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THE CLARK EAGLE

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Teacher looks at war in Iraq and how the media cov

By David Learn
Managing Editor

The face of modern warfare comes at us from the television, the radio and the newspaper.

That information, and how we interpret it regarding the ongoing war in Iraq is a topic history teacher Dennis Dougherty is asking his students at Arthur L. Johnson High School to confront at the start of class each day.

Students are required to bring to class a news picture about the war, and to describe the picture and what it portrays, and how it has influenced their views of the war.

A bulletin board in the back of the classroom is filled with such photos, and class begins with a look at how those images shape our views of the war.

"I'm going to say that this picture shows compassion," Dougherty said Monday morning, holding aloft a picture of an American in military uniform treating an Iraqi. "Now some other person who may not favor the war could say 'Americans killing innocents.'"

The latter interpretation assumes that the Iraqi needed help because of injuries sustained in the American military campaign against Saddam Hussein.

The problem with such a view, Dougherty is quick to point out, is the lack of a visible wound, suggesting the Iraqi was ill before coalition troops arrived and was not injured in an attack.

Sophomore Joe Dent also saw his picture — one of an American soldier carrying a wounded comrade over his shoulder from a helicopter to an ambulance — in a positive light.

"They're helping each other when they're hurt," was Dent's take on the picture.

But one student confessed himself less impressed by the sacrifices of wartime after seeing a photo of a soldier opening a bag of Goldfish snacks sent in a care package.

"I (had) thought it was all war, and you can't get in contact with anyone but their leaders," said the student.

Beyond discussion of how war-related news is presented, Dougherty led his students Monday afternoon on a discussion of the war itself, such as the suicide bombing Sunday by an Iraqi officer that killed four U.S. soldiers, including a 23-year-old from Howell.

"These appearances of these homicide bombers ... they've changed the rules of engagement," Dougherty told his students. "They're saying if people don't stop, you can shoot them."

Class discussion Monday also moved to the homefront, where some peace activists have spoken out against the war.

"Do American citizens have the right to protest the war?" Dougherty asked.

"Yes," came the reply as five students raised their hands to signal their support for a right to protest. "Peacefully," one student added.

None of the students agreed with the tactic of some protesters of blocking traffic by lying down in the road.

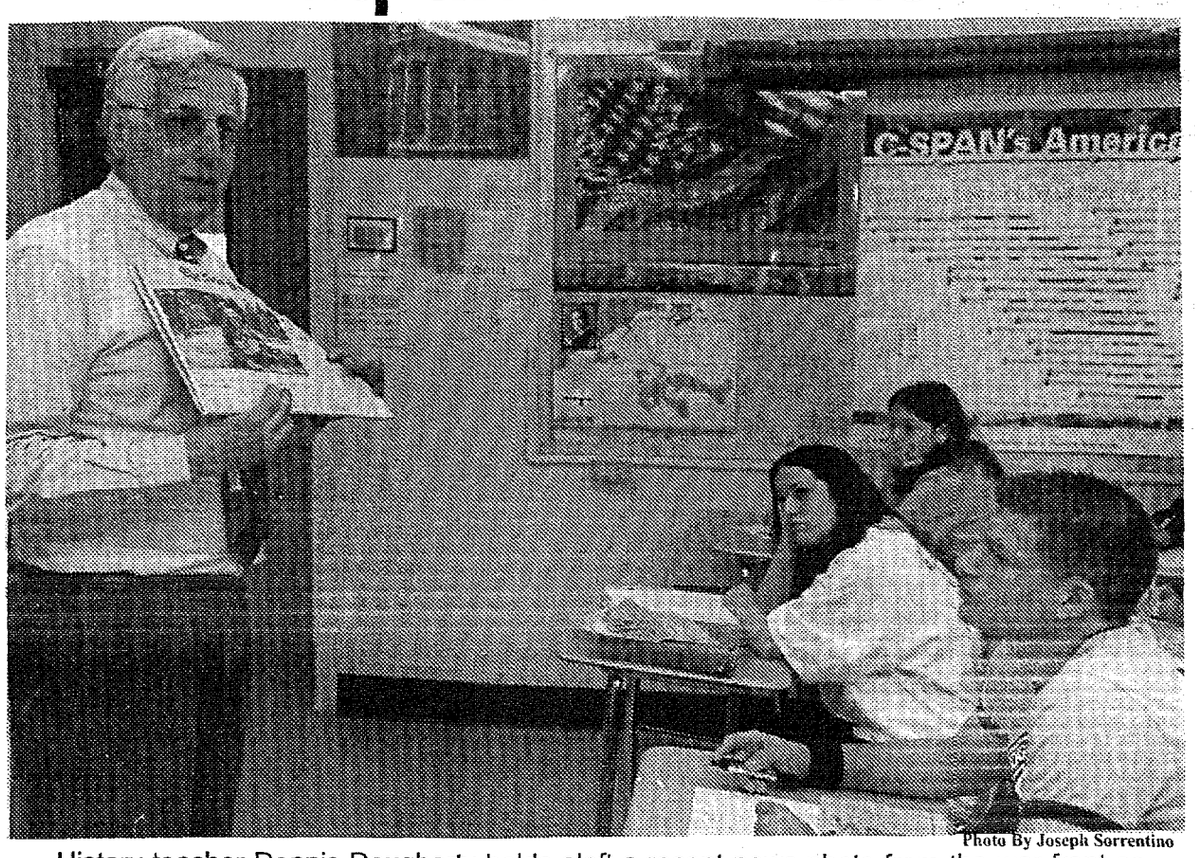

Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

History teacher Dennis Dougherty holds aloft a recent news photo from the war front as he leads students in a discussion of how media shape perceptions of the combat.

