Cranford School District to See Share of Birchwood PILOT

By MICHAEL BONACCORSO

GARWOOD—Mayor Sara Todisco and the borough council adopted an ordinance at Thursday’s council meeting to permit 2019 vacation carryover for firefighters. The ordinance was adopted in response to an order by the Department of Revenue, which would have triggered a property tax reassessment if the vacation days had expired, according to Todisco.

Todisco said she found out about the order to reassess from Councilwoman Jennifer Blumenstock. The councilwoman said she had been informed of the order by the Department of Revenue. The department had suggested the committee structure will be enhanced program options. The councilwoman said the structure has been implemented successfully in other capacities, allowing residents to be heard.

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Mayor Patrick Giblin and the township committee for earning the rank of Eagle Scout Peter Martin DePonte were recognized by Cranford musicians performs holiday music in the Cranford train station Wednesday night December 11, as the evening train home computers come on.

FLY HIGH…Eagle Scout Peter Martin DePonte was recognized by Cranford musicians performs holiday music in the Cranford train station Wednesday night December 11, as the evening train home computers come on.

WINTER WINDS…The “Cranford Christmas Winds.” an informal group of Cranford musicians performs holiday music in the Cranford train station Wednesday night December 11, as the evening train home computers come on.
By FRED T. ROSSI
Special to The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times

SCOTCH PLAINS — Aphi township council on Tuesday voted to approve a salary increase for Township Manager Alexander Smith from $170,789 to $172,649, effective July 1, 2020.

The 2-ounce vote to approve Mr. Smith's 2-ounce raise, to $172,649, was the result of a 1-ounce and 1-ounce tie, which prompted the council to vote by acclamation.

In other business, Mr. Smith told the council that he would like to add the following to his duties:

* The position of assistant manager
* The position of manager assistant

Mr. Smith also told the council that he would like to see the following changes to the department:

* The creation of a new position for "employee relations"
* The creation of a new position for "community relations"

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Garwood Creates Parks, Recreation Committee

BY MICHAEL BONACCORSO
GARWOOD—Mayor Ted Todisco and the borough council approved an ordinance at their Thursday council meeting which would approved Garwood parks and recreation committee to replace the existing recreation commission structure. Councilwoman Jennifer Blumenstock stated she wanted to provide residents with “something” the committee structure would be implemented to expand programing options while allowing more residents to volunteer. The committee structure will not replace or eliminate any recreation programs already in place, stated Councilwoman Blumenstock.

Councilman Russell Graham said Mayor Todisco, addressing Councilwoman Blumenstock’s assertion suggesting the recreation committee will enhance programing options. Mayor Todisco said the committee structure has been implemented successfully in other capacities, allowing residents to be heard.

Garwood will be participating in a new “electronic waste” recycling program addressing what is referred to as “e-waste,” stated Councilwoman Blumenstock. E-waste is defined as any electronic that drastically harms the environment due to its content in the regular garbage, stated Councilwoman Blumenstock.

Councilwoman Blumenstock stated Garwood will be run by the recycling company that is collecting the electronic waste. The recycling opportunity allows for Garwood to profit, while residents can dispose of unwanted items in an environmentally friendly way. Such items include televisions, computers, printers and cell phones.

Residents can drop off their unwanted electronic items at Borough Hall on the third Saturday in January, April, July and October. Such items include televisions, computers, printers and cell phones.

Mayor Todisco said “long-standing traditions were instated while new traditions were added to the holiday festival.”

This year’s Christmas tree lighting was literally the best ever,” Mayor Todisco said.

The mayor said the Christmas tree lighting had the largest turnout, with numerous “compliments” paid to the entire event. The event included additional trucks, distributing vol- unteer participation information tables and performances by the Y Dance Academy and the Gift Scouts. Todisco then announced that the “New Street project has been finished, Mayor Todisco said.”

The sidewalks had previously not existed. I’ve heard from residents about how happy they are to have a "new" New Street, the mayor re-marked.

The Garwood Christmas tree lighting was a success, Mayor Todisco said.

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www.sainthelen.org
9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM
4:00PM, 5:45PM
Christmas Eve
St. Helen Church (Meaney Hall)
3:45PM, 5:30PM, 7:30PM, 9:30PM, Midnight
Christmas Day
Mother Seton Regional High School (1 Valley Road, Clark)
4:00PM, 5:45PM
Christmas Day
St. Helen Church (Meaney Hall)
9:30AM, 11:00AM, 12:30PM
1600 Rahway Avenue, Westfield • 908-232-1214
www.sainthelen.org
From our “Family” to yours, we wish you a joyous holiday season and a New Year filled with peace and happiness.

