

# Robert Reich: Why Widening Inequality Is Hobbling Equal Opportunity

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PUBLISHED IN ELIZABETH, NEW JERSEY • USPS 454-160 • SERVING UNION COUNTY & MIDDLESEX COUNTY



News Record / **PATRIOT** / The **ATOM** TABLOID  
& Citizen's Gazette

**NJTODAY.NET**

NJTODAY.NET 50 CENTS



NEW JERSEY'S OLDEST WEEKLY NEWSPAPER - IN PRINT SINCE 1822 • ISSN 2328-6113 IN PRINT • ISSN 2328-6121 ONLINE

VOL. 193, NO. 6

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(908) 352-3100

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FEBRUARY 7, 2014

## Did Christie Know About Lane Closures While They Were Going On?

STATE -- A top aide and close political confidante says Gov. Chris Christie knew about the lane closings on the George Washington Bridge, a scandal now swirling around the administration's alleged abuse of power during last year's election against a little-known Democratic challenger.

According to a *New York Times* report, a lawyer for David Wildstein, Christie's high school buddy who is accused of using his job at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to jam the bridge, described instructions to close access lanes as "the Christie administration's order" and said that he has evidence to prove it.

The governor's office disputes the allegations. "Bottom line—

David Wildstein will do and say anything to save David Wildstein," said an email to friend and allies that was obtained by Politico.

The governor fired Bridget Anne Kelly, the deputy chief of staff who sent an email saying, "Time for some traffic problems in Fort Lee," to Wildstein, who has since resigned as director of interstate capital projects at the Port Authority.

In a letter released by Alan Zegas, Wildstein's lawyer, the attorney said "evidence exists as well tying Mr. Christie to having knowledge of the lane closures, during the period when the lanes were closed, contrary to what the governor stated publicly in a two-hour press conference."

The statements were made in a letter Zegas wrote asking the authority to reconsider a decision not to pay Wildstein's legal bills.

Christie spoke with Wildstein and Bill Baroni in Manhattan while marking the 12th anniversary of the World Trade Center terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2013 — the third day of the George Washington Bridge closures. The three men are pictured together in several photos published by the *Wall Street Journal* last month.

Assemblyman John Wisniewski, the Democratic chair of the transportation committee investigating the lane closures, said photographs of the men together while the incident was ongoing raised new questions about



In this photo obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*, Gov. Chris Christie and David Wildstein, in red tie, appear together at a ceremony on the 12th anniversary of the 2001 World Trade Center attacks in Manhattan, held on Sept. 11, 2013, the third day of the Fort Lee lane closures.

what Christie knew and when he learned it. "I can't help but wonder what conversation took place between them," Wisniewski said. At a January news conference,

Christie said he had not had conversations with Wildstein "in a long time" but he made no mention of their meeting while the traffic jams were taking place.

## Sandy Aid Programs Erroneously Rejected Hundreds Of Applicants

STATE — New Jersey erroneously rejected hundreds of applicants for Hurricane Sandy recovery aid, according to data released this week by the Fair Share Housing Center.

The data, obtained by the Cherry Hill-based group through the Open Public Records Act, show that a contractor hired (and later fired) by the Christie Administration rejected 6,417 applicants for two aid programs. Of those, 2,424 people appealed and 1,878 were actually found to be eligible, with 42 cases still to be decided.

"The Christie Administration's widespread rejection of large

numbers of families actually eligible for Sandy aid shows that the Sandy recovery process has been flawed from start to finish," Fair Share Housing Center Staff Attorney Adam Gordon said. "Who knows how many thousands more have been denied aid because the Christie Administration botched the process."

The group called for a full explanation of why the contractor was fired, as well as a full and complete audit of the \$600 million Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, Elevation and Mitigation program and the \$180 million Resettlement program.

A state Department of Community Affairs spokesperson explained that many of the initial denials were the result of inaccurate damage assessments from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"Noting the high number of ineligibility determinations, we investigated and learned FEMA provided the state with inaccurate damage assessment data," said Lisa Ryan. "As a result, we obtained HUD approval to allow applicants to demonstrate damage through third-party sources other than FEMA data."

## NJ Families Face Additional Food Stamp Cuts

STATE — A vote by Congress this week will mean a cut in food stamp benefits for an estimated 157,000 New Jersey households, according to the New Jersey Anti-Hunger Coalition.

