

Marc Biunno Named New McKinley School Principal

WESTFIELD — Marc Biunno has been unanimously approved by the Westfield Board of Education as the new principal of McKinley Elementary School. His appointment is effective August 13. Mr. Biunno will replace Matthew Bolton, who has accepted the principal position of Westfield's Edison Intermediate School to replace Cheryl O'Brien, who is retiring. Mr. Biunno was selected from among 90 applicants in the tri-state area. He began his career in Westfield as a language arts and journalism teacher at Roosevelt Intermediate School nine years ago. He was presented with the Intermediate Teacher of the Year award while at Roosevelt. Since January 2011, he has held the role of assistant principal of Hillside Avenue School in Cranford.



Marc Biunno

Mr. Biunno earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Delaware, where he was named Student Teacher of the Year, and holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership from the College of New Jer-

sey. In commenting on the appointment, Superintendent of Schools Margaret Dolan, said, "I welcome Mr. Biunno back to become an educational leader for our children. I am very pleased to recommend him as the principal for McKinley School." "I am ecstatic to join McKinley School, which has an excellent reputation of caring for students and making their school experience wonderful," Mr. Biunno stated. "Coming back to Westfield in this role is a dream come true, and I cannot wait to get started."

The interview team for the principal's position included Superintendent Dolan; Human Resources Specialist Barbara Ball, K-12 Language Arts Supervisor Timothy Harrison, Wilson School Principal Joseph Malanga, McKinley teachers Kimberly Cosic and Ann Minski, and McKinley parents, Tara Barbella and Nicole Coyle.

Parking Expansions At WHS, EIS Underway

WESTFIELD — Plans for expanded parking at both Westfield High School (WHS) and Edison Intermediate School (EIS) are underway. These plans were outlined in a public outreach meeting on April 18 in which recommendations were made by a town-appointed traffic engineer and with subsequent approval by both the Board of Education and the Town Council. The proposal was developed to alleviate traffic and on-street parking issues and to promote safety around both schools.

The estimated schedule for completion of the projects is as follows, weather permitting:

Week of July 9 - Remove current fence at Edison Intermediate School where the expanding parking area will be located; complete trimming trees along fence line at Edison to permit installation of a new fence, and remove some trees along curb line at Westfield High School on Rahway Avenue where expanded

parking area will be located; Week of July 16 - Parking lot expansion and paving will begin at both Westfield High School and both sides of Edison Intermediate School. This is expected to take two to three weeks. New fencing will also be installed at Edison.

The schedule for landscaping at Edison and WHS will be determined by the parking lot completion dates at both locations.

"The changes we are making are in response to the public input we have received and to the professional advice of a traffic and safety consultant," Westfield Board of Education President Richard Mattessich explained. "The board and town are working to minimize any disruption to the areas surrounding the schools and have scheduled the projects to take place prior to the start of the new school year."

The complete parking plan is posted at www.westfieldnj12.org under "Important Messages."

Cancer Society Launches Third Phase of Cancer Study

AREA — The American Cancer Society is inviting Union County residents to participate in the third phase of its cancer prevention study, "CPS-3."

"CPS-3 is an unprecedented opportunity for individuals to personally participate in research that may determine factors that cause or prevent cancer. This research will ultimately lead to the elimination of cancer as a major health problem for this and future generations," said Ruthanne Brown, a media and publicity senior volunteer the Society's Metro New Jersey Region based in Springfield.

Individuals between the ages of 30 and 65 who have never been diagnosed with cancer and are willing to make a long-term commitment to the

study are encouraged to sign up. Those who choose to enroll will be asked to fill out a survey about health history, provide a small blood sample and provide a waist measurement. Participants will periodically be sent a follow-up questionnaire for the next 20 to 30 years.

Enrollment opportunities will take place at YMCAs of Berkeley Heights, Fanwood-Scotch Plains, and Summit from Tuesday, July 24 to Friday, July 27. For details and times of enrollment, visit "<http://www.cps3unioncounty.org>"

To learn more about CPS-3 visit www.cancer.org/cps3, e-mail cps3@cancer.org or call the American Cancer Society toll-free 1-888-604-5888.

Peyton's Peek at the Week In Politics

By Paul Peyton of *The Leader/Times*



Christie Conditionally Vetoes Dems 'Millionaire's Tax'

Governor Chris Christie on July 2 conditionally vetoed a Democratic bill that would have increased the income tax rate on earnings over \$1 million from 8.97 percent to 10.75 percent. The increase would have affected an estimated 16,000 New Jersey tax filers, while boosting property tax credits received by 825,000 homeowners, including about 475,000 seniors, northjersey.com has reported.

Per his veto, the Governor offered to restore the Earned Income Tax Credit program, which funds tax credits for the working poor, if state lawmakers agreed to fund a new credit on income taxes for homeowners earning up to \$400,000.

