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SCHOOLS AMONG NATION'S BEST FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

Submitted by Gary Miller

For the fourth consecutive year, Linden Public Schools have been selected as one of the "Best Communities for Music Education" in the nation.

Linden joins just 583 districts across the country and just 38 in New Jersey in receiving the prestigious distinction from the NAMM Foundation.

Now in its 19th year, Best Communities for Music Education recognizes outstanding efforts by teachers, administrators, parents, students, and community leaders who work together to ensure access to music learning for all students as part of the school curriculum.

"I am extremely proud of this accomplishment," said Linden Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi. "We have always seen education in music and the arts as essential in our mission to make sure every student reaches his or her highest potential. This shows that the commitment of our staff, from elementary school to high school, as well as the support they get from our parents and community, is paying great dividends in our children's overall education."

The BCME survey was sent to nearly 14,000 school districts across the country asking detailed questions about

funding, graduation requirements, music-class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program, and community music-making programs. Responses were verified with school officials and reviewed by The Center for Public Partnerships and Research, an affiliate of the University of Kansas.

"I am very proud of our department for receiving this honor for a fourth consecutive year," said Matthew Lorenzetti, Linden's supervisor of fine and performing arts, as well as the Gifted and Talented program. "Thanks so much to our Board of Education members, administration, staff, and community for their continued support of the arts, and thanks especially to our students for helping make this national recognition possible."

This award recognizes that Linden is leading the way with learning opportunities as outlined in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The federal law guides education policy in the states and in 2015 replaced the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), which was often criticized for an overemphasis on testing while leaving behind subjects such as music. ESSA recommends music and the arts as important elements of a

(continued on page 6)

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Life in Linden is published by Renna Media in cooperation with the Linden Chamber of Commerce, an affiliate of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

12,500 newspapers are printed monthly. 11,800 are mailed to homes and businesses and the remainder are distributed free at distribution sites throughout Linden.

Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Linden Chamber of Commerce assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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26TH ANNUAL LETTER CARRIERS' STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE IS MAY 12

The Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive is happening on Saturday, May 12, 2018. On this day, you can set out your non-perishable food before your letter carrier's regular pick up time. The top requested non-perishable food items are: cereal, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, canned fruits and vegetables, canned meals (such as soups, chili, and/or pasta), 100 percent juice, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned protein (tuna, chicken, and/or turkey), beans (canned or dry). You can also donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as beans, oatmeal, and other whole grains, and canola or olive oil.

Please do not donate frozen food, homemade food, or home-canned items. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers. In keeping with good food-handling and food-safety procedures, food that is opened, damaged, out of code or does not have the official ingredients will be discarded by the food bank in the sorting process.

The Food Drive is primarily a people food drive, but if you also want to give pet food in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or direct it to pet shelters and organizations in the area that have a need.

Please do not donate any form of individual baby food products, including formula, jarred vegetables and fruits, meals, snacks, infant cereal. Baby food may be donated by the case or pallet, but single item donations present potential contamination risks and special handling requirements.

The Food Drive is primarily a food drive, but if you also want to give personal care items (such as diapers, laundry detergent, soap, toilet paper,

and household cleaning items) in addition to your regular donation, food banks may be able to distribute or put them to good use with organizations that also provide help to those in need. Please note that not all food banks will be able to accept these items.

If you would like to volunteer with food distribution and sorting, or in any other capacity, call your local post office and ask to speak to the local food drive person there. Many food banks have a great need for volunteers on Food Drive Day, as well as all throughout the year.

All donations to the Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive are tax-deductible because all the food collected on Food Drive Day is given directly to non-profit charity food agencies in the community the food was collected. Though the National Association of Letter Carriers plans the Food Drive's logistics and letter carriers provide the transportation for each donor's generous donation, the National Association of Letter Carriers is not the agency that gets listed on tax forms for claiming deductions. There are more than 10,000 food agencies throughout the country that receive these donations, so if you itemize your taxes and want to provide proper credit for your Food Drive donations, you will need to determine the name of the agency (food pantry or other charity) that received your food, as well as the agency's address and tax I.D. number for proper reporting on your tax-filing forms. The Food Drive Coordinator at your local post office should be able to give you the name of the receiving agency, and that agency will likely have tax information handy.

For more information, visit: nalc.org.



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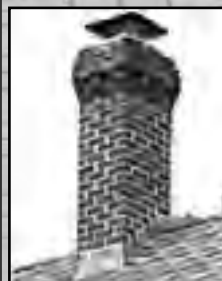
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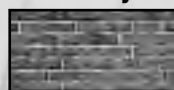
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KENNISHA QUALLS OF LINDEN SWORN IN AS CASA VOLUNTEER

Submitted by Gretchen Boger-O'Bryan

Community members from Linden, Bridgewater, Cranford, Elizabeth, Fanwood, North Bergen, Scotch Plains, and Summit recently completed child advocacy training in order to serve as extra eyes and ears for family law judges hearing cases involving Union County's abused, neglected or abandoned children removed from home and placed in foster care. The volunteers, ranging from 25- to 62-years-old, were officially sworn in today as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs) by Union County Superior Court Judge James Hely.

Family, friends, CASA staff and board members looked on as Judge Hely administered oaths to the new advocates, who also received a commemorative pin and certificate. Each were matched to their foster youth or sibling set during a celebratory luncheon following the ceremony.

