast as they could, and they got me out. It was a close call, but I’m lucky to be alive.

**Steven Galante**

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**First Place, Weekly over 6,500**

“The Progress”

“Flood Zone Lives Up to Its Name”

**Steven Galante, Jr.**
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Coverage of Government - Art Weissman

Memorial Award
COUNCIL

Firefighter salaries are too generous, administrator says

BY JEFF FRANKEL
Staff Writer

Firefighters’ salaries are more than double that of the median household income of Bloomfield residents, and current and newly hired firefighters receive more vacation time than any other township employee, says Township Administrator Yoshi Manale.

In a blunt, 15-minute prepared statement, Manale told the council at the April 25 meeting that the township needs “get costs in control,” starting with the Bloomfield Fire Department. The firefighters’ contract is up at the end of the year. Manale, the township administrator since January, makes an average salary of $130,000.

“However, the residents of the Township of Bloomfield can no longer afford to continue to provide the firefighters with the generous salaries and benefits that the firefighters have enjoyed for so many years,” the administrator said.

The median household income was $53,289, a 1999 figure Manale cited in his report from the 2008 New Jersey Municipal Data Book. Seventy-two of 78 firefighters made over $100,000, according to Manale.

SEE COUNCIL, PAGE 5

Bloomfield Life

“Firefighter Salaries Are Too Generous”

“Advocate Accusing Officials of Disclosure Missteps”

“Shelter Manager Says Accusation Doesn’t Compute”

Jeff Frankel
GOVERNMENT

Council is grilled about bills for legal services

BY MAXIM ALMENAS
Staff Writer

EDGEWATER – The final mayor and council meeting at the old borough hall on June 15 did not end with fireworks, but tempers flared when several attendees brought up a recent report by the borough’s comptroller, Matthew Boxer, regarding professional service contracts.

Boxer’s report raised questions about bills submitted by Borough Attorney Phillip Bogga and also scrutinized the process for awarding other professional contracts.

According to the report, released on June 1, the borough has “poor contract management practices that led to a string of unnecessary expenses for taxpayers.”

On numerous occasions, the report said, the borough paid for services that were improperly billed and approved a series of modifications to its contract with Bogga that permitted him to bill the borough hourly for services previously included in his salary.

Bogga’s hourly expenses for legal services increased substantially after the modifications.

According to the report, the borough’s hourly legal bills for 2007, Bogga’s first year as borough attorney, rose to $181,740, from $78,540 the previous year. In 2008, the report said, in addition to his $77,273 salary, Bogga billed an additional $180,262 for legal services.

An Edgewater resident, Mary Hogan calculated from the comptroller’s report that Edgewater taxpayers may have unnecessarily paid at least $17,600 in Social Security and Medicare taxes from 2007 through 2009 because part of Bogga’s compensation was in the form of salary.

After asking why independent contractors were being paid as borough employees, she also asked the governing body if other professional contractors were also being paid under similar arrangements.

“Mary, that’s something the council is taking into consideration, and we’re going to clean it up,” Mayor James Delaney said.

The borough received an initial report from the comptroller’s office in March. It was apparently not the first time that similar questions were raised before council meetings.

An Edgewater resident and former councilwoman, Valary Bardinas, said she questioned the procedures at numerous council meetings but was constantly told to trust the professionals.

“Well sometimes your professionals aren’t doing the right thing,” said Bardinas who filed a complaint in a separate case.

SEE BILLS, PAGE 4
W5: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Coverage of Government - Art Weissman Memorial Award

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“School Officials Express Concern”
“Senator, DEP Rep Tour the Damage”
“Costs from Irene Approach $1.5M”

Joseph Cramer
“Plaza Parking Variance Is Denied by Planning Board”

“Officials Want Lights, Camera, Action”

“Mayor Discusses Reintroduction of SID”

Maxim Almenas
Chief asks the governing body to hire six officers

Crime analysis report by the state indicates police department is understaffed

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA
Staff Writer

FAIR LAWN - A crime analysis of the borough conducted by the state police indicates the police department is understaffed compared to Bergen County and the New Jersey State Police.

The study is based on borough statistics from 2005-2009 when the department had 64 officers as of Oct. 31, 2009 and a 2008 estimated population of 30,521. According to the figures, the Fair Lawn Police Department has 2.1 officers per thousand individuals, while Bergen County and the state police have 2.4 and 2.5 officers, respectively, per thousand individuals.

"Fair Lawn would need nine additional police officers to attain the rate of Bergen County," according to the study. "Twelve additional police officers would be needed to attain the rate of the state police."

The study also indicates that the figures must be evaluated on a town-by-town basis.

"Attempts at comparisons of crime figures of police rates between jurisdictions should not be made without first considering the individual factors present in each community which may influence the volume and type of statistics presented here," according to the study.

Police Chief Erik Rose cited the study during the March 8 budget meeting and indicated that he wanted to hire six additional officers in the 2011 budget. Rose said the layoffs of four police officers in 2010 was a factor.

"Council Agrees to Indemnify Chief, Captain"

Justin Zaremba
HALEDON

Police chief’s lawsuit is delayed

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA
Staff Writer

Police Chief Louis Mercuro’s federal lawsuit against the borough was delayed on June 30 pending resolution of his disciplinary hearing.

Mercuro, a 52-year veteran of the Haledon Police Department, was suspended on administrative charges on June 3, 2009, the day after he accused a member of the Haledon Council of being under investigation for cocaine use at a town meeting.

Disciplinary proceedings against Mercuro began in May 2009 after nearly a year of paid suspension and have progressed slowly since last year due to frequent scheduling conflicts. The borough is seeking a 180-day suspension against Mercuro and his dismissal from the police department. If removal is not warranted, then the borough seeks Mercuro’s demotion to the position of lieutenant effective June 4, 2009. The proceedings are public to a degree, with the exception of testimony relating to personnel issues, per an order from Hearing Officer Richard Cushing.

Mercuro has been on paid suspension since June 5, 2009—more than two years—receiving a base salary of $117,000 and longevity pay of 10 percent of his base salary for a total of $128,700, according to Borough Clerk Allan Susen. Mercuro, like other non-union borough employees, has not received a pay increase since 2009, Susen said.

There are currently no scheduled hearing dates for the disciplinary proceedings, Susen added.

During the June 4, 2009 meeting, Mercuro claimed he was approached by investigators from police agencies on two occasions in 2008, who were looking into cocaine use among members of the council. Mercuro has alleged he was shown a sworn affidavit from a local bar owner who related going to New York City in a chauffeured limousine with two members of the council at the time.

SEE LAWSUIT, PAGE 5

Justin Zaremba
W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Interpretive Writing
Battle for new rent control policy looming

BY JEFF FRANKEL of Bloomfield Life

Arlington Jewelers

PUBLIC HOUSING

Housing is clearly an issue. Other elected officials included in the council have not made their stance known, at least publically. McCarthy does not favor rent control. Having heartwarming stories from residents with respect to hardship with him the issue they face involve maintenance, which clearly is outside the council's reach of power, he says. Still, McCarthy hopes to meet with Allen to discuss limiting increases.

To some extent, the raising of issues 20 percent, in this day and age, is inappropriate," said McCarthy, though he contends rent control would hurt downtown redevelopment. The mayor said it would be impossible to determine market price for rental units expected to be built as part of a larger development at the site of the Super Stop & Shop.

The article, citing article from his trusted in November. Allen told Bloomfield Life that out of 42 tenants, it would be in February. Allen said he was forced to raise rent to compensate for upward of $2.5 million in improvements at Troy Towers.

A studio apartment at Troy Towers is $857 per month, while a two-bedroom, two-bath and can be $1,350. There are 91 "true" one-family stand-alone apartment buildings in Bloomfield, comprised of apartments. The town council voted to annex the buildings to proposed zoning changes for the township. In mixed-use buildings 91 additional units, and the total income above $1,500 by comparison. Bloomfield hosts over 1,000 homes and apartments. The township does not maintain statistics on the number of individual renters in town. The Bloomfield Tenant Organization (BTO) has a new member in its membership, according to Trish Costello, ETO president. Costello, Lakeland and other anti-eviction groups have been distributing flyers at all Bloomfield apartment buildings and in posters in hopes of making their mark.
UPPER FREEHOLD — In a showdown that appears headed for court, Breakwater Alternative Treatment Center says it will move forward with its plan to grow medical marijuana in town even if municipal leaders pass an ordinance tonight (Dec. 15) aimed at keeping it out.

“We will use every means at our disposal to enforce our right to own and operate a greenhouse facility that complies with existing zoning regulations,” the company said in a prepared statement. “Naturally, this means we will have no choice but to resort to judicial intervention and the appeals process if necessary.”

The Township Committee is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m. in the Stone Bridge Middle School auditorium to hold a public hearing and adoption vote on an ordinance that prohibits any business in town that violates federal law. Marijuana is illegal under federal law.

The 2010 New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act allows marijuana to be grown and sold under tightly regulated circumstances in order to alleviate the suffering of terminally ill patients and those with serious diseases such as multiple sclerosis. However, the six nonprofit groups approved by the state to cultivate and dispense marijuana have generally met stiff local opposition in their attempts to site facilities in their state-assigned regions.

Mayor Lori Sue Mount has asked to meet with Gov. Chris Christie, whom she says was “handed a bag of marijuana” when he took office in 2010, shortly after the medical marijuana law was signed in the last days of Gov. Jon Corzine’s term.

“I hope Gov. Christie sends this back to the attorney general (and) has the New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act challenged in the courts ...” Ms. Mount said Monday night.

Ms. Mount maintains this is a state issue and it is wrong for Upper Freehold taxpayers to be forced to litigate it. She said the governor’s office has been receptive to her request for a meeting and as of Monday night was still in the process of trying to set one up.

Breakwater has filed zoning permit applications for four Upper Freehold sites it is considering as possible locations for its marijuana greenhouses, including two properties on Ryes Road that are preserved farmland. The other sites, which are all zoned agricultural, but are not preserved, are on Route 526 and Route 539.
Graydon Lawsuit

Jury trial begins in Hackensack

By Kelly Ebbels
Staff Writer

During opening days at the trial for the drowning of Soo Hyeon Park at Graydon Pool, a clearer picture emerged of events that day and their aftermath: friends panicking, lifeguards unaware of any struggle for life, and a grieving family left "longing" for their son.

The Park family has sued the Village of Ridgewood for negligence and emotional distress following the death of their 13-year-old son on July 15, 2008, and has refused to settle at $600,000, the village’s highest offer so far.

The Park family – Soo Hyeon and his sister Sa In, mother Yoon Wha Jung, and father Seong Wook Park – came to Ridgewood from Korea, to visit for a few days before moving to Rhode Island, where Seong Wook was scheduled to begin a research sabbatical. They stayed as guests of the Kim family, residents of Ridgewood.

The Park family visited Graydon Pool on July 15 with 11-year-old Steven Kim and 14-year-old Peter Kim, childhood friends of Soo Hyeon and Sa In. Around 2:30 p.m., while swimming in the deep end between the 12-foot raft and the high dive area with Steven and Peter, Soo Hyeon began struggling to stay afloat and then drowned, according to testimony.

After a judge this summer dismissed any wrongdoing by the Park and Kim families, the Park’s case against the village moved to trial in Bergen County Superior Court, where an eight-member jury is being led by Judge Estela De La Cruz.

The Park family, now living in Korea, testified this week of their distress.

“I just long to see my son,” Yoon Wha Jung said through a translator on Monday as she wiped away tears. “I just feel so...”

See DROWNING, page A5

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“Graydon Pool Lawsuit Series: Jury Trial Begins in Hackensack: Closing Arguments Set for Nov. 28”
“Jury Awards Family $10 Million”

Kelly Ebbels
Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Teanneck Suburbanite

Troubling times for Toffler

BY HOWARD PROSNITZ
Staff Writer

The council has censured Councilwoman Barbara Toffler for “inaccurate and unsupported” allegations against township manager William Broughton and for interfering with requests under the Open Public Records Act (OPRA).

The censure resolution was read in full at the meeting of Feb. 8, Toffler recused herself from the vote and Councilwoman Lizette Parker abstained. The event leading up to the censure vote was a motor vehicle car accident on Jan. 5 in which Toffler knocked the license plate off a car parked in front of Cross River Bank on Teaneck Road when she was backing out of a parking space. Surveillance cameras showed Toffler driving away from the accident. Later in the day, she was served at her home with two summonses, one for leaving the scene of an accident. Toffler contends she was unaware that she had caused any damage to the vehicle. She noted that she has paid for the re-installation of the plate but that no other damage was claimed by car’s owner.

SIE TOFFLER, PAGE 4

“Troubling Times for Toffler”
“Legality of Cancellation Questioned”
“Toffler Sues Colleagues over Censure”

Howard Prosnitz

NJPA
LYNDHURST

Should police go door-to-door in campaigns?

BY MICHAEL LAMENDOLA
Managing Editor

Some township residents are questioning why police officers and the township’s police chief were personally involved in sending out literature and going door-to-door to solicit votes for Tuesday’s $77 million middle school referendum. Some are also calling language in a letter sent out by Police Chief James O’Connor inflammatory, claiming it has demeaning undertones that single out populations that are unwelcomed in the township.

In the two-page letter sent out to township residents by O’Connor prior to the vote, he began by saying that he wants to tell the community about values: about what happens to a town when residents and town officials themselves no value in their community.

“At Lyndhurst’s top law enforcement officer, no one knows better than me that police can only do so much to preserve law and order,” wrote O’Connor. “The safety of our community requires a population that values law and order. If Lyndhurst’s population shifts to one that has no investment in service or public education, the quality of life will decline, as residents who share our values go elsewhere.”

In the letter, O’Connor encourages a positive vote and emphasizes the need for the town’s first ever middle school. He does the letter by stating that in the past five years, property values have increased by $50 million and violent crimes have dropped 30 percent, robberies cut by 40 percent and car thefts by 57 percent.

“We have to complete this transformation for the better by offering quality public schools,” wrote O’Connor. “If Lyndhurst is ever going to be able to attract and retain decent families who share our values, it is essential that we offer quality public schools.”

Michael Lamendola

SEE POLICE PAGE A5

W6: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Interpretive Writing

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“Should Police Go Door-to-Door in Campaigns?”
“Lyndhurst’s State of Disrepair”
“District Ready for $28M School Referendum”

Michael Lamendola
Parsippany Animal Control emphasizes control, not welfare

Elizabeth Martin

"Parsippany Animal Control Emphasizes Control, Not Welfare"

"The Feral Cat Problem: Trap, Neuter and Release or Destroy?"

"Euthanasia Rates Found to be High"

Elizabeth Martin
W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Feature Writing
W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Wildwood Leader

"Senna Sees 'Randyland' the Shot in the Arm that Pacific Avenue Needs"

Lauren Suit
Forty years later, runner reflects on life in the fast lane

Andrew Segedin
W7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Feature Writing

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“Storm Has Retailers Reeling”
“South Mountain Neighborhood Overwhelmed by Flood Waters”

Lindsey Kelleher
Andrea Hughes

DOWNTOWN

Storm has retailers reeling

By Lindsey Kelleher of The Item

The day after Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene struck Millburn, the sun was shining and the sky was clear blue but not all is calm and peaceful in the township yet. Several business owners, employees and workers were cleaning up water, mud and other debris that the storm left behind.

Storms such as Buncher’s Hardware Store and Futter’s Shoes on Millburn Avenue received six feet of water in their basements.

“We had water flow through the ground level of the store. The driveway and backyard were totally destroyed,” said an employee at Buncher’s Hardware.

Richard Futter, owner of Futter’s shoe store which will celebrate its 62nd year of being in Millburn this November, explained that by Monday morning Aug. 29, the day after Irene came to town, most to all of the six feet of water was pumped out of the shop’s two basements.

“Now we have the mud to clean out,” said Futter. “That will be the biggest nuisance of all because it’s dirty, heavy and no fun.”

And what makes the mud difficult to clean up? Futter noted that most of it will have to be carried up the basement steps of the store and taken away from the building on a truck.

Several other stores in Downtown Millburn are also cleaning up mud that washed into their structures from Tropical Storm Irene. Paul Wayne, the owner’s son at Bagel Chateau which is located on Millburn Avenue, said that store employees spent all of Sunday cleaning up mud that washed into the luncheonette.

“There was one inch of mud everywhere in the store,” said Wayne.

Mud left from the rainstorm wasn’t Bagel Chateau’s only problem. Wayne explained that water flooded in Bagel Chateau’s basement from the ground to the ceiling. The floor, refrigeration equipment, supplies and paper goods kept in the basement were either destroyed or damaged. The electricity down there has to be rewired, Wayne noted. He estimated that the storm caused about $100,000 worth of damage to the bagel shop’s basement.

Wayne compared the damage from Irene and estimated costs of it to that of Tropical Storm Floyd which hit the township in 1999. The only difference was that during Floyd, windows inside the Bagel Chateau were smashed by equipment floating through the floodwater.

“Economically, this hurricane was just as bad,” he said.

Debra Camitta, co-owner of Currie and Joshua Schwartz, an employee at Millburn Delicatessen, both located on Millburn Avenue, explained that the estimated cost of damage to their businesses is still being calculated.

Camitta noted that the bottom part of the wall inside her shop will most likely have to be repaired since it was damaged by two feet of standing water that flowed into Currie’s last floor this past Sunday. The store also lost a lot of its merchandise due to flooding. Currie hopes to reopen within the next week or two.

“We’re taking it a week at a time,” Camitta said. “Depending on what we have to replace on the walls or if we have to replace the floors, it could be longer.”

SEE STORM, PAGE A2
Old school visit fills empty halls with memories

By CLAIRE LOWE
Staff Writer

EGG HARBOR CITY - Furniture was stacked on both sides of the hallway from Hamilton Hall into Rittenhouse School proper, and people stepped to comment on the empty feeling a gym there.

The bubblegum-pink and turquoise blue hallways were chipped and the paint was peeling from the wall as children walked by and pondered the hallway.

When the visitors walked into different classrooms, chatter erupted about the teachers they remembered standing at the chalkboards and this was the way the rest of the day played out at the farewell event Saturday, Jan. 29 for the Rittenhouse Middle School, which was a surprise for the city.

Supervisor John Giffen opened the event on the stage in Hamilton Hall, welcoming former teachers and students into the school where he once served as principal.

"This reminds me of a scene from "Breakfast at Tiffany's,"" he said in laughter.

Giffen said he was prepared for the event on Saturday, shopping and sweeping the stairs and hallways himself. He knew Fanny was with Spirit.