Dem Sens. Say GOP Sen. Pressured Judges to OK Dow

State Supreme Court Chief Justice Stuart Rabner has been asked by Democratic state Senators Richard Codey (D-27, Roseland), Nia Gill (D-34, Monclair) and Ronald Rice (D-28, Newark) to begin a probe over allegations that Republican Senator Kevin O'Toole (R-Essex) pressured two Superior Court judges in Essex County in an effort to secure former Attorney General Paula Dow's nomination to the county bench, *The Star-Ledger* has reported.

In a June 21 letter to Judge Rabner, Sens. Codey, Gill and Rice said two judges, then facing renomination, were told that Governor Chris Christie would "end their judicial careers" if they did not get Sen. Gill to agree to sign off on Ms. Dow's judicial nomination. Ms. Dow was Essex County prosecutor prior to joining the Christie administration as attorney general. Sen. Gill was using senatorial courtesy to holdup the Dow nomination.

Sen. O'Toole, the Essex County Republican chairman, has denied the accusations. Gov Christie has since nominated Ms. Dow to a Superior Court judgeship in Burlington County, which the Senate recently approved. The two Essex County judges have been reappointed and now have tenure.

Bergen Dems Seek Referendum To Merge County PD, Sheriff

Two Bergen County Democratic Freeholders and two Democrats running for the board are calling for a voter referendum on whether to merge the Bergen County Police Department with the Sheriff's Office, *The Record* has reported.

A report on police consolidation issued last year by a New York City firm found that eliminating the county police would save the county \$17.7 million annually. However, a second report written by a Law Enforcement Consolidation Task Force, assembled by Bergen County Executive Kathleen Donovan, a Republican, found that eliminating the county police would be "ill-advised." The county executive is also opposed to a referendum.

Republican Sheriff Michael Saudino has called for the merger, noting that 70 county police officers will be retiring over the next two years. The GOP has a 5-2 majority on the board.

AG Announces Additional Cops For New AC Tourism District

New Jersey Attorney General Jeffrey Chiesa and Atlantic City Public

Safety Director Will Glass last week announced the deployment of 20 additional police officers who have been assigned to the new Atlantic City Tourism District to provide enhanced police presence and safety as part of Governor Chris Christie's "Clean & Safe" initiative in Atlantic City.

"Wherever people go around the Boardwalk and casinos, day or night, they will find their path well-lit and shared by officers and ambassadors who are there to guide them and ensure their safety," Mr. Chiesa said.

Christie to Submit New Supreme Court Nominee

Governor Chris Christie said he plans to submit a new nominee this month to the state Supreme Court. The state Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Nicholas Scutari (D-22, Linden), who represents Scotch Plains and Fanwood in the Legislature, has rejected two of the Governor's nominees to fill the two vacancies on the court.

The Democrat-controlled Legislature wants the Governor to nominate a Democrat to one of the vacant seats, *The Courier-Post* has reported, while the Governor wants to make the court more conservative.

White House, Romney Comment on Jobs Report

The U.S. Labor Department's June jobs report shows the nation's unemployment rate remained unchanged at 8.2 percent, according to an Associated Press report.

"This kick in the gut has got to end," presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney told reporters last Friday.

According to the AP report, the nation saw only 80,000 jobs created in June.

Alan Krueger, the chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, said the private sector has added jobs for 28 straight months. He admitted though more must be done to recover from the financial crisis and the recession.

Mr. Romney said of the poor jobs report, "American families are struggling; there's a lot of misery in America today. The president's policies have not gotten America working again. And the president is going to have to stand up and take responsibility for it."

Lance Rips Obama's Plan for Tax Increase on High Income Earners

Rep. Leonard Lance (R-7th) said this week that he was "disappointed" that President Barack Obama wants to raise taxes on individuals, families and businesses earning \$250,000 or more. "I am very disappointed to see President Obama once again calling for tax increases that have been consistently rejected by bipartisan majorities in both the House and Senate. It is also surprising if you consider his announcement was made on the heels of the recent weak jobs report."

"The President's plan, as currently drafted, would continue to feed the great uncertainty that is plaguing our economy. His plan would also disproportionately affect New Jersey's small businesses, taxpayers, investors and working families at a time when our state economy can least afford it. Extending all of the Bush-era tax rates would be the best way to reduce unemployment and get our economy back on track."



HAPPY 4th!... Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella, right, and Freeholder Mohamed Jalloh hand out American flags to the crowds at the 89th Annual Central Jersey Fourth of July Parade in Plainfield on Saturday, July 7.

WF BOE Hears Five-Year Facilities Plan for District

By KIMBERLY A. BROADWELL
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — At the final Westfield Board of Education meeting for the 2011-2012 year held last month, members of the Board of Education and audience members heard a five-year facilities plan outlining a maintenance plan for the district.

