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Former Belleville Mayor Raymond Kimble dies aged 80

By Kevin Canessa
kc@theobserver.com

FORMER BELLEVILLE MAYOR

Raymond Kimble, out of office just a little over a year, died Monday, July 22, the township's current Mayor Michael Melham said in a statement.

He was 80.

"It is with deep regret and sadness that I report former Mayor Raymond Kimble passed away this morning," Melham, who beat Kimble in a 2018 election, wrote. "Mayor Kimble served our township with distinction for many years in various capacities. From police officer, he rose through our ranks to become Police



See **KIMBLE, 9**

Nutley Little League team heading to California to play in Intermediate World Series

By Jim Hague
ogsmar@aol.com

THE NUTLEY AMERICAN

Little League Intermediate League 13-year-old All-Stars had just captured the East Regional championship last week in Commack, Long Island, and immediately, life became just a little hectic for the team's head coach Peter Breihof.

Nutley American defeated Berlin, Maryland, 13-3, in the championship game last Wednesday, steamrolling to the title thanks to a long ball explosion, but Breihof had little time to celebrate.

"As soon as I got home, I needed to provide Little League with every kid's

name and birth certificate," Breihof said.

Little League wanted all the information, because the newly crowned East Regional champions had to fly to Livermore, California (near Oakland) to play in the Intermediate League World Series with 11 other teams from the United States and abroad.

"We needed to fly everyone out of LaGuardia (Airport)," said Breihof in a phone interview from California before the locals played McCalla of Alabama, the Southeast Region champs, in the first round of the World Series Sunday night. "So we got everyone together at 3 a.m. at the Parks and

See **LITTLE LEAGUE, 14**

Busy week for the Keegan: Hearing, excessive readings, odors will be getting worse

By Kevin Canessa
kc@theobserver.com

IT WAS A BUSY WEEK IN THE WORLD OF THE KEEGAN

Landfill — including the start to a hearing to determine whether the landfill should remain closed forever, word that the odors are going to get worse before they get better and hydrogen sulfide readings off the charts that don't seem to matter to any state agencies.

Representatives from the Town of Kearny and the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority were in court in Jersey City late last week for the hearing that is expected to last into this week, according to Mayor Alberto G. Santos.

"The hearing began today (Thursday, July 25) with testimony by the town's health official and expert toxicologist," Santos said. "It will be continued tomorrow afternoon (Friday, July 26) and will run into next week with testimony by the

expert engineers. We need to be patient. This will be a very deliberate process, with experts from both sides testifying and then cross-examination by both sides."

The case is being heard in the old Courthouse on Newark Avenue in Jersey City before Judge Jeff Jablonski. The Town of Kearny is suing the NJ-

See **KEEGAN, 10**

HIGHLIGHTS

Local kids in special Paper Mill program **4**

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NEWS Submit local stories to: editorial@theobserver.com

Sheriff candidate's remarks have her knocked off ballot

By Kevin Canessa
kc@theobserver.com

Following an incident at a Jersey City Board of Education meeting where the Hudson County Republican nominee for sheriff made homophobic comments at the public-speaking portion, the county's GOP withdrew its support for the woman and is, instead, endorsing Democratic Sheriff Frank X. Schillari's re-election efforts.

At the Jersey City BOE meeting, Adela Rohena questioned why it was necessary for LGBT pride to be celebrated for an entire month when other groups aren't even celebrated — or are remembered for just a day.

"I don't want you to call me homophobic — all of those words you call people who think different than them," Rohena, the GOP candidate for Hudson County Sheriff said at the meeting. "I just noticed you gave one whole month for the LGBT people when teachers don't get a whole month to be recognized by the Jersey City people. You praising a whole month of LGBT and you don't praise the firefighters — you don't praise the students for a whole month. You don't praise a lot of people that needs to be recognized."

"... So you need to work on your agenda and make it shorter. Give at least a week for the teachers, a week for the students and give one day — why a whole



Rohena

month? What they gonna do? They gonna dance? What the kids are gonna learn?"

At this point in the meeting, the board chairman stopped Rohena from speaking any further and Gerald Lyons, the board's only gay member, scolded Rohena for her

choice to make such comments in a public forum.

"When you come out and say 'The gays need an extra month so they can dance,' that's offensive," Lyons said, visibly angry. "I find it very offensive you'd think gays would want a month so we could come out and dance. If you said that about any other groups — about what the blacks would want to do ... and you took some kind of stereotype, and associated it with that, it would be offensive. ...this is the kind of statement that allows people to continue their prejudices and hatred ... I am 60 years old and came out when I was 14 and I've never been more fearful of gay rights than I am today."

Several other board members slammed Rohena after she spoke as well.

Following the meeting, Rohena spoke with Hudson County View and told them she should have the right to express her opinion since she voted for all the current board members.

"I wasn't talking bad to them — I didn't curse at them," Rohena said. "Why (sic) is the message they are trying to bring to the Jersey City Public Schools?

That's, you know, that's my question.

According to reports, Rohena will be removed from the November ballot, clearing a pathway for Schillari to cruise to victory. The current sheriff says he's elated to have the support of the Hudson County GOP.

"As one of the most diverse places to live in the entire nation, it is crucial that the people of Hudson County are represented by leaders who fight for equality and justice," Schillari said. "Hate has no home in our community, and I am proud to be a Sheriff for everyone who calls Hudson County home. I would like to thank Hudson County Republican Chairman Jose Arango for his support. I'm proud to receive the endorsement of the Hudson GOP and look forward to continuing to make our county safer each and every day."

Schillari's law-enforcement career spans over four decades long. He seeks re-election for Hudson County Sheriff this November having served as in said capacity since 2011.

Schillari is a Navy veteran and a lifelong Hudson County resident.

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NEWS

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KPD: I'll huff & I'll puff & I'll end up in cuffs

By Karen Zautyk
kzautyk@theobserver.com

Do you know what “huffing” is? According to the American Addiction Centers, “Huffing is a type of substance abuse that involves inhaling fumes from household substances in order to experience a high.” And the Mayo Clinic warns parents, “As harmless as it may seem to kids, the risks of huffing and other types of inhalant use are real — and potentially lethal.”

If you are a parent, you'd do well to educate yourself, since ordinary household items are the “drugs” of choice.

The Kearny Police Department blotter report that led to our research didn't involve a kid, though. Which indicates the problem has no age limit. And some users apparently huff and drive. One more thing to worry about on our roads.

On July 22, at 1:50 p.m., Kearny Officers Sean Kelly and Janitza Aquino were at Walmart on an unrelated service call when store security advised them they had just received a complaint about a male huffing chemicals inside a car in the parking lot.

Police said the officers found Antonio Marques, 44, of Newark, in the act of spraying an aerosol can into his mouth while sitting in the driver's seat, with the vehicle turned on. When Kelly asked Marques to exit the car, he reportedly refused and pulled himself away while grabbing for the steering wheel.

Fearing that Marques was attempting to put the car into drive, Kelly pulled him from the vehicle and took him to the ground, where Marques “continued to resist arrest.” After a brief struggle, Marques was handcuffed and transported to police headquarters, where he was charged with DUI, use of toxic chemicals and resisting arrest.

