

# WARREN MONTHLY NJ

WARREN'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## CUB SCOUTS DOMINATE KLONDIKE DERBY

*Submitted by Tricia Patricco*

The Klondike Derby is an annual event held by Cub and Boy Scout districts during the winter months and is based on the heritage of the Klondike Gold Rush. Boy Scout units have been running Klondike derbies since 1949. The event varies by district, but a typical Klondike derby consists of several stations where patrols/units must test their skills and their leadership abilities, earning points towards a total score. Often, one or more races are included while the Scouts navigate between stations. Each unit must transport their gear on a homemade sled pulled by the Scouts. Districts may have specific guidelines for the construction of sleds.

On January 12 two patrols from Warren's Cub Scout Pack 182 joined 23 other groups participating in the challenge of the Watchung Mountain District's Klondike Derby. It was a rainy, freezing cold Sunday, but our scouts, Fifth Grade Arrow of Light team "Warren Tanks" and the Fourth Grade Webelo team "Flying Llamas" showed their best skills and teamwork to run the course. The race had 7 stations the scouts needed to navigate their way to: fire building, orienteering, First Aid, shelter building, outdoor cooking, knot tying, and distress

communication.

Both patrols from Pack 182 tied for first place by receiving a near perfect score. Both patrols ran independently of one another and both scored 194 out of 195 points.

For ten weeks prior to the contest, the scouts dedicated themselves to training every Sunday outdoors to condition themselves to the elements the race would be run in. Warren's Town Manager Mark Krane, and the Warren Township committee allowed the scouts to train on a section of town property just across the street from Wagner Farm.

"Warren Tanks" AOL (Arrow of Light) scouts were: Marcello Gioia, Gideon Minieri, Mateusz Teepee, Peter Rexford, Bernie Ryder, Kayden Thursfield-Ritchie, Joseph Guerra, and Michael Santoro.

"Flying Llamas" Webelo Scouts were: Tyler Shehady, Mark Armento, Ethan Hammond, Drew Connolly, Gavin Velazquez and Jayden Bathla.

The Pack is extremely proud of these scouts! It is clear that their hard work preparing for the contest is what enabled both patrols to perform at the highest level possible. Great work Scouts!

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(above) Fifth Grade Arrow of Light team, "Warren Tanks"



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# WHRHS NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

# WARREN MONTHLY

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Although great care has been taken to ensure the information contained within is accurate, Renna Media assumes no liability for errors or omissions.

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All four Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) students, who in September were named National Merit Semi-Finalists, have now qualified as 2020 Finalists. This year's WHRHS National Merit Finalists are: Phillip Ding, Dave Ki, Jessica Young and Vivian Zhang.

"Congratulations to Phillip, Dave, Jessica and Vivian, and to their families and teachers for this important and well-deserved honor," said WHRHS Principal William J. Librera. "Students who receive this distinction have a chance to compete for scholarship prizes. Phillip, Dave, Jessica, and Vivian have outstanding academic records, participate in diverse school and community activities, demonstrate leadership ability and inspire their classmates and teachers."

Being considered for this year's National Merit designation is initially based on scores by more than 1.5 million students who sat for the 2018 PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test)/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT).

WHRHS'S four National Merit Semifinalists this year had been the latest of the 52 WHRHS students who had qualified as National Merit

Semifinalists during the most recent six school years. The year-to-year totals have been: Class of 2015 – 11; Class of 2016 – 6; Class of 2017 – 10; Class of 2018 – 15; Class of 2019 – 6; and Class of 2020 – 4.

Many, although not necessarily all, of the semifinalists tend to go onto to qualify as finalists. This is the second year in a row when all of the WHRHS Semifinalists went on to be named Finalists.

Every year, in addition to the naming of the Semifinalists and Finalists, National Merit also names a list of commended students. This year's WHRHS students named to the 2020 Commended List, which is the category immediately following Semifinalist, are: Laura Baeyens, Jagdeep Bhatia, Catherine Cai, Nyna Chacko, Tina Chen, Tamara Hadzic, Jenna Hansen, Nicole Harris, Roopa Irakam, Niharika Iyer, Apurva Joshi, Stephanie Ju, Abigail Kotar, Sana Mamtaney, Aaron Marmolejos, Manthan Naik, James Narayanan, Annabell Pu, Julia Rubin, Cristina Sarrico, Julia M. Schink, Mayur Sharma, Katie Tan, Sarah Young, Maya Zhang, and Kevin Zu.