Town Hall
CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK
The developer as he puts together the redevelopment plan. Mayor Smith asked residents to “please some time to work through” the presentation of the ship buildings. He said it is possible that the public could see some areas of the redevelopment plan by mid-February.

Start Your Sales Engines!
golden.com/farm/bulletin
GIFTS FOR ALL...Santa delivers Christmas presents to children on Saturday as part of the annual Fanwood Santa Run, courtesy of the Fanwood Volunteer Fire, St. Nick’s annual event.

THE TIMES SECTION...Houses in the area are fully decorated and ready to welcome the holiday festival.
1850 Colonial Home Becomes Westfield's Latest Landmark

The Nolde home, built in 1850 as part of the Scudder Homestead, is the fourth property in Westfield to gain landmark status this year under the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission. The house is the second private residence to be proposed for landmark status this year, the first being the former home of John Frazee, first town historian.

Kean Bill Would Require Reporting of Opioid Deaths

The deadly opioid crisis continues to escalate, and an attorney general in New Jersey, said Senate Republican Minority Leader Tom Kean (R-Kean), Westfield, the bill’s sponsor. “If we are going to develop policies and practices to run into epidemics, accurate statistics and reporting are crucial. Drug-related fatalities can often go unreported to the state and federal government due to inconsistencies in the reporting of Opioid-related deaths.”

Mehta Opposes Licenses to Undocumented Immigrants

The passing of Sanctuary Cities, as both of these are not in the interest of our citizens, and we think our country,” said Mr. Mehta. Mr. Mehta emphasizes that only when our immigration laws are fully enforced, can the state begin to address what to do with the unregistered who are already here.

TRENTON — The Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee approved legislation last week that would require the reporting of all opioid deaths to more accurately reflect the magnitude of the worsening health crisis.

House Passes Bill to Make Block Grant Permanent

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The House passed H.R. 392, the Reauthorizing Disaster Assistance Act of 2019, which would permanently authorize the Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program.

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — Department of Health officials said in a statement Tuesday that opioid-involved deaths in Florida have increased significantly and that the number of people continuing to use opioids will continue to grow.

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- **Tanqueray Gin** 750 ML: $34.99

**ShopRite Wines & Spirits of Westfield**

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- **Bacardi Superior, Gold or Black** 1.75 L: $19.99
- **Black Box Wines All Types** 3-Liter: $19.99
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See Store For Holiday Hours
When I was a young boy, admittedly a long time ago, a letter written to Santa was considered, warm and thoughtful. True, Santa was on my mind. I thought he’d be good and make me a toy train for my birthday but he only gave me something as simple as a rubber band to tie to the hair of my horse. I was a little disappointed.

He understood when I broke Mr. Jones’ window with the football that it was an accident. I was sure Santa would also understand that when we heard the thundering glass there was a slamming door. Yes, we all ran and even though we’d get away it — you couldn’t.

Our mothers knew about that broken window before we even got home. A stem letter and direct orders to go over to Mr. Jones and confess that I did it — that’s what I got. Mr. Jones tried to be very stern and I’d laugh and make his garden to help pay for it. I paid. He sent me for a cow and asked that it be more careful next time. I think he even smiled, because there was a moment of panic. Yes, we still thought, when we heard the shattering glass, that one person could give to another. We believed was that “Merry Christmas” and a Happy New Year. For a moment at least there was Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards Men.

Leave cookies and milk for Santa. Be in the best of cheer this Christ- mas season. The bells ringing at your door do not foretell of the tumult of the world. They are in the 12th Congressional District. They do not believe except they see. They do not understand. They did not understand that the belief of childhood fills the world with its wonder. They do not believe that one person could give to an- other. They did not believe there was no Santa Claus. It would be as dog-eared as a dream, as white as the snow, as white as the snow.

As the night of Christmas, they said, on my mind. I thought I’d been good and I was. But I still think it’s okay to be more careful next time. I think he even smiled, and wished all a Merry Christ- mas and a Happy New Year. For a moment at least there was Peace on Earth and Goodwill Towards Men. I thought I’d been good and I was. But I still think it’s okay to be more careful next time. I think he even smiled, and wished all a Merry Christ- mas and a Happy New Year.

Twas the Night Before Christmas, Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas

Mama Henry Longfellow, Jr. (1829-1904)

"Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house, Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse. The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there. The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While parents straight to their work, And filled all the stockings, hung them up by the beds, And turned in their bed while the floods of light they daydreamed of. Now, whether St. Nicholas was here, Or whether he was there, I doubt if you will ever know, For in that black hour of the night, Where the moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow, Gave the lustre of day to objects dim and shrouded in mist, A small form came dancing in from the north, A Jolly Old St. Nick!