Volunteers with varied backgrounds make successful advocates and this class is no exception. Each brings diverse experiences, including a former foster youth, former teen mom, single parent, immigrant, soon-to-be first-time mom, and sibling of an adoptee. Professionally, members of the training class

have backgrounds ranging from high school to graduate degrees, and employment that includes social services, corporate work, and self-employment. Both parents and non-parents were in the class, and most had no prior knowledge of the foster system.

CASA volunteers have court-ordered access to all parties in a foster child's life, including foster parents, doctors, caseworkers, therapists, and teachers, and incorporate into court reports findings from these contacts as well as from their own time spent with the youth. Volunteers

advocate in the community and in court to ensure a youth's needs are met and their time in care is as short as possible. It is CASA of Union County's goal that every area foster child have a CASA volunteer; yet half of the 600 Union County youth in care still await an advocate. More volunteers are needed to become a foster youth's voice.

For details on training or other ways to help the organization reach more foster youth, contact Courtney at 908-293-8136 or email cgreen@casaoofunioncounty.org.



(above, l-r) Outside the family courthouse in Elizabeth are, from left, newly sworn in CASA volunteers James Anglin of Fanwood, Tiffany Parchment of Elizabeth, Laurie Rando of Scotch Plains, September Patterson of North Bergen, Jaime Castro of Bridgewater, Melinda Giffen Frater of Summit and Kennisha Qualls of Linden. Not pictured is Cranford's Jim Van Horn.



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NATION’S BEST FOR MUSIC EDUCATION (Continued)

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Research into music education continues to demonstrate educational, cognitive and social skill benefits for children. In a series of landmark studies by researchers at Northwestern University, a link was found between students’ participation in music programs and their lifelong academic success, including higher high school graduation rates and college attendance. Another study from Northwestern found that the benefits of early exposure to music education improves how the brain processes and assimilates sounds, a trait that lasts well into adulthood.

Other studies have indicated that music education lays the foundation for individual excellence in group settings, creative problem solving, and flexibility in work situations, as well as learning how to give and receive constructive criticism.

A 2015 study supported by The NAMM Foundation, “Striking A Chord,”

shows an overwhelming desire by teachers and parents for music education opportunities as part of the school curriculum.

The NAMM Foundation is a non-profit supported in part by the National Association of Music Merchants and its approximately 10,300 members around the world. The foundation advances active participation in music making across the lifespan by supporting scientific research, philanthropic giving, and public service programs. For more information about the NAMM Foundation, please visit www.nammfoundation.org.

The Linden Public School district has over 6,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade, with a high school, two middle schools and eight elementary schools.



(above) Linden High School Madrigals.



(above) Linden High School guitar students.



(above) McManus Middle School choir.



(above) Linden High School marching band.

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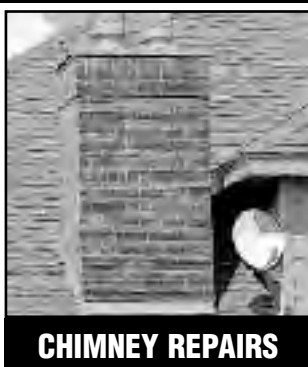
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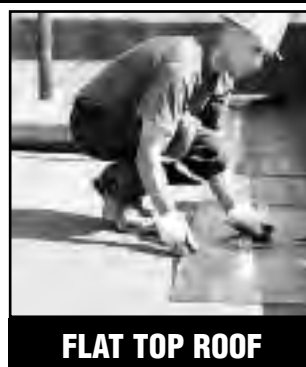
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MAYOR DEREK ARMSTEAD NAMED MAYOR OF THE YEAR BY GATEWAY REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AT ANNUAL MAYORS' DINNER

Three local government officials were honored at the 29th Annual Mayors' Dinner of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce held on April 12, 2018 at the Renaissance Newark Airport Hotel.

Linden Mayor Derek Armstead was named Mayor of the Year. Jill Goode, chief financial officer of Mountainside, was named Business Administrator of the Year. Hillside Mayor Dahlia Vertreese was named Best Speaker of the Night.

"As Mayor, I am committed to economic growth and the stabilization of taxes, both of which are attractive to businesses and residents," Armstead said. "Over the course of my tenure as mayor, the residents have seen new businesses and major developments coming to Linden for the first time in many years."

He cited Meridia Lifestyles Apartment, phase II, and Citivillage, phase I, both of which are mixed-use; residential development at the former Park Plastics site; a Super Walmart on the old General Motors property; and retail and restaurants being built on Route 1 at Stiles Street.

"These projects will not only be beneficial for our city but the county, as well," he said. "They will create jobs and other opportunities for our community and will continue to stimulate our local economy."

The annual event is a celebration of the contributions of the county's public servants, according to Jim Coyle, chamber president. It is a light-hearted evening that allows the mayors of Union County's municipalities to give a brief and often humorous overview of activities and economic development taking place in their town or city.

"It also is a chance for the business community to express its appreciation for the partnership we enjoy with these public officials," Coyle said. "When businesses thrive, that benefits the municipalities in which they are located and the

members of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce have long enjoyed close working relationships with the mayors and business administrators throughout the county."

The dinner drew more than 300 attendees.

About the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce is the largest business association in the New York/Northern New Jersey Region, comprising 12 regional and local chambers including the Linden Chamber of Commerce. With 1,200 members, the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce has a 95 percent retention rate, the highest in the country.



(above) Linden Mayor Derek Armstead (center), named Mayor of the Year at the 2018 Mayors' Dinner of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce, is congratulated by Angie Tsirkas of Northfield Bank and Eric Segal of Security Business Solutions.

