



WESTFIELD POLICE BLOTTER

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5

Joseph Kolar, 21, of Garwood was arrested and charged with driving while intoxicated after being involved in a motor vehicle accident. Police believe he crashed his vehicle into a fence on the southbound side of Central Avenue. Kolar, who was not injured, was released on his own recognizance to a responsible adult.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6

George C. Clarke, 44, of Watchung was arrested in the 400 block of South Avenue, West, on charges of aggravated assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, obstructing administration of law and possession of a weapon.

Westfield police questioned Clarke regarding a house arrest order from the Newark Federal Court mandating he be home by 9 p.m., which had already past that evening. Clarke allegedly struck one of the officers about the face with a closed fist, after which he was taken into custody. A check of the suspect's motor vehicle uncovered a six-inch hunting knife, police said.

The officer whom Clarke is charged with striking was treated at police headquarters. Clarke was being held on \$100,000 bail at the Union County Jail on the Westfield charges, and was to be turned over to United States marshals.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 7

Luis Valladares, 25, of North Plainfield was arrested at Prospect Street and charged with driving while intoxicated, driving without a license, careless driving and leaving the scene of an accident.

Valladares is believed to have left

the scene of a one-car accident at Newton Place and Elm Street shortly before his arrest. There were no injuries. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible adult.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 8

Onur Tezucar, 23, of Westfield was arrested at First Street and charged with driving while intoxicated after being stopped for speeding. He was released on his own recognizance to a responsible adult.

A Summit Avenue resident reported being assaulted inside his home by three unwanted male guests who had crashed a social gathering. The victim sustained cuts, scratches and a chipped tooth. Police advised him of the procedure for filing a complaint.

A burglary was reported at a business in the 1000 block of South Avenue, West, in which unknown persons \$220 in cash from the register.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 9

Kevin Lantz, 19, of Westfield and a 15-year-old male juvenile from Clark were arrested during a motor vehicle stop in the 900 block of Central Avenue and charged with possession of suspected cocaine and possession of alcohol by an underage person. The juvenile also was charged with possession of less than 50 grams of suspected marijuana.

Lantz was released on his own recognizance with a summons, while the juvenile was turned over to an adult.

An attempted burglary occurred at a South Avenue delicatessen. Entry to the premises was not gained.

A burglary was reported at a second delicatessen, also on South Avenue, in which \$150 in cash and a large amount of cigarettes were taken.

Projected BOE Budget Hike At 4.85 Percent

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considered by the board's Facilities Committee, Mr. Berman explained.

Richard Solomon, chairman of the board's Finance Committee, expressed satisfaction with the progress being made on the budget thus far.

"We're in much better shape this year than we have been at this time the last few years," he said.

The board will continue public discussions of the 2005-2006 up to and after its due date on Friday, March 4.

Special education will be discussed on Tuesday, February 1, Fine Arts and Athletics on Tuesday, February

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membership, and a \$5 increase to \$75 for a senior membership.

For non-resident families the increase is proposed at \$30 to total \$440 for a non-resident single membership. The increase for non-resident senior memberships is proposed at \$15 to total \$220 for single memberships and \$180 for senior memberships.

The committee is also proposing that the non-resident initiation fee be increased by \$5 to total \$35 for a family and \$20 for a single, respectively.

The governing body stated that an ordinance outlining these fees will be introduced at next week's public council meeting on Tuesday, January 18.

It was also noted that next week an ordinance will also be introduced to advertise for the positions of pool manager and assistant pool manager.

Lastly, the mayor and council reported that because certified paper is now a safety paper that cannot be duplicated and is numerically ordered by the state, receiving a certified copy of something from the borough will now cost \$15 a sheet as opposed to the old fee of \$5.

8, and Technology and Personnel will on the agenda at the board's next public meeting on Tuesday, January 25, following the Curriculum and Capital Projects portions of the budget on Tuesday, February 15.

Following the board's discussion of the budget, it was approached by Laurie Mace, a Westfield resident representing a group of parents concerned with the budgetary impact of a benefit clause in the contracts of all Westfield teachers stating that regardless of residence, the teachers' children may be educated in the Westfield school district.

These students, of whom there are currently 27 in the district, are paid for out of the same budget as all other students, officials said.

Ms. Mace told the board that "their tax dollars should go to educating the students living in the district."