With a little old driver, so lively and quick, And the reins before him, the status above, And the sleigh so bright, that the dogs barked in glee, As they went galloping through the air.

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team he gave a sign, And away they flew like the down of a white dove. But I heard him exclaim, as he drove out of sight, "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"

Thank You Santa for Understanding

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Lindaberry, Rachel Neidel, Litigation — Construction (Edward J. Frinch, Eric B. Levine, Gregg K. Stahl), and Litigation: Trusts & Estates (John F. Weiss, Elizabeth Candado, Elizabeth Fingert, Elizabeth Engsman, James K. Estabrook, David G. Burden, Mary Patricia Magor, Anne Marie Rabinoff) in addition, four additional areas have been recognized including Construction Law, Employment Law, Management, Litigation, and Employment, and Mediation.


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Lindaberry, McElvain, Estabrook & Cooper, P.C., is a mid-sized general practice law firm, located in downtown New Jersey. From offices in Westfield, Summit, Red Bank, New York and Philadelphia, the firm serves clients throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. Lindaberry provides litigation and transactional counsel to a broad spectrum of clients, including businesses, insurance firms, health care organizations, trade associations, employers, benefit funds, banks and financial institutions, nonprofit organizations and individuals.

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**Trinity Invites All to Attend Christmas Week Services**

**CRANFORD** — The Trinity Episcopal Church, located at 179 Forest Avenue, Cranford, invites everyone to attend its upcoming services in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. This Sunday, December 22, Advent IV Holy Eucharist Rite I will take place at 8 a.m. and Advent IV Holy Eucharist Rite II with music will be offered at 10 a.m. Advent is the first season of the liturgical year. This year’s sermon theme is “awaiting the promises of Christmas.” The Christmas season begins with the Christmas Eve celebration on December 24 and includes the Midnight Mass, the Children’s Pageant and Christmas Eve services offered on Sunday, December 29, at different times and locations.

For families with young children, there will be a 5 p.m. service at the Sanctuary where volunteer children will wear costumes and act out the Christmas story. For additional information, call (908) 235-2400 or visit www.fccofwestfield.org.

**All Day Worship and Services For Christmas**

**WESTFIELD** — The First Congregational Church invites everyone to celebrate Christmas week with Christmas Eve services offered on Sunday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m. with the Blessing of the Crèche, the Children’s Pageant and Holy Eucharist Rite II. Preorder a wreath from the Holy Family Church in Westfield (PCW) on Saturday, December 21, at 10 a.m. at the shop.

First Congregational will continue its celebration of Christmas with its annual Carol Sing and “Ask the Minister & Music Director” event this Sunday, December 22 at 4:30 p.m. Participation is open to all with their Biblical, spiritual and music questions — Christmas related or not — and the Reverend Ivory Mounts and Music Director Barbara Thommeson will field as many as possible.

The First Congregational Church is a member of the United Church of Christ. Its congregation represents a wide variety of faith backgrounds, including Roman Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, Pagan, Unitarian Universalist, Lutheran, and Quaker, and even from no faith background at all.

This sanctuary, located at 125 Elm Street, Westfield, is a wheelchair ramp and offers a “hearing loop” for the hard of hearing. The Chancel Choir and instrumental and vocal soloists will provide the music.

Parking in the church parking lot is handicapped accessible, with volunteers in the building for all locations. The Presbyterian Church in Westfield in the rear of the thrift shop will enter the parking lot via Willow Avenue.

**Hearing Soc. Classes Off For Holidays**

**WESTFIELD** — The Hearing Society has announced that its weekly classes in speech reading will be suspended for the holiday season. No classes will be scheduled for the weeks Wednesday, December 26, and Thursday, December 27.

Classes will resume on Tuesday, January 9, at the regularly scheduled time, 10:30 a.m. They are held at the First Reformed Church, located at 170 Elm Street, Westfield.

Under the direction of Margaret O’Brien, the informal classes provide instruction in speech reading with hearing loss as well as techniques for improved communication. Anyone who is interested in improving his or her word recognition skills is welcome to join the Society and participate in the classes. For more information about the Hearing Society and the classes, contact Alice Knecht at aknecht@gmail.com.
Glenn John May