"Old School Visit Fills Empty Halls with Memories"

CLAIRE LOWE

See SCHOOL on Page 6

Egg Harbor City residents: Schoolmints, 74, a 1974 Rittenhouse graduate; Northfield resident Jackie Schriesman, 59, a 1976 Rittenhouse graduate; Jean Schriesman, 72, of Egg Harbor City, a 1953 Egg Harbor City High School graduate; and Margaret Harr, 74, of Cinnaminson, a 1974 EHT/CHS graduate, gathered for a tour of their alma mater on Saturday, Jan. 29.
"Prohibition: The Focus Has Always Been on Our Wet Neighbor to the North, But What Was it Like in Ocean City, a Dry Town?"

Eric Avedissian
Perfect strangers

Man’s donation pays forward the gift that saved his son’s life

BY ELIZABETH OGUSS
THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Earlier this month, Jiro Okochi learned none of his tissue samples would make him a match for his son, Finn, who has been on the stem cell transplant waiting list for a year. Finn was born with Wiskott-Aldrich Syndrome (WAS), a disease that causes blood-brain barrier damage and makes patients susceptible to infections.

Finn’s case is unique because he is a boy, and his disease is lethal at a young age. The disease also can affect the skin, leading to eczema and other rashes.

Finn’s disease is rare, affecting about 1 in 500,000 people worldwide. The disease is caused by mutations in a gene called WASP, which plays a role in the cell’s ability to move and divide.

In September of this year, the Okochi family met Melissa Bass for the first time at a Flashes of Hope event in New York. They were introduced through the Marrow Coordinating Center, a national registry of potential bone marrow donors.

Bass had been a donor for 10 years and was looking for a match for her own son, who was also diagnosed with WAS. The Okochi family met with Bass, who was a perfect match for Finn.

On Saturday, the Okochi family donated their son’s stem cells to Bass. Bass is now undergoing the transplant process, and Finn is recovering at home.

“I registered with the Marrow Coordinating Center because I wanted to do something for other people,” Bass said. “I never thought I would end up helping Finn and his family.”

Finn’s mother, Kari, said she was “overwhelmed” by the support of the community.

“We are so grateful to Melissa and her family for their generosity,” Kari said. “Finn is doing well and we are hopeful for his future.”

Finn was born in 2016 and has been in and out of the hospital since birth. He is currently in remission from his disease.

“We are hoping for a cure,” Kari said. “Finn is a fighter and we are proud of him.”

Elizabeth Oguss

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

“Perfect Strangers: Man’s Donation Pays Forward the Gift that Saved His Son’s Life”

Jiro Okochi, top, donates bone marrow for an anonymous recipient, kept company by his children, Olivia and Finn, whose life was saved by the same kind of donation four years ago. Above, the Okochi family plans in the sunroom of their Montclair home on Saturday.
W8: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Opinion Column

Better Newspaper Contest 2011

NJPA Awards
Need to Fight

Last week, the Township Council very reluctantly introduced two ordinances to set zoning for two more multifamily housing projects. The township had been sued by four developers under the Mount Laurel court decisions requiring municipalities to provide housing for lower and moderate income families. Settlements were reached with two of the four developers. The courts approved plans for the development of 62 housing units on 2.27 acres in the section of South Orange Avenue and White Oak Ridge Road, the former Don’s Drive-In, and the development of 11. 5 acres with 226 units on Peach Tree Hill Road adjacent to the Keshet Academy.

Despite negotiations, no settlement could be reached with Squawtown Properties and Hillside Northfield Partners, the developers who wish to build on the remaining two parcels, the former Ridgeway’s Nursery on West Northfield Road and a part of Old Road. These are the sites that the two ordinances will reach. A public hearing on the ordinances will be held on March 28 in Township Hall at 7 p.m.

Superior Court Judge Dennis F. Carey II awarded builder’s remand to the developers who had sued the township under the Mount Laurel court decisions. On the four acres of Ridgeway’s site, the proposed plans would allow 15 units per acre, with no more than 80 units permitted in or more than four buildings. The buildings could be as many as 22 units per building. The 20 acre Squawtownsite would be permitted to have a density of 11 units per acre and no more than 220 dwelling units in no more than four buildings. Each project would have to meet 20 per cent of the total number of units for low and moderate income housing.

We thought that allowing 15 units on the Don’s Drive-In site, which is slightly more than four acres, and 220 on the 11.5 acre Keshet site was an oversite of the land, somewhat akin to trying to put ten pounds of potatoes in a five pound bag but the Council felt that this was the very best deal they could make and that Judge Carey would order the town to accept even more. We are very glad that the Council has indicated plans to fight the last two proposals.

The Council on Affordable Housing (COAH) was created with the lofty goal of providing affordable housing in every municipality. It hasn’t worked. What really happened was that the municipalities lost the right to zone their own towns, as evidenced by the ordinances now being considered in Livingston. COAH created a chaotic road map that changed haphazardly over the years, leaving communities not knowing what their responsibility for low and moderate income housing would be or how they would be expected to meet it. Livingston’s first development under COAH was the town house development on the former Howard Bank site across from the Livingston Mall. How many units for low and moderate income families were built there? Not one. The developers were permitted to sell their required responsibility in another town — in this case Lincoln — but were allowed to build a far higher density than our community had ever seen before. In addition, the COAH regulations changed with each passing “round” cutting the township’s formulaic legal line in our most valuable properties.

The future of COAH’s hometowns bill to abolish the powerful Councime was vetoed by government Chris Christie in January. Christie called the Democratic-sponsored amendments to the bill unacceptable saying it required treasurer to cut the new housing units in every municipality in the state to be affordable, necessitating that 35 per cent of the affordable housing obligation be met by inclusionary development, and legislated sprawl. Although the legislation was vetoed, it is clear that some sort of change is bound to be made. No one knows yet what it will be but, we hope that it will restore some sort of home rule.

Livingston’s first township manager, Robert Henry, fought long and hard to preserve Livingston as a single family residential community. He used every method in his arsenal to defeat plans for apartments in our community and he was successful for many, many years. Livingston developed as Mr. Henry envisioned it: a community of single family homes. That is, until a group of greedy developers and COAH came into the picture.

Now with COAH’s uncertain future and two more developments whose principals are not willing to reach an agreement with the township, we are pleased to say that the members of the Council are willing to contest the court’s ruling. We understand the Council’s frustration at being ordered to establish some 200 units allowing the dense development in order to appease the court’s decision. We understand that the fight will be expensive; however, if we fail to undertake it and the housing developments are built, the town will be stuck with the results. Hopefully, we will be able to bring the developers back to the negotiating table and come up with a solution that is acceptable to all.
We support the Washington Street Mall
But city should control BID

We support the Washington Street Mall and the businesses who do business there. The mall is the center of Cape May, which the city recognizes when it declares itself to be so. It is the site of the formation of a Business Improvement District (BID), which included 1,000 property owners. It associated the mall with the formation of the Washington Street Mall Management Company, and the city took action that followed that at the BID meeting.

For those unfamiliar with the same, the Washington Street Mall is to be the subject of the BID. The purpose of the BID is to promote the downtown business, to promote business growth and employment across the city, and so on.

The BID is a mechanism by which owners and individuals can cooperate to promote business, as well as tourism, employment and so on.

Yet, while Article VI does not seem to favor some business with which I have a personal interest, the same is true of any business that does business at the mall.

The need is to control the BID because the city has no clear plan.

City Councilman Christopher South
Cape May Star & Wave
"We Support the Washington Street Mall"
"Changes Need to Come to LT Council"
Christopher South
EDITORIAL
Not much feedback on CM budget
Do most Cape May residents care about their taxes?

The past couple of weeks we have had some dialogue over the Cape May municipal budget. A group of concerned citizens addressed a letter to Cape May City Council, commented on their ideas, and they responded to our comments. Since then, all we've been hearing is crickets.

We know the Taxpayers Association is on the job, and we look forward to hearing from them. We think a position letter from TPA would be something readers would look forward to.

In our story filed by reporter Cara Chamberlin (see page A1) it is reported that the introduction of the budget with a 1-cent tax increase was hailed because there was no tie-breaking vote. That can happen when council members are on vacation during budget season. It's not a problem, however, since they cannot adopt the budget until April 4.

Lower Township also introduced its budget with one member on vacation, but the township decided to move forward with it despite at least one member wanting a lower tax rate increase.

What is important is that the governing bodies make their policies or positions on the budget clear to the electorate. We were criticized for seemingly not understanding that each journey begins with a single step. We believe there are times when a giant leap is necessary. Penny-wise changes can eventually add up over time, but they are not keeping pace with the economy.

We were criticized for raising issues that were meant to induce trepidation in our readers. Frankly, we believed we were raising some of the public would raise if they had a voice. Sometimes we wonder if they do.

In today's Star and Wave, we have a single letter to the editor and that is from a fourth grade student from Virginia, who is practicing letter-writing, and who wanted to learn some things about New Jersey. We are transient to write back and tell the child, while this might be not true of New Jersey, most of the people of Cape May don't like to write letters and express their opinions.

As we are reminded every Veterans Day, we did not create freedom of speech, but the media is its caretaker. We offer people a forum for which to make their views known but they don't like to use it. We should tell this fourth grader that people in Cape May would rather post their views anonymously than risk being criticized.

We have appealed to the public to use our "Letters" section to us in the past with little response. We will continue to appeal for people to express their views.

Ironically, at one city council meeting the members of the press were chastised for not putting it in the paper when someone did something good. The truth is, often it's people simply being commended for doing their job. But if someone wants to write and commend someone or some group in our newspaper we would be happy to print those letters.

Contrary to some beliefs, we are not trying to suppress good news. Send us some.


**Separate together**

I don't cry much, but when I do it's the gooey stuff that does it for me: A kind gesture. A hero's sacrifice. That commercial where the returning soldier climbs out of a Chevy and his little boy salutes.

I had a gooey moment on July 4, at the local park where we gathered for fireworks. My town is nothing if not diverse, and the scene around me was also like an ad — for B'nai B'rith. The family to my right was Orthodox. The mother was wearing a hijab. The family behind us were Muslim. There were white families and Black families and East Asians. If you wanted to do a story about America's religious and ethnic tolerance, it would be a great place to start.

But I was not the only one who thought so. I got a call the other day from a European news service that wants to interview me for a documentary about my town's reputation as a melting pot. They must have read the news stories about our Muslim mayor who earned the backing of the large Orthodox Jewish community when he was appointed last year. Because the news service has a, shall we say, complicated relationship with Israel, I wasn't surprised that the producer seemed fixated on the Jewish-Muslim alliance. She even wondered whether what's happening in a New Jersey suburb could be a model for the Middle East. Maybe, I thought, although I don't quite see Benjamin Netanyahu and Mahmoud Abbas coaching Sunday soccer league.

I agreed with her that the town is unusually diverse. Lately the town has been largely (but not exclusively) defined by its large African-American and Orthodox Jewish communities. In most shopping districts include a slew of kosher restaurants as well as African-American beauty salons. Black and white mix easily at the weekly farmer's market, at an annual street fair, and at the busy park that is the town's centerpiece.

But the picture is also complicated, I told her. There is tolerance, but not much interaction. Overwhelmingly the Orthodox community sends its kids to Jewish day schools and synagogues, while the black families use the public schools. Politically, this can get tricky, and every few years some Orthodox leaders get behind a slate of candidates for the school board, hoping to rein in spending — and taxes — for schools their kids don't attend. That can be good news among African-Americans and other non-Orthodox. Even the fate of the Muslim mayor had an uncontrollable subtext: Some blacks felt his supporters slighted the African-American women who also sought the position.

It's not just politics. With kids in separate schools, there are fewer opportunities for people to mingle, meet, commiserate, and problem-solve. The civic fabric isn't torn, but it isn't closely knit either. As for social engineering, you can't be a kosher diet for keeping Jews and non-Jews apart.

Because my kids went to day school before switching to the public high school, I've been able to straddle both worlds — and attest to what's missing. My kids, clearly in the minority as whites and Jews, mix regularly and comfortably with a rainbow coalition of friends. They have their synagogue lives, but also friends from an array of backgrounds. There's a looseness and even humor in their friendships that parents can only dream of when they write about a "post-racial" America.

I also like to think they are ambassadors for Judaism. Their classmates tend to be curious about our religious life. The education goes both ways.

Actually, three kids should be in the documentary, not me. Because my life revolves around synagogues and Jewish affairs, nearly all my friends and family are Jewish. For all I've learned in living a committed Jewish life, I also sense what I have given up.

How any of this applies to the Middle East is beyond me. Writing for Tablet, Lee Smith makes a convincing case that Israel succeeds precisely because it is a haven for a religious minority — not exactly America's multiracial ideal. Unlike its neighbors, whose disenfranchised minorities live in fear and uncertainty, Israel has safeguarded the lives of a religious minority with minimal oppression of and maximum participation by other groups who are also citizens of the state.

If anything, the Arab-Israeli conflict suggests the region could use a little more separation — the Jewish state on one side, the Palestinian on the other. Without a clearly defined border, and with apologies to John Lennon, I find it hard to imagine a world of Arab living life.

Many American Jews celebrate two Independence Days: the fourth of July and Yom Haatzmaut. Two democracies, two very different models. And yet for observant Jews, there are clear similarities. In both places they are challenged to live in ways that mark them as different than their neighbors — in worship, education, romance, political aspirations. Complete withdrawal leads to inarticulacy and intolerance. Complete assimilation leads to oblivion.

In America, we seek a balance — gathering to celebrate what we share, even as we revel in the things that make us different. I only wish there were a few more opportunities for sharing.
Charter won’t help Englewood

When the state approved 23 charter school applications Governor Christie said “this should be a moment of extraordinary hope” for the thousands of students trapped in failing schools. He calls charter schools one of the “building blocks toward a solution.”

A Hebrew language immersion school for Englewood and Teaneck was one of the approved schools. Let the extraordinary hope begin. After all, the Englewood and Teaneck school districts struggled to improve students’ test scores. Some students do achieve high scores and go on to top colleges, but a large portion don’t fare that well.

There’s no sugarcoating that the two education systems need to find a way to improve. For those unfamiliar with the communities, despite diverse populations, the majority of the students who attend the districts’ schools are black and Hispanic and on the mid or lower end of the economic scale. An assortment of factors contribute to this so some type of reform is necessary. But taking money away for a school focusing on Hebrew is not one of the answers.

Hebrew is considered the language of Judaism, although the school’s application makes it clear that the curriculum isn’t religious. The issue of separation of church and state is perhaps an argument for another day. I’m concerned with separation of funding from schools that sorely need it.

It’s hard to believe that the state really thinks this charter school will improve the education of the students stuck in failing schools. The majority, if not all, of the students who will attend don’t use the public schools. Englewood Superintendent Richard Segall said when the district did a survey to gauge interest in a Hebrew immersion program only 15 families said yes.

There’s a reason this charter school’s attempt to create a Hebrew immersion program within the Englewood district was rejected multiple times already. It
A night of political theater

On Tuesday, Aug. 9, a group of college students from Korea visited Englewood Cliffs to meet Mayor Joseph Parisi Jr. and learn about how local governments operate. It was too bad they couldn’t stay an extra day. They missed out on the mayor conducting some fine political theater.

A council meeting was scheduled for Aug. 10, but Borough Attorney Douglas Doyle emailed officials the day before saying he had a death in the family and couldn’t attend. Usually in this case, municipal attorneys have a colleague fill in. But with “several significant issues” on the agenda which he didn’t think his associate or the borough’s labor attorney should handle, Douglas suggested that Parisi and Council President Robert Agresa have the Borough administrator/Clk Susan Spohn poll the council on what they want to do.

The majority of the council, all Republicans, wanted to postpone the meeting until Douglas was available. Emails were exchanged suggesting alternative dates, but everyone had different vacation schedules. The majority wanted to meet Aug. 17, but two council members and the mayor, all Democrats, didn’t want that. But as the Korean students learned, our local governments are Democracies so majority rules. Around noon on Aug. 16, Borough Administrator/Clk Susan Spohn posted that on the electronic message board outside borough hall.

I know that doesn’t sound like good theater, but fear not, Act II is when it got really good. At approximately 4 p.m., Parisi emailed Spohn to have her tell everyone that the council meeting originally scheduled for that night was not cancelled. So even though the sign outside said there was no meeting going on inside, Parisi and his fellow Democrats took their seats. Approximately 20 residents were: on hand for the anticlimactic finale as the administrator/clerk took roll call to start the meeting.

But oh, there was no meeting because they didn’t have a quorum. The Republi-
W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Column Writing
Who can afford all this goodness?

Let's all agree, shall we, that it is perfectly fine for people in business to say they are in business to make money. Enough with these business owners and their believer-than-thou stories explaining that while they do have to charge money for their product, they aren't about the money at all.

They are about the environment or about making the planet better or about curing the animals or about making the stars more energy efficient. Anything, apparently, but making money. It used to be just little companies who had a story to explain why you should support their business because they were better people and you would be better too. Now, even big chain businesses are trying to pass themselves off as green and caring—and why not? They are already ridiculously over-priced.

My nearly-12-year-old daughter Amanda and I have a little aquarium that we have done quite well maintaining. However, due to the fact we had an Angelfish grows to a tremendous size and start killing all his tank mates, we had some unfortunate losses. When the Angelfish finally croaked, we decided to make the switch to goldfish.

Off we went to the local pet emporium because, unfortunately, the two little independent aquarium shops we used to visit have closed. We had learned a great deal from those two business owners, so, when one of the goldfishes we had picked out for our little tank flipped upside down after the store worker put it in the bag, I knew the fish may have been in shock.

"Are you sure it is all right?" I asked the worker dubiously.

Brusquely, she assured it was fine and that I could always bring it back if there was a problem.

Mind you, this was the person who sold me a mini-Spanish Regal on me when I asked for the fish. More big was my tank, how many fish did I have in it, and so forth and then lectured me about how many fish I could have in the tank.

Setting aside the fact I have better things to do than return deadfish to stores, I was just unnoticed. I am so sick of these pseudo-experts who went to a seminar and are now the fish police.

We took the fish home and—surprise—died.

Armed with my receipt and my goldfish carcass, I returned to the big pet store.

The same worker was in the aquarium area. I showed her my dead fish and receipt and asked for a replacement.

She interviewed me again—how big was my tank, how many fish did I have in it, yada, yada, yada.

I was not pleased. I told her I was not going to go through all this with her again. I held her up and showed her a fish that flipped upside down even though I questioned her about its health. It died and now I wanted a new fish.

She backed off, but couldn't help herself.

"The next time, you have to bring a water sample," she said.

Really?

According to another worker, this particular pet emporium is concerned about the "total life experience" of the animal not about money. Clearly, they aren't about the total life experience of their customers since you are lucky if they have more than one register open.

