TWO SECTIONS

CLARK, N.J., VOL. 13 NO. 20

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2003

myclark.com

Tax critics speak out against construction plans

Former councilman calls library timing all wrong

The Clark School District is appealing a \$31.4 million construction plan that was defeated in two separate

Gov. James McGreevey is cutting state budgets and eliminating aid to local schools and municipalities.

Health insurance costs are soaring, with the result the municipal budget is likely to jump as well.

With all these other expenses, it's the wrong time for the Township Council to consider spending nearly \$2 million to expand the library, said Bill Caruso, a former councilman who lives on School Street.

The current Township Council disagrees. On Monday, council members expect to introduce a bond ordinance to spend \$1.7 million expanding the library. The ordinance would be voted on March 17, when it would require a supermajority to pass.

"To me it's absurd," Caruso said of the library plan. "You can quote me on that in big, bold letters."

In a conversation Monday afternoon, Caruso accused council members of fiscal recklessness not only in the timing of the proposal but in its price tag, of exaggerating the need for the expansion, and of engaging in politics with the library at the expense of the community.

"I'm not opposed to a library expansion," said Caruso. "This is a very bad time now to do it. They should plan on doing it when they can afford it."

The annual tax impact of the library expansion remains uncertain, but could range anywhere from \$10 to \$30 per household, depending on the availability of grants and state aid.

The final outcome of the Board of Education's bond appeal also is not known.

State Commissioner of Education William Librera could authorize part or all of the \$31.4 million bond, which would be offset by up to 40 percent of the total cost in state funds.

That expected tax increase, combined with a municipal budget that called for a \$100 increase in the average Clark homeowner's municipal property tax, makes any library project too expensive, Caruso said.

"Sooner or later, everyone's going to be too poor to live in Clark," he said. "This should be on a referendum. Isn't this what democracy is about?"

The addition would add about 8,900 square feet to the library's interior by moving the front wall toward Westfield Avenue. The library now has about 12,000 square

Plans also call for expanding the second floor of the library, now a narrow section of shelves running along the far wall from the entrance.

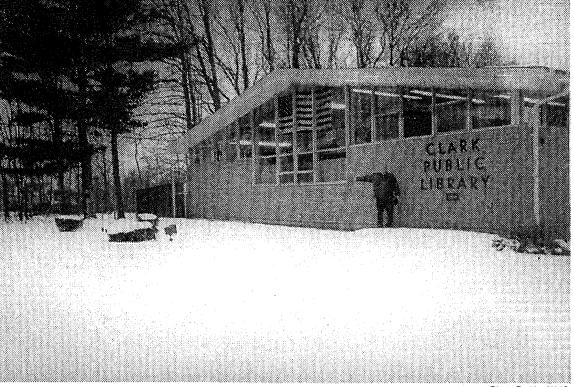
Under the proposal, the second floor would have more tables and chairs for quiet reading and study.

The first floor would contain noisier activities such

the children's library and activities. The basement of the library also would be altered to

provide meeting rooms "That whole construction thing should not cost more

than \$700,000," said Caruso. "I've been in construction



Resident Bill Caruso of School Street stands in front of Clark Public Library, stretching him arms out to signify the anticipated expansion project, which he opposes.

for 30 years, and I'm telling you you could do that."

Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, who supports the expansion project, was skeptical of the \$700,000 price tag Caruso

"Bill's delusional, God bless him," Bonaccorso said. "We're going out to bid. This was an architectural plan with the architect saying it was his best guesstimate of what it would cost."

If a responsible bid comes in at \$700,000, the Township Council would be obligated legally to accept it.

No data were available about where individual library visitors came from, but a counter at the front door reported there were about 8,000 visitors in January.

That level of traffic often forces people to wait to use resources such as the computer stations, and can create conflicts between children who are noisy by nature and older library patrons who appreciate quiet while they read.

"In terms of open spaces and tables for people to work at, we're sitting on top of one another," said Library Director Maureen Wilkinson. "This is a very small library. I worked in a similar-size town, with 15,000 people, and it was a much bigger library."

Caruso disagrees.

In his reading, many of the visitors come from places like Rahway, where the library is not expected to open until later this summer, and from other communities with limited library access.

Once those situations change, the need for more space in Clark will evaporate, he said.

"There's going to be no people here to warrant 12,000 extra square feet," said Caruso. "They can never justify the need."

Not surprisingly, Bonaccorso not only believes the need for an expansion is legitimate, he believes the township is in a position to provide it.

The township has an A bond rating with Standard and Poor's Corp., and can borrow at an interest rate of 1 to

1½ percent. "That's the lowest we've seen probably in the history of the town," said Bonaccorso. "We're in pretty decent

shape right now. There's going to be an increase, but it's not going to be astronomical." Bonaccorso also argues the township has prepared for the library expansion by taking a low-key approach to

In 2001, the township sold \$248,000 worth of municipal bonds, followed by \$650,000 in 2002.

The effort to approve the library expansion failed last year when Republican 1st Ward Councilwoman Dolores "Dee" Memmer joined her Democratic colleagues, 3rd Ward Councilman Rich Kazanowski and 4th Ward Councilman Marty Ferrara in opposing the measure.

All three council members lost re-election bids in November — an event Bonaccorso sees as a public referendum on the library expansion.

Caruso disagrees, and maintains the project is too much to ask taxpayers for at this point.

"The problem with this council is they want it now," he said. "It's the wrong time. They could build an expansion on the library in the future and no one'll complain."

Advocate pledges to fight school work

By David Learn **Managing Editor**

Betty Schroek agrees that Clark schools need fixing up, but don't expect her to support plans to pay for those

The Clark Board of Education on Feb. 24 will argue before Office of Administrative Law Judge Ken Springer that voters erred when they rejected plans to spend \$31.4 million on repairs and new construction.

Wrong or not, the voters decided not once but three times, and as far as Schroek is concerned, that should be enough.

"If the people voted no three times, what more does it take?" asked Schroek, a Hutchinson Street resident. "They're still going to try for more money."

Under state statute, school districts may appeal referendums that are held twice. The school district brought the same \$31,425,430 plan before voters in December 2000 and again in February 2001. After a third, scaleddown, referendum also ended in defeat in September 2001, the Board of Education elected to appeal the first

"We can't afford the taxes we're paying now," said Schroek. "It takes a family apart. You need two and three jobs just to pay the taxes. People have kids and they have to ignore their kids while they go out and work."

School officials have expressed optimism that they will get a portion of the money requested in the first referendum. How much depends on the what Springer recommends and on the final decision of state Commissioner of Education William Librera.

At the time of the \$31.4 million proposal, the tax impact was projected at more than \$300 a year for the owner of the average Clark home. The smaller proposal would have had a tax impact of only \$120 a year, based on a 4.8 percent interest rate over 20 years.

The local Clark share of the \$31.4 million proposal would have been \$21,650,927, with the remaining \$9,774,403 coming from state aid.

The state aid still would be available to Clark if Librera decides in the district's favor, although the amount of aid would depend on what portion of the proposal receives approval. Springer will hear arguments from the school board

and other concerned residents - including Schroek, who

plans to send a letter detailing her objections - beginning at 9 a.m. Feb. 24 in the municipal courtroom. Springer will hear additional testimony at 7:30 p.m. After Springer finishes receiving testimony, he will

have 45 days to send Librera his recommendation on the appeal. Librera will have another 45 days to make his decision.

School officials and their supporters are hoping Librera will decide in the district's favor. Schroek hopes he decides for lower taxes.

"I think the important thing is to remember the state of our economy," she said. "Most people don't have the

Shared memories for Valentine's

By David Learn **Managing Editor**

Valentine's Day is Friday, and with its arrival will come the traditional gifts of candy, flowers and other tokens of affection among lovers young and old.

Not every couple's most special and romantic moments - such as marriage proposals - are tied to Valentine's Day, it remains a day for recalling those moments, no matter what time of year they came. For Bob Kobryn and Angel

Albanese of Stonehenge Terrace, married for 18 years, the valentine's season is when they decided to marry. The two of them had been dating

for about 10 years, and at the time were having their traditional Valentine's Day dinner at Laiero's Italian restaurant in Jersey City in 1983.

"Over dinner, she said to me, 'Do you think we'll ever get married?'

"And I said, 'Yeah, why not? Sounds like a good idea to me," said Kobryn. "She said, 'What do you think, do you want to get married?'

"I said, 'Sure, let's make it offi-

than \$4,000.

Sal and Geraldine Bonaccorso of Featherbed Lane met while the two of them were working in the real estate

"We started dating, and before you knew it, we became very serious,"

At one point after the two of them

By David Learn

Managing Editor

officials found reason to crow Tuesday night

over the performance of Clark students on

read a report to the Board of Education at its

monthly work meeting, detailing the involve-

ment of students in the school district's AP pro-

gram. AP courses generally are considered col-

took 198 Advanced Placement exams at the end

of the 2001-02 school year, often surpassing the

Students at Arthur L. Johnson High School

Fourteen students took more than one AP

Advanced Placement tests.

national average in their scores.

lege-level material.

School board members and administration

Douglas P. Felter, director of instruction,

corso and the jeweler had known each other growing up in Clark, so the business dealings of their significant others had allowed them to renew their old friendship. "He said, 'I think Gerri's a fantas-

tic woman," recalled Sal. "He says, 'When you're ready, if you want, come to me and I'll build you a ring like you've never seen'"

tionship, Geraldine sold a home to a

woman whose fiance, a Clark native,

was a jeweler in New York. Bonac-

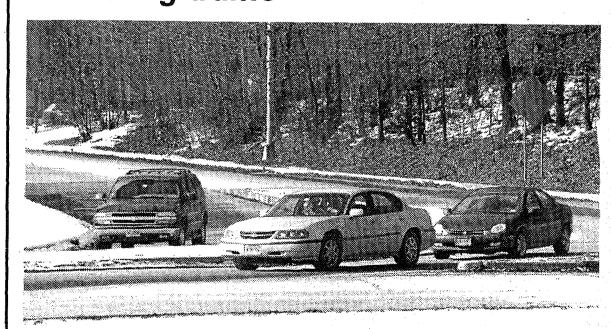
Sal did, and so one November evening, he and his future wife drove to Perth Amboy.

"I took her out to dinner that night, and before dinner I said, Let's take a walk on the dock," said Sal.

He recalls a setting sun on the water, with the lights of the restaurant shining behind them when he pulled out the ring and asked Geraldine to marry him.

"I held her hand up in the air and held the ring and walked off the dock to make sure it wouldn't fall into the water, just in case," he said.

Oncoming traffic



Cars getting off the Garden State Parkway at Exit 135 come to a stop as the drivers crane their necks to see if anyone is coming. The exit is one of the busiest in the region because there are no Parkway exits in Woodbridge.

Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Monday in observance of Presidents Day. The deadlines for the Feb. 20

edition are as follows: · Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. - Friday, noon.

• Letters to the editor — Friday, noon. What's Going On — Friday,

3:30 p.m. Display ads — Friday noon for Section B and 5 p.m. for Section A.

 Sports news — Friday, 9 a.m. General news — Tuesday, 9 · Classified advertising - Tues-

day, 3 p.m. Legal advertising — Tuesday From that unorthodox proposal

came an equally unorthodox way of selecting an engagement ring. Rather than searching high and low to find the perfect ring to surprise his future bride, Kobryn set her and her mother off on the quest on his behalf. His only stipulation: It couldn't cost more

Albanese, a certified public accountant, found one that cost \$3,999.

"She came in a dollar under the cap," said Kobryn, who still finds it amusing 20 years later. "We have a lot of tongue-in-cheek humor with things

business

said Sal, who is Clark's sitting mayor.

had developed a serious dating rela-

Officials were especially pleased with the district's above-average standing because Clark pays for every student enrolled in an AP course to take the test. Other schools give the test only to students they expect will do well, with the result their average scores are skewed upward.

Clark high school students excel at advanced courses

"The AP results for ALJ students in 2002 were exemplary, perhaps the best our students have ever done," Felter told board members in a report he read from the lectern.

AP test scores register on a scale of 1 to 5, with the score of 3 generally considered to be the standard for "passing" the test. Students who score a 4 or a 5 may be eligible for college cred-

The school administered AP exams in three science courses, biology, chemistry, physics; three mathematics courses, calculus, statistics

and computer science; two English courses, language and literature; Spanish; and three social studies courses, European history, psychology, U.S. history.

Students did especially well in the science tests. Eighteen students took the AP biology exam, with 15 of them scoring at least a 3. Three students scored 5s.

On the chemistry exam, all eight students who took the test scored a 3 or better - four students scored 5s, resulting in a section average of 4.37, above the national average of 2.83.

"The mathematics and computer AP classes need some adjusting," said Felter.

That statement was based on the statistics exam, which fully 44 students took. Only 12 scored a 3 or higher.

"A number of students took the course without having demonstrated ability to handle rigors of the class," Felter said.

The district had similar problems with the computer science AP test, where only three of the 13 students to take the test scored 3 or better.

"While there was slight progress from a year ago, the curriculum will have to be adjusted to meet the needs of these students," said Felter.

The interest in Advanced Placement tests has grown nationally. In 1986, students nationwide took a total 45,427; by 2002, that number had

grown to 230,967. "ALJ was an early advocate of the program, and the administrative staff constantly evaluates possibilities for increased participation," said

Felter.

Welcome to THE EAGLE

How to reach us:

The Eagle 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. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed

Voice mail:

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

To subscribe:

The Eagle is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$21.00, two-year subscriptions for \$38.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover Card.

Missing newspaper:

If your Eagle did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for

Back issues:

To purchase back issues of The Eagle please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

News items:

News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

Story reprints:

For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

Letters to the editor:

The Eagle provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and

The Eagle accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is Editorial@localsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m.

Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising accepted by e-mail.

To place a display ad:

Display advertising for placement in the general news section of The Eagle must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

To place a classified ad: The Eagle has a large, well read

classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Master Card, Visa, American Express or Discover Card. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-564-8911, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To place a public notice:

Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. The Eagle meets all New Jersey State Statutes regarding public notice advertising. Public notices must be in our office by Tuesday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 1-908-686-7700 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

Facsimile transmission:

The Eagle is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by Fax. Our Fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 201-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-4169.

Web site: Visit our Web Site on the Internet called Localsource online at

http://www.localsource.com. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate and hometown chat.

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Mother Seton essayists win awards

Juliette Mohammed, a senior a Mother Seton Regional High School Clark, has been cited as a winner in the 2002 Achievement Awards in Writing program sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of Eng-

Mohammed was nominated as Mother Seton's representative to the contest in her junior year. She was selected as one of 600 students nationwide who had their writings submitted.

In addition, Mohammed was named as one of 23 student writers in New Jersey by the National Council of Teacher of English.

At Mother Seton Regional High School, Mohammed is designated as a Seton Distinguished Scholar, following a rigorous curriculum of advanced placement and honors level courses. This is the second consecutive year a student from Mother Seton has been selected by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Giselle Assuncion, a junior at Mother Seton, was selected as a winner in the youth essay contest cosponsored by Union County Voice magazine and Valley National Bank.

One winner was chosen to represent each of the three preselected grade categories.

Assuncion's essay won in the grade nine-to-12 category. The essay topic was titled "Moving Forward:



Juliette Mohammed, a senior at Mother Seton Regional High School, has been cited as a winner in the 2002 Achievement Awards in Writing program.

What Positive Lessons Can We Take With Us From 9-11?" Assuncion commented that she "witnessed the good that came out of hard times" and focused her essay on this theme.

Assuncion is designated as a Seton Distinguished Scholar at Mother Seton following a rigorous curriculum of advanced placement and honors level courses.

