

Clark Monthly NJ

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SCIENCE OLYMPIADS MAKE IT TO STATES

Clark Public Schools

Carl H. Kumpf Middle School's Science Olympiad team achieved 8th place against 18 other schools at the NJIT Regional Tournament on Friday, January 12th, becoming a top school to compete at the State Tournament. According to soinc.org, "Founded in 1984, Science Olympiad is the premier team STEM competition in the nation, providing standards-based challenges to 6,000 teams at 425 tournaments in all 50 states."

The students on the team prepared for many weeks to compete in Science and Engineering competitions. This includes building and testing events such as Trajectory, Flight, Tower, Roller Coaster, and Wheeled Vehicle. Academic events include Fast Facts, Forestry, Write It Do It, Anatomy and Physiology, and more.

Kumpf's team was awarded Bronze Medals in 3 events: Tower, Write It Do It, and Roller Coaster.

Mia Liu and Sophia Kim worked together to build and test a tower made of balsa wood and glue to be able to hold 15 kg of sand. Mia stated, "We tested many towers and they kept breaking. Even after getting bronze on the Tower competition, I knew we could do better. We know what we need to do and our goal is to place again at States."

Write It Do It, competed by twins Justin and Tyler Wojcik, is an event with one student building an object with only the other students' description of it. The twins added, "We were very excited because our goal was to place and get a medal to help our team. We had fun working and practicing leading up to the event."

Gabriel Cai and Lucas Elizondo built a roller coaster that was created to manipulate a marble to go down the handcrafted pathways within a certain amount of time. Cai described his experience, "It was a unique challenge to work on the roller coaster because we had to solve problems, come up with ideas, and implement them carefully to create a final product that gave the best result."

Coaches Matthew Serwedes, Joe Rodriguez, Annemarie Lamberti, and Thomas Peitz attended



(above) Science Olympiads

the Regionals at NJIT with the Kumpf Science Olympiad team. After the events, the coaches and the team felt confident that they did well and were eager to await the results from the Science Olympiad judges.

Matthew Serwedes, head coach as well as Wheeled Vehicle and Write It Do It coach, stated, "The Science Olympiad tournaments have always been such great opportunities to showcase the many diverse STEM abilities of our students. The tournaments also give our students a chance to see other great schools in the state and to connect with their peers in the STEM community."

Thomas Peitz, Tower coach, reflects, "We all had a strong feeling that we were going to make it to States, and because our students now had competition experience, they became increasingly enthusiastic and were very excited to get back to the drawing board."

Annemarie Lamberti, Anatomy and Physiology, Crime Busters, Ecology, and Roller Coaster coach, adds, "The students worked hard to prepare for their events, so I am extremely happy that all their effort was recognized. In addition, their sportsmanship towards other schools, and support for their own peers made us coaches proud that they represented Kumpf at this competition".

Joe Rodriguez, Air Trajectory, Forestry, Flight and Optics coach, says "Events like this allow our students to go out and be among students with the same passion they have, and be able to understand how hard work can pay off. Words cannot express the joy we have watching them compete, and knowing they have done all this work and are putting it all on the line for themselves and our school".

The New Jersey Science Olympiad State Tournament will be held at Middlesex County College on March 14, 2024.

The following students participated: Mia Liu, Kaja Hajduk, Gabriel Cai, Christopher Brand, Eeshan Dixit, Aiden Krauss, Connor Gordon, Tyler Wojcik, Justin Wojcik, Suhani Shah, Lucas Elizondo, Sophia Kim, Isabella Reyes, and Fiona Genova.



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DRIVER'S ED. PRESENTATION FOR SOPHOMORES

Clark Public Schools
Students in Laura Bundy's Driver Education class at ALJ High School met Judge Gary Bundy on January 31st. Judge Bundy has served as the Municipal Court Judge for over fifteen years in Roselle Park and Garwood, NJ. He spoke about many essential topics dealing

with teen driving and the law. There are many different laws drivers have to abide by, especially new drivers. Judge Bundy spoke about provisional license, underage DUI, DWI and illegal drug use in a vehicle. The students were very engaged in each topic and asked some excellent questions.



(above, l-r) John Brown, Max Fernandez, Brayden Severini, Mostaffa El Hady Lucas Rojas, Raphael Da Rocha, Matthew Robertazzi, Chase Polak, Eric Torres, Madison Firestone, Avery Forfa, Frank Mentzel, Mia DePinho, Nick Carlucci, Grant Stisi, Ella Rishko, and Briana Dreher.

Courtesy photos



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SOLD

15 Westfield Ave.
40 Ivy St.
15 Tudor Dr.
10 Washington St., Unit 03
47 Briarwood Path
39 King St.
56 Lexington Blvd.
13 Blake Dr.
213 East Lane
1168 Lake Ave., Unit 4
45 Wendell Pl.
501 Oak Ridge Rd.
309 Oak Ridge Rd.
29 Conger Way
13 Florence Dr.
303 West Ln.
1 Rose Ter.
187 Liberty St.
11 Harding Ave.
40 John St.
77 John St.
17 Hillside Ave.
11 Avon Rd.
81 New York Ave.
42 Kenneth Pl.

1 Kathryn St.
29 Hillside Ave.
9 Shetland Dr.
12 Yorktown Dr.
84 Wheatsheaf Rd.
12 Ascot Way
301 West Lane
1119 Maurice Ave.
1 Longfellow Lane
8 Wendell Place
13 Blake Dr.
42 School St.
29 Harvey Ct.
18 Yorktown Dr.
45 Starlite Dr.
1538 Franklin St.
40 Conger Way
15 Ayers Lane
72 Dorset Dr.
5 Schmidt Lane
269 Willow Way
18 Ginesi Dr.
7 Blake Dr.
43 Willow way
95 Briarheath Ln.

