

**WASHINGTON TWP.** - It may have seemed like magic as wreaths with bright red bows have appeared along the white fences entering Long Valley from Chester and Hackettstown roads.

However, it wasn't as much magic as hard work from volunteers who hung them on Saturday morning.

The picturesque icons of the Christmas season have a purpose other than beautifying the town. The wreaths are part of a fund-raising effort for the Long Valley Community Assistance Program (LVCAP) to support the Long Valley Interfaith Food Pantry and Long Valley Emergency Relief Fund.

A \$20 donation sponsors a wreath. The goal is to get individuals to sponsor four miles of wreaths in order to give less fortunate families a helping hand over the holidays and beyond.

"There is a high need," said long-time volunteer Teddie Falcone. "I went down to get some equipment from the pantry today (Friday) and they are low. There is a very high need."

Much of the money from the fund raiser goes to the pantry to buy fresh food to go along with the canned goods that are the staple donations.

"It works and people are very responsive," Falcone said. "All year it allows the pantry to buy fresh eggs and fresh vegetables and butter and things like that every week."

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For more about the annual wreath fund raising effort in Long Valley, please visit [observer-tribune.com](http://observer-tribune.com).

### Group Effort

LVCAP purchases about 300 wreaths and Ort Farms on Bartley Road donates another 100 wreaths. Ribbon material is bought in bulk by LVCAP and the Long Valley Garden Club creates them to be tied to the wreaths. The wreaths are constructed the night after Thanksgiving. On Nov. 23, a group of about 15 volunteers met in one of Ort Farms' greenhouses and went at their task.

"It feels good to help people out," said Long Valley resident Eileen Armstrong, who was with her daughters, Leah and Liv. Their nephew, Daniel Donegan, and his mother, Michelle Donegan, were also with them to help out.

"We are with the 'Kids for Kindness' group that is part of the 4H and we like to do things to help the community. We thought about going to a soup kitchen. But that is in Morristown and this is five minutes from our house. We've done a lot of things with the kids for kindness. They collect pajamas and had them out to the foster kids," Armstrong said.

There was also a group from West Mor-

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Photo by Mark Kitchin

Brodie Fritsch, left, and Kyle Yin put up wreaths on Saturday morning along West Mill Road in Long Valley as part of a fund raiser for the Long Valley Interfaith Food Pantry.

## Teachers, school board reach tentative pact

By **MARK KITCHIN**  
STAFF WRITER

**WASHINGTON TWP.** - A tentative agreement between the Board of Education and the Washington Township Education Association on a new grades K-8 teacher's contract was reached late at the night of Monday, Nov. 19 during negoti-

ations at the Board of Education building.

No details on the agreement were shared at this time. The two parties still need to agree on salary guidelines and then have to ratify the agreement independently. If all goes well, they hope to have

PLEASE SEE TEACHERS, PAGE 13

## Routine traffic stop nets heroin haul

**WASHINGTON TWP.** - Police seized 165 bags of heroin during a routine traffic stop on Saturday morning.

Officer Jason Hensley stopped a vehicle on Route 46 for a violation just after midnight and while speaking to the driver and passengers, he allegedly saw marijuana being used in plain view.

An investigation later revealed that

Jason Heinowitz, 30, of Tinton Falls, allegedly was in possession of the heroin and drug paraphernalia. Heinowitz allegedly attempted to destroy some of the evidence by eating it.

He was charged with possession and tampering with evidence. Heinowitz was held in the Morris County Correctional Facility pending a hearing in Superior Court.

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# Frigid runners

you are not running on the roads. We still get a lot of alumni. I've seen a bunch of people walking in which is fun. They are home for the holidays and able to come in."

Friends Sara Guida and Jill Wilson were among the alumni who came back for the run.

"I ran it when I was younger when it was a spring race," Guida said. "It's great for the town to just come together. There is a lot of alumni here. There are definitely 2008-10 grads of that era. I've seen a bunch of them here today. They definitely come back."

Wilson attends the University of Michigan and said coming home to visit friends and eat turkey takes precedence over the school's annual football battle with Ohio State this past weekend.

"Even though I'm not in high school anymore it's nice to come back and see everyone and still support," Wilson said. "When you run a race like this you feel more accomplished afterwards. You can say that you ran that in 18 degree weather. You feel a little better once it's over. It's never been this cold."

Not surprisingly there were plenty of West Morris Central students involved in the 5K. It is a way for some of the fall athletes, who have been off for a couple weeks, to get back into training, especially if they have spring sports. Others use it just to have something fun to do with friends.

"I did it last year with my cross team," said Junior Noah McMahon who was running with her friends, Anthony Caracciolo and Emily. "I thought I would do this year with my friends. It's more fun than competing. I'm here more to have good time. It makes you forget about eating a turkey. You feel less fat when you are eating I

guess."

Wu agreed with that assessment.

"I see a lot of my teammates and people that I know from school," Wu said. "I heard about it with all the sports teams. I feel like people who aren't into running really don't know about it. I'm doing it just for fun. I'm in between two seasons. I'm on the cross country team and I swim."

