

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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WHRHS 2019 GRADUATION CEREMONY Submitted by Denis Kelly Senior Class President Arianna Valenti spoke r

Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) held their 62nd Commencement on Friday, June 21. Some 498 graduates in the Class of 2019 gathered on the Tozier Stadium football field to be celebrated with friends and family.

After the Senior Choral Group sang the Star-Spangled Banner, and All School Council President Gabriela Santos led the "Pledge of Allegiance," she began the student speaker program of the ceremony with opening remarks.

Reflecting on their four years at WHRHS, Santos said, "Some challenges seemed long and difficult, while other obstacles we conquered with ease. We have come together today to celebrate all of it – the times we stayed strong when the road became rough, stayed loyal when our friends and family needed us and most importantly, the times when we succeeded when the odds were against us. All of these trials have contributed to making us the people we are today."

Photos by WHRHS

Senior Class President Arianna Valenti spoke next, noting that though "we've had our ups and downs over four years, we have all achieved in the end." And while she and her classmates may not remember everything about high school, she for one will remember the highs and lows of soccer.

"I scored a game winning goal to help the team advance to the county finals, but several games later, I hit the crossbar on a penalty kick in the state championship. It happened. What high school should have taught us is we've all made mistakes and we'll continue to make them. And that's OK. Whatever your plans are for the years to come, make mistakes and learn from them."

She concluded, "Whether you plan to attend college, join the military, start a career, or even take a year off, I urge you to take risks, knowing you are going to fail at some point along the way and knowing that you will recover and be better because of it."

Valedictorian Neelay Trivedi followed with a message to his fellow classmates to embrace uncertainty, stating "Play by your rules. Be guided by your vision, your ideas, and your sense of purpose. Congratulations Class of 2019. You deserve it. You made it to this point. Now welcome to the jungle. Face it with courage, compassion and a whole lot of crazy."

Principal George Alexis shared with the graduates portions of his favorite poem by the English Poet John Keats, "On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer." In particular he cited the memorable lines of the

)continued on page 4)



(above) Seniors in the WHRHS Choral Music Program form the Senior Choral Group to sing "The Star Spangled Banner" at the beginning of the Commencement Exercises.





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NIHARIKA IYER EARNS HER GOLD AWARD

In working towards her Gold Award, an 80hour service project through the Girl Scouts organization, Niharika Iyer discovered her interest for helping popularize early STEM education. To target this issue and develop a maintainable solution, she created a five-course program that utilized activity-based learning called "STEM Saturdays" for older elementary school aged children which found its home in the Warren Township Library on June 1st and 8th, 2019. Research has shown that in comparison to other OECD nations, the United States has traditionally had lower test scores in areas related to STEM. The STEM-centric jobs showing rapid growth and are typically in the field of computer science. The lessons developed reflected Iyer's belief that these can best be tackled by introducing young children to a variety of subjects that fall under these topics. The attendees participated in programs called All About Atoms, Building Basics, Chemistry of Water, Number Theory Tips and Tricks, and the Logic of Programming over the course of the two Saturdays in June.

With the help of some of her Watchung Hills Regional High School peers who are well-versed in the subjects, Iyer ran activities such as creating a Rube Goldberg machine to teach engineering, building model atoms using marshmallows and gumdrops, and forming characters in SCRATCH programming. These were paired with worksheets and lessons that gave the participants a deeper understanding of the subjects and an opportunity to ask questions. Those familiar with the Gold Award project know that sustainability is an incredibly important aspect. In order to ensure that as many students as possible benefit from this project, Iyer has created kits containing activities and worksheets that can be found in the Warren Township Library.

Niharika Iyer's "STEM Saturdays" project would not have been possible without the incredible support of the Somerset County Library System staff, her advisors Mrs. Holl, Dr. Cooper, and Ms. Katie Thomas, and the peers who helped her organize and run the lessons: Vivian Zhang, Mayur Sharma, Sana Mamtaney, Jagdeep Bhatia, Calvin Khiddee-Wu, Jessica Young, Cassandra Apuzzo, and Melissa Gallic.