Others agreed there is validity even to peaceful protests in Washington, D.C., that require heavy a police presence.

A discussion of the war in Iraq might seem like an odd topic better suited for Dougherty's Global Viewpoints class than a course that has been focusing on the terms of previous presidents, but Dougherty — a retired colonel in the National Guard — has been holding discussions in each of his classes.

"How can you teach history and not teach about the every day?" he asked. "The idea is to teach them to be good citizens, good participatory citizens."

Dougherty's personal feeling is that the effort to topple Saddam's regime is justified as part of the larger war on terror, and that's a position he thinks most of his students share.

"Most of them have the views of their parents, to be honest," Dougherty said. "They're mostly supportive in what they're saying."

So far, discussions like the ones in Dougherty's classroom — and informal discussions among students — have been the extent of the school's treatment of the war.

"They were a little jittery before the start of the war, quite honestly, but the concerns seem to have settled now that the war is going on, and it's not on our soil," said Principal Robert Taylor. "If we were in Howell right now, I'm sure our concerns would be a little different."

The school's guidance staff have the resources to deal with war-related fears should they arise, but at the moment, students are more concerned with college admissions and scholarships than they are about the threat of another terror attack.

"I think the first sign of anything happening in our country would trigger the type of concerns you're pointing to," Taylor said.

In the event of a terror attack that affects the area, school district administrators have prepared a crisis-management response that involves locking down the schools until the red alert is over.

District schools have enough food and water available to last for days.

"In a different era, I'm sure the seniors would be concerned about getting drafted," said Taylor. "I think the constant influx of information has been a bit of a calming influence."

Where the wild things are

By David Learn
Managing Editor

To many people, the thin stretch of open space between Winfield and Clark along the Rahway River isn't worth much.

The land technically is a county park, but it's not a park that's bursting with activity. There are no playing fields or tennis courts, and right now the ground is fairly wet — all of which is why it could be an ideal location for some of the state's native amphibian species.

Bill Fidurski of Hillcrest Drive, chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission, hopes to find out if it is. Fidurski is taking part in a statewide volunteer survey of vernal pools — so called because they are pools of water usually found only during the spring — with the end goal of protecting the pools from development larger wetlands are spared.

"You really never know," said Fidurski. "You can find threatened and endangered species, and you might not."

New Jersey is home to seven different species of amphibian — two frogs and five salamanders — considered obligate vernal pool breeders, or species that can breed only in vernal pools, according to the state Department of Environmental Protection.

The site lists another 14 amphibian species that also use vernal pools for breeding but can reproduce in other ponds unsuitable for obligate breeders because of predatory fish. Ecologists call such amphibians facultative vernal pool breeders.

The presence of either sort of amphibian is enough to register the vernal pool.

"In order to compete, a lot of the frogs and salamanders breed in these ponds of water that dry up seasonally as an adaptive mechanism so they can survive in the wild," said Fidurski. "If they had to compete with fish, they couldn't do it."

Fidurski got involved in the program several months ago through the state Department of Environmental Protection and its Wildlife Conservation Corps.

"There was a newspaper article that they needed people to help them do the salamander and frog survey," said Fidurski. "I figured I should volunteer in case there were any sites in Clark that they need surveyed."

Participation in the program has taken about 12 hours so far, all before Fidurski was able to begin looking for amphibians.

Training has included a half-day of in-the-field work at Pijen Swamp in Middlesex County and another half-day at Pequest Fish Hatchery in Hackettstown.

"We know that historically there have been spring peepers along the Robinson Branch," said Fidurski. "You never know until you get there. You can run into anything from coelacanth, which 'never existed'" — discovered in 1938, coelacanths come from a lineage of fish species that had been considered to have been extinct for 80 million years — "to spring peepers, which are pretty much ubiquitous."

The salamander and frog species Fidurski will look for are largely nocturnal, which will complicate the search — especially the salamanders, which do not make the shrill mating call that male spring peepers are known for.

"If there's a good population, you generally can see them swimming under the surface of the water," Fidurski said of the salamanders. "You basically can take a flashlight and spot the salamander or her eggs."

Fewer than 10 percent of the state's vernal pools have been mapped, according to the DEP.

State legislation adopted in September 2001 extends wetlands protection to certified vernal pools, with the goal of adding such pools to the the state's comprehensive wildlife habitat map, used to guide land-use planning.

Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

Bill Fidurski of Hillcrest Drive kneels beside one of the vernal pools found in the county parkland along the Rahway River. Such seasonal wet spots could be home to some of New Jersey's native amphibian species.

An older act, the New Jersey Freshwater Wetlands Protection Act has been in effect since 1989, but does not protect vernal pools because its language exempts wetlands from protection that are smaller than an acre.

Most vernal pools are smaller than a ¼ acre, according to the DEP. As a result, there is nothing to stop vernal pools from being filled in, drained or otherwise disturbed with general permits.