The U.S. Senate approved the Farm Act Bill, which will cut \$8.6 billion from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) over the next 10 years, by a 68-32 vote. Sen. Cory Booker vote against the bill, but Sen. Robert Menendez reluctantly voted in favor of it as a better alternative to Republi-

can efforts to cut as much as \$40 billion over ten years.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the bill into law.

Affected families nationwide will lose approximately \$90 per month. The new reductions follow a previous cut in November.

New Jersey is one of 15 states that coordinate energy assistance with the food stamp program, and will suffer a greater share of the cuts as a result. Nationwide, approximately 850,000 households will be affected.

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

*Would you like your event listed in the community calendar?* Email a brief description of your event, along with date, time, location, and a phone number people can call for more information to NEWS@NJTODAY.NET. (Please include "Calendar Listing" in the subject.) You may also fax your event information to 1-908-469-1210, Attn. Community Calendar. Event listings must be received at least two weeks prior to the event. Holiday deadlines may vary.

**Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Trip • Feb. 12** – The South Amboy Y is planning a day trip to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Clinton to see the Branson-style show, "Beer and Broken Hearts," featuring the Tim Gillis Band & Crazy Elmer. Cost is \$80 per person, which includes bus transportation and lunch. Bus leaves the Y's parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Info: call Mike Tonzola at 732-316-8205.

**Health Program • Feb. 12 at 6 p.m.** – Do you tire easily with activity? Chronotropic Incompetence is one possible explanation. Learn more from cardiologist Amish Patel at Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains. Info: 732-499-6193.

**Civil War Program • Feb. 12 at 7:30 p.m.** – Historian John G. Zinn will present a program, "Portrait of a Civil War Marriage," at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. The presentation will focus on more than 40 letters that William Lloyd of the 33<sup>rd</sup> New Jersey Regiment wrote to his wife, Mary. Free admission.

**Movie • Feb. 18 at 1 p.m.** – The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, will continue its lunchtime Science Fiction Classics film series. Light refreshments served at 12:30 p.m. Patrons invited to bring a bagged lunch. Info: 973-376-4930.

**Heart Healthy Cooking Demo • Feb. 18 at 7 p.m.** – Learn about Heart Healthy Cooking from Chef Diane Weeks at Robert Wood Johnson Fitness & Wellness Center, 2120 Lamberts Mill Rd., Scotch Plains. Info: 732-499-6193.

**Chocolate Presentation • Feb. 19 at 6:15 p.m.** – The Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, will host a presentation by Carol's Creative Chocolatez. Learn about the history and art of chocolate making, and receive a free sample. Registration is required by Feb. 12; call 732-340-1551 x212.

**Tax Seminar • Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m.** – The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will sponsor a free public seminar on estate and federal income tax at the New Jersey Law Center, One

Constitution Square, off Ryders Lane in New Brunswick. Advance registration required: call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

**African-American History Program • Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m.** – The Cranford Public Library will present a lecture by Dr. Lawrence Hogan, "The Forgotten History of African American Baseball: Slavery Times, Jim Crow & the Negro Leagues," at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Info: cranford.com/library.

**Summer Camp Open House • Feb. 22 from 1-3 p.m. & Feb. 25 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** – The South Amboy Y, 200 John T. O'Leary Blvd., will hold open houses for families interested in learning about Y Day Camp. Call Mike Tonzola at 732-316-8205 with questions.

**Jazz Concert • Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m.** – The Avery Sharpe Jazz Sextet will perform at Enlow Hall on Kean University's East Campus, 215 North Ave., Hillside. Tickets are \$25-\$35 and can be purchased online at EnlowHall.kean.edu or by calling 908-737-SHOW.

**Jazz Performance • Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.** – Friends of the Cranford Public Library are sponsoring a performance by the MRB Jazz Project at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Info: cranford.com/library.

**Big Apple Circus • Feb. 27-March 16** – The Big Apple Circus returns to TD Bank Ballpark in Bridgewater (off Route 287) for 28 performances under the heated Big Top. Tickets start at \$20 and are available at www.bigapplecircus.org or 888-541-3750.

**Linden AARP • Feb. 28 at 1 p.m.** – Linden AARP Chapter #1894 will meet at the Linden Presbyterian Church, corner of Orchard Terr. & Princeton Rd. Refreshments will be offered at noon. Anyone who belongs to the national chapter may join the Linden chapter, and guests are welcome.

