

Northern Valley Press

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MARCH 7, 2011

S'more, please!



Nursery school kids at Kaplen JCC on the Palisades recently got a "taste" of summer camp.

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DEMAREST

SCHOOL TAX LEVY

High school district reports low increase

BY TOM CLANCEY
OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

Northern Valley Regional High School District is proposing a 1.6 percent tax levy increase, one of the lowest percentage increases in district history. It was made possible, in part, by an infusion of state aid funding.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Raymond Jacobus said on Feb. 28 that the board of education and administration worked hard to fashion a budget that stayed at New Jersey's new 2 percent tax levy cap while maintaining current staffing levels and educational programs.

With the recent announcement that Northern Valley Regional would receive \$469,183 of state aid in the proposed state budget, the

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CLOSTER

PRAYERS FOR ZEHR

Fund-raiser will benefit Closter native



A fund-raising benefit to be held on March 19 in Closter will help support borough native John Zehr, who suffered an unexplained stroke at a young age. Here he's shown with wife Celeste and his children, from left, Catherine, Elizabeth and John.

BY LISA DAWSON
CORRESPONDENT

Closter native John Zehr, who lives and works in Connecticut, was driving home from

a football game at the Meadowlands on Sept. 15, 2010 when his whole life changed in just a few seconds. Suffering from a stroke, Zehr's

car drifted into oncoming traffic at approximately 2 a.m. and collided with an SUV on I-84 near West Hartford. Fortunately, the other driver was not injured, but Zehr suffered seri-

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PHOTO COURTESY ZEHR FAMILY

STATE ISSUES

Sen. Gerald Cardinale offered his insight when he spoke in Norwood.

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Rock in time...

Take a glimpse at how teens in the Victorian era would spend spring days.

See page 4



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Zehr: Fund-raiser will benefit Closter native

FROM PAGE 1

ous brain injuries and was in a coma for several weeks.

"John was supposed to stay in NYC the night of the accident,"

explains his older sister, Lisa Potterton, who lives in Closter, "but he wanted to be home to see his little girl's first day of pre-school."

Zehr, who is married with three young children, moved to

Connecticut in 2003 when he took a job with ESPN as their senior vice president and general manager of ESPN Mobile. For Zehr's family, the accident has been heart wrenching and has left a lot of unanswered questions.

"John was a perfectly healthy person. He had no prior illness and there's no history of strokes in our family," said Lisa.

While still relatively uncommon, roughly 10 percent of all strokes occur in people under 45 years of age. Last May, Vice President Joe Biden's 41-year-old son, Beau, suffered a stroke after having no prior history of illness. Biden checked himself into a Delaware hospital complaining of a severe headache; he ultimately made a full recovery.

Headaches are only one of many stroke symptoms; others can include sudden confusion, dizziness and trouble speaking or seeing. Doctors say often when a person in their 40s suffers from a stroke, the cause is unknown. Strokes at a young age can be caused by heart defects or tears in the arteries which carry blood supply from the heart to the brain.

Zehr's recovery has been a difficult and slow process. Zehr has been out of his coma since mid-November, but is still unable to speak or walk. Currently at a rehabilitation facility outside Boston, his doctors say his recovery is promising, but, much to the family's dismay, insurance coverage for the facility ended in February.

"The cost for this facility is very high - thousands of dollars a month - and his wife needs help," says Lisa Zehr. "He just recently was able to sit up and eat soft foods. We know he's making progress, but he needs to stay there. The insurance company wants to move him to a nursing home. How can a 43-year-old man go to a nursing home? That's not the place for him."

Lisa Potterton is actively participating in her brother's recovery process. Every week since October, Potterton makes a four-and-a-half-hour trip to Boston by bus, to see John. John's wife, Celeste, stays with him in Boston while her mother cares for their three children, John (8), Elizabeth (5) and Catherine (3) in Connecticut. Potterton's trips to Boston each week

give Celeste a chance to be with her children.

Potterton and her two sisters, Jeanine and Sharlene, have decided to hold a fund-raising benefit for their brother John and his family on Saturday, March 19 from 3-10 p.m. at the Closter Elks on Railroad Ave. in Closter.

The benefit, called "Prayers for Zehr," is to help offset the mounting medical costs for John's care. Tickets are \$30 and include food and entertainment by The Willies, Buffalo Stance and Johnny Youth and the Verdict. They will also be having a raffle and 50/50.

Tickets can be purchased directly from the Pottertons or at the Nu Moda Hair Salon in downtown Closter in advance or purchased at the door. Make donation checks payable to: Zehr Family Irrevocable Trust, P.O. Box 184, Closter, NJ 07624.

For more information, or for anyone interested in donating a raffle item, contact Lisa Potterton at (201) 747-9271 or e-mail her at Zehr@aol.com.

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HARRINGTON PARK

Lions Club to award two scholarships

The Lions Club of Harrington Park will award two scholarships of \$2,000 each to senior high school students who reside in Harrington Park.

These awards have been

funded by the generous donations from Harrington Park residents. Scholarship recipients will be selected on the basis of scholastic achievement, service and leadership to the school, community

service and financial need.

Applications are available from the guidance department office at Northern Valley High School at Old Tappan by contacting Mrs. McCaffery or at the Harrington Park Public Library. All applications must be returned by Friday, April 29.

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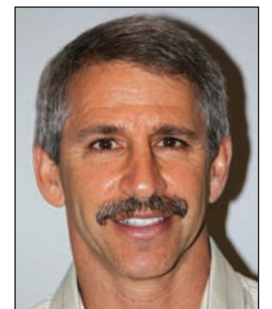
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