

Summit NJ Times

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HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL, 'LEGALLY BLONDE'



Submitted by Amy Cairns

"Legally Blonde is the charming story of Elle Woods, a frivolous California dream girl who finds the true gold beneath her goldenness after going to Harvard Law School," explains Summit High School Drama Director, Anne Poyner. "Elle shows us how it is more rewarding to be smart, to help others and to be true to oneself than to be beautiful. Please join us with your friends and family for this wonderfully-engaging production."

Performances will be held in the High School Auditorium on Wednesday, February 28 and Thursday, March 1 at 6 p.m.; and Friday, March 2 and Saturday, March 3, at 7:30 p.m. Summit High School is located at 125 Kent Place Boulevard, Summit, New Jersey.

Ticket prices for opening night on February 28 are \$11. For all other performances, ticket prices are \$13 for students and seniors; and \$16 for adults.

Tickets can be purchased online beginning February 2 at showtix4u.com or at the following times and locations:

- On Saturdays February 10 and 24 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Summit High School auditorium lobby.
- On Wednesday, February 28, Thursday, March 1, and Friday, March 2 outside the Summit High School cafeteria from 10:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
- On the night of each performance, one hour before curtain at the Summit High School auditorium lobby box office.

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WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY TAKES ACTION SUPPORTING HURRICANE VICTIMS

By Mia Bivaletz

Last month at Washington Elementary School, Summit, New Jersey, a group of the fifth-grade peer leaders, better known as The Dear Tucker Team, led the entire fifth grade in a social action project to support students at Moore Elementary School in Houston, Texas. The focus of our team is to help Tucker the Owl, Washington Elementary School's mascot, help others, both in our school community and beyond.

During the 2017 hurricane season, Moore Elementary was flooded unbelievably, displacing the entire student body to an alternate location; luckily, they had that location. They lost the building and everything in the school to the flood and many of the families in the community also suffered great loss in and to their homes. Soon after the hurricane, I reached out to the school counselor at Moore Elementary and arranged a long-distance friendship between our schools. A

few of our second-grade teachers even connected with a few of their second-grade teachers to be buddy-classrooms.

The project had the Dear Tucker peer leaders lead their classmates as they made stress balls out of balloons and sand and then attached Happy New Year gift tags to show that we're thinking about our friends in Houston. Working with a partner, each student made a stress ball to send and one to keep; continuing with our last year's focus on practicing mindfulness at Washington, and sticking with our current focus on building grit and resilience! We want to show our long-distance friends that we have grit here at Washington and that we work together to support each other and handle difficult circumstances.

Parents of the fifth graders supported this project by purchasing our supplies and lending a hand.



(above) Members of the current Dear Tucker Team. (l-r, bottom row) Jed Lehrich, Will Iacovelli, Emily Farberov, Abby Kane, Rachel Herhold, and Grace Penque. (l-r, middle row) Ethan Lawton, Christina Ligouri, Gabriella Guzinati, Ryan Hanley, Eylon Hotam, and Cooper Nelson. (l-r, top row) Amanda Jimenez, Peter Huntley-Robinson, and Luca Ramniceanu.

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RELAY 2018 RETURNS TO HIGH SCHOOL

Submitted by Marlene Sincaglia



The Event Leadership Team announced that The 2018 Relay for Life of Berkeley Heights, Mountainside, New Providence, and Summit will be returning to Governor Livingston High School on June 2 to 3, 2018. Mrs. Rattner stated, "We are excited about the possibility of Relay for Life returning to Governor Livingston High School in 2018. This event is an integral part of our community and an incredible opportunity for our students to help others." Being at the high school also allows for an indoor location in case of inclement weather.

There will be a Kick Off for Relay on Thursday, March 1, 2018. It will be held at the Governor Livingston High School Cafeteria at 7 p.m. The theme of Kick Off is Back TO GL. We envision a future that is cancer free. Everything you need to know about Relay for Life will be presented in an interactive setting. Relay passports will be distributed. Get stamps for various benchmarks that will result in being eligible for a \$100 gift card. Sign up as an

individual or with a team that evening.

The Event Leadership Team is hoping that many more teams will join us this year. If you have a group of friends, a book club, or other group, please form a team. Relay 2018 is looking for people who will work together to solicit money for ACS and then walk the track on June 2nd to demonstrate that cancer does not sleep and neither do we.