Photo by Higher Vision Photos

Hawaiian Luau Tribute to Elvis
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YMCA CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL SENIOR HEALTH & FITNESS DAY®

Local Organization Part of National Wellness Event to Promote Healthy Lifestyles for Older Adults

The Gateway Family YMCA will join an estimated 1,000 local groups to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of National Senior Health & Fitness Day (NSHFD) on Wednesday, May 30, 2018. As an official host site, The Gateway Family YMCA branches will hold information sessions and community classes on May 30th.

On this day, The Gateway Family YMCA will join with an estimated 100,000 older adults across the country participating in local activities to help promote active, healthy lifestyles through physical activity, good nutrition and preventative care. According to Krystal R. Canady, CEO, The Gateway Family YMCA, “National Senior Health & Fitness Day is the perfect opportunity for seniors to make, renew, and revitalize their commitment to lead healthier lives through wellness, nutrition and programs designed specifically for their demographic.”

National Senior Health and Fitness Day at The Gateway Family YMCA takes place on May 30th at the Elizabeth Branch - 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch - 201 Tucker Avenue, Union, Rahway Branch - 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, and Wellness Center Branch - 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union and WISE Center YMCA Branch – 2095B Berwyn Street, Union, NJ.

National Senior Health & Fitness Day is always held on the last Wednesday in May, and this year’s special 25th anniversary event is set for Wednesday, May 30th. The program, the

largest senior wellness event of its kind, is organized by the Mature Market Resource CenterSM, a national clearinghouse for professionals who work with older adults. For more information about National Senior Health & Fitness Day, please visit fitnessday.com

The Gateway Family YMCA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, health and community service organization of caring staff and volunteers dedicated to strengthening the foundations of community and stands For Youth Development, For Healthy Living and For Social Responsibility. The Gateway Family YMCA impacts the community by providing quality services to people of all ages, races, faith or incomes. For more information on The Gateway Family YMCA visit www.tgfymca.org.



2018 ± MAY 31 - JUNE 3

THURSDAY 5 - 10 PM	FRIDAY 5 - 11 PM	SATURDAY NOON - 11 PM	SUNDAY NOON - 6 PM
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Lunch 11am - 3:30pm	Dinner 3:30pm - 10:30pm
Adult\$7.99	Adult\$11.99
Kids 7-10.....\$5.99	Kids 7-10.....\$7.49
Kids 3-6.....\$3.99	Kids 3-6.....\$5.99
2 & Under.....FREE!	2 & Under.....FREE!

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FRIENDS OF LINDEN ANIMAL SHELTER'S TRICKY TRAY FUNDRAISER

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

The Friends of Linden Animal Shelter (FOLAS) recently had their 4th Annual Tricky Tray Fundraiser at the JTG Center, Linden, New Jersey. Over 250 people were in attendance. Over 60 local and national businesses provided generous prize donations to make the event a success. The event was catered by Jersey Mike's Subs of Union. DJ Ed hosted the event and played animal themed songs like, "What's New

Pussycat?" by Tom Jones; "Stray Cat Strut," by The Stray Cats; and "Karma Chameleon," by The Culture Club. Then he got people dancing to "Walking on Sunshine" by Katrina and The Waves.

FOLAS will have a table at the Woodbridge Street Fair, Woodbridge, New Jersey on May 19; and at the Metuchen Street Fair on May 20.

FOLAS is a no-kill, all volunteer, non-profit dog and cat animal rescue group formed in 2000.

They are located at 1811 Lower Road, Linden. Visitors are welcome to stop by the shelter and visit their furry friends. Note that dogs are seen by appointment only at this time. Their hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, from 6 to 7 p.m.; and Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call 732-388-6300; visit their website at folas.org; and "like" FOLAS on Facebook at facebook.com/LindenAnimalShelter



(above, left, center, right) Friends of Linden Animal Shelter Volunteers.

Photos by Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com

and on the Life in Linden page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



(above) One of the many winners.



(above) DJ Ed.

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DADDY-DAUGHTER DANCE AT LINDEN'S SCHOOL NO. 2

School No. 2, located at 1700 South Wood Avenue, Linden, New Jersey, recently held its first "Daddy-Daughter Dance" with 150 girls and 125 dads enjoying a magical night with a Disney theme.

Staff members, including Principal Atiya Perkins and Vice Principal Nicole Frankonis, were dressed as Disney princesses, as well as Olaf the Snowman. The night started with appetizers on the playground sponsored

by the Linden Education Association, then dinner in the cafeteria and dancing in the gym.

Dads were provided with tiaras and white roses to give to their girls, and there were also stations for face-painting and photos. The night was part of the school's ongoing "Fathers Matter Too" initiative to keep dads involved in their kids' school life.



(above) Daddy Daughter Dance.




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Charles Minton will preside.
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BOY SCOUTS OFFER PROGRAM TO LINDEN YOUTH

The Boy Scouts of America, with the efforts of dedicated local volunteers, is hosting an open house in Linden, New Jersey on May 10 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 1025 John Street, for their newest unit. This meeting is designed for families to come and learn more about the Cub Scouts, the program and provide the opportunity to register as a member.

Scouting is a year-round program uniquely designed to meet the needs of young people and their families. The program offers fun and challenging activities that promote character development and physical fitness. With a program expertly tailored to match each age in a young person's life, Cub Scouts learn that even when fun isn't easy, it's always an adventure. In Scouting, everything has a purpose. And it shows

kids that doing their best is the most fun of all.

Family involvement is an essential part of the program, and parents are encouraged to play an active role in making the most of the short time they have to impact the lives of their children.

