



# THE LEADER

81st Year, No. 37 Freeport, N.Y. 11520

A Herald Community Newspaper

Thursday, September 15, 2016

\$1.00



Freeporters remember 9/11 Page 3

The week ahead in Freeport Page 2

'Peace Walk' this Saturday Page 4

Arrest in murder of Freeport man Page 8



Hooper wins Dem. primary Page 23

## Cops rescue five from burning house

By LAURA SCHOFER

A raging fire did not deter two off-duty police officers from charging into a burning house in Freeport on Monday, Sept. 12, to save the lives of five people trapped inside. Freeport Police Officer Corey Cooke and Nassau County Police Officer Gary Boulanger, both in street clothes and without protective gear, withstood the fire's intense heat and heavy smoke conditions to lead two children, a 90-year-old woman and two adults to safety.

The victims and the police officers were transported to Nassau University Medical Center for their injuries, including smoke inhalation. Another victim, just outside the house, was also transported to NUMC. The police officers and five of the six residents have been

released. Dr. Victor Politi, executive director of NUMC, said the elderly woman is still hospitalized in the surgical intensive care unit.

"Swift action saved their lives," Nassau County Executive Edward Mangano said at a press conference on Monday. "Without their heroic efforts, this would have been a tragic and deadly event."



Laura Schofer/Herald

**OFFICERS RECEIVE COMMENDATION** for bravery after they rescue five people from a burning house in Freeport. NCPO Gary Boulanger, Freeport Police Officer Corey Cooke.

Cooke, who is also a lieutenant in the Freeport Fire Department, didn't wait for firefighters to arrive. He heard people calling for help and



Bill Kelly/Herald

**118 ROOSEVELT AVENUE** sustained heavy damage from a fire on Monday, Sept. 12. Eight people were injured, including two police officers.

entered the house. "You couldn't see much, just silhouettes in the living room," Cooke explained. "It was difficult to breath." He helped four people make their way to safety and then turned around and went back to help the fifth victim. He had to crawl on his hands and knees to reach an elderly, injured woman at the bottom of the staircase. He grabbed her under her arms and began to drag her out of the house.

Meanwhile, Boulanger, also on

his way to work, saw the fire and went to help. He entered the house and helped Cooke carry the elderly woman to safety. Both officers went back into the burning house to see if there were other people.

"As they got the [last] victim outside our Fire Department units were arriving," Matthew Colgan, assistant chief of the Freeport Fire Department, said. "Lt. Cooke advised me that all occupants were

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

## Freeport holds off East Meadow

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@theherald.com

After losing a one-point shootout at home against East Meadow last season, Freeport had all of its weapons on display in last Friday night's Conference I opener and held on to win a thriller, 42-40.

Junior Aaje Grayson had a 35-yard touchdown run and a 35-yard punt return for a touchdown in the third quarter as the Red Devils erased a six-point deficit on the way to avenging last year's 41-40 defeat. Senior quarterback Rashad Tucker threw a pair of scoring passes and rushed for 111 yards, and senior Jahred Wray found the end zone twice. The Jets were led by senior Justin Reyes, who had rushing and receiving touchdowns as well as a two-point conversion run.

"We knew they were coming in here with a very good football team," Freeport head coach Russ Cellan said. "We have a bunch of guys who can step on the gas and go," he added. "I thought a big thing tonight was how well our inexperienced linemen were able to grind it out. We have

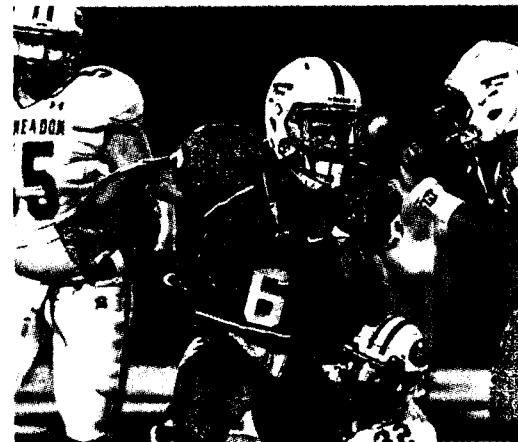
all new linemen on both sides of the ball."

The Red Devils held their own in the trenches and won the battle of special teams. In addition to Grayson's punt return, senior kicker Will Presbrey went 6-for-6 on extra-point tries, and Tucker bombed a long punt to East Meadow's 5-yard line with less than two minutes remaining. Meanwhile, the Jets failed to convert three extra points.

"Sometimes you're the hammer, and sometimes you're the nail," East Meadow head coach Vin Mascia said. "Tonight we were the nail. We made some big plays offensively, but our defense had a real difficult time with their speed. We couldn't simulate that kind of speed in practice. They have four exceptional skill players."

Freeport scored all three times it touched the ball in the third quarter after the visitors took a 27-21 lead on senior Joe Matchekosky's second touchdown of the night just two minutes into the second half. The Red Devils responded with a quick two-play drive, set up by senior Elijah Campbell's kickoff return to the 46. Tucker ran for 19 yards on first down, then Grayson found

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9



Keith O'Reilly/Herald

**SENIOR ELIJAH CAMPBELL** opened the scoring in Freeport's 42-40 win over East Meadow last Friday night with a 17-yard touchdown run in the first quarter.

\*\*\*\*\*FIRM CAR-RT LOT\*\*C029  
0112554 LIG 08/24/2017  
FRPT MEMORIAL LIB  
144 W MERRICK RD # 3  
FREEPORT NY 11520 3726