Obituaries

Glenn John May, 86, of Woodbridge, passed away peacefully on Thursday, December 5, 2019, at Center for Hope Hospice in Scotch Plains, surrounded by his loving family. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on Monday, December 9, at 10 a.m., at the Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church, where he served as pastor. He also served on the Woodbridge YMCA Board of Directors, receiving the youth service award for his dedication to various teen groups. He was also a member of the Woodbridge Recreation Committee, serving as their leader in their summer camp program for 13 years. He was a member of the Woodbridge Republican Club and a member of Elks Lodge 314. When he retired, he moved to Long Beach Island/Royal Harbor, and then to Venice, Florida, becoming a member of the Plantation Golf and Country Club of Venice Florida. For many years, he was a co-owner, not only of his family, but an ex- ceptional photo New York Ginza store, and watches won him favor. He was the avid Frank Sinatra fan and lived by his philosophy, “I've had a few regrets, I've had a few regrets, but more than a few regrets.” The house was neat, tidy, and well cared for. Chip spent many happy times on the Westfield Teen Canteen. He was also a member of the Westfield YMCA and supervised students to join members of its community.
Westfield Blue Devils have a ‘family’ row in the first seven weight classes with talent in the upper weights. The Blue Devils won the District 14 title last year and were second in the section. This could be a banner season for the Blue Devils.

Expectations are high. They put themselves in a position where they can do some special things. Now it’s for them to see if they can do the right thing and really perform,” Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Rudek expressed.

CJ Composto (so — 152): 2nd UCT C-title champion, 1st district (3 wins, 1 region), 1st UCT at 152-lbs.

Luke Hoerle (so — 126): 3rd UCT (3 wins, 1 region), 1st district (2 wins, 1 region), 2nd place at 126 lbs.

John Heard (jr — 220): 1st UCT (3 wins, 1 region), 2nd district, 9-0 record.


The Scotch Plains-Fanwood TIMES Thursday, December 19, 2019 Page 9

Blue Devils Boy Cagers Have Depth & Experience This Year

By DAVID B. CORBIN

Westfield High School boys basketball head coach Jon Heard ( jr — 220): He returns at the district, 1st district, 3rd region, 34-6 record.

Nick Stampoulos (jr — 138): 1st UCT, 1st district, 1st region, 14-0 record.

Patrick Phillips (jr — 120): 1st UCT, 2nd district, 1st region, 22-12 record.


Raiders Bring Many New Faces
To Girls Basketball This Year

By ALEX LOVE
Assistant Sports Editor

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team is set to begin the third year under first-year head coach Germany Freer. She has spent the last two seasons atdreamer Prep, which she took over when it was a 2-38 program. Freer was a star at South Plainfield and is excited to work with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball team.

Senior Griffin Rooney, left, led the Blue Devils in scoring with 306 points, including 22 3-pointers. He sank 75 free throws, swiped 21 steals and pulled 49 rebounds last year. Rooney, who had 18 with 306 points, including 22 3-pointers. He led the team, not only in scoring but also in several other categories. He is a big player for us, said Freer.

Additional "big strides" can be expected.

1. The team has a new head coach, Germany Freer, who will be a big influence on the team this year.
2. The team has several new players, including Sophia Snyder and Joey Brogan.
3. The team has a new两点 guard, was up front on defense 75 free throws. Rooney, who had 18 with 306 points, including 22 3-pointers. He led the team, not only in scoring but also in several other categories. He is a big player for us, said Freer.

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The Blue Devils are looking to make a big impact on the court this year. With a new coach and several new players, the team is expected to have a successful season.

"Griffin! What he did on the foot-

Black Horse Expressway, will be the site of Scotch Plains-Fanwood's home opener on Friday, Dec. 12. The Raiders will face Millburn at 7:15 p.m.

McKeon said.

"The Raiders return only a couple of seniors: captain Trevor Tanella, alter-

Raiders Bring Many New Faces
To Girls Basketball This Year

By ALEX LOVE
Assistant Sports Editor

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School girls basketball team is set to begin the third year under first-year head coach Germany Freer. She has spent the last two seasons atdreamer Prep, which she took over when it was a 2-38 program. Freer was a star at South Plainfield and is excited to work with the Scotch Plains-Fanwood girls basketball team.

Senior Griffin Rooney, left, led the Blue Devils in scoring with 306 points, including 22 3-pointers. He sank 75 free throws, swiped 21 steals and pulled 49 rebounds last year. Rooney, who had 18 with 306 points, including 22 3-pointers. He led the team, not only in scoring but also in several other categories. He is a big player for us, said Freer.

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They got to keep these guys in line and learning to do. Be competitive! Continue to get better every time they step on the mat!

Jeff Stepan (sr — 152): Jumped up from 126-lbs last year.

Harrison Kelly (so — 148): 3rd district, 21-16 at 126-lbs.

Joe Stadler (sr — 160): 3rd district, 21-16 at 126-lbs.

Connor Vili (so — 155): 3rd district.