Note: Officers reportedly recovered a total of 53 cans

of aerosol spray — keyboard cleaner — that were strewn about the interior of the car.

Other recent reports from the Kearny police blotter included the following:

July 18

At 4:44 p.m., Det. Michael Andrews observed a man looking into vehicles and driveways on Ivy Street. According to police, “Andrews was familiar with the male, Jeremy Postel, 22, of Belleville, due to previous police interactions.”

After confirming Postel had a warrant out of Belleville (burglary, no bail), Andrews, along with Dets. Cesar Negrón and Timothy Castle, approached him at the intersection of Schuyler and Wilson avenues. Police said Postel fled on foot toward the Seabra Supermarket, where he was taken to the ground by Andrews after pushing the detective several times.

According to police, “Once handcuffed, Mr. Postel continued to resist and later attempted to kick out the windows of the patrol car. To prevent him from breaking the glass, the window was lowered, at which point he began to climb out of the window.”

The arrestee was then transferred to a patrol vehicle with window bars and was transported to HQ for processing.

He was charged with resisting arrest, aggravated assault on a police officer, obstruction, criminal mischief and escape and was later taken to the Hudson County Jail.

July 19

At 3:30 p.m., Dets. David Bush, Mina Ekladius and Michal Gontarczuk were patrolling in an unmarked police vehicle when they observed two males peering into car windows on Windsor Street. Police said that since they were familiar with the two — Danny Morales, 41, of Newark, and Eric Fay, 32, of Kearny — the detectives set up surveillance and observed them enter a fenced-in yard on Bergen Avenue and, using

a pair of pliers, cut a lock securing two bicycles.

When Morales and Fay exited the property with the bicycles, police said, the officers confronted them, “at which time both men fled in separate directions on Windsor Street.” According to the

KPD, Fay surrendered to Gontarczuk after a brief foot pursuit, but Morales, who had been riding one of the stolen bikes, refused to surrender but was eventually apprehended by Bush and Ekladius.

Morales was charged with theft, aggravated

assault on a police officer, resisting arrest, conspiracy, possession of burglar tools, criminal mischief and trespassing. Fay was charged with theft, resisting arrest, conspiracy, possession of burglar tools,

See KPD, 8

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TOWN OF KEARNY RESIDENTS

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Dear Neighbor:

Every year, SUEZ tests the fire hydrants in our distribution system to clear buildup of naturally occurring minerals and ensure proper water flow. Beginning in August and continuing through September, SUEZ crews will be testing fire hydrants throughout the Kearny service area. As always, when testing hydrants there is a possibility that the water may be temporarily discolored. While the minerals are not harmful to your health, they can affect water clarity.

Our crews will be working throughout the day, between the hours of 8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday through Friday. Specific flushing areas and schedule updates will be posted to mysuezwater.com. While crews are working, you may experience a temporary drop in water pressure or have discolored water.

If you should experience any discoloration, please note it should not last for more than one to two hours. If you see discolored water, run your cold water until it clears. If your water does not run clear after thirty minutes, please contact our customer service office. Water quality parameters while we conduct this work are still met. However, we do not recommend washing white clothes if you notice discolored water.

We realize that you may be inconvenienced while the work is conducted. We kindly ask for your patience and support as we work to complete this project as quickly and safely as possible.

If you should have any questions regarding the project, please contact us at 201-955-7406 during standard business hours and after hours.

Thank you.



NEWS BRIEFS

Elks hosting fundraiser for veterans

The Kearny Elks will host a hatchet-throwing fundraiser for homeless veterans.

Hole sponsors are needed.

For more information or to participate, visit Kearny-elks-1050.weebly.com or contact Bill Dow at Kearny1050@verizon.net or 973-985-8176.

W.H.A.T. auditions are July 30 & 31

West Hudson Arts & Theater Co. announces auditions for the first show of its ninth season, Neil Simon's "Rumors,"

directed by Matthew Masiello, on July 30 & 31 (and Aug. 1 for call backs if needed) from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the W.H.A.T. Theatre in residence at the First Lutheran Church, 65 Oakwood Ave., Kearny.

Actors should be prepared to read from the sides provided at the audition. Sides will also be available at WHATco.org for preparation. A resume and headshot is preferred but not required. If actors do not have a headshot, a picture will be taken at the audition.

Show dates are Sept. 26, 27 and 28.

No experience, membership or fee is required to audition/perform. Visit our website

www.whatco.org for more details and download the audition form, complete it and bring it with you when you audition. Copies of the form will be available at the audition. All who audition must be 25 or older.

"Rumors" is a madcap, door-slamming farce set in a large home located just outside of New York. The Deputy Mayor of New York has just shot himself. Though only a flesh wound, four couples are about to experience a severe attack of farce. Gathering for their 10th wedding anniversary, the host lies bleeding in another room and his wife is nowhere in sight. His lawyer, Ken, and wife, Chris, must get the story

straight before other guests arrive. As the confusion and miscommunication mount, the evening spins off into classic farcical hilarity.

Note: There are five male and five female roles for those in their 20s to 50s.

Register for aftercare program

The Lyndhurst Parks and Recreation Department hosts registration for the Ann Mezzina Memorial Before and Aftercare Program of Lyndhurst for the 2019-2020 School Year on Monday, Aug. 5 and Tuesday, Aug. 6, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Parks Department, 250 Cleveland Ave.

Any questions, please call Roberta at 201-655-1014.

NAPD encourages NNO activities

The borough hosts National Night Out festivities.

Residents are encouraged to host outdoor activities that night. Chief Scott Hedenberg encourages residents to put on block parties.

The first 10 blocks that organize a party will receive a free BBQ package.

NA officials will visit all block parties. Stop by NAPD HQ on Ridge Road to apply to host a party.

The NAPD will seek to close down all streets participating from 5 to 9 p.m.

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The amount of interest earned is based on the daily collected balances in the account. Upon the expiration of the 12 month promotional period, then-current Standard Interest Rates apply. Minimum to open a Platinum Savings account is \$25. A monthly service fee of \$12 applies in any month the account falls below a \$3,500 minimum daily balance. Fees may reduce earnings. Interest rates are variable and subject to change without notice. Wells Fargo may limit the amount you deposit to a Platinum Savings account to an aggregate of \$1 million. 2. Available in-branch only; you must speak with a banker to request the special rate. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective for accounts opened between 07/08/2019 and 08/30/2019 and requires a minimum of \$25,000 in new money brought to Wells Fargo. "New money" is money from sources outside of the customer's current relationship with Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. or its affiliates (which includes deposit, brokerage and loan/credit accounts). 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NEWS

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Suspended Bloomfield lawyer pleads guilty to theft, perjury

By Kevin Canessa
kc@theobserver.com

A SUSPENDED LAWYER FROM Bloomfield who formerly operated a Newark law firm pleaded guilty last week to stealing \$20,000 from clients of the firm, Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced last week.