18 Terhune Rd.
1 Jarvais Ter.
39 Frances Dr.
28 Gibson Blvd.
41 Largo Lane
5 Tudor Dr.
111 Westfield Ave.
14 Washington St.
118 Jupiter St.
61 Sycamore Rd.
15 Briarheath Ln.
43 Kathryn St.
54 Harding Ave.
1 Plymouth Rd.
306 Parkway Dr.
75 Union County Pkwy
49 Briarwood Path
549 Valley Rd.
161 Meadow Rd.
16 Nassau St.
160 Meadow Rd.
415 Valley Rd.
49 Joseph St.
23 Ayers lane
110 Sweet Briar Dr.

30 Stanton St.
76 Harding Ave.
53 Stemmer Dr.
291 Willow Way
330 West Lane
139 Jupiter St.
458 Oak Ridge Rd.
307 West lane
93 Jupiter St.
166 Meadow Rd.
67 Lefferts Ln.
41 Oleander Way
160 Riverside Dr.
45 Briarheath Ln.
40 Emerald Pl.
24 Hawthorne Dr.
45 Briarwood Path
21 St. Germain Dr.
532 Valley Rd.
21 Orchard Ter.
307 West Lane
64 Mildred Ter.
103 Amelia Dr.
1132 Westfield Ave.
22 Glenwood Ter.

TOTAL NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS = 223, 156 ARE IN CLARK

VALENTINES LOVE FOR CLARK SENIORS

Clark Seniors were recently treated to a Valentines lunch provided by the Clark Recreation Department. Honey Baked Ham Co. catered, and seniors received a box of chocolate candy to take home. Clark Preschool children stopped by to hand deliver their handmade Valentines greetings.

Courtesy photos





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NATIONAL HONOR GOES TO ABIGAIL HENKEL



(above) Abigail Henkel.

Photo by Clark Public Schools

Clark Public Schools

Arthur L. Johnson High School senior Abigail Henkel was recognized by College Board as a National Recognition Program awardee! Henkel earned the National Hispanic Recognition Award.

According to The College Board, “The National Recognition Programs award academic honors to sophomores and juniors who take eligible administrations of AP®, PSAT/NMSQT®, or PSAT™ 10 exams, have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and identify as African American or Black, Hispanic or Latino, Indigenous or Native, or attend high school in a rural area or small town.”

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “This achievement speaks to Abigail's outstanding ability and performance. Such national recognition is most noteworthy and fills us here in the Clark Schools with great pride.”

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A Clark History

Daunno Realty is a company founded upon a deep historical connection to Clark. Our principals were born and raised in town, are Arthur L. Johnson graduates, Clark property owners, and local residents. Given our lifelong ties to the community, we were proud to locate our company headquarters at 206

Westfield Avenue, right next to Dunkin Donuts.



BLUE ENVELOPE PROGRAM OPINION

Submitted by Simone Palermo

The Blue Envelope Program’s purpose is to raise Union County’s police departments’ awareness of special needs (such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, dementia, and anxiety) and how to best communicate with a special needs driver. One point of interest for me in this news article is how all police officers in Union County's twenty-one municipalities will go through a specialized training course on special needs, as well as learning the best methods in engaging with special needs drivers during a traffic stop. These specialized training courses will be vital in not only developing a deeper understanding of special needs, but also on how to best approach special needs drivers to minimize potential misunderstandings and escalations in conflict when pulled over. They will also better communication to special needs drivers that are non-verbal to provide a safer,



unprejudiced community that can ensure trust in its police force.

According to one source within the Clark Township’s Police Department, the process of getting a blue envelope is very easy, as the special needs driver can simply call their local police department, press the number for their helpdesk, and ask to receive a blue envelope either directly from the local police station or having it delivered to them in their mailbox. A copy of their driver’s license and vehicle registration, insurance details, and (if necessary) emergency contact card are placed inside the envelope, which is then placed onto the dashboard of their vehicle so that officers do not make the driver even more nervous than normal under a traffic stop. However, it does concern me deeply how easily accessible these blue envelopes can be as there is a possibility of individuals not in the spectrum to abuse them for their own benefit.

According to the same source, there are other towns in Union County that have implemented the Blue Envelope Program in their police departments; said source however does not know

if it has currently spread throughout the entire state of New Jersey. Regardless, my source said that the Clark Police Department has managed to hand out several of these blue envelopes to special needs drivers, which is a promising start for the program’s progress. Upon further research, I have discovered on various websites – such as Crimewatch and the Montgomery County website – that it is being employed in police departments in California, Pennsylvania, Connecticut.

Overall, my opinion on the Blue Envelope Program is incredibly positive. I am advocating for the Blue Envelope Program for Union County’s police departments and hope that it spreads beyond just Union County and the state of New Jersey.

Having lived most of my life with Autism Spectrum Disorder – specifically Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS) – I was personally intrigued when I came across the Clark Monthly’s “Blue Envelopes for Drivers with Autism” newspaper article. As someone who has lived with autism for years, I feel as though I have a voice in this matter, and I would like to let it be heard.

If you or a loved one are a special needs driver looking for more information regarding the Blue Envelope Program, contact your local police department and ask them how you can get started with your blue envelope today.