Because the vernal pools Fidurski will study lie within the county park system, it's unlikely the amphibians he is looking for are gone, but if they are, it would be a loss to the area, he said.

"Once you remove a species, you begin to remove your natural controls. It may seem like salamanders are a small thing, but they do help to control the mosquito population," said Fidurski. "It means we've lost a part of the web of life."

Photo By Kat Wolfe

Mary Gomich, right, takes a stationary bike for a test ride while Jim Loglisci and his son, Jim Jr., take a walk on a treadmill at the new senior center at the Municipal Building.

Clark senior fitness center opens

By David Learn
Managing Editor

With the snip of a pair of scissors, Mayor Sal Bonaccorso Monday afternoon opened a new place room for Clark's senior citizens to go to stay in shape.

The senior center is located in the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building , converted from the boys and girls locker rooms that once stood off the former school gym.

The senior center saw its first official users at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday. It will be open 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. weekdays. Bonaccorso regards it as a work in progress.

"You the citizens of Clark will tell us as this goes on what you like, what you don't like," said Bonaccorso.

The nearly 40 senior citizens present for the ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday took to the fitness center with gusto, trying out the different pieces of exercise equipment with enthusiasm.

"I'll see you tomorrow morning, at 8:30," one senior told Liz Hudak, who will be overseeing the senior center's day-to-day operation and assisting seniors with any questions they have.

The senior fitness center has a set of dumbbells weighing from three to 20 pounds, and 19 different pieces of exercise equipment by Star Trac.

"You know what the difference is between these and some of the machines you see at your homes or maybe your kids' homes?" Bonaccorso asked the seniors gathered. "Hopefully there'll be no coats stacked up on them."

Although it is programmable, the equipment is designed to be easy to use and has readily accessible buttons for users to turn the equipment off, or on to its basic setting.

It also is designed to minimize unnecessary stress on the user.

A treadmill, for example, comes with an incline, but users also can choose to set the treadmill to have no incline at all, reducing the strain on their knees for a prolonged walk.

"Does it go downhill?" one man wisecracked, to the delight of the other seniors.

Another machine allows seniors to simulate running, but without the recurring impact of feet on pavement that can cause discomfort or injury over prolonged periods.

"You must go at your comfort level," Councilman at large Alvin Barr told seniors in a theme stressed repeatedly. "You don't say, 'I think I can do this,' and then be in deep trouble."

There is no charge for seniors to use the center, which was paid for with $150,000 in county grants.

Use of the center requires registration and a doctor's note stating that the senior is in good health and not at risk from using the equipment. The senior center is open to anyone 55 or older.

Welcome to THE EAGLE

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CLK

Attending the Clark Benefit Fund ball at The Westwood are Mr. and Mrs. Pask, their son, scholarship recipient Matthew Pask; Mrs. Kanach and her son, scholarship recipient Ryan Kanach.

Ball raises $16K for Clark needs

The Clark Benefit Fund celebrated its 10th anniversary at the annual winter benefit ball Feb. 1.

More than 350 guests attended the gala event, held at The Westwood in Garwood from 7 p.m. to midnight.

To commemorate "a decade of giving," the sitting executive committee honored former members for their years of service, including Beth Adamusik, 1999-2002; Joanne Cancro, 1999-2002; Pat Korley, 2001; Joanne Megill, 1996-2000; Sue Michalczyk, 1997-2001; Cookie Pitchford, 1997-1999; Regina Swiere, 1994-1999; Marylee Terrano, 1994-2000; and Barbara Timoni, 1999-2002.

Former members were acknowledged for their contributions to the Clark community during their years on the committee. A special presentation also was made to Beverly Ellenport, president and founder of Clark Benefit Fund.

Two high school seniors, Ryan Kanach and Matt Pask, also were awarded $500 scholarships the night of the ball. The students were selected, in part, for their commitment to the community through their volunteer work and participation in service-oriented projects.

Guests also won door prizes, raffled gifts, and grand prizes such as four tickets to a New York Rangers hockey game, a zamboni ride, and an autographed New York Rangers hockey jersey.

Profits from the tickets and Ad Journal exceeded $16,000. This money will be distributed to Clark youth and athletic associations, PTAs, and other community organizations at a reception in the spring.

Students at Frank K. Hehnly School on Raritan Road enjoy Read Across America Day as local officials drop everything and read to them.

Dr. Seuss' birthday marked with books

Frank K. Hehnly School in Clark celebrated "Read Across America Day" on March 3.

The day marks the birthday of Theodor Geisel, better known as Dr. Seuss. This Read Across America Day, intended to nurture lifelong reading skills, celebrated what would have been the author's 99th birthday.

Hehnly School celebrated by having Board of Education members, Township Council members and Assistant Superintendent Susan Miksza read to students.

There were also two "Drop Everything and Read" periods. During the first of these periods the students had a visit from the Cat in the Hat. Throughout the morning the school's student council coordinated a book swap. Students were able to visit the book swap by grade levels and choose a book to swap with a book they already had read.

The day ended with a visit from Mayor Sal Bonaccorso. The mayor read a proclamation on reading to the students. He followed that by reading "Amelia Bedelia Runs for Mayor."

Students were encouraged to wear red and white in honor of Dr. Seuss. Thanks to teacher Barbara Jean Delnero, students were able to wear their own "Cat in the Hat" stovepipe hat.