Cub Scouting is available to boys and girls from kindergarten to fifth grade. Activities include weekend and summer camping, field trips, and community service. Benefits of Scouting include exciting outdoor experiences, character development, team building and personal fitness.

For more information, please contact the membership executive, Javier Juarez at Javier.Juarez@scouting.org or 973-765-9322 ext. 257 or Lucia E. Perpina, Cubmaster at lperpina@yahoo.com or 908-400-2556.

ANNUAL 'KIDS TO PARKS' DAY SET FOR MAY 19

Mayor Derek Armstead and the Linden City Council has proclaimed May 19, 2018, Kids to Parks Day. Mayor Armstead this year, working with the Department of Public Properties and Community Services, and the Mayor's Youth Commission, will celebrate the 102nd anniversary of the National Park Service and the 8th Annual Kids to Parks Day.

"I am inviting the Linden families to join me and the volunteers at Wilson Park for a fun filled day of activities. As America prepares to celebrate the anniversary of our national parks, my hope is that our Linden families will use this year's Kids to Parks Day to encourage their children to enjoy the great outdoors. Our park programs for both young and old alike has been one of the gems of our community for many, many years," Mayor Armstead said.

Kids to Parks Day promotes awareness of the importance of getting outdoors and visiting a park. This day encourages physical, emotional, mental and social development. It gives families an opportunity to get together to do fun things, at their local community's parks, enjoying one another's company while making memories that will last a lifetime.

According to Al MacDonald, Director of the

Linden Department of Public Property and Community Services, "This day encourages families to get outdoors and introduces a new generation of Americans' to our park systems, where attendance has declined over the past decade. Additionally, it is to increase awareness of the values of recreation and play in developing strong family bonds."

Nancy Braxton, Linden's Supervisor of Recreation said, "Many character traits and interpersonal skills are developed within the family unit and are practiced and reinforced through recreational activities. Doing recreational and leisure activities as a family cultivates positive character development by encouraging responsibility, respect, honesty, loyalty, integrity, creativity and flexibility at the same time as having fun."

Linden Families please come and join us on May 19 from noon to 4 p.m., at Wilson Park, between Orchard and Summit Terraces', behind the Linden High School Academy, Linden, New Jersey, for a fun-filled day of events, games, and prizes. Please don't forget your fishing pole, McGillivray's pond is stocked with fish. Hot Dogs will also be served. Hope to see you there.

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LIBRARY 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

By Maryanne Christiano-Mistretta

The Linden Public Library recently celebrated their 90th anniversary. The party was held in the library's Columbia Bank Room after the Friends of the Linden Library annual business meeting. Refreshments were served. There were also door prizes. Marilyn Coplan, President of Board of Trustees said, "The library is one of the most important things in my life."

Library Director Dennis Purves called the Linden Library "a model for other libraries in Union County."

Librarian Dawn Beviano was elected to assume duties of President of the Friends group.

Library patron Stephanie Feuerschwenger was celebrating with her 3-year-old daughter Massie. "We're always here," said Stephanie.

Also in attendance were: City of Linden Mayor Derek Armstead; and Union County officials. The Linden Free Public Library is located at 31 East Henry Street, Linden, New Jersey. For more information, call 908-298-3830, or visit: lindenpl.org



(above) Daniel Medina, 4, a young library supporter.



(above) Massie Feuerschwenger, 3, loves reading at the library.

Photos from this and other events can be found online at rennamedia.com and on the Life in Linden page on facebook.com Feel free to "Like," "Tag," and "Share."



(above, l-r) Cake cutting with Rhashonna Cosby, 5th Ward Board Councilwoman; Dennis Purves, Library Director; and Armando Medina, 9th Ward Councilman and liaison to the Library.



(above) Marilyn Coplan, President Board of Trustees

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SCHOOL 9 STUDENTS FORM RAINBOW TO CELEBRATE EARTH DAY

School No. 9, located at 1401 Deerfield Terrace, Linden, New Jersey, recently gathered students on the playground to form a rainbow stretching into a cloud as an early celebration of Earth Day. Students in different grade levels wore different colors of the spectrum and were organized into a rainbow and cloud by school social worker Marissa Hudak, while fourth-grade teacher Mitch Gorbunoff took photos from the roof.



(above) A “rainbow” of students celebrating Earth Day.

THOMAS B BRIGHT, PASSES AT 87 LINDEN POLICE OFFICER



(above) Thomas B Bright

Thomas B Bright, 87, of Juno Beach, Florida passed away peacefully in his sleep on April 4, 2018 at his home, in the company of his children.

Born in Elizabeth, New Jersey, Mr. Bright was the first of four children born to Frank and Martha Bright. After proudly graduating Linden High School in 1948, he enlisted in the US Navy. He proudly served on the Submarine U.S.S. Flying Fish during the Korean War.

He worked as a Corrections Officer at the New Jersey State Prison before becoming a Police Officer for the City of Linden, NJ, in December of 1955. He was a decorated police officer and rose to the rank of Detective-Lieutenant. He was an active member of the International Narcotics Enforcement Officer Association, the New Jersey Narcotic Enforcement Officers Association. He was also President of Union County Juvenile Officers Association and President of Linden Local No. 42, PBA. He was also Chairman of Union County Narcotic Advisory Commission and an administrative member of the Linden Police Athletic League.

After retiring from the Linden Police Department in 1987, he continued to work as a Financial Advisor for Aetna Life Insurance and Annuity Company, retiring in 1996. He

relocated to Juno Beach, Florida, with his wife, Violet Joan, in 2008. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of Juno Ocean Club. He was a communicant of St. Patrick Catholic Church in Palm Beach Gardens and member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Bright was predeceased by the love of his life of 59 years, Violet Joan Bright, with whom he had three children. He was also predeceased by his brother Frank.

