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Inside this issue: Young Millstone Performers, Family Movie Day, Why Everyone Needs a Living Will, Bordentown City, The Superbowl of Inflation, Not Finding EMO, Federal Child Abuse Act, Millstone's 16U Cheetahs Raise Funds for Ovarian Cancer, Daniella's Wish, Live Theater in Red Bank, Start the New Year in Monmouth County, Taxation on Horse Stalls, Walnridge Farms, Toss your Tree, Boost a Dune, Winter Wonderland, Student of the Month, Jr. Midgets Flying High

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Young Millstone Performers Enjoy Their Well Earned Cast Party

By: Pam Teel

The children proudly marched down the hallway at the Middle School on their way to the cafeteria to celebrate their Cast Party thrown by theater arts teacher Lisamarie Cappuzzo, her mom Jo-Ann Figurelli, and Millstone resident Gina Whalen. The latest production of the Community Education Elementary School Theater, *Alice in Wonderland*, was a great success. The third, fourth and fifth graders who performed in the two night production got the chance at the Cast Party to see themselves up on stage as they watched the video of their performance while enjoying all the pizza that they could eat!

Between the three women, Lisa Marie, a state certified theater arts teacher, Gina, an actress and singer, and Jo-Ann, who served as the Assistant Director, the trio have managed to capture the hearts of young Millstone thespians as they molded and guided them into the world of performing. Because of their love for the theater and for the children, these women dedicate their time



Alice has a conversation with the caterpillar

and their knowledge in creating outlets for children to openly express themselves without the fear of being bullied for what they like to do. Programs like these have helped some children to shed their inner inhibitions, making them feel

more confident about themselves and less shy in public. It gives them a chance to enhance their inner selves through the art of acting. "It's exhilarating," Ms. Cappuzzo states, "to watch these

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Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence

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Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence Raised More than \$5,500 from its Third Annual “FAMILY MOVIE DAY”

MILLSTONE TOWNSHIP, NJ, November 25, 2013 – Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence (MTFEE) raised more than \$5,500 from its Third Annual “Family Movie Day” held on November 17 at the Millstone Township Performing Arts Center (MPAC). Proceeds will help provide grant funding for innovative classroom programs, educational opportunities for students, staff development, and state-of-the-art teaching materials that are beyond the scope of the general school budget to enrich education for the district’s public school students.

The event opened with an hour and a half of kid’s activities including face painting, carnival games, crafts and temporary tattoos. The activities were followed by “Monsters University”—a movie that Millstone Township School students chose.

The foundation also collected non-perishable food items and \$1,036 in cash and ShopRite gift cards that day. The donations went to Helping Hearts, an organization that helps Millstone Township families who are in need, providing them with everyday essentials such as food, clothing, school supplies, etc.

Dave Berlin of Video Corporation of America (Somerset) donated the projector rental. Vesuvio’s Pizzeria & Family Restaurant (Millstone Twp.) donated 10 percent of each dining check that day and then matched that amount, for a total donation of \$150.

The following served as sponsors:

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MTFEE operates independently from the school district and replenishes its grant fund



(From left to right) Millstone Township students: Laura Raccuglia, Andrew Raccuglia, Brendan Griggs, Chase Jansen, Charlie Duff, Avery Pyhel, Ryan Cotler and Gabriella Biello

exclusively through private donations and its fundraising efforts. The foundation has awarded more than \$437,800 in grants to Millstone Township schools since 2002. MTFEE grants, which have been awarded at every grade level and in every discipline, have included STEM enrichment programs, SMARTBoards®, mobile computer and iPad™ labs, and a rock climbing wall. MTFEE was the first organization in the district to put iPads™ into the classroom in the spring of 2011.

There are currently more than 60 MTFEE-funded grant programs running. Every child that matriculates through the school district will in some way benefit from an MTFEE-funded

grant. MTFEE is a member of New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership and The National Consortium of State and Local Education Foundations (NCEFS).

For more information about MTFEE, please e-mail info@mtfee.org, visit www.mtfee.org and Like Us on Facebook.

Editor’s Note

If you are interested in photos from the event, please contact Nicole Pyhel at bnpyhel@optonline.net

ABOUT MTFEE

From its initial conception in 1995 to its designation as a 501©3 charitable organization in 2002, the Millstone Township Foundation for Educational Excellence (MTFEE) has remained steadfast in its goal to fund grants for items that nurture extraordinary educational experiences for every student in Millstone Township Public Schools and are beyond the scope of the general school budget. Items include innovative classroom programs, educational opportunities for students, staff development, and state-of-the-art teaching materials. Through the creativity of the teaching staff’s grant applications and the fundraising efforts of MTFEE, the foundation is proud to have awarded more than \$437,800 in grants to Millstone Township schools. MTFEE grants, which have been awarded at every grade level and in every discipline, have included STEM enrichment programs, SMARTBoards®, mobile computer and iPad™ labs, and a rock climbing wall. MTFEE was the first organization in the district to put iPads™ into the classroom in the spring of 2011. There are currently more than 60 MTFEE-funded grant programs running. Every child that matriculates through the school district will in some way benefit from an MTFEE-funded grant. MTFEE is a member of New Jersey Education Foundation Partnership and The National Consortium of State and Local Education Foundations (NCEFS). ■



Elder Care:

***“Are you trying to take care of your parents,
while raising your children?”***

“Are you part of the sandwich generation?”

In memory of our mother, Lorraine Giordano, we would like to discuss important information on elder care and necessary precautions to take during a health crisis. With the assistance of an attorney and personal insight from our own experiences, we want to fulfill our mission of raising awareness and educating families by providing this monthly information. In addition, Lorraine's I Believe Foundation will spread awareness and options to choose from regarding brain radiation-www.LorrainesIBelieveFoundation.com

The Suggestion of The Month – Please read this very important information below. PLEASE don't wait to set this in place. If this unfortunate situation should ever occur, having

your own wishes or a family members wishes written out in detail in advance, can save you so much grief, uncertainty and heartache about your decisions. This will relieve you from making a life altering decision for another person. Please don't wait for an emergency or tragedy to occur to set this in place.

Our Foundation www.LorrainesIBelieveFoundation.com was created to spread awareness on Brain Radiation; all donations from this foundation are sent directly to Make-A-Wish NJ. Our goal is to “Fund a Wish for a Child” annually in memory of our mom, Lorraine Giordano. For more information visit www.nj.wish.org.



WHY EVERYONE NEEDS A LIVING WILL/HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVE!

What will happen to you if you are hospitalized and unable to communicate? What if you are in a condition, such as a permanent coma, that is unacceptable to you. Unfortunately, if you do not have a living will/health care directive that spells out your wishes in this situation, the doctors and hospital are bound by their oath to do everything to keep you alive even if this is the complete opposite of what you really desire. That is why everyone should have this document, which has been endorsed by both Mother Teresa and President Obama.

A living will ensures that your wishes for medical care, organ donations and artificial life support are respected even if you can no longer communicate them. It can save your family and loved ones unnecessary grief and a great monetary expense in a difficult and stressful situation.

Living Wills are governed by a state law and it is important to use a document that is state specific and comply with New Jersey state law. This document allows you to appoint a person to represent you. This person will be able to talk to your doctors and this document will allow your physicians to talk to the person you appointed, a person they could not otherwise communicate with due to doctor/patient confidentiality. By making your feelings known to the person you have appointed, you will prevent your family from getting into a Terry Schiavo situation, where the husband and parents of Terry, who was in a coma and did not have a living will, had a long, bitter, expensive court battle because her husband said she would not want to be kept alive artificially and her parents felt she would want to be kept alive, no matter how. Avoiding a situation such as this is just one reason why everyone should have this document.

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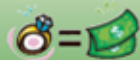
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BORDENTOWN CITY

No Time Like the Present

By: Pam Teel



Art Deco Record Collector Store

The city of Bordentown is located in Burlington County. With easy access through Routes 130, 195, 206, and the Turnpike, Bordentown City is a now and happening place with its quaint old homes and old world charm. This town has something for everyone. If you're one of those weekend explorers who like to find different places to visit not so far from home, then Bordentown is a place well worth exploring with its many specialty shops, historic buildings, and restaurants. What a great place to park your car and go for a walk as you stroll by meticulous older homes and gardens restored to their original splendor; some dating back to the early 1700's. With a population of roughly 4000 people, the city plays hosts to many street fairs and events that bring in the crowds from all over the state and beyond.