Guest readers included Board of Education members Diane Lanigan, Sheila Whiting, Karen Amalfe, Michael Timoni, Joseph Papetti; Township Council members Brian Toal and Alvin Barr; and Miksza.

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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, 07083.

Saturday

• Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3930 will hold a vendor's day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the VFW hall, 6 Broadway.
For more information, call 732-340-0102.

Sunday

• The Clark Historical Society will resume its "Open House" programs from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., in the Clark History Room, Room 30.

• A new nine-hole women's golf association is forming at the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex. The group's general meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the golf complex, 1300 Raritan Road. The league will play Tuesday afternoons, starting at 4:15 p.m.
For more information, call Judy Winters at 908-276-1575.

Monday

• The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave.

Wednesday

• The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave.

Upcoming

April 12

• O'Johnnie's Hallmark Shop on Westfield Avenue will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with free photos with the Easter Bunny.
For more information, call O'Johnnie's at 732-381-8999.

April 15

• Dairy Queen of Clark, 182 Westfield Ave., will give a portion of its profits from 6 to 10:30 p.m. to Project Graduation 2003.

April 21

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

April 22

• The Planning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in the municipal courtroom in the Public Safety Building, 315 Westfield Ave.

April 23

• The Board of Trustees of Clark Public Library will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Ayers Community Room at the library, 303 Westfield Ave.

April 26

• Cub Scout Pack 30 and other volunteers will celebrate Earth Day by cleaning up the Bloodgood Branch of the Rahway River at Winfield Dam, behind Valley Road School. Cleanup will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

• St. Agnes Church, 342 Madison Hill Road, will sponsor a one-day clothing drive from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Donations should be packed in bags or boxes and dropped off at St. Agnes Church in the back parking lot. For more information, call Adele at 732-382-8332.

April 28

• The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers, 380 Westfield Ave.

May 5

• St. Agnes Church will host its fourth annual golf fund-raiser at the Echo Lake Country Club in Westfield beginning at 11 am. Participation includes 18 holes of championship golf, a golf cart, driving range, a patio lunch, golf course refreshments, a deluxe cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception, locker facilities and use of the clubhouse.
For more information, contact the rectory office at 732-388-7852.

• The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave.

May 14

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May 19

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May 22

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May 27

• The Planning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in the municipal courtroom in the Public Safety Building, 315 Westfield Ave.

May 28

• The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet at 8 p.m. in Council Chambers, 380 Westfield Ave.

Ongoing

• The Arthur L. Johnson High School Booster Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month in the high school library, 365 Westfield Ave.

• The Skulski Art Gallery, 177 Broadway, is open to the public 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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House damaged in Saturday morning blaze

FIRE BLOTTER

The Clark Fire Department was dispatched to a house fire near Ross Street and Durham Road, at 11:49 a.m. Saturday. The Rahway Fire Department also was on scene.

The fire, which started among the contents of a second-floor bedroom, was initially knocked down and the Clark Fire Department provided a back-up line, ventilated the residence and conducted overhaul operations.

During the overhaul operation, firefighters found and extinguished flames on the ground floor of the exterior of the building under the siding.

The cause of the fire is under investigation. The residence suffered smoke and heat damage as a result of the fire.

Elizabethtown Gas and Public Service Electric and Gas Co. responded to the scene to shut off the gas and electricity.

A Linden pumper also responded to the fire, and Garwood, Kenilworth and Roselle Park responded to the Clark Fire Department Broadway headquarters while Clark fire crews worked at the fire scene.

• The fire department responded to a transformer fire in the area of Georgian Drive at 3:58 p.m. Saturday.

The Linden Fire Department was also on scene as part of an agreement that Linden responds to fire calls on the north side of the township due to the Valley Road bridge construction.

One Clark Fire Department engine remained on scene until Public Service Electric and Gas Co. arrived.

• The Clark Fire Department ladder truck company went to Plainfield at 12:48 a.m. Saturday while Plainfield firefighters were at the scene of a fire in their own city.

• The Clark Fire Department engine company went to Linden at 5:52 p.m. Friday while Linden firefighters were at the scene of a fire in their own city.

• The fire department responded to a fire alarm activation at Barnes and Noble at Raritan Road and Central Avenue, at 4:38 p.m. Friday.

A child had pulled the fire alarm box. The fire alarm was reset.

• The fire department was sent to Central and Terminal avenues at 5:57 a.m. March 27 for a motor vehicle accident.

Fire crews contained the fluids that leaked from the vehicle until the vehicles could be removed.

• The fire department was dispatched to a report of a car fire on the southbound Garden State Parkway at 7:43 p.m. March 26.

Firefighters found an overheated vehicle.

• The fire department responded to a construction site on Lake Avenue for the report that a contractor had broken a gas main, at 3:32 p.m. March 26.

Upon arrival, a heavy odor of natural gas was present. The fire department remained on scene until Elizabethtown Gas had responded to the scene and fixed the problem.

• The fire department responded to a fire alarm activation at a School Street residence at 9:28 a.m. March 26.

The fire alarm had been activated by cooking.

• The fire department was dispatched at 8 a.m. March 25 to the Featherbed Lane area for a report of a natural gas odor.

Firefighters were unable to locate any odor.

• The Clark Fire Department ladder truck company went to Elizabeth at 1:48 a.m. March 23 while city personnel were at the scene of a fire.