(above, l-r) WHRHS Principal William J. Librera, center, congratulates the school's four Class of 2020 National Merit Finalists: Jessica Young, Dave Ki, Vivian Zhang, and Phillip Ding.

Photo by WHRHS

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## SCLSNJ'S BEE SPECTACULAR SPELLING BEE

SCLSNJ's Bee Spectacular Spelling Bee was held on March 7, 2020 at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical School. Thirty-three 3rd-8th graders, including Trisha Atianzar, grade 7, of Warren Middle School, competed for the title of spelling bee champion. Seventh-grader Aritra Banerjee, of Bridgewater-Raritan Regional Middle School in Bridgewater, won the bee by correctly spelling the word "viscerotonia."

Viscerotonia is a noun of Latin origin defined by Merriam-Webster Unabridged as "a pattern of temperament that is marked by predominance of social over intellectual or physical factors, and exhibits conviviality, tolerance, complacency, and love of food."

Banerjee, who also won SCLSNJ's Bee Spectacular Spelling Bee in 2019, will attend the 2020 Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. as the Library System's representative.

Fifth-grader Atharv Narvekar, of Montgomery Lower Middle School in Skillman, came in second place. For more images and information explore SCLSNJ's Bee Spectacular Spelling Bee Facebook photo album: facebook.com/SCLSNJ.



(above) Trisha Atianzar, grade 7, Warren Middle School.

## CENTRAL STUDENTS SAY THANK YOU TO NURSES AND DOCTORS

Grade 1 students at Central School in Warren, NJ created thank-you cards for the doctors and nurses at University Hospital in Newark, New Jersey. Grade 1 teachers, Miss Kimberly Felber, Mrs. Taralynn Ceccato and Mrs. Christina DeShields shared virtual instructions with their students on how to format a letter.



(above) Brooke Thomasey showing her finished thank-you card to the nurses and doctors at University Hospital in Newark, NJ.

## PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS

The U.S. Census count is about to begin and for the first time in history you can complete the survey online. All 10 branches at the Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) are safe, secure, easily-accessible locations to fill out your Census survey. Including the Warren Twp. branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren Twp.

"We recommend that you use one of the Library's internet computers to respond to the Census at an SCLSNJ branch location," said Lynn Hoffman, director of operations. "When you use the Library's internet computers, we don't keep track of any information about who you are or what you're doing. Your internet history is discarded as soon as you log out, and any information you submit for the Census will only be available to the Census Bureau."

The decennial count helps shape the future of the community by determining how hundreds of billions of dollars are allocated across the country.

"The 2020 Census is fast-approaching," said Nicole Pascoe, civic services supervisor. "It is important that you respond to the Census to help our community get its fair share of the federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works, libraries, and other vital programs. Make sure you count everyone living in your home, including newborn babies and young children."

Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census were delivered between March 12-20. Once you receive that invitation, you can respond online, by phone, or by mail. For questions about the upcoming count contact: census@sclibnj.org or visit SCLSNJ.org/census.

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# 2019/2020 HIGH SCHOOL INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL CHAMPS

Submitted by Warren Recreation

The 2019/2020 Warren Rec Basketball Champions have been crowned for the Freshmen-Sophomore and for the Junior-Senior Divisions. Watchung Hills Regional High School teachers, Joe Ascolese and Jon Bedi have been running this successful program for over ten years.

Photos by Warren Recreation



(above) #1 Seed Michigan beat #2 Seed Duke 63-56 for the Freshman/Sophomore Championship. Team Members- Jacob Meltzer, Anthony Ramunno, Lorenzo Meola, Jake Memoli, Remy Fahmy, Carson Frey, Tyler Jamieson, Christian Beisler, and Mead Briggs.

(above) #1 Seed UNC defeated #3 Seed Michigan 58-50 after being down 20 at halftime to secure the championship for the Junior-Senior League! UNC Team Members include Nikhil Mavinkurve, Spenser Ostroff, John Bechtle, Tanner Rokosny, Jack Mazzucco, Tim Krause, Justin Fessock, Terryn Stephens, Ryan Krug, and Trevor Schmidt and Coaches Mike Morin and Chris Salkowski.