I told a fisherman, a man walked up and asked to buy 200. What was his total life experience going to be?

That's what gets me about this nonsense. Their goldfish are $5 for heaven's sake. I don't see it isn't about the money.

After that annoying experience, I started to pay more attention to all the marketing materials. She started to point at the little cartons as some of the prettiest. I didn't think about that, but now, thanks for bringing it up.

I do fall for the labels that indicate something is natural—no artificial flavors. A few weeks ago, I noticed a new one. I was not pleased when I was at the supermarket. The little cartons carried had so many cute and unusual names. I would have had to take out my library card and borrow it for two weeks to get through it. And, at almost $4 for four 13ounce bottles, let me tell you, moral superiority is expensive.

I thought I'd read the mini-novel length company story at home. I was reading the label, I was told, because I care about what is in my soda. Further, I had apparently "come to the right bottle" and my soda even had a little vitamin C in every bottle. There were customer photos on the front and back panels. I was invited to send my photo to be considered for placement on the carrier.

On another panel, a customer's observation, "Weeds are just flowers without an invitation," appeared. On yet another, I was informed my carrier was made out of recycled paper and given a diagram of how to make it into a hamster wheel and asked to recycle it if I couldn't reuse it.

I also was informed on yet another panel the people at the soda company in Seattle, Wash., recycle whatever they can and even recycle recycled stuff. They also replace all their trucks with energy efficient ones. No leaf blowers and bikes to work.

But wait, there was more. On the bottom, I was informed above a bunch of reproduced autographs of their workers that these were "all the people that might have spits in your soda but didn't." I didn't think about that, but eewww, thanks for bringing it up.

Finally, I repeated the list of ingredients. They included natural and artificial flavors and "sugar," whatever that is. Hopefully, not sugar, although presumably that would be a natural ingredient and quality as recycling.

I have decided I'm just not good enough for these companies and I'll have to go back to those big old nasty conglomerates which just want to execute the simple transaction of giving me something and taking my money. And, hey, it will probably be cheaper.

Audrey Davie
The phrase ‘going green’ maybe new, but it’s an old practice

And think how much less pollution there was from cars because families only had one. My mom used to put my brother in the old A&P on the corner of Franklin and William in a wagon. She washed cloth diapers for years, and hung our laundry across the back yard on a clothesline. We passed clothes down from kid to kid rather than buying new things all the time. We had one small black and white TV. Instead of several huge Sears, and for many years, our food was blended and served by hand.

Rather than with electric appliances. No baking soda was done on the stove instead of in a microwave. I still own the push mower that was so pleasant, and hodgepodge of piercing a tranquil summer morn ing with annoying whining. Back in the day, pens were refillled and reuseable replenished, instead of throwing them away. Street canyons where people they needed to go without polluting the air and kids rode their bikes and mom didn’t have to add “first driver” to her list of skills. We didn’t need a signal boomed from satellites to smart phone to find restaurants.

We looked them up in a phone book. And cushioning bright trees in a package went Taken care of with wadded up newspaper rather than by using styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. All these reminders make me think and reusable bags to the grocery store hardly makes a difference in the grand scheme of things.

This weekend, you’ve got a copious of entertainment choices, both in the same neighborhood. The Mike Lupica/Steve Kornick Group will perform at the Nutley Museum, Franklin Church, on Friday. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. The next day, catch the Fourth Annual Beatles Sing-A-Long at Franklin Reformed Church, 45 Hillside Avenue. My son and I are part of the pro band that will lead you through two hours of some of the most memorable music ever written. There are two shows – 4 and 8 p.m. Or catch the repeat show at 4 p.m. Sunday at Penn’s Bar and Grille, 36 Broad St. in Bloomfield. Call 973-461-7039 for more information.

Documents prove the presiden that Saturday will be Judgments Day. If that’s true, I can’t think of a better way to go out while singing my favorite songs with my son backing me up.

“Until next time…"

Victoria Chalk
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

"Geography - It Can Be a Real Name Changer"

"What a Revolting Development"

Geography - it can be a real name changer

Two subjects challenged me in elementary and high school. One was math, starting with simple arithmetic through algebra and advanced calculus. In college, the sliderule proved to be the tool that would eventually make me appreciate a simple solar-powered calculator.

The second challenge was geography. Armed with a globe of the world, maps and textbooks, I could hardly identify countries outside of our own hemisphere. Unlike mathematics - a relatively stable field of formulas, applications and rules - in geography almost every country in the world has changed its name.

With unpronounceable, multi-syllable new names that are difficult to spell or remember, the list of "new" countries since 1990 is incredible. From the UAZH we got Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, just to mention the "sans." From Yugoslavia, Slovenia was replaced with Slovenia and Montenegro was added. This, of course, is just the tip of the iceberg.

Our planet as it exists today has come a long way in its evolution since the early explorer Magellan set sail to prove that the Earth was not flat. The planet Earth now has a population number. Magellan would not have dreamed it could hold. It has more countries with odd names and crowded cities with weird names, but it also has a simple way to identify places like Karakoram and Kolkata. Without my Rosetta Stone of Google, I'd still be on the D list.

Geography is a continuum of change. Borders move. People move. Names change. So much information is so easily available today, one might think we'd have already found solutions to these problems. But warfare, erasing hate, bullying and bias, among other anti-social behaviors, prevails today. Instead, we found ways to rename countries, but not ways to resolve the problems that divide them.

Math, too, is changing. Mentoring the "enriched classes" is no longer necessary. We have pocket calculators to manage figures. We can go to a restaurant, locate using a GPS device, get the bill, punch in the percentage of a tip, then punch another key to divide. The cost by the number of participating payers.

Actually, Sam Cooke was right. It is a wonderful world. We simply have no need for personal math skills and we can no longer spell, pronounce or locate half the countries in existence. Tiring to identify the leaders of those lands carries the challenge even further. Pronounce their names? Even CNN anchors stumble over them.

Google never looked so good.

- The tertier lives in Cedar Grove.

Nancy Rubenstein
One veteran's longest day

BY STEVE JANOSKI

The red cross is faded and tattered, its gold lettering dawning beginning to wear to the point of illegibility.

The pages have taken on a yellow hue, and small, dark smudges of fingerprints — dirt? Blood? — festoon the corners.

It sits quietly on the table, with its owner of nearly seven decades having recently departed this world after 88 years, with the story of how it came into his possession known to but a few.

Frank T. Semeraro was born in 1923. Following the death of his mother, he had to quit school early to work on his father's garbage truck, and came up in a hardball-like Petersen's existence in the one best decades of the American Century.

His father had been wounded while serving in the Italian Army during World War II and all that country just as Mussolini's shadow began to rise over Rome. As the story of World War II began to gather, he was positive of one thing: he didn't want his son to go to war.

But, as the long fingers of fascism began to wrap around the globe, there would be few families who remained untouched, few children who remained unsaved.

The Semeraro home on McBride Avenue was no different.

After the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, the young Semeraro, like so many others, decided that he was going to go to war.

He planned to join the US Navy so he could fight the Japanese, but an ill-fated fishing trip left him to rethink his decision to join the navy.

He decided to leave it up to the government, and figure this out when they drafted him, they'd send him where they needed him.

When the US Army called in 1943, it decided that he was needed in Europe, and so after boot camp, Semeraro was sent to England.

At 1943 were on into the following year, rumors abounded over whether, where, and when the Allies would make their great landing on the European mainland to begin the final stage of the great battle to save civilization.

The plans for the landing, ominously named Overlord (Overlord) by high command, were unknown to the troops on the ground — until the day that the call came.

And as they boarded troops into the transports sitting along the coast of the English Channel on the morning of June 6, 1944, Semeraro wasn't sure where he was headed, but he knew that whatever was happening, it was big.

The seas were rough that day, and men vomited as the boats drifted, a result no doubt, of the mixture of seasickness and deep-seated nerves.

As they closed on the French beach, it's likely that the scene that greeted Semeraro was one straight from the depths of hell — steel, smoke, known as a "Death Barge," hope, stream across the sand as the great cement pillboxes of the German Atlantic Wall rose into the heavens — but there was little time to take it in, too, as they raced the shore. Their landing craft was struck by a shell.

In an effort to save their lives, troops began streaming over the side into the water. Semeraro did the same, but realized quickly that his comrades, weighed down by their heavily laden packs, were sinking straight to the bottom and drowning.

Fearing he would be last, he pulled his knife and cut off his pack before desperately swimming for shore.

Once there, however, there seemed to be no reprieve from the fury of German bullets — until he saw one man waving him over.

The man was another American soldier, and had already dug out a small hideaway to provide cover. When Semeraro reached him, the soldier held him his ration, weapons, and the like.

"I've got to get back to the boats, I need medical attention," the man told him. It was then he noticed that the soldier was holding his own hands and intestines together with his hands.

"Just wait for the others," he told Semeraro.


"You're gonna need this," he said, before disappearing back to the ships, never to be seen again.

Semeraro stayed in that tiny hole as long as he could, on D-Day, listening to the gunfire behind the German Atlantic Wall, and joined the troops as they turned the Channel's water red with their blood.

He held onto that prayer book later on as he fought his way off the beach and through the pillboxes and the tide pools of Normandy, where the Germans fought tooth and nail to keep the Allies from breaking out.

He kept with him through the rest of his service, and after the war, too, as he established a family construction company, married, had children, then grandchildren, and then great-grandchildren.

The world would eventually come to know the ghastly horror of that day, and that beach — Omaha Beach — would become to join the ranks of places like Verdun, Arnhem, and the rest of the horrors of the Great Generation who were slowly passing on everywhere, forever to be remembered as those valiant few who faced down the evil, and saved the world from unimaginable darkness.

This story was told to me by his grandson, Frank T. Semeraro, who is proud to share his grandfather's name.

E-mail: janoski@northjermy.com
‘Keeping it real’ with gang member

There were raised eyebrows among my fellow reporters and editors when I mentioned that I would be interviewing a gang member. Later I would remember my bravado at the time and shudder.

A few days later, sitting in a local diner across from a young man who I never would have thought was a member of a gang, I felt faint stirrings of trust that would continue to well up throughout the following hour. It was disconcerting because I was not a rookie, but there would be times in the next hour when I didn’t know who the cat was or the mouse.

Later, after spending time with “L-man,” which is not his real name, I began to understand how gang members manage to entice teenagers into the fold.

He looked no more than 20 years old, his confidence and demeanor clearly was of someone far more experienced and worldly. He stared directly at me, his milk chocolate eyes never wavering as he looked down. What took me by surprise was the ability of this gang member to be so engaging, charming and flirtatious. But it was not long before his cell phone rang and the charming, silky voice turned icy cold.

“I’ll take care of that (explicative) later,” he said, clicking off his cell.

Eyes steely, he immediately turned slightly toward the booth behind, making only a motion with his hand to one of his associates. No words needed to be said between L-man and the youth who stopped at our table. They merely exchanged a series of hand movements that appeared to be a ritual reserved just for gang members.

L-man nodded and the kid, wearing a baseball cap and sweatshirt, headed out the door, climbed into a late model Escalade.

L-man smiled charmingly when I quizzed him on how he managed to pay for such an expensive car like an Escalade. For a minute or so he contemplated my question, leaned slowly forward, arms folded on the table and stared deeply into my eyes.

“It’s not the way most people think, you know. We don’t have to hang on street corners, or hide anymore, our business is far more advanced and controlled than anyone knows,” he said. When I asked him to go into more detail about what type of activities his gang is involved in, whether it involves selling drugs, or even murder, L-man chuckles and looks away for a few seconds. When he speaks again, his words are measured, careful and quick.

“Some of what we do is right out in the open, right under their noses. Our job is to look legitimate, do our illegal things in a legitimate way in legitimate places. We go where we can make money,” he said, smoothly moving to another subject without ever intimidating himself or his gang even though he knows that I will not be using his gang name.

“We don’t really even have to recruit, these kids come to us because they want somewhere to belong, feel needed and we give them that and more,” L-man says.

I press him about the report just released by the state police on gang related activity, and he smirks knowingly. It is the first sign of cockiness he has shown.

“Yeah, I know about that report. It’s like they are the paparazzi and we are the movie stars. They talk about gangs, write about us and we just shake our heads. They can chase us, we’re smarter. Bigger and have a network that they can’t penetrate,” he said, motioning with his hand that we had to wrap up our time together.

“What about murder, have you ever murdered anyone,” I ask bluntly. L-man stares deeply into my eyes and I see a faint trace of something that had not been there before. Was it pain or vulnerability? I wasn’t sure. Though I was certain I touched a nerve, I was wrong.

“Every gang member gets blood on their hands sooner or later, but it’s not always their fault. Their circumstances...rival gangs getting their toes stepped on for any number of reasons... turf wars...just bad circumstances,” L-man said flatly, but with an edge that spoke volumes about the survivor he was and would continue to be.

Outside the Escalade pulled back into the lot, lights on and engine running. L-man glanced out the window, stood and smiled warmly. “Keep it real Lois Lane,” he said while making the motion with two fingers that he would be watching me.

I was sweating when I left the diner, even though the radio said it was 19 degrees outside — and I never sweat.

Cheryl Hehl

Cheryl Hehl can be reached at 908-886-7700, ext. 124.
When it comes to love of country, Philadelphia fans show true passion

By Len Bardsley

It is nothing new for Philadelphia sports fans to have to answer tough questions about when they have cheered and when they have jerked. You probably have heard the stories of Eagles fans booing Santa Claus and cheering what turned out to be a career-ending injury to Dallas wide receiver Michael Irvin.

A new chapter in Philadelphia fans’ cheering history began this week — and got a nod of appreciation from Mets players — when Phillies fans cheered the news of the capture and killing of Osama bin Laden.

It happened late in the game Sunday night, with the Phillies and Mets locked in a 1-1 tie. The chants of “U-S-A, U-S-A” grew loud as word quickly spread through the sell-out crowd at Citizens Bank Park that the man responsible for the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 had been shot by American troops in Pakistan.

Mets third baseman David Wright was quoted saying, “I don’t like to give Philadelphia fans too much credit, but they got this one right.”

Phillies fans were seen high-fiving Mets fans as a bitter rivalry was quickly forgotten. You can debate the idea of cheering over the death of any human being, but it is easy to understand the reaction in Philadelphia and appreciate the moment.

In a span of nearly 10 years that has brought us orange and black, Atlanta and the Mets, Sunday night was a black-and-white moment for Philadelphia fans.

It was about the idea of good winning over evil, a job well done, justice delivered and a mission accomplished.

Philadelphia fans are passionate about cheering for winners, and on Sunday, there was no doubt who they felt the winners were — and they were not wearing baseball uniforms. Driving Philadelphia fans was the idea of the best of the best, the United States military personnel, persevering through years of training and sacrifice to accomplish a very long-term objective.

Osama bin Laden had been cast as the ultimate villain by the United States, the face of terror, the mastermind behind the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. President George Bush basically put him on an Old West poster, saying he was wanted dead or alive.

It seemed for nearly 10 years, his Liden mocked the United States from afar, far worse than any trash-talking sports rival, vowing to take down America’s way of life one suicide bomber at a time.

That is what made Sunday night such a cathartic moment — at least one point on the spectrum of dead, one spark of terror, was extinguished, replaced by the bright feeling of unity and pride that created a glow around Citizens Bank Park.

It seemed almost fitting the news on Sunday broke into the sports world during a Phillies-Mets game.

It was nearly 10 years ago that I was covering a Flyers-Rangers preseason hockey game, on Sept. 26, 2001, for a former paper. I was one of the first professional sports events in Philadelphia following the terrorist attacks.

It would have been just another preseason hockey game with a few fights and players trying to make the roster, but President Bush was scheduled to give a speech to Congress on the terrorist attacks that evening.

The spirit was played on the video board between the second and third periods, but was turned off when play was ready to resume in the third period.

The fans started chanting “Leave it on, leave it on.” The fans got their wish and the entire speech was shown, with players from both teams watching from the benchsides.

There were chants of “U-S-A, U-S-A, U-S-A” that night as well, and when the 36-minute speech ended, the teams lined up to shake hands instead of playing the final period.

The fans applauded the moment as a flag was shown on the video board with a newsclip saying the game would be called a tie after two periods “out of respect for where the United States was headed in the near future.”

No one had any idea where the road would lead that night.

Sunday, Philadelphia and New York fans celebrated together again.

They knew that while the journey may not be over, the terrorist who started us on this path had reached his final destination.

Manasquan Hockey Alumni game

The annual Manasquan High School alumni ice hockey game, held in the memory of Jim Girard will be held on Saturday, June 25 at 3:00 pm at the Gold Coast Arena in Wall.

Any Manasquan Alumni who played hockey is invited to play in the game. The cost is $20 admission is a donation to the Jim Girard Scholarship fund.

To play e-mail Jim Pugliese at squanhockey@yahoo.com.

W9: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Column Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Coast Star

“When It Comes to Love of Country, Philadelphia Fans Show True Passion”

“Want to Learn More About a Person? Play These Sports”

Len Bardsley

The NJPA

New Jersey Press Association
W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Sports Writing Portfolio
**Grosso departs after nine years at MHS**

Leaves to take post as head coach of Caldwell College men's squad

**By Jim Connelly**

Rob Grosso is moving on. Grosso announced his resignation as head coach of Millburn High School's varsity boys soccer program to accept a similar position at the Caldwell College men's soccer program.

"It was a very difficult decision for me to make," Grosso said. "But I have done everything I could to make sure Millburn's boys soccer program is in the best possible hands for the future." Grosso is a Millburn native and has been with the program for nine years.

Grosso led the Millburn boys soccer team to a 11-3-7 record in 2006, earning them a first-place finish in the Essex County Tournament and Section 2 Group 4 championship.

"I am sure that Jim Connelly, a captain of the team, will carry on the tradition of excellence," Grosso said. "I am confident that Millburn will be in good hands with Jim Connelly."
WJG: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Ridgefield Park Patriot

“Sign of Good Things to Come”
“Scarlets Hitting Stride at Right Time”
“Bogota Rides to Victory”
“Scarlets Squad Bows Out”

Darius Amos
W10: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“Ridgewood’s Giovanetti, Olive Atlantic City-Bound”

“Jackson Resurfaces Big-Time in 10K Run”

“Bench-a-Thon Lifts Spirits of Grundy Family”

Brian Farrell
An electrifying evening

Herbin’s 5 TDs lead Mounties past St. Peter’s

BY KEVIN MEACHAM

MHS FOOTBALL

Facings a 14-point deficit with just over two minutes remaining in the fourth quarter, the Montclair High School football team rallied back in a game where they had to win to stay in the hunt for a playoff berth. The game was played on a Friday night, the Montclair High School vs. St. Peter’s College game, where Montclair was looking to end a six-game losing streak.