Free blood screening to be offered Feb. 20

In honor of "February is Amer- lesterol screenings to Clark resiwith Complete Care of Scotch cafeteria, 430 Westfield Ave. Plains, will offer free blood pres-

ican Heart Month," the Clark dents from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. Health Department, in conjunction 20 at the Charles H. Brewer School

A two-hour fast is required for sure, blood sugar and quick cho- the blood sugar screening. Partici-

pants are advised that the quick cholesterol screening takes about 3 minutes to read.

For more information, contact Nancy Ogonowski, health officer, at 732-388-3600, Ext. 3045.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by The Clark Eagle to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To publicize your community events, mail your schedule to: The Clark Eagle, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union,

• The Clark Soccer Club will hold its 2003 spring registration from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, Westfield

Registration is open to all boys and girls who live or attend a school in Clark and who were born between July 1, 1988, and July 31, 1998. For more information, call the registrar at 732-381-7338 or send email to csc.registrar@comcast.net.

Friday

· Featured artists will attend an opening reception from 8 to 10 p.m. at Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway. Admission is free, with refreshments served. For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak at 732-382-7197.

Saturday

• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will host an interactive dramatic workshop by Youth Stages, titled "The Elves and the Shoemaker," for children from 3 to 5 years old from 11 to 11:30 a.m. The event is free, but registration is required.

Sunday • Bishop Justin J. McCarthy Knights of Columbus Council 5503, 27 Wesfield Ave., will celebrate Polish Day with a dinner of popular Polish dishes from 1 to 4 p.m.

The cost is \$8 for adults and \$3 for children 3 to 12 years old. For more information, contact Grand Knight Anthony Fiorillo at 732-340-9781 or Bill Moore at 908-272-0307.

Tuesday

• The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Public Safety Building, 315 Westfield Ave.

Wednesday

• Nicole Ingra, a certified holistic practioner, will present a program on natural holistic first aid methods practiced through the ages, at 7:30 p.m. in the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave. The program is free to the public.

Upcoming

Feb. 22

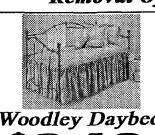
• Osceola Presbyterian Church will sponsor its annual winter carnival from 1 to 4 p.m., featuring activities for at the family. Admission costs \$5 and includes tickets for the crafts, games and food. For more information, call the church at 908-276-5300.

• The Deutscher Club of Clark Inc., 787 Featherbed Lane, will have a Presidents' Birthday Dance.





Any Size Complete Bed

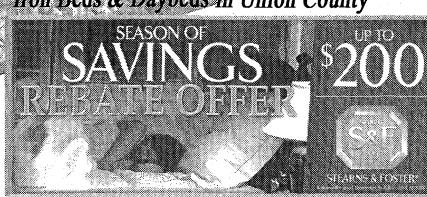


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Sealy Posturepedic Cushion Firm Feel

> Full Each Pc. King 3 Pc. Set 1,299

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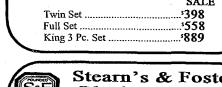
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CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Think of the children first at contract time too

The New Jersey School Boards Association began a petition and post card drive last week that calls on the governor and Legislature to avoid a second consecutive hike in local property taxes by fully funding education for 2003-04, as required by state law.

It's called the "Put Children First" project.

Edwina M. Lee, the executive director of the NJSBA was quoted in a press release sent by the organization. In it, she says, "We recognize the financial realities the state is facing, but there are also fiscal realities at the local level. Public education cannot endure a second consecutive year of inadequate state funding. Schools need the resources that are supposedly guaranteed by law so they can give children the level of education they deserve "

Lee fails to mention, and she should be held accountable for this, that school budgets rise annually, regardless of how much state aid is given to a school district and how much aid is withheld.

And we all know the reason why. Yet nobody wants to address it pub-

More than 75 percent of school budgets throughout the state consist of salaries and benefits, all paid by the public even if a budget fails at the polls on school election day.

If a budget fails, and the first school district that comes to mind is the Clark School District, the first thing that we hear is, "Our programs are going to be cut."

That's right. They will be. But never in a governing body's review of a failed school budget do we hear anything about eliminating teaching positions or administrative staff posi-

Okay, so we might hear that on the lips of school board members, but how often does it really happen that a teaching staff is reduced because the public, the people who pay the salaries and benefits, go to the polls and tell their school administrators that they've had it and reject the spending plan?

Why is it that taxpayers never see in the public sector a year with no salary increases? Yet school board members — and after 15 years in the local newspaper business I've heard it plenty of times — will be the first to say that contracts are contractual and they can't do anything about changing

Throw as much mud as you can,

For The Record

By Tom Canavan Editor in Chief

and I guess some of it will stick. But this is an example of a quote delivered for the nonthinking part of the general public.

Of course school boards have the power to change. That occurs when negotiations begin for the next contract, and if a school board and teachers' union negotiations committees were meeting this year, for example, this would be a perfect time for both groups to declare that a salary increase for school district personnel would be out of the question. An increase will have to begin in the second year of the three-year contract.

I know when I say that, teachers are going to write letters declaring that they have taxes to pay, and costs rise for them too.

They do for me too, and millions of other people working in the private sector, but those of us in the private sector don't believe that we have an inalienable right to a salary increase every year.

Take a look at the South Orange-Maplewood School District, for example. Last year, the governor did not give additional aid to school districts because it was a tight year.

If I were a school administrator, I'd have been thinking about that when I was preparing this year's budget. And if I were an administrator in the South Orange-Maplewood district, I would have been smart to do

Projected state aid figures released by the Department of Education last week reveal that the district will get nothing in state aid versus last year's figures. That means that the district has not received an increase in more than two years.

So tell me how the school board and teachers' union can agree on three vears of increases that reflect 4.5 percent in the first year, 5.5 percent in the second year and 4.75 in the third

It doesn't make sense.

All this will do is increase the portion of the school budget for salaries and benefits and impact negatively

the portion reserved for the children. But in a district such as South Orange-Maplewood, where budgets are not voted on by the public, it's an automatic tax increase for property

If it's like most other districts in the state where citizens vote on the

really get hurt.

And I thought we were supposed to put the children first in this petition

Tom Canavan can be reached at Tcanavan@thelocalsource.com.

VIA holds first evening meeting

The first evening meeting of the General Federation of Women's Club Cranford Village Improvement Association was held Jan. 23 at the home of Elaine Hamilton, chairwoman of the evening division.

Marge Bowman, president of the Cranford VIA; Mildred Leonard, financial secretary of the NJSFWC state executive board; and Andrea Augustyn, membership chairwoman of the Cranford VIA, spoke to

prospective members Kathy Bocchiaro and Judy D'Ambola about the VIA's past accomplishments, upcoming events and the goals set by this local 106-year-old philanthropic organization.

The evening meetings were created for women who wish to join the VIA but who are unable to attend the regular daytime meetings held at B.G. Fields, Springfield Avenue, Westfield, the second Tuesday of every month.

Check all fluids. Lube chassis.

Free safety inspection.

Garden Club gathers for reading of poetry

The Floraphile Garden Club will meet at 1 p.m. Monday at the home of Shu Foppert. Dessert co-hostess is

Peg Campbell. The program will be "Poetry of Gardens and Flowers," with member participation.

President Betty Duckworth will preside at the business meeting.

Photography club to meet, hold contest

The Cranford/Millburn Camera Clubs will hold open competitions among black-and-white prints, color prints and slides at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 at the George Bauer Center, Main Street and Whittingham Terrace.

BRAKE SAVINGS COUPON

2-WheeL

Install new brake shoes or pads

on front axle, inspect calipers, master cylinder, hoses and lines. Add brake fluid as necessary. Machine tool rotors or resurface drums.

Semimetallic pads \$20 extra. Hub type rotor extra.

<u>AMERICAN</u>

Disc Brake Service

Slides have an assigned subject also on tabletop glassware.

The judge will be Joseph Thomas, a member of the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs.

Women's club holds convention March 25

The GFWC Village Improvement Association of Cranford will have an achievement day convention March 25 at The Westwood in Garwood.

Lucy Lettier will run a bus ride to Doolan's in Spring Lake April 10, for a ragtime show. The cost will be \$57, with departure from Centennial Avenue Pool.

The Village Improvement Association is a branch of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which does philanthropic work.

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UNION HOSPITAL



Jim and Sally Harrington and Murray Rose were the 2003 recipients of the Martin Luther King Jr. award, given out by the Cranford Clergy Council.

OBITUARIES

Robert L. Besser

Robert L. Besser, 84, of New Providence, formerly of Cranford, died Feb. 4 in the Glenside Nursing Home, New Providence.

Born in Arlington, Mass., Mr. Besser lived in Sidney, N.Y., Westfield and Cranford, before moving to New Providence a short time ago.

owned and operated Mechaniks Bike Shop, Plainfield, with his son, Robert G. Besser, for many years.

Mr. Besser served as an aviation cadet in the Army Air Corps from 1940 to 1943 and as first lieutenant in the Air Force Det. A. 202nd Air Service Group until 1949.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

APOSTOLIC

CORNERSTONE APOSTOLIC

Currently meeting at St. Lukes Episcopal Church 398 Chestnut Street, Union, NJ 07083 Pastor Michael Gibney 973-912-0522 or web site: WWW.NOPAST.COM Services: Sunday 11AM, Thursday 7:30 PM Sunday School 3-6 yr. olds, 7-12 yr. olds, Nursery
Free Home Bible Course Available!

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BAPTIST

110th Church Anniversary celebration, 378 East Milton Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey, 732-381-1950. Reverend Dr. James W. Ealey Pastor. Come Worship and Praise. ANNUAL FALL REVIVAL, Tues., Nov. 12th to Fri. Nov. 15th, Services nightly at 7:30pm. Rev. Dr. Marion Franklin, First Baptist Church, Vauxball, MINISTRY OF MUSIC, Tues. Church Inspirational Choir and The Youth Choir, Wed., The Emergency Choir and The New Life Spiritual Voices, Thurs., The Male Chorus, Fri., First Baptist Church Choir. RECOGNITION OF 25 YEAR MEMBERS, Sun., Nov. 17th at 4pm, Guest: Reverend Clarence Price and Tiberian Baptist Church, St. Albans, NY. 110th ANNNIVERSARY SERVICE, Sun., Nov. 24th at 11am. Guest: Dr. John H. Kearney, Pastor, Matthews

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2933 Vauxhall Road, Vauxhall, New Jersey. We welcome you to our Worship Services where the Bible ONLY is the Standard of authority. We are simply Christians without being members of any denomination. You too can be just a Christian only. (acts-11:26, 1 Pet.4:16). The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus built His only one church (Matt 16:18, Eph 5:23, Rom 16:16). Therefore, all the churches NOT found in the Bible are Perverted Churches that exist with out Bible authority and are sinful. Thus failure to discern the truth from error is Fatal. Sunday 10 am Bible Study

11 am Worship Service 6 pm Evening Service Wednesday 7:30 pm Bible Study We are offering a private Bible Study at your convenience free for the asking. If you have a Bible question please call 908-964-6356.

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> PENTECOSTAL TRINITY PENTECOSTAL

HOLINESS FELLOWSHIP Wednesdays, 7:30 pm Midweek Service. Sun. 10am Nursing Home Ministry. Sun. 11 am Sunday School. Sun. 6:30pm Worship. Sat. 7:30pm Pentecostal Prayer. (Call for location

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ST. LEO'S CHURCH 103 Myrtle Ave., Irvington, 372-1272. Schedule for Masses: Saturday Eve. 5:30 p.m., Sunday 7:30 a.m., 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. (Spanish); Weekdays: Monday to Friday: 7:00 a.m., 8:00 a.m., 12 noon. Saturdays: 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon. Holydays: Eve 7:30 p.m., Holyday: 7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 noon. Miraculous Medal Novena: Mondays following the 12:00 noon Mass and at 7:15 p.m. Sacrament of Penance: Saturday: 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and following the 5:30 p.m. Mass.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX

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NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall community Newspapers no later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication. Please address changes to:

GRACE M. Worrall Community Newspapers 1291 Stuyvesant Ave. Union, NJ 07083

Also surviving are three daughters. Mary Judith Heatly, Diane F. Owings and Nancy E. Selfridge; 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Josephine Colicchio

Josephine M. Colicchio, 86, of Cranford died Feb. 3 in Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Colicchio moved to Cranford in 1998.

She worked at Steele Laundry, Jersey City, for several years.

Mrs. Colicchio was a member of the Rosary Society of St. Paul of the Cross Church, Jersey City.

Surviving are two sons, Joseph and Harold; two daughters, Patricia Venice and Jacqueline Shamburg; a brother, Tony Gaito; a sister, Millie Gaito, and nine grandchildren.

Charles L. Kardel

Charles L. Kardel, 75, of Prompton, Pa., formerly of Cranford, died Feb. 4 in Wayne Memorial Hospital, Honesdale, Pa.

Born in Roselle, Mr. Kardel lived in Cranford before moving to Prompton 14 years ago.

He was a firefighter with the Cranford Fire Department for 30 years before retiring.

Mr. Kardel also worked at Creter Vault Corp., Flemington, for 20 years. He served in the Merchant Marine

during World War II. Mr. Kardel later served in the National Guard.

He was a member of the Prompton Fire and Rescue Co. and was a fire policeman for both the Prompton and

Waymart fire departments. Mr. Kardel was a member and chaplain of American Legion Post 889, Waymart, and a member of the Fireman's Mutual Benevolent Association Local 37, Cranford.

Surviving are his wsife of 53 years, Mary; two sons, Charles John and John Paul; two daughters, Linda Millard and Diane; a brother, Paul; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone. Obituary notices must be typed and

include a telephone number where writer may be reached 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Thursday club

The Cranford Seniors Thursday Club meets at the Community Center, 222 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

Cranford Seniors Thursday Club meets at Community Center, 222 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

The following programs have been scheduled:

 Today — trivia, followed by King and Queen Valentine Lottery; Feb. 20 — BONCO

• Feb. 27 - Peter O'Hagen, from AAA, will speak on Safe Winter Driving. Bring donations for Cranford Family Care.

Upcoming trips include:

· Feb. 25, Atlantic City, Caesars, call 908-272-6828.

· March 23 to 26, Washington, D.C. Four days, six meals; cruise on the Potomac River, visit the U.S. Capitol, Library of Congress, Supreme Court, Kennedy Center, Botanical Gardens, Embassy Row, White House, Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln memorials, Jefferson Memorial, Washington Monument, and Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. Trip is expected to cost \$483.

A stopover in Baltimore's Inner Harbor en route also is planned.

• June 9 to 12, Lake George, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. · Sept. 22 to Oct. 10, Vegas and

National Parks, Branson, \$1,991. The public is welcome to all trips.

Cranford departure. Call 908-272-5375 for more information. Happy birthday to Betty Butler, Ann Fairchild, Marian Clay, Marge Daly, Rosalie Begenski, Fran Baker,

Walsh and Midge Jones. Happy 50th anniversary to Nancy and Bill Babos.

Mary Occi, Eileen Smith, Arleen

Monday movies

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department will show movies at the Cranford Community Center in the Audio Visual Room. Residents should arrive for the movie at 11 a.m. Monday. Movie will start promptly at 11:10 a.m. and will run until about 12:40 p.m.

The following movies will be

Monday: No movie. The Cranford Community Center will be closed for Presidents Day.

Feb. 24: "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" (95 minutes). This recent box office hit is a comedy/love story written by and starring Nia Vardalos, the lead actress in this film. Enjoy the story of a Greek-American woman in her early 30s whose family just wants her to marry a suitable "Greek

Tax assistance made available for seniors

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with the American Association of Retired Persons will take appointments for free tax assistance.

Cranford taxpayers 60 and older can call the Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283 to reserve a time slot with a tax practi-

Appointments are being made on either Mondays or Fridays through April 11, with slots open for noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

All appointments will be at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., in Room 205.

It is recommended that taxpayers bring a copy of their previous year's state and federal returns; this years state and federal tax return booklets and all information pertinent to this year's return, such as W-2 forms, 1099 INT, DIV. pension statement,

NJ LIC #122866

SPACE AVAILABLE

SENIOR NEWS

Social Security form and their property tax bill.