Also, Ms. Mace pointed out that these students might be taking up spots on students' teams with limited numbers of players that could instead be allotted to students living in the district.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. William Foley responded by telling Ms. Mace that the clause is a "negotiable item" in the union contract that "it is something we can consider as part of our negotiation" with the union.

Contracts

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After one year, any balance must be returned to the government agency issuing the grant, he said. The original amount of the grant was \$17,113.

Mountainside teachers Patricia Bruce, Kelly Schundler and Joseph Ricca, Jr. were approved by the board to take classes at Kean University in Union at the school budget's expense.



PROUD MOMENT...Garwood Clerk Christina Ariemma swears in new Councilman Victor DeFilippo as his wife, Judy, and son, Victor, look on during the Borough Council's re-organizational meeting held January 2.



BEGINNING NEW TERM...Garwood Councilman Charles Lombardo takes the oath of office for a new term from Borough Clerk Christina Ariemma at the Borough Council's re-organizational meeting held January 2. Looking on are his wife, Carol; his daughter, Christine, and his son, Greg.

DWC Focuses on Clean, Safe Downtown as 2005 Objective

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Mrs. Cronin stated that the last time the DWC received a listing of all services the town provides was in 1997.

"They put a lot more emphasis on the downtown than they do now," Mrs. Cronin concluded.

The board agreed they would like to set up a meeting between the DWC and Town Council Public Works Committee Chairwoman Jo Ann Neylan to discuss a plan to keep the downtown clean.

In other news, the DWC is discussing the coordination of a promotional event with the PGA Tour to be held at Baltusrol Golf Club located in Springfield. The event, which will be a weeklong tournament in August, is expected to attract approximately 40,000 attendees per day.

The DWC discussed creating a special promotional event that will focus on Westfield as a destination after the event.

Mr. Hale commented via conference call that the promotion will target, "key people who will be looking

for something to do in addition to going to the tournament."

A list of 2004 major accomplishments was also presented with the achievement of the Great American Main Street Award as the biggest accomplishment. Other highlights included the increased number of Sweet Sounds Downtown Jazz nights, the design and installation of the kiosk, the completion of the Rialto Park project and the increased historic preservation and high visibility projects such as Lancasters, Ltd., Mademoiselle and the Northside Trattoria.

Mrs. Cronin also asked the board to approve an idea to raise funds for the tsunami victims in Southeast Asia.

She said the DWC has a surplus of Great American Main Street Award cups that she would like to place at Vicki's Diner.

Diners would be able to purchase the cups along with a drink or by themselves for \$2. The board unanimously approved the idea. The owner of Vicki's Diner had already approved the placement of the cups at her business.

The next meeting of the DWC will be on Monday, February 28. All meetings are held at the DWC offices located at 105 Elm Street.

Town Council

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Avenue, Canterbury Road, Lawrence Avenue, and Elm Street.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh assured the council that the homes were on lots that were could not be sub-divided. Thus, the homes would be replaced by single-family homes.

Mayor Gregory McDermott and council members agreed with a proposal by former Councilman Neil Sullivan and others to plant a cherry tree in front of the municipal building as a memorial to Bernard Heeny, Westfield's town clerk the past five years, who died of a heart attack on New Year's Eve. A plaque will also be included to note Mr. Heeny's quarter century of service to the town.

Mr. Gildea said the proposal follows past town tradition to plant cherry trees in honor of veterans. Mr. Heeny, who resided in Bayonne, served in Vietnam and was active in veteran associations.

Although donations could be raised privately, Councilman Betancourt said he believed the cost of the tree could come out of town funds.

Garner Will Portray Inventor At Redeemer Lutheran School

WESTFIELD - Students at Redeemer Lutheran School, located at 229 Cowperthwaite Place in Westfield, will welcome Montclair actor, Patrick Garner, who will portray inventor Thomas Alva Edison during a special open house presentation, "Thomas Edison: Inventor, Lecturer & Frankster" on Friday, January 21, at 7 p.m.

In a recreation of the lectures Edison gave in his later years, Mr. Garner will recount the inventor's life and demonstrate models of some of his greatest inventions - the light bulb and phonograph. Student volunteers, serving as "Edison's Insomnia Squad", will assist him.