Celebrating their 24th annual cranberry festival this past October on Farnsworth Avenue, the festival showcased over 140 crafters selling their wares with many food vendors, fresh Jersey wines, original art work, a memorial car show, clowns, kids' rides, local musicians, and more. This annual festival draws a large crowd. Parking is town wide, wherever you can find a space. I must warn you, it gets packed so be prepared to do some walking.

Bordentown is home to the largest Ocean Spray Cran-

berry facility in the area, which began manufacturing here in 1943. The facility started out on one acre and today has over sixty-two acres and employs about 275 people locally. The plant produced canned cranberry sauce and bottled juices until 1997 when they moved to a larger facility, but they still operate four beverages and two juice box lines and have produced a record setting 32.2 million cases of juice to date.

This past fall, the town also held their first annual Wine and Beer Festival which drew in quite a crowd, making it a certainty that this event will also become an annual one. For \$20.00 in advance or \$25.00 at the door, you got to visit and sample all the different booths where local wines from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and other surrounding states were displayed for sampling and for purchase. People got to taste the local cuisine as the local restaurant owners served as the food vendors for this event with 10 percent of the profit going to help restore the Old City Hall in Bordentown City. Both events showcased live bands and entertainment for both the young and the old. If you're looking for a place to sit down and eat, there are many fine restaurants within the town to choose from. Marcello's Restaurant and Tomato Pie is a popular Italian restaurant located at 206 Farnsworth Avenue. The Jesters Café and Bar, located at 233 Farnsworth Avenue, in the heart of downtown historical Bordentown, serves lunch and dinner from burgers and original soups to seafood and steaks. The Hob Tavern located at 146 Second Street is a great local

watering hole whether you're coming in to just sit at the bar or be seated in the back room; it's a great place for a burger and fries or soup and a sandwich. The food is very good! There is the Beanwood Coffee Latin Bistro, which is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner. If you like Puerto Rican food then this is the place to go with recipes passed down from one generation to the next. The Farnsworth House Restaurant, located at 135 Farnsworth Avenue, has always been a favorite of mine with great food, a bar and occasional entertainment. There is also Tuscano's Ristorante, Under the Moon Café, Sweeties Ice Cream, Oliver- A - Bistro, and Angie's Family Restaurant, among others. So many to choose from!

There are Art Galleries, a mystic shop with their very own psychic, an old book shop that is worth going into, Necessities of the Heart Novelty Shop carrying Vera Bradley, Brighton and other fashionable items, antique shops, and a Tea's and Treasure's shop featuring products created by local artisans; such as raw honey, vegan tea's, unique one of a kind jewelry, and vintage pieces. The Record Collector specializes in hard to find records, tapes and CD's. They offer an immense selection of new and used rare and collectable jazz, punk, blues, heavy metal, rock and soul. Music in all formats! They also buy and sell items. Look for their cool art Deco store at 358 Farnsworth Avenue.

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Continued on page 38



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The Super Bowl of Inflation

By: Susan Heckler

February 2, 2014 will mark the NFL's Super Bowl XLVIII, better known as Super Bowl 48. Two other stadiums were part of the bidding process, Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, FL and Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, FL. The Met Life Stadium in East Rutherford won the pick. The last Super Bowl held in the New York area was back in December 30, 1962 when The Green Bay Packers faced the New York Giants in the original Yankee Stadium.

This will be the first Super Bowl intentionally held in an open stadium in a cold-weather city. The previous ones were in indoor stadiums. The coldest outdoor Super Bowl of the first 47 games was in 1972 in New Orleans where the kickoff temperature was 39 degrees.

According to The Farmer's Almanac, the forecast for that week may not be conducive to an outdoor event. The predictions are for bitter cold with piercing winds. Tracking the weather history for our area in the 47 years of Super Bowls, the high temperatures ranged from 57 degrees to 16 degrees, averaging to 40 degrees.

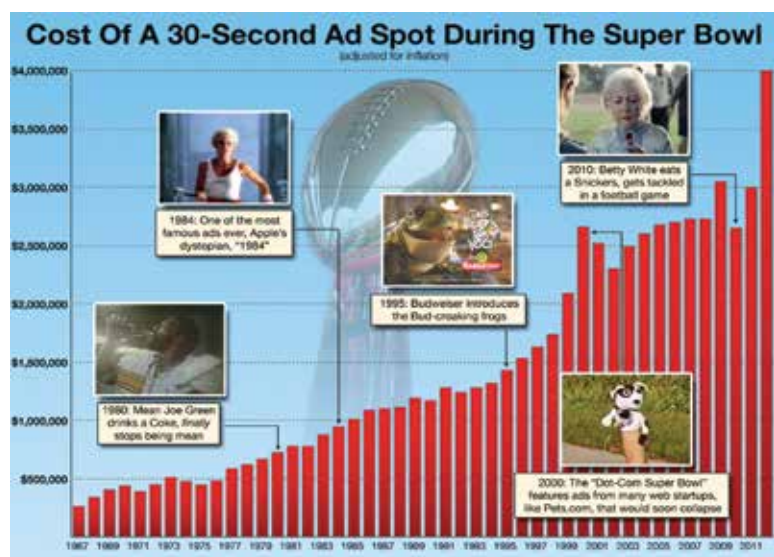
Super Bowl I was played on January 15, 1967 following the 1966 regular season. The cost of a ticket topped out at \$12, but then again admissions to a movie were only \$1.20 in that year. Back then, you could buy a home for the cost of a modest car now. According to the NFL website, 160 ticket listings are offered from \$3,120 in the 300 End Zone up to \$14,718 at the 100 Club Level. The chart below ends at 2012 so the current ticket prices are literally 'off the chart.'



CBS/AP

Halftime shows have drawn more than 100,000,000 viewers in the United States alone in the past years. This year, 27-year-old Grammy winner Bruno Mars will entertain the masses. Born in Hawaii with the name Peter Gene Hernandez, he is a 14 time Grammy nominee and has sold more than 115 million singles.

One of fan favorites are the commercials aired throughout the broadcast. Fox Sports is said to be charging \$4 million for a 30 second commercial spot. See that chart below; you may remember some of those ads.



Which of our major corporation's ads can you expect to see while scooping your guacamole? Anheuser-Busch InBev, Butterfinger (Nestle), Chevrolet (General Motors), Doritos (PepsiCo's Frito-Lay), GoDaddy.com, Hyundai Motor America, Intuit, Jaguar, Kia Motor, Mars, Oikos (Dannon), PepsiCo Beverages, and Wonderful Pistachios have made the commitment with many others to follow shortly.

Football lovers and haters alike will gather on this momentous occasion in history for their own reasons. Some come to watch the game, some come to watch the half time entertainment, some come to view the latest in television commercials and some come for the food. Others come because they would rather be at your house than making a mess in their own.

For whatever your reasons...eat heartily, drink responsibly, and be as merry as can be! ■

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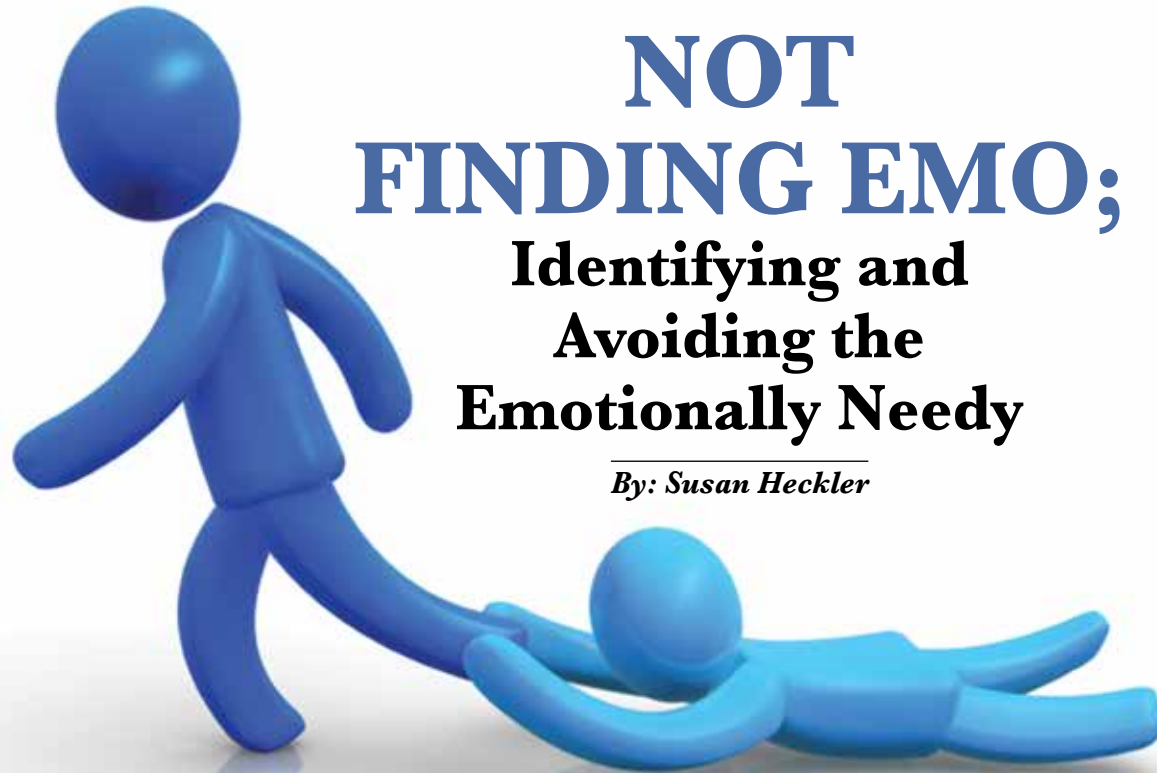
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NOT FINDING EMO;