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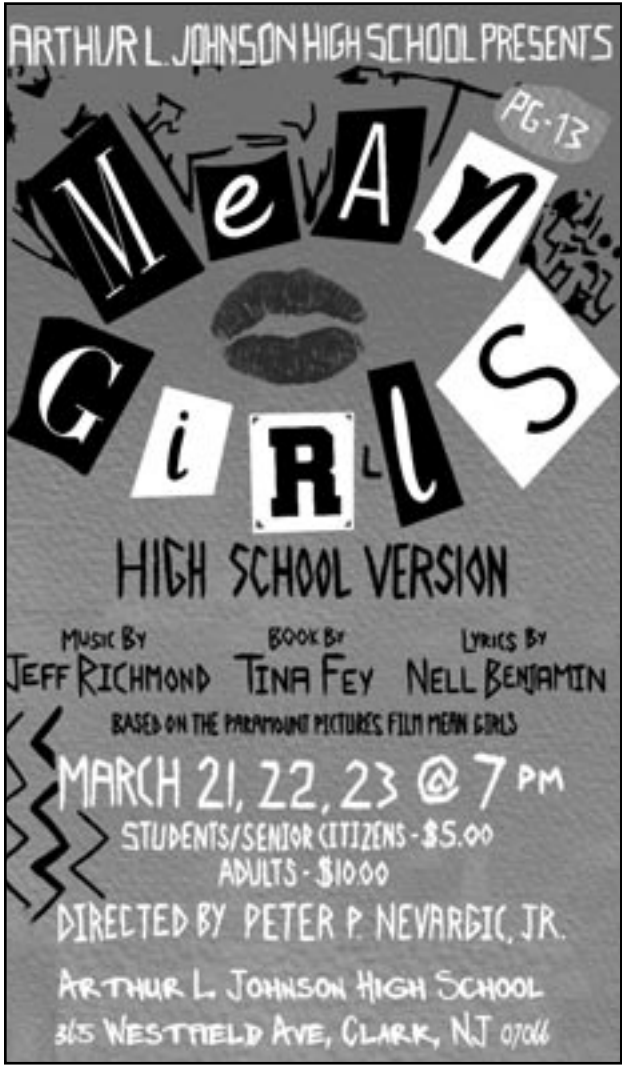
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ALJ HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS MEAN GIRLS



The hit musical based on the immensely popular movie, Mean Girls, will be performed on the ALJ stage in March. The halls of ALJ have been bristling and buzzing with excitement in anticipation for these girls to hit the stage.

Director Peter Nevargic says he has never experienced such early enthusiasm for an ALJ production since he announced it back in December. “Many staff and so many students have expressed their excitement and all say they cannot wait to see this show!”

Seniors who have made the ALJ stage their second home and will be taking their final bows are Isa Moreira (Stage Manager), Jason Conrad, Taylor Normann, Maya Soares, and Isabel Cortese. They are giving their all for their last performances in Mean Girls. Other seniors who will be making their first and last appearances on the ALJ stage are Jordan Nieves and Grace Wright.

Nevargic is especially pleased to have the

entire creative team of Mean Girls to be made up entirely of ALJ Alumni: Director-Nevargic (’80), Technical Director-Ryan Kowalenkob (’16), Vocal Music Director-Rebecca (Dias) Pacella (’12), Choreographer-Lauren Newby (’01), Hair & Makeup-Lisa (Marconi) Appuzio & Stacy Costabile (’82), and set builders Roy George (’93) and Ty Dobbins (’19).

This wonderful cast and crew hope you all will come out to see what promises to be one of ALJ’s most dynamic and exciting shows. Tickets will be available at the door.

PG-13 Some material may be inappropriate for very young audiences.

PERFORMANCE DATES:

March 21ST, 22ND, & 23RD - 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$5.00 for Students & Senior Citizens
\$10.00 for Adults

Arthur L. Johnson High School Auditorium
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Clark Township and Recreation Presents:
BIKE WITH A BUNNY & EGG HUNT
SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024*
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Clark kids up to and including 5th grade while accompanied by an adult are invited to decorate their bikes and take a ride with our Bunny to the annual egg hunt.

Come Join the Fun:

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- Hunt for prize filled eggs • Petting Zoo
- Jellybean contest • Bike Raffles & Prizes
- Coloring Contest • Enjoy snacks

The Day’s Events:

10:45 a.m. - Gather on Westfield Avenue in front of the ALJ Parking lot

11:00 a.m. - Bike the Bunny Trail to the egg hunt

11:30 a.m. - Park bikes with bike attendees

11:45 a.m. - Line up to enter the Recreation Center

12:00 p.m. - Doors open for All Activities (Egg hunts are by age group)

12:00 p.m. - Egg hunt
- up to and including Pre-K

12:20 p.m. - Egg hunt Kindergarten and 1st grade

12:40 p.m. - Egg hunt 2nd and 3rd grade

1:00 p.m. - Egg hunt 4th and 5th grade

1:00 p.m. - Comedy Magic Show in cafeteria

Receive and color the picture and drop off at the recreation office by 3/20/24 to enter our contest.

* Egg hunt is rain or shine. Bike ride is weather dependent. All events are subject to change or cancellation without notice.

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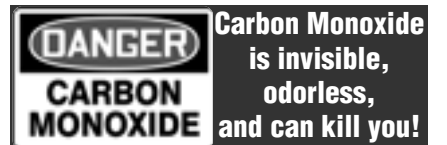
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AUTHOR VIRTUALLY VISITS KUMPF SCHOOL

Clark Public Schools

Author Gordon Korman virtually visited Carl H. Kumpf Middle School on Monday, January 21st. The interview was broadcasted school-wide by the school's media station, KTV. The interview was led by Student Moderator Leah Barr and Faculty Moderator Vicki Sasso. Students had an opportunity to ask questions of Korman who authored *Linked*, the school's summer reading book. The book is part of the school's One School, One Book curriculum where everyone reads the same book and lessons connected to the book are discussed throughout the year. Content and themes are explored throughout the curriculum including monthly character education-inspired lessons and activities.

Korman shared that he has written over 100 books and that he wrote his first book at 12 years old. He discussed what inspired him to write *Linked*, how he created characters, chose settings, among many other topics. He also discussed the writing process and how to turn an idea into a story. Korman encouraged the students to write every day to really make writing a part of their lives.

Principal Rick Delmonaco stated, "It was a wonderful experience for our students to hear first-hand from Gordon Korman and his insights about being an author and more specifically about the novel *Linked*. This is hopefully an event students remember and help some of them become even better writers in school. We thank Mr. Korman for spending the morning with us. It was truly a pleasure to be able to interact with him."