Mr. Garner said, "What I feel is most important, though, is passing on to the students the lessons Edison felt this work

Ferguson Describes Region Hit By Tsunami Like A War Zone

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regard, the congressman will be in contact with New Jersey pharmaceutical companies to see if they are able to make antibiotics and medical supplies available to tsunami survivors.

The threat of disease is widespread due to the uncharacteristic wet conditions, Congressman Ferguson said. Although floodwaters have receded, pools of water remain and provide perfect conditions for the onset of an epidemic such as malaria.

Congress will vote soon on a supplemental package to aid those countries impacted by the tsunami, Mr. Ferguson stated. President George W. Bush has pledged \$350 million in aid to the region.

"The individual response from the United States is quite evident, very generous," the congressman said.

He noted the "first-hand" evidence he witnessed from the air and on the ground would assist him and other members of Congress that made the trip in analyzing where resources need to be directed.

"It's important not to just throw money at a problem," he stated.

In the coming weeks, the congressman will visit schools and hold Town Hall meetings throughout the Seventh Congressional District in an effort to increase statewide relief efforts already underway.

He expressed awe at how individuals from different cultural, political and religious backgrounds have come together to aid the tsunami victims, adding how it reminded him of the way people from all walks of life joined forces following the September 11 attacks on the United States.

"No one cares about the differences, (between countries) they are more concerned with assisting those in need. This tragedy is an opportunity for the future of this country," Congressman Ferguson said. "It is

an opportunity for reconciliation."

He was also profoundly affected by how proud the people of the area are and their unwillingness to take handouts even in the wake of such sizable destruction. The victims expressed their desire to work for the aid they were receiving, as charity is difficult for them to accept. As a result, Congressman Ferguson is trying to have boats repaired or replaced for fishermen so they can go back to work.

He said as floodwaters recede, debris and destruction can be seen everywhere. Volunteers are packaging materials daily for survivors living in camps and temples and distributing them to the victims.

"It's extraordinary how people have put aside their differences to assist people in need," Congressman Ferguson commented. "(We're discovering) things that used to divide us really don't matter at all."

Congressman Ferguson said the relief teams, particularly the United States military, are making a difference. He said their morale is high as they are eager to do and give everything they have to the relief effort.

"I'm so proud of soldiers, our young people - their morale is high," he said.

The crew of *Abraham Lincoln* has been "very impressive," he said. He said crewmembers on the aircraft carrier constantly stop their captain, asking when they can go to shore to help.

He remarked that the aircraft carrier is "amazing" in that it can produce drinking water from seawater. It has an excess capacity of 79,000 gallons per day and that this production of drinking water is being delivered to the disaster victims.

Congressman Ferguson noted that the United States military has been there for two weeks providing help. He said United Nations relief workers just started showing up this week.



GEOGRAPHY EXPERTS...Students from Franklin Elementary School in Westfield competed in the school-level competition of the National Geographic Bee on January 5. Pictured, left to right, are: fifth grade teacher Jeanine Gottko, who organized and moderated the contest; fifth grader Alexander Zimmerman, who placed third; fourth grader Markey Frega, wearing his first place ribbon; fifth grader Ross Workman, who placed second, and Franklin School Principal Dr. Mary Fleck.

Franklin Geography Bee Won by Markey Frega

WESTFIELD - Markey Frega, a fourth grader at Franklin Elementary School in Westfield, won the school-level competition of the National Geo-

graphic Bee on January 5 and a chance at a \$25,000 scholarship.

Ross Workman, a fifth grader, came in second and another fifth grader, Alexander Zimmerman, placed third.

The school-level competition, at which students answered oral questions on geography during an assembly, was the first round in the 16th annual National Geographic Bee, sponsored by the National Geographic Society.

The contest kicked off on the week of November 15, with thousands of schools around the United States and in the five U.S. territories participating.

At Franklin School, competitions were first held in all fourth and fifth grade classrooms, culminating in a school-wide competition.

Markey, and winners from other schools nationwide, will now take a written test. As many as 100 of the top scorers in each state and territory will be eligible to compete in their state Bee on Friday, April 1.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. for state champions and teacher-escorts to participate in the National Geographic Bee national championship on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 24 and 25. The first place national winner will receive a \$25,000 college scholarship and a lifetime membership to the society.

"Jeopardy!" host Alex Trebek will moderate the national finals on Thursday, May 25. The program will air on the National Geographic Channel, and afterward on public television stations, produced by Maryland Public Television.

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