Richard M. Roberts, 81, of Bloomfield, pleaded guilty to third-degree charges of perjury and theft by failure to make required disposition of property received. Roberts was on trial in Morris County when he decided to plead guilty before Superior Court Judge Donald G. Collester Jr. on the second day of testimony.

His former law partner, Gerald M. Saluti Jr., was on the witness stand at the time.

In pleading guilty, Roberts admitted he stole \$20,000 in client funds from his law firm's attorney trust account which he used to make alimony payments.

Under the plea agreement, the state will recommend Roberts be

sentenced to up to 364 days in the county jail and a term of probation.

He will be required to permanently forfeit his law license.

Roberts is slated to be sentenced Aug. 29.

Deputy Attorneys General Samantha McCluskey and Cynthia Vazquez prosecuted Roberts for the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability (OPIA), with trial team members Det. Scott Donlan, Civil Investigator Bhumi Patel and Analyst Kathleen Ratliff.

Roberts was indicted in an investigation by detectives and attorneys of the OPIA North Squad.

The OPIA investigation revealed that from December 2012 through August 2013, Roberts and Saluti conspired to steal funds from the firm's attorney trust account.

In total, just over \$140,000 was stolen from four clients.

The funds included settlement awards owed to the clients and monies the two men were obligated to hold in escrow or use to make payments on behalf of the clients.

Saluti, 51, of Howell, pleaded

LAW & COURTS

guilty Feb. 21, 2019 to a third-degree conspiracy charge.

He permanently forfeited his law license and paid restitution of \$137,652. Saluti is scheduled to be sentenced on Sept. 5.

The state will recommend that he be sentenced to a term of probation.

"Instead of upholding the law and acting with honesty and integrity, as was his duty as an attorney, Roberts stole funds from his clients," Grewal said. "He betrayed his oath and the clients who trusted him."

With respect to the perjury charge, Roberts admitted he falsely told law enforcement and testified under oath that he never authorized the practice administrator for their firm, Gabriel Iannacone, to make his alimony payments. Roberts admitted that, in fact, he did direct Iannacone to make alimony

payments for him, and he knew at the time that Iannacone was making the payments from the firm's attorney trust account.

Iannacone pleaded guilty in 2017 to a third-degree conspiracy charge in connection with the improper withdrawals and payments from the attorney trust account. He is now dead.

Roberts and Saluti were previously suspended from the practice of law in New Jersey. Roberts was suspended in November 2015, and Saluti in February 2014.

In August 2013, the men dissolved their partnership, Roberts & Saluti LLC, which did business as the Saluti Law Group.

Deputy Attorney General Vazquez presented the indictment charging Roberts and Saluti to a state grand jury for the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability, under the supervision of Deputy Attorney General Anthony A. Picione, acting counsel to the OPIA director.

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By contesting suit, NJSEA demonstrates ca\$h matters more than human life

IN COURT, FACTS PAINT A VIVID PICTURE.

Prosecutors present them in the fight to get convictions. And, generally, facts tell a great story as to whether a defendant is guilty.

And while the case of the Town of Kearny v. the New Jersey Sports & Exposition Authority isn't a case that will end up with a conviction, there are certain facts that remain clear.

FACT 1: The state's standard for safe readings of hydrogen sulfide — not just at the Keegan Landfill, but anywhere — is 30 parts per billion (ppb). When a reading exceeds 30 ppb, it is unsafe for a human being to breathe in the toxic gas.

FACT 2: In recent months, there have been numerous readings of hydrogen

EDITORIAL

sulfide, at the Keegan Landfill, that have far exceeded 30 ppb. We listed all of the readings in last week's edition of The Observer.

FACT 3: There was an H2S reading recently that was 824 ppb. The simple math reveals this is 27.5 times higher than the state's maximum, safe allowable reading of the gas.

Fact 4: Many people have complained about extreme nausea and vomiting as a result of breathing in the awful odors caused by the H2S at Keegan.

Fact 5: The NJSEA issued a warning that beginning July 30, the installation

of a gas-collection system at the landfill will, indeed, cause excess odors. There's one reason and one reason only the NJSEA issued such an alert — and that is because it knows residents must take precautions to avoid breathing in the elevated levels of toxic air.

And yet, the NJSEA continues its dog and pony show by contesting, in court, the Town of Kearny's desire to keep the landfill closed and to permanently cap it. They do this knowing very well their landfill is a health hazard that is causing serious issues for many.

Gov. Murphy and the NJSEA must end this charade now. Keep the landfill closed. Stop contesting the lawsuit and for once, do the right thing. Now.

Writer: It's time for legal left turns southbound @ Rutgers and Main streets

To the Editor:

Several years ago, a group of business owners in the Valley section of Belleville formed the Valley Industrial and Commercial Council to voice concerns as business owners. One suggestion was to do something about the intersection of Main and Rutgers streets, which sits right before the bridge to North Arlington and Kearny.

In order for vehicles coming south on Main Street to cross the bridge, they

must first turn right onto Academy Street, then turn left onto Stephens Street and finally make a very difficult left turn across two lanes of traffic onto Rutgers Street.

A traffic engineer inspected the intersection and said he believed there was sufficient width for a left-turn lane to coordinate with a left-turn traffic signal.

This would be much safer, much easier to negotiate and may encourage

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

shoppers to come over to Belleville to shop more often.

Although the then mayor of Belleville agreed the plan was excellent, this dangerous traffic pattern continues to exist.

Because the intersection is being repaved, the cost of simply adding a left-

turn lane, although not inexpensive, is minimal in terms of the entire project.

Mayor Melham has brought renewed energy to Belleville and VICC urges the mayor to support what is really a no brainer.

I also ask the Belleville Council to support this idea, and I ask that our state representatives help bring this intersection into at least the 20th century!

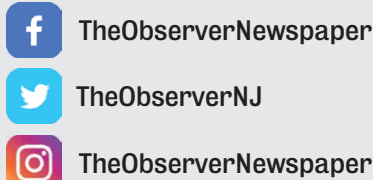
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Tired of robocalls? Help is on the way!

By Kevin Canessa
kc@theobserver.com

Relief from those irritating robocalls you've no doubt been getting is on its way if the U.S. Senate follows suit from the House of Representatives.

U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell Jr., D-9, last week, voted in favor of H.R. 3375, the bipartisan Stopping Bad Robocalls Act, which passed the House of Representatives. The legislation would outlaw numerous prevalent practices by robocallers and establish new government powers to go after fraudsters. It passed the House 429 to 3.

That's right — three members of the House voted

to allow robocallers to go right on doing what they've been doing.

H.R. 3375 also gives phone carriers 18 months to establish rules to fight the call spoofing many robocallers use to flood Americans' phones.

"The incessant ring of unwanted solicitations at breakfast, at lunch, at dinner and in all moments in between has become an excruciating rite of daily life," Pascrell said. "Congress is doing something — it's about to finally give relief to all Americans from this scourge. Under the flood of corporate intrusions, we often forget that every American is entitled to

live in peace without being besieged by scammers.

"Government can do much more to make Americans' daily lives easier and today we are. Thanks to Chairman Pallone for moving his bill through the House. Let's

hope the McConnell Senate has the sense to take this up."