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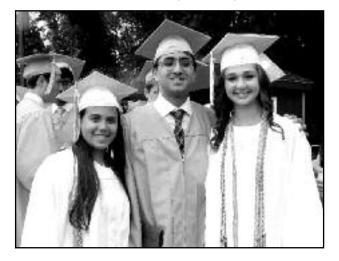
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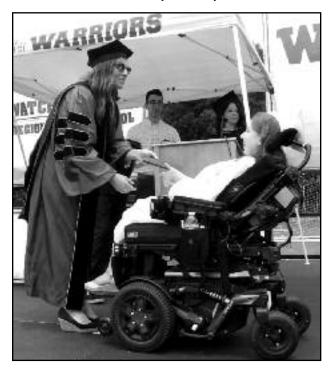




(above, l-r) Class of 2019 Students speakers Gabriela Santos, All School Council President; Neelay Trivedi, Valedictorian; and Arianna Valenti, Senior Class President, await the start of the WHRHS Commencement



(above, left) Principal George Alexis concluded his Commencement Address saying to them:
"Congratulations, Class of 2019. We are proud of you, and you have our very best wishes." (center) Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, WHRHS Superintendent sent the Class of 2019
graduates on their way, sharing with them the inspiration story of Eric Weihenmayer, an American athlete, adventurer, author, activist and motivational speaker, and the first blind person to reach the summit of Mount Everest on May 25, 2001. In 2005, he co-founded No Barriers, a nonprofit organization with the tagline, "What's within you is stronger than what's in your way."



(above) WHRHS Graduate Elizabeth Wood receives her diploma from Dr. Elizabeth Jewett, WHRHS Superintendent.

GRADUATION CEREMONY (continued)

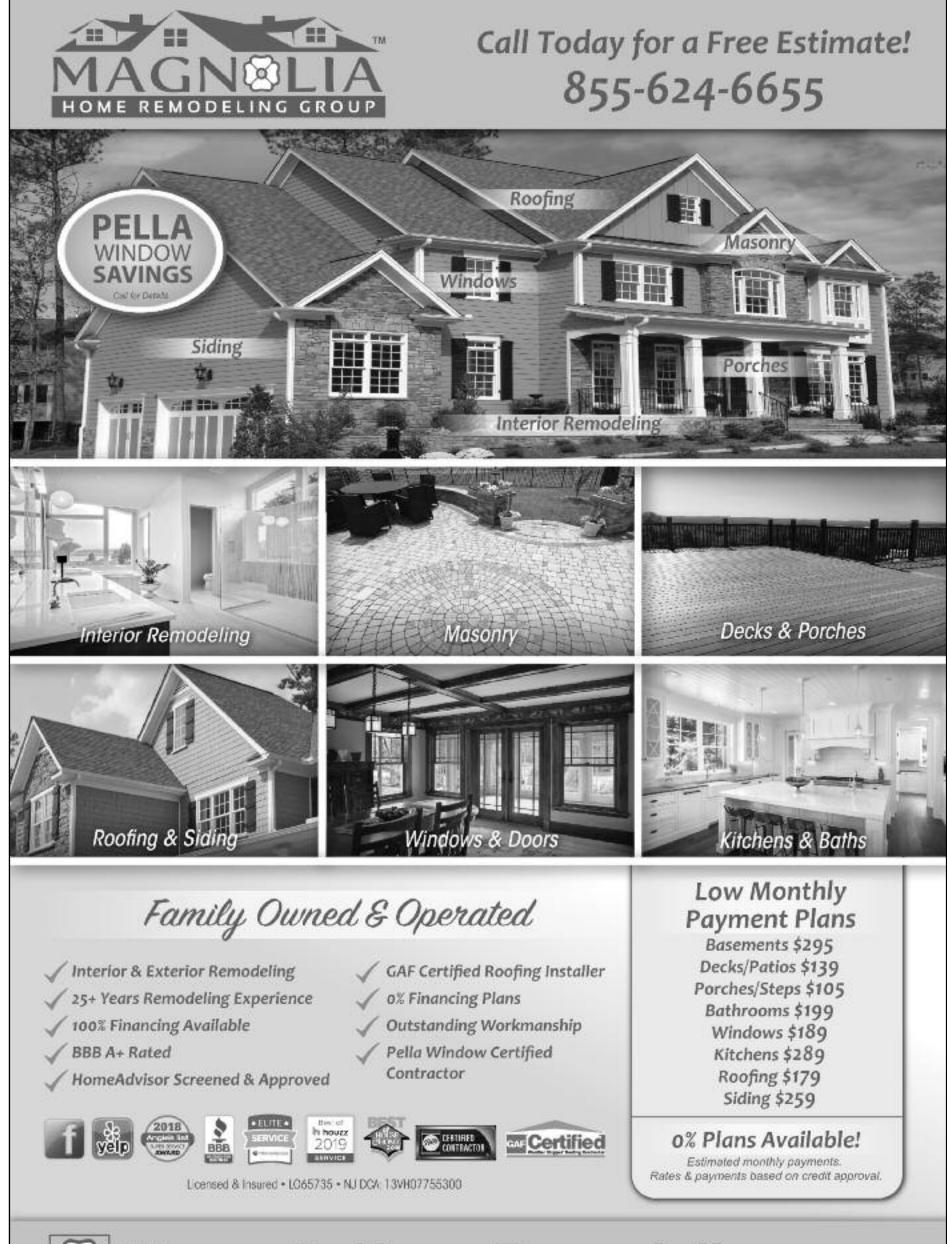
poem that might be also used to describe the depth and the breadth of learning that the members of the Class of 2019 have absorbed during their four years at WHRHS, "Much have I traveled in the realms of gold/And many goodly states and kingdoms seen."

