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Vol. VI, No. X



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Rolando Camarillo-Cholula, who died rescuing three of his children in the Millstone River, is remembered by nephew Alexander Lopez-Perez, son Kelvin and daughter America.



At the Dedication of Amwell Road Bicycle Lanes in honor and memory of young Andrew Russoniello, who died in a bicycle accident on Amwell Road seven years ago on August 29, 2016.



The grand opening of A Chance 2 Dance studio, where a special emphasis is placed on special needs children and adults. Mayor Phil Kramer presided at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Musical accompaniment was by Justin Ray Brown, the pianist for the Franklin Township Community Jazz Band.



The studio is located at Towne Center, Route 27 and South Middlebush Road in Franklin Park.

Edison Cop, A Township Resident, Charged In Auto Deaths Of Two Men

A 29-year-old Somerset resident, who is also an Edison police officer, faces several charges including First Degree Vehicular Homicide and DWI in the aftermath of an August 27 car crash on Route 27/ Somerset Street that killed two people.

The man, Amitoj Oberoi, remains hospitalized with undisclosed injuries caused by the accident on Route 27, near Voorhees Avenue. Oberoi was off-duty at the time of the crash, according to a press release from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office.

The Prosecutor's Office has identified the two men killed in the accident as Carlos A. Perez-Gaytan, 24, of Somerset and Victor Cabrera-Francisco, 20, of North



CRASH AFTERMATH – The mangled remains of a car driven by a township resident who is also an Edison police officer sits in front of a store on Somerset Street.

Brunswick.

Perez-Gaytan was ejected from the vehicle, a 2007 Audi Q7, in the crash, while Cabrera-Francisco was

trapped in the vehicle. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

A third, unidentified man from Highland Park

sustained minor injuries, but refused treatment.

None of the passengers

Continued on Page 7.

South River Man Dies After Rescuing Children From Millstone River

A walk along the Delaware & Raritan Canal tow path turned tragic on August 2 for a 42-year-old South River man after he apparently drowned in the Millstone River near the Route 518 bridge after pulling three of his children to safety.

Police said the man, Rolando Camarillo-Cholula went into the water after his

two daughters and one son – aged 8, 11 and 13 years – became “distressed” soon after they entered the water by themselves.

The man pulled his three children to the shallower side of the river when he lost his balance and went underwater, according to a press release from the Franklin Township Police Department.

Police received a 9-1-1

call about the man in the water at about 2:13 p.m., ac-

Para leer este artículo en español, utilice su dispositivo móvil para escanear el Código QR.



cording to the release.

Responding officers found the three children out of the water, but could not locate the father, according to the release.

Arriving emergency personnel entered the water, but could not find the man, according to the release. The three children were treated at

Continued on Page 7.

Franklin Reporter Celebrates 10th Birthday

The Franklin Reporter & Advocate teamed up with the Franklin Township Chamber of Commerce on August 29 to celebrate the news organization's 10th anniversary.

Held at the AVE residential complex on Pierce Street, the evening featured a number of desserts created by BAM Desserts of Easton Avenue, and Robyn DeMeglio, wife of Chamber president Nick DeMeglio.

The balloon arrangements were created by Posh Pretty Balloons of DeMott Lane.

A highlight of the evening was a rendition of “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” by FR&A Co-Publisher PJ Parker, accompanied on the piano by Justin Brown, who performed during the



ENDING THE NIGHT WITH SONG – Franklin Reporter Co-Publisher PJ Parker sings “Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” with township resident Justin Brown accompanying, at the FR&A 10th birthday party.

evening.

To see videos from the evening, use your mobile device to scan the QR Codes.



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Monthly Digest

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School Board Names New FMS - Hamilton Street Campus Vice Principal

Franklin Middle School's Hamilton Street campus will have a new vice principal when school starts in September.

The Board of Education at its August 24 meeting named Tamara Hollinger to the post. Hollinger, who is returning to the district, replaces Tania Kelly, who has left the district.

After her appointment was finalized by the Board, Hollinger said she was "happy to be back in Franklin Township public schools."

"I've often been told that sometimes the longest journey takes you back to where you're supposed to be," she said.

"I enjoy the fact that I'm joining a group of dedicated administrators, teachers, and students," she said. "I believe that education is a calling, inspired by a vision that requires resilience, dedication, teamwork, shared values and shared goals, intently focused on academic excellence for all students."