Interim Business Administrator Vincent Yaniro gave the presentation, noting that there are 10 schools within the district, one field house and an administration building. Mr. Yaniro also noted that the average age of the district's buildings was 73 years.

In his report, Mr. Yaniro stated that the 2012-2013 total budget for buildings and grounds was \$5,664,032. This, he stated, broke into an operating budget of \$4,524,032 and an energy budget of \$1,140,000.

He reported that within the upcoming school year, Westfield High School would be phasing in the upgrading of heating and ventilation controls. He also stated that replacement and additional lockers would be done at the high school as well as a parking upgrade.

At Edison Intermediate School, Mr. Yaniro stated there would be an upgrade in the hot water system in addition renovations for two bathrooms. He also noted that a glass block wall would be repaired in the gym. Office floor tiles will be redone and gym bleachers "that are original to the building" are to be replaced at Roosevelt Intermediate.

In addition, air conditioning will be put into the Jefferson School Library. Mr. Yaniro pointed out that Jefferson library is the only one in the district that is currently without air conditioning.

Boilers at McKinley School will be replaced and repairs will be done on the roof peak. Tamaques School will be getting a new chimney and Wilson School will be getting new window shades in portions of the building. Franklin School will be getting new boilers and the Elm Street administration building will get a new

chimney and some renovations to the exterior foundation.

It was also noted that in the 2012-2013 school year a wireless network would be added and also district driveway repairs will be completed.

In 2013-2014 the district will be adding even more replacement and additional lockers in WHS. Mr. Yaniro also stated that Edison School would be replacing the courtyard doors and the gym bleachers. He also noted that in this time frame, Roosevelt will be replacing a boiler and Tamaques will start phasing in a renovated ventilation system.

Mr. Yaniro said the Roosevelt would be phasing in an upgrade in heating and ventilation controls in the 2014-2015 school year, while Tamaques plans to resurface their blacktop, walkway and basketball court. Also at that time, the Elm Street buildings scheduled for a replacement and enlargement of their driveway. The 2014-2015 school year will also bring a replacement and renovation of wood floors and floor tiles and bring electrical upgrades.

During the 2015-2016 school year it was reported that the Elm Street building will have its windows replaced and that the district plans to put in air conditioning to classrooms and instructional spaces.

In the 2016-2017 school year, Roosevelt will see an upgrade of its heating and ventilation controls and Tamaques will have its ventilation system upgraded.

In conclusion of his report, Mr. Yaniro stated "funds are deposited each year into the maintenance reserve account for future anticipated maintenance." He noted that this year \$3.5 million was put into the account while the anticipated cost for next year's upgrades was closer to \$2.8 million. He also stated that money for this account must be deposited every year by the end of June.

Board of Education member Mark Friedman asked Mr. Yaniro if he could provide a "maintenance reserve history report" before his retirement in August.

Prosecutor's Office Looks For Leads in Homicides

RAHWAY — In addition to a homicide in Clark that occurred Saturday night (please see page 1), the Union County Homicide Task Force is investigating the shooting death of a recent 18-year Linden High School graduate on a city street Monday night as well as the stabbing death of a 17-year-old, which occurred early Saturday morning following a large fight in Rahway.

Linden Police were called to the 500 block of Husa Street at around midnight Monday following reports of an argument and gunfire. When they arrived officers discovered Amber Wilson, 18, dead at the scene from an apparent gunshot wound to the head, Union County Prosecutor Ted Romankow said.

Authorities said it appears that the victim was walking from a local Dunkin' Donuts when she was approached and robbed. During the robbery, words were exchanged and the recent Linden High School graduate was shot. Investigators are continuing to examine and collect evidence

and gather statements from neighbors near the shooting and in the area. Police are also investigating the Rahway homicide. Police were called to Donald Avenue in the city around 12:30 a.m. on Saturday on reports of a large fight in progress. Authorities said it was unclear how many people were involved in the altercation or what prompted the fight.

During the melee, Jose Pacheco-Holley, 17, was stabbed, Mr. Romankow said. The victim, a Rahway resident, was taken to Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in Rahway where he was pronounced dead at 12:37 a.m. on Saturday. No arrests had been made as of Saturday morning.

Union County Crime Stoppers are offering rewards of up to \$5,000 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of the person responsible in the Wilson and Pacheco-Holley's homicides. Anonymous tips can be submitted to (908) 645-TIPS or www.uctip.org or by texting UCTIP plus a message to 274637.

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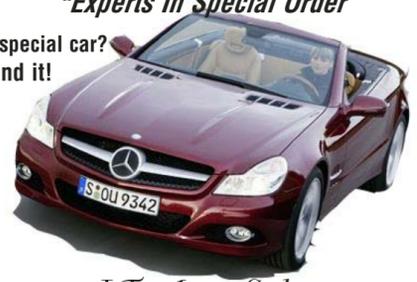
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