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STUDENTS DECLARE INTENT TO PLAY SPORTS IN COLLEGE

Three graduating student athletes at Watchung Hills Regional High School (WHRHS) declared on College Signing Day, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017 that they have committed to play sports in the college of their choice next year. Two students intend to play football, one to run cross country.

They are: Michael Montecalvo of Green Brook Township, offensive and defensive lineman, a WHRHS Warrior football standout, who plans to play football for the University of New Haven, West Haven, Ct.; Lamar Evans of Warren Township, receiver and cornerback, a WHRHS Warrior football standout, who plans to play football for Sacred Heart University, Fairfield, Ct; and Ryan Martins of Green Brook Township, a WHRHS Warrior cross country standout, who plans to run cross country for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. Coach of WHRHS Football is Rich Seubert. Coach of Boys Cross Country is Dom Tasco.

"We were so proud to have three student

athletes from our WHRHS athletics program who signed letters of intent this week," said WHRHS Director of Athletics Chris Van Vliet. "Congratulations to these athletes and their families, and best of luck to them as they continue their athletic careers in college next year."



(above l-r) Michael Montecalvo of Green Brook Township; Lamar Evans of Warren Township; and Ryan Martins of Green Brook Township.

JULIA CUNNINGHAM HITS 1,000 POINTS

One of the highlights this season for Watchung Hills Regional High School Warrior Girls Basketball Team came at 5 minutes and 50 seconds in the second period of the home game against Ridge High School on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017. That's when with a foul shot on the back end of a "and one" three point play, Junior Julia Cunningham scored the 1,000th point of her illustrious career as a Warrior. Cunningham scored the 1,000th point on her 23rd point of the game. She went on to score 40 points in the game, which set her own personal game best record as a Warrior and set the new WHRHS school record for most points by an individual girls player in a game. Cunningham is only the second girl to amass 1,000 points in her career at WHRHS. The school record for scoring among girls basketball players is 1,234, set and held by Meghan Kopecki. Only varsity points count toward this record, Coach Kirchofer said.

"The game against Ridge was an incredible night for the Lady Warriors basketball program,

but was extremely special for my family and myself," said Cunningham. "Hitting my 1,000th point was something that I had been dreaming of since I was a little kid and to break the scoring record and eclipse the 1,000th point mark in the same night was an unbelievable feeling."



(above) Junior Julia Cunningham was congratulate by her teammates after she scored the 1,000th point of her illustrious career as a Warrior on January 24, 2017.

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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos on recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content can email editor@rennamedia.com or call 908-418-5586

Spring is For Baseball!!

**Green Brook Baseball Club's
T-Ball registration
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Boys and girls between the ages of 4 to 6 will have a great time learning America's favorite pastime...baseball.

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LOCAL STUDENT TO HOST ECO-FRIENDLY CRAFT PROGRAMS FOR KIDS

Watchung Hills Regional High School sophomore Jacqueline Lee, 15, will lead a series of programs at Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's Warren Township and Watchung Library branches this March. The programs will teach children ages eight and up how to recycle paper, plastic, and tin into beautiful art.

The Eco-Friendly Craft programs at SCLSNJ's Warren Township Library branch, located at 42 Mountain Boulevard in Warren Twp., will be held March 16 & 30 at 7 p.m. Participants will make Origami using recycled sticky notes on March 16 and crochet with recycled plastic bags on March 30.

The Eco-Friendly Craft programs at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch, located at 12 Stirling Road in Watchung will be held March 8, 13, 22, & 29 at 7 p.m. Participants will: make origami with recycled post-its on March 8; crochet with recycled plastic bags on March 13; make jewelry and crafts with soda tabs and more on March 22; create even more recycled crafts on March 29.

At Watchung Hills Regional High School, Lee is a member of various math teams and enjoys

studying algorithms and engineering. She plays hockey and is a member of the school's varsity fencing team. As a member of the school's Environmental Club, she enjoys sharing her enthusiasm for environmental protection. Jacqueline also enjoys knitting, making origami, weaving, and creating other crafts. She is excited to combine both interests in the Eco-Friendly Crafts series at SCLSNJ's Watchung Library branch.

"I have been an avid reader since I was in grade school and reading at the sunny Watchung Library has always been --and still is--one of my favorite pastimes," said Lee. "I wanted to give back to my community and share some fun crafts that protect the environment. I thought March was the perfect time to hold these classes because March 8 is International Women's Day and the month of March is Makers Month. I am excited that we can bring together members of the

community to celebrate both empowering women and creativity."

Registration is required to attend these programs. To register, visit SCLSNJ.org or contact your local SCLSNJ library branch.

