

# Spirit of UNION NJ

FREE

UNION'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Union's Hometown Newspaper

Issue 13 • January 2012

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## BUSINESSES AND STUDENTS VOLUNTEER TO BUILD A DREAM

On Sunday November 20th, the community came together for the greater good. The organization “Be the Change” Kean University led by Dr. Norma Bowe participated in the first-ever Dream Room Makeover.

Dream Room Makeovers is an organization that supports families with children who have life-challenging illnesses or disabilities by giving the child the bedroom of their dreams. The goal is to create a space that only the child can imagine, while also addressing their unique medical needs. All makeovers are made possible by donations and volunteers.

The first recipients of their efforts are the members of the Willoughby-Hazel family from Union, N.J. Danielle Willoughby is a single mom with three children. The two youngest have a neuromuscular disease called spinal muscular atrophy and are in wheelchairs.

Over 80 volunteers pitched in from Kean University, Home Depot and area construction companies. Access Storage in Kenilworth provided the boxes and moving supplies along with the use of their box truck to move the donations.

The project couldn't have been done without the generosity of several area businesses. Big Apple Pizza at 700 Boulevard in Kenilworth provided a hot lunch Italian buffet for over 100 volunteers. Ralphs' Italian Ice provided dessert, I Love Bagels donated bagels and Manhattan Bagels of Union donated the spreads. The volunteers were so grateful for the “fuel” that fueled the project.

The entire house was “made-over” to accommodate the special needs of this family. Happy holidays will take on a new meaning for them this year. “Be the Change” Kean University thanks everyone for making this project such a success and we look forward to many more collaborative projects!



(above) Members of the Kean University student activism group Be the Change gather around recipient of a Dream Room Makeover who lives in Union, NJ.



(above) I Love limosines donated Bagels for breakfast.



(above) Access self Storage of Kenilworth donated supplies and use of its truck.

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(above, l-r) Phil of Ralph's Italian Ice, Elisa Hyer of Kean University and Mike Hyza of Big Apple Pizza.



(above) Staff of Manhattan Bagels in Union.



(above, l-r) Kean students were a large part of a team of over 80 volunteers.



## FIFTH GRADE MATH BEE

Spirit of Union is published by Renna Media. Five thousand newspapers are printed monthly and 4,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents in Union and distributed free at distribution sites throughout town.

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

In December 2011 the Fifth Grade students from the Union Public Schools competed in the district's second annual Math Bee. Students from Hamilton, Hannah Caldwell, and Connecticut Farms Elementary Schools all participated in the event which was held over a three day period just before the holiday break.

Over 500 kids participated in the event with Superintendent of Schools Dr. Patrick Martin serving not only as Master of Ceremonies for the competition, but also as Quizmaster! Each problem was shown on a large projection screen and also read aloud to each child, and they then

had ten seconds, using only mental math skills, to solve each problem.

Much to the surprise and delight of the administrators and parents who attended the event over 40 percent of these students were able to get to the "Genius" round, and many also moved on to the "Super-Genius" round. More than 200 medals were awarded to these fast thinking students! More medals had to be ordered due to the unexpectedly high success rate. This was certainly a happy expenditure for the Union school district. All of the kids who participated in the event received a small prize.

### Advertising in this newspaper

Each month 5,000 newspapers are printed and 4,000 are mailed free to businesses and residents with the balance being distributed free throughout town.