WHRHS Board of Education Vice President Rita Barone said she was inspired in her choice of message to the graduates, by the performance at this year's WHRHS "Spring Choral Concert." It was the song senior soloist Sophia Perez sang, "titled, "You Say," by songwriter Lauren Daigle. She said at the time, she was feeling the weight of the responsibility about deciding what to say to the Class of 2019 at graduation.

"What could I say that would potentially resonate with all of you," Barone said she asked herself. "Then I attended the Spring Chorus Concert and, music often being a muse, I knew what I was going to say to you graduates today, and this is it: This Board of Education, the administrators, the faculty, staff and your families strive every day to provide you support – in your academics, athletic competitions, extra-curricular activities and wellness initiatives. The reason we do this is simple. It is so that when you leave here, you know the single most important fact about yourselves, and that is: 'You Are Enough.' There is no better success focus than to know that you believe in yourselves."

Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Jewett ushered the members of the Class of 2019 into their future. "Members of the Class of 2019," she said. "Today we celebrate the end of one chapter of your life - in which collectively you have excelled in the classroom, athletic venues, fine and performing arts, community service, and numerous extra-curricular activities and programs - and we mark the beginning of a new and exciting next chapter. Now I will ask the members of the Class of 2019 to please stand. We have one last task for you before you throw your caps and line up for the recessional: Please move your tassels from right to left. Congratulations, Watchung Hills Regional High School Class of 2019. Let the recessional begin."





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BIBLES DONATED TO MARKET STREET MISSION BY PILGRIM CHURCH

Submitted by Martha Carrellas

Pilgrim Congregational Church in Warren has donated \$1,200 from its Lenten benevolence for the purchase of study Bibles at the Market Street Mission locations in Morristown and Asbury Park. Chaplain Greg Cole, the Resident Director of the Asbury Park Market Street Mission (also called the Jersey Shore Rescue Mission) attended a worship service in June where Rev. Virginia Scott, senior minister at Pilgrim Church, presented him with the check for the Bibles. These study Bibles are given to the men in the Mission's rehabilitation programs in both Morristown and Asbury Park.

The Market Street Mission ministers to the needy people in Morristown and the Jersey shore areas. The Mission meets their physical needs with food, shelter, clothing, and other necessities, and their emotional and spiritual needs with guidance and life change programs. Their main concern is meeting the critical needs of homeless and disadvantaged men, women and children through their emergency services program. They provide tens of thousands of meals and nights of lodging each year. Programs that help men recover from alcohol and drug addiction are designed to offer a "hand-up" rather than a "hand-out." The Mission's 8 to 12-month residential treatment program includes daily work at the Thrift Store, Bible study, a daily

chapel service, group and individual counseling, AA/NA meetings, and computer assisted and classroom instruction. The website is jerseyshorerescue.org for the Asbury Park location and marketstreet.org for the Morristown location.

The Congregational denomination came to America with the Pilgrims on the Mayflower. Strong tenants of the faith are in education and in the belief in the individual's freedom to worship God according to his or her own conscience. The Congregational churches are responsible for establishing and sustaining many prominent colleges, including Harvard, Yale, Amherst, Bowdoin, Carlton, Grinell, Dartmouth, Mount Holyoke, Oberlin, Pacific, Pomona, Smith and Wellesley, among many others.