• The Clark Fire Department engine company was dispatched to Union at 3:08 p.m. March 23 while fire personnel there were at the scene of a fire in their own city.

• The fire department was dispatched to an odor of something burning and a fire alarm activation at a church school on Madison Hill Road, at 9:59 a.m. March 23.

The cause of the smoke was traced to the ballast of a light in one of the classrooms. The ballast was disconnected and the fire alarm was reset.

• The fire department was dispatched to investigate a report of a natural gas odor in the area of a Westfield Avenue supermarket at 10:31 p.m. March 21.

Firefighters were unable to detect an odor.

• The fire department responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation at a Lionel Street residence at 10:01 p.m. Feb. 23.

Carbon monoxide readings taken by fire department personnel did not detect the presence of elevated levels of carbon monoxide.

Elizabethtown Gas Company was asked to check for possible causes for the carbon monoxide alarm activation.

The fire department responded to a report of a motor vehicle fire in the driveway of a residence on Orchard Terrace at 3:43 p.m. Feb. 23.

The resident noticed the vehicle's car alarm sounding. After starting the vehicle to reset the alarm, the resident noted smoke coming from under the hood and called 911.

Raquel Guarino, second from right, a sixth-grader at St. John the Apostle School, recently won first place in the Declamation Competition of the Union County Catholic League of Forensics. Also pictured are Principal Donna Marie O'Brien, adviser David Jules and forensics moderator Sharon Osnato.

Pupil wins forensics award

Raquel Guarino, a sixth-grader at St. John the Apostle School recently was awarded a first-place ribbon for her performance in the Declamation Competition of the Union County Catholic League of Forensics.

The competition was held at Christ the King School in Hillside in February 2003. More than 50 students throughout Union County participated. The next competition of this league will be held in April at St. Bartholomew's School in Scotch Plains.

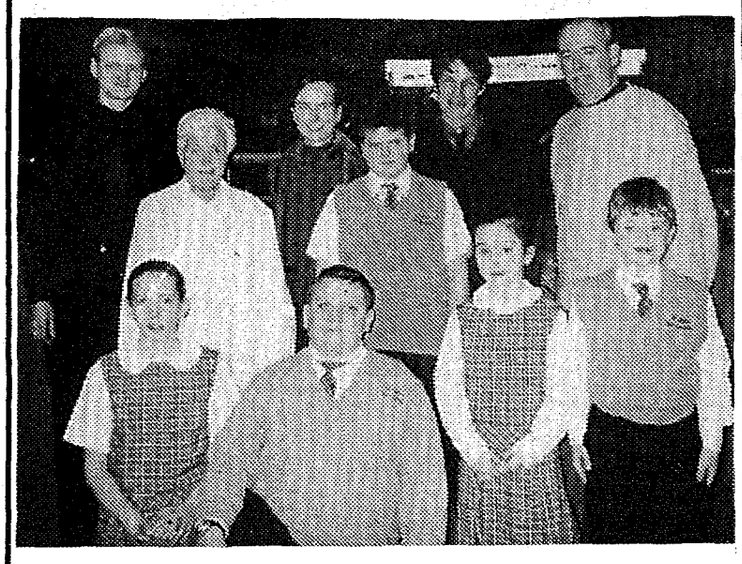
STORK CLUB

Juliet Morgan Benedetti

A 6-pound, 10-ounce daughter, Juilet Morgan Benedetti, measuring 18½ inches, was born Jan. 31 at St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick, to Mr. and Mrs. Benedetti of Hillsborough.

Mrs. Benedetti, the former Christine Eng, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eng of Springfield. Her husband is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Benedetti of Clark.

In celebration of music



Musician Tim Janis performed two concerts for St. John the Apostle School students, one for kindergartners through fourth-graders, and the other for fifth- to eighth-graders. Pictured are Sergei Kogut; Cinnamon Creedan and Tim Janis; Sister Donna Marie O'Brien, principal; Keith Esposito, Dennis Fitzmaurice, school coordinator of program; Jessica Popek, Christopher Osnato, Samantha Fitzmaurice and Edwin Ford.

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SPECIAL BERINGER White Zinfandel 4.07 750ml
SPECIAL KORBEL Brut • Extra Dry 10.27 750ml
SPECIAL WOODBRIDGE Cabernet, Merlot or Chardonnay 11.00 1.5L
SPECIAL KENDALL-JACKSON Cabernet or Merlot 12.17 750ml
SPECIAL BOGLE • Chardonnay • Merlot 6.67 750ml
SPECIAL MERIDIAN •Cabernet •Merlot •Chardonnay 7.07 750ml
SPECIAL LUNA DI LUNA Chard - Pinot Grigio Merlot - Cabernet 6.87 750ml
SPECIAL FREIXENET CORDON NEGRO Brut • Extra Dry 7.07 750ml
SPECIAL CARLO ROSSI Blush,Burgundy, Chablis, Paisano 7.49 4 Liters
SPECIAL CAVIT Pinot Grigio 9.19 1.5L
SPECIAL SANTA MARGHERITA 16.07 750ml
SPECIAL ROSEMOUNT Shiraz 8.87 750ml
SPECIAL GALLO SONOMA • Cabernet • Chardonnay • Merlot 8.17 750ml
SPECIAL RUFFINO CHIANTI Ris Ducale Tan 15.07 750ml
SPECIAL VEUVE CLICQUOT Brut 29.97 750ml
SPECIAL CONCHA Y TORO • Merlot • Cab-Merlot • Chardonnay 7.00 1.5L