**Movie • March 3 at 1 p.m.** – The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, will continue its lunchtime Science Fiction Classics film series. Light refreshments served at 12:30 p.m. Patrons invited to bring a bagged lunch. Info: 973-376-4930.

**Business Seminar • March 5 from 7-9 p.m.** – The New Jersey State Bar Foundation will sponsor a free seminar on starting and succeeding with a new business at the New Jersey Law Center, One Constitution Square, off Ryders Lane, New Brunswick. Advance registration required: call 1-800-FREE-LAW.

**Movie • March 17 at 1 p.m.** – The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, will conclude its lunchtime Science Fiction Classics film series. Light refreshments served at 12:30 p.m. Patrons invited to bring a bagged lunch. Info: 973-376-4930.

**Spring Auction • March 29 at 4 p.m.** – Our Lady of Peace School of Fords will hold its annual spring auction. Prizes include Disney Hopper passes, theater tickets and more. Calling starts at 6 p.m. Admission is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door, and includes one sheet of small prize tickets, unlimited coffee and desserts. Bring your own food. No one under 18 admitted. For tickets and info, contact Meghan DiCarlo at 732-343-4372 or meaghandicarlo@gmail.com.

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**NJTODAY.NET** ISSN 2328-6113 (print) ISSN 2328-6121 (online)  
 NJTODAY.NET (USPS454-160) is published weekly on Friday by CMD Media 1139 East Jersey Street, Suite 503, Elizabeth NJ, 07201. Subscription rates are \$15 per year, \$50 outside Union County. Periodicals postage paid at Elizabeth, NJ and other post offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to: NJTODAY.NET, P.O. Box 1061, Rahway NJ 07065.  
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# Acting AG Announces New Effort To Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

TRENTON – All Department of Law and Public Safety employees will receive mandatory child sexual abuse identification and prevention training, Acting Attorney General John J. Hoffman announced today. This free, online training session is available to all New Jerseyans.

“As law enforcement and as parents, we owe it to our children to expose the perpetrators who commit these hideous crimes and bring

them to justice,” Hoffman said. “Law enforcement will continue to crack down on this vicious crime. Yet, it is important to remember that it is everyone’s responsibility, be it teachers, friends, relatives or neighbors, to recognize the signs of abuse and report it to the proper authorities. That is why our department will participate in this mandatory training.”

The training is provided by Darkness to Light, a nonprofit

with the mission of reducing the incidence of child sexual abuse through public awareness.

“This is an unprecedented state-wide investment in the prevention of child sexual abuse,” said Jolie Logan, President and CEO of Darkness to Light. “Many adults do not know how to recognize signs of sexual abuse, and most do not know what to do if sexual abuse is discovered. The New Jersey Attorney Gener-

al’s office is empowering adults to protect children, and there is no greater gift than providing safe communities for children to grow up healthy and whole.”

Statistics provided by Darkness to Light are sobering:

- Studies indicate that one in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday.
- Child sexual abuse is linked to a host of societal issues including teen pregnancy, depression, anxiety and suicide.
- Victims are three times more likely to have substance abuse issues, two times more likely to drop out of school, and are at greater risk for physical illnesses such as cancer, heart disease, diabetes and

other serious medical conditions.

• In the U.S. alone, there are an estimated 42 million adult survivors of child sexual abuse.

• Child sexual abuse ranks second to murder as the most expensive victim crime in the U.S., where immediate and long term costs exceed \$35 billion annually.

The two-hour training is the latest step in the department’s ongoing campaign to combat child exploitation.

If you suspect an incident of child sexual abuse, authorities encourage you to contact Darkness to Light’s Helpline at 1-866-FOR-LIGHT. To take the online training session, visit <https://d2l.csod.com>.

## Authorities Are Treating 2-Year-Old Elizabeth Girl's Death As A Homicide

ELIZABETH -- Sunday night's death of a 2-year-old Elizabeth girl is being investigated as a homicide, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Monday.

Shortly before 8 p.m. on Sunday, emergency medical personnel responding to a 9-1-1 call rushed to an apartment on the 200 block of Westfield Avenue in Elizabeth to find an unresponsive Dayanna Orozco, who was pro-

nounced dead at the scene. The girl's death was ruled a homicide following an autopsy by the Union County Medical Examiner's Office on Monday.