Relay for Life is a community event. The three prongs are Celebrate, Remember, and Fight Back. Everyone has been touched by cancer. At relay we Celebrate the survivors and those who are starting the journey. At Relay, we Remember those we lost to cancer and at Relay, we Fight Back to help prevent cancer.

Relay for Life raises money for the American Cancer Society (ACS). The ACS is leading the fight for a world without cancer. From research, education and prevention to treatment, recovery and support of patients, caregivers, long-term survivors, ACS stands united in its mission to achieve a world free from the pain and suffering of cancer.

The website cancer.org features the latest most accurate information on virtually all topics related to cancer from prevention and diagnosis to survivorship and caregiving. The toll free helpline 1-800-227-2345 is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to help cancer patients, and those seeking information, resources, and support. For more information go to RelayforLife.org

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STUDENT PROFILE: INGA HAO

Submitted by Mia Bivaletz

Inga Hao is a senior at Summit High School. She is part of the Girls Cross Country Team, for a third year. Her interest was piqued in middle school and she decided to pursue the sport as a 5K and long-distance runner. She feels it is great for team bonding as well.

Inga has a passion for music. She has played the flute for nine years. She is the Woodwind Captain for Marching Band and Pep Band. Inga shared, "Being a captain has a lot of responsibility, yet it is very rewarding. I love how the different sections cohesively come together."

Inga is also part of Pit Orchestra, an extracurricular she has been dedicated to for four years. Each year, she and about 20 students have the integral job of bringing music to life for the spring theatre productions. The experience allowed her to become close to many peers and they have developed a genuine camaraderie. She said, "Mr. Rapp is an outstanding conductor. While I have loved all of our musicals, Mary Poppins was my favorite; I was able to learn about set production and special effects!"

Inga's love of music spreads beyond the walls of Summit High School. She was selected as a member of Honors Band at Caldwell College. For the past three years, along with college students, she has dedicated many nights to rehearsals during the holiday season. The culmination is always an amazing winter performance.

Inga is very involved with environmental concerns such as energy conservation and going green waste reduction. She is president of the Environmental Action Club, where she and club members focus on waste reduction such as paper and cafeteria waste. They are currently in the process of implementing composting bins. She is also the student representative on the Summit Town Hall Recycling Advisory Committee. As a city-wide initiative, they deal with the Summit Free Market and create a greener city by encouraging municipal recycling efforts.

Since sophomore year Inga has been working on a national environmental project called 1000

Schools: Hands Together, enacted by Secretary of State, John Kerry and the Chinese Vice Prime Minister, Liu Yandong. She was inspired to become involved in this since her mother travels to China often and invariably returns with a cough from the air pollution. The project's goal is to create a residential waste reduction system to implement a recycling center in the city and educate citizens on the importance of waste reduction. The school she was partnered with in Wuhan surveyed citizens in the town and the surrounding area; an additional goal was to empower residents and give them ownership over their lives. Thus far, Inga has worked with Wuhan No. 6 High School in China, communicating over social media, to devise a research presentation. Subsequently, Inga and the Wuhan students presented the report to government officials in China.

Academics are important to Inga, who is taking a lot of challenging classes this year. She is very determined, sets personal goals, and works hard to achieve.

The best advice she has ever gotten was from Coach Welsh who said, "Perseverance and spirit have done wonders in all ages."

Inga explained that what she takes from that quote is that having a good attitude and never giving up will be paramount to her success.

Seeing others succeed is important to Inga as well. The advice that she would offer all high school students is to join extracurriculars. "These opportunities will shape your personality and your overall experience; so, pick different areas that reflect your character and interests, and get involved!"

In the future, Inga would like to focus on Finance. She is fluent in English, Mandarin, and Spanish, so she hopes to create a cross-cultural bridge in her career. With the support of her parents, brother, and grandmother, she will indeed go far. "My mother has always encouraged me to be work hard, to be curious, and to keep a positive mentality," said Inga. She plans to take her mother's guidance, along with fierce determination, and forge her own path.



(above) Inga Hao



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(above) Mr. John entertaining children.