Identifying and Avoiding the Emotionally Needy

By: Susan Heckler

Do you think you are intelligent? There are many different types of intelligence, which affect us in many ways. Intelligence is way more than book smarts.

How intelligent are you emotionally? Do you understand yourself and your relationship with other people? Are you a deep thinker? Existential Intelligence is the understanding and capacity to tackle deep questions about human existence. What is the meaning of life, why do we die, and how did we get here? Interpersonal intelligence is the gift of understanding and interacting successfully with others. These people smarts involve effective verbal and nonverbal communication, understanding the moods and temperaments of others, and the ability to consider multiple viewpoints. Educators, social workers, and politicians all demonstrate high interpersonal intelligence. Intra-personal intelligence is the capacity to understand yourself and your own thoughts and feelings. Also known as Self Smart, this trait can be found in psychologists, spiritual leaders, and philosophers.

People with high emotional intelligence are self-aware, confident, motivated, disciplined, empathetic, and generally possess great social skills. They are typically successful and well respected. These are your 'go-to' people.

According to Judith Orloff MD, there are four different emotional types. We can all recognize which one we are and identify our friends and family in these categories too.

TYPE #1 is called The Intellectual. They are bright, expressive, logical, intellectually oriented, and often take refuge in their mind to cope with problems. They can also be extremely analytical and are comfortable with fixing problems logically and intellectually. They are able to stay calm in emotionally charged situations. Unfortunately, they often have difficulty connecting with feelings and can give the impression of being aloof.

TYPE #2 is called The Empath. These people are highly sensitive, giving, spiritual and great listeners. They are passionate and intuitive and emotionally responsive. They also tend to be emotional sponges, easily absorbing others' negativity. This makes them very prone to anxiety, depression,

and fatigue. They need to avoid people who will drain them.

TYPE #3 is called The Rock because they are emotionally strong for themselves and others. They are practical, cool-headed and tend to be nonjudgmental. They get along with nearly everyone, in part because they would rather avoid conflict than confront it. This can lead to frustration and resentment.

TYPE #4 would be The Gusher. They are spontaneous, direct and know their own emotions. They aren't afraid to share them either. They are typically easily forgiving, make and keep friends, value intimate relationships, and process hard issues easily. They can be dramatic, turn their friends into therapists and seek external feedback rather than relying on own intuition. They can be the bearers of TMI (too much information).

So which one are you and which types do you associate with? You may notice there are people in your life that are excessively needy emotionally and tend to suck the happiness and energy right out of you. When you speak with someone or spend time with them, how do you feel afterward? This question can determine if is a healthy relationship for you.

One of the keys to a healthy relationship, whether it is a friendship, romance or business relationship, is to understand yourself. If you know what makes you happy and at your best, you are one step closer to identifying who you would be best associating with. What is your self-image? How do people perceive you? We are all dynamic; changing from minute to minute due to emotions, beliefs, viewpoints, and even health. If you have a headache, you will react differently. A bad night sleep will change your perspective too.

If you have determined that your relationship with a person is negative, you need to do something to change that. Sometimes it is a matter of redefining boundaries with them. Are you sensitive to your material boundaries? Do you mind sharing or lending your possessions? You may need to change this. Does this person respect your physical boundaries? Different cultures appreciate different personal space. Americans typically like to keep their conversations at arm's length

whereas other cultures are more 'in your face,' meaning too up close and personal for your comfort. Most important in a relationship is your emotional boundaries. These distinguish separating your own emotions and your responsibility for them from someone else's. Do you carry the weight for someone else? Healthy boundaries prevent you from giving advice, blaming or accepting blame. They protect you from personalizing someone else's negative feelings or problems and taking others' comments to heart. High reactivity suggests weak emotional boundaries. Healthy emotional boundaries require clear internal boundaries – knowing your feelings and your responsibilities to yourself and others.

Healthy boundaries allow you to have high self-esteem and self-respect, have a trusting relationship, prevent physical and emotional space from intrusion, share responsibility and power, assert yourself and separate your needs, thoughts, feelings, and desires from others. A healthy boundary allows you to empower yourself to make healthy choices and take responsibility for yourself.

If you need to set or reset a boundary, the best way is to do it clearly, calmly, firmly, respectfully, and in as few words as possible. Do not justify, get angry, or apologize for the boundary you are setting. Your responsibility is to effectively communicate your boundaries respectfully. People, who are accustomed to controlling, abusing, or manipulating you, might test you. Expect it from them but stand firm. This is a new way of thinking for you and it will take time for you to not feel guilty or selfish. You need to remember you have the right to your own happiness.

The people who control, manipulate and abuse are toxic to your well-being. If being with them leaves you less than cool, calm and collected (the three C's), you may need to resort to the three D's. If they are unable or unwilling to accept your needed boundaries, then maybe the relationship needs some thought. Surround yourself with people who respect you and your boundaries. It is a process, but one that is worth developing. Detach, disassociate or diffuse a relationship with impossible people. ■

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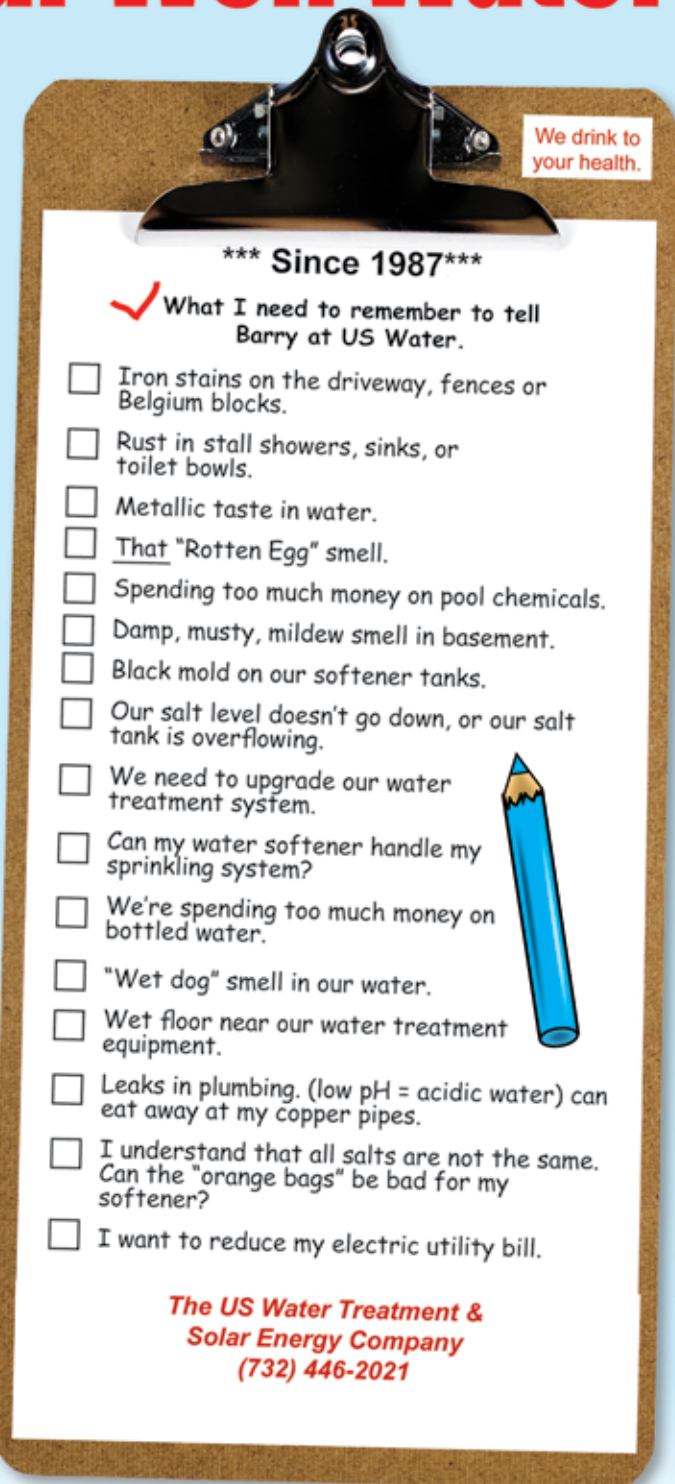
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Dancer Bill Brings NJ into Compliance with Federal Child Abuse Act; Measure will Protect Federal Funding



In an effort to require public disclosure of findings and information in child abuse cases and prevent the loss of federal funding for child abuse identification, prevention, and treatment activities, Assemblyman Ron Dancer has introduced legislation mandating that New Jersey regulations conform to federal regulations.