About Somerset County Library System of New Jersey

Somerset County Library System of New Jersey (SCLSNJ) partners with you to connect, to explore, to share and to discover. Together we enrich lives, expand knowledge and strengthen communities. SCLSNJ branches can be found in Bridgewater, Bound Brook, Hillsborough, Manville, North Plainfield, Peapack & Gladstone, Rocky Hill at Mary Jacobs Memorial Library, Somerville, Warren Township, and Watchung. Additionally, there are two SCLSNJ reading stations in Branchburg and Washington Valley. Visit SCLSNJ.org for further information about library services offered at SCLSNJ.



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(above) Watchung Hills Regional High School sophomore Jacqueline Lee, 15, will lead programs at Somerset County Library System of New Jersey's Warren Twp. and Watchung Library branches this March.

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ARTS CENTER PRESENTS “GALLIC JOURNEYS”

With St. Patrick's Day just around the corner, the Watchung Arts Center will present “Gallic Journeys”, an exhibit of the works of New Jersey artist Judith O'Donnell, in its Lower Gallery from March 3 through March 31.

Judith O'Donnell is a fine artist residing in Stirling, New Jersey. She utilizes the medium of oils almost exclusively, but when traveling only works in watercolor and pastels. Judith paints from her sketches, but will also take a number of photographs to get the overall feel and atmosphere for what she wishes to create.

While some may think that ‘Gallic Journeys’ would refer exclusively to Ireland, the Gallic Nations are considered to include Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Cornwall (England) and Brittany (France) and the paintings and sketches are from trips made to these countries. All watercolors were done on-site whereas the oils were painted back in the studio.

Judith's landscape and garden paintings are mostly about taking the viewer on a journey both in time and place, a good escape and a place to rest in a world that is frantic. As peace gets harder to find and we never seem to slow down, Judith feels that it becomes more important than ever to have a quiet place. That quiet place, she feels, can be as simple as looking at a restful painting.

Judith has studied at Kean College, New Jersey, but has almost exclusively studied with teachers and artists that she admires; her mentor being Margie Cochran. She has studied in the United States with Albert Bross, Adolph Conrad and Alex Piccirillo and in England with Catherine Duckworth-King and Gerald Tucker. In association with Rene Robles, with whom she

worked closely, she travelled to the Philippines for an art exhibition and jointly presented his book “Assersionisim” in which her work was featured.

Judith has had many exhibitions in the United States and overseas, both singularly and with a number of like-minded artists with whom she paints. She has previously exhibited at the Watchung Arts Center in September 2013 and June 2015

To see some of Judith's paintings, visit her website at www.judithodonnell.com.

The Watchung Arts Center, located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung on the Watchung Circle, is a multi-disciplinary arts facility serving Watchung, the surrounding communities and the Tri-State Area. To obtain more information about upcoming performances, classes and workshops, and monthly art exhibitions, please visit WatchungArts.org or call 908-753-0190.



(above) Ty-Coch Inn, Porthdinllaen, Wales, by artist Judith O'Donnell

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THE WIZARD OF OZ IS COMING TO GREEN BROOK THIS MARCH

Green Brook Middle School students will follow the yellow brick road all the way to the Emerald City in their production of the The Wizard of Oz this March. Opening night is on Thursday March 16th with an another performance on Friday March 17th, both at 7pm (doors open at 6:30pm).

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door or online by going to greenbrookms.seatyourself.biz. Contact GBMStickets@gmail.com for additional info.

When a tornado rips through her Kansas home, a young girl named Dorothy (Erin Ptack) and her dog Toto (Rhea Cariappa) must travel somewhere over the rainbow to find their way back home. Along the way, they're greeted by a brainless Scarecrow (Abby Wighard), a heartless Tin Man (Jillian Cronin), and a Cowardly Lion (Jordan Pincus) that all accompany her on her way to ask the great and powerful Wizard of Oz (Andrew Moberly) for help. Their journey is made more terrifying by frequent unwelcome visits from a Wicked Witch (Mia Hionis) who wants to steal the magical ruby slippers that Dorothy received from Glinda the Good Witch (Alyssa Ostry). Will

Dorothy find her way home? Will the Scarecrow get his brain, the Tin man his heart, and the Lion his brain? There's only one way to be sure! Come see our musical this spring!

The show will be performed at the Green Brook Middle School Auditorium at 132 Jefferson Ave in Green Brook N.J.





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GREEN BROOK RESIDENTS INVITED TO WARREN PROGRAMS

World Tennis Day for newcomers ages 4-17 will be held at Central School gym March 20 from 5-7pm. This program is free to Warren, Watchung and Green Brook residents but Must pre-register for times online.

