

Local

Boy Scouts honored for helping extinguish blaze, A8

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NEW JERSEY HERALD

A-7

Annual book fair slated for Dec. 3-5

WANTAGE — The Sussex Wantage PTO will once again sponsor their annual scholastic book fair at the Wantage School gymnasium, 815 State Route 23.

The book fair will feature an early bird preview from 5-8 p.m. Dec. 3. The fair will be open from 4-8:30 p.m. Dec. 4 for shopping before and during the Wantage Township Recreation Committee's tree-lighting ceremony. A light concession dinner and bake sale will be available.

The book fair will continue from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dec. 5. In addition, there will be a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Wantage School cafeteria in honor of Joshua Lukawski, a second-grader from the Lawrence School who is battling leukemia.

The fair will feature books for all ages from pre-reader to adults. The school also is having a food drive to help the community food banks. Children who bring in food donations may win gift certificates to purchase books at the fair.

Watercolorist to have show this weekend

HAMBURG — Sussex County watercolorist Grace Hoffman will present a one-woman art show from noon to 6 p.m. Friday through Sunday at Cava Winery.

Hoffman is a graduate of the Maryland Institute College of Art and is an active member of the Sussex County Arts and Heritage Council.

The winery is located at 3629 State Route 94. For more information, call (973) 823-9463.

Holiday lunch sign up slated for Tuesday

VERNON — Sign up for the Vernon Township "Senior Holiday Lunch" will be from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday in the Vernon Township Senior Center, 21 Church St.

Registration must be in person and proof of residency is required. Green cards previously issued by the township will no longer be valid to register. Valid proof of residency includes a current drivers license or tax bill. A photo ID is preferred.

Cost of the lunch is \$5, payable at registration.

For further information, call (973) 764-6607.

Brunch with Santa scheduled for Sunday

SPARTA — The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a brunch with Santa at Blessed Kateri Church, 427 Stanhope Road, from 12:30-3 p.m. Sunday.

Cost is \$15 per family and includes a picture with Santa.

Tickets must be reserved in advance. Call (973) 729-1682 or stop by the parish office.

Police group will raffle off motorcycle

VERNON — The Vernon PAL, in conjunction with Mountain Creek, is selling raffle tickets for a custom Orange County Chopper. Tickets are \$20 each and can be purchased at the PAL, 25 Church St., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. weekdays.

The drawing is scheduled for March 10. Proceeds support the Vernon PAL. For more information, call (973) 764-9514.

Elks lodge sponsors weekly Friday dinner

SUSSEX — Sussex Elks Lodge No. 2288 welcomes all to their weekly Friday evening dinners at the Sussex Lodge, 152 County Road 565, Sussex. Dinner is served between 6-9 p.m. and includes salad, an entree and dessert for \$8.

For more information, call the lodge at (973) 875-3990.

Church seeking help with basket program

SPARTA — The First Presbyterian Church of Sparta, 32 Main St., in conjunction with People Help of Sussex County and the Sparta Ecumenical Food Pantry, is appealing for help with its annual Christmas basket program, which donates bags of food, turkeys and toys to needy residents. Due to budgetary issues, the program's need has increased greatly this year.

Food, monetary donations (made out to the First Presbyterian Church and marked for food pantry) and toys for children of all ages, especially teenagers, will be gratefully received. Food and toys can be dropped off at the church from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.

For more information, call Margaret at (973) 729-6197.

Sussex House to have new manager

Program for those with psychiatric illnesses no longer will be with Newton Memorial

By ELISA D. KELLER
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NEWTON — About 470 former Newton Memorial Hospital patients will be treated under new management as of Jan. 1, when Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services is scheduled to take over the hospital's psychiatric partial care program at Sussex House.

Bridgeway, a psychiatric rehabilitation service agency that has provided care to patients in Union, Hudson, Middlesex, Hunterdon, Somerset, Warren and Passaic counties the last 40 years, recently obtained the rights to manage Sussex House from the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

Newton Memorial Hospital and several other organizations also put in bids for the contract before it was awarded to Bridgeway, based on the number of services it promised to provide with the available state money. Sussex House has been part of Newton Memorial Hospital for 30 years.

Following the transition, a handful of the hospital's current services, including partial care, supported employment, integrated case management services, supportive housing and Path for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness, will be transferred to a new office under Bridgeway.

A rehabilitation and recovery day



Photo by Amy Paterson/New Jersey Herald

The Sussex House is transitioning from a Newton Memorial Hospital organization for the mentally ill to a new facility managed by Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services as of Jan. 1. The organization currently is at the hospital and has yet to finalize arrangements for a new location.

program for adults experiencing psychiatric illnesses, Sussex House teaches patients how to manage psychiatric illness, and improve their social and vocational functioning.

"We're going to provide the same services, but we're going to organize the services differently," said Bridgeway Executive Director Cory Storch, noting they are looking to create a fully integrated program, possibly under a new name decided by patients and staff. "The people using our services have a lot to say. If they want to come up with a brand new name, we're

open to that. We're trying to make it as customer friendly as possible."