"Despite preventative measures and interventions, child fatalities and near fatalities due to abuse and neglect is a serious problem throughout the nation as well as in New Jersey," stated Dancer, R-Ocean, Burlington, Middlesex and Monmouth. "The circumstances surrounding such deaths are often complicated and involve intricate data collection from various sources.

"Due to the serious nature of this issue, it's important that New Jersey be in compliance with federal law so we don't jeopardize federal funding that is vital to battling this heinous crime against society's most vulnerable and, at the same time, heighten public awareness of these crimes by requiring pertinent child abuse information shall be made public."

Dancer's bill, A-4477, clarifies the State's procedure to require the public release of information about child abuse or neglect cases resulting in child fatalities or near fatalities so that it mirrors recently updated federal regulations governing public disclosure under the "Child Abuse Prevention Treatment Act (CAFTA).

CAFTA provides federal funding to states in support of prevention, assessment, investigation, prosecution, and treatment activities and also provides grants to public agencies and nonprofit organizations for demonstration programs and projects.

Under the Act, states are required to develop procedures for the public release of information that includes, but is not limited to: the cause of, and circumstances regarding the fatality or near fatality; the age and gender of the child; information describing any previous reports of child abuse or neglect investigations and its results; and the services provided and actions taken by the State on behalf of the child that are pertinent to the abuse or neglect that led to the fatality or near fatality.

According to the Child Welfare League of America, 9,546 children were victims of abuse or neglect in New Jersey in 2010. That's up 2.7 percent from the previous year. Of that number, 18 children died as a result of the abuse/neglect. ■



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PLEASE MENTION YOU SAW THIS AD IN THE MILLSTONE TIMES

Millstone's 16U Cheetahs Champions of Tournament that Helped Raise Funds for Ovarian Cancer

By: Pam Teel



The girls on the 16U Cheetahs fast pitch softball team from Millstone Township should be proud. They had a busy winning season under the direction of Coach Shannon Bailey, a former Allentown High School softball player herself. The team was recently crowned Champions of the 2013 EHT Softball Ovarian Cancer Benefit Tournament in Egg Harbor Township this past fall at the Childs-Kirk Memorial Softball Complex.

This was the second Annual Ovarian Cancer Benefit Tournament held in Egg Harbor Township, sponsored by the Susan Marie Rupp Foundation and hosted by THE EHT X'treme (Egg Harbor Township Youth Softball league). The Susan Marie Rupp Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in loving memory of Susan Marie (McCullen) Rupp, who courageously battled recurring Ovarian Cancer for eight years. Susan was a resident of Pine Hill, New Jersey, and was devoted to the town and the children in it. She was a sports coach and was involved in youth athletics for 39 years. She was also a teacher's assistant for 12 years. Susan lost her fight with ovarian cancer in 2010. Susan's family started a foundation shortly after her



passing to help bring awareness to ovarian cancer, to educate women on what symptoms to look for, and to raise funds to help with cancer research and education to hopefully one day find a cure for this silent killer.

In the seeding round of the tournament, the following players were named MVP's for the Cheetahs: Game #1- Damiana Del Bagno, Game #2- Gillian Adair, and Game #3- Kayla Tomazic. During the championship round, the Chee-

tahs went 3-0 and outscored their competition with a score of 35-4. In the final quarters they beat the Waretown Thunder by a score of 12-1. In the semifinals, they beat the Lady Yellow Jackets by a score of 6-0. In the finals, they beat the Buena's by a score of 17-3. Their pitchers were Rachel Julius, Gillian Adair, and Nicole Russo.

As a result of their sensational playing throughout the 2013 season, the 16U Cheetahs earned a berth into the ESPN World Series of Softball in Orlando, Florida. The team is comprised of almost all 14 and 15 year-old girls. If you are interested in finding out more about the girls' fast pitch softball team for all age levels go to: www.cheetahfastpitch.com.

The 16U Fast pitch roster is as follows: Gillian Adair, Katie Cavico, Rachel Julius, Veronica Parker, Madison Balke, Emily Bloom, Damiana DelBagno, Shelby Howell, Nicole Miller, Natalie Nazario, Nicole Russo, Courtney Skolka, Kayla Tomazic, Lillian Trella

Congratulations Cheetahs. All of your hard work has paid off. Good luck next season and at the ESPN World Series in Orlando! We'll be rooting for you! ■

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A Millstone Times Advertiser Is Named A Top 100 Restaurant



Coltello Ristorante Italiano announced today that it has been named a winner of OpenTable Diners' Choice Awards for the Top 100 Best Restaurants in America. The list of winners is derived from more than 5 million reviews submitted by OpenTable diners for approximately 19,000 restaurants in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

"The entire staff works hard in creating a dining experience, we are passionate and love what we do," said Proprietor Anthony Gervasi, Jr. "This list shows the best of the best and we are proud to be included. I applaud everyone on the list and congratulate our peers and friends."

"We congratulate the Top 100 Best Restaurants in America on achieving excellence in culinary creativity and hospitality," said Caroline Potter, OpenTable Chief Dining Officer. "Their skill at delighting diners on every level has consistently earned them rave reviews and a well-deserved spot on this exclusive list." ■

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PLEASE MENTION YOU SAW THIS AD IN THE MILLSTONE TIMES

DANIELA'S WISH

That Every Child Everywhere and their Family have Comfort and Safety, especially during times of Sadness

By: Pam Teel



Daniela Olt's wish is a tall order to fill but this 11-year-old girl from Colts Neck takes it in stride, as it has become part of her everyday life to help people in need. When she was just seven years old, Daniela was watching news of the Haiti Disaster on the television when a vision of a sad little boy came across the screen. She didn't quite understand the whole thing and when her parents explained to her what happened in Haiti; Daniela wanted to do something to help bring back the smiles of the children's who were affected by the earthquake. Daniela thought about what made her happy and she came up with the idea that every child should have a stuffed animal to hold, so she wrote a letter to her

school and to local businesses and started to collect stuffed animals to send over to Haiti. Her wish was to make all the children in Haiti feel as safe as they could during that devastating time. She didn't stop there; she even reached out to cookie companies and to people all over Monmouth County to help collect enough cookies along with the stuffed animals to send over.

"I would like all the children to have a teddy bear or other new stuffed animal to hold and feel safe, even for a moment," Daniela stated in her letter. "I also would like each child to have a box of cookies, nothing can be better than love, a stuffed toy and cookies to make me feel better and safe." The bottom of her letter read; "Signed a kid who cares." With the help of the community, Daniela sent over 300 stuffed animals and over 1000 cookies that year to Haiti. I'm quite sure she managed to put a smile on many a child's face, even for just a little while!

She wasn't through giving though. Her compassion and selflessness growing inside her, Daniela felt once again compelled to help put a smile on a sad child's face. This time after Hurricane Sandy hit, and with the support of the community, Daniela and her family filled up their garage with stuffed animals, donated gift cards, and books that were distributed to Sandy victims.

This past holiday season, Daniela has been collecting new blankets and gift cards for the Jersey Shore Children's Hospital and for Blankets for Love, for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Some of those blankets and gift cards collected went to children who were hospitalized and unable to come home for the holidays. Daniela's empathy toward others has spread throughout the community. Her sister Briyonna helps her out whenever she can. She recently donated her own gift card so she could help grant a sick child's wish and buy him an Xbox. Many others have come forward to help Daniela in her quest. Colts Neck High School students Bridget Corsi and Jordan Monello came across Daniela's Facebook page when someone told them about it and decided to get their school involved in helping out Daniela with her Wishes. They were on hand at the Freehold Mall recently to help Daniela out and they will be helping with future events by promoting them, collecting items such as gift cards, blankets, or whatever it is that Daniela will be collecting for the needy.

