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 TODAY**

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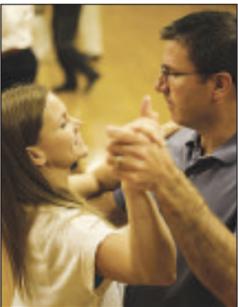


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Entrepreneurs honored at partnership's awards ceremony

By **ERIC OBERNAUER**
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LAFAYETTE — Amid challenging economic times, state Labor Commissioner Hal Wirths headed up a lineup of business leaders and dignitaries who were honored Thursday for their work in continuing to foster a spirit of entrepreneurship and economic growth in Sussex County.

At an awards luncheon hosted by the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership, incoming partnership Chairman Chuck Roberts presented Wirths with the SCEDP Business Advocacy Award for his work in reshaping the Department of Labor and Workforce Development since being appointed as head of the department by Gov. Chris Christie in January 2010.

In accepting the award, Wirths, a former Sussex County freeholder, harked back to his local roots and touted the reforms at the Labor Department launched under his leadership, including programs designed to link job-seekers to employers. Wirths said he was proudest of the department's new anti-fraud unit, which he said had stopped as much as \$200 million in fraudulent unemployment claims to date, a statement that elicited enthusiastic applause from the 150 or so attendees gathered at the Lafayette House.

"Our efforts are making not only state news but national news," Wirths said. "While our unemployment rate is still high, we've had job growth for 10 of the last 11 months and are continuing to figure out how to get government out of the way of business and how to make government a better partner. Here in New Jersey, the Department of Labor is one department that truly does work."

More than 10 other honorees joined Wirths Thursday at this, the SCEDP's eighth annual awards luncheon. As a public-private partnership, the SCEDP is dedicated to the creation of sustainable economic opportunity and prosperity to improve the quality of life in the county.



Photo by Tracy Klimek/New Jersey Herald

State Labor Commissioner Harold Wirths speaks after receiving the Business Advocacy Award from Ames Rubber CEO Charles Roberts, at back, Thursday at the eighth annual Sussex County Economic Development Partnership awards luncheon in Lafayette.

A major focus of the SCEDP is on providing technical and financing assistance to start-up businesses such as Tamaracks Country Villa Bed & Breakfast, in Byram, whose owners were presented with the SCEDP's New Business Award.

The bed-and-breakfast, which opened in January, is the culmination of the restoration of a historic mansion off Tamarack Road begun more than 12 years ago by Cate and Tom Roberts. The project's completion, said Cate Roberts, represents the fulfillment of a wish she and her husband

always had to remain in Sussex County upon their retirement.

In presenting them with the New Business Award, SCEDP Treasurer Glenn Lewis, who is also director of development for the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation, called the endeavor "a labor of love" for the couple.

"Along the way, they have learned many things about themselves — that engineers and designers think differently, that a hands-on approach is better for them than a drawing, that one of them is color-blind and shouldn't be in charge of choosing the paint, and that perseverance is a good characteristic to have,"

Lewis said. "They have more planned for the facility in the near future, and I am happy to say they are open for business."

Another recent Byram start-up, RDA Fitness, was among the two recipients of this year's SCEDP Business Expansion Award. RDA Fitness owner Robert Austin has grown the establishment, now in its second year, to a 10,000-square-foot facility that, with additional renovations nearing completion, will soon become one of the most comprehensive fitness centers in the region.

Also recognized for its
See AWARDS, Page A2

Christie says he'll veto new spending

By **GEOFF MULVHILL**
 Associated Press

CHERRY HILL — Gov. Chris Christie, frustrated that New Jersey's Democrat-controlled Legislature won't agree to cutting taxes on his schedule, unveiled a new approach Thursday: calling out as hypocrites Democrats who propose any new spending.

In a speech to the Southern New Jersey Chamber of Commerce in Cherry Hill, Christie, a Republican, listed programs that lawmakers have proposed — some of which have passed through one chamber of the Legislature. Among them: launching an institute for responsible fatherhood, a summer enrichment program for students in New Brunswick, a youth mentorship, studying a new kind of retirement community, putting kitchens in licensed child-care centers and paying towns that lose tax revenue because they have large cemeteries.

He said Democrats should not propose such measures, which add up to millions of dollars in spending, while saying the state should wait to see if it can afford tax cuts before implementing them.

