

Boy Scouts achieve highest rank/

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Branch of the Gloucester County Library System in Gibbstown on Aug. 6.

Common denominators

Flask and Vulimiri started Cub Scouts at the age of six about 13 years ago. They were both in first grade.

Progressing through the ranks of scouting, both met all the requirements to earn the rank of Eagle Scout under Scoutmaster James Grelli of Troop 7017.

"Both of them assumed leadership roles and their projects went really well," said Grelli. "It's amazing the amount of time and effort they put into their projects."

"I'm proud of all of them for sticking it out," added the Gibbstown resident, who also is the father of two Eagle Scouts.

"Those who are 15 and 16 years old have a lot going against them with school, sports and preparing for college," said Grelli. "They have a lot of decisions to make, in addition to being involved in scouts."

A balancing act

Flask said the time management skills he learned in scouting helped him balance his studies, play two years of soccer and four years of tennis at PHS and complete his Eagle Scout project.

Leadership and communication were two more important skills he learned while creating a memorial garden at the Repauno Pre-School Day

Care Center in Gibbstown.

"I worked with up to 15 people on my project," said Flask. He completed his project in January 2015.

In addition to the challenge of working through a cold winter, Flask was responsible for handling all the necessary paperwork and securing all the approvals to complete his memorial garden project that included the installation of pavers, three cement benches and a flag-pole.

"My project took 130 hours to complete," said Flask. The site was dedicated to Gibbstown resident Melissa Ray Long, who passed away.

"My mother, Janice, was a big inspiration during the entire process of my project, along with my brother, Derek, who also is an Eagle Scout," said Flask. He also expressed appreciation for all the people who supported him during his project and attended his court of honor.

As far as his future, Flask is positive that his scouting experience and Eagle Scout rank will help him when he goes to college and beyond.

"I will definitely make a connection with those who review my resume and see that I'm an Eagle Scout," he said. "They know and appreciate the amount of work and preparation that supports our foundation."

A rewarding process

After advancing through

the Gibbstown School system, Vulimiri applied his time management skills that he learned in Boy Scouts to keep up with his high school studies, compete in track and field and earn his Eagle Scout rank.

"Find a need and fill a need. That's the motto for selecting a project," said Vulimiri. He chose to create an outdoor seating area at the Greenwich Township Branch of the Gloucester County Library System.

"The process is very time consuming," said Vulimiri. "The paperwork in itself took a month to complete."

Charged with hiring contractors and securing approvals and fundraising, Vulimiri logged in 162 hours to complete his project in June 2014.

"I worked with more than 30 people, including scouts from my troop, concrete contractors and local residents," said Vulimiri.

Organizing people, getting materials delivered and installing tables during a harsh winter with lots of snow were among his biggest challenges.

The donations he received were instrumental in helping him complete his project along with the support of his mother, Sita, father, Sudhakar, and brother, Ajay.

As a result of his hard work, a 15-foot by 22-foot concrete pad with two eight-foot handicap accessible picnic tables were installed at the entrance of the library.

"My project gave me great preparation for the real world," said Vulimiri, who one day plans to become a scout leader and help someone else on the trail to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

"One of the greatest life lessons it taught me is be prepared," he said.

Calendar of Events

By Irma R. Stevenson

Dec. 12: Holiday party for children up to 12 years old in the Paulsboro High School auditorium at 10 a.m. Sponsored by the Paulsboro Recreation Committee, the event includes appearance by Santa, goodies, gifts and entertainment.

Dec. 15: Holiday concert performed by the Paulsboro Senior High band and choir in the auditorium at 7 p.m.

Dec. 16: Create a holiday centerpiece at the Greenwich Township Branch Library, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Dec. 19: Holiday potluck luncheon at the Greenwich Township Branch Library, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

June 25: 50th reunion for the Paulsboro High School Class of 1966 at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Glassboro. Group rate for one night, \$119. Contact the hotel directly or Jim Milsted/Phil DuVilla on Facebook. The class will be inducted into the Paulsboro High School Golden Anniversary Club the next day.

Ongoing programs

Feed My Sheep free lunch program at St. Paul's United Methodist Church on East Broad and South Delaware streets the last Wednesday of every month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Parenting classes, help with college applications, resumes are being offered at Mt. Carmen UAME Church, 126 Gill Ave., in Paulsboro. For more information, contact Theresa Cooper at (856) 952-6455.

Woodbury Family Center Moose Lodge 2587, located on the corner of Cook and Elizabeth avenues, Paulsboro, sells hoagies the first Saturday of each month starting at 10 a.m. until supplies last. Call (856) 423-1495.