Bridgeway has not finalized plans for where the new Sussex House office will be located once it moves off the hospital campus, but Storch said they are in the final stages of negotiations with a Newton landlord. If an agreement is reached, Storch said the property would require a "significant investment" to renovate for their purposes. Bridgeway would then operate out of a temporary location until construction could be completed.

Storch estimated at least 50 percent

of the current staff at Sussex House has been retained for the new office. He said a portion of the staff will remain at Newton Memorial Hospital, and Bridgeway is looking forward to partnering with the hospital in the future through different services and programs.

According to hospital spokesman John Brand, the majority of Newton's mental health services, such as out-patient counseling, inpatient care, acute partial rehabilitation and group home services, will continue uninterrupted after the Sussex House transfer.

"The lion's share of our services will remain the same," said Brand, noting the 470 affected patients represent a small percentage of the 4,500 mentally ill individuals the hospital serves each year, and they will still be able to utilize the same Sussex House programs under a different organization.

"Although we're disappointed that the state decided to contract with an agency other than the hospital, we are grateful that the continuum of care will be preserved for our patients," said Roger Cherney, Newton Memorial director of behavioral health services. "We've always been proud of the behavioral health services we provide, and it's most important that these services continue to be available to members of our community."



Serving up holiday kindness

ABOVE: Lisa Glesias, of SERVPRO of Northern Sussex County and Wayne, adds apple pies to the Thanksgiving food kits they donated to the Interfaith Hospitality Network in Newton.

RIGHT: Carrie Radice, right, of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, helps Jessica Richards, and her daughter, Kaylee, carry a box of Thanksgiving fixings to the car. The box, and seven others like it, were donated to the Interfaith Hospitality Network by SERVPRO, a clean-up and restoration company based in Franklin.



Photos by Amy Paterson/New Jersey Herald

Duo stole parking machine, police say

By TOM HOWELL JR.
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NEWTON — Two Newton men have been charged with stealing a 200-pound parking pass machine that had been permanently affixed in the Adams Street Parking Plaza, police said.

Police said surveillance tapes show Russell Schabacker, 49, and James Castimore, 45, removing the large yellow Ventek Model 400 Pay Station machine and carting it away on a hand-truck.

Police said the machine, which users pay to receive a parking slip for their dashboards, was found to be missing at 9:21 a.m. Monday.

Suspects had unbolted it and cut the wiring before leaving with the \$11,000 machine, police said.

Police tracked the machine to an apartment on Spring Street, where it had been dismantled to acquire \$50 in change.

The apartment is abandoned, but Schabacker had a key to it, Detective Neil Casey said.

See PARKING, Page A8



Photo by Tom Howell Jr./New Jersey Herald

A pay-parking machine stands intact at the parking plaza on Trinity Street, in Newton. A similar machine on Adams Street was ripped from its mooring Monday by two Newton residents, police said.

State changes swine flu vaccine guidelines

Children now can get second dose 21 days after receiving first

By CHRISTINA TATU
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County health officials are expecting a large turnout at the Dec. 6 swine flu inoculation clinic following Wednesday's change in state guidelines about when children can receive their second dose of vaccine.

Previously, state guidelines said children ages 2-9 needed two doses of the swine flu vaccine, but recommended the second dose be administered no sooner than one month after the first dose.

On Wednesday, state officials said the second dose may be given no sooner than 21 days.

The Dec. 6 clinic at Sussex County Community College will open at 9 a.m. and offer about 2,400 doses of the swine flu nasal spray to healthy children and adults from 2-24.

The nasal spray vaccine also will be available to people between 25-49 who are health care workers, emergency medical services personnel or caregivers to children younger than six months.

Registration for the clinic will begin Monday. Those interested in receiving the vaccine can make an appointment by logging onto the county's flu Web site, www.sussex.nj.us/flu.

"The change in guidelines is a good thing because it will get more people into this clinic," said Herbert Yardley, administrator of the Sussex County Department of Environmental and Public Health Services.

Since Nov. 1, when the county started having swine flu vaccine clinics, county officials have administered about 6,000 doses of vaccine. Of those 6,000 doses, 4,000 were doses of the nasal spray, Yardley said.

"The parents that came through our (Nov. 1) clinic were surprised it was painless, and the kids coming through our clinic were not stressed out because it wasn't a needle," Yardley said.

According to the latest statistics from the state Department of Health and Senior Services, "...there is widespread influenza-like activity in New Jersey, which signifies there is flu activity in virtually every county in the state."

According to Centers for Disease Control statistics, there have been a total of 11 swine flu deaths reported in New Jersey since Sept. 1. The most recent was a 35-year-old Morris County man who died Nov. 16.

On Wednesday, Yardley said he was not aware of any officially reported cases of swine flu in Sussex County. Doctors do not usually test a patient for the virus unless they are immuno-compromised or listed in serious condition.