Over four billion robocalls were placed in the United States in June 2019, with 48 billion robocalls being made in the

nation in all of 2018.

Pascrell is a cosponsor of the legislation passed last week, which was authored by Rep. Frank Pallone Jr., D-6, the chairman of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Join KPD for National Night Out festivities

The Kearny Police Department's Community Oriented Policing Unit hosts National Night Out Festivities Aug. 6, from 6 to 8 p.m. on Belgrove Drive between Afton Street and Bergen Avenue.

Participants may expect demonstrations from the Kearny Police and Fire departments, the NJSP North Star Helicopter, the Hudson County Sheriff's and



Prosecutor's offices, classic cars, a bounce house, spin art, a DJ and much more. All residents are welcome.

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NEWS

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KPD from 3

criminal mischief, trespassing and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Both were later sent to the county jail.

July 21

At 8:58 a.m., Officers Jean-Paul Duran and Kyle Plaugic responded to Shop-Rite on a report of a shoplifter. According to management, Reggie Williams, 36, of East Orange, had concealed five bottles of shampoo, valued at \$24.76, in a backpack and attempted to leave without paying. At HQ, Williams was charged with shoplifting and was subsequently transported to the county jail.

At 12:44 p.m., Officers Duran and Plaugic re-

POLICE BEAT

sponded to another shoplifting complaint, this time at Walmart, where loss-prevention had detained Alan Mahan, 54, of East Orange, for allegedly trying to leave the store with an unpaid-for 55-inch television valued at \$298.

Mahan was charged with shoplifting and also found to have outstanding warrants out of Irvington (theft, \$250 bail) and Bloomfield (\$450). He was released on a summons after being given new court dates by those two jurisdictions.

At 8:01 p.m., Officer Darwin Paulino and Sgt. Jason

Ward were called to Shop-Rite, where management had detained Gary Frazier, 51, of Jersey City, for allegedly trying to steal (in a yellow Shop-Rite bag) four frying pans and a fruit cup, with a total value of \$95.45. Frazier was charged with shoplifting and later released from HQ after being issued a summons.

July 22

At 12:40 p.m., Officer Nicholas Funk was sent to Shop-Rite, where management reported that Christopher Hernandez, 35, of Belleville, had attempted to steal four packs of batteries, valued at \$61.96, concealed in his backpack.

Hernandez was charged with shoplifting and he ended up in the county jail.



July 24

At 10:23 p.m., Street-Crimes Dets. Andrews, Castle, Bush and Jonathan Dowie were patrolling in an unmarked vehicle when they reportedly observed Carlos Gonzalez, 36, of Kearny, enter a deli on Kearny Avenue, emerge a short time later and hand a miniature-sized bottle of liquor to a minor. Detectives ap-

proached and, police said, found each to be in possession of small bottles of peach-flavored vodka.

Both adult and youth were taken into custody and transported to HQ.

Gonzalez was released on a summons charging him with offering alcohol to a minor and consuming alcohol in public.

The juvenile — a 16-year-old East Newark boy — was released to a parent with charges pending.

The reports and all details contained in this blotter were provided to The Observer by the police department. All suspects should be considered innocent until they are found guilty or accept a plea agreement admitting guilt in a court of law.

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NEWS

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KIMBLE from 1

Chief. After retirement from the department, he went on to serve as public safety director and township manager. He would then serve three terms as mayor.

“As a young councilman, I worked closely with Mayor Kimble when he was public safety director and township manager.

“I have asked Township Manager (Anthony) Iacono to place all municipal flags at half-staff and have mourning bunting draped across Town Hall. I ask that you respect the privacy of the Kimble family at this time. We extend our deepest condolences to the Kimble family. The township will provide additional details as they become available.”

State Sen. Ronald L. Rice praised that life of Kimble in a statement.

“Raymond was a dear friend of mine. Our common bond was that we both dedicated our lives to public service. We served in the armed forces, devoted our lives to the public safety of others and sought public office to help people in our communities.

“He was a friend to all and was respected by friend and

‘Essex County lost a great leader and an even better person. He will be missed by all.’

— State Sen. Ron Rice

foe, regardless of political affiliation. He was always willing to reach out to others when they needed it most. Whenever I was in need, Raymond was there for me.

“Essex County lost a great leader and an even better person. He will be missed by all.”

State Assemblyman Ralph L. Caputo, himself a Belleville resident, says Kimble’s death will be felt by many.

“I’m deeply saddened by the loss of Mayor Ray Kimble. His passing is not only a significant loss for his family and friends, but for the entire Belleville community,” Caputo said. “Ray devoted

his life to trying to make his hometown a better place. He served in the Belleville Police Department for over 30 years, including five as police chief, and went on to become township manager and mayor of Belleville. No matter the role, he always found a way to help as many people as he could.

“I had the pleasure of working with Ray as an Essex County Freeholder and

Assemblyman and we always maintained a productive and enjoyable relationship. His inspiring work in and dedication to Belleville won’t soon be forgotten.”

Kimble lived in Belleville his entire life and was devoted to serving his town.

He was an alumnus of Belleville High School’s Class of 1957. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army for two years and upon completion of that

service, went on to earn a bachelor’s and a master’s degree from William Paterson University (then College.)

In 1964, he joined the Belleville Police Department and ascended to the rank of chief, a position he held from 1992 to 1997. In 1997, upon retirement from the Belleville PD, he was appointed the township manager.

He ultimately ran for and became Belleville’s mayor, a position he held until he lost a very close election just a year ago.

Among many awards, Kimble was most proud of the Silver PBA Card he received — and when he was the Belleville Chapter of UNICO’s Man of the Year.

Kimble is survived by his wife of 57 years, Marie; children Raymond, Steven, Linda, and Lisa; grandchildren Angelo, Raymond, Lucia, Hannah and Steven Kimble, and Sonny Conley, John, Frank and Maria Gabriele.

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NEWS

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KEEGAN from 1

SEA with the hope that the landfill will be kept closed forever and protected with an impermeable cap.

The NJSEA is already in the process of installing a gas-collection system that will help to burn off the hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), the odors and negative health effects from which have been plaguing residents of West Hudson for months on end.

And of course, it is the H₂S

that leads to the next point about the landfill, because if you think the odors from the Keegan Landfill have been bad up to now, the NJSEA says it may get even worse this week and next for a total of around 10 days.

The NJSEA announced last week that increased H₂S odors may result from work that is to be performed beginning Tuesday, July 30, as the authority continues to install a gas-collection system at the landfill.

The installation of 28 vertical gas extraction wells at a depth of 40 to 50 feet each is expected to take approximately 10 days to complete once it starts July 30.

Work is expected to be performed between 7 a.m. and 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Saturdays, depending on the weather. In the event that you experience any odors, the NJSEA urges you to call the NJDEP WARN Hotline at 877-WARN-DEP (877-927-6337).



Photo by Deborah Garcia

As if the odors coming off the Keegan Landfill weren't bad enough already, the NJSEA now says they may get worse parts of this and next week.

The NJSEA says there will be increased state Department of Environmental Protection and NJSEA inspectors conducting site and neighborhood inspections during the installation period.