“I can’t believe we did it,” said Montclair head coach Jim Zorn. “The players worked hard all week, and it paid off tonight.”

Montclair’s defense held St. Peter’s scoreless in the second half, and the team’s offense found a way to score 35 points in the game. Montclair scored on a 5-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Khalid Herbin to wide receiver Jason Ulicki, and Herbin added a 2-yard run later in the half.

Herbin lead the team in rushing with 103 yards and two touchdowns, while wide receiver Jason Ulicki had 103 yards receiving and one touchdown. The Montclair defense held St. Peter’s to just 141 yards of total offense, compared to Montclair’s 337 yards.

“This is a huge win for us,” said Zorn. “We had a tough stretch of games, but we came out on top tonight. We still have some work to do, but this is a huge step forward for our team.”
Trainer excited about Kentucky Derby prospects

Kelly Breen's 3-year-old Panty On Fire won $1M in Louisiana Derby

By TIM M O R I S

Kelly Breen has watched the race many times, and over the result is always the same. His 3-year-old thoroughbred train, Panty On Fire, had what could best be described as the perfect run.

“I’ve watched the race many times, and the result is always the same. His 3-year-old thoroughbred train, Panty On Fire, had what could best be described as the perfect run.

Pony On Fire gave Breen the biggest win and payoff of his career by winning the $1 million Louisiana Derby at New Orleans on March 26. It was the first $1 million purse win of Breen’s career, and importantly, earned him a trip to the Kentucky Derby on May 7.

“It’s a long time coming,” said Breen, who is a 1977 graduate of Our Lady of Mercy High School in New Orleans.

This will not be Breen’s first trip to the Kentucky Derby. He was there in 1984 with his horses, Atomic Rain and West Side Bruno (who finished 16th and eighth, respectively). This year he’ll be along for the ride as part of the Benoit team.

The 1 ¼ mile Kentucky Derby poses an equal challenge for Breen as it does for the rest of the field. / Everyone is in the same boat. Breen said.

Although Panty On Fire is a speed horse, it’s his third Kentucky Derby entry, from the same stable. This time, he said, he handled the horse-and-night with ease.

Breen said Panty On Fire’s Louisiana Derby win took pressure off having to win a big race in order to get into the Kentucky Derby. All the little things that go into winning a big race are no longer an issue.

“It’s a matter of knowing your horse and getting him to plan for the race,” he said. “It’s exciting.”

There is more to the Kentucky Derby than the race, as Breen knows.

“I can’t describe it,” said Breen, who said the atmosphere around the event was like watching a movie screening or a concert. “It’s a part of American culture.”

It’s a dream that started early for Breen.

It was his trip to Monmouth Park in Oceanport as a 13-year-old that changed Breen’s life. His father, Jack Breen, a horse racing fan, took him there, and it was a life-changing experience. Breen was then just a boy, dreaming about a future in the sport.

Breen wasn’t really hot. He stumbled upon the inside track and was watching with the jockeys. They were small, like he was at the time, and he was able to ride them. He became obsessed with riding.

“I was at Boyne Farm in the Morganville section of Marlboro where Breen first learned how to ride. He moved from Boyne to the stables of Ralph Peltier, just up the road on Route 78, for more training.

“Every day before school my parents would take me to the farm and I would go back after school,” he said.

By his junior year at Cedar Ridge, Breen had learnt everything he could about horse racing. He even gave it up, flooring.

But a funny thing happened. The summer before his senior year — he went through a成长 period. He said, “It’s the question. So Breen had the next best thing. He became a trainer, starting out as an assistant coach in high school at the age of 13.

He worked for trainers such as Charles “Doc” Dickey and Ben Perkins Jr.

By the start of the 2007’s Monmouth Park was Breen’s home base. He quickly became one of the track’s top trainers. He was the leading trainer in 2007 and 2008 with his horses finding the winner’s circle 35 and 36 times, respectively, during those years.

A local connection helped to bring Breen into the big time. He met George and Lori Hall, who reside in Atlantic Highlands and own two horses.

“Told everything to George and Lori Hall,” he said. “Told them about Panty On Fire.”

Breen said the two have one thing in common; they have a competitive background in sports.

“Told them about Panty On Fire.”

The News Transcript

“Trainer Excited About Kentucky Derby Prospects”

“Accisano Still Bowling at 90”

“Higginson Puts Law Career on Hold for Track”

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Tim Morris
BarNEGat Light Patrol
Notches Dominant
Win at SB Invitational

“Old Sticks, Tricks the Rule
at LBI Longboard Classic”

“BarNEGat Light Beach Patrol
Notches Dominant Win
at LBI Invitational”

“Young Gymnasts Bound
for National Training Center”

First Place Weekly over 6,500

WJ: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Sports Writing Portfolio

Juliet Kaszas-Hoch
W11: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Robert P. Kelly Award
The Ocean Star

"Beach Voters Pick Barrella"

"Eyes and Ears’ of General Patton Speaks Now, Decades After WWII"

Colleen King
Forty years later, runner reflects on life in the fast lane

“Forty Years Later, Runner Reflects on Life in the Fast Lane”

“Ordinary Guy in a Pokemon World”

Andrew Segedin
RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

SAIL program sets the course for students with special needs

BY JOSEPH CRAMER
Staff Writer

On the Friday before the Community Access Network's (CAN) third annual Access Ridgewood weekend, Ridgewood High School (RHS) Principal Jack Lorenz sat down in his office with organizers of the event to discuss the school’s unique and innovative approach to special education.

At one point during the discussion, Lorenz noted that for students in special education programs, opportunities for experience in the working world are limited too often by lowered expectations.

“I’ve always seen with special education kids in work study programs that they’re put in menial tasks,” he said. “I want them to be doing meaningful work. If they’re just sitting around, they don’t feel good at all.”

It is this mentality that powers RHS’s Strategic Actions and Innovations for Learning (SAIL) program, which has earned Lorenz the praise and recognition of numerous parties, most recently Bergen County’s Department of Human Services, which will name him as an award recipient at their annual “Salute to Champions” ceremony on Oct. 26. The ceremony recognizes the progressive efforts of individuals with disabilities and those who advocate on their behalf within their communities.

Now in its third year, the SAIL program challenges its students on two fronts: academically and professionally. Inherent in the program’s identity, Lorenz said, is its internship program, which places its students in various positions around the school and community, such as at local businesses, Village Hall and the Ridgewood Public Library. Lorenz said some students even occupy positions within Val-hospital.

See SAIL, page A7

The Ridgewood News

“SAIL Program Sets the Course for Students with Special Needs”

“Village Mourns”

Joseph Cramer
Grassroots campaign for change spreads to Jersey Shore

BY KRISTEN DALTON

Pil didn’t want his last name be known, but he did want the 40 or so people gathered at Marine Park last Saturday to know that the Occupy Wall Street movement for tax reform and job creation is gaining positive momentum.

Behind the crowd, he knelt down next to his son, hugged him and said, “Listen, this is good stuff. This is the kind of world you can have if we make this happen.”

The New York resident had been protesting on Wall Street in the financial district of New York City for five consecutive days before joining Red Bank’s last-minute call for discussion — something he said he wanted to check out while in the area for the weekend.

“It’s one of the best things this country has done in decades,” Pil said of the movement. “We want reform. We want change and we’re using the system to change the system.”

The system: a democracy where the self-proclaimed 99 percent are visibly making their message known across the country with houses of drawing attention to how dysfunctional that democracy, as gaudily controlled by the theoretical 1 percent, actually is.

Red Bank was one of the many cities in Oct. 15 that set itself as a cornerstone for the national foundation of the Occupy movement.

“It’s time that we come together and have some kind of dialogue about this. Wall Street might be where they work, but Monmouth County is where they live,” said Connie Comee, one of the facilitators who organized the Occupy Red Bank discussion. Like Pil, she chose not to reveal his last name.

“They can ignore anything when they’re walking past it on the way to work, but when they come home at night and they see that it’s not just there, it’s not just these major cities, it’s their hometown and home counties too, we’re hoping that really makes a statement,” Comee said.

What started out as a small group of 16 people at 3 p.m. on a rainy afternoon quickly grew into a larger gathering of 20 minutes later. The event, organized by Comee and his girlfriend, Grace, was publicized on Facebook just two days prior.

“I don’t have the answers,” Comee said, “but I know people have the answers. Vertical leadership is a thing of the past. We need to learn from one another.”

The purpose of the meeting was to create a local discussion about a national concern, he said, calling it “an experiment of direct democracy in Red Bank, New Jersey.”

Helene Kugis, of Holmdel; wore a T-shirt that read, “Campaign Finance Reform: Get Special Interest Money Out Of Our Politicians’ Pockets.”

She said she found out about the meeting at the last minute but felt it was worth her while to attend.

“I didn’t do this when I was younger, but now that I’m older, I just appreciate it so much more,” she said, excited for her next stop to be Wall Street on Sunday.

Kathy McCrea, of Middletown, said that as a teacher in the last stages of her career, her financial life is worse than it has been in previous years.

“It seems ridiculous that as I get to the end of my career, my income is going down.”

One man said he was disgusted with what has been going on but remined the circle of people that this process is a marathon, not a sprint.

Comee agreed and suggested the group further organize into different teams such as media, logistics and outreach. Meanwhile, a notepad was being passed through the crowd for people to sign in and provide their email address.

“The media team would be in charge of creating chatter on Facebook, while the logistics team would organize future meet-ups,” Comee said.

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Hub

“Occupy Wall Street Movement Inspires Red Bank Discussion”

“Help-Portrait: What a Photo Is Worth”

Kristen Dalton
Who is answering your call for help?

By Katie Lobosco

JERSEY SHORE — When an emergency strikes and 9-1-1 is dialed, trained dispatchers answer the call. They are the first step in getting emergency responders to the scene, and their actions can sometimes be the difference between life and death.

But emergency calls are not all answered the same way throughout the Jersey Shore.

Sometimes, dialing 9-1-1 will send the caller to a regional dispatch center operated by the county in Freehold. Other times, the call will go straight to the local police department.

Regardless of how a borough or town handles its emergency calls, dispatch services do.

Wall Township resident Denise Dixon dispatched a call this week at the Monmouth County 9-1-1 Communications Center, located in Freehold.

See DISPATCH, PAGE 2

"Who Is Answering Your Call for Help?"

"County Dispatch Center at Full Capacity"

Katie Lobosco
Race for mayor turns testy

Grupp upset by documents; Minichetti won’t debate

BY JOHN CLYDE
OF TOWN JOURNAL

Upper Saddle River’s mayoral race took an ugly turn last week. In an apparent attempt to influence the Nov. 8 election, an anonymous courier delivered a Town Journal packet containing complaints from parents in 2006 and 2007 regarding the coaching style of Independent Mayoral Candidate Marshall Grupp.

Four residents said in formal complaints that Grupp was “verbally abusive” to his youth sports participants during practices and games, according to documents confirmed to be authentic through an Open Public Records Act request. They cited shouting, throwing a clipboard on the ground and said that Grupp upset their children.

“We pay our public employees to work for all of us, not to conduct partisan opposition research ... These discredited personal attacks are another example of why Joanne Minichetti is unfit to lead our borough.” Grupp said in a phone interview last Thursday. “Taxpayers of all parties are uniting behind our campaign, and our plan for change. I’m planning to

SEE TESTY, PAGE 4

John Clyde

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

“Race for Mayor Turns Testy”

“Resident Facing Luring Charges”
W12: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Arts & Entertainment Writing
Verona-Cedar Grove Times

“The Best Band in the Land”

Andrew Segedin

The best band in the land
School proves talent sometimes comes in small numbers

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN

Verona High School’s Marching Band, one of the school’s various instrumental ensembles, suffers from a lack of numbers. However, it still manages to put on a show.

The band is made up of students from Verona High School and Verona Junior High School, as well as students from nearby schools.

The band’s director, Mr. David Narder, is known for his ability to bring out the best in his students, regardless of their skill level.

“Verona High School’s Marching Band is a great example of how hard work and dedication can make up for a lack of numbers,” Mr. Narder said.

The band’s performance is a testament to the school’s commitment to its arts and music programs.

“We take pride in our Marching Band and are always looking for new ways to improve,” Mr. Narder said.

The band performs at various events throughout the year, including school dances and community functions.

Verona High School’s Marching Band is truly a force to be reckoned with, and they continue to impress with every performance.

Andrew Segedin
Autism-friendly play at theater

By Lindsey Kelleher

The Millburn-Short Hills Little League announced that they will be hosting an autism-friendly performance of "The Little Night" on May 11th at the Millburn Community Center. "The Little Night" is a play that tells the story of a group of children who are affected by autism and their struggle to understand the world around them.

According to the league, the performance will be designed to be calming and reassuring for children with autism, with reduced sensory stimuli and a quiet environment. The play will feature storytelling, music, and dance, all of which are known to be effective for children with autism.

The performance will be open to all children, regardless of whether they have autism or not. The league encourages parents to attend with their children and to bring snacks and drinks.

The Millburn-Short Hills Little League is committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all children, and this autism-friendly performance is a testament to that. We encourage everyone to join us and support this important event.

Lindsey Kelleher
MUSIC

Real Estate finds the right market

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Real Estate, the breezy, sweetly melodic four-piece band that is three-quarters Ridgewoodians, is spreading their wings in more ways than one.

They take off next week for a month-long tour of North America and Europe in celebration of the release of their second full-length record, “Days,” out on Tuesday – their longest tour in their four years as a band together. But Real Estate’s journey began long ago, before high school, when they and other friends started practicing in basements and attics around their Ridgewood homes, carefully watching older local musicians and slowly setting their sights on performing shows for their friends.

Ten years later, band leader Martin Courtney is singing of teenage dreams, strolls down old streets, and careless ways that were “not so unwise” after all. When Courtney linked with his friends Matt Mondanile and Alex Bleeker as they finished college, they coalesced under their band name, inspired by Courtney’s recently acquired certificate in real estate sales.

The group has gained acclaim over the past three years, after their first eponymous full-length record received the prestigious “Best New Artist” nod from noted music website Pitchfork. Though Courtney, the band leader, and Mondanile and Bleeker have all relocated to Brooklyn, their roots and inspiration are still in Ridgewood. Songs like “Municipality” and “Wonder Years” find the band singing wistfully of days gone by.

“There are a lot of songs about when we were 17 or 18, like at the end of high school, I don’t know why,” Courtney said. “I guess I’m just naturally a nostalgic person.”

Now under the major U.K.

Real Estate, featuring former Ridgewood residents, from left, Alex Bleeker, Matt Mondanile and Martin Courtney, will release their second album on Tuesday.
The SandPaper

“Early Pop Music Scene Grew to Island-Wide Proportions”

J.D. Watson

Jeffrey Kuhlman, cover
Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

“The Jazz Series 2011: ‘Saturday Night’ Sideman”

“On the Air”

“Montclair Comes Out for Kids”

“Rising Star”

“Teaching the Next Generation”

George Wirt
First Place, Weekly over 6,500
Atlantic City Weekly
"Salute to Mr. Soul"

Jeff Schwachter

Salute to Mr. Soul
Celebrating what would have been music legend Sam Cooke's 80th birthday—from an Atlantic City perspective.

A BANNER WITH THE NAME SMPY
White on it hung across Kentuck Avenue at all summer.

The late comedian and actor (Coke died in 1964) was found by the police near his home at 705 North Harbor Drive in Atlantic City on July 23, 1964. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

"Salute to Mr. Soul"

Jeff Schwachter

About 2 weeks before his death, Cooke, who was once a featured performer at Club Harlem, a lounge in Atlantic City, went to see the musical "Hedda Gabler". The performance was under the supervision of Samuel Beckett, the Irish playwright, who was known for his dark and brooding plays. Cooke was impressed by the show and wanted to work with Beckett on future productions.

The following day, Cooke was found dead in his hotel room. He had been stabbed to death. According to reports, Cooke had been involved in a dispute with a club manager over a payment for a previous performance. The manager had later tried to fix the problem by offering Cooke a larger payment, but Cooke had refused.

Cooke's death shocked the music world and left his fans and friends grieving. Cooke was known for his charismatic stage presence and his powerful voice, which made him a beloved figure in the music industry. His legacy lives on through the music he left behind, which continues to inspire and influence artists today.

Cooke's funeral was held in Atlantic City, and thousands of people attended the ceremony. Cooke's songs and legacy continue to be celebrated, and his contributions to music are remembered.
W13: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Special Subject Writing
Crisis in Egypt hits home

BY KELLY EBBEL
Staff Writer

As the world watches Egyptians rebel against President Hosni Mubarak, Ridgewood residents set forth their own stories of the way the immense and violent uprising has affected their lives.

In Egypt
Alex Ortiz, 24, a Ridgewood resident studying Arabic literature at the American University in Cairo, was not interested in trying to take a flight back to the United States, since protests escalated. Since the uprising began early last week, he has kept a close eye on how the action has unfolded and, with access to a private Internet line, has used social media to keep family, friends and followers updated.

Via a Skype phone call on Thursday morning, Ortiz said that he was “a little settled, but fine.”

Some of his friends and colleagues—foreign and local journalists and activists—have been arrested and beaten. Ortiz himself was beaten up by police on Wednesday while he was walking down what he thought was a safe street.

Luckily, he was escorted out of the midst scene by a military police officer who took him back to a station and treated him very professionally,” but Ortiz claimed that the police and government supporters were “the same institution.”

“I think what we’re witnessing now is sign that the government will no go quietly into that dark night, despite the brutal and very excessive force that has been well-documented and despite the international pressure, and despite the brave and dedicated demonstration that continue to hold Tahrir Square this morning,” he said.

On Jan. 25, the first signs of the protests, Ortiz launched a live video feed via justin.tv of the clashes between demonstrators and police.

One of his videos, called “caire,” has so far been viewed almost 70,000 times. While the scenes at Tahrir, or Liberation, are difficult to make out—all that is visible through the darkness are flashing lights and the silhouettes of trucks and people—the booming gunfire tells the story of the barrage from police as they lashed back against protesters below his student apartment. Ortiz has since been contacted and interviewed by several U.S.-based radio stations, including CBS News, Pacific Radio and public radio in South Dakota.

On Thursday at an InterContinental Hotel where journalists are stationed, government supporters encircled and boxed out army soldiers stationed VideoCairo, a local production company that international news organizations such as Reuters and Bloomberg have been using to broadcast. At one point, Ortiz heard the police were on their way to his own hotel to search for and seize video cameras.

“What is absolutely crucial is that the rest of the world, particularly America, find out

See EGYPT, page A7
Police ‘like’ social media sites

BY MOLLIE GRAY
Managing Editor

About a year ago, Capt. Mitchell Stern was looking to enhance the way in which the Verona Police Department shares information with the public. He saw an architect behind the department’s website, which provides access to everything from the police Mateo to tips on how to avoid identity theft.