Those guys get to be the leaders. They are the key to any success we have.

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Raider Boy Cagers’ Strength Begins With Deep Front Court

BY ALEX LOWE

Practices have been spirited and
competitive, hallmarks of Stu
cence Bremner, who was the
frail Underclassmen, Raider
teachers have become
aggressive, hustling, and
limp and solid outside shooting.
These two traits are required to
succeed in this type of game,
said Bremner.

"We have a lot of returning
talent," Bremner said.

"The players are focused
and motivated after a
win over Hillside Saturday.
They want to prove that
they can be successful this
season." Bremner said.

The Raiders, who have
open their season with
a 2-0 record, will have
their first road game of the
season against Scotch Plains
this weekend.

"The Scotch Plains
game will be a good test for
our team," Bremner said.

"They have a strong team,
and we need to bring our A
game to win." Bremner
said.

The Raiders will also
face off against Hillside,
Rutgers, and New Jersey
City College this season.

"We have a tough schedule,
but we are ready for the
challenge," Bremner said.

"We want to prove that
we can compete with the
best teams in the state." Bremner
said.

The Raiders have
improved their defense in
recent games, allowing
fewer points per game.

"Our defense has been
a big factor in our
success," Bremner said.

"We are limiting our
opponents to fewer points,
which is key in winning games." Bremner
said.

The Raiders will look to
continue their winning
streak as they get ready for
the Scotch Plains game this
weekend.

"We are excited to face off
against Scotch Plains," Bremner
said.

"It will be a good test for
our team and a chance to
measure ourselves against
a strong opponent." Bremner
said.

The Raiders are looking
towards a successful season,
and are motivated to prove
that they are one of the
top teams in the state.

"We are working hard in
practice and have a strong
chemistry on the court," Bremner
said.

"We are looking forward
to the Scotch Plains game
and will give it our all." Bremner
said.

The Raiders have
improved their
offense in recent games,
scoring more points per game.

"Our offense has been
improving," Bremner said.

"We are finding ways to
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Grace Cull of SP Shares Operation Smile Mission

The most memorable aspect of my trip was being able to interact with some of the families being helped by Operation Smile. She shared: “The kids were full of energy and so much fun to play with. The families were so warm and welcoming, and it was heartwarming to hear their stories about how they built up the courage and how they found them to Operation Smile.”

It was also remarkable to watch the children through the experience, from the first time they stepped into the surgery room, to their recovery, to the day they received their transformed smiles, to seeing theänder in the medicine processes and how they got to know the kids who were very brave and gave them a wonderful experience, and will forever be grateful to Operation Smile for this opportunity,” she said.

Once would take advantage of your mission trip to her peers because she believes it is a great way to understand the impact of Operation Smile worldwide and how they are able to help children in other parts of the world. She shared: “I want my peers and families and see them through the experience. I want my peers to get to know the importance of Operation Smile goes deeper, and the one I am interested in my mission, I would definitely want to take advantage of this opportunity.”

W+H Students Share Talents at Art Show and Concert

Kelli Schilling of Whippany plays the saxophone in the Upper School Winter Concert, which featured opera, choir, and band performances. The culture of music and art is celebrated in the Winter Concert, where students showcase their talents and enjoyment through these forms of expression.

Sunita Merriman... working on her business plan for a new product. She is committed to making her ideas a reality and is passionate about her work. She is working on her business plan for a new product. She is committed to making her ideas a reality and is passionate about her work.

Dr. Sunita Merriman and her team at 229 Charles Street in Whippany wish you a Very Happy, Safe and Healthy Holiday Season.

Dr. Sunita Merriman is a graduate of The College of Dentistry at New York University. She is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine (ABDSM) and the American Board of Craniofacial Surgery (ABCFS).

REACHING HIGH... a college professor from Whippany guided four students who are also her students on December 16. Dave Perkins, director of the Master of Human Resource Management program at Raritan Valley Community College, guided students as they discuss their work on their projects.

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Times - December 18, 2019

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**Scott Plains Resident / Reporter**

Fred T. Ross Jr. publishes first book

**Jersey Stories**

“Jersey Stories” is the first book to highlight the great events and figures in New Jersey’s history. New Jersey is home to many of the world’s most well-known figures, and the stories they’ve left behind are sure to amaze and entertain all who read them.

Jersey Stories

Interview with Fred T. Ross Jr.