CALIFORNIA/WASHINGTON 750ML
BV Coastal- Cab, Chard, Merlot 7.07
BV Napa Cabernet 11.37
Benziger Chardonnay Cameros 8.57
Beringer Chard Napa 00-..WE92 9.97
Beringer Chenin Blanc 4.37
Beringer Founders'- Cab,Chard,Merl 7.37
Beringer Knights Valley Cabernet 16.67
Beringer Pr Res Chard 99- ..WS92 22.07
Ch Souverain Chardonnay 10.67
Ch St Jean Chardonnay 9.37
Ch Ste Michelle Chardonnay 7.67
Ch Ste Michelle- Cabernet,Merlot 11.37
Clos du Bois Cabernet 11.07
Clos du Bois Chardonnay 9.17
Clos du Bois Merlot 13.07
Columbia Crest Chard,Merlot-Cab 5.37
Edna Valley Chardonnay 10.07
Estancia Chardonnay 7.57
Estancia Red Meritage 25.07
Estancia- Cabernet, Merlot 10.77
Fetzer Gewurztraminer 5.77
Fetzer Sundial Chard, Cab, Merl 6.47
Forest Glen- Cab,Chard,Merlot 6.77
Franciscan Cabernet 17.07
Franciscan Chardonnay 12.07
Glen Ellen- Cab,Chard,Merlot 4.07
Hess Select Chardonnay 8.27
J Lohr Cabernet Seven Oaks 10.57
J Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay 9.07
Kendall Jackson Chard Camt 00- WA90 13.07
Kendall Jackson Chard Grd Rsv 13.07
Kendall Jackson Pinot Noir 9.07
Kendall Jackson Sauv Blanc 7.37
Mondavi Napa Cabernet 20.07
Mondavi Prv Sel- Cab,Chard,Merlot 7.67
Napa Ridge- Cab, Chard 6.07
Pepperwood Pinot Noir 6.07
RH Phillips Chardonnay 6.67
RH Phillips Chardonnay Toasted Hd 9.67
Rabbit Ridge Cuvee-Cabernet,Merlot 7.07
Rancho Zabaco Zinfandel Heritage 8.67
Ravenswood Vintner's Zinfandel 7.57
Rodney Strong Sonoma Chard 8.07
Rodney Strong-Cabernet,Merlot 11.57
Seghesio Zinfandel Sonoma 11.37
Simi Cab Alexnder Vly 99- ..WS90 14.77
Simi Chardonnay 11.57
St Francis Chardonnay 8.57
Sterling Cabernet 17.07
Sterling Merlot 16.37
Sutter Home White Zinfandel 3.57
Turning Leaf- Cab,Chard,Merlot 6.07
Woodbridge- Cab,Chard, Merlot 5.47

AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND 750ml
Black Opal- Cab,Chard,Cab-Merl,Shz 6.17
Greg Norman Cab-Merlot, Shiraz 11.37
Jacob's Crk- Cab, Merlot, Shiraz 6.37
Jacob's Crk-Chard, Shz-Cab 6.07
Penfolds Koonunga Hill Shiraz-Cab 8.17
Rosemount Chardonnay 6.87
Rosemount Shiraz-Cabernet 5.87
Wyndham Est Shiraz Bin 555 6.67

ITALY 750ml
Antinori Santa Cristina Sangiovese 7.67
Cavit Pinot Grigio 6.07
Ecco Domani- Merlot, Pinot Grigio 7.17
Falesco Vitiano 7.97
Monte Antico Rosso 7.37
Ruffino Chianti 5.57
Ruffino Chianti Ris Ducale Gold 27.07

FRANCE 750ml
Jaboulet Parallele 45 6.07
Jadot Beaujolais Villages 7.17
Mouton Cadet- Red, White 6.17

CHILE/SPAIN/ARGENTINA 750ml
Los Vascos Cabernet, Chardonnay 5.67
Walnut Crest- Cab,Chard,Merlot 4.37

PORT & OTHER WINE
Harveys Bristol Cream Sherry 8.07
Martini & Rossi Vrmth-Dry,Swt 1.5L 8.49

Andre- Brut,Ex Dry, Spumante 3.07
Chandon- Brut, Blanc de Noir 12.17
Cook's Brut, Extra Dry 4.07
Dom Perignon 93-..WE92 99.97
Dom Ste Michelle Brut,ExDry,BldeBl,BldeN 8.07
Martini & Rossi Asti 8.17
Moet & Chandon White Star 24.17
Piper Heidsieck- Brut, Extra Dry 22.07
Taittinger La Francaise Brut NV 26.07