Further information about Pilgrim Congregational Church may be found at pilgrimcongregationalchurch.org.

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ALL AGE PROGRAMS Construction Zones STEM Activities for Families August 3, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. CHILDREN, TWEEN, AND TEEN PROGRAM

Healthy Snacks With ShopRite August 1, 7-8 p.m. (entering grades 6-12)

Touch the Music Music Takes You Out of This World August 5, 10-10:45 a.m.

(ages 3-5) How to See the Solar System August 7, 7-8 p.m.

(entering grades 1-5) Ice Cream and Trivia Party August 8, 7-8 p.m.

(entering grades 6-12) Storytime Special - Celebrate Eric Carle

August 14, 10-11 a.m. (entering grades Pre-K to 3) ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Discussion: "Fly Girls" August 1, 1:30-3 p.m. by Keith O'Brien

Dogland - A Journey to the Heart of America's Dog Problem

August 6, 7-8 p.m. **Recipe Club** August 12, 1-2:30 p.m. **Color Yourself Calm - Color. Relax. Repeat** August 14, 5-8 p.m. **Special Needs Social Hour** August 20, 1-2 p.m.

FRIENDS OF THE WARREN TOWNSHIP LIBRARY PRESENT TEEN AWARD

Submitted by Iris D. Alston

The Friends of the Warren Twp Library presented Jamie Linton, a Watchung Hills Regional High School senior and library volunteer, with this year's Teen Award on June 10, 2019.

Jamie has been volunteering at the library since middle school and enjoys working with

young children. She also enjoys being creative and constructed a puppet theater. Jamie performs one person hand operated puppet performances in the library's children's workshop. The Teen Award is given each year by the Friends of the Warren Twp. Library to a high school

senior and volunteer who demonstrates exceptional leadership, community service, creativity

and innovation skills at the library. This year's award included a \$500 scholarship and a Friends celebration reception.

Jamie is headed off to Drew University in the fall and will continue her work with children. We wish her all the best.



(above, l-r) Library volunteer Jamie Linton, Youth Services Librarian Katie Thomas, with the puppet theater Jamie constructed.

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2019 SENIOR AWARDS AND MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS CEREMONIES

Submitted by Denis Kelly

Watchung Hills Regional High School Principal George Alexis. graduating seniors (WHRHS) were congratulated on Tuesday, June 11, 2019, in the school's Performing Arts Center (PAC), during two ceremonies: a Senior Awards Assembly for the Class of 2019 and a Memorial Scholarship Ceremony.

Awards at the Senior Awards Assembly were WHRHS presented by faculty and administrators. Scholarships at the Memorial Scholarship Ceremony were presented by representatives of the awarding family, foundations or community organizations, including parents, family members, organization members, or WHRHS Administrators or faculty.

Both ceremonies were opened with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by

Class of 2019, with Opening Remarks by

Salutatorian Jessica Yan spoke to her fellow graduated during the Senior Awards Assembly. In her remarks acknowledging the completion of high school for her and her fellow graduates, what she called one of the "most significant milestones of their lives," she urged her fellow classmates to remember their last four years buoyed by the irony that what made high school so special, like everything else, was that it was also messy, that it was also unpredictable. "That's what made it so beautiful," Yan said. "The past four years have been so imperfectly perfect. Still, we made our impact." She wished all her fellow Class of 2019 members: "Good Luck" in their future endeavors.

RECIPIENTS OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

English: Excellence in English, Isabella Zhou; in Creative Writing, Lola Constantino; in Journalism, Rebecca Baitel; and in Expository Writing, Isabel Vala.

Mathematics: Clifford A. Warren Excellence in Mathematics, Peter Linder; in Calculus, Maia Buckwald; in Statistics, Hannah Tobin;

and in Computer Science, Timothy Zhang. Science: Excellence in Biology, Neelay Trivedi; in Chemistry, Geena Razdan; in Environmental Science, Rohan Kansagra; and in Physics, Adnan Contractor.

