



DO-SI-DO...Square Dancers display their fancy footwork and patriotic outfits at Monday's parade; HAIL TO THE CHIEF...Parade Chairman watches over the parade as he directs floats down Park Avenue; LEADING THE WAY...Veterans proudly march at the head of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Memorial Day Parade.

Don Williams for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SP Man Faces Espionage Charges in Sierra Leone

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from him for awhile," he said. His aunt told him, "Your father was arrested."

"You're thinking the worst," Andrew Chemidlin said in recalling his emotions at the time. "We were just upset when we heard the charges. We knew they were untrue."

The family has said that Michael Chemidlin was an amateur photographer who was taking pictures while visiting the country.

"I know there is no way he could be involved in what they are charging him with," he said.

Ms. Salerno learned about her brother's arrest from his church. She then called the U.S. embassy and State Department to fill them in on Michael Chemidlin's arrest. Andrew Chemidlin said his father had signed a waiver not to release information because "he did not want anyone to know of the (initial) arrest."

State Department spokeswoman Janelle Hironimus told *The Leader/Times* that the waiver does not enable the department to release information to the press regarding the case. She said the U.S. consulate is "providing all possible assistance" to Mr. Chemidlin.

Andrew Chemidlin said the three Sierra Leoneans arrested with his father, an evangelical Christian, were

likely from his church and had picked his father up when he arrived in West Africa. News reports state that the elder Chemidlin met the men while serving with the National Guard in Iraq last year. Two of three nationals were charged along with Michael Chemidlin for espionage.

Andrew said he, his wife and his brothers, Nathan and Mark, had to come up with \$6,000 over a weekend to pay legal expenses for his father's second arrest. Michael Chemidlin was released on bail May 24.

Soon after learning of the release, his family heard reports that Michael Chemidlin was suffering from Malaria.

Andrew Chemidlin said there were three options the court could take: they could decide there wasn't enough evidence to support the claims and he could be released, he could be tried in a lower court or he could face a trial in Sierra Leone's major court.

He said a major court trial would be "a worse case scenario."

"I don't know how they (could) have sufficient evidence for a trial) because he has nothing to do with this," Andrew Chemidlin said. "I believe he was at the wrong place at the wrong time."

Michael Chemidlin served last year in Iraq with the Westfield-based 250th Signal Battalion of the National Guard, with which he has served for 20 years. He was awarded the Army Achievement Medal in 2002.

He grew up in Fanwood and has resided in Scotch Plains for 15 years.

A call to Rep. Mike Ferguson's office, whose seventh district includes Scotch Plains, was not returned.

WPD Charges SP Woman With Theft of Services

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able for comment at the time of press.

A statement issued from the Red Cross said: "The Westfield Inn contacted us a week and a half ago about their concerns over non-payment. We immediately contacted

the police."

Bail was posted and Lewis was released pending a court appearance at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth on Friday, June 2 at 9 a.m. before State Superior Court Judge Joan Robinson Gross.



Horace R. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

BRINGING CHARGES...Westfield police have charged a former Tri-County Red Cross employee with fraud for allegedly pretending to be a disaster survivor to obtain a room at the Best Western Westfield Inn on North Avenue in Westfield. Police said her total bill was \$11,493.

Fanwood Planning Board

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some desirable designs, as well."

Board member Matthew Glennon agreed, saying that some of the properties flagged by other board members did not seem too big to him and that the perception of an oversized home was sometimes a matter of taste, making it difficult to define.

Mr. Ricci said that in his professional judgment, a ratio of maximum height to lot width would prevent oversized homes. He pointed out that builders were constructing substantial-sized homes under 26 feet to the roof ridge.

To determine an appropriate limit for the floor-area-ratio (FAR) to overall lot width, the board discussed whether habitable or non-habitable floor space would be measured. Zoning Official Nancy Koederitz suggested that if an ordinance limited overall structural coverage, a FAR limit would not be necessary. The board also discussed whether finished basements would be included in the calculations of habitable floor space. Mr. Ricci recommended that the key to designing an ideal ordinance was to not be too restrictive or too lenient.

The board ultimately decided that the definitions of height, stories and the methods of calculation need to be coordinated with those definitions used by the building department. The board asked Ms. Koederitz to consult with the building department on how they define and calculate these measurements.

In other business, the board discussed a letter it received from Attorney Joseph Murray of Schiller and Pittenger of Scotch Plains. Multiple residents hired Mr. Murray to represent their objections to a proposal to construct 15 townhouses on Stagaard Place in a light industrial zone abutting their residential neighborhood.