The Keynotes 50's Night Concert: Enjoy a night of Rock n Roll with Sal & Tony. Back by popular demand June 28 from 7-9pm at the Municipal Complex pavilion area. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, Fr. James Russell Council # 11409 serving complimentary snacks and drinks. Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and families. Rain date June 29 in the Municipal Court Yard.

To find more information and register with a credit card go to www.warrennj.org/recreation or go to the Recreation office at 46 Mtn Blvd, Warren or if you have questions call 908-753-8000 ext 270 or email recreation@warrennj.org

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GREEN BROOK HISTORIC SOCIETY

There are several historic houses or sites in Green Brook which are or were important to be recognized for their significance. We'll start with one that no longer exists but was well known in its day.

We have talked about the Blue Hills Plantation in North Plainfield owned during the American Revolutionary days by the Vermeule brothers as a self-contained 96 acre village. But that name has since been borrowed by other entities over the years. In 1734 a farmhouse was built by Quaker Edward Fitz Randolph that was on the current Northwest corner of Woodlawn Avenue and Warrenville Road. The same Edward Fitz Randolph that first guided General George Washington up to Washington Rock on June 13, 1777.

A little after 1920, a gentleman by the name of Fred Bruns had an idea unusual in its day. He bought the aforementioned farmhouse and converted it to a restaurant and a nightclub. And yes, he called it the Blue Hills Plantation. Eventually he also bought a nearby home at 198 Greenbrook Road where he resided.

It is surprising with the lack of transportation in the 1920's, the Great Depression in the 1930's,

and the war years of the 1940's and subsequent gas rationing that the location was so very successful. Perhaps any entertainment in the area kept local spirits alive in our area. It is rather strange that the location was always indicated as Dunellen. Until 1932 it was physically located in North Plainfield Township before Green Brook was officially formed. Perhaps because of transportation issues, many came to the Dunellen train station and then made their way to the restaurant. Not only did people come from the Big City but many well-known personalities were often seen there. In the late 1930's and early 1940's they were drawn there to dance to the music of the famous Mace Irish's Orchestra.

But all good things must come to an end. Our late member, Rens Eelman, recalled to us how he was with the Green Brook Fire Department one frigid December night in 1949 when the Plantation was destroyed by fire and burned to the ground.

Come join us at our meetings to learn more. Held the third Thursday of every month, (February 16th) Green Brook Town Hall at 111 Greenbrook Road, 7:30 pm.

For more information visit info@gbhsnj.org



(left) Blue Hills Plantation Restaurant and Night Club Green Brook Historic Society

GRIEF IS NOT SOMETHING "WE GET OVER"

A free eight-week seminar - "Journey to Wholeness- Healing the Grieving Heart" will be held on Sundays evenings from April 23, 2017-June 11, 2017 at The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ.

Patti Williams, R.N., and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and Virginia Waters, PhD. Psychologist, will lead the sessions from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Thompson Youth Center of the church. Patti and Virginia have offered this seminar for 17 years now, and have helped about 2500 people experience healing, find a new purpose for their lives, and feel joy once again. This is an experience like no other.

The sessions include learning about the stages of grief and understanding the tasks of the grieving process, coping strategies, deal with loneliness, building a support system, etc.

Both of the leaders and all of the facilitators have experienced loss within their lives and share from "the inside out". It does not matter if your loss is divorce, death, or job loss; loss is loss- it must be grieved. It does not matter how long ago you experienced loss. Bring family members and friends. All faiths are welcome. Teen group available. To register for this life changing event, please call 908-709-1341. No fee is charged.

The seminar is dedicated to Patti's late husband, the Rev. Dr. Bruce D. Williams who had a vision for this program wanting to help others deal with their pain and suffering during their time of loss.