## FRIENDS OF WARREN TWP. LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

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For as little as \$20, you can become a Friend and help the organization in its goal to assist the library.

Checks payable to the Friends of the Warren Twp. Public Library can be dropped off at the main desk or mailed to 42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, NJ 07059. Enter FRIENDS2020 in check memo line



As a member of the Friends of the Warren Twp. Library you will help provide assistance and contributions to new and ongoing projects that ensure the quality of resources and benefits offered to the public.

Please continue to assist the Warren Twp. Library, by renewing or becoming a member. Checks are payable to the Friends of the Warren Twp. Public Library, Please enter FRIENDS2020 in memo line of your check. Checks can be dropped off at the main desk or mailed to: 42 Mountain Boulevard, Warren, NJ 07059. You can also sign up on-line; go to [www.facebook.com/friendsofwarrenlibrary](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofwarrenlibrary). We thank you for your continued support!

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# 47 COMPUTER SCIENCE STUDENTS ATTEND 2020 WHRHS HILLSHACKS HACKATHON

Forty-seven students, some as young as 4th grade, and some from as far away as East Brunswick Township and Middlesex Borough in Middlesex County, and Bethlehem Township in Hunterdon County, participated in the 2020 HillsHacks hackathon on Sunday, February 23, 2020, at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS).

Coordinating the event for the second year were WHRHS Seniors Jagdeep Bhatia and Mayur Sharma. These WHRHS Computer Science (CS) leaders were assisted by a cadre of WHRHS CS students, who greeted and registered participants. They also assisted in directing participants to classrooms for workshop sessions and to the South Auditorium and Atrium for speaking programs and lunch and dinner breaks.

These and other WHRHS CS students acted as leaders in the session workshops, themselves. They shared with participants their expertise in various computer science languages. They showed participants where to find pertinent web sites on the internet to delve into various subjects, from Artificial Intelligence, introduction to Java, and video game design to Music in Coding, to name just a few.

They also sponsored CS discussions about the very real need to attract more and more girls and women into Computer Science. Of particular interest is tackling the notion of helping girls navigate through their middle school years when many girls feel the social pressure that embracing

CS will label them as “nerdy” and “very uncool” in their peer groups.

The WHRHS CS students also shared helpful hints on how to broaden their ability to use computer tools to tackle and solve more problems both now and in the future.

Faculty and volunteers supporting the 2020 HillsHacks hackathon were: Supervisor of Mathematics and Business Dan Twisler; Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mary Ellen Phelan; and community volunteer and former teacher of the Gifted and Talented Program at Watchung Public Schools, Elaine Chesebro.

There was also a panel of speakers who started the day sharing their expertise and their personal stories about how they got into computer science, how they have learned and practiced the use of various computer science languages, and how they became more comfortable at mastering and using new computer science skills. The speakers included Mathematics and Business Supervisor Twisler, WHRHS Computer Science Teacher Daniel Lamson, and 2012 WHRHS graduate Matthew Carbone, who is a graduate of the University of Rochester. Also on the panel was 2018 WHRHS graduate Jared Pincus, who has completed his second year as a CS student at Stevens Institute of Technology, Hoboken. WHRHS Senior and co-organizer of this year’s Hills Hackathon, Mayur Sharma, sat in on the speaker’s panel, sharing what he already learned.



(above, l-r) WHRHS CS students at the HillsHacks, Sophomore Mariam Contractor of Watchung, Freshman Ronald Leung, and Sophomore Arjun Singh of Warren Township.



(above, l-r) 2020 HillsHacks Student Organizers Jagdeep Bhatia, left, and Mayur Sharma, right, congratulated Second Place, presentation titled, “Disquinetext,” by participant Alec Doyle, a Junior at Ridge High School, Bernards Township; First Place, “Anticrastinate,” presented by two WHRHS Juniors, Sanjay Kethineni of Green Brook Township, and Frank Liu of Warren Township; and Third Place, “Door Security,” presented by a trio of 4th, 5th, and 6th Graders. They are: Charan Alampally, 6th grade at Grades 6-8 William Annin Middle School, Bernards Township; Rohin Kudeti, 5th grade at grades K-5 Chattick Elementary School, East Brunswick Township; and Krishna Singh, 4th grade, at grades K-5 Mount Horeb School, Warren Township.

