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Issue 87 • March 2018

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HS PERFORMING ARTS COMPANY PRESENTS 'PETER PAN'

The magic and adventure of the beloved classic Peter Pan will be brought to life on the Union High School stage March 16th- March 25th. The classic tale by J.M. Barrie is based on the beloved title character Peter Pan, the free spirited young boy that flies and has non-stop adventures in Neverland. Peter Pan has been told in a variety of different formats from the cherished Disney cartoon, to the timeless TV movie made popular by Mary Martin. Cathy Rigby brought fame to the role, playing Peter for over thirty years. Fly with the award-winning Union High School Performing Arts Company March 16th, 17th, 23rd, and 24th at 7:30pm. Special kid-friendly matinee performances will be held March 18th, 24th and 25th at 2pm. Tickets are available by visiting www.uhspac.booktix.com; tier pricing available with pricing ranging from \$10 and up.

The UHSPAC hopes to unite audiences with this family-friendly musical, sharing in the joy and enchantment of the story while taking you on an experience unlike any other you have witnessed on the UHSPAC stage. The journey transcends beyond the spectacle, at the core showing us what it means to grow up, and to not be scared of that notion, but to embrace it. The magic comes from within, and when we think happy thoughts, we learn anything is possible.

A production of this magnitude is an exciting undertaking for the students and staff of the UHSPAC. We will visit the Darling home in London, hang out with the lost boys in their lair, swim with mermaids, walk the plank with Captain Hook and his merriment of pirates, dance with Tiger Lily and her pack, and of course, fly high in the sky with Peter Pan. As with any UHSPAC show, you can expect professional quality lighting, scenery, and a cast of talented students you will forget they are in high school.

Calling all Pixies and Pirates, the cast will be hosting "Peter Pan's Neverland Adventure" Sunday, March 18th from 11am-1pm. Rub elbows with Captain Hook, play games with the lost boys, enjoy snacks with Wendy and the rest of the Darling Family, and of course learn a few tricks from Peter Pan! Tickets are available by visiting www.uhspac.booktix.com.

Director James Mosser shared "Peter Pan transcends the spectacle of flying children and battles in far off magical lands at the core is the human story of learning to grow up and take responsibility for your life. The



children are at first scared of the adult world of their parents, the pirates and indians, but as they go out on their own they slowly discover that if they put their mind to it they can achieve anything. Most importantly that growing up is a necessary and not as scary as it seems. These archetypal fears and the fantasy of flying away to a magical land to escape the perils of growing up have made this a classic for many generations."

For more information, please visit www.uhspac.com; or on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter @UHSPAC.



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HISTORICAL SOCIETY "HISTORY OF DINERS"

The Union Township Historical Society will host Michael Gabriele for a program on his book, "The History of Diners in New Jersey," at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 18, 2018. The event will be held at Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, and is free and open to the public.

New Jersey is universally recognized as the "Diner Capital of the World." Gabriele's book, published by The History Press, tells the story of New Jersey's diner business and the evolution of the American diner phenomenon.

Friendly, familiar beacons on the Garden State's highways and byways and in downtown business districts, diners play an important role in New Jersey's culture and community life and serve as the ultimate egalitarian dining experience.

The book pays tribute to New Jersey as the diner manufacturing capital of the world during the 20th century. This was the period when prefabricated, modular diners were designed and built in factories as engineered products, much like cars and planes. These Garden State companies had built thousands of diners during the 20th century; the streamlined, stainless steel gems that are admired around the world and

recognized as iconic examples of American industrial design. Nearly all the major U. S. diner builders were based in New Jersey: O'Mahony, Kullman, Paramount, Silk City, Fodero, Mountain View, Master, Swingle, Manno, and others. Unfortunately, the state's diner manufacturing sector is extinct; a forgotten chapter of New Jersey's history. Today, virtually all current diners in the Garden State and beyond are site-built structures.

More than just roadside attractions that serve coffee, pie, hamburgers, and French fries, diners are a vibrant part of the state's culture, history, commerce, and mythology. Many classic, factory-built, stainless steel diners have survived and continue to operate throughout New Jersey as landmarks and architecturally significant structures in the state's "built landscape."