GREEN BROOK HISTORIC SOCIETY MEETING OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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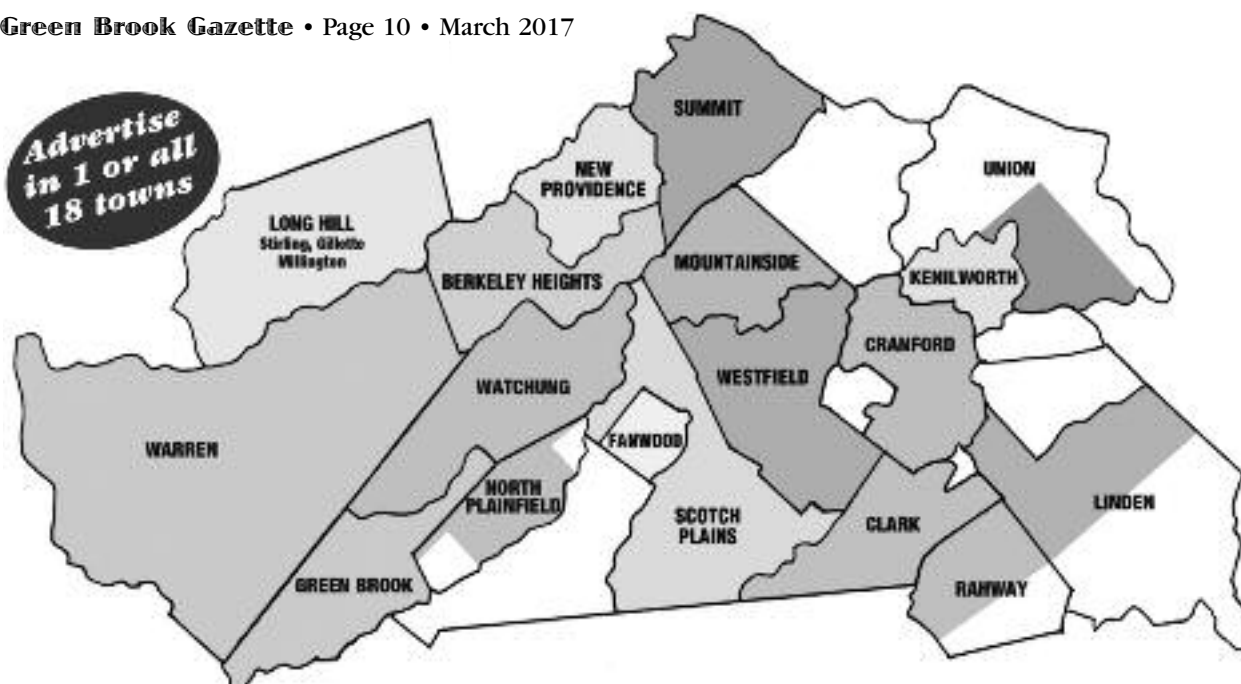
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Open 9am - 3pm - Monday through Friday

Ballroom Dancing

Every Wednesday, 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm.

Meet new people and make some friends while exercising! Dancing is a great way for people of all ages to get and stay in shape. Besides being fun, dancing has many health benefits. Dance can have an incredible impact on overall flexibility, strength, endurance and emotional well-being. Join Bice, who has won several dance competitions, as she plays a variety of Ballroom Dance music.

“Armchair Travel Presents:

A Visit to North Vietnam” by Dorothy & Irwin Vogel

March 6 – 10:30 am

Few countries in such a short space of time have changed as much as Vietnam. It’s been 40 years since the end of the Vietnamese War. It is now a country in a state of constant evolution and is now considered a real gem, arising almost miraculously from the ashes of war. The people have said a quick goodbye to their bitter past and now focus on the future and the overall prosperity of their country. Join the Vogels as they share their North Vietnam experiences.

“Unused Medication Drop-Off Opportunity” with Officer Nick Fazio, Somerset County Sheriff’s Department

March 7 – 9:30 am -10:30 am.

Officer Fazio will be at the center to collect any unused or expired medications. Please take advantage of the safe way to dispose of your medications. Center staff cannot accept unused medications without the Sheriff’s Officer being present.

LUNCH PROGRAM

All Somerset County-operated Senior Centers offer a nutritionally balanced lunch, Monday through Friday, for a suggested donation of \$2.50, for anyone 60 and above.

Menu choices include a hot meat-based or meatless entrée or a cold meat-based or meatless

“Get Rid of the Blues with Laughter”

by Reeta L. Aggarwal, Brightstar Homecare

March 7 – 10:30 am

Laughter creates a liberating environment to rid your body of stress while promoting optimal health. A good sense of humor can’t cure all ailments, but when you start to laugh, it doesn’t just lighten your load mentally, it actually induces physical changes in your body. Come and learn some of the lesser known benefits of laughter.

LUNCH and LEARN PROGRAM, Lunch at

11:45 am, Program at 1:00 pm

“How to Prepare and Stage Your Home for Sale” – Lunch & Learn Opportunity by Roseanne Aragona, the Aragona Team at RE/MAX

March 13 – 1:00 pm

Roseanne will discuss the specifics of getting your home ready to show and sell. Ready to put your home on the market but don’t know where to start? Confused about the best ways to showcase your home for everyday use or for sale? Joins us for this informative program and get the secrets straight from an expert!