Cranford shut-ins or those physically unable to come to the community center can call with their name, telephone number and address and a tax consultant will call for an appointment at the home.

Walking club

Did you know that walking helps slow the aging process? Walking is a natural exercise for fun and fitness and a one-hour walk can burn as many as 400 calories.

With these great statistics, the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors 60 and older to join the Walking Club. The club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The group generally enjoys outdoor walking. This includes walking in scenic areas, such as Nomahegan Park, Tamaques Park in Westfield. Warinanco Park in Roselle, Surprise Lake in Berkeley Heights, Rahway River Park, a leisurely walk through Cranford, and other general areas of interest to the group.

Indoor mall walking is done in inclement weather. Drivers are always welcome, as different walking locations require transportation.

For more information, call the Recreation Department at 908-709-7283. Registration for the program is required prior to participation.

Aerobics class

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors 60 and older to join the senior aerobics class at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Class meets 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. every Thursday. Class includes a warm-up period, a workout to music using all major muscle groups and a cool-down period.

The intensity of exercise depends on the individual. Seniors are encouraged to participate in exercises at their own pace. To register for the program, com-

plete a senior registration form at the Community Center. Class is limited

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 709-7283.

Friday club

The Cranford Seniors Friday Club meets at the Community Center, 222 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

Upcoming meetings include: Friday: Valentine social. Feb. 21: Bingo/social.

Feb. 28: Bingo/social

The following members, of the ranford Seniors Friday Club, have February birthdays: Markowich, Feb. 11. The following trips are planned:

· March 12: Atlantic City, \$16, departing from the Centennial Avenue Pool at noon. Other trips scheduled for April 9, May 14 and June 11. • March 16 to 22: Florida Winter

Getaway 2003, seven days, six nights, \$429 per person double occupancy, with tours of St. Augustine, Jacksonville and Savannah, Ga.; dinner cruise and entertainment on the St. John's River; dinner and betting at Jacksonville Orange Park Kennel Club; six nights deluxe hotel accommodations, four nights in Florida, 10 meals — six breakfast, four dinners - and more.

· April 23: Foxwood Casino in Connecticut, 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Cost is \$25; bonus is \$25, with \$10 in food and keno free spins.

· Aug. 20: Country Hoe-Down, Mount Haven Country Resort, Milford, Pa. Indoor and outdoor activities, plus breakfast buffet and dinner choice of sirloin of beef, Virginia ham, chicken or chili, and four-hour open bar. Cost is \$55. The event will run 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

· Oct. 22: Fall Foliage Tour. Narrated tour through the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Luncheon at the Inn at Hunts' Landing. Cost is \$45. Event will run 9 a.m. to 4:30

For reservations and/or more information, call Helen at 908-276-

Billiards class held

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors 60 and older to play billiards at the Cranford Community Center noon to 2:30 p.m. Fridays. Instruction from a staff member will be available.

Sessions will cover sportsmanship topics like playing the game without outside disturbances, proper methods of holding the cue stick and making the stroke; and explanations of how the game is played and scored, with the proper procedure for racking the balls for each game.

Proper care of equipment will be addressed so as to avoid dropping cues, keeping the table clean and when to chalk cues.

Proficiency in the game by the group may result in tournaments with other municipalities.

For more information, call the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

Linden Lanes trips

Cranford seniors are welcome to enjoy bowling at Linden Lanes at 10 a.m. Mondays. Teams consist of five members. Three games are played each week.

To sign up for the program or for more information, call Linden Lanes at 908-925-3550.

For more information, call the Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

Ceramics class held Senior Ceramics meets at the

Cranford Community Center from 9 to 11 a.m. Wednesdays in the arts and crafts room. Class is free to Cranford seniors. Materials cost extra.

Bridge on Thursdays

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department reminds Cranford seniors that the Bridge Club meets Thursdays at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

The morning session is from 10 a.m. to noon, and the afternoon session is from 12:45 to 2:45 p.m. Beginners and advanced players are wel-

All games are played in an airconditioned room. For more information, call 908-709-7283.

Social dancing The Cranford Recreation and

Parks Department would like to invite Cranford seniors 60 and older to join the fun and excitement of social danc-The class meets 1:15 to 2:15 p.m.

Wednesdays at the Cranford Commu-

nity Center, 220 Walnut Ave. A professional dance instructor is available at every class. You do not need a partner to participate. The class is a great way to make new friends, reduce stress, increase

energy and improve strength, muscle tone and coordination. Class is free, but registration is required. For more information, call the

Cranford Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

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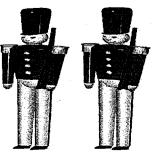
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Editor: JR Parachini Can be reached in Maplewood at 973-763-0700

SPORTS

Sports copy fax numbers Union County: 973-763-2557 Essex County: 973-674-2038

Best in county come out on top

By JR Parachini Sports Editor

Roselle Park won its seventh consecutive Union County Wrestling Tournament last Saturday at Union High, while second-place Scotch Plains had the most champions with

TEAMS: 1-Roselle Park 257. 2-Scotch Plains 220.5. 3-Rahway 192. 4-Westfield 142. 5-New Providence 139.5. 6-Brearley 92. 7-Gov. Livingston 89. 8-Cranford 84. 9-Elizabeth 83.5. 10-Johnson 75. 11-Union 69.5. 12-Linden 56.5. 13-Plainfield 39. 14-Roselle Catholic 13. 15-Oratory 8.

Roselle Park gained 41 more points this year than last, while Scotch Plains gained 64 more and improved from third to second.

Rahway was fifth last year with 126 points and Westfield ninth with 106.5, both improving.

FINALS

103: Darion Caldwell, Rahway, pinned Rob Mench, Westfield, 1:05. 112: Ed McCray, Rahway, dec. Joe Blackford, Roselle Park, 6-4 (OT).

119: Stephen Mineo, Scotch Plains, dec. Jon Reedy, New Providence, 17-2 (tech. fall 5:02).

125: Amin Queen, Elizabeth, dec. Derek Francavilla, Scotch Plains, 8-6. 130: Nick Zangari, Roselle Park, dec. Carlos Nicasio, Rahway, 16-1 (tech. fall 5:58).

135: Ethan Powell, Westfield, dec. Tim Vanderveer, Gov. Liv., 8-6.

140: Mike Fullowan, Gov. Livingston, dec. Bob Dent, Roselle Park, 9-8. 145: Lee Tomasso, West., pinned Pedro Coyt, S. Plains, 3:51.

152: Jim Garrison, Roselle Park, dec. Malcolm Jackson, Elizabeth, 8-5. 160: Charlie Bachi, Scotch Plains, dec. Ben Binko, Roselle Park, 5-2.

171: Andrew Silber, Scotch Plains, dec. Mike Rodriguez, Rahway, 10-4. 189: Shawn Mallory, New Provi-

dence, dec. Dan Zika, Brearley, 3-1. 215: Shawn Coughlin, Gov. Livingston, dec. Steve Carbone, Cranford, 6-5. HWT: Matt Loomis, Scotch

Plains, dec. Ronnell Orr, Linden, 3-1. Outstanding Wrestler (103-140): Darion Caldwell, Rahway, 103 Outstanding Wrestler

(145-HWT): Lee Tomasso, Westfield, 152 champ.

Coach of the Year: Fred Stueber, Rahway

Finishing Third

103-Kevin Blatt, Roselle Park 112-Ross Baldwin, New Providence 119-Troy MacDermant, Roselle Park 125-John Gura, Roselle Park 130-Jake Kramer, Westfield 135-Eric Connolly, Scotch Plains 140-Tom Deluca, Westfield 145-Joe Capone, Roselle Park 152-Brendan Small, Cranford 160-Alex Nowak, Johnson 171-Chris Winter, Johnson 189-Mark Fabiano, Scotch Plains 215-Jose Aravena, Roselle Park HWT-Chris Bouhoutsos. RP

Top Seeds

- 103: Darion Caldwell, Rahway
- 112: Ed McCray, Rahway 119: Amin Queen, Elizabeth
- 125: Derek Francavilla, S. Plains 130: Nick Zangari, Roselle Park
- 135: Tim Vanderveer, Gov. Liv. 140: Bob Dent, Roselle Park
- 145: Lee Tomasso, Westfield 152: Jim Garrison, Roselle Park
- 160: Charlie Bachi, Scotch Plains
- 171: Mike Rodriguez, Rahway
- 189: Shawn Mallory, New Prov. 215: Shawn Coughlin, Gov. Liv.
- HWT: Ronnell Orr, Linden · Nine top seeds won championships if you include Amin Queen, who was the top seed at 119, but

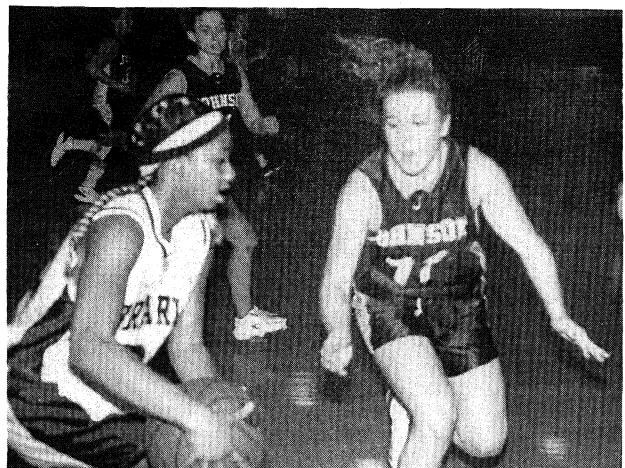
couldn't make weight and wrestled at

125, beating top seed Derek Franca-

- villa. Five top seeds finished second. · Amin Queen was the only one of the three returning champions to win again, setting a school record with his third championship. Queen finished second at 103 as a freshman and then won at 112, 119 and 125, reaching the finals all four of his seasons. Derek Francavilla finished second at 125 after winning at 103 last year, while Dan Zika finished second at 189 after
- Finishing second for a second straight season were Jon Reedy (112 and then 119), Joe Blackford (103 and then 112) and Steve Carbone (heavyweight and then 215). Champions that finished second last year were Nick Zangari (135 last year), Jim Garrison (145 last year) and Shawn Mallory (189 last year).

winning at 171 last year.

• Lee Tomasso finished third at 140, Stephen Mineo third at 112 and Tim Vanderveer third at 125 last year. Rob Mench finished fourth at 103 last year, Mike Fullowan fourth at 130 and Shawn Coughlin fourth at 215.



Johnson's Lauren Tomasovic (No. 11), right, defends against a Brearley player during their Mountain Valley Conference-Sky Division girls' basketball game last week in Kenilworth. Johnson won 57-29, with Tomasovic scoring seven points.

Turnaround is fair play for Johnson

Big improvement

By Jeff Wolfrum Staff Writer

Turnaround is fair play.

That could be the motto for the Johnson High School girls' basketball

The Crusaders have as many losses as they did wins from a year ago. As of Tuesday's scheduled game against visiting Immaculata, Johnson's record stood at 11-3.

Girls' Basketball

After suffering only its third loss in a 41-37 setback at Dayton on Jan. 31, Johnson won its 11th game in a 57-29 triumph at Brearley on Feb. 4. Freshman guard Jamilee Pflug poured in a game-high 14 points, while sophomore point guard Kerri Sullivan added 10.

Johnson opened its season with five consecutive victories.

The first victory was a 42-13 decision at Bound Brook on Dec. 20. Pflug and junior forward Lauren Tomasovic scored eight points apiece. Tomasovic scored two baskets during an 11-1 first quarter. Johnson then outscored its opponent 25-4 in the second half.

The Crusaders capped their run with a 49-36 victory at Newark Central on Jan. 7. Pflug led the charge with 11 points, while Sullivan added nine.

Johnson dropped its first game of the season in a 36-26 decision at Manville on Jan. 9. Junior center Lyndsay Molloy had eight points to lead the

Johnson bounced right back by winning four in a row to improve its record to 9-1.

The Crusaders started the streak with a 59-31 triumph at Technology on Jan. 16. Sullivan scored all five of her points in the first quarter to lead the way.

Johnson's last victory in the run came against visiting Newark Central on Jan. 23. Tomasovic scored 10 of her 14 points in the first quarter, while freshman forward Samantha Parin had six of her 11 points when Johnson opened a 19-7 lead. Pflug chipped in with 10 points, while Sullivan added

The Crusaders' four-game winning streak was snapped in a 34-27 decision at Roselle Park on Jan. 28. Parin sparked the offense with 11 points.

NOTES: Johnson will be competing in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs next month. The states commence March 3.

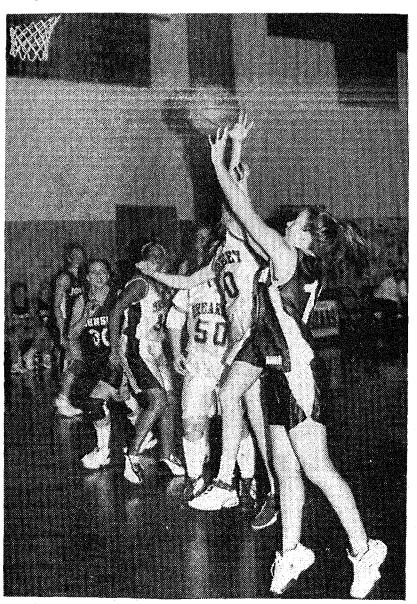
The Crusaders will be playing in a first-round UCT contest Monday. The quarterfinals follow later in the week, with the semifinals Feb. 25 and 26 and the final March 1 at the Elizabeth Dunn Sport Center.

Three teams have won their first UCT title in the past four seasons, those schools being Summit in 1999, Union in 2000 and Roselle in 2002. Union Catholic has won the most titles, its last in 2001.

Once-beaten Scotch Plains, which lost in the quarterfinals last year, is expected to be named the top seed this week. Scotch Plains has split with conference rival Shabazz.



Johnson's Jamilee Pflug (No. 5) goes up for two of her game-high 14 points in her team's victory over the Brearlev Bears.



Johnson and Brearley players battle for possession under the basket. The Crusaders entered Tuesday night's conference home game against Manville with an 11-3 record. Johnson's last scheduled regular-season game is tomorrow at home at 4 p.m. against Newark Tech. UCT firstround play is Monday and the states commence March 3.

Kargus and Nudo provide fireworks

Scoring plenty for Crusaders

By Jeff Wolfrum Staff Writer

How's Dan Kargus and Jon Nudo for a one-two punch?

The two have sparked the Johnson High School ice hockey team to an outstanding 10-3-2 record as of Sunday's 3-3 tie to Nutley at Floyd Hall Arena in

Nudo scored twice, while Kargus added a goal and an assist.

Kargus scored five goals, including the game-winner with six seconds left, to help lift the Crusaders past Wayne Valley 6-5 at Warinanco Rink in Roselle on

Nudo had nine goals in three games, including five in an 8-3 win over Dayton, to earn state Player of the Week honors from The Star-Ledger.

High School Ice Hockey

Both Kargus, a sophomore, and Nudo, a senior, scored in Johnson's 8-2 loss to Ridge Feb. 2 at the Bridgewater Sports Arena. Ridge improved to 16-1-1

It was a Lou DeMarzo goal that tied the Wayne Valley game for Johnson at 5-5. Kargus scored the game-winner off assists from Nudo and Craig

One of Johnson's top lines has been Kargus, Jim Augustine and Matt Nieroda, while Nudo and Alex Nucera excel on defense in front of standout goaltender Bryan Klimchak.

Kargus surpassed the 100-point total earlier this month for his two seasons so

Kargus fell one goal short of the state record for goals in a game when he connected for seven in a 9-0 victory over Millburn Jan. 7 at South Mountain Arena in West Orange. Kargus scored three goals in each of the first two periods. The standard of eight goals was set in 1994 by Hopewell Valley's Matt Kerr. Nudo and Dan Tice had a goal apiece, while Klimchak made 33 saves.