(above) Leah Barr and Vicki Sasso

Photo by Clark Public Schools

ALJ GRADUATE SHARES LIFE EXPERIENCE WITH STUDENTS

Clark Public Schools

Matthew Gallo, 2017 class president and graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School, visited his alma mater to share his experiences as a nursing major. Gallo, who graduated from Mount Saint Mary College with a BSN in nursing in 2021, visited Mrs. Bernadette Jacobi's Premedical studies and Anatomy students. Gallo shared his experiences with his coursework, his clinicals and rotations as well as the rigor, sacrifices, and dedication it took to successfully complete his program. In addition, as a former student of the Premed program at ALJ, Gallo pointed out that he had first-hand experience in realizing the opportunity he had to build a solid foundation in basic medical studies prior to attending nursing school, which put him at a great advantage over others in his class. He has been working as an ER nurse at RWJ Rahway for the last two and a half years.

Through sharing his experience, Premed and Anatomy students were able to gain an invaluable, practical understanding of what is required in the field helping them to see how what they learn in the classroom extends to future careers.

Matt's passion for his calling and his hard work have been recognized by his administrators at the hospital, and he was just promoted to "Clinical Coordinator" which gives him more responsibilities, while maintaining a patient base.

Mrs. Jacobi stated, "I am so excited to see how Matthew has grown as a medical professional,

and so honored to have been a part of his journey. His experiences seem to have defined him, and his love of his career and the passion he has for caring for people goes above and beyond. He has an amazingly warm heart, which pulls people in and allows his patients to feel comfortable around him, which is such an important part of his character. My students connected with him instantly as he shared his stories."



(above) ALJ Graduate Matthew Gallo recently shared his experience with Premedical Studies and Anatomy class students.

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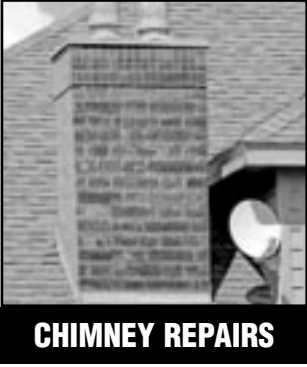
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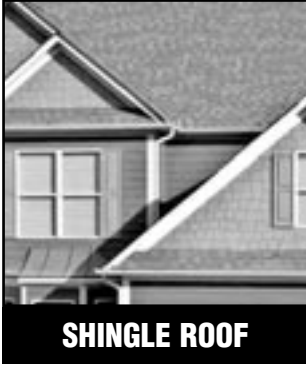
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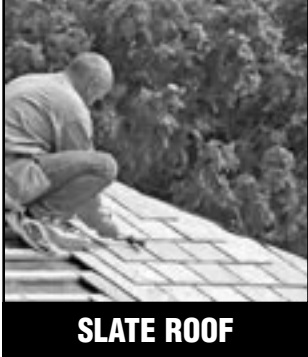
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TEACHERS RECEIVE HIGH HONORS FROM STATE

Clark Public Schools

Several teachers were recently recognized recently for their achievements in the Clark Public School District.

The Governor’s Educators of the Year Program recognizes “exceptionally skilled and dedicated” educators that must “be an expert in the field” and who inspires students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn.” They must “actively collaborate with colleagues, students, and families to create a strong culture of respect and success.” The educator should demonstrate “leadership and innovation in educational activities at the school, district and/or state and national levels that take place both within and outside the school setting”as well as have the “respect and admiration of students, parents, administrators, and colleagues.” These educators have gone above and beyond for their students both in and outside of the classroom.

CLARK TEACHERS RECOGNIZED WERE:

- Governor’s Educators of the Year SY 23-24 Winner Joy Donaldson, English Teacher ALJ Teacher
- Carla Wagner, Media Specialist ALJ Educational Services Professional
- Lauren Fernandes, Mathematics Teacher CHK Teacher
- Michelle Burdo, Occupational Therapist CHK Educational Services Professional
- Kayla Rodrigues, Special Education Teacher FKH Teacher
- Kristine Gilbert, Teacher Assistant FKH Educational Services Professional
- Christopher Raguseo, Physical Education/Health Teacher VRS Teacher
- Maria DaSilva, Paraprofessional Aide VRS Educational Services Professional
- Erin Van De Water, Special Education Teacher CPA Teacher

Anthony DelConte, mathematics teacher and coach, at Arthur L. Johnson High School and Lauren Cesare, special education teacher, at Carl H. Kumpf Middle School were also recently recognized by the New Jersey Department of Education as Exemplary Educators of the Year through the 2023 New Jersey Exemplary

Educator Program.

According to the New Jersey Department of Education Website, “Each year, the New Jersey Department of Education invites public school districts (including charter schools) to participate in the Exemplary Educator Recognition Program. The goal of this program is to identify outstanding educators for special recognition, alternating between elementary (Pre-K to 5) and secondary (6-12) every year. A state certificate of recognition is given out to each candidate that is selected as an Exemplary Educator.” The most recent round focused on secondary teachers.

The program seeks to identify exemplary educators who are “valued by their school community and have exhibited strong knowledge and skills, an inspiring presence, and a clear vision for quality teaching and learning.” They have demonstrated “exceptional teaching and leadership abilities” and have had a “positive impact on students, colleagues, and the school community.”

Superintendent Edward Grande stated, “These recipients excel in all that they do for our students. They are model educators, and we are so fortunate that they are here in the Clark Schools with us.”

VRS - Assistant Principal Mallory Applebaum, Maria DaSilva, Paraprofessional Aide, Christopher Raguseo, Physical Education/Health Teacher, Principal Joe Beltramba

CHK- Lauren Fernandes, Mathematics Teacher, Lauren Cesare, Special Education Teacher, Michelle Burdo, Occupational Therapist

CPA - Erin Van De Water, Special Education Teacher

FKH - Kristine Gilbert, Teacher Assistant, Kayla Rodrigues, Special Education Teacher

ALJ 1 - Carla Wagner, Media Specialist, Joy Donaldson, English Teacher

ALJ 2 - Christine Broski, Supervisor of Educational Initiatives, Neetu Varshney, STEM Supervisor, Anthony DelConte, Mathematics Teacher, Superintendent Edward Grande, Assistant Principal Katrina Poskay, Principal Tara Oliveira, Athletic Director Gus Kalikas



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YMCA SUMMER CAMP INFORMATION SESSIONS

The Gateway Family YMCA
It's never too early to begin thinking about Summer Camp and researching the best opportunities for your child to thrive. The Gateway Family YMCA understands the unique needs of children and families, providing transformational Summer Camp experiences for hundreds of children throughout Eastern Union County each year. Learn more about Summer Day Camp at The Gateway Family YMCA this Spring at YMCA Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions.