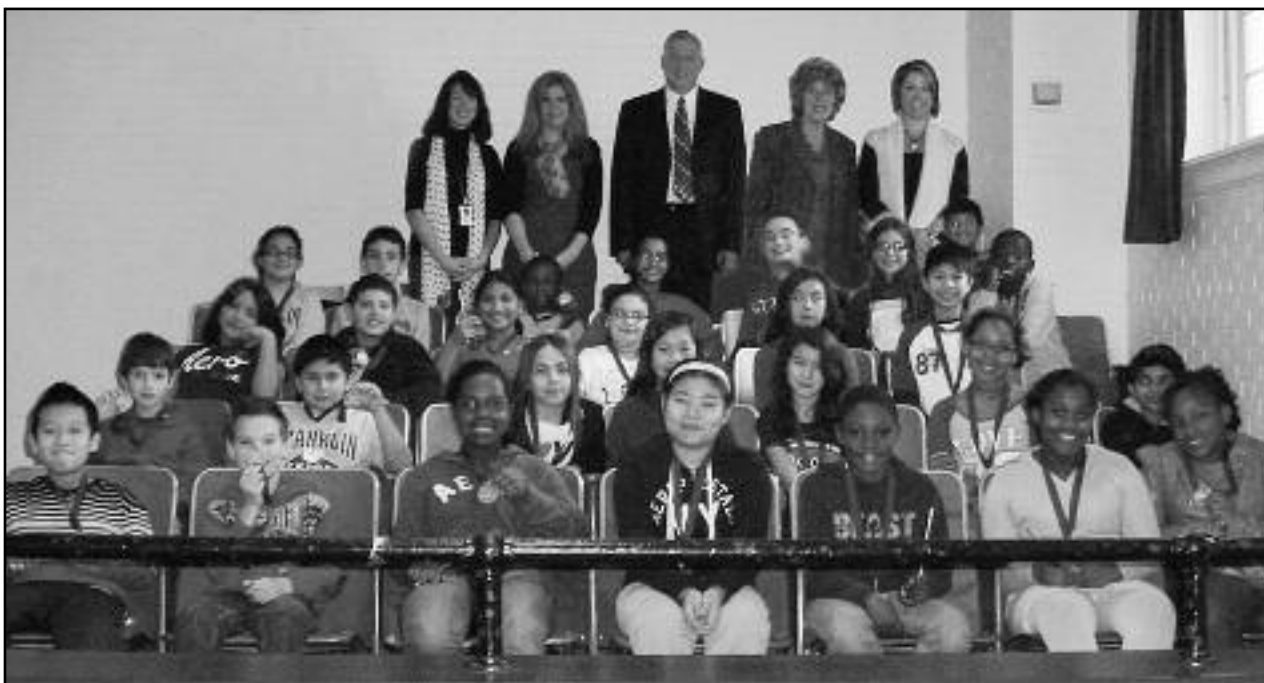
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(above) Some of the winners smiling with their medals are pictured with district administrators. (back row, l-r) Maureen Corbett, Language Arts specialist; Terry Matthews, Math specialist; Dr. Martin, Superintendent of Schools; Tiffany Moutis, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Kathryn DiGiovanni, Principal of Hamilton School.



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## VIEWER'S CHOICE FILM SERIES

The Union Public Library will host a "Viewer's Choice Film Series" with five selections beginning Tuesday, January 3, 2012 and continuing through February 7, 2012. The films will be screened on Tuesdays at 2:00 P.M. Admission to the screenings is free.

The following feature films comprise the series: "Places In The Heart," "No Sad Songs For Me," "House of Strangers," "Gabriel Over the White House," and "Angels and Demons."

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## STRESS MANAGEMENT AND RELAXATION TECHNIQUES PROGRAM

Emily Adams, a licensed esthetician, trained in skincare and relaxation massage, will discuss and demonstrate the effects of stress on the body and the benefits of stress management at the Union Public Library on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 7 PM.

Ms. Adams is a Kean University graduate with a BA in psychology. She is currently working on a Master's degree in psychology

## SCORE WILL PRESENT A SERIES OF SEMINARS COMMENCING JANUARY 17, 2012

SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) will present a series of four seminars to provide free business counseling to small businesses and people who want to start their own business. The free programs will take place at the Union Library and the public is advised to register, if they wish to attend.

Seminars and program dates are as follows:

1. "Starting and Managing Your Own Business" -- Tuesday, 1/17/2012 at 7:00 PM
2. "How to Really Market Your Products and Services" -- Tuesday, 2/7/2012 at 7:00 PM
3. "Creating Social Media Business Strategies" -- Tuesday, 3/6/2012 at 7:00 PM

with a specialization in health and wellness at the University of the Rockies.

The presentation will include relaxation techniques featuring diaphragmatic breathing, simple relaxation, guided meditation, and visualization.

Please join us at the Union Public Library on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at

7:00 PM for this admission-free program.