After dropping a 6-1 decision to Cranford at Warinanco on Jan. 8 to bring their record to 4-2-1, the Crusaders went on a six-game winning streak.

The first victory in the winning streak was a 3-1 triumph over Verona Jan. 15 at Warinanco. Kargus and Nudo scored in the third period to snap a 1-1 tie. NOTES: The Crusaders were scheduled to play Millburn Monday night at South Mountain Arena and last night were scheduled to skate against Westfield in their final regular-season contest.

Johnson will be competing in the Central Conference-White Division playoffs. The Crusaders stood behind Ridge and Cranford in the standings. The Public Schools State Tournament will commence the first week in

Johnson boys' basketball can look forward to competing in states

The Johnson High School boys' basketball team can look forward to participating in the state playoffs for the first time in 11 years and for only the second time in the past 20.

Johnson qualified for the North 2, Group 2 playoffs, which will commence

The Crusaders took an 8-6 record into Tuesday night's scheduled Mountain Valley Conference-interdivision game against Immaculata.

Johnson is scheduled to host Mountain Division rival Ridge tonight at 7 and then play at MVC-Valley Division rival Union Catholic tomorrow in Scotch

Johnson's last scheduled regular-season game is Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. vs. Gover-Johnson first lost to GL 83-54 in the championship game of the Panther Pride

Tournament at Roselle Park back on Dec. 28. The Crusaders then did a good job of rebounding in their first conference

matchup, winning 47-46 in Berkeley Heights on Jan. 10. Johnson lost its only game last week, falling to a 3-8 St. Mary's of Elizabeth squad 83-50 in Elizabeth. B.J. Kramer paced the Crusaders with a nine-point effort. Shawn Griffin had eight points and Jonathan Melli seven.

NOTES: The Union County Tournament will commence this weekend and then move on to first-round games Tuesday and Wednesday. The rest of the tournament will take place at the Dunn Sport Center in

The quarterfinals are Feb. 21 and 22, the semifinals Feb. 25 and 26 and the

Johnson grapplers get back to .500 after rolling past Roselle Catholic

The goal of the Johnson High School wrestling team was to get back to the .500 level after starting 1-5. Mission accomplished.

Johnson evened its record at 7-7 after winning at Roselle Catholic 42-21 on The Crusaders will now seek to go over the .500 mark tomorrow when they visit Colonia in a 7 p.m. start.

Johnson is then scheduled to host Newark Central Saturday morning at 11 and then Edison Wednesday night at 7. The Crusaders are then scheduled to compete in the Highland Park Tourna-

ment Feb. 22 in preparation for District 11 competition at Westfield on Feb. 28 and March 1. NOTES: Johnson finished 10th in last Saturday's Union County Tournament at Union, garnering 75 points. The Crusaders improved from last year's 11th

place finish of 51 points. Although it didn't have a champion, Johnson had two grapplers finish in third place, those standout wrestlers being Alex Nowak at 160 pounds and Chris

Winter, a senior, finished second at 171 last year when he lost to Dan Zika of Brearley 10-2 in the final. Zika was second at 189 this year.

Roselle Park won for the seventh consecutive season, totaling 257 points. Scotch Plains, with the most champions at three, finished second with 220.5

Clark's Mandel a select skater

Josh Mandel of Clark was a member of the 2003 United States University Select Hockey Team that competed in the 2003 Winter World University Games that were held Jan. 15-25 in Tarvisio, Italy.

Mandel, wearing No. 21, served as captain of the squad. He was also a member of the 2001 U.S. University Select Team that played in the 2001 Winter World University Games in Poland.

The 6-2, 205-pound defenseman is presently a senior at Penn State University and a standout for the Nittany Lion ice hockey team. Mandel is a member of three Penn State ACHA National Championship teams (2000-02) and is a threeyear ACHA First Team All-America (2000-02) selection.

As of Dec. 18, Mandel had notched 25 points on eight goals and 17 assists in this season's first 16 games. Mandel registered 34 points (8-26) in 34 games last year and had his most productive season two years ago, scoring 40 points on 10 goals and 30 assists in 28 games.

Mandel had 36 points on eight goals and 28 assists during his freshman campaign in 1999-2000.

Mandel, who will turn 24 on Feb. 9, played for the Auburn Junior Crunch in the Ontario Provincial Hockey League prior to joining the Penn State Icers. A health policy administration major, Mandel's parents are Michael and Lorrye Mandel.

Practitioner to show yoga to sisterhood

Wendy Gross of the Yoga and Healing Center in Scotch Plains will present a demonstration and an informational program on yoga to the Sisterhood of Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim, 338 Walnut Ave., at 8 p.m. Tuesday. The meeting is open to the public.

Sisterhood President Myra Stein will conduct a brief business meeting prior to the yoga program. Light refreshments will be served.

Call the synagogue at 908-276-9231 for more information.

Midwinter concert planned for Feb. 23

Gary Seighman will direct a midwinter concert at 4 p.m. Feb. 23 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 110 Eastman St.

The concert will feature the Concert Choir, Madrigal Choir, and Women's Ensemble of Cranford High School.

Admission is free. For more information, call 908-709-6272, Ext. 6312.

Adult forum focuses on reconciliation

"Healing Broken Relationships" is the topic of an ongoing four-session adult forum being presented by Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., in February.

Presenters will include experienced professionals from the fields of law, social work and the clergy.

The sessions are being held 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays throughout February in the lounge of Calvary's Education Building.

The public is invited and registration is not required.

Rather than taking a retributive approach of punishing by doing harm for harm, restorative justice seeks to solve problems, make things right and look to the future. It applies the Biblical principles of individual responsibility, repentance, forgiveness and

restitution.

Session leaders will examine the harm caused for all involved by the present system and will look at suggestions of how to repair the hurt to crime victims, offenders and the community.

Topics will include the definition of restorative justice, what the victim's needs are, what the offender's responsibilities area and what the community's role is.

The series is sponsored by the outreach ministry of Calvary Lutheran Church. For more information or directions to the church, call 908-276-

Calvary Lutheran Church is a member congregation of the New Jersey Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, serving the Cranford-Westfield area and surrounding communities for 74 years.

Counseling seminar offered for mourners

They teach, listen and provide sup-

port from the "inside out." Patti Williams, registered nurse and certified pastoral bereavement counselor, and psychologist Virginia Waters have both experienced the loss of family members and are walking the journey of wholeness every day of

Through their knowledge and first-hand experience, they offer genuine empathy and unique insight, as they lead the grief and loss support group from 7 to 9 p.m. Sundays in the Mettam Lounge of First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield

The focus of the support group is to equip those who have suffered loss or change within their lives with useful tools for recovery and selfempowered healing. The ongoing support group meets every week. New members are welcome at any time.

A six-week seminar is offered twice a year in the fall and the spring. The next seminar will start at 7 p.m.

Sunday at First Presbyterian Church. To register for the seminar or for information about the seminar or support group call Williams at 908-709-1341 or Waters at 908-276-2226.

Walk the 'labyrinth' at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church of Cranford, 11 Springfield Ave., offers a series of labyrinth walks in Bates Hall from 1 to 4 p.m. the first Sunday of every month. The next labyrinth walk will be Sunday, any time from 1 to 4 p.m., but begin the walk by 3:30 p.m. so it is completed by 4 p.m.

Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation being rediscovered in the present time. The 11-ringed pattern, painted on canvas, is modeled on the 13thcentury labyrinth at Chartres Cathe-

At that time, walking the labyrinth symbolized the Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem for people who could not make the journey.

For more information, call the church office at 908-276-8440.

About the Bible

"Journey of a Lifetime" is a study for interested students of all ages, providing a working knowledge of every book in the Bible, as well as a close look at many of the significant chap-

To make this journey more meaningful, a 226-page commentary filled with maps, charts and diagrams will be available. This study is designed in such a way that one may enter into the journey at any time or even for a single session.

Sessions covering the Old Testament will continue at 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays for one year, until the New Testament study has been com-

Sessions meet in an informal setting in Cranford with the Rev. Frank Sforza of Trinity Pentecostal Holiness Fellowship.

For more information or to enroll, call 908-276-6244.

NEWS CLIPS

RELIGION

Grants to fix walks now made available

A sidewalk replacement program is being offered by the Township's Office of Community Development.

This program has been funded again through a Union County Community Development Block Grant and will begin in early spring. Federal money will cover 70 percent of the replacement cost for deteriorated primary sidewalks and driveway aprons. Homeowners pay the remainder.

To be eligible, a family must have its income fall within limits estab-

The work consists of the following contracts:

CONTRACT NO. 12 -

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cranford Board of Education

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, sealed proposals will be received by the Cranford Board of Education per the drawings and specifications prepared by LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc., 445 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, NJ.

All bids shall be presented to the Cranford Board of Education by the bidders or their agents at 10:00 a.m. (prevailing time) on Tuesday, March 4, 2003 in the offices of the Cranford Board of Education, 132 Thomas Street, Cranford, NJ. All bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Proposed forms of contract documents, including plans and specifications can be reviewed at the office of the Board of Education. Bidders need not be present at the time of the opening of bids. If bid exceeds \$20,000, bidder must be prequalified by the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Building and Construction, prior to the date that bids are received. Any bid submitted under the terms of New Jersey Statutes not including a copy of a valid and active Prequalification/Classification Certificate will be rejected as being non-responsive to bid requirements.

active Prequalification or lassification of State Statutes (18A:18A-26) not including a copy of a valid and active Prequalification/Classification Certificate will be rejected as being non-responsive to bid requirements.

During the performance of the contract, the Contractor agrees as follows:

a. The Contractor or Sub-Contractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or affectional or sexual orientation. The Contractor will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or affectional or sexual orientation. Such action shall include but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demolition, or transfer, recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause;

The Contractor or Sub-Contractor, where applicable, will in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, sex or affectional or sexual orientation:

The Contractor or Sub-Contractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative of workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's committments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment;

d. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, C. 127 (NJAC 17:27), as amended and supplemented from time to time.

"When hiring workers in each construction trade, the Contractor or Sub-Contractor agrees to attempt in good faith to employ minority workers in each construction trade consistent with the applicable employment goal prescribed by Section 7.3 of said regulations; provided however, that the Affirmative Action Office may, in its discretion, exempt a Contractor or Sub-Contractor from compliance with the good faith procedures prescribed by the following provisions A, B, and C as long as the Affirmative Action Office is satisfied that the Contractor is employing workers provided by a union which provides evidence, in accordance with standards prescribed by the Affirmative Action Office, that its percentage of active "card carrying" members who are minority workers is equal to or greater than the applicable employment goal prescribed by Section 7.3 of the regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time. The Contractor or Sub-Contractor agrees that a good faith effort shall include compliance with applicable codes.

Copies of the drawings, specifications, and other documents for the proposed work may be obtained commencing Friday, February 14, 2003 at the offices of LAN Associates, Engineering, Planning, Architecture, Surveying, Inc., 445 Godwin Avenue, Midland Park, NJ 07432, Telephone #201-447-6400. The documents may be examined and obtained there between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. daily except Saturday, Sunday and holidays. A seventy-flive (\$75.00) dollar non-refundable deposit, payable to LAN is required for each set of drawings and specifications.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the Cranford Board of Education, US Government Bonds, or a satisfactory bid bond executed by the bidder and accepted sureties in an amount equal to ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bid, but in no case in excess of \$20,000, shall be submitted with each bid. The successful bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and materialmen's bonds issued by satisfactory sureties.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum caloriant and the satisfactory described the satisfactory and materialmen's bonds issued by satisfactory sureties.

Attention is called to the fact that not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications, or the latest revision thereof, must be paid on this project. The Contractor must comply with the "Equal Opportunity for Employment" requirements as promulgated by the Federal and State governments and as described in the bid documentation.

documentation.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days subsequent to the opening of bids without consent of the Board of Education.

Effective April 11, 2000, all bidders are placed on notice that they are required to comply with the requirements of the "new" law, PL. 1999 c. 238, "THE PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTOR REGISTRATION ACT."

All bidders and prime sub-contractors must be prequalified by the NJ EDA prior to bidding on this project.

BY ORDER OF THE CRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION UNION COUNTY, NJ:

Mr. Robert J. Carfagno, Business Administrator/Board Secretary

lished by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Income limits are \$38,100 or less for a one-person household, with gradual increments to \$71,800 or less for a family of eight or more.

Funds will be allotted on a firstcome, first-served basis. Applicants who have previously applied, but were unable to participate due to limited funding, are encouraged to reapply again as more funding is now available.

For more information or to apply call Elizabeth Zamorski at 908-709-

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Avenue West between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

7294 or visit the office at 29 S.

Registration urged for board candidates

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the Cranford Board of Education is 4 p.m. Feb. 24. The election is scheduled for April 15.

Prospective school board candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" in the Business Office of the Board of Education, 132 Thomas St., between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the school board candidate kit includes information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy, campaign procedures, and the role of the school board member.

Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in

ITEM

1 1999 BMW 528I

Mayor U5337 CCE Feb. 13, 2003

the school election process, and briefing sessions for the school board candidates are also included in the

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution to your community and its schools," said Glenn B. Ewan, NJSBA president. "I urge all qualified citizens to consider board of education membership. Serving on your local school board doesn't require a degree in education. The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interand their education."

Historical society seeks new members

accepting new members.

There are three levels of member- library to request help. ship: \$25, member; \$50, patron; and \$100 or more, benefactor.

Cranford Historical Society and

AMOUNT

(\$19.53)

mailed to the Cranford Historical Society, c/o Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 07016. For more information, call the

society at 908-276-0082. Founded in 1927, the Cranford

Historical Society has been preserving and perpetuating Cranford history for 75 years.

Lori Hoffner is president of the Cranford Historical Society.

Delivery and pick-up service is available

Cranford Public Library, 224 Walest in your community, its children nut Ave., is continuing delivery and pickup service for residents who are homebound. The service is compiling a group of volunteer drivers.

Any Cranford library cardholder The Cranford Historical Society is who is homebound, either permanently or temporarily, may call the

If you are interested in the service and do not have a Cranford library Checks should be made to the card, you can participate either by

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Cranford Board of Education NOTICE OF AWARD PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
The Cranford Board of Education met on February 10, 2003 and approved a contract for professional services pursuant to 18A:18A.5a(1) to Environmental Remediation & Management, Inc. to prepare all plans and specifications, job development, technical oversight and other professional services, as required, related to the District's Bond Referendum Boiler Replacement Project at Cranford High School for an amount not to exceed \$23,290.00, as per fee schedule. The resolution of award and the contract are available for public inspection in the Office of The Board Secretary located at 132 Thomas Street from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday.

Robert J. Carfagno Business Administrator/
Board Secretary
U5360 CCE Feb. 13, 2003 (\$20.75) coming to the library to get a card, or by requesting a library representative or volunteer to come to you.

For more information or to sign on as a volunteer, leave a message at the reference desk at Cranford Public Library at 908-709-7272.

Delphi Internet forum focuses on Cranford

Cranford residents with access to the Internet have a new place to discuss the issues that interest them. An online forum dedicated to Cranford has been opened on Delphi Forums, at www.forums.delphiforums.com/ cranfordnj.

Once there, residents can discuss topics related to any subject connected to Cranford. Participation in the forum requires basic Delphi membership, which is free.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLARK BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Adjustment will hold a meeting on Mon-day, February 24, 2003, at 8:00 PM, at the Municipal Court Room, 315 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey, at which time the following application will be heard:

CAL. # 5-03: Richard and Edyta Szaro, variance and site plan review, for the premises located at 8 Melvyn Court, Clark, Union County, New Jersey, Lot 88, Block 42, in a R-75 District.
Violation of Chapter XXXI, Sections 34-10, Sub-Sections 10.3c3 I (side yard), to allow deck and steps to remain, and any other variances deemed appropriate by the Board.

