



NATURE...On July 7, the bald eagle was released to nature by Assemblyman Jon Bramnick at the Raptor Trust bird rehabilitation center in Long Hill Township. The eagle from Stockton had a broken wing and was nursed back to health.

FEMA Announces Flood Aid For Affected NJ Areas

AREA — The U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced last Friday that federal disaster aid has been made available for New Jersey areas affected by the flooding that began on June 23.

FEMA Director R. David Paulison said the assistance was authorized under a major disaster declaration issued for the State of New Jersey by President George W. Bush. The actions make federal funding available for State, eligible local governments and certain private nonprofit organizations in the Hunterdon, Mercer and Warren county areas.

Grants are available to help pay for temporary housing, home repairs and other serious disaster related expenses. Federal funding was also made available for debris removal and emergency protective measures. Additional aid may be made at a later date if requested by the State and warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

Residents and business owners who suffered damages are eligible to request the aid online at www.fema.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA

(3362) or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. seven days a week until further notice.

Tracy Commissioned in U.S. Air Force

TEXAS — Marie B. Tracy has been commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force after completing the Air Force ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) program and graduating with a bachelor's degree from Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y.

ROTC is an educational program designed to provide college students an opportunity to be Air Force officers after completing military study courses and bachelor's degree requirements at a host college or university. The program is the largest and oldest source of commissioned officers for the Air Force, with a mission to produce highly qualified military leaders and better citizens for America.

Her assignment will be with the 315th Training Squadron at Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo, Texas. She is the daughter of Charles S. and Marie H. Tracy of Livingston St., Westfield, N.J.

Lt. Tracy is a 2002 graduate of Westfield High School.

Stefanie Forman Receives WU Degree

WESTFIELD — Stefanie Forman, daughter of Diane and Jerome Forman of Westfield, received an undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis, Mo.

Ms. Forman graduated with college honors, a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and a minor in writing from the College of Arts and Sciences.

She was among the 2,529 students who received degrees at the university's commencement ceremony, which was held in Brookings Quadrangle on campus. John Major, former prime minister of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, delivered the commencement address.

Ms. Forman is a 2002 graduate of Newark Academy in Livingston.

For information on clubs and organizations, try: goleader.com/organizations



Chris Kirkwood

Kirkwood Named Chamber Chairman

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Area Chamber of Commerce has announced that Chris Kirkwood of Kirkwood & Gachko, LLP has been elected chairman of the Board of Directors, effective July 1. Gary Goodman of Goodman Realty was elected vice-chairman.

Re-elected to their current positions were: Neil Sullivan of Westfield Mortgage as Treasurer and Maria Fuentes of Bank of America as secretary. Hans Winberg, past chairman of the chamber, will continue to serve as a board member.

IRS Warns Residents to Avoid New E-mail Scams

AREA — Following a recent increase in scam e-mails, the Internal Revenue Service reminded taxpayers to be on the lookout for bogus e-mails claiming to be from the tax agency.

These bogus e-mails are designed to trick the recipients into disclosing personal and financial information that could be used to steal the recipients' identity and financial assets.

"The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails asking for personal information," said IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson. "Don't be taken in by these criminals."

Since November, 99 different scams have been identified by the IRS, with 20 of those coming in June — the most since 40 were identified during the height of the filing season.

Many of these schemes originate outside the United States. Scam websites have been located in many countries, including Argentina, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, China, England, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Poland, Singapore and Slovakia, as well as the United States.

The current scams claim to come from the IRS, tell recipients that they are due a federal tax refund, and direct them to a website that appears to be a genuine IRS site. The bogus sites request personal and financial information from the e-mail recipients.

The IRS does not send out unsolicited e-mails or ask for detailed personal information via e-mail. The IRS never asks people for the PIN numbers, passwords or similar secret access information for their credit card, bank or other financial accounts.

The information fraudulently obtained is used to steal the taxpayer's identity and financial assets. Typically, identity thieves use someone's personal data to empty the victim's

financial accounts, run up charges on the victim's existing credit cards, apply for new loans, credit cards, services or benefits in the victim's name and even file fraudulent tax returns.

The IRS has established an electronic mailbox for taxpayers to send information about suspicious e-mails they receive which claim to come from the IRS. Taxpayers should send the information to: phishing@irs.gov.

More than 7,000 bogus emails have been forwarded to the IRS, with nearly 1,300 forwarded in June alone.

Following the instruction on the IRS site helps ensure that the bogus e-mails relayed by taxpayers retain critical elements found in the original e-mail. The IRS can use the information, URLs and links in the bogus e-mails to trace the hosting Web sites and alert authorities to help shut down these fraudulent sites.

Due to the volume expected, the IRS will not be able to acknowledge or reply to taxpayers who submit their bogus e-mails. The phishing@irs.gov mailbox is only for suspicious e-mails and not for taxpayer inquiries.

For information on preventing or handling identity theft, visit the Federal Trade Commission's websites (www.consumer.gov/idtheft) and (onguardonline.gov/).

For information on identity theft prevention and victim assistance in relation to tax administration, visit the IRS Identity Theft Web page which can be found at IRS.gov. Enter the term "identity theft" in the search box in the upper right hand corner.

For schemes other than phishing, please report the fraudulent misuse of the IRS name, logo, forms or other IRS property by calling the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration's toll-free hotline at 1-800-366-4484.

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www.sunriseseniorliving.com



ENJOYING THE FOURTH...Crowds enjoy a festive fireworks display on July 4th at Nomahegan Park in Cranford.

Menendez, Kean Battle Heats Up in Senate Race

Editor's Note: The following are recent comments from State Senator Tom Kean, Jr. of Westfield and U.S. Senator Robert Menendez on their battle for United States Senate.

Concerning the plot by terrorists to blow up the Holland Tunnel in New York, the candidates made the following statements:

Menendez: More than anything else, if true, these news reports offer incontrovertible proof that the federal government's homeland security strategy is flawed in its rhetoric and in its application. Americans who face the greatest risk should receive the greatest amount of funding. How anyone — at any level of government — could argue otherwise is beyond me and shows a flagrant disregard for the realities of protecting our homeland.

For too long, the federal government has distributed security grants in a manner that seems to be based merely on whim. It certainly is not based on risk. It defies common sense that a would-be terrorist in Beirut with an Internet connection recognizes that the New York region is rife with significant landmarks — yet Homeland Security Secretary (Michael) Chertoff doesn't.

Kean: The terrorists who targeted the Holland Tunnel allegedly got a pledge of financial and tactical support from Jordanian associates of top terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi be-

fore he was killed in Iraq. I want to thank the men and women of the FBI for their relentless efforts to keep America safe and one step ahead of our enemies. Today's developments are a reminder that we are a nation at war and we need leaders who will not relent in the war on terror.

Kean: [Mr. Menendez] has an irresponsible record on homeland security. Menendez was against the department of homeland security before he was for it...Menendez supported the Patriot Act in 2001 and voted against it in 2005...Menendez voted against securing our nation's borders and airports.

Menendez: (After first debate with Mr. Kean): [Tom Kean Jr.] is running a campaign of desperation to try to hide the fact that he will simply be another foot soldier in George Bush's Congress.

Kean: (on state shutdown): Jon Corzine and the Democrats have held this state hostage as a negotiating tactic to force \$3 billion in higher taxes on the backs of New Jerseyans, and increase government spending by \$2 billion. New Jersey has raised taxes every year since 2002 — and today's plan assures us that there is no end in sight. It's time for new leadership and real reform. Bob Menendez races to the microphone at every opportunity — except when his appointer shuts down the government.

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