Reservations required by March 9th. Choices of menus with or without meat including a boxed lunch, available

Celtic Cracked Walnuts,

Musical Duo of Jan Ausfahl and Jeff

March 27 – 10:30 am

This program will feature songs, stories and humor from Ireland, Scotland and some Americana. In addition to the banjo and washboard that Cracked Walnuts is known for, attendees will also be treated to guitar, penny whistle, concertina and bodhran (an Irish drum) music.

boxed lunch. Please make reservations prior to 10:00 am the previous business day. Why not invite a friend or neighbor to join you for lunch! As an additional suggestion, why not come earlier in the day and enjoy one of the center’s many programs.

DUNELLEN PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS

located on 100 New Market Road, Dunellen

All of the following programs are open to non-residents!

For the following programs space is limited so please register either in person at the circulation desk or over the phone at (732)968-4585.

Coloring Cafe meets the first and third Fridays of the month. Supplies will be provided as well as light refreshments! Come join us and color your cares away.

Crochet Club meets

Monday March 13th at 1:00 p.m.

Monday night Zumba is continuing!

Every Monday at 7:00 p.m.

join Diana Lamiera.

Morning Zumba will be returning

Wednesday March 22nd

with instructor Pat Moran! Each Zumba class is \$8, join us for a fun dance workout!

The Book Club will meet on

Thursday March 23rd at 1:45

to discuss " My Name is Lucy Barton" by Elizabeth Strout.

We are holding a Book Sale at

10:30-2:30 on Saturday March 18th!

Mother Goose

Every Thursday

An interactive music program for children 0-5 with a parent or adult caregiver. The program is followed by optional freestyle! No registration is required!

SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS SOUGHT

The North Plainfield School District is actively looking for substitute teachers and paraprofessionals for the spring.

Applications are available at -

<https://www.applitrack.com/nplainfield/OnlineApp/default.aspx>

For more information please call

908-769-6060 ext. 6111

IRS URGES PUBLIC TO STAY ALERT FOR SCAM PHONE CALLS

The IRS continues to warn consumers to guard against scam phone calls from thieves intent on stealing their money or their identity. Criminals pose as the IRS to trick victims out of their money or personal information. Here are several tips to help you avoid being a victim of these scams:

- **Scammers make unsolicited calls.** Thieves call taxpayers claiming to be IRS officials. They demand that the victim pay a bogus tax bill. They con the victim into sending cash, usually through a prepaid debit card or wire transfer. They may also leave “urgent” callback requests through phone “robo-calls,” or via phishing email.
- **Callers try to scare their victims.** Many phone scams use threats to intimidate and bully a victim into paying. They may even threaten to arrest, deport or revoke the license of their victim if they don’t get the money.
- **Scams use caller ID spoofing.** Scammers often alter caller ID to make it look like the IRS or another agency is calling. The callers use IRS titles and fake badge numbers to appear legitimate. They may use the victim’s name, address and other personal information to make the call sound official.

- **Cons try new tricks all the time.** Some schemes provide an actual IRS address where they tell the victim to mail a receipt for the payment they make. Others use emails that contain a fake IRS document with a phone number or an email address for a reply. These scams often use official IRS letterhead in emails or regular mail that they send to their victims. They try these ploys to make the ruse look official.

- **Scams cost victims over \$23 million.** The Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, or TIGTA, has received reports of about 736,000 scam contacts since October 2013. Nearly 4,550 victims have collectively paid over \$23 million as a result of the scam.

The IRS will not:

- Call you to demand immediate payment. The IRS will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail.
- Demand that you pay taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe.
- Require that you pay your taxes a certain way. For instance, require that you pay with a prepaid debit card.
- Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to

arrest you for not paying.

If you don’t owe taxes, or have no reason to think that you do:

- Do not give out any information. Hang up immediately.
- Contact TIGTA to report the call. Use their “IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting” web page. You can also call 800-366-4484.
- Report it to the Federal Trade Commission. Use the “FTC Complaint Assistant” on FTC.gov. Please add "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

If you know you owe, or think you may owe tax:

- Call the IRS at 800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you.

Phone scams first tried to sting older people, new immigrants to the U.S. and those who speak English as a second language. Now the crooks try to swindle just about anyone. And they’ve ripped-off people in every state in the nation.

Stay alert to scams that use the IRS as a lure. Tax scams can happen any time of year, not just at tax time. For more, visit “Tax Scams and Consumer Alerts” on IRS.gov.

Each and every taxpayer has a set of fundamental rights they should be aware of when dealing with the IRS. These are your Taxpayer Bill of Rights. Explore your rights and our obligations to protect them on IRS.gov.

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