Board.

The file papers for the above application are available for inspection at the office of the Construction Official in the Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue, Room 29, Clark, New Jersey Monday through Friday, 9AM to 4PM.

Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg, LLC

by: Stanley A. Fink Attorneys for Applicant U5336 CCE Feb. 13, 2003

(\$11.00)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF CLARK
LEGAL NOTICE

Take notice that the Township of Clark Intends to sell by auction to the highest bidder on
February 20th, 2003, 10:00 a.m. at the Municipal Building, Room 16, 430 Westfield
Avenue, Clark, New Jersey the following inventory:

Interested purchasers may inspect such equipment one hour before the auction takes

Interested purchasers may inspect such equipment one non-such applace.

The inventory is being sold in "WHERE IS/AS IS CONDITION" and the Township of Clark makes no warranties, either expressed or implied. Further, the Township reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any informalities where such informality is not detrimental to the best interest of the Township.

All proposals shall be binding.

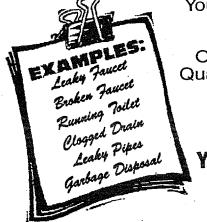
BY ORDER OF THE MAYOR and Township Council of the Township of Clark, Union County, New Jersey.

Sal Bonaccorso

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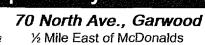
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Attorneys

DATE: February 11, 2003 U5361 CCE Feb. 13, 2003

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Union County

News

- Arts
- Entertainment
- Classified
- Real Estate
- Automotive

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2003 - SECTION B.

http://www.localsource.com

Design standard

A couple of decades ago, there was a less than gracious freeholder who picked up the title "Lionhearted." Not a term of praise, mind you, rather a sarcastic moniker about an official who made great promises, but in the end delivered

An announcement last week by Freeholder Alexander Mirabella as chairman of the county's Sept. 11 Memorial Committee, that he is seeking support for a memorial at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside for those killed 15 months ago, means that times and new people can mean a change of attitude.

Left Out By Frank Capece

"We must never forget the events of Sept. 11, and their immeasurable impact," Mirabella

One very immeasurable impact is that there are still 58 people from Union County who lost their lives. Now the freeholder has taken on the far tougher task of delivery on a suitable memorial.

There are some guidelines he can follow. For one, there is Joan Varanelli's experience.

A raspy-voiced numbers and bottom line gal, the Cranford activist took on the duties of treasurer for the Cranford memorial event. Any discussion with her on the topic starts with the strict instruction to praise the entire local committee who raised \$110,000.

Following the design standard of local resident Joe Nigro, six granite posts, with bronze placards of the town victims, new paving and fencing will grace Crane Park in the community. The group expects a May dedication.

Varanelli talks about the genosity of people, involvement of the victims' families and "the emotional response and generosity of the residents."

She finally makes the point I am waiting for, that long after the speeches, the number crunching, strict accounting and effective fund raising are the key. I would add teamwork. The Cranford group used direct mailing, the backbreaking sale of luminaries and a golf outing to raise the

The county is looking for \$100,000 for its new memorial. The plan is to locate it in the park at the flagpole on the hill. There will be a granite block with stainless steel plaques naming the county victims. There will also be two steel beams recovered from the World Trade Center incorporated into the design.

The county will also have a seven-and-a-half-foot eternal flame. The beams are 12 and a half feet and nine and a half feet long. Checks are encouraged to be sent to the Union County Sept. 11, Memorial Fund, c/o Office of the County Manager, Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, 07207.

The different path for design standards for Sept. 11 memorials can be interesting. Across the Hudson at Ground Zero, the Port Authority last week finally narrowed the choice of designs to two.

Larry Silverstein, a major real estate player in lower Manhattan boldly said, "What the final plan shows remains to be seen. But I believe that all agree the site must incorporate a significant, dignified memorial." I also noted his quote that they need, "a careful balance of vision and practicality."

The county is planning for its dedication in the fall. Maybe by then in New York they will have discovered that elusive balance.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Strike is over

E'town employees reach settlement

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Work resumed over the weekend for the 241 employees of Elizabethtown Water Company who were on strike for six days, as Local 423 of the Utility Workers Union of America AFL-CIO reached an agreement with the company on terms for a new three-year contract.

A settlement was reached Friday afternoon after negotiations resumed

"It was a lucrative deal for us." said union President Kevin Maloney. "We came out with what we were looking for and percentage wise they gave us what we were looking for."

The new contract calls for a 3 percent increase in base pay each year of the new contract, plus an annual cash bonus of 1 percent of base pay or \$500, whichever is greater.

The contract also provides a new healthcare plan that expands the benefits for those in-network. In addition, the dental plan has been enhanced by increasing the annual dental cap 25 percent to \$1,250. The optical reimbursement benefit for hardware and lenses has been increased from \$150 to \$200 every two years.

These and other benefits combine

to make a total benefits package of approximately 35 percent of the pay-

The average salary for a union employee is approximately \$48,000, which can rise to \$57,000 annually with overtime and other incentives.

During the original contract negotiations, the union's major concerns were sick day pay, the licensing of employees and stand-by crews.

For sick days, Maloney said, Elizabethtown did not want to pay employees who took more than 10 sick days for a full day of service; rather, it wanted to only pay employees 80 percent of their usual daily

Another key issue in contract negotiations was that Elizabethtown was looking to have all of its field employees licensed, something that is not required by the state.

Also during the original contract negotiations, Elizabethtown proposed to the union that stand-by, around-theclock coverage to customers, would be handled by a crew of employees. However, according to Maloney, Elizabethtown then switched its stance and wanted individual employees to handle stand-by, instead of



This was the scene last week as Elizabethtown water employees, from left, Andy Castaldo, Joe Kaiser and Jack Heyer picket near a burst water pipe on Kenilworth Boulevard. A sixday strike by employees ended with a new agreement Friday after negotiations had resumed Thursday.

"The sick day proposal was taken off," said Maloney. "The licensing proposal was taken off and the proposal for stand-by was taken off the

Employees will receive doubletime pay when going out on a call for

Throughout the duration of the serve customers in Clark, Cranford, strike, Elizabethtown continued its normal services, with supervisory and management personnel performing essential tasks at the treatment plant, laboratory and operations center.

Elizabethtown and its subsidiary, The Mount Holly Water Company, Fanwood, Garwood, Linden, Mountainside, Plainfield, Westfield. Roselle, Roselle Park and Kenilworth, as well as parts of Burlington,

Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Morris, Ocean and Somerset counties.

County to borrow \$13.5M

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Seeking better interest rates in the payment of a \$12.1-million pension liability, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted an ordinance appropriating \$13.5 million and authorizing the issuance of that money through the Union County Improvement Authority.

Through the improvement authority, which has the ability to issue debt, the county will be able to raise the money at a much lower interest rate than the estimated 8.75 percent; somewhere in the area of 5.25 percent through taxable bonds.

The \$13.5 million will be used to pay former employees who opted to participate in the county's early retirement program.

The reason the county is approving \$13.5 million, approximately \$1.4 million more than is estimated as needed, is so that the improvement authority will not have to appear See BONDS, Page B2

Look out, here we come



Taking advantage of the recent snowfall are Springfield residents Shai, left, and Oz Bejerano, with dad Yigal, at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside, a popular place to bring the sleds.

Public input to be sought on use of farm

Staff Writer

the farm for \$5.45 million from the Esposito family.

Residents soon will receive a letter asking them how Union County should preserve the 13-acre Esposito Farm in Clark. The Board of Chosen Freeholders last month announced the acquisition of

The letter will ask residents whether they would like to see a children's museum constructed on the site as well as other recreational facilities. The county is not committed to constructing the museum on the Esposito

property, but is seeking feedback from residents as well as suggestions for other recreational facilities.

The county would not disclose other locations where they are interested in possibly building the children's museum. A draft of the letter asks residents if they are in favor of preserving the farm,

if they would like more information about the museum, and in addition what other options might be considered for the land, such as exercise stations, ice rink, dog park, playground, ball fields, bandshell or amphitheater, picnic facility or basketball courts.

If the museum is located at the Esposito Farm, there will be an outdoors section, educating children about farming and gardening. "This would be a disaster for Union County," said Wally Shackell, a former

freeholder candidate now following county government operations for the Union County Republican Committee. Shackell said he was very much in favor of the county purchasing the Espos-

ito Farm because it is one of the last parcels of open space within the county. However, he shocked when he discovered a proposal to build a children's museum on the property instead of preserving it for open space. "I love museums," said Shackell. "I love children's museums. I think they're

wonderful. However, this is one of the last parcels of open space land in Union County. There are many vacant properties — vacant old factory buildings there are many places where this children's museum can go with better transportation than what's available in this more remote spot in Union County." To help get the planning and development of the proposed children's muse-

um under way, the county will provide \$1 million in seed money from its Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, to the Children's Museum of Central New Jersey, which estimates that the entire cost of the project will be \$12 million.

County Manager George Devanney said the organization is aggressively raising money for the museum and the county has agreed to contribute. "How and when the money is going to be disbursed is still to be worked

out," said Devanney.

Children's Museum of Central New Jersey President Heather Hays said the county's money is specifically for planning and development. The money will allow her organization to hire an architect, an exhibit's developer and an exhib-

"It will allow us to really flush out what this is going to cost, which will help us go into a capital campaign," said Hays.

The Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund is used exclusively for the acquisition and development of land within the county for recreation and conservation purposes. The fund generates approximately \$5 million annually by charging property owners an annual levy of 1.5 cents per \$100 of assessed property value.

For example the owner of a property assessed at a \$100,000 would annually contribute \$15 to the fund.

Jerry Goldman, an Elizabeth resident who frequently attends freeholder

meetings, said he was in favor of the county acquiring the Esposito property. "The have these funds and they might as well get whatever open space land they can with them," said Goldman. "I can see no reason not to take advantage of what the constituents of the freeholder board wanted. They wanted to get this open land wherever they could and preserve it for all future generations."

However, Goldman is against the freeholders contributing the \$1 million in "I feel strongly that any of these organizations should get their own founda-

tions together and go out and solicit funds directly," said Goldman. Hays said she would like to have the facility — which will be a state-of-theart education museum with special attention being paid to arts, sciences, humanities, and cultural community - open within three years.

Hays explained that the two-story, 35,000-square-foot facility will be a hands-on interactive children's museum.

"We want it to be very layered with educational information," said Hays. "So if you go with a 2-year-old, an 8-year-old, and your in-laws, everybody will come out with some new knowledge."

Hays said her organization, which has been planning the museum for more than two years, was attracted to Union County because there are no similar "There's such a large population of people who can never get to a New York

museum," Hays said. "They don't know what it's like to have a children's museum within their community."

A unique aspect of the children's museum, explained Hays, is that an exhibit can stand alone without staff interaction.

"A family can come in and experience an exhibit without having to have a staff member," said Hays. Staff members will be on hand to enhance the children's understanding of

"Union County takes a lot of pride in our parks and our parks' programs in addition to all our recreation programs," said Devanney.

The museum, which would take three to five years to build, will be operated by a non-profit organization and will be open six days a week.

See COUNTY, Page B2

GOP to narrow local field

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

Republicans from throughout the 21st Legislative District will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at The Westwood in Garwood to elect a new representative in the Assembly. Prior to that gathering, Union County's GOP delegation will choose one candidate to head into the districtwide election later in the morning.

Seven candidates are vying for the Assembly post formerly held by Thomas Kean Jr., who moved up to the state Senate after Richard Bagger resigned.

Hopefuls from Union County are Westfield GOP Chairman Jon Bramnick, Summit Councilwoman P. Kelly Hatfield, former Cranford Mayor Philip Morin and former Freeholder Henry Kurz of Roselle Park. A straw poll of Union County municipal chairmen last week had Bramnick with five votes, Morin with two, and Hatfield and Kurz, one each.

Candidates from outside Union County are Millburn Mayor Thomas McDermott, former Assemblyman James Barry of Harding and Warren Township Planning Board Chairman Dan Gallic.

Union County Republican Chairman Ronald Frigerio said the four local candidates have agreed to abide by whatever results of the county GOP's mini-convention and support one candidate in the districtwide race.

Approximately 145 of the 373 delegates in the 21st District are from Union County. To win the mini-convention, a candidate must win 50 percent, plus one, of the delegates. If no one candidate attains that many votes, the top two candidates will advance to a second ballot where a winner then will be chosen.

Frigerio said he plans to abide by the same rules as in past conventions that fill vacant seats, which would mean two ballots at most, as long as the delegation approves the rules of the convention Saturday morning.

There has been some talk outside the county of going to more ballots or having the convention during the week since Saturday is part of a threeday weekend, Presidents Day is Monday, for most people. More than two ballots also likely would benefit the candidates from outside the county.

"Hopefully, we'll get enough people to hold our 66 percent proportion," Frigerio said.

The 21st District includes Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Garwood, Mountainside, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield, Summit and Westfield in Union County, as well as Millburn in Essex County, and parts of Somerset and Morris counties. Union County has about twothirds of the total Republican delegates in the district.

COUNTY NEWS

Retired captain will lead St. Pat's parade

John Langan of Linden, a retired prosecutor's office captain of detectives and one of the founders of the Union County Saint Patrick's Day Parade, will lead this year's march along Morris and Stuyvesant avenues in Union Township March 15 as grand marshal.

Parade officials announced that all systems are go for the seventh annual march through Union Center in an event that has attracted thousands each year and created a fun event filled with laughter, food and lots of entertainment for the whole family.

"We are so very humbled and thrilled that John Langan has agreed to serve as grand marshal since he truly is one of the ones that brought the celebration of the Irish parade to Union County," said Stephen Gallagher, chairman of this year's celebration.

Langan, who served for years as commander of the Union County Arson Investigation Unit and supervised the trial, grand jury and domestic violence unit during his 26 years of service to the Prosecutor's Office, was born the day before St. Patrick's Day 67 years ago and has been married for 38 years to the former Nancy O'Sullivan.

"I tried throughout my life and my professional career to apply my faith in God and my religious beliefs given me by my family and education to be a fair and compassionate person of integrity," said Langan, who attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and Saint Mary's High School in

"To be chosen to be grand marshal, to be given such as honor, is a crowning achievement for me," he said. "My mother's family and my father's family came from Ireland with the other immigrants who were fleeing the Great Potato Famine in the 1800s and trying to escape British persecution.

Langan also worked as a supervisor in the county's juvenile detention center when it first opened in 1965 and has dabbled in the amateur theater, playing Father Tim in a two-man stage show called "Mass Appeal" put on by St. John the Apostle parish in Linden.

He is a recipient of the Union County Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Distinguished Service Award for his work serving the poor with the St. Vincent de Paul Society throughout New Jersey.

This year's parade, with dozens of bagpipe and drum bands, colorful floats and marching units, promises to be one of the most popular yet and will feature a special opening cere-

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mony and music at 12 noon on Stuyvesant Avenue and Morris Avenue.

A special Investiture Mass to officially bless the success of the annual parade is scheduled Sunday at 2 p.m. at St. John the Apostle Church in

Since 1997, the parade has honored the Irish people and their contributions to the county including Father Charles Hudson, Rev. Monsignor Hugh O'Donnell, Frank Donnelly, Joseph B. Sullivan, Trooper Thomas J. Hanratty, Owen Roe McGovern and Greta Sheridan.

Final budget hearing

The Fiscal Affairs Committee of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will conduct the final departmental hearing on the 2003 budget Feb. 26 from 6 to 9 p.m. in the freeholder meeting room, sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building, 10 Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth. Departments to be reviewed will be the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools, Department of Public Safety, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Board of Elections, Department of Administrative Services and County Counsel.

The county manager last month presented an executive budget of \$340 million to the freeholder board.