SUMMIT MUSICIAN GETS CHILDREN MOVING AT LIBRARY OF THE CHATHAMS

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

“Music with Mr. John” is a monthly children’s program J.P. Arthur, of Summit, brings to Library of The Chathams, 214 Main Street, Chatham, New Jersey. Mr. John sings, plays guitar, and hands out dozens of inflatable toy guitars and guitar picks so children can “play” and sing along with him.

Featured songs include “Hello, Goodbye” by The Beatles; old children’s classics such as “Wheels on the Bus,” and the “Hokey Pokey”; and Mr. John’s originals, “My Guitar,” and “How Many Strings.”

The library was packed with over 50 children and their parents. Jaclyn Santora said her 15-month-old daughter, Teresa Santora “loves music” and “dancing to music.”

When J.P.’s not entertaining children, he plays in his indie band, The Deafening Colors; and they just released a full-length LP.

For more information on The Deafening Colors visit: thedeafeningcolors.bandcamp.com

For more information on Library of the Chathams, visit: chathamlibrary.org

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(above) Mr. John showing children how to play guitar.

Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta.

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REEVES-REED ARBORETUM SEEKING FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY PROJECT

The mission of Reeves-Reed Arboretum is to engage, educate, and enrich the lives of our constituents to become better stewards of nature and the planet. With an ever increasing visitorship, now over 100,000 annually, the Arboretum acknowledges and embraces its responsibility to make the grounds safe and welcoming to all our visitors in order to fully embody the goals of our mission.

In 2017, the Arboretum initiated Phase One of a two-phased Accessibility Project. Thanks to support from a number of foundations including The Hyde and Watson Foundation, the E.J. Grassmann Trust, the Union Foundation, the Manley-Winsor Foundation, the Kessler Foundation, the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, the Mary Reinhart Stackhouse Foundation, and Board designated funds from Reeves-Reed Arboretum, the completion of the first phase of this ambitious project was realized this past October. Architectural plans have been drawn up and the stage is set to proceed with Phase Two.

"The Arboretum was recently chosen the Best Garden in New Jersey by readers of NJ Family. To be counted alongside some magnificent sites in New Jersey, the Garden State, is a reflection

on our ability to engage our constituency both creatively and emotionally," according to RRA Executive Director, Frank Juliano. "Now that Phase One of our Accessibility Project is complete, we are hard at work to raise funds in order to realize the more encompassing scope and requirements of Phase Two."

Reeves-Reed Arboretum will be requesting funding from New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection/Green Acres Program, a nonprofit program committed to preserving New Jersey's natural resources statewide. The guidelines for this grant require that, "Meaningful public access must be provided to every project funded under this program." The Board of Director and the Staff of Reeves-Reed Arboretum are emboldened and enthusiastic by the standards set by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection. The application will be on file at Green Acres by February 15 and available for review.

For more information about the programs, events, workshops, performances and classes at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, or learn more about our Accessibility Project, please visit our website at reeves-reedarboretum.org or call 908-273-8787 x 1010.



(above) Before.



(above) After.



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COSMIC GARDEN SERIES FEATURED AT REEVES-REED ARBORETUM

The Cosmic Garden Series began with two art residencies – one at the Julia & David White Art Residency in Costa Rica near the Monteverde Rain Forest; the other at the Tyrone Guthrie Centre in Ireland. As the series progressed and Lynne returned to her home in the Mid-Hudson Valley, new ideas flowed with the evolving seasonal changes. Friedman recounts, “I find inspiration in the indomitable cycles of the natural world, and it is that impulse that transforms the experience and idea into visual form.”

Lynne’s work has been shown in solo exhibits at the Booth Western Art Museum (Georgia), the Galleria Nacional Museum (Costa Rica), the James McNeil Whistler Museum

(Massachusetts), BE Gallery and The Wired Gallery (the Hudson Valley, NY), and in numerous solo shows in NYC including the Artifact Gallery, Prince Street Gallery, and Noho Gallery, and was selected by the U.S. Department of State Art-In-Embassies Program for the U.S. embassies in Djibouti (East Africa), and in Colombo (Sri Lanka). Friedman is represented in many corporate and private collections throughout the country.

Cosmic Garen Series opens at the Wisner House Gallery on Sunday, February 11, 2018, with an artist reception from 2 to 4 p.m., and will run through May 13. All the works are for sale, and the artists will donate 30 percent of all purchases to Reeves-Reed Arboretum.