The victim's mother, Raquel Ramirez, 30, has been arrested and charged with third-degree aggravated assault in connection with injuries sustained by the young girl, with bail set at \$50,000. The Elizabeth Police Department's investigation into this matter is con-

tinuing, and additional charges in the case are possible.

Authorities are asking anyone with information about the death of Orozco to call Elizabeth Police Department Detective Raymond Smith at 908-558-2000, Ext. 2017.

These criminal charges are mere accusations. Each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

## Hillside Police Arrest 5 On Drug Charges

HILLSIDE -- On Wednesday, Jan. 29, Hillside police arrested four men as a result of an ongoing drug distribution investigation that began in July 2013. The suspects, whose names were not released by police, are a 25-year-old from Hillside, a 28-year-old from Newark, a 33-year-old from Summit, and a 26-year-old from Linden. The men are charged with crimes related to the distribution and possession of heroin and marijuana.

Hillside police detectives received an anonymous tip in July about possible drug dealing from a home on Tillman Street. An investigation, utilizing all personnel of the Hillside Police Detective Bureau, yielded credible information about illegal drug activity being conducted from the home, police said.

Detectives secured and executed a search warrant for the Tillman Street home on Jan. 29, at about 2 p.m. When the target of the investigation left the home with a

second man, detectives pulled them over and returned them to the house. Inside they found two additional men, secured them, and began a search of the home.

The search resulted in the seizure of 52 grams of uncut and unpackaged heroin, 500 packaged wax paper folds of heroin (grouped into 10 "bricks" of 50 folds each), three ounces of marijuana, drug packaging scales and materials, and \$1,000 cash, police said. The Tillman Street man was then arrested by detectives.

The three visitors to the house were all found to be in possession of marijuana and arrested as well, police said. Estimated street value of the combined drug seizure is \$10,000 in addition to the \$1,000 in cash.

The Hillside man is charged with distribution of heroin, possession of heroin, distribution of marijuana, possession of marijuana, controlled dangerous substance within a 1000ft of a school zone, and possession of drug para-

phernalia. He is being held at Hillside police headquarters awaiting transport to the Union County Jail. Bail is set at \$150,000.

The three other men were charged with possession of marijuana and released on a summons.

On Jan. 28, at about 1:30 p.m., Hillside police pulled over a 42-year-old Elizabeth man, whose name is also being withheld, near the intersection of Bloy Street and McMichael Place. Officers recovered 1 ½ pounds of marijuana and \$6,000 in cash, police said. The man was arrested for intent to distribute and possession of marijuana and controlled dangerous substance within a 1,000 ft. of a school zone. He was later released on bail. The marijuana has an estimated street value of \$4,500. The Elizabeth man has been linked to the arrested Tillman Street resident, police said.

The total value of the seizure of cash and drugs from both operations is about \$21,500.

## Christie Bodyguard Accused Of Theft

STATE – A New Jersey State Police trooper assigned as part of Gov. Chris Christie’s protection detail is facing criminal charges in Pennsylvania after he allegedly stole \$267 in gun supplies and other items from a retailer, according to a New Jersey Watchdog report.

"[Trooper William A.] Carvounis said he was on the governor's security detail," Tilden Township Police Chief William J. McEllroy told New Jersey Watchdog. "He

said he makes \$140,000 a year, and he's afraid of losing his job."

"We don't give preferential treatment when someone breaks the law," McEllroy said.

The alleged shoplifting incident on Jan. 9 was recorded by store surveillance cameras, according to the report. Arraignment is scheduled for Feb. 10.

The charges against Carvounis are merely accusations; he is presumed innocent until proven guilty.

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## Trinitas Dedicates New \$5.2 Million Ambulatory Surgery Center

ELIZABETH -- Trinitas Regional Medical Center has realized its vision of creating an Ambulatory Surgery Center at its main campus in Elizabeth with a 9,500 square foot facility now located in the Andrew H. Campbell Pavilion on the Williamson Street Campus. Trinitas hosted a dedication of the facility --- the newest in the tri-state region --- this week for its Board Members, physicians, donors, and state, county and local dignitaries and community leaders.