Gabriele has written three books on New Jersey history, all published by The History Press. A lifelong New Jersey resident, he has been a journalist for more than 40 years. He is a 1975 graduate of Montclair State University; a member of the executive board of the Nutley Historical Society; and serves on the advisory board of the Clifton Arts Center.



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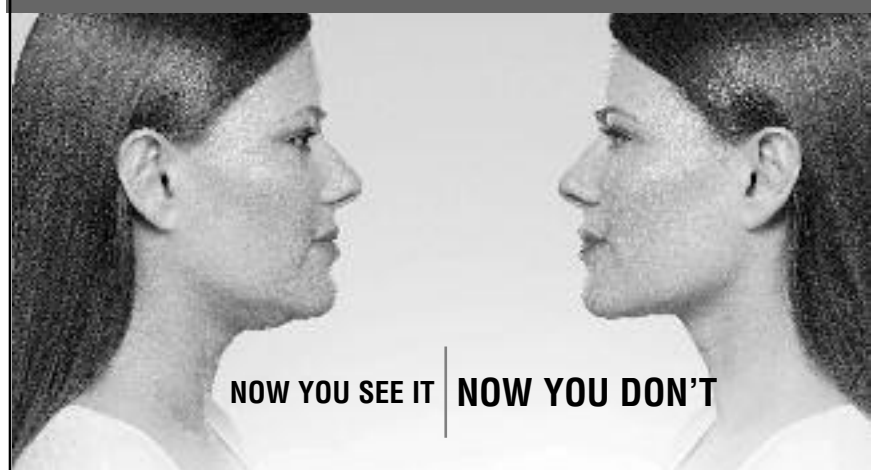


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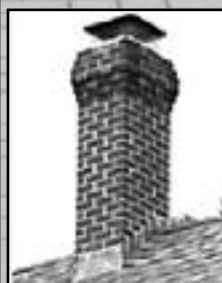
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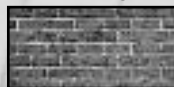
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UNION CELEBRATED BLACK HISTORY WITH 'THE AMEN CORNER'



(above) Daryl Stewart, Director of "The Amen Corner," part of the Township of Union's Black History Month Celebration.

Photo Courtesy of Daryl Stewart.

The Mayor and Committee of the Township of Union celebrated their 3rd Annual Black History Month Celebration on Saturday, February 24, 2018 with a staged reading of the acclaimed play "The Amen Corner" by James Baldwin. The event took place at Central Five-Jefferson School on Hilton Avenue in Vauxhall, New Jersey.

"The Amen Corner" is a three-act play by James Baldwin, first published in 1954. It was Baldwin's first attempt at theater following "Go Tell It on the Mountain," and addresses themes of the role of a church in an African-American family and the effect of poverty, born of racial prejudice, on an African-American community.

"The Amen Corner" takes place in two settings: a "corner" church in Harlem and the apartment dwelling of Margaret Alexander, the church pastor; her son, David; and sister, Odessa. It is a moving drama which examines issues of community, faith, and forgiveness, and is filled with evocative music and language to stir the soul.

The performance was directed by Vauxhall native Daryl Stewart. Stewart grew up on Hilton Avenue and fondly recalls staples of his childhood there.

"My cousins and I spent bright summer mornings at 'The Box' with Miss Bailey on the Central Five School playground; and on Friday

nights, Joe's Pizza was the standard and staple for dinner," Stewart said. "Saturday nights were for skating at Skate 22 unless I had intense rehearsals for the musicals and plays at Union High School."

According to Stewart, the Vauxhall section of Union was his hometown, but the theater was truly his home. As a result, he was proud to return to where it all started to share his craft with the community that nurtured him.

"There is not a more appropriate art form for me to serve and honor my community with than theater, and there is not a more appropriate time for this play than right now," Stewart said.

