

Local News

TRENTON



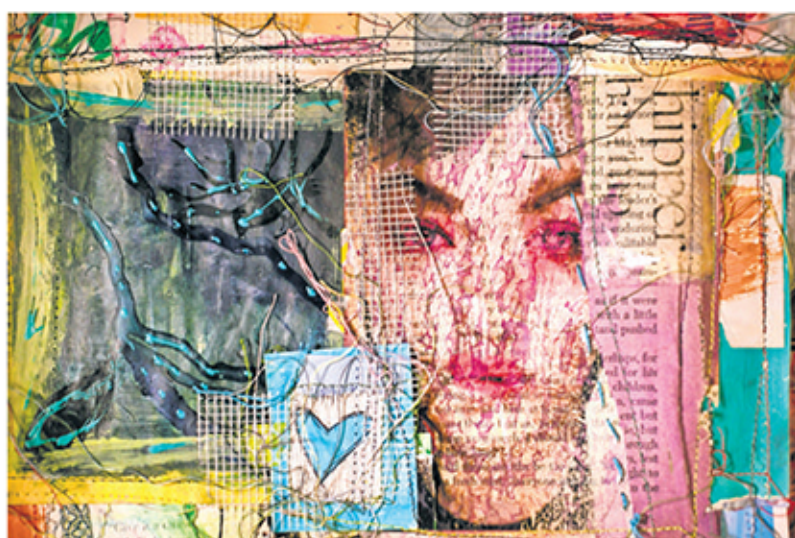
Detail from a 48-square-foot altered book collaborative quilt created by artist Colleen Attara and students at Hedgepeth/Williams Middle School of the Arts as the first art installation to celebrate adding the title of "school of the arts" to the school's name. Photos by Michael Mancuso/For Times of Trenton

Distinctive quilt marks school's new name



Michael Mancuso For Times of Trenton

Artist Colleen Attara, left, presented a 48-square-foot altered book collaborative quilt to Hedgepeth/Williams Middle School of the Arts Friday as the first art installation to celebrate adding "school of the arts" to the school's name. "HWMSA has a rich history with the arts, and we're excited to officially welcome it back to our curriculum in a big, bold and beautiful way. The quilt will hang as a constant reminder of our commitment to this new program, and exposing our students to the arts, and local artists, on a profound level. There is beauty in celebrating our differences, and it will now be on display every day here at HWMSA," Principal Adrienne Hill, below, said.



ROBBINSVILLE

Vacant school board seat filled

Cristina Rojas For Times of Trenton

Robbinsville's school board swore in a new member this week.

Scott Veisz replaces Faith Silvestrov, who resigned Feb. 28 amid criticism about her frequent absences from meetings.

Records show that Silvestrov, who was elected to nine consecutive terms beginning in 1991, had the worst attendance record over the past decade and, in this school year alone, missed six out of 10 meetings.

There were six candidates for the vacant seat.

"We're very fortunate to have six people that were very qualified and interested in the position so it was a wealth of riches," board President Matthew O'Grady said.

Veisz works for Johnson Controls, where he is the director of enterprise risk management and corporate governance.

He is on the Robbinsville Little League's board and was a coach for the 2014 team that won the Softball World Series. He also sits on the township's recreation and cultural advisory committee.

Cristina Rojas, NJ Advance Media, crojas@njadvancemedia.com



Scott Veisz is Robbinsville's newest school board member. File photo

HAMILTON

Officials: Life saved by 4 police academy recruits

Kevin Shea For Times of Trenton

Four police recruits put their first responder skills to the test Thursday when a man collapsed at Veterans Park. Officials say they teamed up to do CPR and guided medics to the scene.

And they got what police officials say is the highest outcome: They saved a life.

The four, who are studying at the Mercer County Police Academy, were playing street hockey after class about 3 p.m. when the man asked if he could join their game, Mercer County sheriff's spokesman Ernie Cerino said. As they played, the man complained of breathing problems, then chest pains, and collapsed. They called 911 and then split up. Two stayed and started CPR and two ran to the park's entrance to direct the ambulance.

Medics took over CPR when they arrived, and when the man was put into the ambulance he was responsive and answering questions, Cerino said.

"These guys really jumped into action," Cerino said. He did not have the man's full identity or condition Friday.

The recruits are from three departments: Chelsea Quinlan is a Trenton officer, Jeffrey Puckett is from the Plainsboro police department and Dallas Overko and Christopher Tremmel are from the Washington Township police in Warren County.

Trenton Police Director Ernest Parrey Jr. was notified because of Quinlan's involvement, but he said he was proud of all four.

"Their training kicked in, and they had the wherewithal to work together," Parrey said Friday. "We're really proud when our officers do what they do in service to the public."

The four are scheduled to graduate from the Mercer academy, headquartered in West Windsor, on April 21.

Kevin Shea, NJ Advance Media, kshea@njadvancemedia.com