With three operating rooms dedicated to same-day outpatient surgeries, the spacious and modern \$5.2 million facility will be integrated into the existing operating room services at Trinitas. New equipment for these operating rooms, a recovery area with three bays, a pre-op area and a step-down area complete the facilities of the Center.

According to a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study released in 2009 containing the first available data about outpatient surgery visits, the number of such visits increased from 20.8 million visits in 1996 to 34.7 million in 2006. The CDC's data were collected from 142 hospitals and 295 free standing centers as part of its National Survey of Ambulatory Surgery. The study further showed that 19.9 million visits to hospital ambulatory surgery centers outpaced the number of

visits to free standing centers totaling 14.9 million.

"As the report from the CDC revealed, hospital-based surgical centers represented 57% of such surgeries, 14% higher than those done at free standing centers, Trinitas realized that this was an answer to the health care needs of those we serve in Elizabeth and the greater Central New Jersey area as well. In short, we viewed the creation of the Ambulatory Surgery Center as a strategic imperative, an opportunity for expansion," asserted Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer.

The state-of-the-art Ambulatory Surgery Center will begin taking patients in early March. Records show that the 5,341 same-day surgeries performed at Trinitas in 2013 surpassed the 4,573 surgeries in 2012. As evidenced by data from the past two years, the Ambulatory Surgery Center is expected to respond effectively to the increased volume of patients seeking same-day surgeries.

"The beauty of having a hospital-based ambulatory surgery center is that there is immediate access to the full services of the rest of our facility. This is added assurance for our patients who will come to this new Center for same-day surgeries," noted Horan in his remarks at the dedication ceremony.



Mayor J. Christian Bollwage of the City of Elizabeth did the ribbon cutting honors at the dedication of the newly-constructed Ambulatory Surgery Center at Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth. Along with the Mayor are, from left, Gary S. Horan, FACHE, President & Chief Executive Officer of Trinitas, Victor Richel, Vice Chairman of Trinitas Health and Regional Medical Center, Sr. Rosemary Moynihan, SC, Chairperson of Trinitas Health and Regional Medical Center, and the Honorable Raymond J. Lesniak, 20th New Jersey Legislative District. (Photo courtesy of Trinitas)

Senator Raymond J. Lesniak of the 20th New Jersey Legislative District praised Trinitas as being "the heart and soul of Elizabeth," stressing his confidence in the staff.

Hernia repair, gall bladder surgery and cataract removal are

among same day surgeries that reflect the growing and changing needs of the community.

"By providing a new facility, we will support the work of our current medical staff, strengthen our ability to recruit new physicians, and assure patients of a superior patient experience," noted Horan.

Numerous organizations, foundations, and individual donors contributed \$2 million for the construction of the new fa-

cility. "We thank all of these entities and individuals for their generous support to help us realize the vision for our new Ambulatory Surgery Center," said Nadine Brechner, Vice President and Chief Development Officer. "With the rapid changes in technology and growth in this type of service for patients, we are confident that our new Center will be able to serve patients in a superior setting with superior care."

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# WINTER WONDERLAND



The dam at Lake Surprise in the Watchung Reservation, half frozen, half flowing (Photos by Gabe Gluck/County of Union)



The Perry family from Summit had Briant Park practically all to themselves during Monday's snow storm (Photos by Gabe Gluck/County of Union)



Along the trail near Lake Surprise, a tree refuses to surrender its last leaves (Photos by Gabe Gluck/County of Union)



Deer foraging for food in the Reservation (Photos by Gabe Gluck/County of Union)

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Let NJTODAY.NET help you share your family's milestone events with the community. Complete the attached form and mail it, along with a clear photo, to NJTODAY.NET, 1139 East Jersey St., Suite 503, Elizabeth, NJ 07201. Information and photographs may also be emailed to [news@njtoday.net](mailto:news@njtoday.net). (Only news regarding subscribers or members of their families will be printed.)