The overall winner wasn't an alumni but he was familiar with the course.

David Barney of Lynchburg, Va., won last year's race as well. He is a graduate assistant at Florida State University and annually visits his Long Valley girlfriend Taylor Brown for the holidays.

"It's challenging with a narrow footing in the back," Barney said. "I started passing people in the second half of the race. It is fun. It is for a good cause and it gives you a good reason to eat."

Barney finished with a time of 15:50.90 nearly a minute ahead of Patrick Rich of South Hamilton, Mass., who placed second at 16:41.09. Long Valley's Andrew Brackmann, who was second last year, finished in third place with a time of 18:15.93.

For the women, Alice Binns of Dorchester, Mass., placed first with a time of 20:21.80. Heather Rich, the wife of Patrick Rich and sister of Andrew Brackmann, who also grew up in Long Valley, placed second at 20:23.97. Third place finisher was 13-year-old Ella Spence of Chester with a time of 20:59.20.

"I only run on a day like this when I am training for something," said Binns, who is visiting her boyfriend's family in Chester for the holidays. "The trick is to bundle up. We left home at 4 a.m. and drove up this morning. Any run for Thanksgiving is a good run."

# WREATHS: Annual ritual

FROM PAGE 1

ris Central's Highlanders for Humanity. Sophomore Leah Hoskin was with her sister, Emily, and their friend, Jenna Leonhardt.

"My mom has a friend that told us about it," said sophomore Leah Hoskin. "It's really important to think about what we have and how we spend our holidays with our families and everything that we can get in order to give that back to someone else. It's an amazing feeling."

It took the group about 90 minutes to assemble all the wreaths. Then they formed a human chain to load the wreaths into trucks to take them to drop off sites on Saturday morning.

About 50 volunteers, a majority of them Boy Scouts from Troop 236, were waiting at Valley View Chapel on West Mill to receive the wreaths. The wreaths would be placed on sections of East Mill and Bartley roads. One truck of wreaths was taken to Newburgh Road where volunteers from Highlanders for the Humanities hung the wreaths on the fences at Schooley's Mountain Road and Newburgh Road.

"This is my third year doing it," said Kyle Yin. "I like it. It is a lot of fun. It is kind of cool that I'm socializing with friends but it also makes me feel good that I'm doing something to help the food pantry. I'm

going around hanging stuff up. It's fun."

Yin is from Mount Olive but he is part of the Troop 236 in Long Valley. He and his friend, Brodie Fritsch, worked at putting up a wreath at every third pole in sections of East Mill and Bartley. The Scouts are often eager to participate in order to attain their required community service hours.

"If you want to make a difference in the community, try to do something like this," Yin said. "Even if you are not part of Scouts, you can come out and help a project like this or other projects that can help somebody."

Fritsch's mother, Cheryl, was also helping out. Not only did the volunteers put up wreaths but they also picked up bags of litter they found scattered along the roadside by careless motorists.

"I think community service is one of the most important things we can teach a child," Fritsch said. "It teaches giving back to wherever you live and being thankful for what it is that you have and helping people that don't have the same luxuries as you have."

Community activity often put people in the spirit of the holiday and makes them feel a little closer to their neighbor.

"We all come out. It kind of gets everybody in the Christmas spirit," Fritsch

said. "Some people drive by and honk their horns. This is a great community to live in. People like to help out whenever they can."

Friends Olivia Biondolillo and Olivia Satmary learned a bit about teamwork while putting up the wreaths. The Long Valley sixth graders are members of "Kids for Kindness" and always wondered how the wreaths were put up.

"It's easier when you have a partner," Satmary said. "We take turns. One holds the wreath and the other zip ties."

Biondolillo found the feeling of accomplishment and good will that comes with contributing ones time to community service.

"When you do it, it also makes you feel a little better about yourself because you are helping out someone," Biondolillo said.

The wreaths will be on the fence posts until mid-January. Eight new Long Valley families recently joined the assistance program making it more imperative for donations which are tax deductible. Contributions can be mailed to LVCAP in care of Long Valley Presbyterian Church, 39 Bartley Road, Long Valley, N.J. 07853. There are also wreath sites at Peapack-Gladstone Bank, Ort Farms, Hoffman True Value and the Washington Township Public Library.

•By Mark Kitchin

# POT: No fans for marijuana

FROM PAGE 12

cessing or creating a retail establishment to sell marijuana or other paraphernalia related to it in the township.

The ordinance is similar and takes much of its wording from an ordinance approved in Harding Township in October.

State law would supersede municipal ordinances. However, that hasn't

cart before the horse."

Moore also said he sympathizes with individuals who need to use marijuana for medical reasons and doesn't want to restrict its use in the township.

"I am very much in favor of medical marijuana," Moore said. "I want these people to get the medical marijuana that they need. I know they are saying that there are going to be six more dispensaries

was discussed at length by the Planning Board on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The Planning Board's major concerns were how legalization of recreational marijuana would affect the township's master plan. They also discussed its relevancy with regard to the state Right to Farm Act which limits residents and municipalities from regulating commercial farms.

In the end, the Planning

oom to spread out