"I will be the person, as popular or unpopular as it may be at the moment, to look the purveyors of old politics in Trenton in the eye and say one simple word: No," Christie said.

Earlier this year, Christie proposed tax cuts to take effect in January 2013.

The Legislature nixed the idea, saying the state should wait until closer to then to see how the state revenue is doing before approving the cuts. Lawmakers said the cuts could still be in place by January if the revenues justify them.

The numbers lately have not been good for Christie. The unemployment rate for August was up to 9.9 percent, state revenues are below expectations and the state had its outlook

See CHRISTIE, Page A2

United Way hears tales of woe at fundraising kickoff

By **ROB JENNINGS**
 rjennings@njherald.com

SPARTA — Peggy Post witnessed yet another dimension of the economic crisis that has affected so many families in Sussex County.

Post, among the attendees at the Sussex County United Way of Northern New Jersey's fall fundraising kickoff breakfast on Thursday, is president of Father John's Animal House in Lafayette.

Post told a guest at her table about heartbreaking visits from displaced homeowners who are moving into an apartment and must give up a family pet, usually a dog.

"We had an incident in which somebody was living out of a car and had two dogs — a big one and a small one. So they gave up the big dog," she said.

Thursday's 90-minute gathering at the Lake Mohawk Country Club focused on the

United Way's role in serving a growing segment of the population that earns more than the official U.S. poverty line but not enough to afford basic necessities such as housing, child care and transportation — or even miscellaneous items, such as a family pet.

In Sussex County, 5 percent of households fall under the poverty line, while an additional 27 percent fall below an estimated household survival budget.

The United Way uses the acronym ALICE — Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — to characterize the latter category.

"One emergency away from poverty" is how Theresa Leamy, senior vice president at the United Way, characterized the ALICE households.

In Sussex County, the United Way defines the minimum household survival budget for a family of two adults, a toddler

and infant as \$65,574, which is more than double the U.S. poverty rate of \$22,113.

For a single adult in Sussex, the household survival budget is \$27,272, while the national poverty rate is \$11,344.

The United Way of Northern New Jersey, in addition to serving Sussex, works in Essex, Warren, Morris and Somerset counties. It was created in January 2011 when the five county chapters merged. It is not specifying a fundraising goal for its fall campaign.

In the past year, the United Way has provided at least \$200,000 in direct funding support including programs at the Interfaith Hospitality Network, Legal Services of North West Jersey, Samaritan Inn, Center for Prevention and Counseling and the North West New Jersey Community Action Partnership.

Mary Emilius, United Way
See UNITED, Page A8



Photo by Tracy Klimek/New Jersey Herald

State Sen. Steve Oroho, the event's keynote speaker, wears a United Way hat at the United Way of Northern New Jersey 2012-2013 fundraising campaign breakfast Thursday at the Lake Mohawk Country Club in Sparta.

FIVE - DAY FORECAST

Weather forecast grid for Today, Tonight, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday with icons and temperatures.

REGIONAL CITIES

Table of weather forecasts for regional cities including Atlantic City, Allentown, PA, Dover, Jersey City, Long Beach Is., Middletown, NY, Milford, PA, Morristown, Newark, New York, Parsippany, Philadelphia, Stroudsburg, PA, and Trenton.

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Advertisement for New Jersey Herald Interactive Futurecast showing a weather graph and text: 'Hour by hour temperature, wind and humidity in your home town. Only at www.njherald.com!'

SUSSEX COUNTY WEATHER



LOCAL FORECAST

Today we will see cloudy skies with a 70% chance of rain, high temperature of 67°, humidity of 95%. Southwest wind 6 mph. The record high temperature for today is 90° set in 1998.

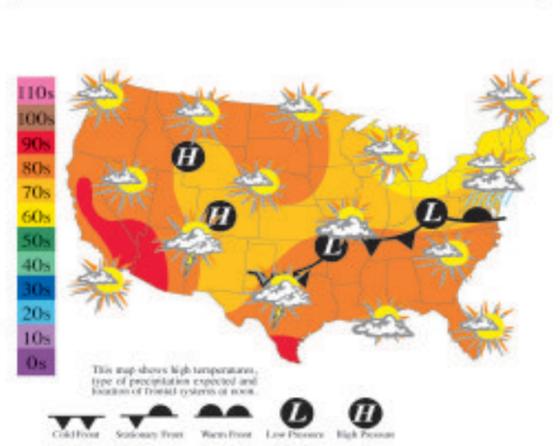
WEATHER HISTORY

Sept. 28, 1987 - Thunderstorms produced up to ten inches of rain in southern Kansas and north central Oklahoma overnight. The Chikaskia River rose 2.5 feet above flood stage at Blackwell, Okla. during the day, causing flooding in Kay and Grant counties of Oklahoma.