He is survived by his loving children, Carleen Newman of Jupiter, Florida, Thomas Bright, Jr. and his wife, Cynthia Kierner, of Fairfax Station, Virginia, Christine Bright of Stuart, Florida; six grandchildren Kelsey Skidd, Jesse Newman, Zachary Bright, Anders Bright, Jessica Cathcart and Brittany Burke; and six great-grandchildren, Azelie, Maximus, Patrick, Declan, Lucas, and William. He is also survived by his brother Burman Bright and sister Martha Edwards.

Mr. Bright was deeply loved and appreciated by many people. He was a very generous and religious man. He generously supported a number of charities and parishes. He always had time to chat and give support to anyone who needed help. His support, guidance, and love will be deeply missed but will be forever in our hearts.

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Submitted by Gary Miller

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When Samantha Kosty was going through college, she didn't know what she wanted to do for her career. She changed her major four times, and even after graduating with a degree in psychology from Rider University, she wasn't sure what was next.

In retrospect, it may have given her the perfect real-world preparation for her job as a school counselor at Linden High School, Linden, New Jersey. Kosty has empathy for students who are confused in trying to find their own path in life.

"I think it gives them a little comfort to know that's it's okay to be undecided," she said. "I met with my old school counselor when I couldn't figure out what to do. She sat with me and told me that I'd always been really great with kids and to try something like this, and I absolutely adore it. It's the best job."

Her love for her work and her students helped her earn this year's Unity Award for Achievement by an Educator from the Union County Human Relations Commission. She will be honored at a presentation at Kean University on May 7, 2018.

"She is, in fact, a student favorite, possessing a calm and friendly nature that most high school students look for in their counselors, and that the students' parents truly appreciate," the commission wrote. "She is truly a twenty-first century educator."

Kosty, who grew up in Roselle Park, has been working at LHS since the 2011-12 school year. She said she was surprised when notified about the award but is excited to accept it.

Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi congratulated Kosty on her latest award and said it is well-deserved.

"Mrs. Kosty is always there for her students, whether they have a routine question about their schedule or a more serious family issue," he said. "Her education and training prepared her to tackle whatever issue may come up, but her empathy and understanding make Ms. Kosty truly special and a valued member of our counseling team at the high school."

Kosty was also named Linden High School's 2017-18 Educational Services Professional of the Year earlier this school year. Principal Yelena Horre said she is "a tremendous asset to our LHS community."

"She works closely with her students offering guidance and support to ensure that their time at LHS is happy and successful, and also ensuring that they are prepared for their future after high school," Horre said. "Mrs. Kosty counsels students and assists families in navigating application process, student loans and much more. She often works with teachers to ensure students are receiving the support they need."

Though she was undecided about a career, Kosty always knew she wanted to go to college, and her desire to help others steered her toward counseling.

"My dad's a police officer and my mom's a nurse," she said. "Both blue-collar jobs that give back – and I kind of wanted to do the same thing."

Kosty said that one of the challenges, and the rewards, of her job is that every day is different.

"We have kids walk in any time, with any issue. So, you never know what we're dealing with. We could be dealing with a family issue, a death in the family, a friend issue. You've just got to be prepared for it."

Around this time of year, the counseling office is busy preparing to give students state-mandated standardized tests, while also setting student schedules for next school year and helping seniors with college applications.

Kosty has two master's degrees, in counseling and educational administration, from Kean University, where she is now an adjunct professor. She tries to pass along her own real-world knowledge, teaching family counseling to prospective school counselors.

In her job at Linden High, one key area that she oversees is eighth-grade orientation and helping students make the transition to high school life. One hurdle she has to overcome is the misconceptions that some students and parents have about Linden High School.

"We understand that," Kosty said, "but we tell them, 'Send your student here for a day. Let them see what it's really like.' We'll take them through the school, we'll have them pair up with a student who has similar interests. They can go to the actual classes, they can meet the teachers, they can go to the Media Center. Just give it a chance."

The "Tiger for a Day" program allows students from Soehl and McManus middle schools experience life at LHS and to learn about all the school offers.

"I had a student and a parent come up to me at eighth-grade orientation and they were on the fence about whether to do our computer science or go to [Union County Vocational Technical Schools]," Kosty said. "And I said, they're both great, however, vo-tech is going to focus solely on the program the student is enrolled in. Whereas here, they can do computer science, but there are so many other options of things they can do as well. We offer a lot, and sometimes the parents and the students just don't know that we offer it."

"For example, if they're interested in the dance program, obviously we have a fantastic dance program, but they want the academic rigor, we have the International Baccalaureate program, which we've had great success with; students at Princeton, students at NYU. I just had a student who got a full ride to Howard. It's hard work, but it does pay off."

Technology plays a big role in the job Linden's school counselors do, getting the word out about scholarship opportunities, summer programs, career-readiness programs, SAT prep. Kosty said they use a range of platforms to make sure students stay informed.

"We want to know the most up-to-date apps for the kids to use," she said. "It's taking an extra step, but it needs to happen because they're more tech savvy than we will ever be. The more information we can send to their phones, their computers, the better off they're going to be."

After all the hard work of making sure students

are supported emotionally and socially, and that they are prepared for whatever life has in store after graduation, Kosty gets to enjoy her favorite part of the job.