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# DON'T FALL FOR SCAM CALLS AND EMAILS IMPERSONATING IRS

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 scams. Scammers use the regular mail, telephone, or email to set up individuals, businesses, payroll, and tax professionals.

Scammers and cyberthieves continue to use the IRS as bait. The most common tax scams are phone calls and emails from thieves who pretend to be from the IRS. Scammers use the IRS name, logo, fake employee names and badge numbers to try to steal money and identities from taxpayers.

Taxpayers need to be wary of phone calls or automated messages from someone who claims to be from the IRS. Often, these criminals will say taxpayers owe money and demand payment right away. Other times, scammers will lie to taxpayers and say they're due a refund. The thieves ask for bank account information over the phone. The IRS warns taxpayers not to fall for these scams.

Below are several tips that will help filers avoid becoming a scam victim.

### IRS EMPLOYEES WILL NOT:

- Call demanding an immediate payment. The IRS won't call taxpayers if they owe taxes without first sending a bill in the mail.
- Demand payment without allowing taxpayers to question or appeal the amount owed.
- Demand that taxpayers pay their taxes in a specific way, such as with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to contact local police or similar agencies to arrest taxpayers for non-payment of taxes.
- Threaten legal action, such as a lawsuit.

If taxpayers don't owe or don't think they owe any tax, and they receive an inquiry like this, they should:

- Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. Use TIGTA's "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting" web page to report the incident.
- Report the incident to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the "FTC Complaint Assistant" on FTC.gov. Add "IRS Telephone Scam" to the comments of your report.

In most cases, an IRS phishing scam is an unsolicited, fake email that claims to come from the IRS. Some emails link to sham websites that look real. The scammers' goal is to lure victims to give up their personal and financial information. If the thieves get what they're after,

they use it to steal a victim's money and identity.

For those taxpayers who get a phishing email, the IRS offers this advice:

- Don't reply to the message.
- Don't give out your personal or financial information.
- Forward the email to phishing@irs.gov. Then delete it.
- Don't open any attachments or click on any links. They may have malicious code that will infect your computer.

For more information visit [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or call your local police department non-emergency number.

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Register one time for free in three easy steps. and post your ads.

- 1) Hit like to "Create Account" in nav bar in NJLOCALINFO.COM
- 2) Enter a "User Name" (one word) and Email address
- 3) Create password as per instructions

Use "Post an Ad" link and use the user interface to create an ad page.

Follow four steps to upload text and images.

**Use discount code "RELIEF" at checkout for zero charge.**

**Classified ad options include:**

- Up to 500 words
- Up to 10 key words
- Choose start and end date
- Sharable web page
- Each ad includes a unique email address keeping your address private
- Upload up to five images, up to 500KB each
- Links to YouTube videos and other websites
- Choose from dozens of search classifications.
- Add Google Maps link

Live Tracking!

Each ad has a live view counter showing daily and total visits.



**INCREASED VISIBILITY.**

We help people find your ad by cross-posting to several social media sites and by indexing in search engines.  
facebook.com/NJLocalinfo • facebook.com/RennaMedia

### WEBSITE / SEO SERVICES

- Website Audit/Analysis and recommendation plan: \$250
- Website creation/update: \$2,400 (Cost for average website: 12 pages, contact form, SEO friendly, responsive design)
- Website Hosting: \$300 per year  
Includes website hosting, software updates, monthly website content updates
- SEO Services - average cost \$1,000 - \$2,000 per month  
Custom tailored solutions: Google Ranking, Local SEO, Social Marketing
- Blast your online ad or press release to a targeted market \$100
- National Press Release Distribution to 300 to 500 news outlets.  
Budget choice from \$300 to \$500.

**CONTACT JOE FOR DETAILS 908-447-1295**

**joerenna@rennamedia.com**

**Visit RennaMedia.com or NJLocalInfo.com**

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**PLEASE CHECK WITH EVENT PROMOTERS AND VENUES IF YOU AREN'T SURE OF CANCELLATIONS.**

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