Hosted at The Gateway Family YMCA – Elizabeth Branch, 135 Madison Avenue, Elizabeth, Five Points Branch, 201 Tucker Avenue, Union and Rahway Branch, 1564 Irving Street, Rahway, Summer Camp Parent Information Sessions are scheduled on March 21st 6:00-8:00 P.M., April 20 12:00-2:00 P.M. and May 16 5:00-7:00 p.m. Parents are invited to join YMCA Camp Directors for tips on getting the most out of your child's camp experience, transition from school to camp, summer safety and fun! Advance registration is optional, with



(above) The Gateway Family YMCA is offering Summer Camp Information Sessions

additional information available at tgfymca.org/events.

At Y Summer Day Camp, kids can develop skills and self-confidence, make new friendships, and gain a sense of belonging – all while having tons of fun. From games and sports to arts and crafts to outdoor adventures to STEAM and academic enrichment, a Y Summer Day Camp experience offers kids the chance to learn new things and enjoy new adventures.

Camp is available in one-week sessions for Pre-K Age 3 through Grade 6. Registration is first come, first serve and parents are reminded to register early.

The Gateway Family YMCA is a leading 501(c)(3) nonprofit committed to strengthening community by connecting all people to their potential, purpose and each other. With a focus on empowering young people, improving health and well-being, and inspiring action in and across the local community, the Y brings together people from different backgrounds, perspectives and generations, to ensure that all have access to the opportunities, relationships and resources necessary to learn, grow and thrive. The Y doesn't just strengthen bodies – it strengthens people, families and communities.

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

Membership Madness
YMCA Open House March 28-30
Open to the Community! Take a Swim, Shoot Some Hoops, Try a Class! Learn More at tgfymca.org/events

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March 28-30
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THE GATEWAY FAMILY YMCA tgfymca.org

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JOEY ORTEGA JOINS ALJ'S CENTURY CLUB

CLARK MONTHLY • Page 15 • March 2024

Submitted by Gus Kalikas

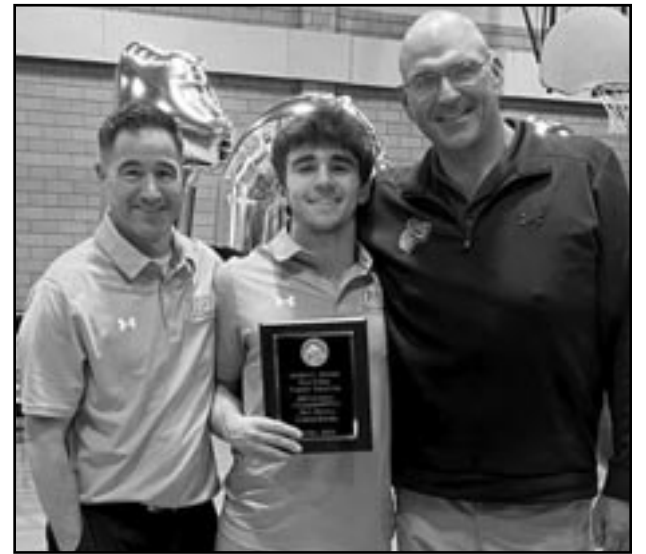
The Crusaders were defeated on February 1, 2024 by a very tough Old Bridge team. Senior Sean Asgaralli and Sophomore Matt Marczyklo won by pin for the Crusaders, and Sophomore Keegan Parkhill fought off a late rally to win a hard-fought decision at 126lbs, but the score did little to dampen the mood. The highlight of the night was Senior Joey Ortega, who recorded his 100th win and became just the sixth wrestler in Johnson school history to join the "Century Club."

Excitement grew as Ortega walked onto the mat for the 144lb matchup, but the three time state qualifier went through his routine in the same manner he always does, seemingly unfazed by the gravity of the moment. Ortega scored a series of takedowns and near falls over his

opponent, dominating the match and stretching his lead to thirteen points before finally getting the pin.

The crowd erupted in celebration as Ortega's hand was raised, and he was joined on the mat by his parents, who presented Joey with a celebratory banner and plaque to commemorate the accomplishment.

Joey has had an impressive season to date. He took first place in the Dover Holiday Tournament and won his second consecutive Union County Tournament at 150lbs. He is now a perfect 20-0 in dual meets on the year, and committed to Kutztown University earlier this year. Despite his success, Joey isn't ready to celebrate just yet. "This is just one step in the road I'm on," he said. "Tomorrow it's back to work, because it's not over until I'm on the podium at states."



(above) Coach Rick Ortega, Joey Ortega, and ALJ Athletic Director Gus Kalikas.



(above) ALJ wrestling

Photos by ALJ Wrestling



(above) Joey with his Parents Rick and Leslie Ortega

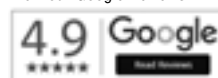
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Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9:30 am - 9:00 pm • Wednesday, Friday, Saturday: 9:30 am - 5:00 pm • Sunday: 1pm to 5pm
The library will be closed on Friday, March 29 for Good Friday.

All space-themed programs include a pair of eclipse glasses with registration in preparation for the eclipse on April 8, 2024.

Stories & More

Fridays, March 1, 8, 15, & 22 at 10am

Stories, movement, songs followed by a simple craft for active listeners ages 3 - 5 years old. Registration is requested.

Digital Literacy Tutoring

Friday, March 1 & 15 at 11:30am

Do you need help with your digital literacy skills? Join us for tutoring sessions on topics including Google Drive, Microsoft, Email, and resume help. Registration is required as sessions are limited to 4 students at a time.