Currently, the board of education is investigating a possible restoration, and a consultant will assess the field for repair in the summer or fall.

Place from light industrial (LI) to residential (R-75) zoning.

Mr. Murray wrote in his letter that information published in *The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times* on May 18 quoting planning-board members regarding the rezoning of Stagaard Place was inaccurate. *The Times* reported that planning-board members said that changes in zoning laws cannot be retroactively applied to ongoing applications. Mr. Murray cited case law indicating that zoning changes could be applied to pending applications; planning-board attorney Clifford Kuhn, Jr. agreed.

Board members said that because townhouses were not a permitted use in either the LI or the R-75 zone, the applicant would have to seek a use variance for the non-permitted use whether the properties were rezoned or not.

The possible rezoning of Stagaard Place would be relevant in prohibiting uses currently permitted in an LI zone but not permitted in an R-75 zone for future applications if the pending application is denied or withdrawn.

The next agenda meeting of the board will be held on Monday, June 19, and the next regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 28. Both meetings will be held in the council chambers at 7:30 p.m.

SP-F BOE

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on behalf of the association. "We want to upgrade the field for the community as a whole."

"The condition of the field is not one in which you are able to play on a regular basis," said Mr. Russo.

Currently, the board of education is investigating a possible restoration, and a consultant will assess the field for repair in the summer or fall.

POLICE BLOTTER

Westfield

Monday, May 22, Condi Thiam, 22, of Westfield and Steven Braco, 21, of Warren were arrested outside a North Scotch Plains Avenue address on multiple charges.

Each man was charged with manufacturing, distributing or dispensing of a controlled dangerous substance (CDS), identified as lysergic acid; possession of lysergic acid; manufacturing, distributing or dispensing of marijuana; possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana; dispensing, distributing or possessing a CDS (two counts) within 500 feet of a public park and possession of drug paraphernalia. Both were held in lieu of bail.

Tuesday, May 23, Robert Smith, 19, of Cranford was arrested at a business on North Avenue, West, and charged with receiving stolen property. Police identified the stolen property as two DVDs worth \$46. Smith was later released with a summons.

Thursday, May 25, Melissa O'Brien, 20, of South Amboy was arrested at North and Central Avenues and charged with driving while intoxicated (DWI). She was later released to a responsible individual.

Friday, May 26, Miguel Aponte, 31, of Scotch Plains was arrested during a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and West Broad Street on an outstanding \$225 criminal warrant issued by the Perth Amboy Municipal Court. He was released after posting bail.

Friday, May 26, Bogumila Brzezinska of Union was arrested and charged with shoplifting a pair of sunglasses worth \$32 from a North Avenue store. She was transported to Westfield police headquarters and later released with a summons.

Friday, May 26, Kimberly J. Basile, 42, of Westfield was arrested at Westfield police headquarters on numerous outstanding traffic warrants issued by the Westfield Municipal Court, with bail totaling \$1,600. She was released after posting bail.

Saturday, May 27, three men were arrested on multiple charges pursuant to a motor vehicle stop at South Avenue and Downer Street. Police confirmed there also were two children in the vehicle at the time.

Ahman Elliot, 26, of North Plainfield, Lavan Thompson, 33, of Newark and Farod Holman, 26, of Richmond, Va. were each charged with unlawful possession of a weapon (a handgun); possession of hollow point bullets; possession of a defaced firearm; two counts each of endangering the welfare of a child; possession of CDS/under 50 grams of suspected marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, according to police.

Holman additionally was charged with possession of CDS/ecstasy (third degree), while Elliot and Thompson were also charged with certain persons not authorized to have weapons. Elliot received numerous motor vehicle citations as well, including failure to use child restraints for the children.

Police said it was later learned that a motor vehicle warrant and a criminal warrant had been issued for Thompson by Belleville, with bail totaling \$1,899, and a motor vehicle warrant

had been issued for him from Warren for \$865. Holman also had an outstanding traffic warrant issued for him by the South Plainfield Municipal Court, with bail set at \$177. All three suspects were being held at the Union County jail on \$25,000 bail each.

Scotch Plains

Thursday, May 25, an East Second Street resident reported that someone entered her unlocked apartment and removed two bottles of liquor.

Thursday, May 25, a resident of Plainfield Avenue reported that while visiting a friend she was hit by someone she did not know who was also at the house. The victim did not require medical attention, police said.

Saturday, May 23, Sean Phillips, 30, of Edison was arrested following a motor vehicle stop and charged with DWI. Phillips was arrested and transported to headquarters where he was processed and released.