Photo (above) Samantha Kosty



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LINDEN SCHOOLS RALLY AROUND ESL PROGRAM TO MAKE IT A MODEL

Submitted by Gary Miller

For a decade, the Linden Public Schools program for teaching English as a Second Language has been held up by the state as a model for other districts. Linden would like to keep that strong record going.

Recently, the district hosted two representatives of the New Jersey Department of Education who came to review Linden's ESL program. The district is applying to continue as a model ESL district for the 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years.

So, what does that entail?

"It's an honor, and it comes with the responsibility to help other districts," said Kevin LaMastra, Linden's supervisor of ESL/bilingual/world languages. "They'll send other districts who could use advice about their ESL program or help to get it off the ground. We're giving back to the larger community, to the state. We welcome administrators and teachers

from other districts to observe our classes and to answer their questions on how to administer an ESL program. We model what the state deems best practices in supporting English-language learners and their families."

Currently, Linden is one of five model districts in the state's ESL/bilingual model program, and the only one held up as a model K-12 district for ESL.

About 1400 students of all grade levels in Linden speak a primary language at home other than English, chief among them being Spanish, Polish and Haitian Creole, as well as more than 30 others. With numbers like that, LaMastra said, Linden has no choice but to be a model district if students are to succeed academically.

"The administration here; whether it's Dr. Robertozzi, Mrs. Cleary, the supervisors, the district puts students with special needs first," LaMastra said. "Some might see them as an afterthought because they're a relatively small population, but they really put them first. It is not just the ESL teacher who is looking out for these students; here everyone collaborates and takes responsibility."

Superintendent Danny A. Robertozzi said that the district's great support for the ESL program is consistent with its commitment to embrace Linden's diversity.

"Part of our motto is 'Respect for Diversity' and that is great. But supporting the hundreds of students in our ESL program so that they can thrive in the classroom and in life – that's putting our motto into action," Robertozzi said. "We wear our designation as a model ESL district as a badge of honor that tells the community that every child and every family matters in Linden Public Schools."

That was evident in the team approach given to the March 12 presentation to Kenneth Bond, program development coordinator for the Department of Education, and Joanna Santana, comprehensive support and intervention English-language-learner specialist for the DOE. LaMastra spoke about the program's successes, and was followed up by presentations from ESL teachers Anna Zolotucha-Skiba of Linden High School, Faten Sumrein of McManus Middle School, and Mercedes Fernandez of School No. 2, as well as LHS students who came through the program and spoke with passion about how it contributed to their successes in high school.

But the backing in the room did not end there.

Lending their support were Robertozzi, Assistant Superintendent Denise Cleary, Supervisor of Language Arts Patricia Tartivita, Supervisor of Social Studies Gregory Grasso, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts and Gifted and Talented Matthew Lorenzetti, Director of Human Resources Michele Dorney, Director of Technology Michael Walters, and Supervisor of Data and Assessment Dariusz Kondratowicz, who is himself a graduate of Linden's ESL program.

"All the way from pre-K on up, the district provides professional development for teachers and we get the message out, and we support one another and everybody is working together," LaMastra said. "It's that collaboration, where those students are everybody's responsibility, and we're all contributing something that makes our program special."

The support throughout the district makes it easier for ESL teachers to help their students. But Linden also seeks out a special kind of teacher who goes beyond the classroom.

"It's easy to find competent teachers who know how to teach ESL," LaMastra said. "But in our district, what we have are teachers who make an impact on the students' lives. They're doing something to support the students, their families, the community. It goes beyond the classroom. The teachers are advocating for the students."

Sometimes that means lobbying for the students as they exit the ESL program and move into rigorous courses of study in high school.

"Those teachers are making sure a student is going to go into an honors class or an International Baccalaureate class if it's the right move for them," LaMastra said. "People might think because they were in ESL it might be a jump to go from ESL to IB."

"These teachers are not just concerned with the students' success in their class; they are looking out for them on a wider scale. They are helping to integrate the students into the wider school culture and making sure they have access to the best curriculum they can handle."

But not every success story means going into IB or honors classes. A lot of Linden's ESL students come in without a lot of formal education in their home country.

"There's actually a lot to be proud of in just helping kids get caught up," LaMastra said. "kids who were adolescents and didn't know how to hold a pencil or a pen."



(above, left) Kevin LaMastra, supervisor of ESL/bilingual/world languages for Linden Public Schools, discussing the district's English as a Second Language program on March 12 in the district's administration building. (above, right) Teacher Faten Sumrein speaking about ESL at the middle school level.



(above, l-r) Kenneth Bond, program development coordinator for the state Department of Education, and Joanna Santana, comprehensive support, and intervention English-language-learner specialist for DOE.



(above) Students Schnaider Cenelien, Melanie Pastrana Ricardo and Roselane Thomas speaking about successes of the ESL program.



(above) LaMastra, (right), speaking to, (from left), Bond, Santana, Supervisor of Data and Assessment Dariusz Kondratowicz, Supervisor of Social Studies Gregory Grasso, Supervisor of Fine and Performing Arts and Gifted and Talented Matthew Lorenzetti, Supervisor of Language Arts Patricia Tartivita, Suptt Danny A. Robertozzi and Asst Supt Denise Cleary.

LINDEN MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018

*Remembering the Nations Fallen is one of our most sacred American traditions
Prepared by Ron Stefanowicz, Commander Linden Veteran Council*

The Linden Veteran Council Members will be observing Veteran Memorial Day Honors. Starting the week of Monday, May 21st through Saturday, May 26th, Veterans, City residents and Linden organizations and clubs will be participating in Flag Placement on the Veteran graves in Linden, Elizabeth, and Hillside Cemeteries. Flag placement program places over 4,000 flags on Veteran graves.