Daniela has also partnered up with The Microsoft Company, who allowed her to set up a booth in front of their store at the Freehold Mall this past December where she was collecting gift cards and blankets. The next time you see the "Daniela's Wishes" booth at the mall, please be sure to stop by and met this incredible child. Any gifts, gift cards, and money donations collected will be put to good use.

Daniela has had meetings with Child Coordinators at Jersey Shore Children's Hospital to find out what they needed to help make the young patients stay at the Hospital a little

Continued on page 38

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IN THE BURBS;

Live Theater in Red Bank with Phoenix Productions

By: Susan Heckler



If you love theater and the performing arts, you will absolutely love Phoenix Productions. Begun in Red Bank, this Community Theater has wowed and educated guests since 1988. Their Mission Statement “to provide quality theatrical experiences to our constituencies on both sides of the footlights. For our audiences, we aim to make high quality theatre accessible and affordable. For our performers, designers, and craftspeople, we aim to provide a nurturing, professional-quality environment in which they can polish and display their talents” says it all.

Their current theater devotees, a.k.a. Board of Trustees, are Todd Aikens, Robert Brown, Mike Dalberg, Wendy Dobbs, Laurie Edwards, Diego Goetz, Anthony Greco, Holly Hankins, James Marhold, Tom Martini, Scott Naef, Christine Paccillo, Melinda Wagner-Rosen, Lindsay Wood, Andrea Zawadzki with Tom Martini being the senior member of the gang. Tom is the Chairman and a Founding Member of the Board.

According to Lindsay Wood, President of Phoenix Productions, each production has a producer which is appointed by the Board of Trustees. Each producer appoints their own artistic staff and that staff handles auditions for that individual show. Shows are never pre-cast, meaning it is a level playing field for every person auditioning. Auditions are usually held 8-10 weeks in advance of the show. There are typically 30 or more performers in each production and 20 or more behind the scenes. Phoenix has been and continues to be a volunteer organization. They pay fees to directors, musicians and designers. The majority of the people who build their sets, sew their costumes and steer the organization work for the joy of bringing theatre to life.

The first show of the 2014 season will be Shrek the Musical in April, followed by Grease in July, The Sound of Music in September, and Spamalot in November. Ticket prices start at \$22 for a single show with subscriptions available for the season. They sell group tickets and gift certificates too. These shows are wonderful for the whole family or for ‘date night.’

The productions are performed at The Count Basie Theater

in Red Bank. Phoenix Productions has just purchased an 11,000 square foot facility for their rehearsals. Their new space is more than triple the size of the building that has been their home for the past 15 years. The new space will allow for smaller works in their own black box venue, an outreach program of traveling shows, a children’s theatre, senior theatre performing groups and a comprehensive musical theatre educational curriculum. This massive new undertaking will require a big fundraising push. Their modest ticket prices cover only about 75% of their expenses. To balance the budget, they depend on a grant from the NJ Council on the Arts and donations from corporations, foundations, and private individuals. If you are interested in helping them meet their financial goals, all contributions are tax deductible and appreciated in any denomination. There are rooms waiting to be named for donors.

If you would like to be a part of the company in any way and on either side of the curtain, information can be obtained from their website or call 732-747-0014.

Their day camp offers great opportunity for children who love to perform, their Triple Threat Youth Camps offer the complete Musical Theater Experience for children ages 7 through 13. Each four-week session meets five times a week with up to 15 students and covers audition techniques, monologues, improvisation, dance combinations, vocal training, and more. The sessions culminate in a performance showcase for family and friends on the last day of the session.

They have a special program designed for teens who want to learn and perfect the skills needed to become a Broadway Triple Threat! All programs include training in acting, voice and dance coupled with hands-on workshops to build confidence in various areas of musical theatre. All Teen Sessions culminate in a performance showcase for family and friends held on the last day of the session. The maximum enrollment is 20 campers.

Be a part of Broadway on Monmouth Street in Red Bank. Support the show or be in the show with the convenience of staying local. You will love the homegrown talent. I’ll see you there! ■

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At Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank:

- Jim Gaffigan will perform at two shows on Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- See Jackie Mason on Jan. 5 at 3 p.m.
- An Evening of Insights and Live Readings with Sylvia Brown on Jan. 8 at 8 p.m.
- Listen to the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Jan. 11 at 8 p.m.
- Don't miss The Elvis Birthday Bash on Jan. 17 at 8 p.m.
- Reinventing Radio: An Evening with Ira Glass takes place on Jan. 19 at 7 p.m.
- Take the kids to Jim Henson's Dinosaur Live! On Jan. 29 at 3 p.m.
- Enjoy An Evening with Brandford Marsalis Jan. 30 at 8 p.m.

A new comedy by Wendy Yondorf, *Admit One* will be performed at the NJ Repertory Company in Long Branch Jan. 16 through Feb. 16. Filled with laughter and music, Shakespeare's *As You Like It* can be seen at Two River Theater in Red Bank Jan. 25 through Feb. 16.

Pollak Theatre at Monmouth University does not disappoint with their January schedule:

- If you love opera, make sure to check out *Tosca* Encore on Jan. 19 at 1 p.m. and *Falstaff* Encore on Jan. 26 at 1 p.m.
- The Provost Film Series presents *Walk on Water* on Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m.
- Shakespeare's tragedy of manipulation and revenge, *Coriolanus*, will be performed on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m.

Make sure to take in one of the great restaurants in Monmouth County. Immediate seating and special menus are available.

Remember, Monmouth County is a great place to stay if you are planning to attend the first New Jersey hosted Super Bowl in February. Check out the Super Bowl 2014 section of the Tourism website.

As always, Monmouth County's Calendar of Events will provide you with even more January entertainment. For a complete listing of events, go to www.visitmonmouth.com and click on the Tourism tab to find the Calendar of Events. Compiled by the Monmouth County Department of Public Information and Tourism, it is a comprehensive source for things to do and places to go and is updated regularly. You can also call 1-800-523-2587 to have a packet of information mailed to you, or stop by 1 East Main St., Freehold to browse the extensive literature between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays. ■

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Taxation on Horse Stalls? REALLY?

By: Susan Heckler

There has been a trend in New Jersey, among the legislature, to make New Jersey not only a better place to live but also a better place to own and operate a business. For many years, businesses abandoned our state for 'greener pastures,' the green being financial rewards.

According to Forbes Magazine, based on the moving company United Van Lines' 36th annual study of customer moving patterns, New Jersey is number one in the percentage of outbound moves in 2012 at 62.3% with the number of exits tracked being 3,925. Many of these moves are in response to businesses leaving the state with employees and their families relocating to follow.

"New Jersey has been suffering from deindustrialization for some time now, as manufacturing moved from the Northeast to the South and West," says economist Michael Stoll, professor and chair of the Department of Public Policy at the University of California, Los Angeles. "And because it's tied to New York, the high housing costs may also be pushing people out."

One industry that has been impacted is the Equine Industry. According to a report by Rutgers in 2010, "The New Jersey equine industry is valued at \$4 billion and generates \$1.1 billion (\$780 million due to racing) annually in positive impact on the state economy. It is responsible for 13,000 jobs, more than half of which are generated by racing-related interests such as race tracks and horse breeding and training facilities. The New Jersey equine industry pays an estimated \$160 million annually in federal, state, and local taxes (\$85 million generated by equine operations and owners and \$75 million generated by New Jersey racetracks)."

The report continues, "A total of 176,000 total acres support equine facilities in New Jersey. Approximately 96,000 of these acres are directly related to equine activities, 78,000 are devoted to pasture and hay production, with 46,000 additional acres producing hay and forage on non-equine-related operations. Equine-related acres represent more than one-fifth of the state's 790,000 acres in agriculture. Equine animals and operations account for 42,500 horses housed in New Jersey."

An example of what has been pushing this business out of the

state is that currently the rental of a stall for boarding an equine animal is subject to New Jersey sales tax because it is considered to be the rental of a storage unit for the storage and maintenance of property. This is not so in other states.

State Assemblyman Ron Dancer, a Plumsted resident whose family has been involved in the equine industry for generations, has sponsored a proposed bill A-4479 asking for clear and consistent guidance on the taxability of boarding and other equine services. "Lifting that cloud of confusion also removes a handicap that is making it difficult for New Jersey horse businesses to compete with out-of-state rivals who can offer lower rates for the same service," said Dancer.