## CAREER COUNSELING WORKSHOP JANUARY 21, 2012

Career counselor Christopher Cofone, will present a workshop on career counseling at the Union Public Library on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 11 AM. The public is invited to this admission-free program but attendance is limited to the first twenty to register.

Topics to be covered in the workshop include the following:

- 1) An overview of the job market
- 2) Resume-writing basics
- 3) Interviewing basics
- 4) Job search strategies
- 5) Tips for workers over age 50
- 6) Questions & Answers

Mr. Cofone is a National Certified Career Counselor (NCCC) and a Certified Professional Resume Writer (CPRW). He works in private practice with individuals and groups, and is also employed as assistant director of career services at a local university. Christopher has a master's degree in corporate training and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Montclair State University, as well as a certificate in Adult Career Planning & Development from New York University.



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# UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

## MAIN LIBRARY

*No registration required*

Preschool Storytime for children 3 ½ through kindergarten will be on Wednesdays, February 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th at 10:30am.

Toddler Time, for children 2 ½ - 3 ½ and their caregivers, will be held on Thursdays, February 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd at 10:30am.

The children's film, "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa" will be shown on Monday, February 6th at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

Mother Goose Time, for children 1 ½ - 2 ½ and their caregivers, will be held on Tuesdays, February 7th, 14th and 28th at 10:30am.

The Valentine's Day Storytime and Craft Program will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome to attend.

Join us for our "Festive Frogs" Storytime and Craft Program on Monday, February 13th at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their

caregivers are welcome to attend.

A special "Roaring Rockets" Storytime Party will be held on Friday, February 17th at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

Join us for our "Olivia the Pig Book Party" on Tuesday, February 21st at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

A "Birds" Storytime and Craft Program will be held on Saturday, February 25th at 11:00am. Children of all ages and their caregivers are welcome to attend.

Come in your pajamas for songs, stories and games at our Bedtime Storytime to be held on Monday, February 27th at 7:00pm. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to attend.

## VAUXHALL BRANCH MOVIES

*Signup is required*

Join us for our Family Movie Day on Saturday, February 4th at 2:00pm. The film, "Air Bud: World Cup" will be shown. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited.

A "Dinosaur" Storytime and Craft Program for children, ages 4 - 5, and their caregivers will be held on Tuesday, February 7th at 11:00am.

Children in grades 3 through 6 are invited to our "Valentine's Day" School-Age Craft Program to be held on Thursday, February 9th at 3:15pm. Space is limited. Signup is required.

Join u at our "School Break" Bingo Program for children of all ages and their caregivers on Tuesday, February 21st at 2:00pm.

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## MULTI-CULTURAL DAY

¡Hola! Ciao! Battle Hill hosted a Multi-Cultural Day on Friday, December 16, 2011. The students had a chance to travel around the world. The classes moved from room to room with their passports to learn interesting facts about many different countries. The students learned about geography, culture, foods, currency, music, agriculture and people. Some classes enhanced their visitors learning experience by using technology. The SmartBoards were used to play interactive games and music, show live footage of countries and listen to famous people talk about the country they are from. The students that served as ambassadors did an excellent job. All of the students at Battle Hill enjoyed the day.

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## 6TH ANNUAL BLANK-FEST BENEFIT CONCERT TO AID THE HOMELESS IS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS.

On Sunday, December 11th, a gathering of some of New Jersey's top Rock bands and musicians gathered at The Cup in Linden to perform for a worthy cause. Blank-Fest NJ VI raised over \$500 and collected coats and blankets for the homeless advocacy organization Monarch Housing of Cranford.

The concert was headlined by East Coast Tom Petty Tribute Band Damn the Torpedoes. Other local bands that participated were Splodge, Mike Zuko, Off The Record, Stupid Should Hurt, Our Black Friday, Little Raymond and the Rhythm Preachers, Bell Bottom Blues and The Baghdaddios from NYC.

This annual New Jersey show, organized by musician Rich Kubicz of Union is the very first satellite show that began in 1997 by

Baghdaddios front man Kenn Rowell. Since launching the New Jersey show in 2006, several other states and countries have had organizers for their own local shows. There are currently annual Blank-Fest shows aiding the homeless in Canada and England as well as Wisconsin, Virginia and Florida.



