

# The Record Local



Bark in the Park draws thousands of pets, owners to Overpeck County Park.

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List of candidates on the ballot in November school board elections.

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"I like to be outside, stretch my legs, see these beautiful horses. It's more natural than a casino, more exciting."

CATHY CERZA, KENILWORTH

## Hambletonian a big draw for racing fans young and old

By CHRISTOPHER MAAG  
STAFF WRITER

There are places Mike Shoblock can go to gamble. There are other places he can go to smoke a good cigar, and still others where he can drink a beer.

But in this modern world of rules and health codes and institutionalized worry, there are few places left where Shoblock can do all three things he loves. Saturday at The Meadowlands Racetrack offered one such rare spot.

### MORE COVERAGE IN SPORTS

To view a photo gallery visit [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com)

"It's my trifecta," said Shoblock, 48, of Ledgewood, as he stood at the rail of the racing oval, cigar in one hand, beer in the other. "This is one of the last few places where I can do all three at once."

Saturday was the biggest day of the racing calendar at The Meadowlands

Racetrack and one of the most important annual events in the sport of harness racing, the Hambletonian. This was the first year that crowds watched the race from the new grandstand, built with an eye toward attracting a new and younger group of people to harness racing.

It did that, and more. The race attracted an eclectic crowd, including older hard-core gamblers and young families attending their only horse race. See **HAMBO** Page L-2



MICHAEL KARAS/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fans getting right up to the rail by the new grandstand to see races at The Meadowlands Racetrack. The Hambletonian attracted people of all ages on Saturday.

## 167 FROM INFANTRY SAY GOODBYE, SHIP OUT



CHRIS PEDOTA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Spc. Luis Chavarria of Paterson kissing his girlfriend, Janeen Guzman, after a deployment ceremony on Saturday. With them is their son, Caeden, 9 months. "It's overwhelming," Guzman said of the deployment and its effects on their lives.

## Soldiers bound for Bahrain

By MARY DIDUCH  
STAFF WRITER

To view a photo gallery on this story visit [northjersey.com](http://northjersey.com)

JERSEY CITY – Tears filled Janeen Guzman's eyes as she clutched her 9-month-old son, Caeden, tight to her chest.

The boy's father, Spc. Luis Chavarria – her boyfriend of four years – was one of 167 soldiers from the 2nd Battalion,

113th Infantry to say goodbye to their families and friends in a farewell ceremony Saturday morning in the Jersey City National Guard Armory. The 26-year-old Paterson resident and his Army Guard comrades are heading to Bahrain for about a year, officials said.

"It's overwhelming, it's exhausting," said Guzman, 23, of Chavarria's deployment and what it will mean in their lives. "And my son looks just like him," she added.

The nation may be standing down from the wars it has fought in the past decade, first in Iraq and now in Afghanistan. But that doesn't mean it is no longer demanding sacrifices from its

men and women in uniform and their families.

Fifteen of New Jersey's 21 counties are represented in this deployment, with 30 soldiers from Bergen County and 17 from Passaic County. For some 120 members of the unit, this will be their first deployment.

Another group of New Jersey sol-

See **DEPLOYMENT** Page L-3

## Woodland Park may decide to reassess

### Looking to recheck value of properties

By MATTHEW KADOSH  
STAFF WRITER

WOODLAND PARK – The borough has issued a request for proposals for a reassessment of the community's 3,933 taxable properties in an effort to bring assessments more in line with current market values.

A reassessment is an adjustment of property values, but does not typically involve the detailed inspection of properties, as does a revaluation.

"It's for a reassessment of all real property here in the borough, to be returned on Aug. 13," Borough Administrator Kevin Galland said of the RFP issued July 21.

The RFP states that the new values would go into effect in 2015.

Officials have said that following the revaluation in 2011, Woodland Park saw an increase in tax appeals.

Earlier this year, Borough Tax Assessor Tim Henderson estimated that a reassessment would cost the municipality \$136,000, based on responses to a previous RFP for a reassessment Woodland Park had issued.

The municipality did not award a contract for a reassessment from that set of proposals, and the actual cost of the reassessment expected may vary based on this set of proposals.

In addition to complaints of inflated property valuations made by the Four Seasons at Great Notch community, Mayor Keith Kazmark has said that certain residents in the Dowling Park section of the borough have reported property values reduced from their tax assessments following flooding in that part of town.

The RFP stipulates that the assessment See **REASSESSMENT** Page L-2

## Wayne parents pushing for full-day kindergarten

Board says \$10,000 feasibility study planned

By DEBRA WINTERS  
STAFF WRITER

WAYNE – Parents, backed by a petition of more than 500 signatures, are appealing to the school board for institution of full-day kindergarten.

Several parents spoke publicly at Thursday's Board of Education meeting, outlining their concerns with the trustees.

Currently, the district offers half-day kindergarten – a 2.5-hour program, with morning and afternoon sessions at each of the district's nine elementary schools. Each class offers an hour of curriculum-based activities and the second hour includes socialization.

Among the concerns parents have, besides time constraints

with jobs and high cost of after-care programs, are educational preparedness with the Common Core curriculum and the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, which begins in kindergarten. And with only 2.5 hours, parents worry that their children will not be equipped compared with other kindergartners whose districts offer full-day instruction.

The discussion of full-day kindergarten has been ongoing for at least six years. And each time, both old and new trustees have supported the idea, says parent Seth Ruderman.

"Nobody has made a plan in all these years myself and other parents have been talking about this. I'm not saying it's an easy so-

See **WAYNE** Page L-7

"Don't let our Wayne children [be] starting out already behind many of the other kids in the state who are already at a higher learning level."

SETH RUDERMAN,  
PARENT

## TURNING 100, FABULOUSLY



ELIZABETH LARA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Angelina "Bebe" DeGrazia celebrating her 100th birthday at the Brownstone in Paterson. She and her husband owned Chappy's Diner in the city for many years. The former nurse's secret to a long, healthy life? "Love and peace. If you have that, you have all the gifts in the world."