Seeing how Facebook and social networking sites in general were becoming so popular, he brought the idea to his chief about creating an account for the Verona Police as an extension of the website. Now, whether he’s in his police uniform or pajama, Stern can let hundreds of people know about instantaneous events if there is a road closure they should be aware of, or what street parking rules are in the event of a snowstorm.

“Twittering to put out an emergency, something that you’re aware of, it’s a benefit,” Stern said. “If one person can be aware of something, that’s a benefit.”

It turns out Stern and the Verona police are not alone. Local organizations, community groups and schools are using social networking tools such as Facebook and Twitter to modernize their communication and enhance their visibility.

Residents can log onto these sites and find everything from announcements about fund-raising events to school closings to snow advisories. And those who post the information are recognizing the advantages of using these tools, which are virtually free of cost.

Statistics on Facebook show that 90 percent of active users log on to Facebook at least once a day, and people spend over 500 billion minutes per month on Facebook. There are over 500 million objects that people interact with, including pages, groups, events and community pages, and there are more than 500 million active users currently accessing Facebook from their mobile devices.

Stern said he measures consumer activity reported around this time last year that the average Facebook user spent seven hours on the site per month. Twitter usage stats show the website had 175 million users with over 15 million tweets written per week as of last September.

With that much activity, it’s no surprise local agencies are beginning to use these channels to reach a wider audience.

Stern has been leading the Verona Police Department’s technology initiatives, and is behind the department’s presence on the web. Stern has a strong background in technology, working as a computer level seven years for the company that is now known as Pinnacle Technology. He said designing websites had always been a hobby of his, and

VERONA

Police ‘like’ social media sites

Mollie Gray
Nighttime crews answer the call

BY RICHARD DE SANTA

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor heat, nor gloom of night."

While the words begin a famous phrase about mail carriers, the imagery applies equally to the dedicated teams poised to rush to the community's injured, infirm or struck down in the midst of their sleep.

They are the Glen Rock Volunteer Ambulance Corps (GRVAC) nighttime crews – an interdial squad, with a squad whose dedication and expertise are brought to bear in situations that, for many, are all the more frightening when occurring in the "glow of night.”

With six crews of three or four members each splitting the duty from Sunday through Friday, and taking turns covering Saturday nights once a month on a rotating basis – they along with the Glen Rock Police are first to the scene in night-time medical crises.

According to GRVAC President and borough Councilwoman Mary Jane Surago. "Our night crews are a very close-knit group of people. They're the ones who get up out of bed in the middle of the night and respond to anything, from a general weakness or illness complaint to a CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) call."

With shifts running from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m., "they must always be ready to respond, which means when there's a snowstorm, and there's some doubt that they can shelve their cars and head out fast enough to get to the building (the hospital), they actually sleep there, in the drill room, until their shifts are over," she added. Some members sleep in their uniforms just to save a few minutes, or keep a spot open nearby.

Most members have day jobs, and all have significant daytime responsibilities. "They know that one or two calls through the night will rob them of needed rest," Surago said. "But they seem to get used to it, and go about their day despite the sleep deprivation."

"A typical" call takes about an hour, from getting to the building, going to the scene, assessing and treating the patient, transportation to a hospital, and return to the GRVAC building. But crews' habits go beyond actual responses. "On arrival back, they log in data about the call into our EMS (Emergency Management Services) chart system, and also re-stock and clean up the ambulance – sometimes bleeding virtually all surfaces if necessary," Surago noted.

"Then it's back to their own to tend home, and if it's early enough, back to bed. If not, it's directly on to work or other daily activities."

Longtime corpsman and Wednesday night crew chief Victor (Kathy) Dagnino describes membership as a "lifestyle" more than simply a rite of volunteerism.

Richard DeSanta

Glen Rock Gazetted

“Nighttime Crews Answer the Call”
Warm Muzzles Find Arsonists

By Pat Johnson

On March 24, a former Stu
dford-Towanda volunteer
fighter, 19-year-old Ryan
Hinkle, was found guilty of
intentionally setting
arsonous fires in
Philadelphia and
Burlington. His
sentence included
the 500-year fire
that was
reported in the
Towanda Times, a
weekly paper in
the town.

Tanner is trained to
identify the
motorcycle by
attacking it.

The SandPaper

"Warm Muzzles
Find Arsonists"

Pat Johnson
The sun keeps wine cool

Clifton wine company installs solar panels

Solar power technology explained

By Adam Greenberg

Clifton – Solar power is a never-renewable energy initiative being pushed hard throughout New Jersey, being explored seriously by the City of Clifton and being undertaken already by several businesses and residents in the area, but confusion still lingers on what it is and how it works.

Solar power can essentially be broken down into two groups, said Gerry Heimbach, vice president of Commercial Projects with The Solar Center, an installer of solar energy systems.

Photovoltaic cells (PV cells) harness light energy and turn it into direct current (DC) electricity and the less common solar thermal energy (STE) is used for water heating.

“Photovoltaic accounts for 95 percent of all installations in this part of the world,” said Heimbach. “[The Solar Center] did some solar thermal installations previously, but not so much anymore.

Heimbach said the heart of any solar powered system is the solar panels and those panels come in two varieties: standard efficiency polycrystalline panels, which account for 85 percent of installations, or higher efficiency and higher priced monocrystalline panels.

Whether a property uses PV cells, STE, polycrystalline panels or monocrystalline panels depends primarily on the type and size of the property, said Heimbach.

“ ‘The Sun Keeps Wine Cool’

Incentives Offered to Businesses”

Adam Greenberg
Recreating Bull Run 150 years later
Local 'Billy Yanks' brave 100+ degree heat to take part in first major battle of Civil War reenactment
By Steve Janoski

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

“Recreating Bull Run
150 Years Later”

Steve Janoski
W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Environmental/Health & Science Writing
‘Solar farm’ planned for former landfill

Fenimore dump will be cleaned up first by firm

ROXBURY TWP. — Residents familiar with it, and local environmentalists, consider it a blight on the face of the township.

A Clarisburg firm has purchased the former Fenimore Sanitary Landfill from the township, however, and has plans to turn the once-useless property into a solar farm.

Abandoned in 1970, the Fenimore site comprises more than 60 acres and 1 million tons of solid waste that was never properly capped or closed.

“For the past three decades, it has sat there, dormant but by no means benign, at the foot of Mooney Mountain, forgotten but by no means gone, a festering threat to human health and the environment,” according to Strategic Green Energy, the firm which is undertaking the project.

Leachate from the landfill collects in untreated ponds and runs directly into a local stream, according to Richard Bernardi, the firm’s founder.

Scores of chemical drums litter the site. The soil and groundwater have been polluted beyond acceptable levels. It has been ranked among the top sites in New Jersey for highest potential greenhouse gas emissions and leachate pollution.

Strategic Green Energy (SGE) is in the final phase of producing a plan to remediate and properly close the landfill.

“And thus, we will right a longstanding wrong inflicted on the citizens of Roxbury. We are on our way in this endeavor, working under the strict supervision of the state Department of Environmental Protection and local government,” Bernardi said, on the firm’s Web site describing the project.

“It is no small task, and will cost us in excess of $10 million. But it can — and should — be done,” he wrote.

“In turn, we are asking to transform this site — unacceptable for residential or commercial development — into a solar panel farm. SGE is seeking a federal grant toward that end. The taxpayers of Roxbury and Morris County will pay nothing,” he wrote.

“While Gov. Chris Christie and the NJ Sierra Club are often at odds on environmental issues, they are in complete harmony on this one. Renewable energy, and particularly building solar panel farms on landfills, is at the top of the list of the governor’s key energy

‘Solar Farm’

Mike Condon

Roxbury Register

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

W14: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Environmental/Health & Science Writing

PLEASE SEE LANDFILL, PAGE 2
NEW WORLD FOR BOY WITH AUTISM

By Phil Garber
Managing Editor

Mount Olive Town Billy Slooten is a 4-year-old child with autism who was born on Oct. 8, 2006. His life has been a journey of discovery, a search for understanding and a quest for acceptance.

But on Oct. 8, 2006, Billy’s world changed forever. That was the day he began to use hisictionaries known as facilitators. facilitators are used to help him communicate. In the past, his parents had to rely on a system of pictures and objects to help Billy express himself. Now, he has a special program that allows him to communicate more easily.

Mount Olive Chronicle

“New World for Boy with Autism”
“Boy with Autism Offers His Comments, in His Own Words”

Phil Garber

Mount Olive

Phil Garber
Dumping Doughnuts:
Mess on Newton Lake Docks

Ah, a sunny summer afternoon, taking your young children or grandchild to Newton Lake to feed geese and ducks on a shady riverbank can be fun, even idyllic, relaxing and entertaining.

Imagine the surprise of Camden County Park officials this week when they saw that someone has been giving the local geese and ducks at Newton Lake a little more than some bread crumbs and corn.

Piles of apparently day-old doughnuts were found dumped on a concrete fishing dock along N. Newton Lake Drive at Colford Ave. The spot is known locally as the “second lake” in the Newton chain, between the Bettlewood Ave. bridge and the White Horse Pike in Collingswood.

One unidentified local resident reported on Monday morning that she had picked up enough doughnuts at the site to fill a large green trash bag — so many doughnuts that she could hardly lift it into her car. She estimated the number at several hundred doughnuts.

The woman said she had come across the doughnuts while walking her dog early on Monday. She was not sure whether this had been the first instance of doughnut dumping at the lake as she does not always walk her dog along the lake.

NOT FUNNY: It almost sounds like a joke, but imagine being stopped by geese looking for a buck for coffee to go with their doughnuts. If some unidentified doughnut dumper keeps it up, it could well happen.

By the time Camden County environmental education coordinator Maggi A. Liebe arrived later that morning, there was still a pile of at least 50 doughnuts — glazed, cream and jelly-filled, powdered and various kinds of chocolate ones.

Liebe set out immediately with a shovel, dunezan and plastic bags to clean up the last of the dumped doughnuts. Her office is not far from the site of the dumped doughnuts at 520 N. Newton Lake Dr.

She said she was sure that someone was well intentioned in trying to feed the geese and ducks at the lake, which has lately been

(Continued on page 2)
“‘Not a miracle answer’”

“Deer contraceptive unlikely to replace hunting”

Dan Prochilo
Medical marijuana out of reach for City man with epilepsy

By Tony Gicas
Staff Writer

CLIFTON – A frustrated City native continues to fight a severe medical condition whose symptoms are extinguished by a natural, yet controversial, drug which he may not be able to possess legally until 2012.

Unfortunately for 23-year-old Tim DaGiau, an epileptic who has suffered from violent seizures since he was 10, that drug is marijuana and state law prohibits him from purchasing, possessing or using it while in New Jersey.

DaGiau spent a decade enduring every medical procedure and medication Western medicine had to offer. He tried 12 different medications and underwent two brain surgeries. Both avenues, he said, ended in failure and the last surgery left DaGiau paralyzed on his left side for several months.

It was not until his senior year in high school, as an 18-year-old, that he tried to treat his condition utilizing marijuana, a method which he used regularly while attending college in a state which granted medical marijuana use.

“My seizure patterns diminished to nearly zero – a reduction from about 15 per month – and I turned around my life,” he said. “The absence of social anxiety allowed for me to become heavily involved and assertive.”

Sixteen states have legalized the use of medical cannabis and, although it remains a hot-button issue around the country, it is not yet available to New Jersey patients, like DaGiau, who say they benefit greatly from its use. However, according to recent reports, it could be some time, likely 2012, before prescriptions are honored.

“Shortly before former Gov. Jon

See Drug, Page 4
“It Takes a Village to Care for Alzheimer’s Patients”

Kelly Nicholaides
W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Business & Economic Writing
Finance workers feeling the heat

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

With the financial markets rocking and reeling, it has been a stressful couple of weeks for Ridgewood residents who work in finance.

“[The] best week [was] a real shock wave, as far as financially, for everybody,” said Dave Ferrara, who works at a hedge fund in midtown Manhattan, as he waited for the train at the Ridgewood platform Wednesday morning. “You see some glum faces. People are definitely not as happy as they were two weeks ago.”

The markets have weakened over the past weeks as bad news has triggered renewed worry among investors. In late July, during the debt ceiling crisis in Congress, news was released about the lurching recovery this year. While economists had predicted a better forecast, growth in the first quarter of 2011 was only 1.5 percent. That, combined with a clearer picture of the weakening of major European countries, a reduction of the United States’ credit rating, and a realization that the Federal Reserve Bank has few cards left

See ECONOMY, page A6
Faring well?

Commuters begin paying charge to ride community shuttle

BY ERIN ROLL
of Glen Ridge Voice

Tickets...tickets, please.
Local jitney passengers pulled out their monthly passes and ticket books for the first time Monday, as community shuttle fares officially debuted during the morning rush.

The fares were supposed to start Feb. 1, but a one-week grace period allowed riders time to adjust to the new system. The start date was also delayed by recent winter storms.

Glen Ridge announced last month it would begin charging fares to utilize the jitney. The service had operated free of charge ever since its debut nearly a decade ago.

Three payment options are available: a $25 monthly pass, a $20 book of one-trip tickets or a $5 on-board cash fare.

The borough reports 160 monthly passes sold as of Monday morning, according to Michael Rohal, borough administrator. The number of ticket books and/or individual tickets sold to date is not yet known, he said.

Notices were posted at the Ridgewood Avenue station Monday reminding commuters of dates/times to purchase tickets and passes.

SEE SHUTTLE, PAGE 3

Erin Roll
**Central Business District**

**Signs of Revival Downtown**

BY KELLY EBBELS
Staff Writer

Twosold stores were strolling down East Ridgewood Avenue last month. Shopping bags hang by hand. They had just purchased sneakers, and before heading to grab lunch, they planned to go around the corner to get another pair of shoes repaired.

The women hailed from Inglewood, where their own athletic shoe store had recently closed down. They enjoyed shopping in Ridgewood annonymously, they said, from the flower plantings to the fineness of the people to the diversity of stores. "I see all these interesting places here," said Kelly Frank. "It all looks so well pulled together.

Yes, they noticed some empty storefronts. "The Inglewood has that too," said Louise Schwartz.

Ridgewood's Central Business District (CBD) may not be at the top of its game, but in examining local costs, sales, and vacancy rates, it seems things could be worse. Last winter, the downtown was suffering, with more than 40 empty storefronts, this year, the number has inched toward 30 with many of these properties now spoken for as soon-to-open non-eatery establishments.

Some notable names - Artstruck and Cardstone, Bernard's Bight, and "Ginger" - have closed. Lisa Williamson, owner of Happy Tuesday, said she had been "left to move"; on them; she had tried to get out of their lease last year, but were not yet until June. "It is not too difficult. Foot traffic is not what it was years ago, and the bills are just too high," Williamson said. "We're done." Still, moving in has been a fresh crop of brave new owners trying to distinguish themselves - an American tavern, a French pastry, a burrito joint, a tailor, a green building.

Other established businesses, such as Ridgewood Coffee Company, are also under new ownership. And Fistoff, now under new ownership, and La Fiamma, have invested in major facelifts. Businesses are reporting that sales have not yet improved.

"The economy is still fragile," said Kelly Ebbels, a business owner.

**Flocks DePaulo, one of the first customers at the new House of DeCicco sale, receives a hair treatment by owner Louis DeCicco on Wednesday. Assistant Paula Preusl looks on. Below, shoppers on Ridgewood Avenue are venturing by heat wave.**

Kelly Ebbels, owner of Hillmann's Electric and president of the Ridgewood Chamber of Commerce, said that some landlords - many who have moved away from town, or who are related to operational owners - still aren't reducing.

"The smart landlords have compromised with price reductions," Hillmann said. "But there are some, especially the ones who live out of the area, that seem to have lost touch with things...I just don't understand why they don't realize what's happening."

Some have argued that Village Hall must have a heavier hand in correcting the situation. Tony Banzanos, owner of Maria's, and chair of the Ridgewood Board said, "We need a town ordinance requiring that any landlord whose property is vacant for longer than a year must either reduce rent or pay a fine."

Mayor Keith Killian said such a plan "would have some legal challenges to it."

"If the landlord maintains the property and meets all the ordi-

**NJPA**

NEW JERSEY PRESS ASSOCIATION

The Ridgewood News

"Signs of Revival Downtown"

Kelly Ebbels
Tasti D-Lite store expected to open in September

Borough attorney gives approval; no ordinance against franchisees

BY KAREN KLEIMANN
OF TOWN JOURNAL

A new tenant is moving into Ho-Ho-Kus and bringing with it a healthy snack option.

Tasti D-Lite, a New York-based frozen dessert franchise, is opening a store at 622 N. Maple Avenue in the vacated store next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Pharmacy.

Vincent Erigo and Donna Sahatcui bought the franchise and are scheduled to open the business on May 3 before the Planning Board unanimously approved the new business.

“We heard that the applicant had the qualifications for the work needed,” Erigo said. “I think it’s a good operation and a new, good business.”

The Ridgewood couple were officially approved as franchise owners by the corporate Tasti D-Lite and were working to get the store together for a September opening.

The store is expected to be open by 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week, but the hours may be extended.

“The store hasn’t been touched yet, but we’re taking steps in the right direction,” Erigo said. “The space is about 600 square feet and is a corner store. We will be working with the health department to make sure we’re up to standards with code, and with PSE&G to evaluate energy use and lighting needs.”

“We have insurance with the store and everything is covered if anything is broken,” Erigo said.

Before becoming a franchisee, Erigo worked as a computer technician.

After he left, he said, “I thought I would be nice to go into business for myself.”

While he and Sahatcui lived in New York City, they used to stop in the store, and the idea of opening a franchise store grew.

Tasti D-Lite was founded in 1987 on the Upper East Side of New York by a woman hoping to create a frozen dessert that was healthy — without excess calories, fat or carbohydrates, according to information provided by the company.

Later, the store was acquired by independent franchisees, which helped the business grow.

“The business is very successful,” Erigo said. “We started with one store, and now we have 50 stores across the country and internationally, according to information provided by the parent company.”

The store’s success makes it a good business, but it is not entirely without problems, Erigo said. “It’s not a business where you make $100,000 a day.”

The store will be open seven days a week, and the store hours will be determined by the health department.

Erigo said the store, located at 622 N. Maple Avenue in the vacated store next to the Ho-Ho-Kus Pharmacy, will feature vanilla and chocolate flavors, as well as a variety of different flavors everyday, as well as coffee and tea drinks, fruit smoothies and other frozen desserts.