(above) *Beauty of Autumn.*

NEW ONLINE BUILDING PERMIT SYSTEM

The City of Summit has launched of an online application for building and construction permits at cityofsummit.org/onlinepermits. The new system will allow citizens to track permit applications through the approval process, fulfill Open Public Records Act (OPRA) requests and perform routine property records searches online.

“This is a positive step forward for our code and construction division in helping to improve its customer service,” explains Summit Mayor Nora Radest. “Being able to track the progress of permits online will expedite the approval

process and help to eliminate multiple trips to City Hall for applicants.”

The cloud-based application portal is hosted by SDL Enterprise License, a Somerset, NJ-based municipal management software provider that specializes in local government solutions for automation of departments, workflows, and functions.

For more information on the new online application system for building and construction permits, visit cityofsummit.org/onlinepermits or contact the City of Summit Department of Community Services at 908-273-6404.

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POLICE OFFICER FINDS DOG LOST IN BLIZZARD

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

In January New Jersey experienced not only a blizzard, but several days of temperatures below freezing. During the blizzard, Summit resident Melania Ramirez was about to walk her Goldendoodle dog Holly. Holly got excited by the snow and ran out the door, with her lease on, pulling away from her owner.

Melania chased after her, but couldn't find her and called the police station.

Officer Donnie DeFilippis found Molly that same day. He heard barking in the distance and walked towards backyards until he found her. Her leash was stuck on a branch at the edge of a creek.

"It was cold, and she was excited to see me," said DeFilippis, who was able to unhook the leash and bring Molly home. She was uninjured.

Melania was relieved to have Molly back home.

"It felt good to help," said DeFilippis.



(above) Officer Donnie DeFilippis and Molly.

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Registration is \$12 • Note: this is a non-rated tournament.
Non-scouts (under 18 only) can register by calling Joe Renna at 908-447-1295.
Scouts can use Patriots' Path Council Munsee District Double Knot link to register on-line at ppbsa.doubleknot.com/event/2300308
Scouts can email Will Adams at Will.adams@scouting.org for more info.

Trophies awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finishers.
Lunch will be provided for all players and fans.
This tournament meets the 6a requirement for earning a Chess merit badge.

FIRE EVACUEES FOUND REFUGE AT COMMITTED PIG RESTAURANT

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Photos by Patrick Angelo

Sunday morning, December 31, 2017, was not unlike any other for Patrick Angelo, general manager of The Committed Pig restaurant, who resides in Summit. He was awoken at 5 a.m. by his dog, Winnie.

"She was doing her normal morning routine," he said, "which is scratching on the dish washer, so I could wake up to feed her. I fed her as normal, then went back to bed."

After Winnie eats, she usually goes back to sleep too. However, on this morning, she began to bark very loud, which was unusual for the well-behaved dog.

Concerned, Patrick immediately got up to see what was wrong, especially since he's the father of 5-month-old twins. He was nervous that they'd be wakened by the excessive barking. Patrick ran out of the bedroom and found Winnie standing on a dining room chair with her front paws on the radiator cover, looking out the window as she continued to bark.

Patrick ran to the window and noticed a fire in the rear of the apartment building at 125 Summit Avenue. He immediately woke his wife, Laura, and told her, "There's a big fire next door!"

Patrick then dialed 911. They had already received a call and the fire department was on its way.

It was then that Patrick and Laura decided to put their babies in their car seats and leave their condo because they weren't sure if the fire would spread to their building. As they were strapping their twins in, they could hear voices from 125 Summit Avenue yelling for help.

Patrick and Laura then decided to go over to The Committed Pig, which is located at 339 Springfield Avenue, just a block away from their home, where they'd be safe and be able to wait it out. Patrick works as a general manager there. The restaurant was closed, but staff were in the restaurant preparing food for when they opened.

The fire grew quickly and soon more fire trucks, police cars, and EMT vehicles were on the scene. Evacuees raced down the streets in their pajamas, some with pets in tow. It was only around five degrees that day.

Patrick told a police officer that people were welcomed to come inside the Committed Pig for shelter. Word got out and Patrick, along with his staff made coffee and prepared trays of bacon and eggs for evacuees and their dogs.