New parade web site

The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade has a new web site detailing news, events, dates and schedules for the 2003 parade in the Township of Union. The site can be accessed at www.unioncountystpatricksdayparad

The parade will be March 15.

Surrogate available for speaking engagements

Union County Surrogate James LaCorte is available to speak with community groups and civic organizations about the importance of wills and estate planning. LaCorte meets with groups of various sizes several times each month as part of an initiative to better educate the public about these important issues.

As the county surrogate, LaCorte is responsible for probating wills and appointing executors, administrators, guardians and trustees of decedents' estates, among other constitutionally mandated duties.

To contact the surrogate's office, call 908-527-4280.

Blood drive Saturday

105 Mountain Ave. fax 908 273-9222

info@njgasp.org www.njgasp.org

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor a blood drive Feb. 15 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park Avenue and Randolph Road, Plainfield.

For more information, call the Blood Center of New Jersey 1-800-BLOOD-NJ, 1-800-652-5663, Ext. 140.

Electronic transfer of tax records available

The Union County Clerk's office is now the first in the state to offer electronic transfer of tax records between municipal, county and state governments, County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi announced.

The state Division of Archives & Records, Department of State, recently certified the County Clerk's imaging program. The clerk extended the imaging system to the county Board of Taxation with this first-in-the-state program.

The program utilizes electronic storage of property records and eliminates a need for expensive labor, paper, preparation and storage of documents. The clerk was able to cancel a \$200,000 contract for the work.

"This program pays for itself. More importantly, it will continue to reap financial rewards in future years," Rajoppi said. "This program lays the groundwork for full e-commerce and 'one-stop' shopping of public records.

"The Tax Assessors Program allows transmission of documents electronically from the Clerk's Office to the Union County Tax Office and

then to the 21 municipal tax assessors' offices. This program saves money and improves both processing records and searching for information."

"Before, we had to work with multiple paper copies moving between local tax assessors, the County Board of Taxation, and the County Clerk's office," Union Township Tax Assessor Paul Parsons said, "Now, the clerk is putting into place a system that will allow us to operate much more efficiently and cost-effectively."

Between tax records, property records and more, the County Clerk's office processes 150,000 documents per year, for a total of more than 1 million images, Rajoppi said.

Last year, the clerk's office began making actual images of deeds and mortgage documents available online. It also became the first office in New Jersey to allow members of the public to create orders from online information for complete copies of official documents.

Surrogate's office hours

Union County Surrogate James LaCorte has updated his schedule of evening office hours. As the county surrogate, he is responsible for probating wills and appointing executors, administrators, guardians and trustees of decedents estates, among other constitionally mandated duties.

LaCorte is available --- by appointment - to meet during the evening with residents who have matters pending before the Surrogate's Court.

County will solicit input

(Continued from Page B1)

"We'd like to really teach kids about each other in a positive way," said

In Mountainside, the county operates Trailside Nature and Science Center, on the outskirts of the Watchung Reservation, which has been very successful, explained Devanney. He said that the county is in the process of expanding that

"While this is not the same as Trailside, it's along the same theme as far as educating children," Devanney said, comparing the children's museum with the Mountainside facility. "It's a great family attraction and would further the county's reputation for providing quality family recreation for our residents."

Bonds fund early retirement

(Continued from Page B1) adjustment is necessary.

possibility of us having to amend the bond ordinance at a later date," said benefits. Department of Finance Director Lawrence Caroselli.

The bond sale most likely will take place in late March with a closing date of April 1.

As of July 1, 142 county employees agreed to accept the early retirement incentive.

Employees who opted for the early retirement package will receive \$1,000 for each year of service to the county, paid annually in four equal

installments beginning in 2003. before the freeholders again if an Employees also will receive full health benefits paid for life, compared "The bond issuance will certainly to the current situation, which has the be less than that but this avoids any county contributing approximately 75 percent for retired employees' health

Employees who took part in the early retirement program had to meet certain criteria; 25 years of service with the Public Employee Retirement System; 15 years of service with the PERS and 62 years of age, or 20 years of service credit with the Police and Fire Retire System.

Officials project that over 10 years the early retirement program will save the county approximately \$1.5 million annually.

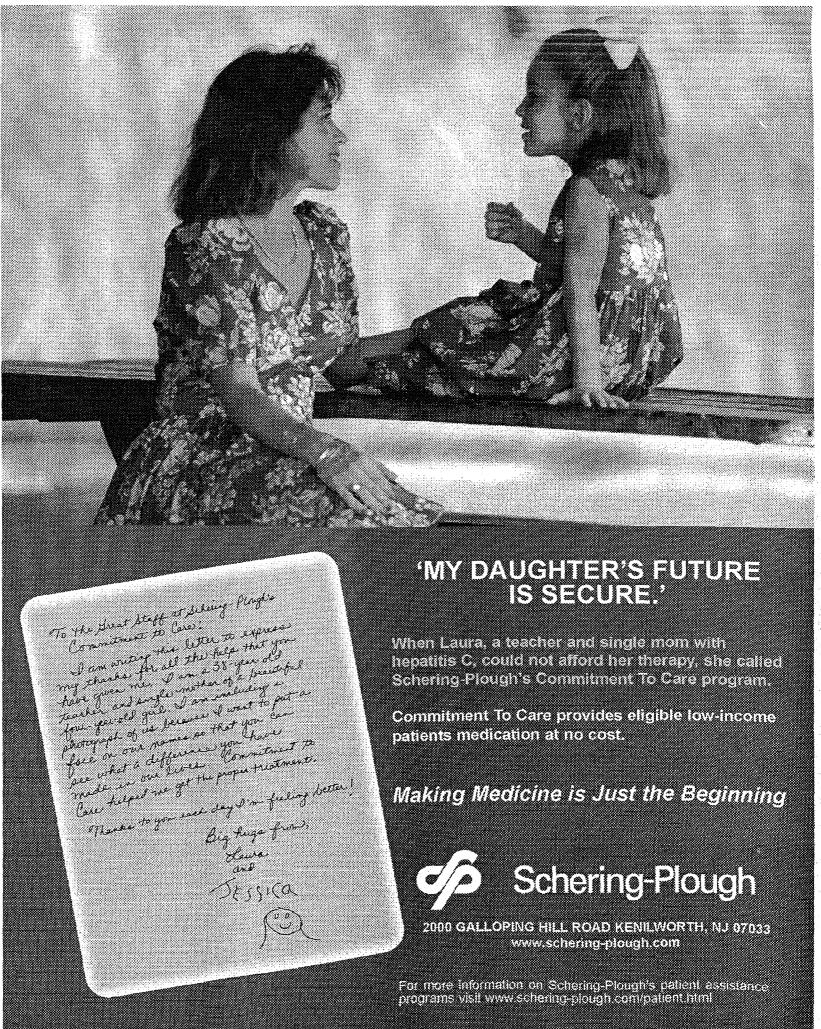
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Bill Van Sant, Editor

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Trailside sets events for children

During the mid-winter school break, Saturday through Tuesday, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites all children on vacation to Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside for "February Festivities," a series of special programs for children and their families.

"With many young students off from school over the extended Presidents' Day weekend, Trailside is featuring a number of special activities to augment the regularly scheduled nature programs at the center," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Union County Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

"The Journey from Sap to Syrup" will be presented Saturday at 2 p.m. and again on Monday at 1:30 p.m. in the Visitor Center auditorium. Families with children ages 6 and older will enjoy a slide-illustrated talk that follows the step-by-step process of maple sugaring from early Native American times to home production of maple syrup today. Find out what is needed to do the job, walk to a sugar maple tree to see a tap in action and take part in a taste test. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$3 per person.

On Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., Trailside will present "Hocus Pocus - It's Joe Fischer" for families with children ages 4 and older. This program will astound, baffle, delight, thrill and entertain your family. The fast-paced show has the perfect blend of magic, audience participation, comedy and excitement. Joe Fischer performs more than 300 shows a year and audiences are sure to laugh out loud as children assist in his magical act. Tickets are \$4 per person and will be sold at the door. No children younger than 4 years of age will be admitted. No strollers will be permitted.

On Monday and Tuesday at 9:30 a.m., "Who's Been Here?" will be offered for 3- and 4-year-olds accompanied by an adult, as part of the winter "Two of Us" series. You can be an animal detective! Look for signs left by our animal neighbors. Use your ears to identify different animal sounds. The fee is \$8 per child and adult. Pre-registration is required.

As part of the winter "Small Fry Days" series, "Super Sleuths" will take place Monday and Tuesday at 11 a.m. for children ages 4 and 5 years old. Young children will learn to scour the scene for animal clues. Gather evidence such as fur, feathers, families with children ages 6 and tracks and chewed nuts to prove who has been here. Hike outside to try



Magician Joe Fischer pulls a rabbit out of a hat with the help of a young volunteer. The illusionist returns to Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside next week.

per child and pre-registration is

"Snakes of New Jersey" is offered at 10:30 a.m. Monday for families with children ages 6 and older. Did you know that 21 different species of snakes live in New Jersey? Meet Trailside live snakes, learn some surprising serpentine facts, and observe a snake feeding. The fee is \$3 per person and pre-registration is required.

Back by popular demand, "Wildlife Watch" will be offered Monday and Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. for families with children ages 6 and older. Participants will observe animals that are visiting the bird-feeding station and then search the outdoors for winter wildlife. These winter walks will end with stories by a campfire, hot chocolate and marshmallows. The fee is \$3 per person. Pre-registration is required and participants should dress warmly.

Evening programs have been added to the festivities this year. The world of "Nocturnal Neighbors" will be explored Monday at 7 p.m. for older. View a brief slide show to learn who our nocturnal neighbors are and your newfound skills. The fee is \$8 then take a hike to look for signs and

sounds of Trailside's night life. The fee is \$4 per person. Pre-registration is required and participants should dress warmly.

On Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., "Little Night Owls" will be offered for children ages 3 to 5 who are accompanied by an adult. Just as our little ones are getting sleepy, the night owls are waking up. Listen to owl stories, view slides and hear the calls of our local owls. Take a short walk outside to see where the owls hunt and hide. The fee is \$4 per person. Pre-registration is required and participants should dress

Trailside Nature and Science Center, located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside, is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation. For a complete listing of "February Festivities" programs and information on upcoming events and summer camp, call Trailside Nature and Science Center at

Magician Joe Fischer relies on audience participation for a fastpaced, interactive and entertaining program that is sure to have families laughing out loud.

J. G. Wentworth

'Dinner Party' served with style

Opening with several spotlights exposing a series of paintings decorating the interior of a classy, Paris restaurant, the beginning of "The Dinner Party" at Cranford Dramatic Club sets the stage for a play that has a different kind of exposure in mind shedding light on the meaning of divorce and marriage and coming up with some startling revelations.

The exquisite murals themselves depict "The Progress of Love," and are reproductions of the work of an 18th-century French artist, mirroring the three divorced couples who will soon find their lives intersecting.

It's an intriguing, yet weighty concept that could easily get bogged down by the sheer magnitude of its subject matter. How does one effectively translate the powerful need we all have to be accepted and loved without relying on generalities or sappy, unrealistic resolutions? How does one convey the sadness of divorce without degenerating into oppressive cynicism? It's a delicate balance that is difficult to put into compelling, wit-

Luckily, in the capable hands of director Ken Rosenblum of Westfield, Neil Simon's "The Dinner Party" is a play that transforms its timeless subject matter into drama that is at once universal and uniquely personal. Not

On the Boards

By Brian Pedersen Staff Writer

only do the characters all have a universal need to be loved and accepted by their mates, they each have their distinctive reasons for separating as well. We see how their unshakable trust in each other was shattered, how their undying passion and devotion was finally quenched.

By introducing one character at a time, Rosenblum lets us see who these diverse people are. All in the space of a short time, we get their world views, their histories and their personal tics and characteristics.

Standouts include Andy Gordanier, who plays the worldy and sophisticated Claude Pichon. He is the first to walk on stage, and when he's joined by the less-imposing Albert Donay, played by Vincent Bandille, the duo have a great back-and-forth banter that is to be savored. Through choice bits of dialogue, we get ample character development and witty lines that stand out and beg to be remembered.

As Claude says to the less-worldly Albert, "If you go to enough dinner parties, you hear wedding bands sliding on and off." While Bandille gives an understated, earnest performance, Gordanier delves into his role with gusto, becoming a bitter, divorced man with a caustic sense of humor that shelters a convincing tenderness that slowly reveals itself as the play progresses.

The third male character, Andre Bouville, played by Rob Corbo, is a man of flashy arrogance who plays well off the two other diverse male characters. The discovery that each character is linked to another helps move the play forward, keeping the tensions between the couples at the forefront.

Standouts among the women include the charming Lynn Langone of Cranford, who plays Mariette Levieux, a successful writer whose passion for the written word may be the only thing she shared with her former husband, Pichon.

Less impressive, but still compelling is Victoria Brewer, who plays the eccentric Yvonne Fouchet, Donay's ex. Her first appearance on stage is a brief, but breathless speech delivered with wide eyes and expressive facial

See DIVORCE, Page B4

NJCVA to unveil sculptures this Friday

The 17th annual International Juried Show is being presented at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through March 19.

The International Juried Show is comprised of 54 individual artworks chosen from more than 1,300 entries. The exhibition is open to artists in all media from across the United States, as well as from abroad. This year's juror, Anne Umland, associate curator, Department of Painting and Sculpture, MOMA, has selected a body of work that provides "moving evidence of ongoing artistic expression in the making." A free panel discussion will take place Feb. 23. Panelists include this year's Best in Show winner Mel Leipzig and senior editor of Art in America Janet

The 54 artworks featured span the world of contemporary art: gelatin silver prints, fiber tapestry, assemblage, and Polaroid digital monochromes mingle with oils on copper and canvas, graphite on paper, and a fascinating wood, wire and metal sculpture. This year's Best in Show was awarded to Mel Leipzig's work, "Lou and His Son," a large acrylic on canvas. It is a wonderful detailed canvas depicting a man and his son at a seemingly pivotal point in their relationship, surrounded by an office crammed with art book classics, overflowing filing cabinets, and an intricately modeled ship. Leipzig's work is modeled on his own community, drawing his inspiration from poignant moments of daily life that present themselves to him.

Merit awards include Richard S. Buswell's gelatin silver print, "Rafters;" Karen Schifano's abstract oil on can-

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vas, "Untitled (car window)," and Theresa Abel's oil with gold leaf on panel work, "Love, Hate and Sorrow." Juror Anne Umland comments that "... the prize-winners, in particular, conveyed a critical impression of visual effects intended an achieved. Each manifested, in very different ways, a need to be."

Each year a curator is brought in to preview the hundreds of slides that come in which span a wealth of media and presentations. Umland's impressive resume includes the critically acclaimed Alberto Giacometti show at the MOMA that debuted in 2001. Her juror statement states, "... juried shows play an important role in keeping the conversation going between the juror, the individual artists and artworks selected, and, crucially the larger audience gained as a result of the show. The prize-winners provided a vital reminder in a world gone awry of the phenomenal amounts of love and labor expended by artists, and of the affirmative pleasures to be found in their work."

Past jurors have included New York Times art critic Bill Zimmer, Senior Curator at the New Museum of Contemporary Art Dan Cameron, and Deputy Director and Chief Curator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum Lisa

The International Juried Show is produced annually by NJCVA. If you would like to be added to the mailing list for next year's prospectus, you may call NJCVA at 908-273-9121 or e-mail your request to info@nicva.org.



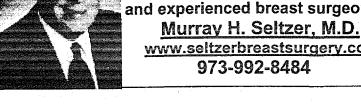
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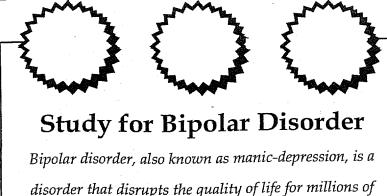
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DOWN

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- 3 March middle 4 Maybe
- 5 Narrowly spaced 6 Indian royalty
- 7 Army group
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- 10 Wore away
- 11 Folds 12 Seething
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By Charles Preston

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- 63 Square dance formation

Serious topic handled with 'Wit' in drama

Winner of the 1999 Pultizer Prize for Drama, "Wit" is a play that is as intellectually challenging as it is emotionally immediate.