ALMANAC RIVER STAGES

Table with columns for Data reported from Sussex, Delaware River, and River levels measured in feet. Includes flood stage, current, and 24 hr. change.

NATIONAL WEATHER MAP



SUN AND MOON

Information about sunrise and sunset times, moonrise and moonset times, and moon phases (Full, Last, New, First) with dates.

WEATHER TRIVIA

What is known as a gustnado? ANSWER: A smaller and weaker tornado.

Yesterday's National Extremes

High: 107° in Death Valley, Calif. Low: 21° in Fosston, Minn.

Awards

Continued from Page A1

recent expansion was D & H Alternative Risk Solutions, an insurance consultancy founded 15 years ago by Wayne Dietz and Susan Hammer.

were rehired from the quarry's previous owner. Accepting the award on the company's behalf were Chief Executive Officer Janet Braen and Sales Manager Tom Lynch.

"It is their hope that through the production of their quality granite and limestone products from their two quarries in Franklin and Sparta, they will be able to supply a wide range of aggregate needs for Sussex County and support the infrastructure in this burgeoning region of New Jersey," Roberts said.

Ag Choice, of Andover Borough, was presented with the SCEDP's Economic Innovation Award. As a recycler of food waste, livestock manure, and municipal leaves, Ag Choice is the first and only business of its kind in the state that is licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection to compost these materials into high-quality soil additives.

Julia Quinlan, co-founder and president of the Karen Ann Quinlan Memorial Foundation, was honored Thursday with the SCEDP's Training and Workforce Development Award for the foundation's efforts to provide instruction and internships to those seeking certification as home health aides.

"Sometimes people come to us with the passion but don't yet have the skills," said Mary Pugliese, education and quality manager for the foundation. She said the foundation's training programs had not only benefited the Karen Ann Quinlan Foundation but also other employers and trainees throughout Sussex County as well as nearby Warren County and Pike County, Pa.

Seven municipalities were nominated for this year's SCEDP Municipal Award, of which Hopatcong was this year's recipient. Accepting the award on the borough's behalf were council members Mike Francis and Marie Galate. In

presenting the award, Newton Town Manager Tom Russo noted Hopatcong's efforts over the past year to foster what he called an "open for business" attitude, including the removal of impediments and red tape entailed in the land use approval process so that development and reconstruction could proceed more quickly.

Among the borough's other initiatives have been the establishment of a local farmers' market at no cost to participating vendors and a moratorium on the borough's sign ordinance to make it easier for businesses to advertise and attract customers. Russo said the borough also took a major step forward by obtaining approval of its petition for plan conformance from the state Highlands Council. The approval, he said, will enable Hopatcong to regain its so-called "center" designation and will help jump-start economic redevelopment throughout the borough.

"Thank you, Borough of Hopatcong, for remaining positive in these challenging economic times and for working hard to assist your residents and business base," Russo said.

In keeping with Sussex County's motto, "People and Nature Together," the SCEDP's Environmental Leadership Award went to Eastern Propane CEO Rob Nicholson. In presenting the award, George Sous, regional public affairs manager for PSE&G, noted Nicholson's commitment to a "green and sustainable community" through his corporate initiatives at Eastern Propane, including the installation of solar panels and the replacement of incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent and LED bulbs at the firm's headquarters. Nicholson's efforts, said Sous, also include "recycling everything he possibly can and operating one of New Jersey's largest alternatively powered fleets — on propane, of course."

Sous also took note of Nicholson's civic endeavors including his work as chair-

man of the Sussex County Trails Partnership and as a founding member of the Sparta Township Green Team. To date, Sous noted, Sparta is the only Sussex County municipality to have attained certification by Sustainable Jersey, a voluntary public-private partnership aimed at promoting environmentally sound practices and social justice.

