

BRIEFS

Kids can meet Clifford Monday

NEWTON — Clifford the Big Red Dog will be at Camp Auxilium Learning Center Monday from 6-9 p.m. Kids can bring their favorite Clifford book to have signed. The event will also feature vendors and crafters.

For more information, call the Learning Center at 973-383-2621.

Bulky waste clean-up planned

VERNON — The Clean Communities program will hold a bulky waste clean-up day from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 25 at the DPW Complex located on Riggs Way.

Acceptable bulky items are: tires, furniture, mattresses, carpets and appliances (stoves, washers/dryers, refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and televisions). Residents are allowed four tires per household, which must be removed from rims. Truck tires and construction debris will not be accepted. Brush will also be accepted free of charge; however, it must be separated from bulky waste items. Leaves will not be accepted. DPW employees will be available to assist residents.

This event is open to Vernon Township residents only. The cost is \$20 per residential vehicle load. Proper identification (driver's license, tax bill, utility bill, etc.) is required at time of ticket purchase.

Tickets can be purchased at the DPW building daily between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the Township Clerk's office Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will also be sold at the DPW building the day of the event.

For further information, call the DPW at 973-764-3021 or visit www.vernontwp.com.

National park checking sobriety

Superintendent John Donahue has announced that law enforcement rangers at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area will begin operating sobriety checkpoints and increased saturation patrols.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is participating in the 2010 National Highway Transportation Safety Administration and National Park Service Joint Impaired Driving Project. Through this project, the park's law enforcement rangers will use increased enforcement in order to reduce the number of alcohol related incidents and injuries within the national recreation area.

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is one of three units within the National Park System participating in this program.

Rapper to appear at Stanhope event

STANHOPE — The Center for Prevention and Counseling, along with local rapper Timmy Grins, will host a premiere of "Stoned Cold II" and "Last Call," Wednesday, April 21, at 7 p.m. at Lenape Valley Regional High School. Join other parents and teens for an evening of tips on how to keep kids safe.

For more information, call 973-347-7600, ext. 206.

Miss Hampton seeks contestants

HAMPTON TWP. — Nominations are currently being accepted for Miss Hampton 2010. Girls must be 17 years old and not yet 22 by Aug. 7. The deadline is May 7. All nominations must be received by 4 p.m. at the township Municipal Building, 1 Rumsey Way, or postmarked by that date. Nominees should possess leadership skills and be full-time township residents. There is no talent competition for this contest.

Nomination forms are available at Kittatinny Regional High School or the Hampton Township Municipal Building. For information, call 973-383-5570.

Teachers protest staff changes



Christina Tatu/New Jersey Herald

Teachers at Sussex Middle School wear black Thursday to protest what they considered the unfair dismissal of four middle school teachers.

By **CHRISTINA TATU**
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SUSSEX — The scene at Sussex Middle School early Thursday morning was reminiscent of a funeral, with teachers dressed in black to protest what they believed to be the unfair dismissal of four middle school teachers.

Those four teachers were the only ones at the sixth-through-eighth-grade school who did not receive teaching schedules Wednesday for the 2010-11 school year, said Sandy Santora, president of the Sussex-Wantage Education

Association.

When the teachers asked interim middle school Principal Sharon Hosking the reason for the omitted rosters, they were told it was because the district did not have jobs for them at the middle school, but they would have "bumping rights" over non-tenured teachers, Santora said.

Sussex-Wantage Regional Superintendent Edward Izbicki said the situation is a misunderstanding.

The four teachers did not receive schedules because they will be re-assigned to

the other two schools in the district — the Clifton E. Lawrence School or Wantage Elementary School.

As of Thursday, he was unsure of which school the teachers would be transferred to.

"Based on the fact that the middle school schedule changed from a nine-period to eight-period day, certain teachers were not required. They are then found other positions within the district," Izbicki said.

See **TEACHERS**, Page A5

HOSPITAL LIFTS BAN ON YOUNG VISITORS

Kids welcome again

Newton Memorial Hospital has lifted the temporary visitation ban on children under 18, which was enacted in October in response to concerns about spreading the H1N1 and seasonal flu virus.

This means people of any age can visit hospital units as they did before the restrictions were put in place during the influenza season.

All visitors to Newton Memorial should wash their hands or use a gel hand cleanser before entering and leaving patient rooms. Visitors also are encouraged to cover their coughs and sneezes. Anyone who suspects he or she has an upper respiratory infection, a cold or the flu should refrain from visiting hospitalized family members and friends.



Photos by Amy Paterson/New Jersey Herald

Fourth-graders from Helen Morgan School, in Sparta, look down at classmate Camryn Sparhawk as CAT Scan Technician David Stein explains the machine during a tour of Newton Memorial Hospital Tuesday.



Registered Nurse Judith Capparelli ties a mask onto Emily Irwin as she talks about her job in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Newton Memorial Hospital. The hospital has lifted the visitation ban on children under 18 years old that was enacted in October during the H1N1 and seasonal flu seasons.



The students sanitize their hands before starting a tour of the hospital.



The students respond after talking CAT Scan Technician David Stein into showing them his largest needle.



Fourth-grader Sarah Colon and her classmates learn about the food services for patients, staff and guests in the Newton Memorial Hospital kitchens.

Documentary paints broken educational system

By **TOM HOWELL JR.**
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In "The Cartel," a documentary about rampant waste in the American education system, a Monmouth County student looks off-camera and asks, "You ever see that movie 'Lean on Me'?"

"Yeah," filmmaker Bob Bowdon replies.

"It's just like that, but before Joe Clark," the student says.

The student enrolled in a charter school after fleeing an Asbury Park high school that resembled the chaos depicted in the 1989 film starring Morgan Freeman. The teenager is not a paid lobbyist or union member, but one of many regular folks in a documentary that is gaining traction across the nation, especially in New Jersey.

Bowdon's film will be screened Tuesday — coincidentally the same day as

school board elections — at 7:30 p.m. in the Sparta Theatre, part of a "New Jersey Swing" tour of eight theaters and colleges in the Garden State.

"The Cartel" is garnering praise from critics and film festivals alike for its portrayal of an educational system, especially that in New Jersey, that falls short of its European counterparts and sends urban students to "dropout factories" with no

funding for alternative schooling.

Among the key moments in the film: An inner-city girl cries when she loses the lottery for a coveted charter school spot; filmmakers count an inordinate number of luxury cars in a school administration parking lot; and a Newark mother bemoans her child's poor performance after their money for parochial school runs dry.

"Once you puncture this balloon, it just explodes," said Bowdon, a former Bloomberg television reporter/anchor who lives in Hoboken.

The problem is most people see increased funding as an antidote for everything that ails the educational system, according to Bowdon. But, the film asserts, a lot of

See **CARTEL**, Page A5