

Northern Valley Press

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JUNE 25, 2012

New Rabbi



Temple Beth El of Northern Valley welcomes its new spiritual leader, Rabbi David S. Widzer.

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TENAFLY

THIEF IS CAUGHT

Man allegedly swiped rings from jeweler

BY CHRIS MURRAY
OF NORTHERN VALLEY PRESS

A Tenafly man was arrested on the afternoon of June 16 for allegedly stealing \$10,000 worth of jewelry from Tenafly Jewelers.

Matthew O'Brien, 23, walked into the store, located on Jay Street at around 2:20 p.m., and told the jeweler at the store that he wanted to sell five silver rings, according to Tenafly Police Capt. Robert Chamberlain.

When the jeweler went back to figure out how much the silver rings were worth, O'Brien stole five gold rings and a diamond ring, items with a combined value of about \$10,000.

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OLD TAPPAN

SHOW OF STRENGTH

Strongman challenge crusades for cure



This strongman pulls a Lincoln Navigator as part of the medley of events at the Fourth Annual Varsity House Strongman Challenge held on June 16.

Local athletes got the chance to show their strength at the Fourth Annual Varsity House Strongman Challenge for The Michael LaViola Foundation on June 16, an event that featured 50 participants in three age groups competing in four classic strongman competition events.

The contest, held at Varsity House Gym in Old Tappan, raised \$15,000 for the foundation that honors the memory of late borough resident Michael LaViola by donating funding for pediatric sarcoma research and offering two annual scholarships to graduating seniors from

Northern Valley Regional High School at Old Tappan.

The foundation was formed by LaViola's family with the encouragement and support of friends and family, said Michael LaViola senior. He said his family wanted to turn around

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PHOTO BY TOM MOORHEAD

CONGRATULATIONS

Cresskill High School seniors received their diplomas last week.

See page 43



Rock in time...

Old Tappan's golf course was the first of its kind when opened 43 years ago.

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One of the top 25
Children's Hospitals in the Nation.



HackensackUMC.org



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8 Strongman challenge

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such a negative situation—Michael's sickness and passing—and do something positive in his honor.

"We were encouraged by friends and family to form a foundation and by doing that we have been able to keep Michael's memory alive and the things that mattered to him," said LaViola.

He thanked the community for embracing the foundation and its efforts, from the support of the volunteer organizations and bor-

ough police department, to announcements on the signs in front of borough hall and the fire department, and more.

"We have a lot of community spirit in Old Tappan," said LaViola. "It's a wonderful town that has backed us from day one."

The Varsity House Gym does a great job of organizing and hosting the event and many businesses donated to help put out a food spread that couldn't be beat, including: ShopRite, Northvale; Butterworth's Bagels, Old Tappan; Baviello's Deli, Old Tappan;

Nonna Clementina's, Closter; Isabella's, Closter; Rudy's Restaurant, Closter; Ray's Pizza, Closter;

Mario's Pizza, Norwood; and Casa Del Sol, Woodcliff Lake. The businesses Town Motors of Englewood and Valley Tent of Park Ridge also donated time and services.

Aside from the two \$1,500 scholarships—one to a graduating senior pursuing an academic degree in the medical field and another to a four-year football player going on to higher education—the funding is donated to support the research of Dr. Melinda Merchant, who was Michael LaViola's doctor at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, said his father. These days she works at the National Cancer Institute's Center for Cancer Research, searching for a cure for pediatric

sarcomas, research that is not normally funded by major foundations.

The challenge invited competitors to join three groups to compete: eighth to ninth graders, high school and college/professional. The four events featured were the overhead press, tire flips, death medley and truck/sled pull. The fun day featured prizes and give-aways, as well as a 50/50 raffle. As a bonus, former New York Giant and two-time Super Bowl winner Perry Williams was on hand to greet everyone and sign autographs.

For more information on the event, visit www.michaellaviola-foundation.org.

Photos by Tom Moorhead



The tire flip!



As an endurance test, competitors are given 60 seconds to lift 150 to 200 pounds as many times as they can.



The owners of Varsity House Gym in Old Tappan present a \$15,000 check to Katie, Michael and Mary LaViola.



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