Social Studies/History: Stephen Bartlett Excellence in Social Studies/History, Shea Keenan; DAR Excellence in History Award, Mariam Ivaniashvili; and DAR Good Citizens Award, Tarana Ranjan. World Languages: Excellence in Chinese, Ian Martin; in French, Joy Liu; in German, Leanna Villarreal; i

n Italian, Rishi Bhatnager; and in Spanish, Amanda Nunes. Business: Excellence in Accounting and Business, Shuaib Bhalloo; in Child Development, Briana Costa; and in Culinary Arts, Rebecca Fenton. Fine and Performing Arts: Nancy O'Reilly Excellence in Art, Anna Kaplan; in Ceramics, Elizabeth Bruno; in Acting, William Broder; Best Director Award, Kathleen O'Mullan; in Photography, Catherine Ray; Michael Sullivan. in Video Production, Madelena Goffredo:

Band Director Award, Ishika Agrawal;

Choral Award, Claire Vickery; John Philip Sousa Award, Ryan Branco. Athletics: New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association Scholar-Athlete, Alexis Beechner; Skyland Conference Scholar-Athletes, McKenna Frey and Evan Bujnowski Somerset County Scholar-Athletes, Jacqueline Lee and Clement Shao; and Excellence in Athletics and Leadership, Jessica Carrieri and Edward Williams.

Co-Curricular: Color Guard Award, Ariana Stoddard; Marching Band Award, Andrew Muller: Excellence in U.S. F.I.R.S.T. Robotics, Timothy Osifchin; Dr. Thomas F. DiGanci ASC Award, Gabriela Santos. ASC Awards: Gabriela Santos, Anna Baitel, Sofia Kwon, Sabrina Lane, Lauren Soled, Alyanna Tam, Eshikia Kaul, Megan Gerges, Rebecca Baitel, Ayla Prinzicalli, Kelsey Carlucci, Saumya Yellamelli, and Annabel Liao.

Senior GLC Awards: Arianna Valenti, Sophia Cho, Jessica Carrieri, McKenna Frey, and Devika Govindarajan.

Interact Community Service Club Awards: Gabriela Santos, Annabel Liao, Gianna Pento, Isabella DiStruco, Carly MacManus, Elizabeth Morris, Riya Mehta, Aditya Loganathan, and Srisaumya Yellamelli.

COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL RECOGNITION

Coccia Foundation: Isabella DeSturco, Sean Klinger, Jade Singh, Gianna Tautonico, and Michelle Zoppi. Courier News Academic All-Star Program, Neelay Trivedi.

Eagle Scouts Recognition: Warren Troop 228, Nathaniel Holl; Watchung Troop 32, Enzo Ruta; Green Brook Troop 129, Nicholas Couch and Griffith Humphrey; Millington Troop 56, Ben Binstock, Kip DeGeorges, James Lavender, and Zach Rossi. Girl Scouts Gold Award Recognition: Warren Township, Emily Bisci, Megan Gerges, Annabel Liao, Jamie Linton, Gabriela Santos, and Megan Vetter; and Green Brook, Rhea Kalvanpur.

National Merit Finalists: Ishika Agrawal, Joy Lui, Jeremy Cui, Annika Schmidt, Sarah Dang and Timothy Zhang.

Elmer Bieler Award (School Spirit), Alexa Renzo and Wesley Kuehne. Scott Andersen Memorial Scholarship (WYBA): Shea Keenan and Elisabeth Morris.

Bob Beckert Scholarship: Alexis Beechner, Stella DeMizio, and Enzo Ruta

Sandra Blumberg Memorial Scholarship: Rebecca Figueiras. Anthony Bottoni Memorial Scholarship (\$1,000): Kevin Badger. Dawn Gayle Coury Memorial Scholarship: Anastasia Benc. Juan Carlos Cruz Memorial Scholarship: Christopher Meireles. Chris Drewry Memorial Scholarship (Baseball & Softball): Ben Ant and Julia Mianowski.

Maija Golden Memorial Scholarship:

Cathleen Luo and Rebecca Baitel.

Joe Heath Memorial Scholarship (\$500): Elizabeth Bruno.