Stewart is an actor, director, performing and teaching artist, and arts advocate. He is a theater teaching artist at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, New Jersey. There he has collaborated with several dozen schools, groups and arts organizations teaching, curating, and creating musical theater, dance, and drama programs. He also serves as a lead teaching artist for the internationally recognized Disney Musicals in Schools program.

"TV/Film credits include "Lipstick Jungle" (NBC), "School Spirits" (SYFY) and "106 & Park" (BET). Stewart's self-produced original one man show "Fully Versatile" premiered Off-Broadway at Playwrights Horizon, NYC.

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March is Women's History month and the Crane's Ford Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) chapter will be presenting Joanne Rajoppi, Union County Clerk, with the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution "Women in American History" award on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at noon at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, NJ.

The "Women in American History" award, sponsored by the NSDAR, is designed to recognize worthy women, and celebrate their contribution to history, culture, and society.

Joanne Rajoppi is the first woman County clerk in the 154-year history of Union County. She is the former Mayor of Springfield, former Union County Freeholder and first woman chairman of the Freeholder Board, and former NJ Assistant Secretary of State during the Byrne Administration. She has been an advocate for women running for public office, writing her first book, "Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There" in 1993.

As an author, her first book published in 2013 chronicled the military service of her great-grandfather during the American Civil War titled "New Brunswick and the Civil War: The Brunswick Boys in the Great Rebellion" letters he wrote to his family. She followed the story with the Hamilton women after the war writing her most recent book: "Northern Women in the Aftermath of the Civil War: The Wives and Daughters of the Brunswick Boys." This book was published in 2017. Ms. Rajoppi will be presenting a power-point program on her most recent book and copies of the book will be available for purchase.

The public is invited to join us for the presentation with a reception to follow. The Crane's Ford chapter will also be celebrating its 74th Anniversary, chartered on March 8, 1944.

The NSDAR is a volunteer women's service

organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, historic preservation, service to veterans and meaningful community service. Membership is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. For more information or DAR application please contact our chapter Registrar, Patricia Campanelli at patushkat@aol.com.





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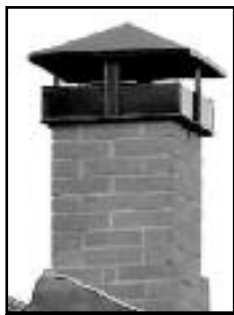


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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA
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The Gateway Family YMCA is gearing up for a summer of fun with the theme, “Where Adventure Begins,” and is inviting the public to learn more about summer camp at an open house this spring. Summer camp open house dates are scheduled for March 21, 6 to 8 p.m.; April 21, noon to 3 p.m.; and May 15, 6 to 8 p.m. Summer day camp is available at the Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, New Jersey; Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union, New Jersey; and Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, New Jersey.

The Gateway Family YMCA offers summer day camp experiences for preschool through grade 11. And, to ensure that all youth have the chance to experience camp, The Gateway Family YMCA offers financial assistance to those in need, as well as a multi-sibling rate for families. Summer camp at The Gateway Family YMCA gives kids and teens an adventurous, active, and healthy summer that challenges their minds and feeds their spirit.

YMCA camp programs offer youth fun and unique experiences with an opportunity to explore the outdoors, meet new friends, discover new interests and create memories that last a lifetime. Attending an open house is a first step in selecting a summer camp experience that complements your child and their interests. Optional specialty camp experiences include sports camps, arts camp, dance camp and swim camp along with opportunities to meet your child’s unique skills and interests.

Summer is the ideal time for kids to get up, get out and explore the world around them. But, for some kids, summer means no access to recreational and educational activities to help them learn, grow, and thrive during out-of-school time. As a result, some kids can experience summer learning loss and gain weight twice as fast than during the school year. Attending summer camp at The Gateway Family YMCA is a memorable opportunity for kids to keep their minds and bodies active throughout the summer months.



(above) Discover where adventure begins at the YMCA.

“Attending summer day camp at the Y is a growth experience that every child should have an opportunity to experience. Our YMCA is dedicated to providing assistance to those in need in our community,” says Krystal R. Canady, CEO of The Gateway Family YMCA.