During construction hours, the onsite inspector performs hourly checks of the hydrogen sulfide concentrations measured at the eight monitoring stations for impacts from construction.

Inspectors conduct neighborhood monitoring before, during and at the end of construction each work day.

The gas collection and control system is tentatively slated to begin operating Sept. 16; however, the NJSEA says the possibility of activating portions of the system earlier "is being investigated."

In addition to the upcoming construction of vertical wells, the NJSEA's contractor this month installed five horizontal wells comprising 2,300 linear feet of solid and perforated piping. The work commenced July 1 and was completed on July 15.

The installation of ¼ of lateral piping began July 16.

A skid-mounted flare that will burn off the hydrogen sulfide collected by the system is scheduled to be fully in place by September.

And while the NJSEA still encourages residents to warn the DEP about increased odors, it makes one wonder whether doing so would even matter in the greater scheme of things.

And that is because Santos says despite excessive readings in the last week well above the state's 30 parts per billion (ppb) maximum safe reading for the extremely dangerous and flammable gas, the state agency and the governor's office have continued to ignore the mayor's phone calls — it really makes things challenging when officials don't respond to phone call inquiries doesn't it — all whilst the DEP has failed to fine the NJSEA for close to two months for the excessive readings as it is required to do.

Santos took to Facebook to make the announcement.

"Just this week, the town's air-monitoring stations registered 61 ppb of hydrogen sulfide on Tuesday, 39 ppb on Wednesday and 69 ppb on Thursday, July 25," the mayor said. "On each of those dates, the town closed Harvey Field. I communicated the exceedances and field closures to the DEP commissioner and the governor's chief of staff.

"No one responded. In fact, DEP has not issued any violations against NJSEA since June 5, 2019, even though there have been numerous exceedances of hydrogen sulfide since that date."

Despite these high readings, they're nowhere near the record high reading of 828 ppb, which was registered last month.

Be sure to check www.theobserver.com for updates to this continuously developing story.

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SPORTS & RECREATION



Photo by Jim Hague

Tom Witt Jr. (left) and brother Joe (right) flank father Tom Witt Sr. (seated), as the elder Witt holds the trophy that DeMarco's won by taking the 1983 Kearny Town championship. The Witt family has been a part of Kearny Little League baseball for the last 48 years.

Half century of Little League geniuses, courtesy of the Witts

By Jim Hague
ogsmar@aol.com

The year was 1971. The Baltimore Colts defeated the Dallas Cowboys in Super Bowl V on a last-second field goal by Jim O'Brien. Charles Manson and three of his "family" followers were found guilty of five murders in California. Jim Morrison, the lead singer of the Doors, was found dead in a bathtub in France. Hall of Famers Michael Strahan (football) and Pudge Rodriguez (baseball) were born.

And it was the year that Tom Witt, Jr. began to play for the Irish-American Club team in the Kearny Little League.

A year later, Tom Witt, Sr. became a head coach in the league.

The elder Witt, a truck driver for more than 30 years, grew up in Newark, but he and his wife Mary raised their three sons in Kearny.

"I played sandlot ball every weekend," Tom Witt, Sr. said. "We would go to the old Newark Bears stadium

and get the broken bats, put screws in them and use them again."

But that was the extent of the elder Witt's baseball experience.

"I used to take the boys down to the ballpark and hit them fly balls," Tom Witt, Sr. said. "I'd give up driving the truck to play ball with the boys. I actually wanted to be a race car driver. But when Tom said he wanted to play baseball, that was it."

When Tom, Jr. joined the Irish-American Club team, Tom, Sr. followed along as a coach. The next year, he took over as head coach.

"I had on the job training with the boys," Tom, Sr. said. "I was flying mostly by the seat of my pants. But I would preach fundamentals with the kids, like when they would run down the first base, make the turn away from first instead of turning toward second, because they could tag you out. I would tell the kids if the ball is hit in the air, take your eye directly off it and it was easier to catch."

It didn't take long for Tom Witt, Sr. to get hooked on coaching.

"It was great," Witt, Sr. said. "I loved it."

Tom Witt, Sr. and his son started a tradition that has remained since 1971. Every since 1971, a member of the Witt family has been a major part of Kearny Little League.

Tom's son, Joe, became a player eight years after his older brother and their father coached him as well. In 1983, while managing DeMarco's, the Witt family (Tom, Sr. and Joe) won the Kearny World Series championship (called the Kearny Town Championship then).

The names of the teams changed over the years – from the Irish-Americans to DeMarco's to Fields Paint and finally Rick's Auto Body – but the Witt family has been there.

And there have been their fair share of championships.

Tom, Sr. won the one championship in 1983. When Joe Witt became a coach,

SPORTS VIEW by Jim Hague

Kearny basketball camp: Lots of learning



CHRISTIAN DUARTE IS AN 11-YEAR-OLD KEARNY RESIDENT who will begin sixth grade at Roosevelt School in a few weeks.

But before Duarte has to worry about pencils, papers and teachers' dirty looks, he had to be concerned with something else last week – how to execute a proper bounce pass.

"I learned that it's more important to pass first," said Duarte, a fan of the NBA, but doesn't have a particular team to follow. "It's better to pass, because if you do, you can get the ball passed back to you."

Smart young man.

Christian also plays baseball, soccer and lacrosse, so he's a multi-talented pre-teen. But last week, it was all about hoops at the Kearny Basketball Camp, held at Kearny High School, under the watchful eyes of Kearny head boys' basketball coach Bill Mullins.

Duarte feels like he improved during the week-long session.

"I could do a lot better, but I feel like I did get better," Duarte said. "It encourages me to play basketball a lot more."

With a schedule like Christian already has, it might be hard to find the time. But Christian will be ready when the Kearny Recreation program begins in a few months.

Evan Swiatkowski is a 14-year-old Kearny resident who attends the North Jersey Baptist School, a private school. But Evan plays in the Kearny Recreation program. He's also not ashamed to say that he's a big Knicks fan.

"I used to like (Kristaps) Porzingis, but the Knicks traded him," Swiatkowski said. "I guess I like LeBron James."

Swiatkowski said that he worked hard on his jump shot.

"Before this week, I kind of stunk shooting," Swiatkowski said. "But now I shoot better. I learned the proper form and I learned that I have to shoot when I'm open."

Swiatkowski gave an impromptu shooting lesson.

"You need to keep your elbows in and aim toward the basket," Swiatkowski said. "This encourages me a lot, because the better you get at basketball, the more you want to play. I have a basket in my driveway and I have an older brother in college who likes to play. So maybe I can play more with him. I know what I need to do to practice now, so this really helped me a lot."

Dante Dubose-Carter is a 14-year-old Nutley resident who will enter Nutley High School in the fall. Dubose-Carter is a Cleveland Cavaliers fan and his favorite player is the Cavs' second-year guard Collin Sexton.

"I learned a lot about ball handling," Dubose-Carter said. "I can use all different kind of ball handling skills in different situations and times. I can just go up to the courts near my house and try some things. I can see they already work a lot."