Matthew Kantor Memorial Scholarship: Tim Osifchin and Chris Trovato. Aaron Christopher Karol Scholarship: Kevin Badger, Hannah Bella, Isabella DiSturco, Liam Feeley, Sophia Perone, Gabriella Santos. L. Suzanne Kenney Memorial Scholarship: Anastasia Benc and Enzo Ruta. Matthew Kiefer Memorial Scholarship (Most School Spirit): Lauren Soled and Lucas Stasil. Anthony Mascia Memorial Scholarship: John Schipani, Jr. and Vincent Viotto. Jerry Mobus Memorial Scholarship (Outstanding Achievements in Athletics): Francesca Infante-Meehan. Dr. William Peiffer Memorial Scholarship: Alan Ho. Anthony R. Prasa Sr. Memorial Scholarship: Frank Medina. Peter C. Rovtar Memorial Scholarship: Michael Sullivan and

Francesca Infante-Meehan James J. Straine Jr. Memorial Scholarship (\$5,000):

John Herdman Memorial Scholarship: Dana LaCapra

Christopher Noble Ingrassia Memorial Scholarship

(Scholar Athletes): Jacqueline Lee and Clement Shao.

Ernest Wessel Scholarship: Neelay Trivedi (Valedictorian) and Jessica Yan (Salutatorian).

PTO SCHOLARSHIPS:

Green Brook PTO: Jessica Yan (Academic) and Sophia Perone (Community).

Warren Township PTO Middle School: Elisabeth Morris and Sean Ayers. Watchung Hills Regional High School PTO: A. Academic: Julia Heilberg, Eshika Kaul, Gabriella Santos, Victoria Tartivita, and Jessica Yan; B. Financial, Sean Ayers, Anna Baitel, Alexis Beechner, Eshika Kaul, Elisabeth Morris, and Michael Sullivan; and C. Service Scholarship: Alexis Beechner, Rhea Kalyanpur, 3. Enzo Ruta, 4. Gabriella Santos, and 5. Michael Sullivan. WHRHS Education Association Scholarship (WHREA): Elisabeth Morris.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS: Army ROTC: Francesca Minervini.

Caruso Accounting Award: Enzo Ruta.

Giovina Coscia Memorial Scholarship (Pomptonian): Rachel Miller. Evans Scholarship Foundation: John Maher.

Dr. Theordore Kozik Memorial Scholarship: Elizabeth Wood. Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Service Award: Anthony Levine Robert Wood Johnson Blood Services Scholarship: Anna Baitel. WHRHS Soccer Association: Jessica Carrieri and Shray Parimoo. WHRHS Wrestling Booster Club: Frank Medina.

Dunellen-Green Brook Rotary Club: Jessica Carrieri, Eshika Kaul; Ishani Shah; and Juhee Shukla. Green Brook Education and Athletic Foundation: Sophia Perone -

Academic; and Jessica Carrieri - Athletic.

Our Lady of the Hills Knights of Columbus: Jillian LoGiudice. Warren Township Lions Club: Sean Ayers; Alexis Beechner; Andrew Idak (Barrett Davies Scholarship); Elisabeth Morris; Carly MacManus; Michael Sullivan.

Warren Township Republican Committee: Breanna Van Skiver. Warren-Watchung Rotary Club Memorial Scholarship: Sean Ayers; Anastasia Benc; and Michael Sullivan.

Watchung Hills Elks BPOE 2252: Sean Ayers; Anastasia Benc; Enzo Ruta; and Michael Sullivan.

Watchung Exempt Fireman's Association Scholarship: Enzo Ruta. Watchung Fire Department Artie Jacot Family Scholarship: Anastasia Benc.

Watchung Fire Department Kenneth Schmidt Scholarship: Enzo Ruta.

Watchung Lion's Club Scholarship (James Clemens-contact): Michael Sullivan and Jacqueline Toscano.

WHRHS Marching Band Parent Association: Ryan Branco. WHRHS Soccer Association: Jessica Carrieri and Shray Parimoo. WHRHS Wrestling Booster Club: Frank Medina.



(above) Class of 2019 Salutatorian addressing fellow classmates. Photo by WHRHS





WORLD CHAMPION **SILVER MEDALIST FRANCESCA SALAS**

Francesca Salas from Warren, New Jersey is the Gymnastics World Champion Silver medalist on Beam. She made it to finals in Nashville Tennessee on July 6th, 2019, after competing against 7 countries in the USAIGC World Championship on July 5th, 2019. She will be attending Mount Saint Mary Academy as a freshman in the fall.

WATCHUNG HILLS POP WARNER JAMBOREE

Submitted by Joseph J. Passaro

Watchung Hills Pop Warner will be hosting their Annual Football Jamboree on August 17-19. Teams from as far as Virginia Beach will be traveling to Warren's East County Reserve Sports Complex which is home to Watchung Hills Pop Warner. Since 2008, WHPW has hosted New Jersey's most organized and enormously competitive preseason Jamboree. The 2019 Jamboree will feature the best Junior Pee Wee, Pee Wee, & Junior Varsity teams from across the mid-Atlantic and northeast regions, and multiple national-caliber programs.