"Therefore, I stand before you today, honored, and ready to do the work as a proud administrator of Franklin Township pub-



NEW VP – Tamara Hollinger speaks to the Board of Education after having been named the new vice principal at Franklin Middle School - Hamilton Street campus.

lic schools at the Hamilton Street campus," Hollinger said. "I look forward to being a part of all the great work that's occurring in this district."

Board member Bill Grippo said he was pleasantly surprised when he learned that Hollinger was returning to Franklin.

"We go back to Conerly Road School," he said. "You

were phenomenal to that school when I was there. I didn't want to be principal but people like you made it great."

"Tamara is sensitive, smart, and focused on the students," he said.

Hollinger last worked for the district from 2005 through 2021 as an elementary school teacher, and later in the Academic Intervention

Services area, said District spokeswoman Mary Clark.

Prior to returning to Franklin, Hollinger worked in the Newark school system, she said.

Hollinger was to start her \$103,000 position on August 25, or soon thereafter, according to a Board document.

Woman Gets 11 Years For Fatal Car Crash

A 33-year-old New Brunswick woman was recently sentenced to 11 years in state prison for a wrong-way fatal car crash that killed two children, including a boy from Franklin Township, on

Thanksgiving 2021.

Yokauri Batista-Alcantara was sentenced on August 16 by Superior Court Judge Benjamin Bucca. She will have to serve at least six years before she is eligible for parole, according to a press

release from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office.

Police said Batista-Alcantara was driving the wrong way on Route 130 in North Brunswick when her car collided with an Old Bridge patrol car.

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Leaf Haus Cannabis Retailer Celebrates Grand Opening

Part of the Somerset Village shopping plaza on Easton Avenue's parking lot took on a carnival air on August 17.

Food, music, tents and giveaways highlighted the afternoon celebration of the formal grand opening of Leaf Haus, one of the township's newest adult-use recreational and medical cannabis

dispensaries.

Owners Shani Madaminova and Dmitriy Kovalenko, along with employees, family members and supporters, were on hand to mark what was an historic occasion: Madaminova is the first minority woman to open a cannabis microbusiness in New Jersey.

In New Jersey, cannabis

microbusinesses have fewer than 10 employees and are located in spaces smaller than 2,500 square feet.

"I am so happy that this day finally arrived. It only took about three years," Madaminova told the crowd gathered in front of her store.

"I am so lucky to stand here today," she said. "We have the most knowledge-

able staff, the most welcoming community and there's no other place I would rather have Leaf Haus than in Franklin Township."

Madaminova has owned a health care-related business for nearly 20 years, she said.

"As someone who has had health issues for most of my life, I can assure you that the only thing that helped

me through painful days was whatever we sell at this store," she said. "So I'm very happy that cannabis is legal in New Jersey."

Deputy Mayor Ram Anbarasan (D-At Large), was on hand to represent the Township Council. He praised Madaminova and Kovalenko for already helping out two township organizations with

donations.

The couple donated \$1,000 to the Babe Ruth Little League 12U team to help get them to the Babe Ruth World Series, he said, and had also donated to the Franklin Food Bank.

Leaf Haus is located at 900 Easton Avenue, Suite 18, next to the Diamond Thai restaurant.

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Garden State Track Club Awards Five Scholarships At Meeting



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS – Five Franklin High School seniors were awarded \$500 scholarships by the Garden State Track Club at the Aug. 9 Township Council meeting. Also pictured are FTPD Det. Sgt. Rebecca Lea and Lt. Vincent Wilson.

Five local students were awarded scholarships August 8 by the Garden State Track Club. The \$500 scholarships were generated by funds from the annual Garden State 10 Miler, held by the Club each March in Colonial Park. The awards were distributed at the August 9 Town-

ship Council meeting. The scholarships show that “the police department, the community and everybody involved can make things work with a little bit of effort, said the Franklin Township Police Department’s Lt. Vincent Wilson. “This is a token of appreciation to those that have

exhibited hard work and leadership and deserve to be recognized.” The students receiving the scholarships were Britney Garcia Mendoza, Fenil Patel, Noelia Abreu, Marilyn Vargas-Rodriguez, and Avery Scott. Mendoza, Patel, Abreu, and Vargas-Rodriguez are

from the Franklin High School JROTC. Scott is from the Cross Fit/Franklin Fit program run by the FT-PD’s Community Relations Bureau at the Franklin Youth

Center on Lewis Street. “So this truly is a combination of education, physical fitness, community initiative,” Wilson said. Proceeds from the Gar-

den State 10 Miler from 2017 to 2022 were donated to the Nick Magos Cancer Call-Out.