Read Across America Day

Saturday, March 2 from 9:30am - 4:30pm

Children are invited to drop by the library and pick up a special book-themed Take & Make craft to celebrate Read Across America Day!

Tales for Tots

*Mondays, March 4, 11, & 18
at 9:45am OR at 10:30 am*

Stories and songs for active listeners. Geared toward ages 2-3 with a caregiver. Older children are welcome! 30 minutes of open play follows. Please register.

Teen Advisory Board

Monday, March 4 at 3:15pm

TAB is open to all teens in Grades 6-12. Teens in neighboring towns are always welcome to join. Registration is required.

Baby Bookworms

Tuesdays, March 5, 12, & 19 at 10am

Join us for stories, songs, nursery rhymes, and movement activities. Geared toward the under 2 crowd with caregiver. 30 minutes of open play follows.

Patches and Stitches

*Tuesdays, March 5, 12, 19 & 26
from 12pm - 2pm*

Bring your quilt or other crafty project and visit with the members of the quilting club.

Afternoon Book Club

Tuesday, March 5 at 1pm

We will be discussing "We Begin at the End" by Chris Whitaker. Please speak with a librarian or email reference@clarklibrary.org if you need a copy of the book.

Totally New Tuesdays

Tuesdays, March 5 & 19 at 6:30pm

Enjoy a new movie for adults just released to DVD on our big screen. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

Digital Literacy Tutoring

Tuesday, March 5, 12, 19 & 26 at 6:30pm

Join us for tutoring sessions on topics including Google Drive, Microsoft, Email, and resume help. Registration is required.

Krafty Kids

Wednesday, March 6 at 3:30pm

Join us as we make some fun and creative artwork! Registration is required. Geared for Kindergarten-5th grade.

Chess Club

*Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28
at 11am - 3pm*

New members and all levels are welcome!

Thursday Afternoon Movies

Thursdays, March 7, 14, 21 & 28 at 1pm

Enjoy a movie for adults. Please check our online calendar or visit the library to check the movies being shown.

Evening Story & Craft with Laura Sassi

Thursday, March 7 at 6:30pm

We will be visited by Laura Sassi, Cranford author! She will read her book, Goodnight Ark, and the children will make an animal craft to celebrate its 10th anniversary and Read Across America Week!

Dungeons & Dragons: Teen One-Shot

Friday, March 8 at 3:15pm

No experience (or character) necessary, but helpful. Please leave a comment in the notes during registration if you would need a pre-made character to play. Open to teens 12+. Registration required to form groups. Snacks will be provided!

**Adult Program: St. Patrick's Day
Paper Shamrock Wreath**

Monday, March 11 at 11am

Join us as we make an adorable paper shamrock wreath for St. Patrick's Day.

ADHD Decoded with author Leila Molaie

Monday, March 11 at 7pm

Join us for this informative presentation that aims to provide practical strategies and tools to help adolescents with ADHD develop social skills and foster meaningful relationships.

Celtic Music Journey with Heather Mulvey

Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with an evening of Irish music. Musician Heather Mulvey will play acoustic guitar and sing familiar Irish songs.

Tinker Tots

Thursday, March 14 at 10:30am

Join us for a morning of fun STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) activities perfect for little ones. Play is station based. For children ages 1 through pre-k. Please register.

Maker's Evening Program

Thursday, March 14 at 6pm

Join us for a Lego® creating event! Learn about our new Lego® Lending Library! Make space creations for a chance to win a prize!

**[Space Event] Teen Maker's Day Program:
Space Slime**

Friday, March 15 at 3:30pm

Teens! Join us to make this four-ingredient, out-of-this-world, Space Slime! We'll provide everything you need to make a truly mesmerizing creation.

Open to Teens in Grades 6-12.

Registration Required.

Friends of the Library Costume Jewelry Sale

Saturday, March 16 at 10am - 12pm

Teen Gaming Club

Monday, March 18 at 3pm

We have plenty of tables and chairs to set up for those interested in gaming as a group! Snacks will be served. Registration Required.

Open to Grades 6-12.

**[Space Event] Telescope Night
with Pearl Observatory**

Monday March 18 at 7:30pm

(Rain date: Thursday, March 21 at 7:30pm)

See the wonders of our universe with Pearl Observatory! For ages 5 and up. Please register. Rain/cloud reschedule date is March 21.

Barks & Books

Tuesday, March 19 between 4-5 pm

If you have a young, reluctant or struggling reader, we want you to meet our therapy dogs!

Registration is required. .

Won't You Be My Neighbor Day

Wednesday, March 20 at 3:30pm

Celebrate Mr. Rogers and our neighborhood by making a kindness craft!

Books & Bagels

Friday, March 22 at 11am

Enjoy bagels and coffee while we chat about books you have been reading and learn what others in your community are reading as well.

LEGO Master Builders

Friday, March 22 at 3:15pm

Create your own LEGO® structures to be displayed in the Children's area of the library!

LEGO® are provided by the library. For children entering grades K - 5.

**[Space Event] The Solar Eclipse & Tour of the
Solar System with Wayne Zuhl**

Tuesday, March 26 at 7pm

Join Wayne Zuhl as he discusses what to expect from the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8. Also, take a tour of the solar system and get a chance to touch some meteorites.

**[Space Event] Adult Program: Moonlight
Acrylic Painting**

Wednesday, March 27 at 11am

Join us for a relaxing morning of painting. Follow along with an online tutorial while we create a moonlight acrylic painting on canvas in celebration of the upcoming solar eclipse.

Little Scientist

Wednesday, March 27 at 3:30pm

Learn how to build and create with our Science Experiments! Each session will be a different experiment that will touch upon a different STEM skill

**[Space Event] Space Week - Teen Stress-Less:
Galaxy Jars**

Thursday, March 28 at 7pm

Galaxy Jars: Get ready for the eclipse on April 8th by creating your own galaxy in a jar. Open to grades 6 - 12. Registration is required.

