



The winners of Hunterdon Healthcare's "Name the Robot" contest are Lynn Hughes' fourth-grade class from High Bridge Elementary School.

COURTESY OF HUNTERDON HEALTHCARE

## Hunterdon Medical Center robot gets a name: 'Leo'

KATHLEEN SEELIG  
HUNTERDON HEALTHCARE

In order to celebrate the arrival of the da Vinci Surgical System in the operating room at Hunterdon Medical Center in Raritan Township, Hunterdon Healthcare conducted a "Name the Robot" contest on Facebook.

The contest was open to kindergarten through fourth-grade students in Hunterdon County. Ten names were submitted and they received more than 600 votes. The winning name was Leo, submitted by Lynn Hughes' fourth-grade class from High Bridge Elementary

School. Before they chose the name, the class had a lesson on robotic surgery. They learned about the robot, the different types of surgery it can be used for and what the benefits are of having a robot perform surgery.

They chose the name Leo to honor inventor and painter Leonardo da Vinci who represented many of the attributes they felt the robot also represents, including technological advancement and precision. Leonardo had new ideas for his time and this robot is a new idea for our time. He also knew a lot about the body (anatomy) when he painted and this

robot will help physicians do surgeries on bodies. Plus, he had advanced ideas for technology and this robot is using advanced technology. The artist was very accurate with his work and using the robot will help the physicians be precise with their work.

Leonardo is still famous 562 years after he was born, and this robot will be famous for many years, too. In addition, they also chose the name for Leonardo of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle who is courageous, has special powers and makes a difference, similar to what the class say

they feel the robot will do.

The class was presented with special robot T-shirts and a \$100 gift card on Nov. 5. The students decided that a portion of the gift card will be used to purchase stuffed animals that will be donated to the pediatric unit at Hunterdon Medical Center.

The runners-up in the "Name the Robot" contest was Zap, submitted by Juliet Wallace, grade 2 of Flemington and third place was Super Helper Gears, submitted by Scott Turick, grade 2 of Pittstown. Juliet and Scott also were presented with gift cards.

## Plainfield resident marks 100th birthday



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM LOWNEY

Union County Freeholder Vernell Wright (right) presents a resolution to Veronica Kane (left) of Plainfield wishing her a happy 100th birthday during a party last week marking her special and noteworthy occasion at Runnells Specialized Hospital in Berkeley Heights. They are joined by Veronica's daughter, Marilyn Bradley.

## Vaaza

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"We've had very positive feedback so far with quite a few customers," he said, noting that the borough's chamber of commerce provided a wealth of guidance in helping him prepare for his initial August opening leading up to the ribbon cutting by Metuchen Mayor Thomas Vahalla.

"Kashmiri cuisine has many herbs, more than spices," said Meer when asked about what makes Wazwan so extraordinary. "It is considered to be an art because it is so labor-intensive. Many of the dishes can be kicked up a notch with additional spiciness upon request.

Predominantly a non-vegetarian cuisine, lamb is the meat that is used most frequently in Wazwan, and chicken is secondary.

Meer said that the main menu contained mostly 11 dishes when it was first developed, but has swiftly grown to feature 28, with six dishes

like eggplant with lentils that are tailored to vegetarians' palates.

"Our most popular dish is the Gushtaba, which is the signature dish of Kashmir," he said. These delectable meatballs comprising minced chicken are cooked in aromatic herbs in a yogurt sauce. Another sought-after dish is Rista, which features chicken meatballs with a flavorful yogurt and paprika-based sauce.

Although those chicken-based dishes are top-sellers, Meer stressed that the popularity of lamb continues to grow.

While lunch and dinner are served at Café Vaaza (Vaaza is derived from the term "master chef"), dinner at the restaurant is gluten-free.

Lunch menu items include sandwich rolls brimming with hunter's lamb, chicken kebab, fish, pickled chicken with cream cheese and more. Entrée items also feature lamb with lentils, eggplant cooked in a tomato-based sauce with coriander leaves, as well as lentils cooked with fenugreek leaves.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM LOWNEY

Union County officials and letter readers at the Letters from the Front event in Elizabeth.

## Civil War letters read, displayed at Union County Courthouse

SERGIO BICHAO  
@SBICHAO

ELIZABETH — The Union County Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee last week held a Letters from the Front reading ceremony at the Union County Courthouse.

Janice Blank and County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, who is also the chairwoman of the committee, read letters written by their relatives.

The County's Civil War Exhibition is on display 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays through the end of this year in the ro-

tunda of the Union County Courthouse in midtown Elizabeth.

