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THREE SCOUTS RECEIVE EAGLE AWARDS

Submitted by Michelle Segal

BSA Troop 177 is proud to highlight our 26th, 30th and 31st Eagle Scouts, Nicholas Coppola, Ethan Sidhu and Jacob Sidhu! These three fine young men received their Eagle awards at Troop 177's Eagle Court of Honor in January at the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside.

NICHOLAS COPPOLA

Nicholas earned his Eagle rank after completing 31 merit badges, camping 62 nights, hiking over 84 miles, and devoting 72 hours to community service. Nick has also earned the Bronze and Gold Palms for additional work beyond the Eagle-required merit badges. He also earned the National Outdoor Award for Camping with a Gold award. Nick logged 130 hours of community service. Nick served as a patrol leader and Outdoor Ethics Guide. He was a member of Troop 177's Philmont trek in 2024. His Eagle project was landscaping and improving the Deacon Andrew Hetfield and Levi Cory Houses.

ETHAN SIDHU

Ethan Sidhu earned his Eagle rank after completing 30 merit badges, camping for 54 nights, hiking over 23 miles, and devoting 54 hours to community service. He served as Patrol Leader, Librarian, and Instructor while in the Troop. For his Eagle project, Ethan restored over 20 antique farm tools on behalf of the Union County Parks Department for display at Masker's Barn in the Watchung Reservation.

JACOB SIDHU

Jacob Sidhu earned his Eagle rank after completing 29 merit badges, camping 50 nights, hiking over 28 miles, and devoting 72 hours to community service. Jacob has also earned the Bronze Palm for additional work beyond the Eagle-required merit badges. He served as Troop Historian for the past three years. On behalf of the Union County Department of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Jacob's Eagle Project aimed



to promote local historical sites through geocaching, akin to a treasure hunt using GPS-enabled smartphones through the geocaching.com app. Check out some of the geocaches he placed here: coord.info/BMDV22T.

If you are interested in Scouting, please get in touch with the Troop 177 Scoutmaster, Jeff Healy, at jeffhealy8@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook at MountainsideBoyScouts.com



(above) Nicholas Coppola, Ethan Sidhu and Jacob Sidhu received their Eagle Scot awards at Troop 177's Eagle Court of Honor held in January at the Community Presbyterian Church in Mountainside.

Courtesy photos.

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Eric D. Pastore, Chief/EMT

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emergency medical care possible. Your continued support is one of the many reasons we were awarded 2024 Prehospital Program of the Year at the National Conference on EMS! We wish everyone a happy and healthy new year!"



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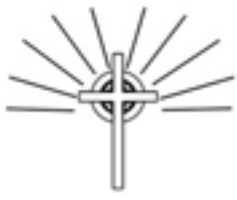
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Celebrating 100 Years of God's Grace 1925-2025

We are thrilled to announce that Redeemer Lutheran Church will be celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2025! This is an incredible milestone that marks a century of Redeemer's faithfulness, fellowship, and service to our community. Throughout the year, we'll be hosting a series of exciting events to honor this momentous occasion. These events will culminate in a **Grand Anniversary Celebration: Sunday, September 28, 2025** 2:00 PM Worship Service in the sanctuary Fellowship Reception to follow in Luther Hall, featuring food and beverages. Whether you've been with us for years or are new to our church family, we invite you to join us in giving thanks for all that God has done, and will continue to do, through Redeemer Lutheran Church. Stay tuned for more details about upcoming anniversary events! Let's honor the past, rejoice in the present, and look forward to a bright future together.

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NEW FIREFIGHTERS WELCOMED

The Mountainside Fire Department is proud to announce the graduation of Firefighters M. Bottino, O. Khudaybergenov, D. Koch, A. Labisi, and J. Tomas from the Union County Fire Academy. Their dedication, hard work, and commitment to service have prepared them for the challenges ahead. We are excited to welcome these talented individuals to our team and look forward to the contributions they will make to our department and community. Congratulations and welcome aboard!



