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LETTERS

Program does a lot of good

Regarding “Finding their stride: Bergen horse farm helps hundreds with disabilities” (July 10): The article rises to the top of our “human service” spectrum of sensitivity and consciousness because it’s so unexpected and so obvious if you are familiar with the challenges that human and health services have always faced.

During my 35 years as a contract administrator with Bergen County Human Services, through a small state recreational grant for individuals with disabilities that leveraged a few other funding sources, I came to know something about Dana Spett’s “Pony Power.” Besides larger programs like serving meals to the homebound, older adult socialization, transportation, recreation, nutrition and counseling and more, our human services sometimes helped fund gems like Pony Power.

It’s tough enough for a varsity athlete to ride a horse or a pony. The good it can do, however, for those wrestling with constant challenge is to be admired and supported.

Gerry Drummond Dumont

Providing cluster munitions to Ukraine

President Joe Biden recently found himself faced with yet another executive decision, this one involving life or death on the borders of Ukraine in Russia’s war of illegal aggression, when the United States agreed to supply the Ukrainian military with cluster munitions in order to defend itself.

Cluster munitions involve bomblets that can be dispersed over wider targeted areas using artillery projectiles or bombs. As the deadly devices reach their objective, a time or altitude fuse release the scores of devices, which can be held in the palm of a human being’s hand, and they then detonate when striking the ground. The cluster munitions that fail to detonate on impact pose a lingering long-term effect like a land mine.

I for one am sorry these sort of munitions exist to begin with and that Biden was burdened by this decision to supply these weapons in defense of Ukraine and its people, a decision that now must be made by field commanders in response to the images they see in field binoculars on the battlefields that were once places where the farmers of Ukraine fed the world, but now are killing fields and have the potential to be minefields.

Such is the cost of war and the wages paid for in blood and suffering yet to come because of this needless conflict when one man, Russian President Vladimir Putin, decided to take his nation to war — a war Russia calls a special operation. There's nothing special about it. The only thing that would be truly special would be if Russian society decided once and for all to put an end to all of this needless conflict.

Stewart Resmer Wayne The writer is a Vietnam veteran.

Promoting seat belt safety

We are members of Indian Hills High School's "Click Clack Front and Back" club, which promotes seat belt safety in our community.

On June 9, Assemblyman Robert Auth visited "Click Clack Front and Back," supporting our efforts with Bill A5163, introduced on Feb. 6, as the companion to Bill S3323, introduced by Sen. Holly Schepisi on Nov. 14, 2022. We want to thank Auth for his support of seat belt safety. While at our meeting, he contacted Gov. Phil Murphy via video call, and they both commended us for our efforts and agreed that keeping passengers safe in New Jersey is vitally important.

The time to act is now! In 2021, 699 people lost their lives on New Jersey roads. This is an increase of more than 19% over 2020 (586 people were killed), according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. NHTSA reports that more than 52% of passenger vehicle occupants killed that year were unrestrained, when restraint use was known. This is an increase over 2020 (46% of passenger vehicle occupants killed were unrestrained, when restraint use was known).

According to road safety advocates and officials, the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day is called the “100 Deadliest Days of Summer,” so we must upgrade this law to a primary offense in New Jersey. We recognize that teenagers are more inclined to engage in safe behavior when legal aspects are involved. It’s time to upgrade our seat belt law and lives.

Jill Fackelman The letter was sent on behalf of student members of “Click Clack Front and Back” of Indian Hills High School in Oakland.

Request to postpone trial is premature

Regarding “Trump lawyers ask judge to postpone Florida trial” (July 12): This motion is premature. Donald Trump is not yet the party’s nominee for president.

The judge should reject this request.

Peter J. Peirano Ridgewood

Demand an end to nuclear weapons

Regarding “Historic ‘peace boat’ sails into NJ to promote nuclear disarmament, environmental justice” (May 18): On the Fourth of July, I strolled over the George Washington Bridge, jumped on the uptown A train and met the crew of the sailing ship the Golden Rule at Dyckman Marina.

Nine countries out of 193 U.N. member states harbor nuclear weapons.

While we still can walk over bridges, while we are able to effortlessly watch our children breathe unpoisoned air and drink untampered water, we must peacefully demand the dismantlement of all nuclear weapons by the United States, Russia, China, Pakistan, India, Israel, the United Kingdom, France and North Korea.

Julie Otto River Vale

FAA failures must be addressed

Regarding “FAA report accounts for hot mess at airports over holiday” (Opinion, July 9): Reading columnist Mike Kelly’s allinclusive article gives credibility to what air travel could look like in the future, as the nation recently experienced chaos over this past July Fourth holiday. My

personal observation is that very little has changed over time.

The Federal Aviation Administration has had many opportunities to recognize and correct specific acute problems, none more acute than the alarming shortage of air traffic controllers. The FAA has never attempted to repair the damage done when President Ronald Reagan fired the controllers' union decades ago. I quote from the article: "It's all too easy to blame government for these problems. But in this case, the finger of blame is entirely justified. Simply put: The FAA needs to step up and step in."

I have had personal experience over a 12-year span confronting the FAA as president of Citizens' Air Rights Inc., representing Bergen County, and a member of the statewide New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise. In 1987, the FAA implemented the Expanded East Coast Plan, the most massive restructuring of aircraft routes in history, and exposed millions to high levels of aircraft noise. Our efforts culminated in presenting testimony before the Subcommittee on Aviation Noise Policy in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 25, 1990.

Rodney Ruth Allendale

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