

# EDITORIAL & COMMENTARY



Belmar, Sunday, July 7

SCOTT LONGFIELD

## IT'S YOUR TURN

### Letters to the Editor

#### Foodstock a Great Success for Lunch Break

##### To the Editor:

I am writing on behalf of everyone at Lunch Break of Red Bank to tell you how extraordinarily grateful we are for the overwhelming response from all those who read or heard our plea for help to stock our pantry and donated to our May 17 Foodstock event.

Lunch Break is the first line of defense for thousands of residents of Monmouth and Ocean counties and serves more and more people each year. According to Gwen Love, executive director of Lunch Break, food pantry distributions have increased by a staggering amount. In 2013 more than 750 families depended on Lunch Break each and every month for groceries. That amounted to nearly 400,000 pounds of food.

"Unfortunately, it's a sign of the times," Love said.

This means there is a constant need for food to stock the pantry shelves. Summer is especially difficult with schools closed and many people on vacation. But, hunger doesn't close for the summer or go on vacation and summer is traditionally a difficult time of the year to collect donations.

We set an ambitious goal for this spring's Foodstock of 50,000 pounds – 20,000 pounds more than last year. By the end of May, we had received 61,400 pounds. And, we continue to receive food and monetary donations from food drives still going on and dedicated to providing food for our pantry.

We could not possibly have accomplished this without your amazing generosity.

We also want to thank the Red Bank Borough Schools, the Red Bank Middle School Band and the bands Rokit and Ardvark Smile for entertaining everyone who came to this year's Foodstock.

We want our sponsors, The R&B Group of Morgan Stanley, Troy Container Line, Sawtooth, The Bitterly Group of Morgan Stanley, Synergy Hot Yoga, Ray Catena, and the Board of Trustees of Lunch Break to know how much we appreciate their support.

And, last, but hardly least, we want all our dedicated volunteers and staff who worked so hard to make sure our Foodstock event was a record breaking success to know how much we appreciate them.

To learn more about Lunch Break, its activities and events, go to [www.lunchbreak.org](http://www.lunchbreak.org). You can also find Lunch Break on Facebook and Twitter or reach us at 732-747-8577 and [info@lunchbreak.org](mailto:info@lunchbreak.org).

So, thank you again. Lunch Break can't do what it does without you.

Please join us next year for the 2015 Foodstock event.

*Susan Haugenes,  
Vice President,  
Lunch Break, Red Bank*

#### Thank You for Supporting Paint the Town Pink

##### Dear Editor:

On behalf of Meridian Health, I would like to extend my deepest thanks to the 35 Monmouth and Ocean County towns for their energy, commitment, and enthusiasm during Meridian Health's Paint the Town Pink.

When it comes to spreading a meaningful message, nothing matters more than the people behind that message. Throughout the month of May, volunteers, businesses, schools and other community groups in Monmouth and Ocean counties joined together to encourage women to take a stand against breast cancer by getting their annual mammogram. All women are at risk for breast cancer and although breast cancer cannot be prevented, early detection provides the greatest possibility of successful treatment.

As a breast surgeon and community member, it is rewarding to see so many town leaders support this meaningful initiative. Until breast cancer is 100 percent preventable, our best weapons are early detection via mammography and early reporting of breast symptoms to a clinician.

To all who supported Paint the Town Pink, thank you for your efforts.

*Debra Camal, MD, FACS  
Medical Director of the Breast Program, Meridian Cancer Care*

#### Public Education is Not Like the Private Sector

##### To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent decision by the California courts that teacher tenure laws are unconstitutional. That said, having worked in public education for 29 years, I do agree that there is a need to reform the tenure laws. Yes, there are incompetent, lazy teachers. And often administrators are too lazy, or too overworked, or too new to the job to complete the lengthy documentation required to remove them.

Let's remember, incompetent teachers don't give themselves tenure, incompetent administrators do. Moreover, most national estimates are that about 50 percent of new teachers are gone from the profession within five years – either because they don't get tenure, or because they realize that the job is too difficult for them.

Nevertheless, tenure assessment and a teacher's continued employment need to be addressed in a carefully crafted, multi-faceted manner. In our state the New Jersey teachers' union is supporting this, and has helped craft the new tenure assessment process.

But it is too simplistic to say teachers need to be treated like the private sector, which is the complaint I hear constantly from non-educators. The private sector works on profit. A company that is doing

well financially will gladly hire a highly paid employee with many years' experience who has left another company for a variety of reasons, as long as their references are stellar. In fact, they will even send "head-hunters" to poach top earning, competent employees.

But the reality in public education is that schools never "do well" financially. They always run on a bottom-dollar budget. Suppose there is a teacher in her 40s with two master's degrees and stellar references from all prior administrators, parents and other teachers. She then runs afoul of a new administrator who then bullies his staff into rigging her assessments and continuing employment, and she is terminated. Yes, there are such administrators.

What can that competent, highly educated veteran do? Run to a headhunter? The reality is that there is no public school district that will even interview such a person, simply because of "budget constraints." Her career is over forever because she is too costly. I have sat in at our local board of education meetings when high-earning, respected veterans retire or leave for other reasons, and have heard board members express delight that now that can get a "bargain" new teacher.

It's a complex situation that the private sector proponents do not understand. And those outrageous "golden parachutes" that the pensioners get, by the way, go to administrators and superintendents, not to teachers.

*Kathleen McNellis Ph.D.  
Middletown*

#### PETA Thanks the Late Eli Wallach for 'Voicing' Concern

##### To the Editor:

Eli Wallach is best known for his role as the scheming bandit Tuco in "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly," but I have heard more about his wonderful narration of an animated short about what happens to cows on factory farms.

No one remembers exactly what that film was called, but everyone recalls that it was about a calf who wonders where the cows go when a truck comes to take them away. The calf thinks they are going somewhere exotic and fun until one cow escapes from the slaughterhouse and returns to the field to tell the tale.

They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but in this case, it was Wallach's distinctive voice that made this picture – and "the good, the bad, and the ugly" plight of cows – really come to life. Many people thought twice about eating animals after watching that moving little film, and we have Mr. Wallach to thank for that.

*Ingrid E. Newkirk,  
President, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals,  
Washington, D.C.*



COURTESY DORN'S CLASSIC IMAGES

#### Two River Moment

An early version of the Monmouth County Fair at the turn of the 20th century features striped tents and fairgoers who arrived by horse and carriage. The modern version, which is celebrating its 40th year, will be held Wednesday through Sunday, July 23-27, at the East Freehold Showgrounds, 1500 Kozloski Road, Freehold.

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##### Letters To The Editor

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