Courtesy photo

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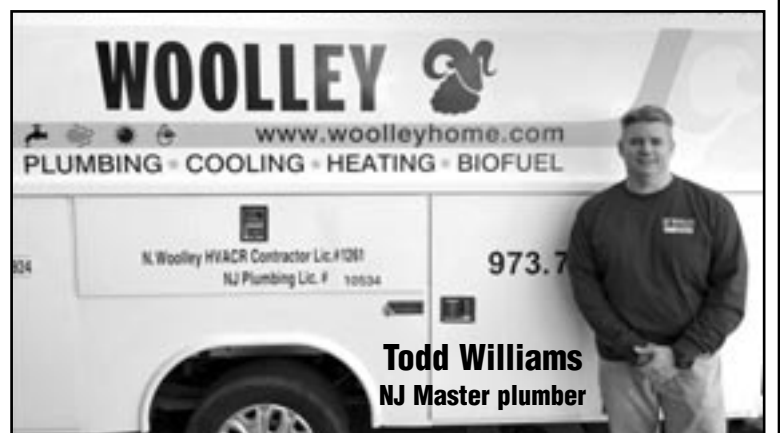
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EXPLORE SUMMER CAMPS AT FREE FAIR

Morris County NJ Camp Fair
Morris Museum
 6 Normandy Heights Road,
 Morristown
Saturday, February 22, 2025
 12pm - 3pm
Admission is free.

This is a great time to explore all sorts of summer camps and programs for your child. Meet directors in person from traditional day camps, sleepaway camps or specialty camps like sports, adventure, travel, academic, arts/performing arts, STEM, robotics, nature and more. Will it be a full summer away in the woods, a month traveling, a 4- or a 2- week camp, a general day camp or one focused on learning a new skill?

This is a free educational resource where you can meet a diverse set of high quality camps in person. Kids ages PreK through High School go to camp! Camps will be hiring camp counselors too.

For over 35 years, the NJ Camp Fairs and the ACA, a non-profit organization, have been connecting kids to great camp experiences. Please RSVP at www.njkidsonline.com/camp-fairs to let us know you're coming and you'll receive a free gift at the fair.

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Berkeley Heights Public Schools

The BHPS French Department celebrated National French Week held in November. Students across the district participated in activities to celebrate the diversity of the French speaking world.


In addition to a community wide showing of the film Ratatouille, students in French classes also participated in a National Media Contest, creating videos in the target language showcasing the theme "Le français, langue globale." Select videos will be published nationally and students can win cash prizes.

CMS French students competed in a Croissant Baking Competition, a bake sale, bulletin board decorating, and CMS French Club led the charge in a Holiday Card Campaign for our military, sending 168 cards to stationed service members

overseas!

Students at GLHS also celebrated with the Third Annual Chocolate Mousse Off Cooking Competition and a National Trivia Contest. Lizzie Kavanaugh, French 3 honors, won best mousse, and Ancheng Bi, French 4 honors, will compete against French students around the country in the final round of the Trivia Contest.

Finally, to cap off the celebrations, the GLHS French Club and Madame Combe hosted Madame Cesario's 8th grade CMS French students for a Catacombs themed escape room in the Governor Livingston IMC. This interactive activity challenged French 1 students to test their French skills to try to escape the tunnels of the Paris Catacombs. Students ended the quest with a celebratory limonade and a Q&A session led by the high school students.




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(above) During National French Week, students had an moment amusant.

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FEBRUARY 15 AT 8 PM:

WE MAY BE RIGHT: A BILLY JOEL TRIBUTE

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FEBRUARY 16 AT 3 PM:

THE DUPREES WITH WHO'S JOHNNY

For over 60 years, their unique and timeless sounds have captured hearts. Tommy Petillo, with the group for over 46 years, contributes dynamic vocals. Jimmy Spinelli, since 1989, brings energetic showmanship. Shawn Stevens, the newest member, adds his experience with legendary doo-wop groups and stage performances.

MARCH 30 AT 3 PM: RE-LIVE THE BEATLES

Come together for a magical journey through the Fab Four's illustrious career. This is more than just a concert—it's a trip down memory lane that captures the essence of an era - celebrating the music that changed the world! Relive historic moments like The Ed Sullivan Show, Shea Stadium, the Sgt. Pepper era, and Abbey Road.

APRIL 6 AT 3 PM:

MICHAEL PATRICK'S RING OF FIRE BAND: A JOHNNY CASH TRIBUTE

Over a decade ago, Michael Patrick became captivated by Johnny Cash's music—the simplicity, sincerity, and deep, expressive voice. Since then, he's been passionately paying homage to this musical legend.