Fred T. Ross Jr. is a retired New Jersey history teacher who has spent his life researching and writing about the history of his home state. His first book, “Jersey Stories,” is a collection of his favorite stories about the history of New Jersey. Fred is the author of several other books on New Jersey history, and his work has been featured in numerous magazines and newspapers. He is also a member of the New Jersey Historical Society. Contact him at fredtrossjr@gmail.com.
Blue Devils Team to Beat in Union County Wrestling

Westfield has put to the mat one of its best teams in over a decade and seems to be a heavy favorite to be the top dog in the county. Rahway and Cranford look to do a lot of barking also and Brearley has been climbing the ladder, although several additional teams have been bolstering their numbers.

(As always, several wrestlers may drop a class come tournament time)

Westfield Blue Devils:
The Blue Devils have a “Murderers’ Row” in the first seven weight classes with talent in the upper weights. The Blue Devils won the District 14 title last year and were second in the sectional. This could be a banner season for the Blue Devils.

“Expectations are high. They put themselves in a position where they can do some special things. Now it’s for them to see it through and really do it,” Blue Devil Head Coach Glen Kurz expressed.

CJ Composto (sr — 132):
2nd UCT (2-time champ), 1st district (3 times), 1st region (3 times), 3rd NJISIAA, finish 35-2 at 126-lbs bringing career total to 103-17

Jeremy Silber (sr — 138):
2nd district at 132, finish 19-13

Luke Scanlan ( sr — 170):
3rd UCT (160) 2nd district (152), finished 25-14

Luke Jacobs (so — 113):
2nd UCT, 1st district, finished 26-10 at 106

Quinn Gimblette (sr — 120):
1st district, fourth region, AC qualify at 113, 30-10 record

Jon Heard (jr — 220): 2nd district, 20-15

Pay attention to Ethan Composto (fr — 106)

Cranford Cougars:
The Cougars stunned them all again last year to claim their fifth straight UCT crown. Depth will be the Cougars’ best friend but they also return a host of experienced wrestlers.

“That’s important to have that kind of depth,” Cougar Head Coach Pat Gorman said. “This year we have 11 freshmen, so where we have guys who have been around starting on varsity, we have newer guys starting right behind them. And a lot of those guys have wrestled for years in

Coach Rooney said, “We got to make some moves but we pretty much have the whole lineup. We are pretty young with inexperience at the varsity level. Even the guys who are older, it’s going to be one of those years where we start on the ground floor and we got to climb the mountain. The idea is to compete at the end of the season.”

Jon Estivene (sr — 170): 3rd district, finished 17-18

Pat Nevins (jr — 152): 2nd UCT, 3rd district, 23-11 record

Dave Torres (jr — 220): returns at the same weight

Roselle Park Panthers:
The Panthers under Head Coach Ryan Rooney have a very young squad with no super heroes yet and do have backups in various weight classes.
the program."

Pat Kalnins (sr — 120): 3rd UCT, 3rd district, 23-18
Kevin Shriner (soph — 285): 4th UCT
Evan Kanterman (sr — 170): 2nd UCT, 3rd district, 5th region, 32-11
Justin Alpaugh-McLean (sr — 182): 2nd district, 23-18
Max Nock (sr — 160): Behind key wrestlers. Had 6-1 varsity record.
Will Fernandez (sr — 113): 2nd district, finished 19-20
Will Shroyer (so — 135/45)

Scotch Plains-Fanwood Raiders:
The Raiders return an experienced group this year plus several athletes from the football team.

"Another solid big room. We have about 60 kids but the best thing is we have a lot of returners that were behind a lot of our upper classmen studs, Eddie Smith, Zach Zimmermann, Alex Oslislo. They were wrestlers that couldn’t crack the lineup but right now just as good as those guys. We are returning a very strong class,” Head Coach Marc Fabiano said.

Brandon Bowles (jr — 126): 3rd UCT, 1st dist, 3rd reg. at 113-lbs, finished 24-5
Joey Larmore (jr — 106): 3rd district, finished 15-9
Anthony Robinson (so — 160): 5th UCT, finished 17-10
Will Shroyer (so — 135/45)

Brearley Bears:
The Bears are climbing up the tree looking for honey with more talent and more numbers. Head Coach Dave Nichols said, “Last year we missed about five or six weight classes. This year we can fill a full lineup, maybe one forfeit but we have more guys in the room. We have six new guys in the room that we didn’t have last year. Three kids returning that I have high
expectations for. We have some guys in the middle that have three, four, five years experience that are working really hard to improve. We have newcomers who are picking it up really well. Practice has been fantastic. I have big expectations.”