See VIEW, 13

See WITT, 12

SPORTS & RECREATION

WITT from 11

he guided eight teams to Kearny World Series championships in 22 years – and has continued his brilliance when he moved his family to North Arlington and won three more titles there with the Dodgers.

And Tom, Jr., now the president of the Kearny Little League, has won three championships as a coach, including this season with Rick's Auto Body.

Tom, Sr. came out of retirement to help his son as an assistant coach this year.

Incredibly, this year marks the 70th anniversary of Kearny Little League – and the Witt family has been a major part of the league for almost 50 of those years.

Tom, Sr. was asked if ever thought that he would still be involved with coaching after all this time.

“No, you never think that way,” the elder Witt said. “I always thought that if I could get one good year.”

The elder Witt continued to coach in the league after his older son moved on. And when Joe came along, he remained in charge.

“I just really enjoyed it,” the elder Witt said. “And of course, I liked being with my boys. Every day I was there with my boys, I enjoyed it.”

Joe Witt said that he started coaching in the Kearny Little League in 1990 when he was only 19 years old. In 1994, he took over as head coach of Fields Paint and then it became Rick's Auto Body.

“I just wanted to help the kids out,” Joe Witt said. “I love baseball I wasn't thinking long term. It just happened that way. When Dad stepped away, my best friend Craig Smith and I took over and we had a lot of fun. We just tried to build a team every year and build it again. You saw how you were able to change their lives and that was the reward. It was really nice to see that. I never wanted to turn a kid away.”

“At that point, I just liked

to sit back and watch,” the elder Witt laughed.

Tom Witt, Jr. gave his little brother a world of credit.

“He's one of the best coaches around,” Tom Witt, Jr. said of his brother. “He really knows the game.”

“I was just lucky to be around good people,” Joe Witt said. “Everything I knew about the game, I learned from my father. I learned more from my father and my brother than anyone else.”

Joe Witt was so dedicated to coaching Little League baseball that he was coaching two teams simultaneously – Rick's Auto Body in Kearny and the Dodgers in North Arlington.

“But I had to give that up in 2013,” Joe Witt said.

Both Witt brothers had sons of their own that played baseball. Tom has three sons, T.J., now 24 and a Kearny firefighter; Travis, now 18 and still recovering from a scary injury suffered last football season as the Kearny High School quarterback;

‘For me, it's about relationships. You build relationships with the kids and their parents. When they come back and say hello, that's what I'll take out of it. But I don't want to give it up.’
— Joe Witt

and Treyton, now 14.

Joe Witt has a son, also named Joe, who is 16 years old and who is a standout

baseball player at North Arlington High School.

“It was so great coaching with my brother and my father,” said Tom, Jr., who became the head coach with Rick's Auto Body in 2004. “And then I love seeing kids come back and say that I made a difference with them. That means so much to me.”

Joe Witt said that he enjoys the camaraderie between coach and player. “For me, it's all about the relationships,” Joe Witt said. “You build relationships with kids and their parents. When they come back and say hello, that's what I'll take out of it. But I don't want to give it up.”

And for 48 years, the trio of Witt men has been a part of Kearny Little League baseball.

“It's really gone by so fast,” Tom Witt, Sr. said.

The only sad part is that Mary Witt, the matriarch of the family, passed away in 2013 after a battle with lung cancer.

“She was always there for us,” Tom Witt, Jr. said. “She was at almost every game.”

But the Witt family is still volunteering their time, helping to mold the minds of aspiring baseball players in two towns.

“It really has taken on a life of its own,” Tom Witt, Jr. said. “It's a blessing and something I'll always cherish for the rest of my life.”



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IRON OVERLOAD DISORDER

“Hemochromatosis” is an iron overload disorder that primarily affects about five Caucasian individuals in every 1,000. While approximately 10% carry one of the genes related to the condition, many have the gene mutation but show no symptoms. Those with the disorder absorb too much iron from the food and beverages they consume. The surplus iron is stored in the liver, heart, pancreas, and other organs, which can suffer damage as a result. Damage to the pancreas can lead to diabetes, and hereditary hemochromatosis (a result of genetic alterations) can also lead to cancer and heart disease. As a treatment, venesection (or phlebotomy) works to remove iron-rich blood from the body with the aim of reducing iron levels to normal.

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VIEW from 11

Ethan Oeckel is a 14-year-old Harrison resident who will attend Harrison High School in a few weeks. Oeckel plans on playing all three major sports – football, basketball and baseball – but for this week, it was bouncing the basketball.

“I also worked on my ball handling,” said Oeckel, a fan of the Washington Wizards and John Wall. “I think this really helped my ball handling.”

Oeckel also had the chance to spend time with his cousins, Will and Nick Stamm, 12-year-old twins who reside in Whippany.

“My family and friends were here, so I decided to come,” said Will Stamm, a fan of the Brooklyn Nets, but whose favorite player is Stephen Curry. “It’s fun hanging out with them. I learned about getting full extension on layups.”

Will Souza is a 13-year-old Kearny resident who will attend the seventh grade at Lincoln School in a few weeks. His older brother Nicolas is a standout on the Kearny High School

basketball team. Will is a fan of the Brooklyn Nets and recent free agent acquisition Kyrie Irving, the East Orange native.

Will was a coach’s dream when he spoke about what he learned.

“I learned that the focus should always be on defense,” Souza said. “You have to keep your eyes on the guy who has the ball. If he wants to go left, you have to force him to go the other way.”

Souza said that he tries to keep up with his big brother.

“We play a lot, but he’s a lot better than me,” Will Souza admits. “But he makes me a better shooter because I always try to beat him. But it’s really hard.”

Souza said that he enjoyed attending the camp.

“It was a lot of fun,” Souza said. “And now, I have a chance to be way better than my brother.”

Christopher Ruiz is a 13-year-old Kearny resident who will enter the seventh grade at Lincoln School.

He says that he “plays a lot of basketball, I mean a lot,” and his favorite team is the Boston Celtics and in particular Jason Tatum.



A group shot of the campers.

“I learned how to shoot better,” Ruiz said. “I couldn’t shoot at all. Every time I shoot, I brick.”

That means in basketball terms, not particularly well.

“But if I keep my elbow in, I can shoot less bricks,” Ruiz said. “This really helped me a lot.”

Matthew Zika is an 11-year-old Kearny resident who will enter the sixth grade at Hudson Arts & Science Charter in Kearny. He participates in soccer and bowling, but loved attending the camp.

“Everyone here was so nice,” Zika said. “The coaches were nice and my friends were here. I’m glad I came.”

Zika’s classmate Caleb

Baptista, also a sixth grader at Hudson Arts & Science, is a fan of the Golden State Warriors and Steph Curry and Klay Thompson.

“I worked on a lot of dribbling,” said Baptista, who plays in the Kearny Recreation program and travel basketball. “I learned a lot of different skills that I can work on to improve.”

This was all music to the ears of Mullins, who welcomed about 80 young men to his camp last week.

“It was a great turnout,” Mullins said. “When you start things like this, you really don’t know how it will work out, but we have obviously a lot of young guys in the seventh and eighth grades who want to play

basketball. I’m getting a chance to get to know them and keep an eye on them. I really enjoyed it. If the kids learn something, then it’s well worth it.”