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**Linden Kiwanis & K-Kids Clubs Support Children's Specialized Hospital**



Children's Specialized Hospital representative Sara MacDuff, community engagement coordinator, accepts a check from the Linden Kiwanis and the Linden K-Kids clubs. (Photo by Linden Kiwanis)

LINDEN -- Linden Public Schools' K-Kids Clubs, which are affiliated with the Linden Kiwanis Club, presented a check for \$2,500 to a Children's Specialized Hospital representative on Jan. 23. The proceeds were raised through last year's annual Walk-A-Thon Halloween Parade project. Infineum USA Inc., Severyn Furs Salon of Linden were among the donors that made this gift possible. School No. 4 raised the most money, with the support of Principal Anthony

Cataline, K- Kids advisor, Danielle Piscino, the students and Kiwanian Alfred Volpe. Kiwanis International /Kiwanis Clubs of New Jersey, made a pledge to raise \$500,000 over a 10-year period to be donated to Children's Specialized Hospital. Since this goal was already met, these contributions will buy pajamas to provide warmth for children. The Kiwanis Club of Linden was organized on Nov. 7, 1946 and is looking to expand its membership. Anyone who is

interested in joining may contact June Lazaro at Primerica by calling 908-687-9008. Weekly luncheons are generally held at the Southern Smokehouse on Thursdays. A past dinner is planned on April 24, followed by a 50/50 raffle on June 12, a pancake breakfast on Sept. 27 and the Taste of Linden on Oct. 15. For more Linden news, visit Linden.NJTODAY.NET online.

**Oasis-Church-NJ.com Moving To Clark**

CLARK -- Oasis-Church-NJ.com, a three year old nondenominational Christian church with two locations in Central New Jersey, will be moving from its Scotch Plains site to the ballrooms of the Gran Centurions at 440 Madison Hill Road in Clark this month.

The first service at the new site will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16 at 11:30 a.m. Future weekly Sunday service times revert to 11 a.m.

Guests are invited to celebrate Oasis' Grand Reopening Launch at their new location. There will be upbeat worship, a relevant message for straight

from the Bible, and age graded kids Sunday school. After the service, guests are invited to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a lunch buffet.

Oasis also meets Sundays at 10 a.m. at Regal Cinemas, Hadley Theater Stadium at 1000 Corporate Court in South Plainfield, in the same shopping center as Joe's Crab Shack and Target.

To learn more, visit Oasis-Church-NJ.com or call 732-406-7821

For more Clark news, visit Clark.NJTODAY.NET online.

**Newark Man Gets 9 Years For Union Township Robberies**

ELIZABETH -- A Newark man has been sentenced to nearly a decade in state prison in connection with the armed robberies of two Union Township convenience stores in 2012, acting Union County Prosecutor Grace H. Park announced Friday.

State Superior Court Judge Scott J. Moynihan sentenced 22-year-old Nequan Stover to nine years, with at least 85 percent of the term required to be served before the possibility of parole.

On June 9, 2012, a man later identified as Stover and one other person entered the One Stop Mini Market on Laurel Avenue in Union and confronted the store clerk, with Stover brandishing a handgun, according to Union County Assistant Prosecutor Jill O'Malley, who prosecuted the case. Stover forced his way into the booth in which

the store clerk was standing, assaulted him with the firearm, and made off with more than \$1,000 in cash, O'Malley said.

A month later, on July 10, 2012, Stover entered the Quick Chek on Morris Avenue in Union and held store employees and a customer at gunpoint while an accomplice swiped cash registers from a rear office.

Following an intensive investigation by the Union Township Police Department, Stover was identified as a suspect and arrested two days later. He pleaded guilty in the case earlier this month.

Stover's accomplice in the first robbery has yet to be identified or charged. His alleged accomplice in the second robbery, a juvenile at the time of the incident, is in custody pending an appeal of the state's decision to try him as an adult.

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## Trinitas Hosts Annual "Go Red" Event On Feb. 13

ELIZABETH -- As part of its annual observance of American Heart Month, Trinitas Regional Medical Center will host a special program for women, "Stand Stronger: It's Time for Women to GO RED." The event will take place on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5:30 – 7 p.m. at The Westwood in Garwood at 438 North Avenue. There is a \$5 fee at the door and reservations are strongly recommended. Call 908 994 – 8939 to book your space at this event. Those attending are encouraged to wear red.

Dr. Fayez Shamon, Medical Director of Cardiovascular Services at Trinitas, is the featured speaker. With years of experience in cardiac medicine, Dr. Shamon is well-qualified to discuss the specific medical and nutritional needs of women. He will also offer suggestions and recommendations about how women can adopt positive lifestyle behaviors that will assure their overall well-being and better cardiac health. Dinner guests will have the opportunity to ask questions at the conclusion of Dr. Shamon's talk.