On Monday Memorial Day, May 28th, memorial wreaths ceremony will take place on City of Linden 15 Veterans Monuments. All Veterans, LHS ROTC and Linden Residents will assemble at American Legion, Post 102, at 112 E. Elizabeth Ave. Any individual interested in participating in Veterans Memorial Day Honors, Call (908) 862-0276 for additional Information.

THE FOLLOWING MONUMENT VISIT SCHEDULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

8:40 Assemble at Linden American Legion, Post # 102
9:10 St. Theresa Church, Catholic War Veterans Monument
9:20 Veterans Memorial Park, South Wood Ave., All Veterans Monument
9:30 Melnyk Park, 11th Street, Marine League and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
9:45 Rosedale Cemetery, Route 1, Veterans Circle
10:10 8TH Ward Monument, Park & Grier Ave, All Veterans Monument
10:20 Rose hill Cemetery, Linden Ave., Veterans Circle, All Veterans Monument
10:30 Farawell Park, Zieglar Ave, Marine League and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
10:45 School #1, Curtis & Gibbons Street, All Veterans Monument
11:00 Wilson Park, Summit Terr., Purple Heart and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
11:15 Knosky Park, Stiles & Elm St., Marine League and Local Neighborhood Veterans Monument
11:30 Linden City Hall, N. Wood Ave. WW 2, Korea & Vietnam Monuments
11:40 VFW # 1397, Pennsylvania Railroad Ave., VFW Monument and All Veterans
11:50 Return to AL Post 102, 112 W. Eliz. Ave., AL Monument and All Veterans.

The above time schedule could vary by a few minutes. Residents are invited meet the Veterans entourage at a specific Monument listed above or to join the Veterans Police escorted entourage from the American Legion Hall to visit all the City Monuments.

All veterans are invited to join their fellow veterans in honoring those veterans who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Call 908-862-0276, if you need additional Information.

CELEBRATION SINGERS SPRING 2018 CONCERT


Submitted by Christopher Silvestri

The Celebration Singers would like to invite you to our spring concert titled "Music from the Heart, from the Soul" at Union County College, Roy Smith Theater, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey at 8 p.m. on June 1 and June 2, 2018. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$15 for children and seniors. Tickets can be purchased in advance through our website, celebration-singers.org, or at the box office at the night of the concert. Any questions concerning the performances can be directed to our email at celebrationsingersnewjersey@gmail.com or to our landline at 908-552-4656.

The Celebration Singers are multi-generational ambassadors of song drawing music from a breadth of genres and cultures. The Choir's commitment to artistic excellence and its engaging and dynamic style provide its diverse singers and audiences with a compelling musical experience. The Choir lends support through music and participates in the cultural life of the community.

Please also visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/Celebrationsingers.


Funding for the Celebration Singers is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council for the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



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In honor of Women's History Month, the women of the Linden Police Department were recognized at the March 20th Council meeting by Mayor Derek Armstead and the City Council as Women of Achievement for their many contributions to our community in Linden, New Jersey.



(above, front, l-r) Rec. Gabrielle Mesaros, Ofc. Sonia Cano, Ofc. Victoria Vazquez, Ofc. Michelle Bonilla, Sgt. Nicole Melchionna, and Rec. Maria Mercado.
(back, l-r) Lt. Nancy Petroski, Ofc. Nicole Andrews, Sgt. Monika Oliveira, Ofc. Stephanie Diaz, Ofc. Camille Esparra, and Ofc. Paulina Pereira.

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Leroux Blackberry	750ml	\$12.99
Leroux Blackberry	1.75L	\$19.99
Martell V.S.O.P.	750L	\$27.99
Paul Masson Amber	750ml	\$ 9.99
Paul Masson Amber	1.75L	\$20.99
Paul Masson Peach	750ml	\$ 9.99
Remy Martin 1738	750ml	\$49.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$42.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$76.99

VODKA

Absolut (regular)	750ml	\$19.09
Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$29.09
Belvedere Vodka	750ml	\$27.99
Belvedere Vodka	1.75L	\$44.99
Ciroc (all types)	750ml	\$29.99
Ciroc (all types)	1.75L	\$57.99
Finlandia	750ml	\$15.99
Finlandia	1.75L	\$24.99
Grey Goose	750ml	\$26.99
Grey Goose (all types)	1.75L	\$49.99
Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99
Ketel One	1.75L	\$39.01
Lukusowa	1.75L	\$22.99
Majorska	750ml	\$ 8.99
Majorska	1.75L	\$13.99
Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$12.99
Pinnacle (80 proof)	1.75L	\$15.99
Skyy	1.75L	\$19.99
Smirnoff Vodka (80 proof)	750ml	\$11.99
Smirnoff Vodka (80 proof)	1.75L	\$19.29
Sobieski	750ml	\$11.99
Sobieski	1.75L	\$18.99
Soplica	750ml	\$ 9.95
Stolichnaya (all types)	1.75L	\$29.09
Svedka (all types)	750ml	\$11.99
Svedka (all types)	1.75L	\$19.29
Tanqueray Sterling	750ml	\$19.99
Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
Three Olives (all types)	1L	\$19.99
Three Olives (all types)	1.75L	\$24.99
Traveler's Vodka	1.75L	\$11.99

CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	750ml	\$21.99
Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$39.99
Kahlua	750ml	\$19.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$36.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$13.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$20.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$39.99
Patron XO Café	750ml	\$22.99
Patron XO Café	1.75L	\$29.99
Southern Comfort (80 proof)	750ml	\$19.99
Southern Comfort (80 proof)	1.75L	\$28.99