(above) Rich Kubicz



(above, l-r) Rich, Cory and Bruce.



(above) Damn the Torpedoes.



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# BOGAN NAMED GATORADE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

On December 13th during the Township Committee Meeting Jamauri Bogan, a Union High School sophomore received a Mayor's Award from Mayor Joseph Florio. Bogan was recently awarded the Gatorade Player of the Year. Bogan is the second Gatorade New Jersey Football Player of the Year to be chosen from Union High School.

The Gatorade Player of the Year program annually recognizes one winner in the District of Columbia and each of the 50 states that sanction high school sports and awards one National Player of the Year in each sport. The selection process is administered by ESPNHS and the Gatorade high school sports leadership team, which work with top sport-specific experts and a media advisory board of accomplished, veteran prep sports journalists to determine the state winners in each sport.

"Having a young man like Jamauri win this award is special not only to me but also for our program and everyone who has been involved in the program," stated UHS Head Football Coach Brian Sheridan, "He is such a hard-worker and it was an amazing athletic accomplishment having him win this award as a sophomore and he is a tremendous leader."

The 5-foot-9, 165-pound sophomore running

back rushed for 2,260 yards and 27 touchdowns on 258 carries this past season, leading the Farmers (7-3) to the Group IV, North II state quarterfinals. A preseason Honorable Mention All-State selection as named by ESPNHS, Bogan eclipsed 200 rushing yards in seven of his team's 10 games. A First Team All-Union County selection, he rushed for 1,100 yards and 17 touchdowns as a freshman in 2010. Bogan is not only a great athlete but he has maintained a 3.09 GPA in the classroom. In addition to donating his time as a youth football instructor, he has volunteered extensively on behalf of his church.



(above) Mayor Florio, flanked by the Township Committee members presents Jamauri Bogan with a Mayor's Award.

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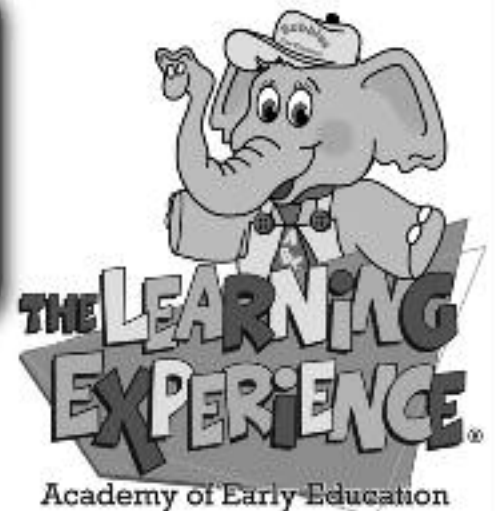
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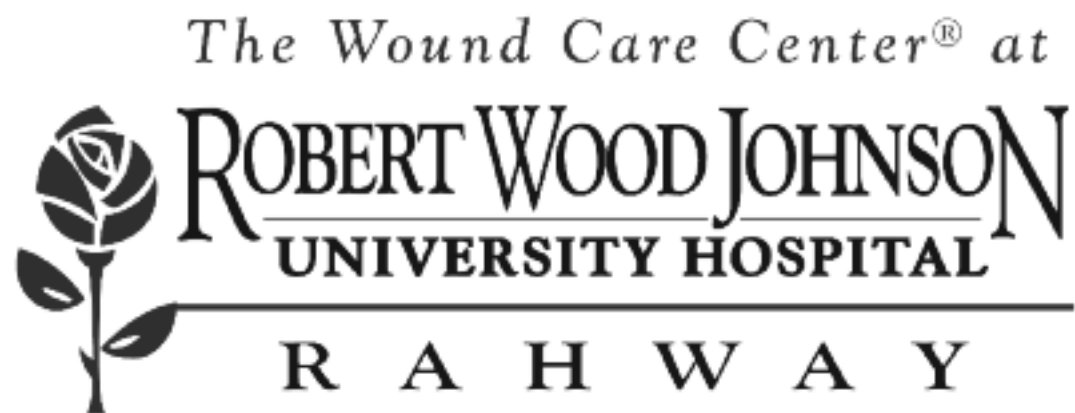
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