Mullins said that it was important to keep the camp entertaining.

“You want the kids to have fun, because if they enjoy themselves, then they’ll want to keep playing,” Mullins said. “They have to learn how to put the ball in the basket.”

So Mullins brought out the new shooting machine that the school district was able to procure under former head coach Bob McDonnell’s tenure.

“The kids like doing it with the shooting machine,” Mullins said. “They get to shoot the ball high and from a further distance. I enjoy watching that sort of stuff.”

Mullins said that the emphasis on the camp was fundamentals.

“Dribbling, passing, shooting,” Mullins said. “The overall idea is to become a complete player. If you get the kids to improve and get to love the sport, you’re doing your job.”

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LITTLE LEAGUE from 1

Recreation building for a 6 a.m. flight.”

And the conquering heroes weren't alone at the wee hours of the morning.

Former Nutley Mayor Joanne Cacciola organized a parting crew to send the boys off with an impromptu breakfast and some well wishes. Nutley Parks and Recreation Director Frank DiMaio chartered a bus to bring the boys to the airport.

“It was nuts,” Breihof said. “It was really amazing,” said the team’s ace left-handed hurler Kevin Jiratatprasot. “I was really excited and didn’t get any sleep that night.”

Jiratatprasot wasn’t alone.

“I couldn’t sleep,” said Myles Gomez, another of the team’s top pitchers. “I was still operating on adrenaline.”

The excitement was all caused by an incredible performance in the East Regional title game. It was do-or-die for Nutley American, having already

split two games with the All-Stars from Maryland on a smaller field than conventional baseball diamonds, but bigger than Little League dimensions. The bases are 70 feet apart, instead of 90 feet in conventional baseball. The pitching mound is 50 feet away, instead of 60 feet, six inches in conventional ball.

Having already used Jiratatprasot and Gomez, Breihof had to turn to an old reliable in Game 3 – his son, Jonathan.

“I did feel a little pressure, because the team depended upon me,” the younger Breihof said. “I knew I could get it done if I just threw strikes. I knew my teammates could make the plays and then we would eventually hit the ball.”

“Jonathan has only one pitch, his fastball,” the elder Breihof said. “But he was spotting his fastball well and was hitting the glove.”

Nutley fell behind, 3-1 when lightning struck in the fourth inning.

Gomez, Jonathan Breihof

and catcher Joey Haines hit back-to-back-to-back homers, giving Nutley American the lead for good. Momentum definitely swung on those three powerful swings.

“I felt a little pressure, because the coaches all say that I’m the engine who gets us going,” Gomez said. “So I took advantage of a fastball and smoked it.”

“I was battling and got it to a 3-2 count,” Breihof said. “And I hit one out. And I just knew that Joey could put one as well.”

“It was crazy,” Haines said. “We just kept on hitting the ball. We were all going nuts. It was such a great experience.”

The younger Breihof did not allow another run and Nutley American exploded for nine more runs en route to the first-ever Little League regional title for a team from Nutley.

After that win, the kids could have flown to California without a jet.

“What a game we played,” Breihof said. “We couldn’t believe we were going to



Photo courtesy of Peter Breihof

The Nutley American Little League 13-year-old All-Stars won the East Regional championship in Commack, Long Island, last week, sending the team to the Intermediate Division World Series.

California.”

Once the boys and their coaches arrived in northern California, they were treated like royalty.

“It is truly a once in a lifetime experience,” Breihof said. “It was better than I thought. Once the kids put on those East uniforms, then it hit us. It was game changing immediately.”

The team practiced on Saturday at the Max Baer Complex. The facility is named after the former heavyweight boxing champion of the world who lost to “Cinderella Man” James J. Braddock in 1935, giving the cause for some books on the subject and the movie that starred Russell Crowe and Renee Zellweger.

“It was 100 degrees and we felt every bit of it,” Breihof said of the practice day. “But they made our kids feel so special.”

The Nutley American All-Stars were treated to the Oakland A’s-Texas Rangers game on Saturday night.

“I had never been to another stadium other than CitiField,” said Joey Haines, the team’s catcher. “It was a lot of fun. They showed us on the Jumbotron.”

Most of these boys had probably never been on an airplane before. Now, they were in a different Major League Baseball park.

And here they were, in the same company with teams from Indiana, New Mexico, Alabama and two California teams, Petaluma and host Livermore. There were also teams from Seoul, South Korea; Perth, Australia; Alberta, Canada; the Czech Republic, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

“It’s great,” the elder Breihof said. “All of the teams are all staying in the same Holiday Inn, so kids are interacting with each other. It’s fantastic. Little

League is really taking care of them.”

And incredibly, this Nutley team features an entire roster, not only all from Nutley, but from the same school. They are all seventh graders at John F. Walker Middle School.

“It means a lot to us, because we’ve all been playing together for such a long time,” Haines said. “We’ve all been hanging around together for a while.”

“I’m just having a lot of fun with my closest friends,” Jiratatprasot said. “I’m so glad we did it.”

The younger Breihof put it all in proper perspective.

“Win or lose, we’re the first team from Nutley to play outside of New Jersey,” Jonathan Breihof said. “Everyone is getting a chance to see what we can do.”

That’s true – the games have been streamed live on ESPN+. The website, www.littleleague.org, features box scores and rosters with complete statistics and rosters. All for these special kids from Nutley.

“To be honest, I’m pleasantly surprised,” the elder Breihof said. “Never in a million years did I dream this could happen. I knew we could compete, but did I know we could win? No way. It’s a dream come true and to share it with my son is even better. Some of these kids I’ve coached since they were six and seven years old. I’ve just watched them grow up before my eyes.”

The Nutley American All-Stars dropped their first round game Sunday night to McCalla, Alabama, 11-2. Their next game was scheduled for Tuesday at 6 p.m. Western Daylight Time (9 p.m. Eastern) against the loser of Georgetown, Indiana and the host Livermore squad.

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OBITUARIES

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BEVERLY A. PADOVANO

Beverly A. Padovano (nee Donovan), 89, of Cedar Grove, died July 26, 2019.

A funeral service will be celebrated at the Armitage & Wiggins Funeral Home on Tuesday, July 30, at 10 a.m. Cremation will be private.

Born in Irvington, Beverly lived in Kearny before moving to Cedar Grove several years ago. A fun loving woman with an infectious laugh, Beverly most loved to be around her family, and to be caring for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Beverly was the loving mother of Deborah Smith, Cynthia Maass, James Sloan and his wife Mary Ann, Gina Basso and her husband Dave, and the late Kenneth Sloan. She was the cherished grandmother of 10, and great-grandmother of 12. Beverly is also survived by her dear sister Elizabeth Wademan and daughter-in-law Donna Sloan. She was predeceased

by her grandson Frankie Fletcher.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider a donation to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

LYNNE ANN HENRY

Lynne Ann Henry (nee Mackenzie) of East Newark died peacefully surrounded by her loving family on Saturday, July 20, 2019.

She was 78.