<p>WE MAY BE RIGHT NJ's Premier Billy Joel Tribute</p>  <p>FEB 15 - 8PM</p>	<p>THE DUPREES NJ Ambassadors of Love Songs</p>  <p>Special Guests Who's Johnny</p>  <p>FEB 16 - 3PM</p>	<p>Come Together on a Magical Journey FROM THE INVASION TO SHEA STADIUM, SGT. PEPPER TO ABBEY ROAD</p>  <p>Re-Live THE BEATLES</p> <p>A TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC THAT CHANGED THE WORLD</p> <p>MARCH 30 - 3PM</p>	<p>Michael Patrick's RING OF FIRE BAND A TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY CASH</p>  <p>Special Guest JENNI BEE As June Carter</p> <p>APRIL 6 - 3PM</p>
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ANGELS IN AMERICA PART ONE: MILLENNIUM APPROACHES" AT CDC

We are excited to announce that Tony Kushner's acclaimed play, "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches," will be in performance at the CDC Theatre in Cranford from February 14 to March 1. This monumental production is a significant event in the cultural calendar and promises to be a landmark moment for theatre enthusiasts.

"Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is the first part of Tony Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic that explores the complex themes of politics, sexuality, and faith against the backdrop of the AIDS crisis in the 1980s. The play is known for its profound narrative, compelling characters, and its unflinching examination of societal issues.

The CDC Theatre in Cranford is honored to host this powerful work. As one of New Jersey's longest producing community theatres, CDC Theatre has a rich history of bringing high-quality productions to the stage. The upcoming performance of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" is set to continue this tradition, offering audiences an unforgettable experience. Directed by Michael Kidney is the cast: Corey Chichizola as Prior Walter, Brian Petty as Louis Ironson, Sean Lynch-Littlejohn as Joe Pitt, Molly Reinhardt as Harper Pitt, Lisa Barnett as Hannah Pitt, Aaron Hancock as Belize, Richard Colonna as Roy Cohn and Even T. Charpentier as The Angel.

The staging of "Angels in America Part One: Millennium Approaches" at CDC Theatre is not just an exciting theatrical event; it is a cultural milestone. The play's themes are as relevant today as they were when it first premiered in 1991, making this production a poignant reminder of the ongoing struggles and triumphs within our society.

We invite you to join us for this extraordinary

production. Tickets are available at cdctheatre.org. Don't miss the chance to witness Tony Kushner's masterpiece come to life on the stage of CDC Theatre in 2025. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Made possible by funds from the Union County Office of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, a partner of the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.




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FEBRUARY SPEAKERS PROGRAM FOR THE SUMMIT AREA OLD GUARD

The Summit Area Old Guard is a social, educational, and recreational organization that serves men of retirement age. We meet Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Presbyterian Church located at 1307 Springfield Ave – we encourage visitation, and all are welcome. Our motto is “Come for the Programs. Stay for the Friends.” The organization was founded in 1930. Learn more about us at summitoldguard.org.

In February, we will have four speakers:

**ERICK A. FORD, VICE PRESIDENT
STEVENS & LEE PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

On Feb. 4th, our speaker will be Erick A. Ford, Vice President of Stevens & Lee Public Affairs. Erick is a recognized leader in policy and business. In 2024, he was recognized by ROI-NJ as one of New Jersey’s leading energy and utilities influencers, highlighting his significant

impact on the state’s energy landscape. He will discuss the state of the energy markets in New Jersey.

**DR. D.J. PERON -
THE SURREALIST ART MOVEMENT**

On Feb. 11th, Dr. D.J. Peron will discuss the Surrealist art movement. DJ will show how Dadaism emerged during World War I as a rebellious movement against world war one and the societal ‘establishment,’ and how surrealism came into being. These two movements have been of extreme importance in the evolution of art from post-war modern art up to the present day. The presentation will be like a stroll in a museum with many art representations shown.

SUMMIT MAYOR ELIZABETH FAGAN

On Feb. 18th, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, will discuss Summit’s current and future trends. Mayor Fagan has been an active resident of Summit for more than 20 years. She will discuss recent and future projects for the City. Some of

her updates will be about the coming old firehouse land project and street closings for restaurant dining. Also, state regulations, specifically the Mount Laurel decision, regarding affordable housing is a topic that affects all municipalities in New Jersey and a current issue for Summit. Bring your questions for the Mayor.

MARYKATE VAUGHN - DOCTOR OF AUDIOLOGY

Finally, on Feb. 25th, we will learn about hearing loss and hearing aids. Marykate Vaughn, AuD, CCC-A, is a doctor of audiology affiliated with Summit Health. She will speak about the various ways to evaluate hearing in children and adults. She will discuss the large variety of hearing aid devices on the market with their pros and cons. She will also discuss the common reasons why people end up not using their hearing aids and the remediating solutions. Dr. Vaughn has over 30 years of experience in audiology. This topic should elicit a few questions from the Old Guard members!