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Life Stories

Rolando Camarillo Cholula, 32; Hero To His Family



Rolando Camarillo Cholula, beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend, passed away on August 2 in Franklin Township.

He was born on September 18, 1980, in San Vicente Pinas Oaxaca, Mexico. Rolando's life was tragically cut short, but his memory will forever be cherished by those who knew and loved him.

Rolando was a true hero who proved his unwavering commitment to his family until his very last breath. He displayed remarkable courage and selflessness when he bravely saved his children from the river after they fell in. They were his pride and joy, and he would stop at nothing to protect them.

As a dedicated father, Rolando worked tirelessly to ensure that his family had everything they needed. With determination and perseverance, he learned the construction trade and eventually established his own successful business. Through hard work and dedication, he achieved the dream of owning a home for his family—a milestone that was just realized last year. His children knew that their

father's love knew no bounds, as he constantly strived to provide them with a fulfilling and educational lifestyle.

Rolando's memory will forever be treasured by his loving wife Nayeli Lopez Martinez and their children: Kelvin Camarillo, Vanessa Camarillo, Anna Elidia Camarillo, Sahara Daniela Camarillo, Isaac Camarillo, and America Isabella Camarillo. He was a pillar of strength in their lives—a source of love, guidance, and unwavering support.

He leaves behind his mother Esperanza Cholula Lopez and father Leovigildo Camarillo Mozo. Rolando also had a deep bond with his siblings: Rosalba Camarillo Cholula, Griselda Camarillo Cholula, Mayra Camarillo

Cholula, Norelia Camarillo Cholula, Juana Camarillo, Nelida Camarillo, Jorge Camarillo Cholula, Rosalino Camarillo Cholula, Nereyda Camarillo, and Nelson Camarillo. The loss of Rolando will be felt profoundly within his large and close-knit family.

Rolando's memory will also be carried in the hearts of his sisters-in-law: Rosa Rojas Aguilar, Lucia Perez Palaelz, Leonide Perez, Daisy Lopez Martinez, Elena Ramos, and Veronica Camarillo; and his brother-in-laws: Uriel Carrasco, Nacho Hernandez, Francisco Lopez Martinez, Saul Lopez Martinez, Misael

Lopez Martinez, Abel Lopez Martinez, Marino Lopez Martinez, Olizabalo Lopez Martinez, and Robert DeLacruz.

He will be remembered dearly by his nieces: Mabel Carrasco Camarillo, Jennifer Camarillo, Briana Camarillo, Abril Camarillo, Isaura G. Lopez-Perez, Sarahi Lopez Perez, Noa Lopez Perez, Diana Lopez, Itzel Lopez-Rojas, Leslye Lopez Perez, Michelle Lopez Perez, Melissa S. Lopez, Zuri Camarillo and Angie Lopez; as well as his nephews: Angel Carrasco Camarillo, Uriel Carrasco Camarillo, Yandel Camarillo, Gael Camarillo, Steven

Lopez, Logan Camarillo, Jose Camarillo, Oswaldo Camarillo, Alexander Lopez-Perez, Melvin Lopez, Alvin Lopez, Brian Lopez, Betito, Juan Manuel Camarillo, Saul Lopez Jr., Jazhiel Camarillo and Julian Lopez

During this difficult time of grieving their loss, the family would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to all their cousins and friends for their tremendous support. Your presence and kind words have been a source of comfort during these trying moments. May God bless each and every one of you for your love and care.

Dolores L. 'Dee' Pultro, 88; Member Of Somerset Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary



and Delaines Beauty School. She served on the Class of 53 reunion committee.

She settled in Somerset where she resided for many years as she raised her family before moving to Hamilton. She was a member of the Somerset Fire Company Ladies Auxiliary, South River Moose Lodge #165, and Hamilton Seniors.