Above, the two owners plan to be the tenants of the Ho-Ho-Kus Franchise of Tasti D-Lite.

Karen Kleimann
UPPER SADDLE RIVER

Pearson gone in 2014
1,200 jobs to leave borough

BY JOHN CLYDE
OF TOWN JOURNAL

Pearson Education announced on Sept. 19 that it will relocate its entire Upper Saddle River workforce of 1,200 in 2014. Hoboken and New York City lured the textbook publishing company, which is the borough’s largest business, with tax incentives.

The Mack-Calvi Reality Corporation property that Pearson leases at 1 Lake St. generates about $876,000 in taxes, which is slightly less than 2 percent of the borough’s $44.5 million in tax revenues, according to Gene Lepore, the borough’s tax collector. The Edison-based realtor would continue to pay property taxes on the site if it was vacant after Pearson’s lease expires in 2014, Borough Administrator Ted Preusch said.

But the property’s assessed value could be impacted if Mack-Calvi does not find new tenants.

“Fortunately, the building is very desirable, located in a prime location, with easy access to major highways and offers two separate

SEE PEARSON, PAGE 13
On the road to prosperity?

ECONOMIC RECOVERY

While recession may be over, small businesses still hurting

BY STEPHANIE NODA

An employee at Sparkie's Brick Oven Pizzeria rings up two customers on Oct. 20 in Closter. Economists say the recession is over, but small business owners in Closter don’t necessarily share that same statement.

SURVIVING THE RECESSION

A look at how downtowns are doing

W15: Reporting, Writing & Illustration - Business & Economic Writing

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

"On the Road to Prosperity?"

"Store Owners Say It Is More Than Economy Stalling Growth"

"Some Business Owners Say It Could Be 5 Years Before Sales Return to Previous Levels"

"Banking on a New Strip Mall"

Stephanie Noda
W46: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Education Writing
The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“Millburn Cited in Federal Fraud Investigation”

“Residents Support D’Alessio”

“Athletics Director Supporters Speak Out at Meeting”

Andrea Hughes
Principal is getting to know GRHS

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

In an era when incoming executives are often hard-charging “change agents” eager to put their stamp on things in a hurry, John Arlotta embodies a more thoughtful approach to a new assignment.

In his first weeks as new principal of Glen Rock High School, Arlotta has been doing a lot of listening and learning, getting a handle on what makes the school tick and meeting as many teachers, staffers and even students as possible in July.

Amid that process, he took time out for a July 20 interview with the Glen Rock Gazette, also attended by School Superintendent David Verducci, in Arlotta’s office just off a Hamilton Avenue lobby abuzz with renovation work.

Arlotta is a former mathematics teacher who considers himself an educator first and foremost, despite the administrative progression that culminated in his most recent post as assistant principal of academic affairs at Cranford High School since 2004.

Noting that it’s easy in his role to get bogged down in the details of his office, and hence distanced from the daily lives of students and teachers, Arlotta makes a concerted effort to avoid that, and is determined to spend ample time speaking with faculty members and also in classrooms as the 2011-12 school year unfolds.

“I’ve never forgotten what it was like to be a student, and even as a principal, I still see myself primarily as a teacher,” he said. “While staying on top of the additional responsibilities, you really have to guard against becoming isolated, and irrelevant to what students are doing and thinking, and what teachers are trying to accomplish.”

He also spoke of his interest in mentoring new teachers, and helping them through the periods of difficulty and self doubt that all experience.

SEE PRINCIPAL, PAGE 13

Glen Rock Gazette

“Principal Is Getting to Know GRHS”

Richard DeSanta
"Home Economics, Shop Change with the Times"

Marsha Stoltz
Skipping breakfast imperils many students

With this article, The Times debuts a series on food- and nutrition-related issues confronting Montclair students and schools.

BY GEORGE WIRT
OF THE MONTCLAIR TIMES

Nutritionist Judi Godfrey shakes her head whenever she thinks about it.

A growing number of American youngsters start their day in school without what some experts agree is the most important meal of the day: breakfast.

“It’s like having a car with no gas in it,” Godfrey explained. “You can push it down hill, but that doesn’t mean that it is actually working.”

For Godfrey, the importance of a good breakfast comes from its very name:

“After 8 hours of sleeping, you’re breaking a fast,” Godfrey explained. “Your body needs fuel. Without fuel, it’s just not going to function properly. From our necks down, our bodies can break down muscle and fat. But our brain can’t do that. It has to be fueled by food.”

“Without breakfast, your brain isn’t on.”

Godfrey is part of a throng of parents, school activists and educators who are concerned that the performance of too many Montclair students is adversely affected by empty stomachs, or stomachs filled with the wrong kinds of food and drink.

Without breakfast, Godfrey said, the brain won’t have the capacity to remember things, to recall facts or to store information.

Groups such as the Newark-based Advocates for Children of New Jersey argue that children who have a good breakfast score higher on standardized tests and make fewer trips to the school nurse.

ACNJ is so concerned about the issue that last month it launched the “Food for Thought School Breakfast Campaign” to expand “innovative approaches” to get more youngsters to eat solid meals before they start school.

“A good breakfast is critical to academic success,” said Watsching. “Without it, we’re not talking about a car-
Sea Isle board to state: Shut our school district

**Sea Isle City** - The Sea Isle City board of education is asking the state commissioner of education to close the Sea Isle City school and send all the students to Ocean City. On Feb. 15, the board voted 7 to 1 to send a letter to the commissioner, asking the state to force the financially tapped-out district to close its school.

At present, fourth graders through high school students attend Ocean City schools.

School Business Administrator Tom Grossi - who holds the position for both Ocean City and Sea Isle City, announced on Feb. 15 that Sea Isle City will not have the funds to open the school's doors in September 2012.

A forced consolidation with Ocean City, ordered by the state, is the only way to solve the problem, Grossi said.

Sea Isle school solicitor Mark Toccano explained that, while the two school districts could voluntarily agree to send all Sea Isle City students to Ocean City, the major stumbling block is Sea Isle City's tenured teachers.

If the two districts voluntarily merge, Ocean City would be legally required to take on all of Sea Isle City's tenured teachers. It is an expense that, as the subject was discussed over the past three years or more, Superintendent Dr. Kathleen Taylor has repeatedly explained Ocean City school district cannot afford.

If the state orders the consolidation, the state would have the option of paying that requirement.

"The effect of an (state) ordered consolidation would eliminate the requirement of Ocean City to take the tenured staff," Toccano said last week. "If the consolidation is ordered, Ocean City does not have to..."

School board says district going broke

**Sea Isle City** - The Sea Isle City board of Education voted Feb. 15 against going for brooks - literally.

The board members acknowledged the reality that, by the end of the 2011-12 school year, the district will no longer have the money to keep the Park Road school open.

School Business Administrator Tom Grossi said that, in preparing for the 2011-12 school budget, review of surplus funds, state aid and the 2 percent cap on budget increases made the district situation clear.

"There is no way, we believe, the school can run for the 2012-13 school year with the funds the district will have," Grossi said.

At present, the school educator preschool through third grade attending to a total enrollment of about 50 children at most. From fourth grade on, students attend Ocean City's schools.

Please see Broke, page A2
"Viral" comments anger public

Union teacher’s Facebook remarks set off firestorm of backlash, national coverage

By Cheryl Hehl
Staff Writer

UNION — The high school is investigating claims that special education teacher Vicki Knox posted disparaging comments about homosexuality on her public Facebook page.

Last week Knox, 49, of Union, was escorted off school property until the district can figure out whether the teacher was in violation of any school policies.

One thing is certain: The issue of what Knox did is multi-faceted, involving a myriad of legalities, including whether Knox was protected under the First Amendment.

On the other hand, there is the issue of whether, as a teacher, Knox had an obligation to keep her comments in a private Facebook page where only her “Friends” could read her opinions, and not students, parents and members of the community at large.

It did not take long for news of the Facebook incident to go viral. In fact, within a day the media in general, including radio, television and the internet had provided their spin on the story. But the facts in the story remained the same.

It began when the high school put up a poster recognizing Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History Month. According to Knox’s Facebook page, the teacher strongly objected to the poster, commenting that “homosexuality is a perverted spirit that has existed from the beginning of creation.”

“The displays should not be in the high school. UHS is not the setting to promote, encourage, support and foster homosexuality,” she said, among other remarks, some of which LocalSource chose not to print.

The Facebook thread went on for dozens of pages, with Knox defending her stance, saying that homosexuality is a “sin that breeds like cancer.”

In turn, because the teacher’s Facebook page is not private, but rather open to everyone, anyone can read her comments, a heated exchange reached with those who objected to her view on the subject.

Over the weekend, a parent who saw the thread contacted an attorney, John Paragano, who’s practice is located in Union. Paragano is a former township committee member in Union.

Paragano said Thursday that he immediately pulled up the Facebook page and copied more than 30 pages of comments before the page was shut down. After that, he sent a letter to School Superintendent Patrick Hehl.

Union High School has been the center of spreading controversy in the wake of a teacher’s disparaging remarks on Facebook aimed at homosexuals.

Martin is aware of the situation. “It has come to my attention that a Union Township Public School teacher has made public comments regarding her disdain of homosexuals, lesbians and transgender persons,” Paragano said in the letter.

Cheryl Hehl
WL7: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Graphics & Illustration
First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Retrospect

“Plasticville Publishing”

Mark Zeigler
Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

New Jersey Jewish News

“Larry David” (illustration)
“Contrary to Type” (story)

Dayna Nadel
Gray areas to your home’s worth

In today’s market, the formula is not so simple

The appeal process

What

Over 300 Rutherford homeowners are appealing their home assessments this year in hope of lowering property taxes.

The argument

Rutherford homes were assessed at the height of the market in 2006. Homes have dropped 20 percent in price according to recent sales, tax assessors argued are based on recent home sales, not taxes.

The market

Out of 255 Rutherford homes sold for sale in July 2006, 117 were foreclosures. Foreclosures can’t be used to argue tax appeals.

What’s at stake

Rutherford stands to lose hundreds of thousands in tax revenue if residents win. The overall value of the town would drop.

What’s next

Residents will hear from the county within 60 days. If homeowners don’t like the result, they can appeal to the town.

By Daniel D’Aquila Staff Writer

Over 300 Rutherfordians were in Hackensack over the last two weeks appealing the assessments on their homes hoping to lower their taxes. Many walked away unhappy with the outcomes as the assessor upheld many appeals, dismissing many residents’ resistance against. ‘It’s nerve-wracking,’ said one woman named Just as she reunited with dear friends after appealing her taxes and she’s trying to get her assessment reduced by 20 percent. After two and a half hours she and her more than 60 other people were still waiting in the hall.

Tax appeals are up all over northern New Jersey. This year, tax Rutherford leads the pack with over 300 residential appeals on the 6,100 households in the borough. The numbers climbed so high that Dunn McGinty, the newly appointed tax assessor in Rutherford, who has also worked in guidance, North Arlington, and East Rutherford, recommended the council hire as additional staff to handle this year’s case load.

Rutherford underwent a valuation in 2006 at the height of the housing bubble. The value of the average around house shot up from $115,000 before the eviction with steep increases in those same years many residents purchased the their. According to Zillow, homes in Rutherford are now selling for more than 20 percent less than they did 2006. Tax appeal arguments are being heard at the County Tax Court in Hackensack.

McGinn, Rutherford’s special tax counsel of Brin McCarthy, Bergen County Board of Taxation Commissioner Paul F. Fodor and representative from Family Appraisal, the additional firm Rutherford hired, were all present in the hearing room on July 15. One woman who has seen her taxes increase she bought her home in 2013 and accepted a deal from the town to lower the assessment of her house from $150,000 to $100,000.

*Tax the other because we could only use comps [conventional salary] paid to the county. By the way, we didn’t get any.
First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“The Year in Review”

Michael Lamendola
W18: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – Fresh Approach to Routine Reporting
“Ordinary Guy in a Pokemon World”

Andrew Segedin

Competitors young and old packed Cedar Grove Times Comics on Dec. 10 to compete in a Pokemon City Championship.

BY ANDREW SEGEDIN

As a 24-year-old still relatively fresh out of college and living in the Greater New York City area, I have a pretty good understanding of柑 what doesn’t get a lot of attention in mainstream media. Whether it’s going to see the newest released movie or attending the latest book signing event, I try to – at least on a basic level – expose the inner lives of the people behind the stories we tell.

I was recently struck by the impact of a story about a “Nostalgic”Ordinary Guy in a Pokemon World”

Andrew Segedin

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

Verona-Cedar

Grove Times
REMEMBERING A TRAGEDY

'It was almost unbelievable'

Postal employee killed four people in October 1991

BY JOYCE VENEZIA SUSS
For The Ridgewood News

In 1991, I was the Bergen County reporter for The Star-Ledger; my husband and I had moved to Ridgewood two years earlier. One morning that October, I had driven and listened to radio newscaster talking about reports of a shooting in Ridgewood. I barely listened, assuming he was talking about the community in Queens... or New York... because there was no way a shooting would happen in our community.

The ringing telephone received me instead. "Joyce, you’d better get downtown fast," said my husband, who had left minutes earlier to walk to the train station. "There are all kinds of police officers at Grand Union, and I don’t know what’s going on, but I’m not allowed to walk up Franklin Avenue." In that instant, it became clear that the shooting was in our Ridgewood, I dressed quickly, grabbed a notebook and ran into van a few blocks away. The rest of the day was spent reporting on a bloody rampage that many never Ridgewood residents may not even know about.

The name of the policeman outside the Ridgewood Post Office became a focal point of attention from people walking up and down East Ridgewood Avenue. But a few feet away, a small stone-with-a-brass plaque is a solemn reminder of an October day 20 years ago, when the suburban tranquility of the Village of Ridgewood was shaken by a horrific incident that became the lead story on the national news.

The plaque lists the names of four people who were killed by Joseph Harris, a fired postal employee who vented his rage against his former co-workers, shooting plaques in the post office lobby also pays tribute to the fallen.

Harris began his killing spree at the Wayne home of his former postal supervisor, Carol Ott, who had filed a harassment complaint against Harris several years earlier that ultimately led to Harris' dismissal in 1990. Harris killed Ott with a samurai sword, then fatally shot her fiance, Corinna Kassner.

In the early morning hours of Oct. 13, 1991, Harris then went to the Ridgewood Post Office and barricaded himself inside with an arsenal of weapons. Two employees — Joseph VanderPhaar and Donald McNamara — were shot as they arrived for work on the morning.

Harris, armed in ninja-style clothing, had an arsenal of See TRAGEDY, page A7
Tripucka remembers the stadium that started it all

BY JEFF FRANKEL
Staff Writer

For the second time in his life, Frank Tripucka has seen the Foley Field grandstands come crashing down.

When he was a little boy Foley Field was overcrowded, before concrete bleachers were erected during the Great Depression. Playing along with his red and white Flyer wagons, the young Tripucka would collect the discarded wooden remnants and bring them back to his Spring Street home for his family to use as firewood.

“The original wooden structure was really not year,” Tripucka recalled Feb. 28 over lunch at the Nevada Diner.

The 54-year-old football great witnessed the end of another era in the athletic facility’s life Feb. 24 when excavation began ripping down the 75-year-old concrete structure.

Tripucka is supportive of the progress, although he certainly cherishes his memories of Foley’s heyday. He and his wife, Sandy, Bloomfield High School sweetheart, raised their family in the house next door to the stadium.

“Tripucka is best known as the Denver Broncos first quarterback when the franchise played its inaugural season in the upstart American Football League (AFL). He threw the first touch-down pass in AFL history, a 59-yard reception by Al Cowlings against the Boston Patriots, on Sept. 9, 1960. That moment would have never occurred, he said, without William Foley. Bloomfield’s resident sports guru during Tripucka’s time in high school, Tripucka’s mother did not want her son playing high school football. Baseball and basketball were acceptable, but football was a different story.

“My mother said, ‘Wayne. She didn’t want me to play football,’ Tripucka recalled. ‘Foley said, “Let me talk to your mother.”’

The rest is history. Not only would he play high school football, he would go on to Notre Dame, backing up Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lujack. Tripucka would be named the Fighting Irish’s starter after Lujack’s graduation, and the team finished the 1948 season with a 9-0-1 record, placing Notre Dame second in the national standings and securing All-American honors for himself.

The Philadelphia Eagles came calling after graduation, drafting Tripucka with the first pick in the 1949 NFL Draft. But he had traded to the Detroit Lions before the season. After one year with Detroit, he played three seasons with the Chicago Cardinals.

From 1953 to 1959 he sided with the Canadian Football League, playing primarily for the Saskatchewan Roughriders.

With the AFL’s formation in 1960 Tripucka headed to Denver, originally an assistant coach. By the time he was a starting quarterback for the Denver Broncos, he was responsible for the Broncos were having quarterback issues. So Tripucka stepped up, became the team’s first starting quarterback and played with Denver for the remaining four seasons.

In addition to the first touchdown pass, Tripucka will be remembered as the first professional quarterback to throw for
Marking your territory

Following last week’s 15 inches of snow, it was hard to find an on-street parking spot anywhere, but a driver on Lincoln Place in East Rutherford had the right recipe. Outfitted with super-sized tires, the driver’s pickup truck found an approximately three-foot high snow pile suitable. Other residents aren’t always so lucky and use everything but the kitchen sink to reserve spots after they dig out.

As snow deepens, so do the disputes in a battlefield over parking

BY MICHAEL LAMENDELA
Managing Editor

There’s a core, OK, there must be road construction. Past the next snow pile, there’s a garbage can. Must have forgotten. It was trash day. After the panic however, it’s a beach chair sitting in the middle of a towering snow mound. Did you know snow can be getting a little weird? You say to yourself as you pull into your driveway. But is anyone accustomed to steep on-street parking may tell you, they’ve never before been caught up in such a scenario as the 2011 winter for clear on-street parking spaces. 2011 may be considered the mother load of installing the parking space war as seven accumulating snow events created a snowstorm of controversy and concern. Snowfall is followed by snowfall. Accidents happen, ice and snow blanketing sidewalks, just inches in snow locally. Last week’s storm dumped another 12 inches in South Bergen. While some police officials are saying general household items to reserve spots is essentially against the law—it’s considered blocking the roadway—there’s not much they do to enforce it. Town laws say nothing specific about the act, nor too many states. Police contend it’s more of a proactive effort when alterations over spots aren’t blocking snow emergencies and helping those who need to get there. Snowplow drivers unlike off-street parking during snow events continue an unstructured for plows, so that they have the ability to plow directly to the curb.