"As business owners, we all have a responsibility to keep our environment in Sussex County as pristine as we can in a sustainable way," Nicholson said.

Rounding out this year's honorees was Freeholder Richard Vohden, who received the SCEDP's highest honor, the Distinctive Leadership Award.

A longtime farmer in Green Township, Vohden has served for several years as a member of that township's Environmental Commission and Planning Board. More recently, he served seven years as chairman of the Sussex County Open Space Committee and nine years on the Sussex County Planning Board. "I may be a farmer, but I swear I have another tie," Vohden joked. "As a farmer, I also understand the need for a balance between preservation and economic development. I want Sussex County to continue to be more business-friendly while maintaining our rural character."

Vohden's remarks received a standing ovation from the attendees.

The emcee for this year's awards ceremony was SCEDP President Tammie Horsfield, who noted the importance of thanking companies and individuals for their support of the county's economic development efforts.

"All of you here today are leaders of economic development both in your ethical business practices and in the economic value you bring to our area," Horsfield said. "It is for these reasons that we honor those who have set high standards for quality economic development in Sussex County."

Christie

Continued from Page A1

changed from stable to negative last week by the credit rating agency Standard and Poor's.

In most of his appearances in the state since July, Christie has criticized lawmakers for denying the state tax relief.

One of the messages has long been that people should not trust Democrats who say they'll consider a cut later. He put it a new way with Thursday's talk by calling lawmakers hypo-

crites. He also called the media the Democrats' "handmaidens" for reporting their assertions that the state cannot afford tax cuts.

He called out several by name. For instance, he sarcastically called state Sen. Barbara Buono, who is considering a run against Christie next year a "soldier in the war for fiscal prudence."

Buono said Thursday that she believes Christie is trying to change the subject amid news of some jobs leaving the state. "He ought to know he can't bully his way to creating jobs," she said.

LOTTERY

Thursday New Jersey

Midday Pick 3: 6-2-8 Midday Pick 4: 3-8-6-5 Evening Pick 3: 3-4-2 Evening Pick 4: 8-2-8-3 Cash 5: 3-9-16-20-23 Pick 6: 7-12-19-31-35-44

Wednesday New Jersey

Midday Pick 3: 5-4-2 Midday Pick 4: 7-8-4-2 Evening Pick 3: 4-2-6 Evening Pick 4: 7-8-9-5 Cash 5: 17-18-27-33-35 Powerball: 13-26-39-41-42 Ball: 10

Pennsylvania

Midday Daily: 2-5-0 Midday Big 4: 0-2-8-8 Midday Quinto: 8-8-7-4-8 Treasure Hunt: 1-2-14-15-17 Evening Daily: 7-3-6 Evening Big 4: 6-3-5-6 Evening Quinto: 7-7-4-9-0 Cash 5: 7-19-21-32-42 Match 6: 3-15-17-39-42-44

Pennsylvania

Midday Daily: 0-5-7 Midday Big 4: 8-7-1-0 Midday Quinto: 2-7-6-6-0 Treasure Hunt: 2-20-24-26-30 Evening Daily: 6-2-9 Evening Big 4: 3-0-4-2 Evening Quinto: 8-4-3-4-1 Cash 5: 1-5-14-15-36

New York

Midday Numbers: 4-9-0 Lucky Sum: 13 Midday WinFour: 5-7-9-5 Lucky Sum: 26 Evening Numbers: 8-5-5 Lucky Sum: 18 Evening WinFour: 2-2-3-8 Lucky Sum: 15 Sweet Million: 3-6-14-26-31-33 Pick 10: 3-6-8-14-16-21-24-25-26-32-33-41-42-44-48-52-56-69-75-76 Take 5: N/A

New York

Midday Numbers: 1-3-9 Lucky Sum: 13 Midday WinFour: 3-5-3-5 Lucky Sum: 16 Evening Numbers: 9-9-2 Lucky Sum: 20 Evening WinFour: 9-2-2-6 Lucky Sum: 19 Pick 10: 2-3-8-12-18-23-24-26-27-35-37-38-42-45-50-52-58-65-76-80 Lotto: 17-20-33-35-37-49 Bonus: 38 Take 5: 7-18-20-23-39

Lottery results can be found at www.njherald.com/lottery.

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