Sports/

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Pellegrini and Tyrique King were often starters in the 2014-2015 campaign when the team won the Colonial Conference Patriot and South Jersey Group I titles.

Several underclassmen were also contributors to the title run.

"We played a lot of players on the varsity level last year," said Collins. "We went 10 or 11 deep."

Juniors Cherron Quarles, Kyle Jones, Devon Williams and sophomore Dehron Holloway will be counted on heavily this season. Also, the junior varsity squad only lost one game a year ago, and those athletes may make an impact in the Raiders defense of the state crown.

Girls basketball

Shelyna Hamilton returns to coach the Lady Red Raiders basketball team this season. The head girls basketball coach is starting her second stint in Paulsboro, as she also served in the same capacity from 1998 through 2002.

The Red Raiders posted an 8-12 mark in 2015 and finished fourth in the Colonial Conference Patriot Division standings. This year's squad returns a strong nucleus from a year ago despite the loss of four-year starter and leading scorer Alexis McKeithan.

Senior Nancia Holmes, junior Mykala DeBerry, and sophomore Aniyah Bagby were key performers last season and are expected to play a leading role again this year. Several freshmen from last season's junior high team could also make an impact.

Wrestling

The 2015-2016 season presents a big challenge for a young, but talented group of Red Raider wrestlers.

After losing seven starters to graduation last year,

the 2014-2015 NJSIAA state Group I runners up still have a strong nucleus returning. Combined with a talented group of freshmen, the Red Raiders are the favorite to win the Colonial Conference title once again.

Wrestlers returning from last year's squad include state qualifiers senior Nick Duca (32-13) and sophomore Anthony Duca (31-10), along with region qualifiers Joey Perez (28-11) and Zach Richard (25-13). Also returning is two-year starter Josh Bailey, along with several other Red Raiders who made a contribution a year ago for a team that won the Colonial Conference and South Jersey Group I titles.

Sophomores Rick Eli picked up 10 varsity wins a year ago as a spot starter, while Mike Keen posted a 16-6 record his freshman year. Both wrestlers earned victories over region qualifiers last season.

Senior Brian Richards spent the second half of last season in the varsity lineup and posted a 13-11 record. Junior Sam Giordano bounced around in several weight classes, posting a 21-14 mark.

The Red Raiders will rely on Frank Mooney and Chris Koller in the upper-weight classes. Gino Duca, Anthony Morina, Santino Morina, and George Worthy are talented freshmen who may make an immediate impact for the team.

Editor's note: The Red Raider football team ended its season with an 8-3 record. Advancing to the South Jersey Group 1 semifinals on Nov. 20, the team lost to Pennsville, 13-27. The front page photo shows senior John Pellegrini catching a touchdown pass against Haddon Heights on Oct. 10. The Raiders won the game 42-36 in double overtime. See a post-season football review in the next issue.

Special Proclamations

Paulsboro Mayor W. Jeffery Hamilton presented proclamations passed by borough council members at the borough hall on the following dates. On Sept. 1, Carol, the wife of Jerome Beverly



Beverly Family



McMahon Family

the N.J. Sickle Cell Anemia Research Foundation.

Accompanied by her daughter, Susan Leo, Bert McMahon, center, also received a proclamation honoring her husband, Ed McMahon, for his dedication and years of community service. Passing away in 2015, Ed served as a borough councilman from 1976 to 1978 and with the Paulsboro Fire Department for 52 years. A life member, he held every line and administrative office in the department, including fire chief for four years. Treasurer of the Paulsboro Volunteer Relief Association for 30 years, he also was treasurer of the N.J. State Exempt Firemen's Association.



Byrd Family

On Nov. 4, Dolores Byrd received a proclamation honoring her husband John V. "Jack" Byrd III (PHS '57), who passed away in 2015. She was accompanied by Janell Byrd, Anthony Pollitt Jr., Carla Byrd, Barbara Johnson, Jovon Johnson and Janet Byrd. Commended for his years of community service, John coached Little League and was a NJSIAA Track and Field Official for high school athletes. He was employed by the Gloucester County Prosecutors Office as the first African-American detective where he enjoyed a 25-year career. Retiring in 1994, he held several other positions, including working as the confidential aide to the deputy speaker of the N.J. General Assembly, John Burzichelli. An active member of the Greater Paulsboro Elks Lodge 575, he also was the grand district deputy of pride of Camden Lodge 83.

Photos by Marc Kamp

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