Marking territory

A ride through South Bergen on the day of or days after any of the previous snow storms have found cleared spaces limited with everything from garbage cans and refuse piled to street signs. Breaking through theдвига snowplow, cars sit in rows. Drivers will not be missed, parking: an early ornament. In east side Detective John Clary said the worst thing is letting the cars snow over Christmas lawn ornaments. “There’s no state statute or, as

SEE PARKING PAGE 17
The Valley of the Shadow of Phil

Jersey Groundhog Chapter Takes Trip, Strengthens Bonds

By Michael Molinaro

The Jersey Groundhog Club was recently invited to participate in the annual Groundhog Day festivities in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. The group, led by Club President Phil, embarked on a journey to the town, determined to strengthen their bonds and learn more about the traditions of this unique cultural event.

Phil Molinaro, a well-known figure in the Groundhog Club, expressed his excitement about the trip. "I am thrilled to be able to bring our group to Punxsutawney," Phil said. "It's a great opportunity for us to connect with other groundhog enthusiasts and learn more about the history and significance of Groundhog Day.

The trip was not without its challenges. The group faced a long drive, with some members sharing tales of near-accidents and close calls. But their enthusiasm remained undeterred, and they arrived in Punxsutawney with high spirits.

"Jersey Groundhog Chapter Takes Trip, Strengthens Bonds"
“Dining with Dwek”

What does a politician eat before getting caught in an FBI sting?

By: E. Asata Wright, Adriana Rambay Fernandez, Stephen LaMarca, Santo Sanubria, Ray Smith, and Al Sullivan

As the second anniversary of the notorious 2000 federal sting operation into widespread political corruption approaches, it’s debatable whether the 46 arrests have had a lasting effect on Hudson County politics.

Charges were brought, pay-to-play laws have been passed, several political careers were destroyed, the Hudson County Democratic Organization is still reeling, and the man who was U.S. attorney during the investigation went on to be elected governor.

But beneath the surface, some would argue, it’s still business as usual.

Perhaps a big lesson learned is that political corruption goes down better with a good meal. Preferably at an old fashioned Jersey diner.

Of the officials who were found (or pleaded) guilty to either getting a payment or conspiring to get payments in the scandal — Mariano Vega, Gary Catollo, Leonia Bedini, Ronald Mates, Peter Carminano, Edward Cheatham, Jimmy King, Dennis Isbell — perhaps the real winners were the handful of restaurants selected for cooperating government witness Solomon Dwek to meet his targets.

Dining with Dwek

Butter Please — When Solomon Dwek met with Jersey City Deputy Mayor Leona Bedini at the prestigious Chart House in Weehawken, he buttered up a roll and then buttered her up.
W19: Reporting, Writing & Illustration – First Amendment Award
**Bloomfield Life**

**"Ex-BOE Member's Complaint Against BOE Leader Dropped"**

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**COURTS**

Ex-BOE member's complaint against BOE leader dropped

**BY JEFF FRANKEL**
Staff Writer

A harassment complaint from a former Bloomfield Board of Education (BOE) member against the board's sitting president was dismissed in municipal court Tuesday morning.

Louis Venezia alleged that he received a phone call from Mary Shaughnessy around 1 a.m. the night of this year's school board election, on April 20. Saying he felt harassed, Venezia subsequently filed a police report.

"She called me in the middle of the night," said Venezia by phone after the ruling was handed down. "She was rambling on. I didn't know what she was talking about. I wanted to make sure that never happened again."

Acting Judge Nicholas Brindisi accepted the dismissal of Venezia's complaint against Shaughnessy in Bloomfield municipal court Aug. 23. "The charges were ridiculous," said Joe Scua, one of Shaughnessy's attorneys, via phone outside the courtroom. "It's local politics."

Venezia, a Bloomfield Fire Department captain, served as a one-term board member from 2007-2010 before deciding not to run for reelection. He represented himself in court.

Shaughnessy is in her first year as board president and second year as a sitting BOE member.

Brindisi originally dismissed the case when the defense thought Venezia was a no show. As Shaughnessy and one of her lawyers were leaving the courtroom, they found Venezia waiting in the hallway.

Brindisi dismissed the case on a lack of prosecution after both sides agreed to let "bygones be bygones," the judge said.

Both parties are free to file new complaints if incidents occur in the future.

An apology would have been sufficient yet none was given, Venezia said.

"I didn't want to waste my time or the court's time," he said. "She may have been calling me about politics, but I don't want to be bothered in the middle of the night."

Unfortunately, Shaughnessy had to go through the trouble of hiring an attorney and enduring all this stress surrounding the case, Scua said.

"It was dismissed because it should have never been filed in the first place," he said.

E-mail: frankel@northjersey.com
Business owner decries EW’s rejection.

"I was bringing jobs to the area.

Santra Craig-Berry
owner of Roco Inc.

And with that change, she explained, would have been jobs. She had anticipated hiring 15 new employees upon relocating to the township.

However, for the township, zoning was a major point of contention for Ms. Craig-Berry’s proposal.

"The two main reasons that we did not see a good fit is because the property wasn’t zoned for that use and the second reason was because of the company’s health care plan, she said.

Sandra Craig-Berry, owner of Roco Inc., a growing, multi-million dollar business in Atlantic Highlands, told a reporter that her company’s addition of the vacant winery building on Etra Road.

However, East Windsor officials approved the business as ‘not a good fit’ at that location, which was formerly zoned commercial but has since been zoned for residential and agricultural use.

“We needed it to go back to the original zoning,” Ms. Craig-Berry said.

Jennifer Samuel
Report: Pedestrian bridge needs work

By Kelly Ebbels

A pedestrian bridge that connects the two athletic fields at Ridgewood High School (RHS) — crossed by hundreds of students each day — has structural deficiencies that have yet to be addressed by the school district, and vehicles have been seen using the bridge despite a weight limit, according to a village resident who lives near RHS.

More than two years ago, the Ridgewood school district received an engineering report on the pedestrian bridge over the Ho-Ho-Kus Brook between athletics fields at Ridgewood High School (RHS), citing concerns with the bridge's structural integrity.

The report, prepared by Mark Micucci of Micucci Engineering and delivered to the district in January 2009, notes that the exposed top side of the bridge is in "relatively good condition" and its underside in "fair condition," but reveals problems with the structure of its abutments, particularly its southern abutment.

"Observations of the stone abutments reveal significant deterioration and erosion of the southern abutment from the water line down to the streambed. The abutment is eroded with missing stones and significantly deteriorated joints," the report reads.

The document cites lesser deterioration on the northern abutment below the water line, and also notes that the bridge's railing does not meet height code requirements.

In his recommendations, Micucci directs the district to...
Council has gone months with no minutes

TOWNSHIP MEETINGS

Council has gone months with no minutes

BY HOWARD PROSNITZ
Staff Writer

No written minutes are available to the public for any council meeting since early summer of 2010.

At the Feb. 8 council meeting, Teaneck resident Charis Powers said he had tried to request the Township Clerk’s office under the Open Public Records Act for the minutes of many council meetings over the past eight months and was informed that no minutes were available after the June 15 meeting.

Powers said he was contacted by the township manager prior to the June 15th meeting and was assured that the minutes would be made available to the public.

Section 3.11 of the Township Code requires that the clerk keep written minutes of every council meeting, and that the minutes be available to the public within ten business days following the meeting.

Councilman John Prosnitz said the minutes were not available for several meetings.

“The minutes are the official record of what happened at a meeting and must be approved by the council,” Prosnitz said. “A video is not approved by the council. The state statute requires minutes. Videos may be beneficial to the public as a supplement, but the minutes have to be done.”

Howard Prosnitz

In last week’s article “Group promotes better board” (page 1), it stated that Teaneck 2020 was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit.

Teaneck 2020 is incorporated as a non-profit, but not a 501(c)(3). As such, the group is allowed to support political candidates and causes and is able to contribute towards political campaigns. Teaneck 2020, Inc. is not tax-deductible.

Teaneck Suburbanite

“Council Has Gone Months with No Minutes”
“Missing Minutes Inexcusable”

Section 2-31 of Township Code

The Clerk shall, or shall have, and keep, records of the proceedings of the Council and, with the approval of the Council, the minutes of any Township board or body. It shall be the duty of the Clerk to prepare detailed written minutes and make them available to the Council within 10 business days following the day on which such meeting took place; such minutes shall reflect all actions taken, the names of all persons participating in the same and a summary of their positions. Upon approval by the Council, the minutes shall be made available to the public.

Justice in the Making

E-mail: prosnitz@teaneckmetry.com

New Jersey Press Association

NJPA
Some Montclair advisory groups’ chairs oppose making their meetings public

BY LINDA MOSS

Some Montclair advisory groups’ chairs oppose making their meetings public.

The Montclair Times

“Some Montclair Advisory Groups’ Chairs Oppose Making Their Meetings Public”

Linda Moss

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

“Some Montclair Advisory Groups’ Chairs Oppose Making Their Meetings Public”

Linda Moss
NORTH HALEDON

Misconduct charges filed against judge

BY JUSTIN ZAREMBA

The Gazette

Judicial misconduct charges were filed against Municipal Judge Harold F. Cook III on May 13 for his alleged failure to report his involvement in more than 40 lawsuits, his alleged violation of judicial conduct for contributing to political organizations and candidates, and for allegedly “shutting the judicial process.”

Last week, the Advisory Committee on Judicial Conduct filed ethics charges against Cook with the Supreme Court of New Jersey for his alleged failure to report his involvement in more than 40 lawsuits, his alleged violation of the Code of Judicial Conduct by contributing to political organizations and candidates for political office and his alleged failure to observe “high standards of conduct” when his law firm represented several Palisades police officers in a civil and criminal matter involving the officers’ conduct despite his role as a municipal court judge for the County.

The complaint, which was filed by a disciplinary counsel, Cook County, also alleges that Cook engaged in a pattern of “shutting the judicial process” by failing to respond to the discovery requests, failing to appear for scheduled depositions and making false promises to produce documents, and by grossly obfuscating the civil litigations. Judges are required to report their professional involvement in any type of litigation in which they are not personally or as a “person of interest” to the Administrative Director of the Courts with a copy to the Chief Justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

Last month, the Gazette reported on the numerous lawsuits that Cook and his associates in the Pedrotti Group were involved in related to real estate development projects and allegations of loan defaults. Following publication of the article, Cook and his daughter, Alexandria, filed a suit to remove information from a past January against North Jersey Media Group Inc., publisher of The Gazette, its representatives and two North Haledon residents. On May 25, the complaint was dismissed; however, Cook and his daughter still have the ability to file an amended complaint.

Cook, of North Haledon, is a former partner of the law firm Percetti and Cook and serves as a municipal judge in Haledon, North Haledon and Ringwood as well as in West Milford. His continued salary for his position as municipal judge and continued involvement in the lawsuits, in excess of $84,394 in 2013, and he currently pays into the state pension system.

Cook was admitted to the New Jersey State bar in 1980 and he has been the attorney for Wyckoff’s Board of Adjustment since 1995. He and, in 2010, received a salary of $84,394. He also serves as counsel for the Elmwood Park Housing Board.

Percetti and Cook disbanded on Oct. 15 after the death of the senior partner, Joseph A. Percetti. On Oct. 15. The late Joseph Percetti was the owner of High Mountain Title Agency. Wipe records do not indicate the current ownership of the company. His son, Joseph C. Percetti, is the municipal judge for Prospect Park and West Milford.

Cook is currently the senior partner of Harold Cook Esq. and Associates and director and 40 percent stakeholder of an auto loan lender, Jefferson Loan Company.

According to the complaint, Cook’s position as municipal court judge has been “severely compromised by his interests in and affiliations with more than 40 limited liability companies, which are the subject of approximately 43 lawsuits involving Cook personally and which allege, in some cases, fraudulent conduct on the part of Cook,” which indicates an attempt by Cook to avoid his judgment duties.

The allegations against Cook are that these various lawsuits include but are not limited to breach of fiduciary duty to investors, fraudulent transfer of real property, fraudulent conveyance of financial assets and the financial health of various entities with which Cook was in a fiduciary role, legal malpractice, fraudulent conveyance of trust by third parties, failure to obtain informed consent from investors, securities fraud, default on promissory notes and personal guarantees in the aggregate sum of more than $20 million,” according to the complaint.

The complaint states that Cook was found to have breached his fiduciary duty to his role as director of Jefferson Loan Company for failing to inform investors, Charles and Carol Sachs, that the company was insolvent. The Sachs were awarded $96,400 in damages earlier this year, according to the complaint, which also indicates that Cook has filed an appeal.

Several of Cook’s creditors have also been awarded monetary judgments against him for $2,370,641.16, according to the complaint. As a result, his wages as municipal judge in Haledon, North Haledon, Ringwood and Jefferson Loan Company have been garnished, according to the complaint.

“Judge Responds to Charges”

Justin Zaremba
W20: Reporting, Writing & Illustrations – Headlines
Bad reception for cell tower?

Impact, location of proposed Broad Street mast questioned

BY JEFF FRANKEL of Bloomfield Life

Councilwoman Peggy O'Boyle Dunigan does not see a conflict of interest in erecting a cell phone tower on property owned by her brothers.

In the event the measure comes before the council for a vote, she says she will abstain.

"I'm just an employee," she said. "I don't own the business."

The zoning board of adjustment is scheduled to hear an application Thursday night for a proposed cell phone tower on property owned by O'Boyle Dunigan's family.

The proposed monopole at Brookside Garden Center, 551 Broad St., would rise by way of T-Mobile Northeast, according to the zoning board's agenda. The property is owned by O'Boyle Realty Company, according to municipal tax records.

O'Boyle Dunigan says she does not know which party initiated conversations or how much T-Mobile is willing to pay her brothers for the rights to utilize the property.

Councilman Nicholas Joanow is concerned with possible health impacts stemming from cell phone towers being too close to homes. The "jury is still out" regarding scientific research into the topic, he said.

Joanow also questions what the tower would mean for future zoning regulations.

"We're talking about major precedents that will be made if any variance is made here," said Joanow.

SEE TOWER, PAGE 3
Godspeed

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Messenger-Press

“Godspeed: Pastor and Race Horse on a Mission”

“Birds of a Feather Swim Together”

“Upper Freehold Regional Solar Plan Dims”

Joanne Degnan

Minister and racehorse on a mission

By Joanne Degnan
Managing Editor

ALLENTOWN — The Rev. Stephen Heinzel-Nelson’s mission work in Africa has spurred generous donations from hundreds of area residents, but it’s his four-legged namesake who just may bless him with one of the largest offerings yet.

The 2-year-old trainer named Pastor Stephen is among the favorites to win the $1.5 million Hambletonian Stakes on Aug. 6, the richest and most prestigious event in harness racing.

Since the horse’s entries have grossed 1 percent of Pastor Stephen’s 2011 racing earnings to the charity founded by the Rev. Heinzel-Nelson, a win for the horse at the Meadowlands in two weeks also would turn out to be a big win for thousands of impoverished villages in Malawi.

The Rev. Heinzel-Nelson, pastor of the Allentown Presbyterian Church on High Street, said he was surprised to learn a few years ago that a close
Movers and fakers?
Borough-based moving company named in sting operation

BY ERIN ROLL
Staff Writer

A moving company identified as based in Glen Ridge is among several caught in a recent New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs (DCA) sting operation. "Operation Mother’s Attic" found Van Express and 24 other companies were allegedly operating without valid licenses and/or proper insurance, the DCA announced July 6. Several of the companies in question allegedly advertised their services on Craigslist and other websites. DCA investigators posed as customers needing to move their possessions out of a self-storage facility in Bridgewater; they asked the movers to meet them there at certain times between June 28 and June 30. Of the 25 companies contacted, 17 - including Van Express - see MOVERS, PAGE 3
A pain in the grass

Residents of Holster Road have been pleading with City officials to have the property formerly belonging to Belocco Restaurant maintained in order to control vermin and debris.

Abandoned property attracts vermin

By Tony Gicas
Staff Writer

CLIFTON - Longtime residents Joseph and Jane Sowa planned on spending this summer's hot, humid days lounging around their backyard pool among friends and family.

Unfortunately, the blueprint fell apart when the high, unkempt grass and shrubbery located in an adjacent, vacant lot attracted vermin and insects onto their property. It was 1967 when the couple first built and moved into their Holster Road home. A half-century ago the large expanse of land directly bordering the rear of the Sowa's property had been home to a farm and its roaming livestock. The Sowa's said the restaurant exchanged hands between several different owners in recent years before ImpressMarx LLC of West Caldwell bought it.

It was not until decades later, after the farmers sold the lot and the accompanying restaurant housed at 110 Vincent Drive, that the upkeep of the property became an issue. Joe Sowa said the restaurant exchanged hands between several different owners in recent years before ImpressMarx LLC of West Caldwell bought it.

SEE PROPERTY, PAGE 5

Christopher Woolis

Clifton Journal

“"A Pain in the Grass”"
“"Hot CUPS Keep Patrons Cool"”
“"Just What the Doktor Ordered"”

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500
Wright: I was wrong

By Molly Molshine

BELMAR — A new development in the ongoing controversy regarding Belmar's strict pay-to-play ordinance [see related story, above] reveals that Councilman Richard Wright has been conflicted in his voting on taxi licenses and permit parking since 2008.

Councilman Wright and Mayor Matt Doherty have disagreed on amendments to the borough's pay-to-play ordinance for the past several weeks, due to a conflict Mayor Doherty, Council President Claire DeBellevue and Councilman Brian Magovern created by accepting an in-kind donation from the Barclay Hotel while campaigning last October.

The ordinance states that not only are the council members and mayor now prohibited from voting on the Barclay's annual liquor license renewal, but that they also cannot vote on taxi licenses or permit parking due to the donation. Councilman Wright, the lone Republican on the governing body, has been at odds with his Democratic colleagues over the matter, and has expressed his concern over their ability to vote on these items.

See WRIGHT, PAGE 29

The Coast Star

“Wright: I Was Wrong”
“Can’t Rain on This Parade”
“Belmar Cops in a Bad ‘Situation’”

Douglas M. Paviluk
“Winter Is in the Season of His Contentment”

Atlantic City Weekly

“Winter Is in the Season of His Contentment”

“It’s Déjà Vu All Over Again”

“Pair of Kings”

Jeff Schwachter
W21: Packaging the News Product – General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper
W21: Packaging the News Product –
General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Madison Eagle

“September 29, 2011”

“January 27, 2011”

Staff
W21: Packaging the News Product –
General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Wyckoff
Suburban News

“November 24, 2011”
“October 6, 2011”

Trudy Walz
W21: Packaging the News Product – General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

“September 23, 2011”

“October 28, 2011”

Staff
W21: Packaging the News Product -
General Typography & Layout of Entire Paper

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Clifton Journal

“September 30, 2011”
“July 1, 2011”

Albina Sportelli
Christopher Woolis
Fran Sameth
Northern Valley Suburbanite

"September 22, 2011"

"March 3, 2011"

Chris Lang

Sam Passow

J.C. Baumuller
First Place, Weekly over 6,500

The Montclair Times

“February 3, 2011”
“September 22, 2011”

Lillian M. Ortiz
Joan Finn
Elizabeth Oguss
Kevin Meacham
W22: Packaging the News Product – Front Page Layout
DiVincenzo back at work after bike accident

By MEGAN GRANT
Staff Writer

DiVincenzo, a Nutley resident, was hospitalized last weekend with injuries he sustained from a bicycle accident in Brooklyn Park. His office reported that he was discharged from the hospital on Tuesday.