1.5 LITER WINES
Arbor Mist- All Flavors 5.09
Beringer Founder's- Cab,Chard,Merl 14.39
Beringer Stone Cirs Cab, Chard, Merl 9.07
Beringer White Zinfandel 3.00
Bolla Pinot Grigio 9.59
Citra- Montepulciano,Trebbiano 5.09
Columbia Crest- Chard, Merlot-Cab 10.07
Corbett Canyon- Cab, Chard, Merl 5.29
Fetzer Sundial Chard, Cab, Merlot 12.49
Foxhorn- Cab,Chard,Merlot 4.09
Gallo White Zinfandel 4.49
Gallo- Cab,Chard,Merlot 6.09
Glen Ellen- Cab, Chard, Merlot 7.00
Lindemans Chardonnay Bin 65 9.09
Luna di Luna- Chard-PG, Merl-Cab 12.79
Mondavi, CK Cab, Chard, Merlot 9.09
RH Phillips Chardonnay 11.39
Rene Junot- Red,White 4.69
Sutter Home White Zinfandel 6.39
Sutter Home- Cab, Chard, Merlot 8.29
Vendange- Cab,Chard,Merlot 6.29
Walnut Crest- Cab, Chard, Merlot 8.00
Woodbridge, Mondavi Sauv Blanc 7.69

VALUE BRANDS
Almaden Cab,Chrd, Merl, WtZn..5L Box 10.09
Almaden White Zinfandel ...3L Btl 7.19
Almaden-Burg,Chabl,Rhine ...5L Box 8.09
Franzia Chard, Merl, Wt Zin .5L Box 10.09
Franzia- Blush,ChillRed,Rhine ..5L Box 6.69
Franzia- Burgundy,Chablis ..5L Box 8.09
Livingstn Clrs-Burg,Chabl,Rose 3L Btl 6.49
Livingstn Clrs-Cab,Chard,Merl 3L Btl 8.09

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SPECIAL BACARDI Rum •Gold •Light 17.00 1.75L
SPECIAL CLAN MacGREGOR 15.09 1.75L
SPECIAL GORDON'S Vodka 13.00 1.75L
SPECIAL WINDSOR CANADIAN 12.09 1.75L
SPECIAL SOUTHERN COMFORT 20.09 1.75L
SPECIAL BEEFEATER Gin 26.00 1.75L
SPECIAL CAPTAIN MORGAN •Parrot Bay •Spiced Rum 21.29 1.75L
SPECIAL DEWARS Scotch 31.00 1.75L
SPECIAL SMIRNOFF 80 Vodka 18.00 1.75L
SPECIAL SEAGRAM'S 7 14.09 1.75L
SPECIAL JACK DANIELS Bourbon 32.09 1.75L
SPECIAL TANQUERAY Gin 28.00 1.75L
SPECIAL KAHLUA 14.49 750ml
SPECIAL JOHNNIE WALKER RED 31.00 1.75L
SPECIAL ABSOLUT Vodka 28.09 1.75L
SPECIAL SEAGRAM'S VO 19.09 1.75L

Jack Daniels Black ..750ml ..16.09
Maker's Mark ..750ml ..17.09
Old Crow ..1.75L ..14.09
Old Grand Dad 86 ..1.75L ..25.09

OTHER LIQUORS, CORDIALS
Bailey's Irish Cream ..750ml ..16.09
Benedictine & Brandy ..750ml ..24.67
Christian Bros Brandy ..1.75L ..16.09
Di Saronno Orig Amaretto ..750ml ..16.09
E & J Brandy ..1.75L ..16.09
Bombay ..1.75L ..26.00
Bombay Sapphire ..1.75L ..32.00
Bombay Sapphire ..750ml ..16.29
Burnett's ..1.75L ..12.29
Gilbey's ..1.75L ..12.09
Hill Street ..1.75L ..8.79
Seagram's ..1.75L ..14.09
Tanqueray ..750ml ..15.00
Grand Marnier ..750ml ..25.09
Hennessy VS Cognac ..750ml ..22.09
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Bacardi- Gold, Light ..750ml ..9.00
Capt Mrgn Parrot Bay, Spiced ..750ml ..12.29

TEQUILA
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Kahlua ..1.75L ..31.09
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Romana Sambuca ..750ml ..17.09
TGI Fridays- Blndr Rdy Mxs ..1.75L ..13.00
Chivas Regal ..750ml ..25.09
Cutty Sark ..1.75L ..26.09
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Famous Grouse ..1.75L ..29.49
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Inver House Green ..1.75L ..14.09
J & B ..1.75L ..29.00
Johnnie Walker Black ..750ml ..24.00
Macallan 12 Yr Single Malt ..750ml ..32.99
Old Smuggler ..1.75L ..17.09
Absolut ..1L ..18.09
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Belvedere ..750ml ..24.00
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Chopin ..750ml ..24.00
Finlandia ..1.75L ..23.10
Grey Goose ..750ml ..23.19
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Canadian Club ..1.75L ..17.49
Canadian Mist ..1.75L ..13.09
Crown Royal ..750ml ..18.09
Imperial ..1.75L ..11.39
Jameson Irish Whiskey ..750ml ..18.09
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Skyy ..1.75L ..22.00
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Wolfschmidt ..1.75L ..13.09

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SPECIAL BUSCH Reg or Light 11.00 30-12oz. Cans
SPECIAL HEINEKEN AMSTEL LT 20.18 24-12oz. Btls.