Sunday, May 28, a resident of Front Street reported that someone removed \$300 from her purse, which was left unattended on her front porch.

Monday, May 29, a resident of Farley Avenue reported he had an argument with a friend when he was struck in the face. The victim did not require medical attention. Police are investigating the incident.

Fanwood

Tuesday, May 23, Mariusz P. Cebula, 26, of Clifton was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue for an outstanding warrant out of Weehawken.

Tuesday, May 23, Ronald Smith, 42, of Somerset was arrested in the 100 block of South Avenue following a field investigation for an outstanding Fanwood warrant.

Tuesday, May 23, Robert M. Shannon, 51, of Rego Park, N.Y. was arrested on numerous outstanding warrants out of Upper Saddle River and Fairlawn following a motor vehicle stop.

Wednesday, May 24, Victor M. Diaz, 40, of Plainfield was arrested on an active Union Township warrant following a South Ave. motor vehicle stop.

Thursday, May 25, Emanuel R. Senda, 22, of Scotch Plains was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on LaGrande Avenue for an outstanding Garwood warrant.

Saturday, May 27, Josh Batholor, 60, of Plainfield was arrested and charged with DWI following a motor vehicle stop on South Avenue.

Sunday, May 28, Antonique M. Duncan, 29, of Elizabeth was arrested on an active Elizabeth warrant following a South Ave. motor vehicle stop.

Mountainside

Tuesday, May 23, Larry J. Jones, 24, of Newark was arrested at the Port Authority Police Department Path Command Center on an outstanding Mountainside warrant for \$1,216.

Thursday, May 25, a Wyoming Drive resident reported he received a bill from a wireless company for service he did not authorize. The incident was turned over to the detective bureau for further investigation.

Thursday, May 25, a resident of Tree Lane reported being the victim of burglary. He reported that at some time overnight someone entered his daughter's unlocked vehicle, parked in the driveway, and removed her cell phone.

Thursday, May 25, police responded to a 911 call of a vehicle theft in progress. According to police, the owner of the vehicle reported that he was parking a company vehicle in the lot behind his Route 22 business where his vehicle was also parked.

The witness told police that he noticed an unauthorized vehicle in the lot fleeing the scene. The victim then noticed that his driver's side door lock, as well as the ignition of his vehicle had been tampered with. The victim stated that a set of eight, JBL speakers model number Contol 26 CT were missing. The value of the speakers is \$1,200, police said.

Thursday, May 25, a Woodvalley Road resident reported that sometime overnight, someone entered his unlocked vehicle, which was parked in his driveway and stole his radio, wallet and buck knife.

Sunday, May 28, Gilber A. Gutierrez-Giral, 24, of North Plainfield was arrested following a motor vehicle stop on Route 22 and charged with driving with a suspended license and operating a vehicle without a license. He was also charged with outstanding warrants for \$1,500.

See Memorial Day Photos on the Web

For additional photo coverage of local Memorial Day festivities, visit www.goleader.com/photos.



Benjamin B. Corbin for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

BEER GOGGLES...Sergeant Tom Jedic (right) guides Fanwood Councilwoman Katherine Mitchell as she attempts to walk a straight line while wearing "Fatal Vision" goggles, which simulate the altered perception one experiences while under the influence of alcohol. The simulation was part of a special demonstration the Fanwood Community Police Alliance gave last Wednesday. The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Kiwanis Club gave the donation that helped purchase the goggles.

FW CPA to Show SPFHS DWI Film to Community

FANWOOD — The Fanwood Community Policing Alliance has announced the premier showing of the Municipal Alliance Committee video project "The Last Sound You May Ever Hear." This anti-DWI video was written by and starred students from the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. The 23-minute video has an impact on

young adults and the decisions they make.

The community is invited for the premiere showing, today, June 1, at 7 p.m. at the Forest Road Park building in Fanwood.

For more information, please call Sergeant Tom Jedic at (908) 322-5000, ext. 151 or contact him via e-mail: sgtjedic@fanwoodpolice.com.



DRUM LINE...The drum corps of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School Raider Marching Band lays down the beat as the band parades down Park Avenue; ALL THAT JAZZ...A float works its way along the parade route, carrying a Dixieland jazz band; PARTY LIKE IT'S 1750...Members of the Scotch Plains-Fanwood Historical Society dressed in colonial garb; READY TO DANCE...Two students of the Marie Moore School of Irish Dance proudly display their outfits while marching in the parade.

Don Williams for The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times