"We are very pleased to present this dinner and speaking engagement for women during Ameri-

can Heart Month," explains Nancy DiLiegro, PhD, FACHE, Vice President of Clinical Operations and Physician Services, and Chief Clinical Officer. "Through the years, these programs have proven to be a valuable community outreach, touching the lives of hundreds of women who have grown in knowledge and awareness about heart disease. Women often overlook their own heart health as they care for other members of their families. That's why it's so important for women to take time to concentrate on their own cardiac health."

To make your reservations for this women's only event, call (908) 994 – 8939.

In addition to this community program, Trinitas will observe the month by encouraging its employees to wear red on Fridays throughout February. Throughout February, those visiting the Trinitas campus on Williamson Street will be greeted by red illuminations that light up the exterior landscaping at the main entrance.

For more Elizabeth news, visit [Elizabeth.NJTODAY.NET](http://Elizabeth.NJTODAY.NET) online.

## Unused Colonia School Site Will Become New Affordable Senior Housing Community

COLONIA — Woodbridge Township Mayor John E. McCormac joined representatives from Ingerman and BCM Affordable Housing last Friday to break ground on Reinhard Manor, a new affordable senior housing community at 350 Outlook Avenue in Colonia.

The groundbreaking marks the start of construction on a project that will transform the long-vacant and unused School 2/16 property in Colonia into a vibrant new community of 62 one- and two-bedroom affordable rental residences for seniors.

Ingerman, a leading developer, manager and builder of multi-family apartment communities, was granted \$8.65 million in tax credits over 10 years and \$4.8 million in Community Development Block Grant money to develop Reinhard Manor. The company is partnering with BCM Affordable Housing, which specializes in creating attractive housing and viable communities that families and seniors call home, and is developing the community in cooperation with the Woodbridge Affordable Housing Corporation.

"We celebrate Reinhard Manor's role in enhancing the Colonia landscape by transforming the vacant, underused School 2/16 site into a vibrant new community. And, even better, no taxpayer or municipal dollars need be invested, as the entire project is funded through government grants, programs, and private investment," McCormac said.

Ingerman is currently compiling a contact list of prospective residents for Reinhard Manor. Seniors interested in joining the list or learning more about the development can call 732-428-0300.

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Dr. Raymond A. Bongiovi, Jr., a lifelong resident of New Jersey, graduated from Life Chiropractic College, the largest chiropractic school in the world, in 1989 with honors. In 1991, he opened, Bongiovi Chiropractic Center and since that time has helped thousands of people regain their health, naturally and affordably. He utilizes a unique combination of chiropractic's most effective, proven adjusting techniques, along with nutritional counseling to achieve miraculous results on the worst of the worst cases.

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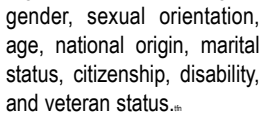
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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS - NEW PROVIDENCE BOROUGH,** is soliciting Qualification Statements for the following professional service: Borough Attorney. Complete RFQ's may be obtained from the Borough's website www.newprov.org or from the office of the Borough Clerk between 8:30 am - 4:00 pm, Monday thru Friday, 360 Elkwood Ave., New Providence, N.J. 07974. Qualification Statements will be received by the Borough Clerk, on or before Tuesday, February 11th at 4:00 p.m. in the Borough Clerk's Office. Any questions regarding the Request for Qualifications should be directed to the Borough Administrator, Douglas Marvin, at 908-665-1400 ext 0. 2/14+

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## NFL Players Jason & Devin McCourty To "Tackle Sickle Cell" At RWJUH Event

NEW BRUNSWICK -- Twin brothers and NFL defensive backs Jason & Devin McCourty have partnered with Embrace Kids Foundation, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, and New York Blood Center on a campaign against sickle cell disease. The campaign, entitled "Tackle Sickle Cell," aims to educate the public, increase blood donors and raise money & awareness for the fight against sickle cell disease.

Embrace Kids hosts the website TackleSickleCell.org, which contains facts and statistics on sickle cell disease and directs the public on how they can get involved in the campaign.

A blood drive supporting the Tackle Sickle Cell campaign will take place on Saturday, Feb. 15 from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, One Robert Wood Johnson Place in New Brunswick.

