

Irvington Herald Vailsburg Leader

How to reach us:

Irvington Herald is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday.

To subscribe:

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News items:

For information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for editorial. The *Herald* and *Leader* accept news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is essexcty@thelocalsource.com. E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week.

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Photo by Steve Ellmore

Members of the Irvington High School varsity cheerleading squad watch the players on the field during last Saturday's game against Nutley High School in Nutley.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY

November 12, 2011

EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Main Memorial Park, Main Ave, Clifton, NJ 07012

TIME: 10AM - 5PM Outdoors

ADMISSION: Free

DETAILS: For information call 201-998-1144 or events@jcpromotions.info. There will be exhibitors selling an array of quality merchandise such as sports collectibles, fashions accessories, jewelry, handbags, socks, one of a kind items, garage/tag sale items and so much more! Come to enjoy the delicious food being served. Start your holiday shopping with us.

ORGANIZATION HOST: Clifton Recreation

SUNDAY

November 13, 2011

EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Frank V. Marina, 209 Passaic Ave., Kearny, NJ 07032

TIME: 10AM - 5PM Outdoors

ADMISSION: Free

DETAILS: For information call 201-998-1144 or events@jcpromotions.info. There will be exhibitors selling an array of quality merchandise such as sports collectibles, fashions accessories, jewelry, pocketbook, socks, one of a kind items, garage/tag sale items and so much more! Come to enjoy the delicious food being served. There is no admission so come to browse.

ORGANIZATION HOST: Kearny UNICO

FUN AUCTION

SATURDAY

November 12, 2011

EVENT: Holiday Chinese Auction

PLACE: 1318 E. St. George's Avenue, Linden, NJ 07036

TIME: 11am - 2pm

ADMISSION: FREE

DETAILS: Heaven's Delight -Specialties! All Kinds of Gift Cards Children Toys. Mystery Box????? Sweets for the Sweets -Candy Basket. Money Tree. For more info contact Sis. Lisa Quinerly 908-531-3989 Thank you for supporting our Holiday Food Drive!

ORGANIZATION: Sisters and Brothers

OTHER

THURSDAY thru SUNDAY

November 10-13, 2011

EVENT: HUGE USED BOOK, MOVIE, MUSIC SALE

PLACE: College Women's Club of Montclair, Inc., 26 Park Street, Montclair (Technopulp Building)

TIMES & ADMISSION PRICES:

OPENING DAY Thursday 9:30am-9pm
OPENING DAY ONLY- \$15 ADMISSION FEE- 9:30am - noon; no fee thereafter.

Friday: 9:30am-9pm;

Saturday: 9:30am-7pm;

Sunday: 1pm-6pm. NO Half-Price or Bag Days. **Scanner Use Restricted**

DETAILS: Thousands of items at AMAZING PRICES! Books of all types for children and adults, movies (VHS & DVD), music (CD,cassette,records) and MUCH MORE. Information: 973-783-7040. CWCbooksale@gmail.com **Proceeds Fund Scholarship Awards for Local Students

ORGANIZATION: College Women's Club of Montclair (a branch of AAUW)

SATURDAY

November 19, 2011

EVENT: First Annual Pre-Season Basketball Comedy Show Fundraiser

PLACE: East Orange Campus High School, 344 Prospect Street, East Orange NJ

TIME: Doors open @ 5pm

Show starts @6pm

PRICE: \$20 in advance, \$25 at Door

Ages 15 to Adult

DETAILS: Come laugh with the East Orange Jaguars and help raise money for the upcoming basketball season with Host: Rashaun Reese and Comedians: Gerald Kelly, Damn Fool, Shawn Harvey. For tickets contact -Rashaun Reese @ 973-380-6696 or Monique Hancock @ 973-223-0526.

ORGANIZATION: East Orange Campus High School Parent Basketball Assoc.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Union Office (1291 Stuyvesant Ave.) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. For more information call.

908-686-7850

Cheerleaders maintain spirit through good and bad times

By Taylor Bennett
Correspondent

On Nov. 2 at Irvington High School, Veleria Brown-Garner, head coach of the IHS cheerleaders for the past 26 years, began practice with exciting news. There were positive things being said about the girls' performances.

At the varsity football homecoming game against the Seton Hall Prep Pirates, played during an early fall snowstorm, Irvington lost, 6-26. But the cheerleaders managed to steer the crowd's attention away from the score and the storm as they encouraged cheers and applause for the team.

"Considering the weather, they put on a nice show. Everyone cheered," said Mrs. Burney in a phone interview. Burney was one of the parents who was in the stands that day and who appreciated the effort being put forth by the girls on the sideline.

As senior co-captain Luqwetter Thompson, who has been a cheerleader since the seventh grade, said of that day, "We kept them entertained."

However, the praise was no surprise to senior captain Tamita Blanding. "If you love what you do and work at it, you will be good at it." Blanding has a long history of supporting the Blue Knights. In fact, she can remember being the school mascot when she was 4 years old and dressed in "blue and white everything."

For their final two games, the cheerleaders have planned double practices on Mondays with alumni cheerleaders. The football team, led by head coach Pete Pascarella, will play an away consolation game Friday night against Warren Hills and then the Thanksgiving Day home game against Columbia High School.

"The alumni reunite there every year. That's why it's important that we win," said Shannon Farrar, 20, cheerleaders' captain from 2009.

So far, the Blue Knights are 1-7. Their first victory was against the Bergen Tech Knights, 25-14, on Oct. 14. Although, they haven't made the playoffs, they plan on finishing strong.

"This year, the football team was the only Group 3 school in a Group 4 conference," said Pascarella. "The

team never quits. They still have two games left in the season, and we're trying to get two victories and end the season on a positive note."

The cheerleaders remain supportive of their team, no matter what happens on the scoreboard.

"We have the best cheerleaders, and I love coach Brown-Garner," said senior tight end/linebacker Khalid Kemp on Nov. 2. A known leader on and off the field, Kemp was a part of the program when the team made it to the playoffs in 2009.

"Junior Jean Point-Dejour, as well as the other juniors, is showing no quit. They will be leading the program next year," said Pascarella.

The cheerleading program is more than just a sport. After spending many years also serving as a teacher in the district, Brown-Garner, along with her assistant, Traymaneisha Moore, is able to step in and provide tutorial assistance for the cheerleaders the moment their grades start slipping. Many ex-cheerleaders go off to college and receive a degree. Moore, a former cheerleader, is now a graduate of Michigan State University who is pursuing a doctorate degree.

"If coach Brown saw us in the hallway, she would make us go to class. All of my friends would make fun of me, saying, 'Ms. Garner is coming,'" said Moore.

Brown-Garner, who cheered for West Side High School when she was a student, asks the cheerleaders for dedication, commitment, and to leave their egos at the door.

The team currently is in the process of rebuilding. Seven seniors out of 13 cheerleaders graduate this year. Thompson plans to continue her education at Montclair State, while Blanding is considering the military. Sophomore co-captain Imani Gayle will lead next year. She is a gymnast at the Surgent's Elite School of Gymnastics in Roselle Park.

"All of the coaches want the students to have a positive experience in athletics and a good time. They want them to develop life skills that they can apply to their lives and futures through competition and by being a member of a team. All of our coaches have this passion," said Athletic Director Gerhard Sanchez.

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