According to sources, DiVincenzo was out for a weekend ride in the outskirts of Brooklyn Park when he ran into a patch of ice and lost control of his bicycle. He fell off the bike and sustained injuries to his head, back, and legs.

A source close to DiVincenzo said, "He's in some pain, but he's doing OK."

The source added, "He's been working on his recovery and seems to be making progress."
HOME INVASION

Police release sketch for one suspect

BY JOHN SECORD
Staff Writer

Three men dressed in black and wearing black masks entered a Chatham Street home in Ridgefield Park and ran off with $17,000 in cash after midnight on April 15, John Dono of the Ridgefield Park Police Department said.

The three men knocked on the door at 1:14 a.m. and forced their way inside when the 30-year-old woman who lives there was caught off guard. They asked for her central air unit and then entered the housemen, her 5-year-old son and an unidentified boy in a bedroom where they found them together with a dog.

The robbers were armed with at least one handgun, Dono said. They then demanded access to a safe containing about $17,000 in cash before fleeing with the money.

The man was later able to free himself and call police, police said.

Chief Joe Kime released a sketch of the suspect who was described as a four-foot tall male with blue eyes, thin skin, black hair and brown eyes, weighing about 200 to 250 pounds.

This does not appear to be a random act. It is not by chance that three men picked this particular home.

The Ridgefield Park Police Detective Bureau is actively pursuing leads in the case. Police are asking anyone with information to call 201-466-6400. All reports will be kept confidential.

Ridgefield Park Patriot

“April 15, 2011”

“September 23, 2011”

Jaime Walters
Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town News

“October 6, 2011”

“November 17, 2011”

Edward Virgin

Lauren Sous
Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Pascack Valley Community Life

“September 1, 2011”

“September 22, 2011”

Staff
W22: Packaging the News Product - Front Page Layout

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

“July 7, 2011”
“September 29, 2011”

Jaime Julia Winters
W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content
May the road rise up to meet you

Among the special days of the year, one can rarely wait to see the green shamrock of St. Patrick’s Day. This event, when it was staged as a young man growing up in New York City, saw a special event in the Irish-American community. An Irish-American tradition that was passed down from my father was the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Amid the celebration of the day, there were some traditions and customs that we Irish-Americans hold dear.

As a boy, I would always look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. As a young man growing up in New York City, I would always look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Among the many traditions that we Irish-Americans hold dear, the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day is one of the most important.

There were many traditions and customs that we Irish-Americans held dear. Among them was the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. As a young man growing up in New York City, I would always look forward to the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day. Among the many traditions that we Irish-Americans hold dear, the celebration of St. Patrick’s Day is one of the most important.

In appreciation of teachers

To the editor:

The letter to the editor by Dr. J. F. C. R. (March 18, 2011) highlights the importance of the role of teachers in our lives. The teacher is a crucial figure in shaping the minds of our children and helping them develop into responsible, contributing members of society.

The teacher is a crucial figure in shaping the minds of our children and helping them develop into responsible, contributing members of society. The teacher is a crucial figure in shaping the minds of our children and helping them develop into responsible, contributing members of society.

Edward Virgin

Jane Friedman

Glen Rock Gazette

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

“March 18, 2011”

“September 23, 2011”

Glen Rock Gazette
Basket raffle helps Midland Park’s Class of 2012

TO THE EDITOR:

The recent basket raffle held at Midland Park High School to offset expenses for Graduation Fall 2012 was extremely successful thanks to the efforts of the principal, администraive staff, teachers and local business from Midland Park, Wyckoff, Landing and beyond. We received an excellent number of donations of time and money. The proceeds from the auction are now beingEQ

Second Place, Weekly under 6,500

Midland Park

Suburban News

“July 7, 2011”

“October 6, 2011”

Marsha Stoltz
W23: Packaging the News Product – Editorial Section Layout & Content

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Item of Millburn and Short Hills

“September 22, 2011”
“April 7, 2011”

Harry Trumbore
Editorial

Parking remedied by a common sense idea

For a number of towns in Mercer County, parking is the 4th central business district (CBD) has always been a problem and will likely continue to cause headaches due to the lack of spaces and available space to build.

To remedy the problem, towns spend thousands of dollars on studies or engineers to help them add a few spots. In the end, the problems may be lessened, but are rarely corrected.

Sometimes, however, the lack of parking can be alleviated for business owners and shoppers by some “outside the box” thinking.

Allendale Mayor Vince Barone has done exactly that with his brilliant idea to make 22 borough-owned spots at the Allendale Train Station into two-hour-only spots for shoppers. The businesses in Allendale have been seeking ways to add more spaces and earn revenue. He came up with a simple solution that would aid shoppers and businesses alike.

We understand that a few commuters may be upset by the reduction of spaces, but the businesses in Allendale help fund the town through tax dollars while providing services and merchandise the residents need at a close proximity to home. If the lack of commuter parking becomes a real issue in the train station, we are confident that the council will re-examine the parking situation.

In a time when tax dollars are being spent unwisely by local, state and federal governments despite dwindling funding, we must also applaud the rest of the Allendale Borough Council for standing behind Barone without calling for more studies or other expenditures into enacting the parking change over the next few months. Most government officials have become so afraid of taking a chance on a new approach these days, that it often takes months or years to make simple and intelligent changes like the Allendale Council appears it will.

B 어느 the Allendale Borough Council and Mayor Barone.
You have listened to the business owners and seem eager to help them during these tough economic times.

You, amongst many other problems can be resolved by common sense rather than utilizing “expert” at a huge expense to the taxpayer.

Latters to Editor Policy
Letters may be edited for length and clarity, are floating or written in a different design, and are printed at the discretion of the editor. Letters which contain profanity or are anonymous and cannot be verified will not be published.

The editor may be reached by email at kjohnson@thehawthorneonline.com or by phone at 973-344-5602. Letters should be submitted no later than the 15th of each month.

Kipp Clark
Karen Kleimann
Mailbag: the readers respond

Kevin Glynn

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Pascack Valley
Community Life

“September 22, 2011”
“December 8, 2011”

Kevin Glynn
Election Letters

The last pre-election edition of the election will run Oct. 21. Election letters received after that deadline will only appear online.

More questions than answers in Demarest

TO THE EDITOR,

I was disappointed to hear the Sept. 2007 editorial, which, I might add, aired the same night as the last pre-election edition of the election. It is a pity that more questions than answers about the referendum were not considered in the editorial.

The editorial was so well-written and so well-researched that it was a pleasure to read. It is a pity that more questions than answers were not considered in the editorial.

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Sam Passow
W24: Packaging the News Product – Feature Section Layout & Content
A lifetime of work
Englewood artist Grom exhibits his collection

Englewood artist Stephan Grom will exhibit his collection of paintings, including this one, at the Berlaine Museum of Arts and Science in Closter. See page 2b for the full story.

Dining Out
Restaurant row
See all the culinary options available for a night out in the Northern Valley.
See dining, page 2b.

On the Stage
Play tells story of AIDS epidemic
The revival of a play that came out in the 1980s is just as powerful today as it was then.
See cornelia, page 2b.

Hot Happenings
Upcoming events
See which shows and programs are set for next week.
See Hot, page 3.

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Northern Valley Suburbanite

“June 2, 2011”

“September 22, 2011”

Chris Lang
Sam Passow
W24: Packaging the News Product –
Feature Section Layout & Content

Second Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

“Your Guide to Autumn Lights”
“The Mostly MANLY Edition”

Gene Myers
Still singing their hearts out for Idol

Lyndhurst AARP installs new officers

The first meeting of the Lyndhurst AARP in over 20 years took place on Nov. 15. The meeting installed new officers including the new President, Angela Morin; Vice President, Mary Ellen Novak; Secretary, Virginia Cilenti; Treasurer, Michael Novak; and Members at Large, Tricia Novak and Cilenti. The group also welcomed a new member, Robert Novak.

Fall Family Festival

The annual Fall Family Festival at the Lyndhurst Community Center was a big success. The event was held on Oct. 23 and featured a pet parade, face painting, and a visit from Santa. The festival was organized by the Lyndhurst Recreation Department and the Lyndhurst Department of Parks and Recreation.

East Rutherford last-minute stop in search for America's top singers

BY MICHAEL LAYHE

The Lyndhurst AARP is looking for new members to join their group. They meet every month on the second Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the Lyndhurst Community Center. For more information, call Angela Morin at 201-499-8020.
W25: Packaging the News Product – Sports Section Layout & Content
W25: Packaging the News Product - Sports Section Layout & Content

Third Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Madison Eagle

“September 29, 2011”
“December 8, 2011”

Garry Herzog
Bill Allen, Jr.
Bob Shwalb
Bischoffs, Blazers are belles of the Bash

Host club advances to 18U finals

Late 16U coach’s legacy lives on

“July 15, 2011”

“October 7, 2011”

Greg Tartaglia

Brian Farrell
Wyckoff Family YMCA 29th triathlon a big splash

WYCKOFF-FRANKLIN LAKES TRIATHLON 2011

TOP MALE FINISHERS

TOP FEMALE FINISHERS
1. Lynne Frankston, 40, Franklin Lakes (1:49:07.76)
2. Samantha Scheppler, 40, Maplewood (1:58:50.36)
3. Jennifer Finozzi, 32, Jersey City (1:59:54.49)
4. Jennifer Conley, 43, Maplewood (2:01:05.35)
5. Donna Almand, 46, Westfield (2:04:57.21)

Wyckoff Family YMCA hosted its 29th annual Wyckoff-Franklin Lakes Triathlon at the Indian Trail Club in Franklin Lakes June 18 with over 1,000 competitors. Coming over the finish line of the 5K run that concluded the event were, from left, Chris Gehhardt of Nyack, N.Y., first overall; Bryan McDonnell of Oakland, second overall; Mike Lionardi of Franklin Lakes, third overall; and Lynn Frankston of Franklin Lakes, first woman overall.

A swimmer plunges into the water for the half-mile swim portion of the event. Sara Leah encourages her sister Alison of Franklin Lakes to finish strong.

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

Wyckoff Suburban News

“June 30, 2011”

“October 6, 2011”

Marsha Stoltz
SOUTHERN COMFORT

Former Wayne Hills’ star Olsen traded

BY NICK GANTAIFIS
Sports Editor

Olsen was traded to the Carolina Panthers for cornerback cornerback John Jenkins and a third-round pick in the 2012 NFL Draft. Olsen played two seasons with the Panthers before being traded to Arizona in 2011.

ON THE MOVE – Former Wayne Hills High School All-American Greg Olsen was traded to the Chicago Bears to at the Carolina Panthers for cornerback John Jenkins and a third-round pick in the 2012 NFL Draft. Olsen played two seasons with the Panthers before being traded to Arizona in 2011.

Hornets eye opener for breakout party

BY MIKE LANCASTER
Sports Editor

LITTLE FALLS – With the arrival of the season opener less than a week away, the Little Falls High School football team is looking to build off last year’s success. The Hornets, led by head coach Al Capello, are looking to improve their record from 4-6 last season.

SATISFYING START – Passaic Valley head football coach Al Capello begins his third season as head coach and is getting ready for the season opener which kicks off Sept. 9 at neighboring Wayne Valley for this year’s installment of the annual TODAY Cup trophy series.
“September 1, 2011”
“September 22, 2011”

Michael Lamendola
Edward Kensik
Northern Valley Suburbanite

“September 29, 2011”

“November 10, 2011”

J.C. Baumuller
W26: Packaging the News Product – Special Issue
9/11: We Remember
Filling the Holes on the Horizon with Heart and Soul

Trudy Walz
Jodi Weinberger
"Remembering 9/11"

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

In observance of the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, and in honor of the residents lost and their families, Glen Rock High School senior Juliana O’Hagan has organized "A Run to Remember."

The 5K run/walk event will take place on Sept. 11, beginning at 7 a.m. at the Glen Rock Rec Center, 250-260 Main St. Runners and walkers are encouraged to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time. Registration fees are $20 for adults and $10 for children 12 and under. Additional information can be found at www.grassrootssr.com.

"Run to Remember" is Sunday

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

I think of it as a positive way to honor all those lost and all those who helped them.

The Glen Rock Assistance Council and Endowment (GRACE) will be hosting a breakfast service at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 11, in the Veterans Park on Main Street.

On the day the bubble popped

BY RICHARD DE SANTA
Staff Writer

With the upcoming 10th anniversary of the tragedy that saw 9/11, this piece reflects on the emotions and reactions of that day.

The article is written by Kevin J. Lipton and is about the experience of 9/11. It was written on the day of the event and is written from the perspective of a first responder.

"Remembering 9/11"
W26: Packaging the News Product - Special Issue

First Place, Weekly under 6,500

The Ocean Star

“Hurricane Irene”
“Election Results”

Staff
Borough and volunteers have worked together to fight fires

BY CAREN KLIMAAN
(Print Photo)

A glimpse into the historic docu-
ments and information pro-
duced by the Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire
Department. In the early part of the
century, tracing the evolution of
firefighting skills, equipment, and
communication, including a list of
arrive and Ladies auxiliary, con-
struction of a new fire house and
recollection of some of the most
memorable fires the department ever
had to contain.

Humble beginnings and
firehouse construction

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire
Department was organized in No-
ember 1913 with the borough's adop-
tion of a constitution and bylaws.
And a month later, the first fire
house was built at the present
location at 26 Franklin Avenue.
It was a 70-foot by 34-foot, two-story
structure with a garage and
storage area. In 1921, the fire
department added a second story
and an additional bay and storage
area. In 1962, the fire
house was reconstruc-
ted at the cur-
et location on the corner of Shi-
neek and Warren avenues, at the site
of the original elementary school.

A new firehouse was

constructed in 1985,
comprising two
storage areas, a radio room, ope-
national area, and a large meeting
room. In 1995, the building was
modernized to provide additional
officer space and to bring it up to state and
federal code.

Volunteer Firefighters

In 1921, the fire department
announced its desire and required its
members to attend a six-month prob-
ably period before they
became full-time firefighters. Some 250
residents have served as volunteer
firefighters, with a current mem-
bership of about 50 men and women
from all professions including
lawyers, engineers, teachers,
government workers, and nurses.

Firefighters must go through
150 hours of classroom instruction
and hands-on exercises before they
are considered probationary.

 intersecting streets.

The Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire Department headquarters in May of 1962 on East Franklin Avenue, the site of what's now Veterans' Memorial Park. Later that year, the headquarters was moved to the present location at 26 Franklin Ave. It also was the site of additional storage and modern equipment.

Congratulation to the
Ho-Ho-Kus Volunteer Fire
Department on their 100th Anniversary Celebration!

Thank you for all you do!
With God's blessings,
Your friends at St. Luke's Church

“St. Luke's Church... where friends meet in faith.”

St. Luke's is a Catholic faith community serving Ho-Ho-Kus,
Waldwick and the surrounding towns.
Go to our website for the weekly bulletin, mass schedule, ministry info, and so much more: www.sequenceholu.org.
Parish Office - 201-444-0272 • 240 North Franklin Turnpike, Ho-Ho-Kus

Third Place, Weekly over 6,500

Town Journal

“Ho-Ho-Kus Fire Department Celebrating 100 Years”

Staff
SEPT. 11, TEN YEARS LATER

IN BRIEF

ROJESHD
Memorial Field Complex closed
until further notice

Due to unannounced funding caused by the current economic downturn, the Memorial Field Complex is currently closed until further notice. The field has been empty for several months now, and the members of the field committee are concerned about the future of the complex. They are hoping to find a way to reopen the field and continue their work.

NORTH HUMBERTO

Meadowlands Commission puts
ins two sites up for bid

The Meadowlands Commission has put two sites up for bid, one for a new office building and the other for a new hotel. The sites are located in the Meadowlands area and are expected to attract new businesses to the region.

AREA

Register to vote in the Nov. 3 elections

It is important to register to vote in the upcoming election. The New Jersey Department of Motor Vehicles will be hosting a registration drive on Nov. 3, 2021, in the Meadowlands area. The drive is open to all registered voters, and it will be a great opportunity to make sure your vote is counted.

LIBRARY

Park and Recreation Department to host Clean-Up day

The Park and Recreation Department will be hosting a Clean-Up day on Nov. 7, 2021, in the Meadowlands area. The department is calling on all residents to come out and help clean up the area.

VERBATIM

Quote of the week

"Life is what happens when you're busy making other plans." —John Lennon

TOWN HALL

Family members find that with time, some heal

Carrie Lee lost her husband Craig on Sept. 11, 2001. Their son, Joseph, was born in 2000, a new life for Carrie. She found herself drawn to the town of North Bergen, a place she had never visited before.

Some of the town's most difficult secrets are revealed as Joe and Cari come to terms with the pain and hardships they have suffered. Together, they learn that healing is a process, and that the pain of the past can fade away with time.

TOWNS hold balloon release, concerts and more

As part of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks, various towns have organized events to remember the terrorist attacks. North Bergen will be hosting a balloon release, while Little Falls will be holding a concert.

NFH events

- North Bergen Freedom House
- Little Falls Fire House
- North Bergen Fire Department
- Little Falls Police Department
- Little Falls Library
- North Bergen Elementary School
- North Bergen Middle School
- North Bergen High School

NFH events

- North Bergen Freedom House
- Little Falls Fire House
- North Bergen Fire Department
- Little Falls Police Department
- North Falls Library
- Little Falls Elementary School
W26: Packaging the News Product - Special Issue

First Place, Weekly over 6,500

Suburban Trends

“September 11 Remembered”

Matt Fagan
David Zimmer
Teresa Edmond
Deborah Walsh

NJPA
New Jersey Press Association
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

General Excellence Awards
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

General Excellence

Editorial

Weekly under 6,500
General Excellence

Editorial, Weekly under 6,500

The Ridgewood News

Ridgewood
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

General Excellence

Editorial

Weekly over 6,500
General Excellence

Editorial, Weekly over 6,500

South Bergenite

Rutherford
Better Newspaper Contest 2011

Congratulations!

For this presentation & list of winners:

www.njpa.org