Pictured are Union County Freeholders Sergio Granados (second from left), Bette Jane Kowalski (third from left) and Vernell Wright (far right); Rajoppi (fourth from left); and letter

readers Tom Plante (far left), Army veteran Vincent DeTrollo, Navy veteran Lester Sargent, Summit American Legion Lindsey-Street Post 322 commander Henry Bassman and Rahway American Legion Post 499 past commander Berley Hanna Jr.

## Travel

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Sandra Bullock, Nicholas Cage and Anne Rice. However, not everyone who lives in the Garden District has a famous name.

A boisterous cafe owner I met also lives in the Garden District. In between his fashioning of roses out of napkins for café patrons, he told stories of the ghost of a playful little girl who lived in his rose-colored home who hid small trinkets from him and played other practical jokes. This made it clear that the undeniable New Orleans stir of the living joined with the dead, a trait of any city that has seen so much tur-



JENNA INTERSIMONE/STAFF PHOTO

Jackson Square was named for Battle of New Orleans hero Andrew Jackson.

moil, wasn't all sinister. Frenchmen Street, a strip at one end of the French Quarter, is known for being the local hub of live jazz, reggae, folk and blues music as well as

sidewalk artisans selling their creations. Regardless of whether I was inside a venue, such as The Spotted Cat or Café Negril or wandering the street, music poured from

### IF YOU GO

**Stay** at the Four Points by Sheraton French Quarter (from \$170 a night) at 541 Bourbon St. Call 504-524-7611 or visit Starwood Hotels.com/FourPoints/ for more information.

**Visit** the St. Louis Cathedral (StLouisCathedral.org), Cafe du Monde (CafeDuMonde.com), Bourbon Street, the Garden District, Royal Street, Frenchmen Street, St. Louis Cemetery No. 1 and the graves of Marie Laveau and Nicholas Cage, Louis Armstrong Park, Algier's Point and the LaLaurie Mansion.

**Eat** at Jimmy J's for breakfast and lunch (\$6 - \$11, JimmysCafe.com), Pierre Maspero's breakfast, lunch and dinner (\$9 - \$26, OriginalPierreMasperos.com), Acme Oyster House, lunch and dinner (\$11 - \$21, AcmeOyster.com), Court of Two Sisters, brunch and dinner (\$25 - \$32, CourtOfTwoSisters.com).

**Drink** a hurricane at Pat O' Brien's (PatOBriens.com), a hand grenade at Tropical Isle (TropicalIsle.com), a Bloody Mary at Pierre Maspero's (OriginalPierreMasperos.com), a fish bowl at Fais Deaux Deaux, a Vieux Carre at The Carousel Bar (Hotel Monteleone.com/Entertainment/Carousel-Bar/)

every direction in the form of street bands or singing nomads among the local vendors.

Spock was one of the many travelers who sold handmade items. With a bandanna wrapped

around his head, he told us a story about how he broke into one rude tourist's Mercedes, cut out a large square of leather, and fashioned it into a rough wallet that was now for sale on his table on

## Elders

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The benefits of horticultural therapy have been tested and well documented for individuals who are recovering from many different kinds of medical conditions, both physical and psychological. It enhances cognitive functioning, concentration, long- and short-term memory, goal achievement and attention. It can create a sense of accomplishment and patients often perceive it as rewarding. Horticultural therapy stimulates the senses with scents, textures, colors and sounds. Participating in horticultural therapy improves mobility, balance, endurance, memory and coordination.

"We believe that specific care niches will be

needed as long-term care services are provided in-home instead of the nursing home. We view programs like horticultural therapy as very important examples of services that may not in some case be feasible for someone who lives alone at home," said Bob Reyes, administrator for Abingdon Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Cardona also shared, "It's amazing when the elders bring simple materials to life and I watch them come alive knowing they made something beautiful."

"Life enrichment like horticultural therapy activities are important in a place like this as this is their home," Reyes said.

Laura DePrado is a horticultural therapy practitioner. Email laura@finaltouchplantscoping.com.

Frenchmen Street; politeness rules where the locals live.

As a resident, my travel companion knew every New Orleans scrappy nomad, wandering dog and street musician. On this trip, I was able to relish New Orleans from the perspective of the people who live there, not just those who visit.

@JIntersimone or email her at JIntersimone@MyCentralJersey.com.

Jenna Intersimone's "Life Aboard The Traveling Circus" column appears Tuesdays. Her "Life Aboard The Traveling Circus" blog is at MyCentralJersey.com, as well as LifeAboardTheTravelingCircus.com. Do you like this kind of content? Don't forget to subscribe here.