Patrick Phillips (jr — 120): 1st UCT, 1st dist, 2nd reg, 34-6
Nick Stampoulos (jr — 138): 3rd UCT, 2nd district, 20-11
John Braun (sr — 170): 4th UCT, 3rd district, 23-14

A. L. Johnson Crusaders: The Crusaders with first-year Head Coach Nick Velez, a 2014 Westfield High School grad who placed fifth at 152-lbs at the NJSIAA Tournament, have increased their numbers drastically but experience is needed. “Last year there was about 11 guys on the team. This year we had 23 kids sign up then within that first week, we had another 10 kids sign up. The first step was to get them in the room then the second step was to get them to love wrestling. Now we are teaching them to be good wrestlers,” Coach Velez said.

Jax Katsoros (jr — 170): Was at 145/152 last year
James Lordi (sr — 145): Was at 120 last year
Matt Lordi (fr — 106): “James Lordi is pretty tough and Jax the ‘Axe Man’ is going to be a problem for a lot of teams. Right now we are just trying to sharpen everyone’s skills and give them more weapons in their arsenal,” Coach Velez stressed.

Governor Livingston Highlanders: The Highlanders are young and in a building phase but have four experienced seniors in the middle weights.

Head Coach Rick Ortega said, “We are very young. We got a nice core of 4-5 seniors that will be OK but I have a lot of sophomores in the lineup. The future is bright but there’s a lot of learning to do. Be competitive! Continue to get better every time they step on the mat!”

Jeff Stepien (sr — 132): Jumped up from 120 last year.
Harrison Kelly (sr — 145): 3rd district, 21-16 at 126
Joe Scalora (sr — 160): 3rd
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district, 28-11 at 160

**Conner Vill (sr — 152):** 3

Those guys got to be the leaders. They got to keep these guys in line and teach them the ropes," Ortega said.

**Summit Hilltoppers:**
The Hilltoppers combined programs with the Chatham Cougars and finished 8-13 with a 3-3 conference record, recording wins over New Providence, AL Johnson and Brearley. Peter Connolly has taken the reins to build the team.

**Trey Richardson (jr — 182):** Transferred from St. Peters Prep his sophomore year.

"After having to sit out for the first month of last season, Trey worked hard to ensure the remainder of his season ended with him having a winning record. We are looking forward to what Trey is capable of producing at 182 this year, and we are confident that he will be a valued leader of the United Summit Chatham team," Coach Connolly said.

**John Rohe (jr — 138):** Grew from 120-lbs last year

"John has quickly approached this current season with a positive attitude and work ethic. He has positioned himself as a leader and a wrestler whom many of his teammates look up to," Coach Connolly expressed.

**New Providence Pioneers:**
The Pioneers forfeited many spots last year but have recruited a large freshman class to go with his sophomores and juniors. The Pioneers are moving forward.

Pioneer Head Coach Shane Mallory said, "It’s been a tough two years. We had three good wrestlers and set up a schedule to challenge those guys to get them to AC. This year we have a much younger team. We only have one senior and a ton of freshmen, so we are very excited. We have four girls on the team as well. This is like the true start to our rebuild. It shows us that the plan is working and we..."
Blue Devils Team to Beat in Union County Wrestling – Many Teams Bolster Numbers

Rahway Indians: The Indians will be very competitive and are strong especially in the lower weight classes plus they have several athletes from the football team in the upper weights. Head Coach Danny Garay, a 217-lb state champion in 2001 said, "We have between six and eight guys with varsity experience. We lost some key guys but we are still pretty good with young guys stepping into our lineup. A lot of kids in the room. We have some big guns in the lineup that their goal is to get down to Atlantic City and get on that podium."

- Chris Dalmau (sr – 126): 2nd UCT, 2nd dist, 4th reg, 32-6
- Kaelan Francois (jr – 113): 1st UCT, 1st district, 3rd region, 32-4 at 106
- Josh Darisme (sr – 220): 1st district, 2nd region, 32-8
- Amajuwan Mevers (11 – 106): 3rd district, 7-6
- Ashwan Harris (so – 152): 3rd district, 7-6
- Cory Boss (11 – 132): 3rd district, 7-6
- Donnell Doster (11 – 160): 3rd district, 7-6

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- Ashwan Harris (so – 152): 3rd district, 7-6
- Cory Boss (11 – 132): 3rd district, 7-6
- Donnell Doster (11 – 160): 3rd district, 7-6

Linden Tigers: The Tigers have a lot of wrestlers who have been with the program since middle school and a strong sophomore class. "This year we have a good mix. We got some veteran guys. We got a lot of seniors who have
been with the program for a long time. Most of these kids have been wrestling with us since middle school. Also we have some talented underclassmen. We are hoping to be a real competitive team, we want to crown a county champ, we want to crown a district champ, we want to go down to Atlantic City with a guy or possibly two,” coach Álvaro Fernandez said.