It is the story of Vivian Bearing Ph.D., a renowned scholar and professor of English who has spent years studying and teaching the brilliant and difficult metaphysical sonnets of John Donne, and who has been diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Her approach to the study of Donne has been aggressively probing and intensely rational. But during the course of her illness - and her stint as a prize patient in an experimental chemotherapy program at a major teaching hospital - Vivian comes to reassess her life and work work with a profundity and humor that are transformative both for her and the audi-

This may perhaps not sound like your usual evening of theater. That is because it is not. "Wit" is a piece of theater which transcends the merely theatrical and touches the soul of its audience. According The New York Times, "Wit" is "a brutally human and beautifully layered play" which will leave you feeling "both enlightened and, in a strange way, enormously comforted."

What makes the the Summit Playhouse production of "Wit" special is that it has been embraced by women's groups and health organizations such as Pathways and Hospice of St. Barnabas because of what they believe to be its power and its importance to women and women's health.

(Continued from Page B3)

gestures. With her hair in a severe bun

and her body in a skimpy polka dot

dress, she stalks the stage after finally

deciding to stay for the dinner party.

woman, played with brutal honesty by

Sandra Rudnitzky, is a character ach-

ing to be loved, yet fiercely truthful,

determined and strong; someone who

knows much more than she at first lets

on. She provides the crucial piece to

the resolution of the play and the

anchor that holds all the characters

together. Her likability arises from her

unflinching honesty about herself and

Gabrielle Buonocelli, the third



Diane Spodarek, right, stars as the stricken Dr. Vivian Bearing and Jean Kuras as her friend and mentor, Evelyn Ashford, in the Summit Playhouse Production of 'Wit.' The Pulitzer Prize-winning play opens Feb. 21.

"Wit" is being directed by Chris Messineo. It stars Diane Spodarek as Dr. Vivian Bearing and features Shelley Brown, Art Delo, Jean Kuras, Brett LaRose, Deborah Moore, Tamara Nedjar, Ricardo Pino and Dan

"Wit" opens Feb. 21 and continues Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. through March 8, with a matinee March 2. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for students 18 and younger, and can be purchased by telephone, online or in person at the box office Sunday evenings from 7:30 to 9 p.m.; credit cards are accepted. For additional information, call the

Divorce is explored with insight, humor

for company."

divorce.

powerful.

her feelings. As she says herself, "It's

By forcing the characters to take a

good, hard look at themselves, we

find who decides to stay for the party

and who does not. In a sense, she

takes the mirror and shows us

ourselves, reflecting our hopes, fears

and anxiety about both marriage and

As in life, there's no tidy resolu-

tions, but in this version of "The Din-

ner Party," there is much insight,

transformative character development

and drama that is both witty and

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Summit Playhouse at 908-273-2192 or visit www.SummitPlayhouse.org,

Following the March 2 matinee performance, there will be a program titled "The Wit in John Donne's Poetry." This program will be presented by Professor John Bauer, Department of English, Kean University, and all in attendance at that performance will be invited to remain for this program.

Come and see this why "Wit" won the Pultizer Prize and New York Magazine called it "a dazzling and humane play that you will remember til your dying day."

The Summit Playhouse is located at 10 New England Ave., Summit.

HOROSCOPE

Feb. 17-23

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A friend makes you an offer that is difficult to refuse. Think with your head, not with your heart, and make the correct decision.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Be sure to take advantage of the opportunities that come your way late in the week. Be flexible, and find yourself in the right place.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Try your hand at an assortment of creative activities. Get the inspiration for great ideas you'll need from friends or associates.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): Joint accounts held with a partner or mate will demand your attention. Keep a close watch on what transpires, and be prepared to ask questions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A relationship is magically rewarding and fulfilling. Don't ignore the strong, karmic bonds that exist between you and another. It's very special!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): After some daunting excitement on the job site, everything calms down and gets back to normal. Take a deep breath and relax.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Your selfconfidence abounds this week. Take control in a social situation, and get your point across. Make unity your goal! SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Strive

for balance between your private and public life. Ask family members for tips or guidance that could help you professionally.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Relationships bring some welcomed mental stimulation. Surround yourself with like-minded thinkers, and lose yourself in conversation.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to your budget even when you are tempted by a great deal. Stay focused in order to meet a financial obligation on time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your peers or superiors push you into the spotlight. Seize this timely opportuni-

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20); Release any emotional attachments that may be keeping you tied to the past. Break free, and you will experience an instant healing.

If your birthday is this week, expect the expected in any and all areas of your life during the coming year. Lightening is likely to strike and change your course, plans or outlook without much warning or time for preparation. Stay on your toes, and remain as flexible as possible. Listen to the advice of an elder or mentor, and that will help to keep you somewhat grounded and safe.

Also born this week: Seal, Matt Dilty to show off and walk away with the lon, Dr. Dre, Rene Russo and Michael

Science discussions unite seniors

knowledge with other senior citizens of different disciplines are invited.

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Fields of science include, but not limited to, biology, chemistry, geology,

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puter science and astronomy. The purpose is to create an intellectually stimulat-

ing environment by drawing on the extensive wealth of knowledge and

There is no membership or registration fee, the only requirement is contribut-

ing information in your specialized field of study and participating in the discussions. Meetings will be held weekly in Cranford and/or Westfield and are

informal. Space is limited. For more information, contact Clotide at sci-

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Take notice that in accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:16-16*, application has been made to the Director of Motor Vehicles, Division of Motor Vehicles, Trenton, New Jersey, to receive title papers and issue New Jersey certificate of ownership for Make - Cushman, Year - 1947, Vehicle Identification Number - A127568. Objections, if any, should be made immediately in writing to the Director of Motor Vehicles, Special Title Section, P.O. Box 017, Trenton, New Jersey 08666-0017. February 6, 13, 2003

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"The Dinner Party" runs through Feb. 22 at Cranford Dramatic Club. For information, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B8.

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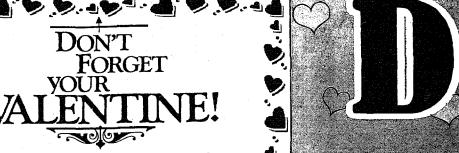
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Ted Chang, owner of Cathay 22, 124 Route 22 West, Springfield, receives award at Chaine des Rotisseurs from Linda Woo, Bailli, also pictured here are Robin Jacobs, vice conseiller gastromique and Mr. Jacobs

CATHAY 22

On January 26th Ted Chang, owner of Cathay 22 Restaurant in Springfield, hosted an extraordinary Chinese New Year feast for members and guests of the Hunterdon-Princeton Chapter of the Chaine des Rotisseurs. "The Year of the Ram" was welcomed in traditional style with a lavish dinner consisting of twelve courses which were not only delicious, but full of symbolic meaning. The sumptuous menu was created to wish prosperity and fruitfulness to all for the New Year.

Ted Chang was recently inducted into the Confrerie de la Chaine des Rotisseurs at the Annual Induction Ceremony and Dinner of the Hunterdon-Princeton Chapter held at the Bridgewater Marriot Hotel. Mr. Chang's restaurant, Cathay 22 is the only Chinese restaurant in New Jersey whose owner is a Chaine member. Mr. Chang now joins the ranks of some of the top restaurant professionals in the world.

The Chaine des Rotisseurs is one of the oldest and largest gastronomic organizations in the world with more than 140 local chapters in the U.S. Its mission is bringing together those with a serious interest in and passion for fine food and wine and promoting culinary education among the young. Chaine student members are given the opportunity to meet and work with some of the best chefs in the world and are eligible both to enter competitions and to receive scholarship awards to further their culinary education.

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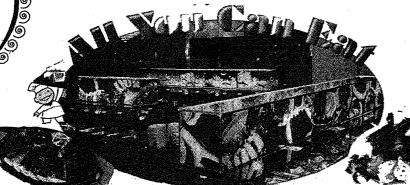
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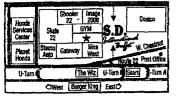
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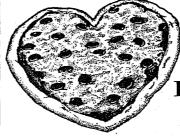
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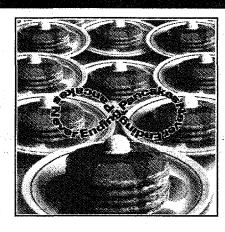
9:30 pm

9:30 pm

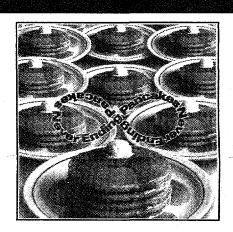
10 pm

4 pm 8:30 pm

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9796 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

ART SHOWS

ILLUMINATIONS and "The Ezykial Machine" by Bob Karstadt will be on exhibit through Friday at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Kent Place Gallery is located in Kent Place School, 42 Norwood Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-0900, Ext. 208, or visit www.kentplace.org.

CONSUMER REPORTS will be on exhibit through Feb. 20 at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth MacKay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College.

Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays, and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays through Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-709-7155.

QUILTS AND FABRIC ART will be on exhibit at the Diversity Art Gallery in Clark through Feb. 23.

Gallery hours are Sundays, 1 to 3 p.m., and by appointment. The Diversity Art Gallery is located in the Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, Clark, at the Clark Circle. For information, call 732-574-1479.

RECENT WORKS by J. Brian Townsend and Timothy W. Jahn will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 28.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swaini Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call 908-756-1707.

REFLECTIONS OF THE PAST, a solo exhibition by Cedric Smith, will be on display at the Eclectic Connection Fine Art Gallery in Summit through

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Eclectic Connection is located at 444 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-277-6882 or visit www.eclecticconnection.com

PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS by several artists will be on exhibit at the Skulski Art Gallery in Clark Friday through March 7. An opening reception will take place Friday from 8 to 10

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Fridays, 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The Skulski Art Gallery is located in the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark. For information, call 732-382-

PHOTOGRAPHER ALICE JOHNSON will exhibit her works and poetry in the Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through March

Exhibit hours Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Wisner House will be closed Monday through Feb. 17. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787.

FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING, works by Denise Devone and Bonnie Maranz, will be on exhibit at The Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Sunday through March 14. An opening reception takes place Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-7511 or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

THE SCULPTORS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY will have its works on exhibit at the Donald B. Palmer Museum at the Springfield Free Public Library Friday through March 18. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Sundays, 1 to 3:30 p.m. The Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call 973-376-4930.

INTERNATIONAL JURIED SHOW '03 will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through March 19.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.nicva.com.

BOOKS

AUTHOR ANDREW LEE will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "Scottsboro, Alabama: A Story of Linoleum Cuts." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR ARTHUR BECKER will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "Destiny Restored." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR MICHAEL IMMERSO will appear at Barnes and Noble of Springfield Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies of his new book, Coney island. The People's Playground." Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call

973-376-8544. AUTHOR AND NYU WRITING

Stepping Out

TEACHER MEREDITH SUE WILLIS will present a workshop titled "Getting Your Novel Started" Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble of Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP will meet third Wednesday of the month to discuss

various books. Wednesday: "City of Darkness, City of Light" by Marge Piercy

March 19: "Dreaming in Cuban" by Cristina Garcia April 16: "The Good Mother" by

Sue Miller May 21: "The Bondwoman's Narra-

tive" by Hannah Crafts June 18: "John Adams" by David

McCullogh Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The selection for March 5 will be "Prodigal Summer" by Barbara Kingsolver. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE 'LORD OF THE RINGS' READ-ING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS' CIRCLE, led by Cheryl Racanelli, meets the second and fourth Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, For information, call 732-574-1818.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION BOOK GROUP, a monthly reading group featuring staff members' favorite books, meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The selection for today is "Bel Canto" by Ann Patchett. The selection for March 13 will "Balzac and the Little Chineses Seamstress by Dai Sijie. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS meets the third Monday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP meets the last Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-

CLASSES

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM will sponsor watercolor classes in two eight-week sessions: through April 9 and April 23 to June 25. Fee is \$138 per session, with a discount for Reeves-Reed members. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787, Ext. 16.

COLLECTIBLES

THE WESTFIELD STAMP CLUB meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. in the Westfield Municipal Building, East Broad Street, Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3045 or send e-mail to 8605@comcast.net.

COMEDY

CARROT TOP will appear at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway today at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$33. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

CONCERTS

COFFEE WITH A CONSCIENCE Concert Series of Westfield and Springfield will present musical performers each month through June at two locations in Union County.

Saturday: Eric Schwartz, Westfield March 15: Dan Crisci presents ..., Springfield

April 19: Amy Carol Webb, Westfield

May 17: Kevin Brody, Springfield June 21: GrooveLily, Westfield

All concerts begin at 8 pm.m Westfield concerts are at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St.; Springfield concerts are at Springfield Emanuel Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall. Suggested donation is \$12 with proceeds benefiting various local charities. For information, call 908-232-8723 or visit www.coffeewithconscience.com.

THE MARK O'CONNOR TRIO will appear in concert Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$36.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

THE CZECH PHILHARMONIC will appear in concert Sunday at 3 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$16 to \$59.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway will present "Doo Wop Reunion Volume IV" Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$20 to \$28. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

VOCALIST JUDY BADY will appear in concert Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 at the door. A discount is available when purchasing tickets for multiple concerts in the series, which continues April 4 and May 16. For information,

call 732-381-7511, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

NEW JERSEY ALL-STATE WIND ENSEMBLE, Symphonic Band and Women's Choir will appear in concert Feb. 22 at 2 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$9 to \$19 for adults, \$9 for children.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

RAHWAY VALLEY JERSEYAIRES Barbershop Chorus will appear in concert at the 42nd annual Novice Quartet Competition Feb. 22 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Roosevelt School, 811 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. Admission is free. For information, call 888-480-0901 or 908-272-1530.

NANCY WILSON and the swing band Diva will appear in concert Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are \$27 to \$45. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

DANCE

GERMAINE ACOGNY AND VIN-CENT MANTSOE will present "Senegal to South Africa: New Solo Choreography" Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$31.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.nipac.org.

TWYLA THARP DANCE will appear Friday at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$15 to \$55.

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call 888-466-5722 or visit www.njpac.org.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will sponsor evenings of international dance throughout the year at The Connection for Women and Families, 79 Maple St., Summit. Sessions are alternate Fridays from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Upcoming dates are Friday and Feb. 28, and March 14 and 28, which is a Greek Independence Day celebration. Admission is \$2, or \$12 for half the season; workshops are \$5. For information, call 973-467-8278.

FILM

THE FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will begin its spring series in the coming weeks at the Loews Theater in Mountainside. The first session of Monday night screenings begins Feb. 17; the second session begins March 31. Fee

is \$131 for six weeks, \$249 for 12 weeks, plus a \$20 registration fee. For information, call 800-531-9416.

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch. All films begin at 10 beth Public Library located at 11 S. Broad St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-354-6060.

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send e-mail to TMRCInc@aol.com or visit www.tmrci.com.

KIDS

TRAILSIDE NATURE AND SCIENCE CENTER will sponsor a series of workshops Feb. 15 to 18 at the Mountainside facility.
Saturday: "The Journey From Sap

to Syrup," 2 p.m., 6 and older, \$3 Monday: "Who's Been Here?," 9:30 a.m., 3- and 4-year-olds, \$8, pre-registration required

Monday: "Snakes of New Jersey," 10:30 a.m., 6 and older, \$3, pre-registration required

Monday: "The Journey From Sap to Syrup," 1:30 p.m., 6 and older, \$3 Monday: "Wildlife Watch," 3:30 p.m., 6 and older, \$3, pre-registration

Monday: "Nocturnal Neighbors," 7 p.m., 6 and older, \$4, pre-registration required

Tuesday: "Who's Been Here?," 9:30 a.m., 3- and 4-year-olds, \$8, preregistration required

Tuesday: "Hocus Pocus! It's Joe Fischer," 1:30 p.m., 4 and older, \$4 Tuesday: "Wildlife Watch," 3:30

p.m., 6 and older, \$3, pre-registration required Tuesday: "Little Night Owls," 6:30 p.m., 3- to 5-year-olds, \$4, pre-regis-

tration required Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information, call 908-789-3670.