Funeral services were under the direction of the Mulligan Funeral Home, 331 Cleveland Ave. Harrison. A funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Anthony's Church, East Newark. Her interment took place in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

Born in Newark, Lynne was a lifelong resident of East Newark. She was a long time administrator for the East Newark Board of Education. She was also a parishioner of St. Anthony's Church, East Newark.

Predeceased by her husband, Raymond "Butch" Henry Sr., she

was the devoted mother of Glenn and his wife Diane of Rockaway, dear sister of Lois Walsh and her husband David, and Robert Mackenzie and his wife Mary Lou. Cherished grandmother of Glenn Jr. (Nicole) and Stephanie (Javid), she is also survived by many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Raymond Jr. in 2008.

If you would like to send a condolence message to her family, please visit www.mulliganfh.com.

VERONICA HULLEY

Veronica Hulley, nee Pekerosky, died Wednesday, July 24, 2019. She was 70.

She was predeceased by her husband Lawrence in 2015, her mom, Veronica Pekerosky in 1999 and brother David Pekerosky in 2016. Surviving is her father, Steve Pekerosky, brother Joseph (Doris), and daughters Laura DiBiasi (Darryl) and Veronica Valli (John).

She was the cherished grandmother of Christopher, Nicholas, Madison & Ryan and aunt to Frank Pekerosky. She is also survived by her aunt Helen Sambo, her son Paul and Uncle Paul Pekerosky with whom she was very close with as well as several cousins.

She was a longtime employee of the USPS and in her leisure time, enjoyed bowling, trips to Atlantic City and was very family orientated.

Cremation was private for immediate family and a memorial Mass will be celebrated at St. Cecilia Church, Kearny, at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 3.

GERMAN OCASIO

German Ocasio died July 23, 2019.

He was 82.

Born in Areciba, Puerto Rico, he lived many years in Kearny.

Visiting was at the Armitage & Wiggins Funeral Home, Kearny. Mass was at St. Stephen's

Church, Kearny. Entombment was in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

German was a very proud American veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a staff sargent in the U.S. Army and was a founding sponsor of the National Museum of the United States Army.

After retiring from General Motors, German continued to enjoy work and was still employed by Shop Rite in their shipping & receiving department.

Husband of the late Ziomara (nee Gonzalez), he is survived by his children and their spouses, Ziomara Carfagna (Salvatore), Jacqueline Agudo (Bruno), David Ocasio (Lindsay) and Ronnie Ramirez. Brother of Celia Ocasio, Jose Ocasio and Maria Rosa, also surviving are his grandchildren Andrew, Krystal (Cody), Aimee, Skyler and Charlie Pearl along with his great-grandson Dean.

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Nutley PD: Arrest made in rash of burglaries to autos

The Nutley Police Department has made another arrest of someone they believe to be involved in a rash of burglaries to autos.

On Friday, July 19, the Nutley PD identified and charged Jose Cedeno Del Rio, 18, of Passaic, with two counts of burglary, two counts of theft, simple assault, criminal trespass, attempted burglary and credit card fraud for crimes he reportedly committed in Nutley on May 24 and 30, Det. Lt. Anthony Montanari, the department's public-information officer said.

Detectives investigating a string of burglaries to auto, including one in which Cedeno allegedly smashed a car window on Elm and assaulted a homeowner on Fitting Place, were able to identify the suspect when he and an accomplice used a Nutley victim's credit card at a Passaic business.

After an arrest warrant was prepared, he was arrested by Paramus police for other offenses and was being detained in the Bergen County Jail, Hackensack, on the Nutley warrant.

Chief Thomas Strumolo said burglary to auto has been one of the Townships leading offenses this year. He said several alerts and newspaper

and Internet warnings have failed to stop these criminals from burglarizing residents.

He said with proactive policing, the Nutley PD were able to identify most of the suspects responsible for the thefts. He continues to urge residents to lock their vehicles' doors and remove valuables to discourage them from coming to Nutley.

Police Director Alphonse Petracco and Chief Thomas Strumolo, meanwhile, advise residents that on Tuesday, July 23, at approximately 4 p.m., police responded to a Hastings Avenue residence in response to a report of a front door that had been forced open. The resident, who was home at the time, told police he heard a loud noise and contacted police immediately.

Police are canvassing the area and speaking with neighbors.

Strumolo requests anyone who may have witnessed the crime or who has information relating to the incident contact police at 973-284-4940. He also reminds residents to contact police if they ever see anything suspicious.

— Kevin Canessa



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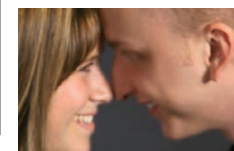
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Local kids performing in Paper Mill's prestigious summer conservatory

The Paper Mill Playhouse has selected several local students to be part of its Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory for 2019, including Lillyana Boland, of Kearny; Katie Kallay of Bloomfield; and Samantha Alper, Valeria Flores, Eric Sebek and Luke and Mark Surrtsky, all of Nutley.

Members of the conservatory are directed and choreographed by Paper Mill Playhouse's professional artistic staff in a fully produced, original concert, "New Voices of 2019: Learn Your Lessons Well."

The concert is a culmination of the five-week conservatory program.

"From the first day of class all the way through opening night of New Voices, we require our students to rise to the demands of this rigorous program," said Lisa Cooney, Paper Mill Playhouse director of education.

"We ask them to work harder than they ever have before as young performers, and we strive to build an incredible ensemble company, while each student hones their own individual performance skills.

"Our faculty push the students to believe in themselves as professional artists and treats them as such. We find summer after summer that our students meet our expectations and more. When they move on to college or the professional world, they are ready for the challenges they'll face, and time and again they thrive and ultimately live their dream of being a professional performer. It's gratifying when they make a name for themselves on Broadway or in Hollywood, but even if they do not, the skills they learn and the work ethic they develop will serve them in any field."

The Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theater Conservatory is a program of rigorous study that allows students to enhance their individual performance potential while developing a broad base of theater experience and knowledge. Students participate in classes including musical theater performance, acting, dance, private voice lessons and improvisation, while also attending guest workshops led by professional actors, directors and casting agents.

The final weeks are devoted to



Boland

rehearsals for the annual "New Voices" concert.

Many alumni of the Paper Mill Playhouse's Conservatory have gone on to appear on Broadway, in regional theater productions, in film and on TV.

Conservatory alumna Julia Knitel, who played the role of Carole King in "Beautiful: The Carole King Musical," said: "Growing up, I was always in the ensemble. That was where I'd feel comfortable because I love being a team player. That's one of the things that was so great about being at Paper Mill Playhouse, because in their conservatory, you had an equal amount of dancing, singing and acting training every day. I got a great foundation in being a team player and ensemble member and serving a production. The producers and creatives of 'Beautiful' saw in me something they couldn't find elsewhere."

Performances of "New Voices of 2019: Learn Your Lessons Well," take place Aug. 2 at 7:30 p.m. and Aug. 3 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m., at Paper Mill Playhouse, 22 Brookside Drive, Millburn. Tickets may be purchased by calling 973-376-4343, visiting www.papermill.org or by visiting the Paper Mill Playhouse box office.

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