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SOMERSET HILLS BUSINESS NETWORK MEETING FRIDAY, AUG 28TH 8:00 AM OLDE MILL INN

BREAKFAST SERVED MEMBER AND NON-MEMBERS ARE FREE TO ATTEND

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WATCHUNG HILLS REGIONAL HIGH 58TH ANNUAL COMMENCEMENT

Some 555 students from Warren Township, Watchung, Long Hill Township and Green Brook Township received diplomas on Wednesday morning, June 24, at the 58th Annual Commencement at Watchung Hills Regional High School.

Under bright sunny skies, and with temperatures in the high 80s, family and friends filled the stands of Tozier Stadium to witness the graduates, with the girls dressed in white gowns and boys in gold, process in under a canopy of brown and gold balloons, the school's colors, to occupy seats on the football field. They walked behind school administrators, board of education members and faculty members, many of who wore gowns bearing academic colors earned from their own college and post-graduate graduations.

The school's Concert Band, under the direction of Music teacher David Udell, who, himself, is retiring this year, played "Pomp & Circumstance." The Senior Choral Group, under the direction of Music teacher Angela DiIorio Bird, herself a graduate of Watchung Hills, sang the National Anthem.

Four students made remarks at the commencement, all fondly remembering their time at Watchung Hills, and encouraging their fellow graduates to seek and conquer new challenges, be leaders, and never forget their home, Watchung Hills. The student speakers were: Joseph Pecoraro, the president of the All Student Council, who also led the Salute to the Flag; Katherine Schechter, president of the Class of 2015; Joseph Da, who presented the Salutatory address; and Christina Liao, who presented the Valedictory address.

Also speaking at the graduation were: Principal George Alexis; Superintendent Elizabeth Jewett; and Watchung Hills Regional High School Vice President Dr. Gregory Przybylski. They echoed the sentiments of the student speakers.

"Dream big and aim to do good," said Alexis. "Examine the world with a critical eye and ask the right questions. Be brave and creative, empathetic and kind, authentic and resilient. As you become our newest alumni, the world and your place in it changes inevitably. The river continues to flow, but one constant remains: This is your school and you have a home at Watchung Hills."

Jewett reminded all who gathered on graduation day that the day also belongs to the parents, family and teachers who have contributed to the individual and collective successes of the Class of 2015.

Przybylski recalled how at the very start of school, students learn the basic building blocks, the "ABCs." At their graduation from high school, and now as young adults, he urged the members of the Class of 2015 to still remember their ABCs, which he suggested stand for the building blocks for



Student speakers at the Watchung Hills Regional High School graduation on Wednesday, June 24, are, from left: Jeff Pecoraro, President of the All Student Council; Joseph Da, who gave the Salutatory address; Christiana Liao, who gave the Valedictory address; and Katherine Schechter, president of the Class of 2015.

(right, l-r) Many graduating seniors at the Watchung Hills Regional High School graduation on June 24 decorated their caps with indications of where they plan to attend college. Jacky Mentone of Millington plans to attend Rutgers University, and Gabby Salazar of Green Brook attending Penn State.



success: "Advocacy," "Bravery," and "Compassion."

After the official ceremonies, graduates, families, faculty and school officials lingered on the field and later, met up back in school, to take photos, sign yearbooks, say goodbyes, and head out to family parties.

Later, many of the graduates attended the annual Project Graduation party at the FunPlex in Mount Laurel, organized by the 2015 Project Graduation Committee. The commencement booklets included the names of some 176 families and nearly 70 businesses and community organizations who had supported the Project Graduation effort.





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WHSA PUMAS WIN MNJYSA SPRING TOURNAMENT

Pumas recently completed a great spring season. They came in first place in Flight 2 of the Mid NJ Youth Soccer Association, qualifying them for the MNJYSA single-elimination tournament.

The Watchung Hills Soccer Association U11G After making it to the championship game, they defeated a higher-flighted opponent in a penalty kick shootout.

> The team consisted of players from Warren, Watchung, Long Hill and Basking Ridge.



(above, back row, l-r): Trainer Bart-Jan Overmaat, Head Coach Jen Sifert, Samantha Fahs, Shannon Woods, Emma Baeyens, Elowen McGuire, Asst. Coach Dan McGuire. (middle row, l-r): Lauren Ribau, Mia Kolb, Alyssa Steinhart, Stefani Cooper, Melanie Du, Sara Sifert, Grace Marquez. (front row) Lea Gnoy





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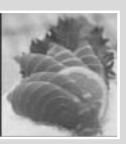
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CELEBRATE AND ENJOY NJ PEACHES AT 6TH ANNUAL PEACH FESTIVAL

Submitted by Carol Boyle

come about?

The Meyersville Grange 188 is a member of the National Grange Organization, originally created for the benefit of the farming community. At present, the organization focuses, among other things, on community involvement. In 2010 the Meyersville Grange 188 was planning a Strawberry Festival, but the crop wasn't good, so we changed gears and held a Peach Festival instead. This is our 6th Annual Peach Festival.