“In our day camp, kids are in a welcoming environment with caring role models, where they can belong, build relationships, develop character, discover their potential and achieve personal goals. We encourage parents to give their kids the experience of summer camp so that every child can benefit from the unique and beneficial activities,” added Melynda A. Mileski, EVP/COO.

A leading nonprofit committed to nurturing the potential of youth, the Y has been a leader in providing summer camp for nearly 130 years. The Gateway Family YMCA continues to give youth an enriching, safe experience with caring staff and volunteers who model positive values that help build their kids’ character. Through summer camp, the Y is helping to combat childhood obesity, summer learning loss and food insecurity.

For more information, visit tgfymca.org/day-camp or contact The Gateway Family YMCA Elizabeth Branch 908-355-9622, Five Points Branch 908-688-9622, or Rahway Branch 732-388-0057.

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SEWING & QUILTING MEETUP GROUP FORMING IN RAHWAY

Area residents who enjoy sewing and quilting, and those who would like to start, are invited to join the newly formed Rahway Sewing & Quilting Meetup group.

Members are encouraged to share their interests, tips and techniques, and just sewcialize with others who share their passion for creating with fabric. "Whether you enjoy making quilts, home dec pieces, gifts, clothing, accessories, or a little bit of everything, this is a group where you can show off your latest masterpiece, get help with a difficult project, exchange information and have some fun," says Lisa

Shepard Stewart, organizer of the group and a lifelong fabric collector and sewing/quilting enthusiast.

An introductory meeting was held in February; the next one is scheduled for Sunday, March 18 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at the Cultured Expressions Studio, 1417 Main Street, Rahway, NJ 07065. For complete details, and to RSVP for the March meetup, go to www.meetup.com, search for "Rahway Sewing & Quilting Meetup" and join the group. It's free to sign up and participate in the group, though there may be a fee for some upcoming activities and events.

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UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY MARCH 2018 YOUTH PROGRAMS MAIN BRANCH

1980 Morris Avenue, Union, NJ 07083. 908-851-5450, or find us on the web at www.uplnj.org

Every Monday: Construction Zone
at 3:30 p.m.

All ages. No registration required. Learn, play, and build with us using Legos, K'Nex, and more!

Every Wednesday: Babies in the Library
at 10:30 a.m.

Birth to 18 months. No registration required. Spend this special time with baby singing songs and rhymes, listening to stories, followed by free play and socialization.

Every Thursday: Preschool Storytime
at 4 p.m.

3 to 6 years. No registration required. Jump into reading with UPL! We explore phonics, letter recognition, and numbers all while reading fun stories and making new friends.

Every Friday: Toddler Time
at 10:30 a.m.

18 months to 3 years. No registration required. Enjoy stories, singing, and movement, following a different theme each week. Please note that UPL is closed on March 30 for Good Friday.

Read Across America Day Celebration
Friday, March 2, 3:30 p.m.

All Ages. Registration required. Join us for a fun-filled afternoon celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday, featuring a special guest reader and a very Seussical craft!

Read to Waldi

Monday, March 5, 4:15 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Bring along a book or two and practice reading aloud to Waldi, our visiting therapy dog!

Intergenerational Storytime

Thursday March 8, 10:30 a.m.

All Ages. Registration required. Bringing generations together with a special story time, featuring special guests from Schaeffer Gardens.

FNJ Makers Day After-School Event

Friday March 9, 3:30 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Let your imagination soar as you build, make, and decorate different projects during this special after-school NJ Makers Day program.

Pi Day Celebration

Wednesday, March 14, 4 p.m.

Ages 5 and up. Registration required. Did you know that March 14 is Pi () Day? Celebrate Pi Day with some fun activities that combine math and art.

Music & Movement

Friday, March 16, 10:30 a.m.

Toddlers and Pre-K. No registration required. Get movin' and groovin' with your little one. Interactive play time with a focus on music and movement.

Teen Hangout

Friday, March 16, 12:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up. Registration required. It's a half-day at school, so spend your free afternoon playing video games, testing out our new button maker, and more.