OPERA

THE NEW JERSEY STATE OPERA will present "Pagliacci" and "Cavalleria Rusticana" Feb. 21 at 8 p.m. and Feb. 23 at 3 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$15 to \$85.

a.m. The Main Branch is of the Eliza-

THEATER

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present "The Dinner Party" by Neil Simon through Feb. 22. Shows are 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays. Tickets are \$15. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-276-7611.

KEAN UNIVERSITY'S Department of Theater will present "A Streetcar Named Desire" by Tennessee Williams Friday through Feb. 23. Shows are at 8 p.m.Wednesdays through Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Performances are in the Wilkins Theater, 1000 Morris Ave., Union. Tickets are \$15 for the general public, \$12 for senior citizens, \$10 for students. For information, call 908-737-6397.

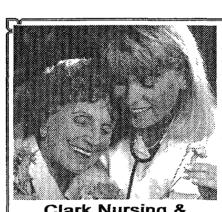
THE SUMMIT PLAYHOUSE ASSOCI-ATION will present 1999 Pulitzer Prize-winner "Wit" Feb. 21 through March 8. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., with a matinee March 2, after which Professor John Bauer will present "The Wit of John Donne's Poetry." Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$10 for students 18 years old and younger. The Summit Playhouse is located at 10 New England Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-2192 or visit www.summitplayhouse.org.

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Wild Duck" by Henrik Ibsen through March 9. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for students and senior citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-355-0077.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Friday noon. Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m. General - Monday 5 p.m.



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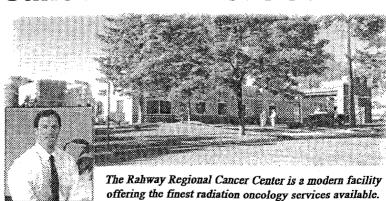
There is a limit of four tickets per person.

Questions? Call Merck Public Affairs, 732-594-6492

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Bobby Byrne returns to Molly Maguire's in Clark this weekend

Looking for a great way to spend Valentine's Day with that very special someone?

further. Molly Look no Maguire's Irish Pub and Restaurant in Clark is now taking reservations for the Bobby Byrne and Charlie Warwick. Byrne, who is originally from Bayonne, and one of the most well-known "unknown" Irish singers in New Jersey, will be performing favorite Irish selections, selected love songs - just for the

course, selected American tributes. Enjoy a delectable four-course dinner while being entertained by Byrne and Warwick. The cost of the show is \$40 per person plus tax and gratuity and includes Salad, pasta, entree, dessert and coffee or tea. Dinner is served starting at 7:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 8 p.m. There will be a cash bar avail-

Cookbook benefits town

"A Taste of Our Town," the historic Garwood 2003 centennial cookbook, is now being sold to the public.

The book has more than 425 recipes donated by past and present residents of Garwood or those that work in Garwood. Even the town's honorary citizen, Gov. James. E. McGreevey, has donated a recipe. This is a fund-raiser and all proceeds go to defray the costs of Garwood's various 100th anniversary events being held in 2003.

The cookbooks can be purchased at Garwood Public Library, 223 Walnut St., Garwood. The price is \$10 each. Orders can also be called in at 908-789-1670 or 908-654-1392. Delivery cost would add \$3. Supplies are limited.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

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*

able and reservations area a must. 2 p.m. on the first Sunday of every Tables of eight are suggested. Call Joe or John for reservations at 732-388-6511. Tickets are still available.

Molly Maguire's features an authentic Irish pub motif and turnof-the-century dining room. Molly's is open seven days a week, and is located at 1085 Central Ave. in Clark, near the Central Avenue/Raritan Road intersection.

Bobby Byrne is not the only Irish entertainment offered at Molly's. Other Irish favorites who have appeared at Molly's are Joe Finn, also from Jersey Shore fame; Mike Lynch, who is Bobby's brother, and the Willie Lynch Band. Beginning at

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month, the Irish "sessi'uns" begin with various local musicians making you feel like you're at the Emerald Isle. Ballads, jigs, reels and many sing-alongs complement your dining experience. Bring your instrument and join the fun or just sit back, relax and enjoy the entertainment. Newcomers are always welcome. While enjoying the music, you might want to experience a delightful brunch which is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Try everyone's favorite, apple crepes, served warm with fresh, homemade Irish cream, or possibly the chef's specialty corned beef hash and eggs.

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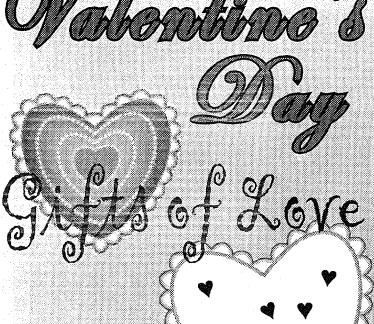


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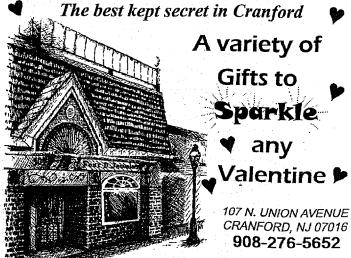
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ESSEX COUNTY

463 Valley Street, Maplewood 170 Scotland Road, Orange 266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

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UNION COUNTY Union Leader • Echo Leader The Eagle (Cranford/Clark) • The Leader Spectator Leader • Gazette Leader Rahway Progress • Summit Observer

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News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record Orange Transcript • The Glen Ridge Paper Nutley Journal * Belleville Post Irvington Herald * Vailsburg Leader The Independent Press of Bloomfield

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AUTOS FOR SALE

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an Office Manager/ Aunimistrative Assistant, 31 hours a week, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday preferred. Position requires a knowledge of Microsoft Office, good organizational skills and the desire to be with children. Please fax resume to: 973-379-1941 or coll 973-379-1134

Busy Local synagogue seeks depend-

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FULL CHARGE Bookkeeper for Not-For-Profit. Following Requirements a must: 3-4 years prior bookkeeping experience, com-puter literate with Microsoft Windows. Working knowledge of QuickBooks and/ or Peach Tree, Excel and Word a priority. Must be able to work with minimum supervision. Send resume including salary history and requirements to P.O. Box 18083, Newark,

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LEGAL SECRETARY/ Assistant- Gateway One Law Firm- full time position-experience in litigation matters and real estate closing transactions. Knowledge of Word required; Salary commensurate with experience. Full Benefits. Send resume: Meyner and Landis, Esquires., One Gateway Center, Suite 2500, Newark, NJ 07102, Attention: M. Mueller, or fax M. Mueller 973-624-0356.

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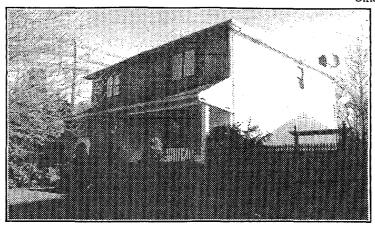


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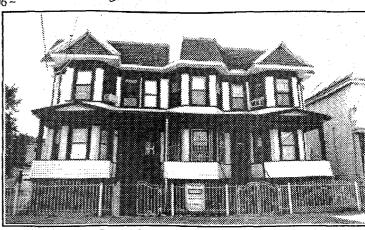
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by Jill Guzman

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(THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY JILL GUZMAN BROKER OF RECORD FOR JILL GUZMAN REALTY INC.)

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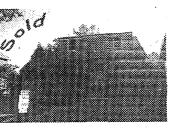
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rice that you got for me.

I hope the new owners like the house and I try to keep it clean for the several years I took care of my mother before she got sick. It's very hard to take care of a house by your self plus taking care of my own home, working and raising a defaulty too. And next thank you for the lawyers that you got for me to handle the power of attorney and selling of the house. They were both good attorneys and they did their job well.

Also thank you for the lovely gifts that you gave me. But I'm the one who should have given the gift.

But I hope this letter makes up for all and I tell all my customer how your company sold the house so fast and if I ever want a new place I would call you up and let you handle everything for me.

I will keep in touch with you and I wish you all the best in the future with selling homes. You're the sweetest

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Intermittent problems are tough to solve

By John Woods Copley News Service

An intermittent problem is one that doesn't happen all the time. For instance, if your car dies at every stop sign, that problem is not intermittent. If it dies at every other stop sign, that is not an intermittent problem, either. If your car randomly dies at stop signs, that problem is intermittent.

Your mechanic cannot guarantee a diagnosis of intermittent problems. For example, suppose your car has a problem in which, once in awhile, when you come to a stop sign, the engine dies. You put it in park and start it back up and it keeps running just fine. Over the next 10 to 20 days of driving and the next 10 to 50 stops, the engine behaves itself and doesn't stall. Yet, just when you think that your car has somehow fixed itself, it dies again at a stop sign. Curses!

The problem is really starting to annoy you, so you take it in and leave it with me, your mechanic, with instructions to make sure it is "fixed" before I give it back to you. Now your car's problem has become my problem. I start by test driving the car with you and stop the car several times. The car keeps running just fine at each stop. It's obvious to both of us that the problem qualifies as an intermittent problem. You leave the car with me and I go to work.

I spend a couple of hours checking and find several things wrong. You have a cracked windshield, a tire that is just about ready to burst, an intake hose that is cracked and a bad diode in the alternator. Now, it's obvious that the cracked windshield is a problem and that the tire should be replaced, but we both know that, even though these are problems that should be fixed, fixing them will not solve that "stalling at stop signs" problem. The cracked intake hose and the bad diode are things that could cause your car to stall at idle. We have one big problem with this logic: If the cracked hose or the diode is the cause of your stalling problem, why isn't the car stalling for me right now?

I call you up, tell you what I have found, and recommend replacing the hose and alternator, but caution you that fixing these two problems may

not solve your stalling problem. The only way either of us could know if replacing these things fixed your stalling problem is for one of us to drive the car for 20 days, because that's how long you say the car has gone without stalling.

At this point, the customer shows frustration. Here I am, the professional mechanic, telling my customer that I suggest spending hard-earned money fixing two things that, even though they test bad, are obviously not causing any problems right now and, on top of that, I am not willing to promise that fixing them is going to cure the car of stalling.

Sometimes a customer will offer to help me in diagnosing the car.

"Could it be my fuel pump?" I know that a co-worker suggested this one, because the co-worker had a similar problem and it turned out to be the fuel pump. My answer to the "could it be" is "yes." It could be that. Once in awhile, the car's fuel pump quits pumping when it comes to stop sign and causes the engine to stall. My question back is, "If your fuel pump is bad, why isn't the car stalling for me right now?"

Now, there are exotic tests that I can do on the fuel pump, such as an amperage draw and oscilloscope wave pattern tests. These tests take considerable time, which is money. Even if the test shows that the fuel pump is bad, we still will be back in the same predicament as with the cracked hose and the diode. If the pump test bad, why isn't the car stalling right now?

The bottom line is that your mechanic cannot promise to fix an intermittent problem. Sometimes we can be fairly sure that what we find

The bottom line is that your mechanic cannot always guarantee to repair an intermittent problem.

will fix the problem, but we seldom can be absolutely sure. And, sometimes, we can find absolutely nothing wrong with your car.

As you can see, intermittent problems can put a real strain on your relationship with your mechanic. I think it is imperative that, anytime you're dealing with an intermittent problem, your mechanic should explain the "no guarantee" to find and/or fix the problem scenario with you before you leave the car with him. If you agree to these terms, then you have a responsibility to not hold him responsible if what he suggest ends up not curing the problem; and, if he can find nothing wrong, you still have to pay him for his time trying.

If you don't like the idea of paying lots of money for testing and repairs, with absolutely no guarantee up front that your car's problem will be solved, then don't leave your car with that mechanic. You might be able to find another mechanic who is willing to guarantee to find and fix your car's problem but, personally, I think that any mechanic who is willing to do so is either a crook or a fool. Think about

Jon Woods is a certified master mechanic who hosts an auto talk show on station KSDO in San Diego and can be reached through his Web site www.signonsandiego.com/marketp lace/autocenter.

N.Y. auto show has Web preview

This year's New York International Automobile Show is still a few months away, but the show's producers are featuring many of the highlights of the event on a new Web site, www.autoshowNY.com, which will go online Saturday. The site presents a first look at the new cars and trucks which will be on

display in New York at the spring show. It also offers a comprehensive vehicle image datasbase.

The 2003 New York International Automobile Show opens April 18 and runs

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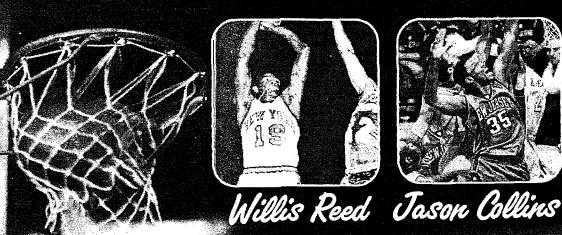
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'00 VOLVO 570

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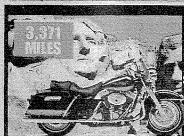
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CHEVROLET LIMINA 4 IR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks/ mirrs air, cass, till, cruise, airbags, doth int, alloys, A/S tires, 48,720 mir, Stk#6183.

2000 CHEVROLET CAVALLER 4 DR 4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cass, tilt, r/def, airbags, dolf bkt seats, A/S lires. 27,690 mi. Stk#6269. YIN#17169213.

1999 CHEVROLET NALIBU 4 DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, am/Im stereo, r/def, airbogs, doth bkt seats, B/W A/S radials. 19, 347 mi. Stk#271AA. VIN#X6255327.

CHEVROLET S10 EXTREME 2 DR 4 cyl, 5 spd auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, till, avise, airbags, cloth bkl seats, chrome whis, A/S fires. 86,092 mi. Sh:#6293. VIN#Y8193272.

CHEVROLET VENTURE VAN 4 DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/ks/mirrs, air, cass, till, cruise, r/def, airbogs, doth bkt seats, A/S tires, 51, 871 mi. Sik#T/01A. VIN#XD245412.



2000 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4X4 4 DR 4 cyl, auta, p/str/brks/winds/ lks/mirrs, air, am/fm stereo, lit, r/def, roof rk, airbogs, doth bkt seats, A/S fires, 34, 064 mi. S1k#6285, VIN#Y6915026.

VIN#X9229108.

CHEVROLET TRACKER 4 DR 4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/ lks/mirs, air, am/fin stereo, till, cruise, roof rk, airbags, doth bkl seats, alloys, A/S tires, 21,951 mi. Sik#6282, VIN#76924478.

1999 HONDA ACCORD EX 4 DR 4 cyl, oute, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/ mirrs/seats, air, cess/cd, fill, cruse, r/def, airbags, leath bkt seats, securi-ty sys, B/W A/S radials, 41,785 mi Sik#6287, VIN#XPA13418.

NISSAN PATHTINDER 4 DR 6 cyl, aulo, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, Blt, auise, r/del, delh bk | seats, alloys, A/S tires, 51, 568 mi. Stk=16241, VIN-FWW 279739.







CHRYSLER 300M 4 DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/ lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, ilt), cruise, r/def, sunrt, leath bkt seats, security sys, traction catrl. 41,097 mi. Sik#8753. VIN#YH251665



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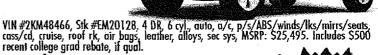
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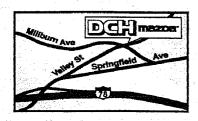


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