Every year this is an economic boon for the area, especially Warren Township. Local businesses will enjoy an increased amount of patrons that weekend during a typically very slow time in Warren. There may be close to 2,000 potential patrons looking for goods and services from local businesses that weekend.

Watchung Hills Pop Warner has enjoyed great success over the years with professional leadership and coaching, as the organization has been to Disney World for the National Pop Warner Super Bowl 4 out of the last 5 years. So if you are 'Ready for some Football', join us at the Jamboree in August.

SUNDAY MORNING SINGLES DISCUSSION GROUP

Group meets at The First Baptist Church (lower all single people who live life alone. Continental level), 170 Elm Street, Westfield, 9 - 10:15 a.m. every Sunday to share thoughts on a myriad of 686-0563.

The Sunday Morning Singles Discussion topics. This nondenominational group is open to breakfast is served. Cost \$2. Questions, call 908-





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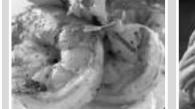


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The Somerset County Sheriff's Office is advising the Somerset County community to be aware of a continuing phone scam that is targeting residents in the county.

In the most recent scam, the caller - sometimes via voice message - identifies himself as an employee of the Somerset County Sheriff's Office.

The caller says the resident has an outstanding debt or warrant and demands immediate payment using a prepaid credit card. The caller states that if a resident cannot pay, he or she will be arrested and put in jail.

Scammers have sought personal information and Green Dot MoneyPak cards for false warrants, civil process fees, overdue IRS payments and non-appearance for jury duty.

"In the event these fraudulent calls are received, residents should never give their personal or financial information over the phone, nor should they arrange to meet someone to provide a prepaid credit card," said Sheriff Frank J. Provenzano.

Somerset County residents should notify local authorities or the Sheriff's Office if they receive these calls. Any suspicious calls regarding the Somerset County Sheriff's Office can be directed to 908-231-7140, ext. 9.



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DONATION OF ARTWORK BY RALPH GARAFOLA



(above) Three works by longtime Warren resident Ralph Garafola



Submitted by Evamarie Hode

Mayor Gary DiNardo recently accepted a donation of 3 original paintings by the artist Ralph Garafola, a longtime Warren resident. These beautiful paintings were donated to the Township of Warren by Township Committeeperson, Carolann Garafola, and the late Ralph Garafola before he left for Florida. Mr. Garafola loved Warren Township and the opportunity to paint throughout the town. He was particularly thrilled that the Township used his design for the 9/11 Memorial which is located on the municipal grounds and can be seen from Mountain Boulevard. Below is a brief description and a little history of Mr. Garafola's process for each piece of artwork that was donated:

Duderstadt Barn – This was painted En Pleine Aire over 10 years ago, oil on canvas board. Ralph painted it because he liked the architectural design of the building. He set his easel up across the street from the barn, before it was boarded up. En Pleine Aire painting takes advantage of the natural light and changing shadows of a setting and what the artist transfers onto the canvas. The drawing is made on site and the painting is completed as best as time and lighting will allow. Ralph would then take the painting back to the studio to "tickle" it, meaning to touch it up. This is the original and only copy of this piece of artwork as there are not any giclee copies of this painting.

High Point State Park – Another original and sole copy, it was painted with the intention of going into the New Jersey Governor's Mansion, Drumthwacket, under the McGreevy administration, but the transaction didn't take place and Mr. Garafola kept the painting. The house in the valley was from the American Revolution and it backs onto High Point State Park. It was owned at the time by Red Laffey, a good friend of the Garafolas.

Best Lake – This piece of art was also painted En Pleine Aire, again oil on canvas board, and was done on site. Warren Township has received the original, but a giclee copy of this piece hangs in the Watchung Courtroom. Mayor DiNardo said, "Ralph Garafola was a truly talented artist and these paintings bring to life these important landmarks in Warren Township, the surrounding communities, and the State of New Jersey. We are proud to display them throughout Warren Town Hall."

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LOCAL CHORUS OFFERS FREE A CAPPELLA SINGING SESSIONS

The Hickory Tree Chorus chapter of Sweet Adelines International invites women singers to register for its free "Summer Sing Series" to be held at The Shrine of St Joseph, 1050 Long Hill Road, Stirling, NJ.