SciFri

Friday, March 16, 3:30 p.m.

Ages 6 and up. Registration required. Create geodesic domes and other amazing 3-D structures using Strawbees.

Family Drop-In Craft

Saturday March 17, 11 a.m.

All Ages. No registration required. Look for a pot of gold at the end of the popsicle stick rainbow we'll be creating for St. Patrick's Day.

Bedtime Storytime

Tuesday March 20, 7 p.m.

All Ages. Registration required. Join us for a special bedtime story time to celebrate the first day of Spring. Don't forget to wear your coziest PJs.

ShopRite Kids Cuisine

Wednesday March 21, 4 p.m.

Ages 6 to 12. Registration required. Learn about healthy eating and try some yummy new foods, following a different theme each month.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting

Friday March 23, 3:30 p.m.

Ages 13 and up. Registration required. Help us make Union Public Library the place for you! Let us know what programs and events you want to see at the library. Recommend books, movies, and music you want to see on the shelves, and earn community service hours by coming to TAB meetings and participating in programs!

Family M.E.S.S.

(Math, Engineering, and Science Saturday)

Saturday March 24, 2 p.m.

Ages 2 and up. Registration required. In this fun early literacy program, families will learn about math, engineering, and science concepts by exploring different projects and activities each month.

Munchies and a Movie

Saturday, March 31, 11 a.m.

All Ages. Registration required. Join us for a screening of "Wonder" (2017) Rated PG. Popcorn will be served. Parents must be present.

VAUXHALL EVENTS

123 Hilton Avenue, Vauxhall, NJ 07088. • (908) 851-5451.

Every Wednesday: Let's Play Chess Club

at 3:15 p.m.

1st to 12th Grades. Registration required. For students of all levels. Facilitated by Chess for Everyone.

Thursday March 1: Tween Game Time

at 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Come in after school and play games with friends.

Pre-K Story & Craft "Read Across America Celebration"

Tuesday March 6, 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required. Enjoy stories, songs, and a craft to commemorate Dr. Seuss' birthday, featuring a special guest reader.

Club Teen Game Time

Wednesday March 7, 6 p.m.

Ages 14 and up. Registration required. Enjoy video games, card games, and board games with your friends in a fun and relaxed environment.

Tween DIY

Thursday March 8, 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Make a batch of slime from scratch. All materials will be provided.

NJ Makers Day Drop-in Family Program

Saturday March 10, from 9 to 11 a.m.

All Ages. No registration required. Spend your Saturday

morning building, making, and decorating different projects during this special NJ Makers Day program!

Music & Movement

Tuesday March 13, 10:30 a.m.

Toddlers and Pre-K. Registration required. Get movin' and groovin' with your little one. Interactive play time with a focus on music and movement.

Tween Movie

Thursday March 15, 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Join us for an after-school screening of "Coco" (2017) Rated PG.

Pre-K STEM Storytime

Tuesday March 20, 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required. Celebrate the first day of Spring with a seasonal STEM story time. All materials will be provided.

Club Teen: DIY

Wednesday March 21, 6 p.m.

Ages 14 and up. Registration required. Make a colorful lava lamp from recycled materials.

Tween STEM Builder Club

Thursday March 22, 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Play around with Legos and 3D magnetic tiles to create amazing shapes and structures.

Pre-K Interactive Learning Time

Tuesday March 27, 11 a.m.

Ages 3 to 5. Registration required. Enjoy puzzles, coloring, memory games, and other fun activities with your preschooler!

Tween 'Make It at Your Library'

Thursday March 29, 3 p.m.

Ages 9 to 13. Registration required. Celebrate the start of spring with a beautiful butterfly craft. All materials will be provided.

Family Karaoke Sing-a-Long

Saturday March 31, 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

All ages. Registration required. Sing your heart out to your favorite tunes with your friends and family!