Dolores L. "Dee" (Seckrettar) Pultro, 88, of Somerset, most recently residing in Hamilton, passed away peacefully on August 28, surrounded by family.

Dolores was raised in New Brunswick and was a graduate of New Brunswick High School Class of 1953

She loved crafting, crocheting, bowling, was a word search queen, and was proud to support her grandchildren at their sporting events.

Dolores was predeceased by her parents John and Ann Seckrettar, her loving husband Salvatore Pultro,

her son Gary Pultro Sr., her grandson Kevin McCarthy and her brothers Robert and John Seckrettar.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Karen Pultro McCarthy (Charles), daughter-in-law Jeanette Pultro, grandchildren, Gary Pultro Jr. (Jessica), Gregory Pultro (Nicole), Ryan Karaniewsky (Ann), Emily Zdyrski (Chris), Joseph McCarthy (Lauren), Katelyn Johnson (Erik) and many beautiful great grandchildren.

She was strong-willed until the end and will truly be missed by all.



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Township Observes Nat'l Night Out

The Franklin Township Police Department led the Township's annual observance of National Night Out August 1 in the Municipal Complex parking lots.

This is the 39th year that National Night Out has been observed in the country. The event got its start in 1984 in the suburbs of Philadelphia, Pa.

The township's version included tours of the police headquarters, Touch-a-Truck with various first responder and public works vehicles, games, foods and vendors, including a number of non-profit organizations.

Sponsor for the event was CompoSecure, with



GAME TIME – Cornhole was just one of the games and activities available at the township's observance of National Night Out

Amazon, Confectionately Yours, Frito Lay, Herr's, and ReadyRefresh providing donations to support it.

To see the Franklin Reporter's video of the event,



Township Resident, Edison Cop, Charged In Two Auto Deaths

Continued from Page 1.

were law enforcement officers, according to the release.

The car driven by Oberoi was heading south on Somerset Street at a high rate of speed at about 6:30 a.m. when Oberoi lost control of the vehicle, causing it to leave the road and strike several trees, light posts and a utility pole before stopping in front of R&J Glamour Salon, according to the release.

An investigation by the Prosecutor's Office Collision Analysis Reconstruction Team (CART), and the Major Crimes Unit revealed that Oberoi's blood alcohol level was above the legal Blood Alcohol Concentration limit, according to the release.

The release did not reveal the blood alcohol reading level.

In addition to two vehicular homicide charges, which were issued by detectives from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Major Crimes Unit, Oberoi faces Franklin Township charges of Driving While Intoxicated, Reckless Driving, Careless Driving, Improper Passing, and Failure to Keep Right, according to the release.

Oberoi was arrested on August 30, according to the release.

Oberoi will remain under police custody while in the hospital, and upon release will be taken to the Somerset County Jail, Somerville, pending a detention hearing.

Anyone with information

about the incident is asked to call the Somerset County Prosecutors Office at (908) 231-7100, or the Franklin Township Police Department at (732) 873-5533 or via the STOPit app. The STOPit app allows citizens to provide anonymous reports including videos and photos. STOPit can be downloaded to your smart phone for free at the Google Play Store or Apple App Store, access code: SOMERSETNJ. Information can also be provided through the Somerset County Crime Stoppers' Tip Line at 1-888-577-TIPS (8477). All anonymous STOPit reports, and Crime Stopper tips will be kept confidential.

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South River Man Dies After Rescuing Children From River

Continued from Page 1.

the scene and then released, according to the press release.

Divers from the Somerset County Prosecutor's Office dive team searched the area and found the man's body at about 5:28 p.m., according to the release.

Divers could be seen at work less than a quarter-mile from the Rt. 518 bridge.

Family members and friends arrived at the towpath parking lot steadily during

the afternoon while the search continued, hugging and consoling each other.

Police used a drone carrying a camera to help with the search.

The Franklin Township Police Department was assisted by Millstone Valley Fire (Station 28), Griggstown Fire (Station 35), Franklin Park Fire (Station 31), Somerset Fire and Rescue (Station 56), Franklin Fire Marshals, Montgomery PD, South Brunswick PD, NJ State Po-

lice, NJ State Park Police, Somerset County Prosecutor's Office Dive Team, Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital EMS, and Rocky Hill EMS.

The factors that contributed to the incident are currently under investigation by the Franklin Township Police Department, according to the release.



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