Snacks will be served.

Take & Makes for Preschoolers - Adults

Each month we have a new take-home craft to pick up and make at your leisure. While supplies last, no registration.

A WEEKEND OF CANS, CREATIVITY, AND COMMUNITY

Submitted by Lucia Triolo WGS

Westfield Girl Scouts successfully hosted its first Canstruction Jr. event on Saturday, Feb. 10. Seven teams of Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Scouts took on the challenge of using canned goods to build various structures. The 4th-12th graders had up to six hours to complete the designs, with the goal of bringing attention to food insecurity in our area.

On Sunday, the same teams returned to the Presbyterian Church in Westfield to sort and distribute the near 2,500 shelf-stable items. Recipient organizations included:

- Presbyterian Church in Westfield, Westfield
- Church of the Immaculate Heart Food Pantry, Scotch Plains
- Valerie's Soup Kitchen, Plainfield
- Little Flower Church Food Pantry, Berkeley Heights
- David Brearley High School Care Closet, Kenilworth
- St. Anne's Food Pantry, Garwood
- St. Joseph's Social Services, Elizabeth
- Osceola Presbyterian Church Food Pantry, Clark
- El Centro Hispano Americano, Plainfield

Canstruction® is an international campaign that raises awareness about hunger while facilitating the donation of thousands of pounds of canned food to those in need. Participants incorporate engineering, visual arts, mathematics, project management, and 3D rendering principles all while learning the importance of community service.

Congratulations to the participating Girl Scouts on their hard work and creative approach to the design challenge.



FISHING FLEA MARKET MAR 23RD

The Rahway Spring Fishing Flea Market will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2024, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at St. Thomas Church Hall, 1400 St. Georges Ave., Rahway, NJ. New, used, antique, custom fishing and boating items will be available to all. Door prizes will be given away every half hour which include rods, reels, tackle and much more. Food and refreshments are sponsored by St. Thomas Holy Name Society. Admission price is \$5 per adult, children 12 and under are free. For show or vendor information visit fishingfleamarkets.com or call 732-381-2165.

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Short Hills MILLBURN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 8,200 Zips: 07041, 07078	Summit Times NJ Qty: 9,600 Zip: 07901	Spirit of UNION NJ Qty: 6,800 Zip: 07083 (partial)	WARREN MONTHLY NJ Qty: 6,200 Zip: 07059	Watchung Post NJ Qty: 2,700 Zip: 07069	Westfield MONTHLY NJ Qty: 11,800 Zip: 07090

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4 Units	3.25" x 8" or 6.5" x 4"	\$180	\$450	\$700	\$900	\$1100	\$1300	\$1500	\$1700	\$1900
6 Units	6.5" x 6.25" or 10" x 4"	\$240	\$600	\$900	\$1200	\$1400	\$1600	\$1800	\$2000	\$2200
9 HALF PAGE	6.5" x 9" or 10" x 7"	\$320	\$800	\$1000	\$1300	\$1600	\$1900	\$2200	\$2400	\$2700
12 Units	10" x 8"	\$360	\$900	\$1200	\$1500	\$1800	\$2100	\$2400	\$2700	\$3000
18 FULL PAGE	10" x 14"	\$400	\$1000	\$1400	\$1800	\$2200	\$2500	\$2800	\$3000	\$3400
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THE WONDER BAND TO PLAY MARCH 9

The Salem Roadhouse Café presents The Wonder Band – a Tribute to Stevie Wonder’s Music, Saturday, March 9, 2024. The doors open at 7:15 p.m., the show starts at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20 and includes show, snacks, non-alcoholic beverages, and dessert. The venue is located in the basement of Townley Presbyterian Church, 829 Salem Rd, Union, NJ. The Roadhouse operates as a non-profit that raises funds for several carefully chosen local charities.

The Wonder Band is made up of three extremely talented performers who are well known to the Metro NY/NJ area music scene. Ed Alstrom, leader, is the organist for Yankee Stadium, as well as keyboard player for many famous performers such as Bette Midler, Chuck Berry, Leonard Bernstein, Herbie Hancock and others. The list goes on and on.

Accompanying Ed will be guitarist Al Orlo. Al has recorded with the legendary Ben E. King and was his musical director for 25 years. Al also held the #1 chair at Broadway shows, such as Kinky Boots, Carol King Musical, Hairspray and Smokey Joe’s Café, to name a few.

Bobby Deitch on drums rounds out the trio. Bobby has performed on several recordings such as Richard Sorce’s Latin album “A Place I’ve Never Been” and Richie Hart’s “33 1/3” album.

States Ed Alstrom, “Obviously, Stevie’s music is even more fun to play than it is to listen to. This group does a mix of the hits and some lesser-

known things, without the vocals, and it doesn’t hurt the music one bit not to have them, because they’ll be playing in your mind!

Original artwork by local artist James Spath will be on display at the Roadhouse Gallery of Fine Art for all to enjoy before, during and after the show.

As always, the Salem Roadhouse Café is live, intimate, up front, and personal. All ages are welcome.

ABOUT SALEM ROADHOUSE CAFÉ

It’s not “church music.” It’s music music. Folks who’ve come to the Salem Roadhouse Café know that it’s a clean, safe place for people who enjoy listening to live music — in a world otherwise filled with clubs and bars. The Roadhouse has always offered its stage to local and independent mainstream musicians. Jazz, rock, folk, and other groups have performed.

The Salem Roadhouse Café has raised funds for many carefully chosen charities. They include: The Presbytery of Elizabeth E-port Center, Center For Hope Hospice, Community Food Bank, Monarch Housing, Angel Paws Animal Rescue, National MS Society, Haiti Disaster Relief, Hurricane Sandy Disaster Relief, The Union County YWCA Domestic Violence Program, Making It Possible To End Homelessness, Camp Johnsonburg, The Music Institute, and others. Many thousands of dollars have been raised for these deserving charities.