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I9 SPORTS GEARING UP FOR SPRING SEASON



(above) I9 Sports soccer players from Springfield, Mountainside, Union & Cranford

Photos from I9 2017 season can be found online on the Cranford Monthly page on rennamedia.com and on the Cranford Monthly page on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/i9sports).

Jason Johnson, owner of I9 Sports is preparing for his Spring season. I9 Sports provides youth sports leagues, camps, and clinics for boys and girls ages 3 and older in today's most popular sports such as flag football, soccer, basketball, and baseball. Their age appropriate curriculum is designed to teach children to learn the sport, develop skills, and most of all, have fun. All programs teach sportsmanship so that kids can learn not just the game but life skills also.

The local I9 Sports programs are held in Nomahegan Park in Cranford, and Rutgers Avenue Park and The Patrick School in Hillside. The Spring season includes a Baseball Instructional Program on Sundays from 3pm - 6pm for boys and girls ages 3 - 6. Flag Football Instructional Program on Sundays for boys and girls ages 4 - 10; and a Soccer League on Sundays for boys and girls ages 3 - 10.

Registration can be done online at i9sports.com or by calling 908-212-3200.



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(above) Coache TJ Fowler of Kenilworth



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IRS WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS

The IRS is urging the public to be aware of suspicious individuals claiming to be from the IRS.

Thousands of people have lost millions of dollars and their personal information to tax scammers. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

The IRS doesn't initiate contact with taxpayers by email, text messages, or social media channels to request personal or financial information. Recognize the telltale signs of a scam.

SCAMS TARGETING TAXPAYERS

IRS-IMPERSONATION TELEPHONE SCAMS

A sophisticated phone scam targeting taxpayers, including recent immigrants, has been making the rounds throughout the country. Callers claim to be IRS employees, using fake names and bogus IRS identification badge numbers. They may know a lot about their targets, and they usually alter the caller ID to make it look like the IRS is calling.

Victims are told they owe money to the IRS and it must be paid promptly through a gift card or wire transfer. Victims may be threatened with arrest, deportation or suspension of a business or driver's license. In many cases, the caller becomes hostile and insulting. Victims may be told they have a refund due to try to trick them into sharing private information. If the phone isn't answered, the scammers often leave an "urgent" callback request.

Some thieves have used video relay services (VRS) to try to scam deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Taxpayers are urged not trust calls just because they are made through VRS, as interpreters don't screen calls for validity.

Limited English Proficiency victims are often approached in their native language, threatened with deportation, police arrest and license revocation, among other things. IRS urges all taxpayers caution before paying unexpected tax bills. Note that the IRS doesn't:

- Call to demand immediate payment using a specific payment method such as a prepaid debit card, gift card or wire transfer.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.
- Demand payment without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

SCAMS TARGETING TAX PROFESSIONALS

Increasingly, tax professionals are being targeted by identity thieves. These criminals – many of them sophisticated, organized syndicates - are redoubling their efforts to gather personal data to file fraudulent federal and state income tax returns.

SURGE IN EMAIL, PHISHING AND MALWARE SCHEMES

Phishing (as in "fishing for information") is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity.

The IRS has issued several alerts about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers' financial information to steal their identity and assets.

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts, and verifying PIN information.

Be alert to bogus emails that appear to come

from your tax professional, requesting information for an IRS form. IRS doesn't require Life Insurance and Annuity updates from taxpayers or a tax professional.

Variations can be seen via text messages. The IRS is aware of email phishing scams that include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS web site. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." These emails are not from the IRS.

The sites may ask for information used to file false tax returns or they may carry malware, which can infect computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

For more details, visit www.irs.gov; YouTube IRS Videos on Tax Scams.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Union Township police department.

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(left) Seventh grade students at Kawameeh Middle School participated in a reflective activity in their language arts classes after the completion of the novel "The Outsiders." The novel, by S. E. Hinton, follows two rival groups, the Greasers and the Socials who are divided by their socioeconomic status. As part of the activity, students and teachers dressed up like either the Greasers or the Socials and participated in relay race activities that enabled them to understand what life is like when you feel like an outsider, face adversity or challenges, and how to overcome those obstacles.

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