In a recent press release from Dancer, "Confusion regarding the taxability of horse boarding and other services has placed New Jersey horse boarding businesses at a competitive disadvantage," said Dancer. "This legislation is needed to level the playing field with our competing neighboring states of New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware."

Surrounding states do not collect tax on charges for boarding horses, but in our state, the failure to clarify tax collection responsibilities for horse boarding and other services has had a severe negative impact on business. Exempting these services from uncustomary taxation eliminates the confusion and reduce the higher cost of doing business in New Jersey as compared to our neighboring and competing states."

In an interview with Joan Harper, member of the Board of Trustees for The Horse Park of New Jersey for six years, she stated, "Over a year ago I started to bring the issue to light along with Dana Bowling, a Mount Laurel attorney with experience in the Equine Industry. We pushed to have a meeting of the minds. That finally happened in January and it has been a slow process but now the ball is rolling thanks to NJ Farm Bureau asking Ron Dancer to sponsor the Bill change. Everyone who has an interest in the process needs to get informed and support the effort. We need to help the horse industry kept alive in NJ."

After the new version of the bill is introduced at the beginning of the next legislative session, they will be working alongside people involved in all facets of the industry to encourage citizens to contact their respective legislators, asking them to vote in favor of passing the bill. To find contact information for your representatives, visit the New Jersey Legislature's website.

You don't own a horse or ride one so why should you care? As you drive along the magnificent scenic roads of Western Monmouth County and, for that matter, much of New Jersey, imagine these roads devoid of the horse farms. Think of them cluttered with strip malls and condos and how it would make your drive a lot less enjoyable. If that doesn't work, think of your wallet. The more businesses and wealth that leaves the state, the larger your share of the expenses will be. After all, someone will have to pick up the slack. ■

"Lifting that cloud of confusion also removes a handicap that is making it difficult for New Jersey horse businesses to compete with out-of-state rivals who can offer lower rates for the same service," said Dancer.

TOSS YOUR TREE, BOOST A DUNE

Recycle your Christmas tree and help rebuild the sand dunes of Bradley Beach

Please join Plumsted Youth for Nature and the Environment (PYNE) for its second annual tree recycling program.

Old Christmas trees are being recycled as part of coastal dune restoration and protection in Bradley Beach. Dunes are the first line of defense against beach erosion and coastal storms like Hurricane Sandy. By recycling used Christmas trees along the sand dunes, the branches of the trees bind the sand together, helping to prevent beach and dune erosion. As the trees decompose, they provide nutrients for the dune grasses as well. Since the trees decompose, they must be replaced yearly.

If you would like to recycle your Christmas tree, please bring it to the Plumsted Township Maintenance Building parking lot, located at the end of Pine Street (off of Magnolia Avenue) in New Egypt, on January 4th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, January 5th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm, January 11th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, and January 12th from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Volunteers will be on hand to help unload your tree.

Please remove all tinsel, lights, ornaments, and other adornments from your tree.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Dominic Esposito at pyne.vicepresident@gmail.com, or 609-758-1848, or Mitchell Mann at pyne.president@gmail.com. We can also provide local curbside pick-up if you cannot deliver your tree to Pine Street.

Give your Christmas tree a second act! Show your commitment to the Jersey shore by helping to protect the shoreline. ■

PLUMSTED YOUTH FOR NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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Walnridge Farms; Historical and Important to the Equine Community

By: Susan Heckler

The name Waln has been a fixture in our area since the English Quakers arrived with William Penn in 1682. Richard Waln became a landowner in Upper Freehold in 1774 where he built his home and a mill. This original property is now in the hands of the Monmouth County Parks System and it is known as Walnford.

Walnridge Farm was purchased in 1830 by Nicholas Waln for his son Richard. This farm was to become Walnridge. Elizabeth Waln married John Meirs in 1861 connecting two families. John Meirs was the great-grandson of the first David Meirs who we know was farming in Upper Freehold Township before, during, and after the American Revolution. According to their website, the children now at the farm are the seventh generation of this family to be at Walnridge.

Dr. David A. Meirs, II inherited in 1952 while he was a student at the Veterinary School of the University of Pennsylvania. At the time Walnridge was a struggling dairy operation. After his graduation Dr. Meirs tried managing a mixed veterinary practice in Freehold while also trying unsuccessfully to revive the farm. Ultimately, the cows were sold and the land rented to other farmers.

In 1965 Dr. Meirs established Walnridge Equine Clinic. The New Jersey Sire Stakes program begun in 1972 led to attempt at breeding Standardbred horses as well. The first stallion to stand at Walnridge was PEERSWICK, a horse imported from New Zealand and acquired through Stanley Dancer. He had distinguished himself by being the first horse to pace a mile in two minutes in New Jersey.

In 1974, Dr. Meirs son, David III, returned to Walnridge after attending Delaware Valley College. In 1982 his second son, Richard, graduated from the Veterinary School at the Uni-



versity of Pennsylvania and became an associate of Walnridge Equine Clinic. Today Richard is the General Manager of Walnridge Farm, Inc. the Director of Walnridge Equine Clinic P.C.

In 1989 the Meirs family decided to participate in New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program and sold the development rights to Walnridge. This action insures that these 300 beautiful historic acres of Monmouth County will remain a part of agriculture forever. We thank them heartily. Their farm is one of those that you pass by with a smile along with an Uhh and Ahhh.

The Walnridge Equine Clinic was founded in 1965 by David A. Meirs II, V.M.D... It is one of few such clinics to be based on a Standardbred horse breeding farm. Richard S. Meirs, V.M.D., now runs the practice alongside associate Bruce N. Barnes, V.M.D.

The clinic has on-site surgery for elective procedures, and conducts a general ambulatory equine practice in the area. They also provide all veterinary care for the many mares that come to foal on Walnridge Farm each year. They also provide a wide array of clinical and ambulatory services to the equine community as well as offer 24 hour emergency service.

Through the combined efforts of the Meirs family, Walnridge is now recognized throughout the Standardbred world as a pre-eminent breeding farm and an excellent veterinary facility. Each breeding season Walnridge cares primarily for Standardbred mares, foals and yearlings, as well as some Thoroughbred, Quarter horse and Warmblood mares and foals.

Thanks to their participation in the Farmland Preservation Program, Walnridge Farms will remain a beautiful asset to the area. For more information on their services, contact Walnridge Farm 42 Arneytown Hornerstown Road, Cream Ridge New Jersey 08514 | (609) 758-8208. ■

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offer or discount. Limited time offer.



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(feeds 20-25 people)

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Santa makes a surprise visit to Vesuvio's to help celebrate their "Winter Wonderland"

Winter Wonderland At Vesuvio's Plaza

By: Pam Teel

Despite the chilling rain, people came out to Vesuvio's Plaza on December 6th to join in the festivities of "Winter Wonderland" sponsored by Kathi Greene of Blue Waters Boutique and the Costagliola family, owners of Vesuvio's Restaurant and Pizzeria.

The Allentown High School Quartet packed the restaurant as they played some of their favorite holiday music. Millstone resident and artist, Neha Memom, did a great job painting children's faces throughout the night. Girl Scout Troop 1318 and Blue Waters Boutique helped to collect money for the Make a Wish Foundation. Kathi Greene also held surprise sales and raffles at her Blue Waters Boutique. All cash donations collected for the Make a Wish Foundation went toward the sponsorship of a child. (If you would like to take a future tour of the Make A Wish Foundation, you can contact Blue Waters Boutique for more information). Young performers from Cornerstone Music also played for the crowd.

On hand were sisters, 10-year-old Emilia, and 14 year old Juliet Cunningham, who collected new pajama's for the Family and Children Services of Monmouth County to be used for foster children during their first night away from home and for the One Simple Wish Foundation. They delivered 88 pairs of pajamas to the Family and Children Services Operation Sleigh Bells and they have at least 75 more pajamas that they will give to the One Simple Wish Foundation. Their helpers, Maeve Touhey and Laura DePinha, helped to hand out cups of hot chocolate to the crowd.

The Millstone Township Presbyterian Church Youth Group added to the festivities as they paraded from one store to the next singing Christmas Carols. Of course the night was not complete until Jolly Old Saint Nick made an appearance to the delight of the young children. Many thanks to all of the people who came out on such a dark damp night to lend your support. ■



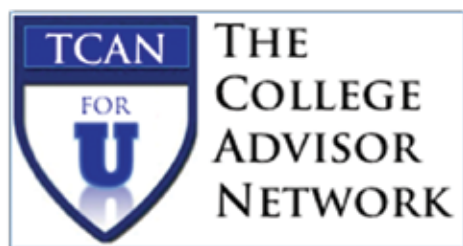
Emily and Sarah Pallito and Olivia Lomma enjoyed getting their faces painted.