RUM

Bacardi Light & Gold	750ml	\$11.99
Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$19.19
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$25.99
Malibu	750ml	\$17.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$25.99

TEQUILA

Avion Silver	750ml	\$38.99
Casa Noble Silver	750ml	\$34.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$29.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Jose Cuervo	750ml	\$18.99
Jose Cuervo	1.75L	\$33.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$39.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$82.29

BEER

Becks (12oz) 24pk	24pk	\$23.99
Bud and Bud Lite cans	30pk	\$21.99
Bud and Bud Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$18.99
Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$13.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$18.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite	30pk	\$21.99
Corol Beer	24pk	\$17.99
Corona/Corona Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$27.99
Dab (16oz) cans	24pk	\$21.99
Heineken/Heineken Lite bottles	24pk	\$27.99
Land Shark	24pk	\$23.99
Lech (500ml)	20pk	\$28.99
Modelo Especial cans	24pk	\$24.99
New Belgium Fat Tire	24pk	\$31.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$17.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$28.99
Sam Adams Boston Lager	24pk	\$30.99
Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$27.99
Dogfish Head 60 min.	24pk	\$33.99
Yuengling Lager cans and bottles	24pk	\$18.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$19.99

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WINE



Alamos Malbec	750ml	\$ 8.99
Andre (All Types).....	750ml	\$ 5.99
Apothic Red	750ml	\$ 9.29
Avalon (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$ 9.99
Barefoot All Types	1.5L	\$10.39
Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$11.99
Barone Fini (Pinot Grigio).....	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 4.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 8.69
Black Box (All Types).....	3L	\$19.99
Blackstone (All Types).....	1.5L	\$12.99
Bogle (Chardonnay and Merlot)	750ml	\$ 6.99
Bolla	1.5L	\$12.99
Caymus Napa Valley (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$75.99
Carlo Rossi (Chablis, Burgundy, Sangria, Blush).....	4L	\$13.99
Carnivor (Cabernet Sauvignon).....	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 5.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$13.99
Chateau ste Michelle Columbia Valley Cabernet and Merlot	750ml	\$13.99
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Chardonnay	750ml	\$ 9.95
Chateau Ste. Michelle Columbia Valley Riesling	750ml	\$ 8.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Clos du Bois Cabernet, Merlot.....	750m	\$ 9.95
Cockburns Ruby and Tawny Porto	750ml	\$10.99
Concha Y Toro Frontera	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Coppola Diamond Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot.....	750ml	\$13.99
Coppola Diamond Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Corbett Canyon (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 7.99
Cupcake (All types, except Prosecco and Moscato)	750ml	\$ 8.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$149.99
Dreaming Tree (All Types)	750ml	\$11.99
Ecco Domani (Pinot Grigio).....	750ml	\$ 8.99
Fish Eye (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Flip Flop (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Franzia (Crisp White, Blush, Sangria, Chilable red).....	5L	\$13.99
Freixenet (Brut, Extra, Rose, Sweet)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Gato Negro (All Types)	1.5L	\$ 9.99
Gazela Vinho Verde	750ml	\$ 5.99
Ghost Pines (Merlot and Red Blend).....	750ml	\$15.99
J. Lohr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$11.99
Josh Cabernet Sauvignon.....	750ml	\$13.99
Joseph Carr Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$22.99
Kendall Jackson Vintners Chardonnay	750ml	\$12.09
Kim Crawford (Sauvignon Blanc)	750ml	\$13.99
Korbel (All Types except Natural and Organic)	750ml	\$11.99
La Crema Sonoma Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$16.99
Liberty Creek (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 7.99

Louis Jadot Beaujolais	750ml	\$ 9.99
Louis Jadot Beaujolais Villages.....	750ml	\$ 10.99
Louis Jadot Pouilly Fuisse	750ml	\$21.99
Luna di Luna (All Types).....	1.5L	\$13.99
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	750ml	\$ 9.39
Mark West Pinot Noir.....	1.5L	\$17.99
Martini & Rossi Asti	750ml	\$11.99
Menage a Trois Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Merry Vale (Cabernet)	750ml	\$49.99
Mezzacorona Pinot Grigio.....	1.5L	\$12.99
Mi Amore Red	750ml	\$ 8.99
Moet Imperial Champagne	750ml	\$39.99
Noble Wine 337, 667.....	750ml	\$10.99
Papi (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.98
Real Sangria	1.5L	\$10.99
Rex Goliath (All Types)	1.5L	\$10.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	750ml	\$ 8.99
Robert Mondavi Private Select	1.5L	\$16.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Cabernet.....	750ml	\$16.99
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chardonnay	750ml	\$11.99
Rombauer Chardonnay	750ml	\$30.99
Ruffino Chianti	750ml	\$ 7.99
Ruffino Chianti	1.5 L	\$13.99
Ruffino Pinot Grigio	1.5L	\$11.99
Ruffino Chianti Gold	750ml	\$30.99
Ruffino Tan label	750ml	\$19.99
Santa Margerita Pinot Grigio.....	750ml	\$20.29
Senor Sangria (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.99
Silver Oak Alexander Valley Cabernet	750ml	\$70.99
Simi Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$12.09
Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay.....	750ml	\$20.99
Sutter Home (All Types).....	1.5L	\$ 8.99
Tom Gore (All Types)	750ml	\$ 9.99
Woodbridge (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49
Yago Sangria	3L	\$14.99
Yellow Tail (All Types)	1.5L	\$11.49

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