RENNA MEDIA LAUNCHES YOUTUBE PODCAST

Joe Renna

Renna Media has posted its first episode of “Mind Your Own Local Business,” a podcast that gives advice on how to run a successful local business.

This is my 40th year in business and I draw from my experience and expertise to give advice. I have received so much help in my career from mentors and seasoned business owners, and this is a way to pay it forward.

I already offer free one-on-one consultation on putting together business plans and marketing plans. The show would be a way to reach many more people.

I started in business in 1984 as a graphic designer and grew into a full-service marketing and advertising company. Now, along with my wife Tina, we publish twenty-four community newspapers mailing out 160,000 to homes and businesses monthly.

Like the newspapers, the show will serve as a venue to support local community service organizations and events and production costs will be covered by advertisers. There are several marketing and advertising opportunities for businesses to be included with the freedom to be unique and creative.

I am looking forward to having a lot of fun doing the show. It is another application of my Do-What-You-Love mentality. The show is a free-form magazine format production that is flexible. I welcome business owners to join in the fun.

To learn more call me, 908-447-1295, or email joerenna@rennamedia.com.

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Buchanan's 12yrs old	1.75L	\$57.99
Bushmill's Irish	1.75L	\$46.99
Chivas Regal	750 ml	\$31.99
Chivas Regal	1.75L	\$62.99
Chivas Regal 18 yrs old	750 ml	\$82.99
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Crown Royal	1.75L	\$50.99
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Dewars White Label	750 ml	\$20.99
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Glenmorangie 10 yrs old	750ml	\$40.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	750 ml	\$56.99
Glenlivet 12 yrs old	1.75L	\$104.99
Grants	750ml	\$15.99
Grants	1.75L	\$24.99
Jack Daniels	750ml	\$27.99
Jack Daniels	1.75L	\$48.99
Jack Daniels Fire	750ml	\$26.99
Jack Daniels Fire	1.75L	\$48.99
Jameson	750ml	\$32.99
Jameson	1.75L	\$60.99
Jim Beam Whisky	1.75L	\$32.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	750ml	\$193.99
Johnnie Walker Blue	1.75L	\$449.99
Johnnie Walker Black	750ml	\$29.99
Johnnie Walker Black	1.75L	\$59.99
Johnnie Walker Double Black	750ml	\$35.99
Johnnie Walker Red	750ml	\$19.99
Johnnie Walker Red	1.75L	\$33.99
Macallan 12yrs old (double cask)	750ml	\$74.99
Makers Mark	750ml	\$29.99
Makers Mark	1.75L	\$56.99

GIN

Beefeater	1.75L	\$36.99
Bombay Sapphire	1.75L	\$39.99
Seagram's gin	1.75L	\$24.99
Tanqueray	750ml	\$22.99
Tanqueray	1.75L	\$38.99

COGNAC & BRANDY

Courvoisier V.S.	750ml	\$35.99
Courvoisier V.S.	1.75L	\$60.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	750ml	\$50.99
Remy Martin V.S.O.P.	1.75L	\$129.99

CORDIALS

Bailey's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$47.99
Duggan's Irish Cream	1.75L	\$32.99
Kahlua	1.75L	\$45.99
Krupnik	750ml	\$20.99
Licor 43	750ml	\$27.99
Licor 43	1.75L	\$45.99

VODKA

Absolut (regular)	750ml	\$21.99
Absolut (regular)	1.75L	\$31.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1L	\$39.99
Belvedere Organic Vodka	1.75L	\$49.99
Ciroc (all types)	750ml	\$29.99
Ciroc (all types)	1.75L	\$57.99
Finlandia	750ml	\$16.99
Finlandia	1.75L	\$26.99
Grey Goose	750ml	\$24.99
Grey Goose	1.75L	\$39.99
Ketel One	750ml	\$19.99
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Luksusowa Vodka	1.75L	\$25.99
Pinnacle (all types)	750ml	\$11.99
Pinnacle (80 proof)	1.75L	\$17.99
Skyy	1.75L	\$21.99
Sobieski	750ml	\$12.99
Sobieski	1.75L	\$21.99
Stolichnaya (all types)	1.75L	\$30.99
Tanqueray Sterling	750ml	\$19.99
Tanqueray Sterling	1.75L	\$30.99
Three Olives (all types)	1L	\$19.99
Tito's Vodka	1.75L	\$31.99

RUM

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Bacardi Light & Gold	1.75L	\$20.99
Captain Morgan Spice	1.75L	\$27.99
Malibu	750ml	\$21.99
Malibu	1.75L	\$31.99

TEQUILA

Deleon Blanco Tequila	750ml	\$37.99
Deleon Blanco Tequila	1.75L	\$59.99
Patron Silver	750ml	\$46.99
Patron Silver	1.75L	\$89.99
Cantera Negra Coffee Tequila	750ml	\$29.99

BEER

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Coors Lite (24oz) cans	12pk	\$18.99
Coors Lite/Miller Lite loose bottles	24pk	\$23.99
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Land Shark	24pk	\$29.99
Lech (500ml)	20pk	\$32.99
Modelo Especial cans	24pk	\$29.99
Pabst Blue Ribbon cans	30pk	\$20.99
Pilsner Urquell	24pk	\$35.99
Sam Adams Boston Lager	24pk	\$34.99
Stella Artois loose bottles	24pk	\$32.99
Super Bock	24pk	\$32.99
Yuengling Lager bottles	24pk	\$23.99
Zywiec (11.2oz)	24pk	\$21.99

WINE

Bartenura Moscato	750ml	\$12.99
Barone Fini Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	750ml	\$ 5.99
Beringer White Zinfandel	1.5L	\$ 9.49
Black Box (All Types)	3L	\$19.99
Carnivor Cabernet Sauvignon	750ml	\$10.99
Casal Garcia Vinho Verde	1L	\$ 6.99
Cavit (All Types)	1.5L	\$15.99
Clos du Bois Chardonnay	1.5 L	\$19.99
Dom Perignon	750ml	\$264.99
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Ecco Domani Pinot Grigio	750ml	\$11.99
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