Rocco Flores from Pizza Vita, and Philip Angelo from La Pastaria, also came to the Committed Pig bringing food, as EMTs came into the restaurant to see if anyone needed medical attention. Soon Anthony Lauro, senior vice president of the management company of the building affected by the fire showed up. He started to account for those who were at the restaurant, affected by the fire.

"Everyone wound up staying here [Committed Pig] because it was just easier for everyone to be in one location so police could gather information."

Mayor Nora Radist secured rooms at the Grand Summit Hotel for people who lost their units in the fire and worked closely with the Red Cross to make sure everyone had a place to go.

By 2 p.m. the restaurant finally cleared out and everyone was either back at home, or at a hotel with friends and family. But most importantly, everyone in all 15 families was accounted for. Two who tried to escape by jumping out of a window were taken to Overlook Hospital in Summit.

"It was a truly extraordinary situation to witness," said Patrick. "I had never personally seen a fire like that. Everyone involved did a great job handling such a chaotic and tragic situation."

At the time this article was written, the cause of fire was still under investigation.



(above) People affected by the fire finding shelter at Committed Pig.



(above) Firefighters working on the fire.



(above) Winnie in the window "warning" her family of fire.



(above) 125 Summit Ave burning at 6:08 a.m.



(above) Picture of the rear of 125 Summit Ave. later on that day.

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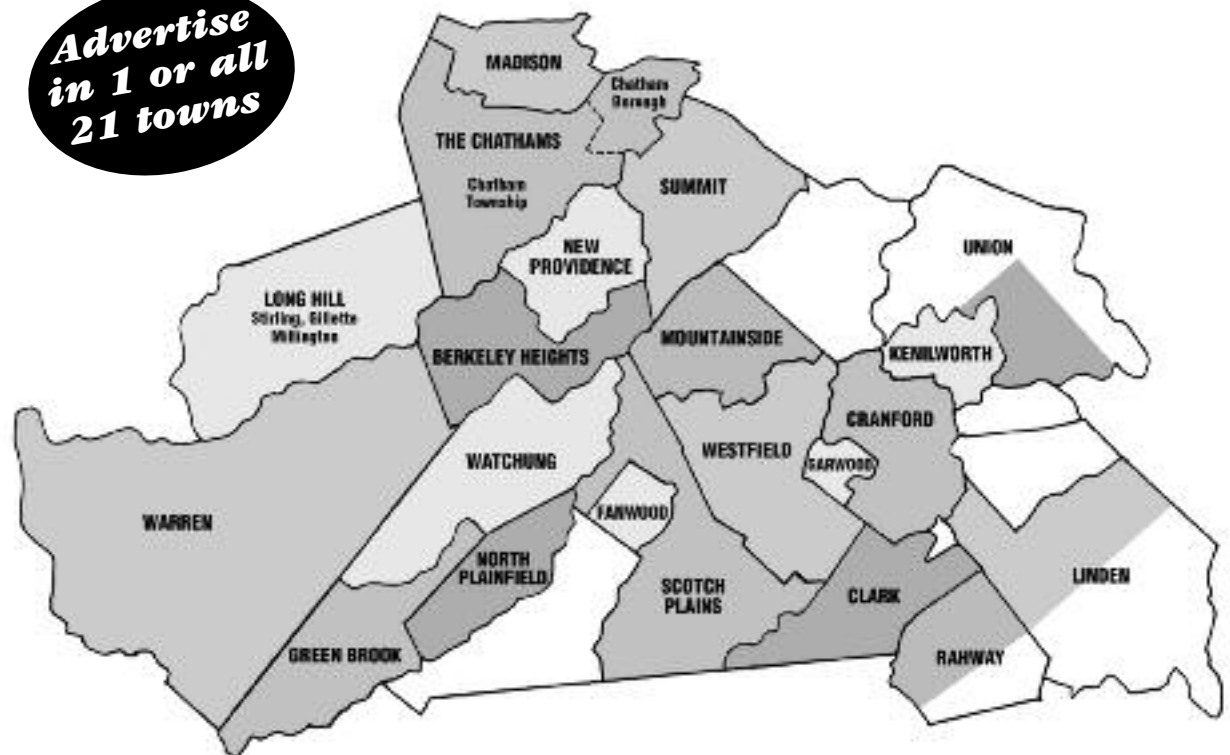
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