You can come any Wednesday, July 10 through September 11, 2019 starting at 7:15 p.m. for chord-ringing, fun-filled, four-part a cappella music. On July 17 and 24 only, meet at the Chatham Municipal Building, 58 Meyersville Road, Chatham.

Each week, guests will participate in vocal and physical warm-ups and work on songs with the chorus. The chorus sings a variety of music, including old-fashioned love songs, Broadway, Disney, Beatles, and more.

Pam Hegarty, whose first introduction to the chorus was through the "Sing A Cappella Series" stated, "If you enjoy singing and the idea of creating music with a group, try Hickory Tree Chorus. I was greeted with such friendly support and encouragement that I knew I'd made the right choice. I learned a lot about music during the series and continue to learn more now that I'm an official member. As much as music, this chorus is about camaraderie and joy. Come join us!"

The award-winning Hickory Tree Chorus performs regularly throughout the community, produces an annual show, and awards an annual \$1,000 scholarship to an area high school girl continuing her vocal music education in college.

For more information, or to register for the free "Summer Sing Series", visit hickorytreechorus.org, email info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 908-377-1399.



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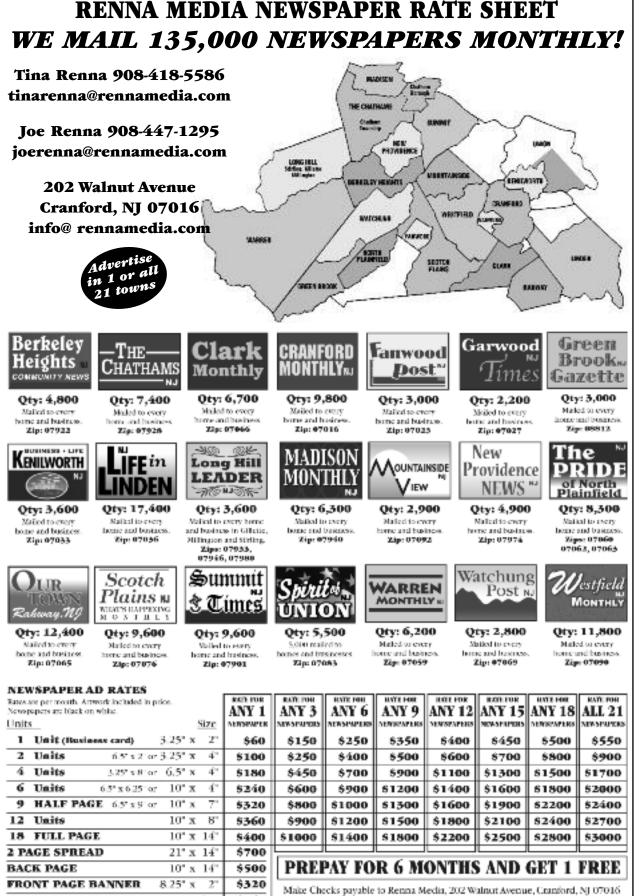
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(above) Hickory Tree Chorus 2019



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WARREN CUB SCOUT PACK 182 ENJOYS ANNUAL PACK PICNIC

Submitted by Tricia Patricco

annual Pack Picnic, an opportunity for scouts and family to come together and celebrate the end of another successful scouting year. Scouts from all seven Dens received advancements and earned their Rank badges – the culmination of a year's hard work and fun had by scouts, leaders and families.

A barbecue with delicious foods prepared by Warren Cub Scout Pack 182 enjoyed their many Pack families was shared, and the kids enjoyed the inflatable obstacle course, water balloon battle, cornhole and other picnic games on this gorgeous, picture perfect Sunday afternoon in June.

> Many thanks to Picnic organizer, Amit Dave, to our sponsoring organization and hosts Watchung Hills Elks Lodge #884 and all those

who helped make this event a success! Can't wait to do it again next year!

Cub Scout Pack 182 in Warren Township serves the local community and surrounding towns. To join Cub Scouts or find out more about Pack 182 visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/Pack182WarrenNJ, our website warrenpack182.org, or by contacting us at membership@warrenpack182.org.



(above) Warren Cub Scouts during their annual Pack Picnic, which celebrates the end of the scouting year.



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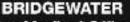
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