Attendees come from Somerset, Hackettstown, East Orange, and all points in between. Some see the street signs and just stop in; others read about it in the local newspapers such as The Long Hill Leader, The Independent Press, The Recorder Newspapers/Echoes-Sentinel, the Star Ledger, and the Daily Record.

Preparation for The Peach Festival takes more than two months to plan, including recruiting vendors and advertising. The most intense preparation is during the final week including cutting up peaches, baking the pound cakes and other desserts, and setting up the Grange Hall.

The doors open to the public at 11am and close at 5pm. Tickets are sold at the door. For a \$7 Adult or \$3 Child 5-10 (Children under 4 are Free) Donation you can enjoy a generous portion of Peach Shortcake, which is Homemade pound cake, a layer of vanilla ice cream, and fresh-cut

What is the reason for the event, why did it peaches crowned with whipped topping, and a single serving of Iced Tea. Some folks enjoy their first serving of Peach Shortcake so much that they purchase a second dish!

> Local fresh peaches and several types of peach desserts, homemade by Grange members, will be offered for sale. In addition to the Featured Dessert, Peach Shortcake, past offerings have included Peach Pie, Peach Bread, Peach Kuchen, Peach Crumbcake, Peach Tea Cakes, Peach Muffin Tops. Peaches, both for the shortcakes and the peaches offered for sale, are donated to the Grange by Hillview Farms, Gillette.

> The Front Porch Café will offer a Picnic-style luncheon menu for those who want a light meal before enjoying their Peach desserts. Bottled water will be available from The Grange Ladies at reasonable prices.

> Our Boutique of Vendors will include local artisans offering Auntie Dee's knitted items, Embroidered, Crocheted and Beaded items. Other vendors will offer PartyLite, Mary Kay, Jewelry, Beanie Babies, and more. Additional Vendors are welcome. Call 908-647-1523 for Vendor information.

> Come out to the Meyersville Grange 188 on August 22 to enjoy an afternoon in scenic Long Hill Township, enjoy good food, meet and greet neighbors and make new friends at our 6th Annual Peach Festival!



6th ANNUAL PEACH



FESTIVAL

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2015

Meyersville Grange 188
500 Meyersville Road, Gillette, NJ 07933

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUMMER REC CAMP

Summer rec camp was open to children entering grades K-8 in fall 2015. The camp ran from June 29 to July 31 and was held at Millington School.



(above) Supervisor Jess Zigarelli entertains the campers playing her ukulele on Hawaiian Day



(above) Presley & Melody get the campers up singing and dancing.



(above l-r) Counselors: Carra Cicales, Julia Mianowski, Abby Kesselmeyer, Billy Vorrius help Deborah from Rizzo's Reptiles hold a 9' Burmese Python for the campers to see and "pet".



(above) Magician RJ Lewis.

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LONG HILL STUDENT STARS IN PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE CONCERT

Submitted by Paper Mill Playhouse and Vikki Lesser

Long Hill student Jacob Lesser stared in Paper Mill Playhouse's concert, New Voices of 2015: Hooray for Hollywood! Lesser is one of the 25 members in the Junior Plus Company of the Paper Mill Playhouse Summer Musical Theatre Conservatory.

Jacob Lesser is 13 years old and lives in Gillette. This fall he will be attending eighth grade at Central Middle School.He has always loved to sing and began performing on stage at the age of 5. This is his first year with The Paper Mill Conservatory.

Jacob said he just loves every moment of the Conservatory. "I have learned so many things about the craft and have discovered my love for acting improvisation."

Jacob's most recent performances include "Aladdin Jr." at Central School as the Genie, "A Thousand Clowns" in the role of Nick at Westfield Community Players, and the NJ Premiere of "A Christmas Story" as Schwartz, at the Barn Theatre. He has also appeared in "Oliver" at Cranford Dramatic Club (CDC), "Yes Virginia" Summit Playhouse and "The Music Man" at CDC, where he was nominated for an NJ Perry Award for the role of Winthrop.

As the lead vocalist of the Long Hill Township Rock Band "Zodiac" Jacob also plays guitar, bass and ukulele along with his classmates Lucas Mammone and Jack Melillo. They have be seen playing at local events such as the St. Vincent de Paul Fair, Duckfest, Girl Scout Fundraising, Long Hill's Got Talent, Mt. Carmel Feast, etc.



(above) Jacob Lesser from Gillette.

At the highly-competitive Summer Conservatory, students participate in intensive classes to enhance their performance potential. Classes, including musical theatre performance, acting, dance, and improvisation, are led by professional actors, directors, and casting agents. The final weeks of the Conservatory are focused on rehearsing for the fully-produced New Voices Concert. Conservatory alumni have gone on to have successful and award-winning careers on stage and screen.













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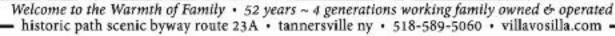












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