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY



The Blanche M. and George L. Watts Mountainside Community Foundation annually provides one or more college scholarships to a graduating senior residing in Mountainside.

The Foundation will also entertain applications from students applying to associate degree programs at community colleges and certificate programs at accredited technical or trade schools. The scholarship will be awarded based on financial need, academic competency (we are not necessarily looking for A students), community involvement and merit.

All applications must be completed and returned no later than April 1, 2025.

Visit wattsmountainside.org for eligibility requirements and to submit a scholarship application.



(above) Erick A. Ford, Dr. D.J. Peron, Mayor Elizabeth Fagan, Marykate Vaughn

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT NJ BLOOD SERVICES

New Jersey Blood Services (NJBS), a division of New York Blood Center, which provides blood for local patients, is looking for a few good volunteers. The blood drive volunteer is an integral member of our team whose tasks include assisting donors with registration and/or at the refreshment area. No medical background necessary. Volunteers should be outgoing to provide friendly customer service, be able to perform tasks as needed, must provide proof of

COVID Vaccination prior to volunteering and must have transportation. All training is provided including additional precautions for the safety of our team and blood donors. For additional information call or text Sharon Zetts, Manager, NJBS Volunteer Services at 732-850-8906, Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

To apply online as a blood drive volunteer, please go to: volgistics.com/appform/2127944197

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PTO REACHING OUT FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Dear Parents, Guardians and Neighbors,

We hope this message finds you well. As members of the Mountainside community, we all share a common goal: to provide our children with the best education and opportunities for success. Today, we are reaching out to ask for your support in achieving that goal through a vital resource – our PTO Grant Committee.

The PTO Grant Committee (formerly known as the Mountainside Education Foundation) plays a crucial role in supporting programs and initiatives that directly benefit our students. From enhancing classroom learning through new technologies and resources to providing enrichment opportunities such as in-school guest speakers, after-school programs, arts education and extracurricular activities, the PTO Grant Committee’s efforts are aimed at empowering our children to thrive academically and personally.

Our children’s future depends on the strength of their education. By supporting the foundation, you’re investing in the lives of every child at our schools. Every donation, no matter the size, helps us create a learning environment that fosters creativity, curiosity and a passion for lifelong learning. Your contribution can be the spark that opens doors to new possibilities for these young minds!

Whether a one-time donation or recurring gift, your generosity will have a direct impact on our students. If you would like to learn more about the PTO Grant Committee or donate, please visit

pto-grants.cheddarup.com or scan the QR code above. Every dollar raised goes directly towards programs that support our children, and your participation is key to their success.

During this school year alone, we have already funded over \$3,500 to support such programs as “A Simple Seed” mindset and gratitude group assembly, “Six Million Voices” assemblies, new chess boards for the Chess Club, flexible seating options and classroom carpets, plus a myriad of others.

Thank you for considering this important opportunity to make a difference in the lives of our youth. Together, we can help build a brighter future for all of our students!