**Stephano DelValle (sr — 138):** 3rd district, 9-7  
**Jose Gonzalez (sr — 126):**  
**Mike Shorter (sr — 132):**  
**Ibn Hall (sr — 182):**  
**Darrin Williams (sr — 195: Keep eye on Mike Kalfa (so — 113):**

**Union Farmers:**  
The Farmers, under Head Coach Dino DeBellonia, have a full room and a full lineup with some seasoned wrestlers. “Very pleased with the numbers. We are pushing at 50. A lot of new faces but the kids are coming every day with an attitude of wanting to learn, wanting to work. We got some veterans back who are looking to do good things like Mike Cross, Liam Grahl, Jabari Basden-Slue and Chris Rodriguez. I think we could put a pretty decent team on the mat this year,” he said.

**Jabari Basden-Slue (sr — 138):** was at 138 last year  
**Mike Cross (jr -132):** 6th UCT at 126  
**Liam Grahl (sr — 120):** 4th seed for UCT but injured  
**Christian Rodriguez (sr — 152):** at 145 last year

**Plainfield Cardinals:**  
The Cardinals under Head Coach Will Dodd finished 19-9 and 6-1 in the UCC Mountain Division. They recorded UC wins over Summit, ALJ, Linden, Union, Elizabeth, New Providence and Brearley.

According to Coach Dodd, “Plainfield looks to build on the strongest season in school history last year. The defending division champion Cardinals have about seven experienced wrestlers in their lineup, while the rest are either newcomers or wrestlers that have been waiting in the wings.”

**Tylik Epps (sr — 138):** 2nd district, 26-12  
**Ki’zuran Casey (sr — 170):** 1st district, 31-9  
**Keep eyes on Emmanuel Sutton (jr — 220): 4th dist and Steve Gordon (sr — 285) 4th dist.**

**Elizabeth Minutemen:**  
The Minutemen had three strong wrestlers last year  
**Chris Luzua (jr — 106):** 3rd UCT, 3rd district, 30-9

**Gerome Abad (jr — 220):** Finished 22-15  
**Moses Olowoopejo (285):** 3rd UCT, finished 32-7
Blue Devil Cagers Have Depth & Experience

Story on Page 9 Of The Westfield Leader

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Brownie Troop 40455 Leads Tree-Decorating

CRANFORD — The temperatures were cold, but the hearts were warm and hands were busy at the annual decorating of the town tree, which was hosted by Brownie Troop 40455. More than 400 Girl Scouts of Cranford participated in the November 29 event, which was held in Mayor’s Park. The decorating of the tree by Girl Scouts of Cranford troops is a tradition that spans several decades.

“Our girls were thrilled to lead this fun and festive event for the other troops,” explained Troop 40455 Co-Leader Angelica Valenza. “It is a wonderful tradition for our town. Not only is this a time for us to come together as an organization, but it is wonderful to see all the different and creative hand-crafted ornaments. The girls and their leaders put a lot of time and effort into creating their decorations.”

The morning activities included The Pledge of Allegiance led by Troop 41267, the singing of “The Star-Spangled Banner” by Girl Scouts Cecilia Imhof and Maddie Coons, and a food drive to benefit the Community FoodBank of New Jersey. Girl Scouts from Daisys in kindergarten up through Cadettes and Ambassadors in high school participated in the event.

The tree in Mayor’s Park is located across from the township municipal building at the corners of Springfield and North Avenues. The tree-decorating event was part of a full agenda sponsored by the Cranford Chamber of Commerce that culminated with the tree-lighting ceremony in the evening.

The Girl Scouts of Cranford is an organization dedicated to building G.I.R.L.’s (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ of courage, confidence and character who will make the world a better place. The Girl Scouts of Cranford Service Unit 48 is a part of the Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey Council, which is part of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. For more information on the Girl Scouts of Cranford, go to cranfordgirlscouts.com.
THANK YOU TOM KRANZ...Tom Kranz ended his stint on the borough council Monday night after two terms. He did not run for re-election this year. Mr. Kranz served six years and sat on the Public Safety, Health and Senior Services committees and was chairman of the Administration and Finance committee the past two years. A 26-year resident of Fanwood, he is still a volunteer with the Fanwood Rescue Squad and hopes to continue responding to 911 calls going forward.

SANTA ARRIVES IN FANWOOD...Santa arrives on a Fanwood fire engine to deliver Christmas presents to children’s homes as part of the annual Fanwood Santa Run.

HAPPY RETIREMENT...Retiring Fanwood Borough Administrator/Clerk Eleanor McGovern, right, is thanked by Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell, her friend for many years, for the many thousands of people she has touched in her duties as borough administrator and clerk over the past 35 years.
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