Director Joe Brausam and the girls from the Allentown High School Quintet Band. Maddie Kaba, Rachel Becker, Emma Herrigby, Amanda Eider, and Natalie Watt.



Sister Amelia and Juliet Cunningham collecting pajama's at Vesuvio's Plaza



PRESENTS

The Millstone Times' Student of the Month VICTORIA CINGOLANI

By: Pam Teel

Victoria lives in Millstone Township and she is a freshman at Allentown High School. This fourteen year old loves high school and focuses very hard on her studies and classwork. Two of her courses, World Cultures and English, are honor courses that allow her to not only mingle with other freshmen, but to make friends with students from other grades. She likes that she can make friends with a wide range of students. She finds that there is more freedom in high school and that it is fun to have a diversity of friends. Being somewhat outgoing, it's not hard to see how easy it is for her to make friends; her mom calls her Miss Sociable, but when it comes to buckling down to schoolwork, Victoria hangs around with close friends who have the same goals in mind. Always focused on getting the best grades that she can, Victoria's favorite subject is English. She loves reading, writing, and even

doing essays. She even dabbles in poetry.

Her favorite books that she has read include the Mortal Instruments Series, Infernal Devices by Cassandra Claire, and historical fiction books such as Leviathan. She loves to read fantasy fiction. Her favorite Television shows are Dr. Who, Supernatural, the Food Network and Four Weddings.

Victoria keeps busy with many extra activities. She is an alter server at St. Joseph's Church. She belongs to the High School Youth Group and serves as a guide for the younger children during Vacation Bible School. She loves anything crafty, like scrapbooking and making bracelets. She likes photography and is a Color Guard in the Allentown High School Marching Band.

Her favorite sport is running. She was on Track and Field in the middle school and would like at some point to get back into it. Her favorite bands are the Fallout Boys and Panic at the Disco. She loves going to plays in the city. After high school, Victoria would like to focus on a career. She would either like to become a radiologist or do something in the field of Medical Technology. She would also like to live in the city and be an office manager. She plans on taking business courses in college.

Victoria lives with her mom and dad, older sister Christina, and older brother Michael. She and her sister are very close. Victoria prides herself with being self-sufficient and having the ability to be able to speak well with adults. She enjoys her trips into Brooklyn to visit her grandmother. Even though her grandmother speaks little English, she is extremely close to her. She is looking forward to a family trip to Italy and the British Isles coming up very soon.

Her favorite holiday is Christmas. She loves to decorate and use her crafty side. She loves listening to all of the Christmas songs too. If she had one wish, it would be to be able to live stress free with no anxieties in this ever-changing world.

Good luck to you Victoria. Stay focused and keep up the good grades in high school. I have no doubt you will achieve all of your dreams and wishes! ■

Making this journey and applying to college takes thought, effort and organization. We at THE COLLEGE ADVISOR NETWORK help you navigate through the journey. We assist in research in order to develop a college list based on your needs, work with you on the application process, closely collaborate with other professionals to ensure all your questions are answered and overall help ease the process. Whether you are student in high school, college or a parent looking for the best options for your child, contact us today and let us help make this an amazing journey! Call 732-617-1577 for information on how to begin your college application process.

Jr. Midgets Flying High This Season

By: Pam Teel

The Millstone Jr. Midget Cheer Team has had an amazing season. They started with the Central Jersey Championship, then moved on to the State Championship and then went to Albany to be named Eastern Regional Champions.

On December 11th, the Jr. Midgets met up with nine other teams from around the country to compete in the level 3 division at Nationals, which was held in Disney World in Florida. The competition was tough and the girls gave it all they had. They came back to Millstone with the 4th place trophy and the honor of knowing they had all the skill and drive to compete in this category.

It was amazing how much skill this team showcased during this season alone. These girls have been working on their tumbling and stunting skills for many years. This year it just all came together.

The coaching staff couldn't be prouder of what these girls have accomplished. These 22 girls have created a level of cheer in Millstone that surpasses all others.

The girls are:

Bailey Ambrose, Haley Anderson, Srinidhi Baile, Kaitlyn Bergen, Emily Caunt, Victoria Cotilla, Alexa DeSantis, Kate Henderson, Katie Kelley, Danielle Mangrella, Cassidy Meidling, Olivia Miller, Peri Mishkin, Emily Obusek, Sydney Peake, Jada Raff, Madison Regina, Jillian Rekulak, Ava Scudillo, Gianna Skowronski, Julia Timmoneri and Meghana Vasa.

Head Coach -

Nicole Scudillo,

Assistant Coaches -

Stacy DeSantis, Solveig Kelley and Sharon Peake.

Junior Coaches -

Courtney Henig, Lauren Munoz and Alexa Scudillo

*Good luck to the Jr. Midgets
in all your future endeavors!*

Millstone Performers

Continued from page 1

Cast of *Alice in Wonderland*: Talia Hansen, Emma Bogusz, Ellie Mashkevich, Christina Rivello, Maeve Touhey, Angela Spadaccini, Emelia Cunningham, Cassandra Leach, Laura De Pinho, Emma Morris - Alice, Alexandra Miller- The White Rabbit, Sean Whalen The Mad Hatter, Georgia Kuchar Queen of Hearts #1, Brielle Peerboom Queen of Hearts #2, Andy Hill Tweedledee, Giuseppe Scibilia- Twiddledum



The King and Queen of Hearts with Alice and the White Rabbit

children rise to the challenge of learning parts and getting more comfortable performing in front of an audience. "She literally has seen them grow throughout the years. With tender nurturing and direction, she has watched as they transform on stage into their characters, creating an exciting performance for everyone to behold and at the same time boosting their confidence in themselves as individuals. "The children all help each other out as they work towards one main goal and that is to bring the best production that they can to the people that come to see their plays," Lisa says proudly. "I would like to thank all of my actors on an amazing performance. The script was extremely challenging. The characters were quirky- to say the least! The dialogue was complicated and didn't always follow a logical thought pattern. These young performers had to know what these lines meant and figure out how to communicate that meaning to the audience. On top of that, they had to go outside of their comfort zone and create whimsical, larger than life characters, all while remembering their lines and blocking. This took a lot of work, not just at rehearsals, but practice on their own. They all took on this challenge with professionalism and enthusiasm. I believed they learned that you could work hard and still have fun at the same time. After the first performance I asked them if they wanted to do it again and the response was a loud overwhelming chorus of, "YES!" I am so proud of what they accomplished and how they went about accomplishing it. I am so grateful that they share the love of the theater with me! I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all of the people who helped bring "Wonderland" to life by sharing their talent with us. All of your professional touches really helped create a full theatrical experience for our 3-5th graders."

Not only did the cast of 43 feel the jubilation of the production, but also everyone else who was involved should be proud that they were a part of it, from the stagehands to the set designers, to the volunteers who made the costumes. Allentown senior, Jamie Porzl, helped out as the head stage manager, with Sophomore Nicole Pellicone and seventh graders Carlo Scibilia and Victor Cappuzzo as her assistants. The set and scenery were created by eighth grade students who signed up for a scene design class offered by the Community Education Program, under the instruction of Ms. Jamie Allaire of Jackson. Once again, Barbara Schulze, the director of Community Education, along with some of the parents who volunteered their time and talents, made all the costumes that the children wore.

This was fifth grader Andy Hill's second play. He played Twiddledee. When he is on stage, he loves to hear when people laugh. His good friend, fourth grader Giuseppe Scibilia, who played Twiddledum, has been in three other plays before this production. With each play he is in, he feels like he is learning more and getting better and better with his lines.



Tweedledee and Twiddledum played by Andy Hill and Giuseppe Scibilia with Alice



The Mad Hatter takes a moment to think played by Sean Whalen

Amelia Cunningham, also in the fourth grade, was one of several actresses who played the part of Alice. She loves to act and sing. These programs give her a chance to do what she loves to do the most. She likes to perform in front of the audience and has met a lot of friends who share the same interests as she does.

This was fourth grader, Emma Bogusz's fifth time in a production. She also played the part of Alice. She thinks it's cool to pretend to be a different person. She has met a lot of friends in the group. She particularly loved being in this play and loved how they were able to create a magical wonderland.

This was Fourth grader Alyssa Hack's first play although she did attend the summer theater camp. She played the March Hare. She also loved hearing the people in the audience laugh and was very grateful to Ms. Cappuzzo and the others for all of their advice and direction.