The McCourty Twins will make a personal appearance at some point during the blood drive, which takes place in the Arline and Henry Schwartzman Courtyard. All presenting donors will also receive a commemorative tee shirt and an autographed photograph of the McCourtys. One autographed football will also be raffled off at the blood drive.

Everyone who registers through the website and donates blood will receive a \$10 gift card to Hansel n'Griddle (not transferable for cash). These individuals will also be entered into a raffle drawing to win a football helmet autographed by the McCourty twins and a \$100 restaurant gift card (also not transferable for cash).

To register, call 732-235-8100, ext. 244 or 221 or visit [www.tacklesicklecell.org/events](http://www.tacklesicklecell.org/events) and click on "Blood Drives."

## Use IRS Adjusted Numbers For 2014 Tax Planning

by Thomas Ploskonka, C.P.A.

Certain tax numbers are adjusted by the IRS for inflation each year. Here are some of the 2014 tax numbers you'll need to use as you get started with this year's tax planning.

- The standard mileage rate for business driving decreases to 56¢ per mile for 2014. The rate for medical and moving mileage decreases from 24¢ per mile to 23.5¢ per mile. The general rate for charitable driving remains at 14¢ per mile.

- The maximum earnings subject to social security tax in 2014 increases to \$117,000. The earnings limit for those under full retirement age is \$15,480. For those at full retirement age, there is no earnings limit.

- The "nanny tax" threshold increases to \$1,900 for 2014. If you pay household workers more than this amount during the year, you're responsible for payroll taxes.

- The "kiddie tax" threshold for 2014 remains unchanged at \$2,000. If your child under age 19 (under age 24 for students) has more than \$2,000 of unearned income this year (e.g., dividends and interest income),

the excess could be taxed at your highest rate.

- The maximum individual retirement account (IRA) contribution you can make in 2014 remains at \$5,500 if you're under age 50 and at \$6,500 if you are 50 or older.

- The maximum amount of wages employees can put into a 401(k) plan remains unchanged at \$17,500. The 2014 maximum allowed for SIMPLE plans remains at \$12,000. If you are 50 or older, you can contribute up to \$23,000 to a 401(k) and \$14,500 to a SIMPLE plan.

- For 2014, the maximum amount that can be contributed to a health savings account (HSA) increases to \$3,300 for individuals and \$6,550 for families. Those 55 and older can contribute an additional \$1,000.

- The alternative minimum tax exemption for 2014 is \$52,800 for singles and \$82,100 for couples filing joint returns.

Thomas Ploskonka operates a total service C.P.A. firm at 1149 Green St., Iselin. For more information, visit [www.ploskonka-cpa.com](http://www.ploskonka-cpa.com) or call 1-732-283-0114.

## School Prepares Valentine's Day Treats For Veterans



Andrea Horniacek's Pre-K 3 class and Lisa Kelly's Pre-K 4 class from Our Lady of Peace School in Fords pose with Valentine's Day goodie bags prepared for donation to the Veteran's Home in Edison and St. Joseph's Senior Home in Woodbridge. (Photo courtesy of Our Lady of Peace School)

## The Night Jefferson High Won The County Championship (Part 2)



ELIZABETH -- More from Ed Levy from the years 1955-1956: "In preparation for the Championship event, Jefferson scheduled a 'Pep Rally' the afternoon before the night of the title game. Normally, the 'Pep Rallies' were held during football season and Jefferson brought in the cheerleading squad from Baton High in Elizabeth.

"Of course Jefferson's famous band would be there to play. At

the time, I was a junior at Jefferson, and always enjoyed the Pep Rallies as there was an 'esprit de corps' atmosphere that I have never have re-lived throughout my 74 years on this good earth. Even later on, when I was getting briefed and being charged up for a secret night mission as a Green Beret for the U.S. military during the Vietnam War, I did not have that feeling of elation that I had at those Jefferson High Pep Rallies. When the Jefferson High band played 'Oh you fighting men of Jefferson, fight until the game is won...' I got a tingling in my spine and a feeling of elation that I have never been able to feel since those days.

"The game was scheduled for 7:30 p.m. When Jefferson came out on the floor they were shooting really well and were on their mark. St. Mary's also looked good and there was a sense of suspense and tension in the air."

More next week!  
If you have your own memories or past material for any town in Middlesex or Union counties, please email me at [dianenorekharrison@verizon.net](mailto:dianenorekharrison@verizon.net).

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