Warm Regards,

The PTO Grant Committee



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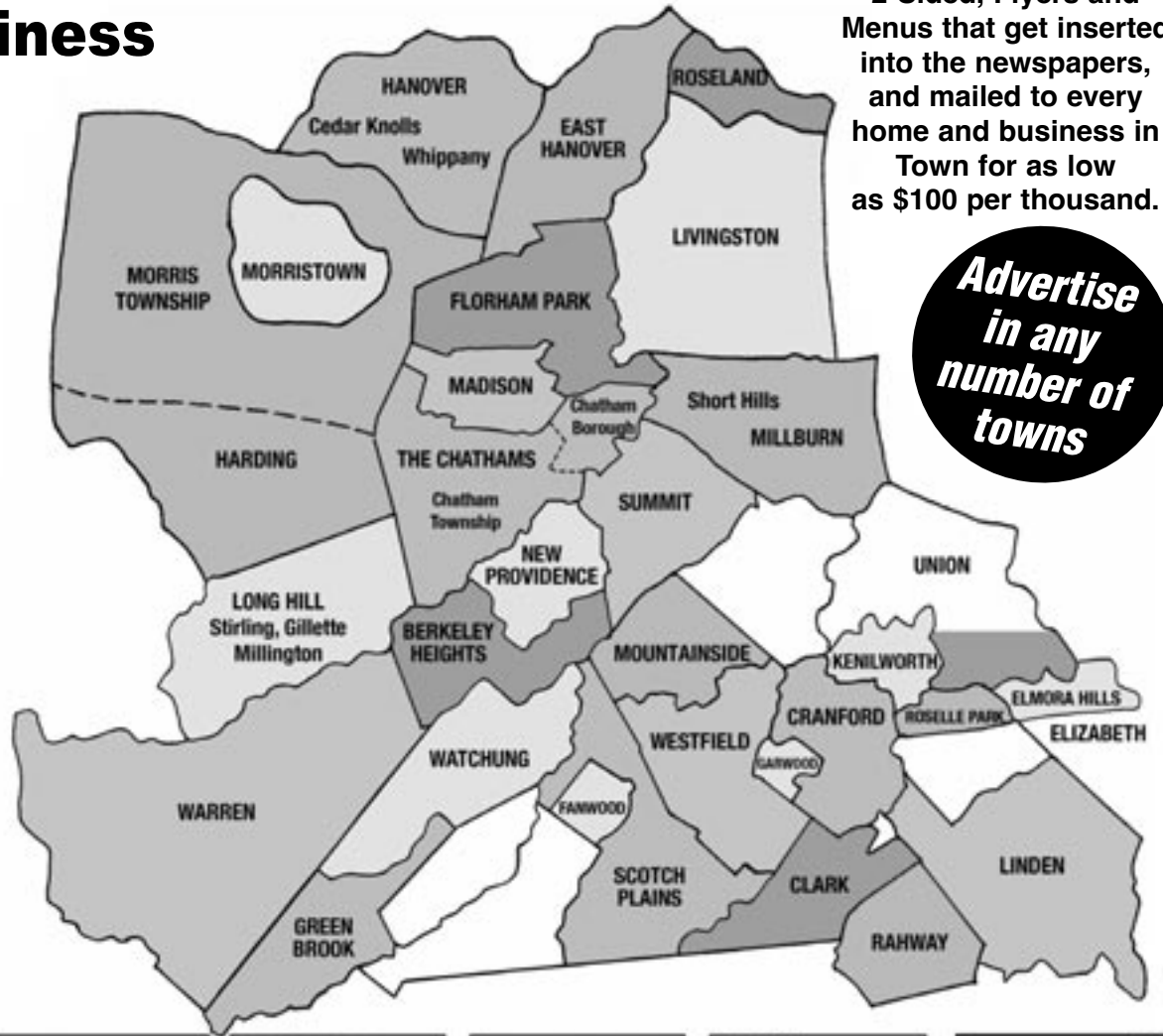
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6 Units	6.5"x6.25" or 10"x4"	320	760	1200	1400	1600	1800	2000	2200	2400	2600	2800
9 HALF PAGE	6.5"x9" or 10"x7"	360	860	1300	1600	1900	2200	2400	2600	2800	3000	3200
12 Units	6.5"x14"	400	960	1400	1800	2100	2400	2700	3000	3300	3600	3900
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VICKIE BOLL: A VOLUNTEER WHO MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE

New Jersey Veterans Network

Every day, the New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) supports disabled veterans and their families, providing crucial resources that can truly change lives. A big part of that success is due to our amazing team of volunteers who give their time, energy, and heart to help our heroes.

One volunteer who stands out is Vickie Boll. Vickie is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring. Despite facing her own challenges as someone with autism, Vickie works tirelessly to ensure that veterans have access to the resources they need and that they feel appreciated and supported. Whether it's helping load trucks with supplies or bringing cheer to veterans at recreational therapy events, Vickie is always there, offering a helping hand and a smile.

For Vickie, helping veterans is more than just a task – it's a personal passion. She finds a sense of safety and belonging with veterans, who, she says, are nonjudgmental and deeply appreciative

of her efforts. Their gratitude motivates her to continue her work, and her positive attitude has made a real impact on the lives of many veterans.

But Vickie's good deeds don't stop there. Her heart of service extends beyond veterans. Most recently, she spearheaded a successful collection for St. Hubert's Animal Rescue, further showing her commitment to making the world a better place for both people and animals.

It's an honor to have Vickie on the NJVN team. Her kindness, compassion, and tireless work ethic are a reminder that small actions can make a huge difference. The world is truly a better place because of people like her.

Help us save Vets – and make a lasting impact on those who served.

NJVN are always looking for volunteers that can both assist with upcoming events and help mentor veterans so they can live better productive lives. Volunteers are the most important NJVN resource, and we would love to have more people help us save lives. If you need assistance or are

interested in joining the team, please send us your name, email, and phone number to NJVN1775@gmail.com or call 973-332-1556. Check out our website NJVN.org for our services and accomplishments.



(above) Vickie Boll is a regular face in the veteran community, and her dedication to the cause is nothing short of inspiring.

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