Fifth grader Georgia Kuchar has been in about eight plays and loves being able to show everyone what she can do. She played the Queen of Hearts and she loved it that she was able to exaggerate the role and have a lot of fun with it.

Third grader, Maura Whalen, was the number one mouse. She loves being on stage and acting in front of everyone. She especially enjoyed being in a play that her brother, Sean Whalen, was in. He played the Mad Hatter.

It's easy to see that the children have all developed strong bonds with each other and they all look forward to the next

spring production. Millstone should be proud to have so many dedicated moms and teachers to help run these special programs for them. "It's an atmosphere where they can be themselves and be able to express themselves by putting their own personalities and special touches on their characters," stated Ms. Cappuzzo.

If your child has some interest in being a part of the theater group, even if he/she is not sure about performing on stage in front of an audience, there is always room to help out behind the scenes and having them see for themselves if this might be for them.

As for Ms. Cappuzzo, she will be directing the Middle School Drama Club's production of "Oliver," which will be performed on March 6th and 7th (If you're interested, auditions are starting soon). Ms. Whalen will be directing two upcoming productions. "Another Night on Broadway," which will feature local and professional talent of all ages on February 8th and the next Community Education Production, which will feature children from the first- fifth grade on April 1st. Ms. Cappuzzo will be assisting with both productions.

The plays are for everyone to come and see. You don't have to have a child in the play to enjoy a night out! Check out the Millstone Township Performing Arts Center website for more information about other upcoming performances! ■

BORDENTOWN CITY

Continued from page 9

brochure published by the downtown Bordentown Association. There you will find a wide array of fine dining, shops and services offered throughout the town!

If you're into frequenting the historic sites, there is plenty to see from the Old Friends Meeting House at 302 Farnsworth Ave, the Patience Wright House at 100 Farnsworth Avenue, to the Old Burial Ground at Christ Church Graveyard on Church Street where many notables were buried with some graves dating back to the revolutionary war. Make sure you pick up a detailed map of the historical buildings and sites before you go. The Bordentown Historical Society offers a pamphlet for self guided tours. You can visit their site on the Internet to download their brochure.

Throughout the year Bordentown plays host to many other events such as the Street of Dreams Antique Car show, the Annual Peach Social, the Historical Garden Tour, the Farmers Market at Carslake Center, a historical town-wide yard sale, and more. Go to: www.downtownbordentown.com for upcoming events. Plan on spending a few hours discovering this quaint town. You'll find it less than a half hour away and very convenient to get to!

Making the town even more special is that it is located on the Delaware River where it meets up with the Crosswicks and Black Creek. There is a boat ramp located at the end

of Park Street and access to the river via the ramp. There is plenty of parking for your boat trailer. Permits can be picked up at the Police Station in town for day use or yearly. By boat it's a short ride up river where you can view Burlington City and towns like Bristol in Pennsylvania or pull your boat into a slip at a restaurant on the water and stop in for some fine food and drink.

The Bordentown train station lies to the left of the boat ramp just before the underpass where the river line runs from Philadelphia to Trenton to Camden with stops along the way. This rail line runs 34 miles along the Delaware River and stops at 21 different locations. You can catch the River Line for a small fee and take it to the next town up the river, Burlington City, get off and explore the many stores and shops that this town has to offer or just go to the park and sit by the river and watch all the boat activity.

Bordentown City is surrounded by rural Bordentown Township. At the Crosswicks Creek and its juncture with the Delaware River lies the Trenton-Hamilton Marsh, (also called the Abbott Marshland), a significant ecosystem. There is the peninsula of land and waterways to the northwest of Bordentown Township known respectively as Duck Island, Duck Creek and the Delaware and Raritan Canal. It is all protected by the State of New Jersey as the Duck Island Recreation Area. The Marshlands diverse habitats support over 1,200 species of plants and wildlife including the red-winged black bird, thrushes, warblers, woodpeckers, owls, ospreys,

great blue herons, egrets, ducks, geese, 900 species of plants, 22 species of mammals, 23 species of amphibians and reptiles, 62 species of fish, and 324 species of butterflies, all making their home in the marshlands. A number of them are rare or endangered. Native Americans have lived here more than 13,000 years ago, drawn to the marshland for its abundance of food. Many Native American artifacts have been discovered here. There are over 8 miles of walking trails and 11 miles of water trails. To learn more about the Marshlands, go to www.marsh-friends.org. You will find links to the tide tables and to trail maps.

One easy way to get to Bordentown is by taking route 195 west. Get off at the Arena Drive/ South Broad Street Exit. Take the furthest exit- (south Broad Street) and go straight ahead until you get to a small circle. Follow route 206 signs (make a left onto route 206). To get to the boat ramp and train station, take Amboy Avenue exit on right and continue straight. This turns into Park Street and will dump you off at the boat ramp and train station. You can make a left into town at Park Street or take Route 206 to route 130 south and make a right at Farnsworth Avenue. You will pass Amboy Avenue exit first. This will take you directly into town. If you've never been there before, you won't be disappointed! Exploring our neighbors businesses and supporting them helps to keep small town USA alive for generations to come! ■

DANIELA'S WISH

Continued from page 27

more pleasant. She has helped to collect new pajama's sizes ranging from 0-12 months to teen sizes, games, Xboxes, toys, DVD's, puzzles, arts and crafts and much more.

Daniela loves to personally deliver the gifts whenever she can. It gives her such pleasure to see the children's faces light up when she hands them a gift. She even has major sponsors who give her much support in her efforts; The Blue Claws Team in Lakewood, Adam Newman of Supreme Tutoring, and Cat Limousine. She has also teamed up in the past with Jacqueline Laurita of the Real Housewives of New Jersey to help out a family with special needs children whose home was destroyed by super Storm Sandy.

If you read all the accomplishments on Daniela's facebook page, you wouldn't believe that a mere eleven year old girl could have achieved what she has in the five years since she started her mission. With a heart as big as the sky, Daniela and her family have been able to grant wishes to hundreds of local families and children in need. She has been able to supply Lego's, toys, blankets, etc, for the Children's hospitals with the help of generous donations from local businesses, friends, and others as well. She has helped to put smiles back on sick

children's faces by granting them their wishes, teamed up with the Bayada Nurses in Toms River to help collect blankets, collected soda tabs to send to the Ronald McDonald House in Long Branch, collected clothes and bedding for homeless veterans, collected funding for Breast Cancer patients, and much more. She and her family also lend a hand whenever needed to local community benefits such as Bella's Buddies.

Bella is a young girl who was diagnosed with Tuberous Sclerosis Complex (TSC). TSC is a genetic disorder that causes tumors to form in many different organs, primarily in the brain. Bella's TSC was due to a "spontaneous mutated gene" that causes TSC. Some of the complications of TSC result in tumors in most of the vital organs of the body, seizures, cognitive impairment, and behavioral issues.

Bella requires a high level of care because of the complications of TSC. Bella takes approximately five different medications, several times a day (some medications are not FDA approved). Bella takes these medications, eleven pills at a time, without complaint. It has become as routine as brushing her teeth. Bella suffers from severe epileptic seizures, which sometimes can last up to an hour. Bella had brain surgery in July 2009, in an effort to control her seizures. However, after brain mapping, it was discovered that Bella's seizures were coming from both sides of her brain and doctors were unable

to remove the part of the brain where the seizures were coming from, because the area was just too vast. Bella now has to wear a helmet because of fear of her falling and her eyesight is getting worse. Her community has rallied around her family to show their support. To find out more about how you can help Bella go to: www.Bella'sbuddies.com.

To find out more about Daniela and help her in her mission to put a smile on a sad child's face go to: Daniela's Wish on facebook, email Danielaswish@gmail.com, or write to Daniela's Wish, P.O. Box 296, Colts Neck New Jersey, 07722

Daniela certainly is a kid who cares! Her love, devotion, and compassion in helping others is inspiring. It amazes me how much this young child has done to motivate others. It's comforting to see that the next generation is filled with compassion and genuine caring for others less fortunate. The world needs more role models like her to show them the way. Keep checking Daniela's facebook page for future events and ways that you can help. I am sure that Daniela will have many more events to come.

Whether you own a business, want to sponsor, or just want to donate, all you have to do is reach out to Daniela and her family and please help them to continue to make children's wishes come true! ■



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Friday, January 17th: DJ Dave

**Saturday, January 18th:
The Joe Kaplow Trio**

Friday, January 24th: DJ Dave

Saturday, January 25th: Tangled

Friday, January 31st: DJ Dave

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