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Budweiser, Bud Light ..18pk ..9.99
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Heineken & Amstel Light ..24pk ..19.19
Micheloh- Light,Regular ..30pk ..16.25
Miller High Life- Reg or Lt ..30pk ..10.10
Natural Light- Ice, Regular ..24pk ..8.00
Red Dog ..30pk ..9.10
Yuengling Lager, Black & Tan ..24pk ..13.40

12oz. BOTTLES / 12pk Case
Bass Ale ..9.99 ..19.98
Bud Ice, Bud Ice Light ..6.99 ..13.98
Coors Light ..7.00 ..14.00
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Fosters Lager ..9.00 ..18.00
Guinness Extra Stout (6pk 7.99) ..26.99
Harp Lager ..11.49 ..22.98
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Killians Irish Red ..9.09 ..18.18
Labatt Blue Pilsener ..8.00 ..16.00
Michelob Reg,Light,Ultra ..7.10 ..14.20
Miller Lite, Genuine Draft 24pk ..12.99
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Pilsner Urquell ..9.98 ..19.98
Rolling Rock ..6.65 ..13.30
Sam Adams Boston Lager 10.00 ..20.00
Sierra Nev Ale,Pntr, Stout (6pk-6.99) ..24.99
St Pauli Girl ..9.19 ..18.38
Warsteiner Dunkel, Regular 8.58 ..17.16
Yuengling- Lager,Blk&Tan ..6.70 ..13.40
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Bacardi Silver ..10.19 ..20.38
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Mike's Hard Cran Lemonade (6pk-6.49) ..24.99
Mike's Hard Lemonade ..10.50 ..21.00
Skyy Blue ..10.75 ..21.50
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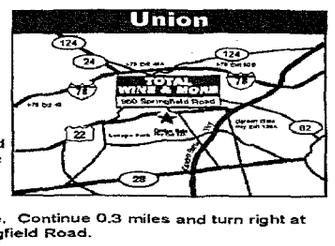

•From North, Garden State Parkway Southbound
Take Exit 140A, continue on Rte 22 West. Take the 6th U-turn at Wendy's (1st U-turn not lettered after "E" u-turn). You will be facing 1st entrance to Home Depot/Walmart Shopping Center. Bear to right lane. Continue 0.3 miles and turn right at 3rd entrance to Shopping Center right before Springfield Road.
•From South, Garden State Parkway Northbound
Take Exit 138. Turn left onto the Boulevard (Kenilworth). Proceed 1.2 miles, past 4th light. Make right directly after Harding School, N 14th Street, which turns into Springfield Rd. Proceed 0.8 miles, make left into Shopping Center.
•From West, Rte 22 Eastbound
Take Rte 22 past Springfield and Target Superstore. Continue past Home Depot Shopping Center 1st entrance 0.3 miles and turn right at 3rd entrance to Shopping Center right before Springfield Road.
•From East, Rte 22 Westbound
Take the 6th U-turn past Garden State Parkway at Wendy's (1st U-turn not lettered after "E" u-turn). You will be facing 1st entrance to Home Depot/Walmart Shopping Center. Bear to right lane. Continue 0.3 miles and turn right at 3rd entrance to Shopping Center right before Springfield Road.

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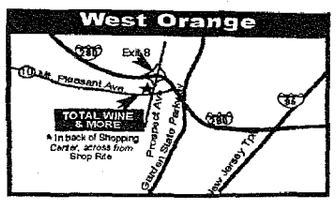

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Hits and misses

The news has a way of concentrating on a few things above others. The recent appeal of the school district's twice-rejected construction proposal, the township's green light on an expansion project for the library, and the events unfolding in the Middle East are all reports we have heard plenty of in recent weeks. But other events also make the news and affect our lives. What follows is our take on some of the other items to make headlines in recent weeks, the good, the bad and the ugly.

HIT: The municipal Office of Emergency Management has what it believes is a reasonable plan in the event of a terror-related red alert. One of the ugliest things to face the area is the risk of another round of terror attacks. A possibility on everyone's minds since 9-11, the specter has returned with a vengeance in light of the unfolding conflict in Iraq. Although the risk of an attack directly on Clark is negligible, municipal and school officials believe they have an effective strategy for dealing with the fallout of an attack elsewhere when it threatens the township.

MISS: Coming as a surprise to virtually no one is the recent threat of a lawsuit against the Clark Zoning Board of Adjustment regarding its decision last December to reject an application to build an apartment building off Old Raritan Road, on the site of the former Frank Schwarz Farm. Developer Sterling Acquisitions Group LLC presumably is within its rights to file a lawsuit, but doesn't anyone remember when being told "no" was disappointing, but people could accept it?

HIT: Something else that has changed during the past 15-odd years is the proliferation of TV studios in public schools. Clark School District is somewhat unusual in that it has two — including one at Carl H. Kumpf School, the middle school. Although a TV studio does not necessarily enhance the quality of education students receive, teacher Matt Serwedes and school officials are to be commended for creating an experience that provides children with the opportunity to develop the interpersonal skills, writing ability, stage presence and technical prowess required to make a semesterlong project such as KTV a daily success.

HIT: Another unqualified success for Kumpf School is English teacher Amanda Cloutier's work at getting her students hooked on reading. The book "Interstellar Pig" isn't even close to classic literature, but it was enough to hook a class of seventh-grade reluctant readers. Kudos to Cloutier for indulging the students' excitement and suspending normal class activities to feed that fire with the students' own board game version of the book.

A lifesaver

The Union County Sheriff's Office has launched Project Lifesaver, a program aimed at protecting the senior citizen population, specifically those suffering from Alzheimer's disease or dementia.

The Union County Sheriff's Office, which sends its search and rescue team to search for a missing person, estimates they receive one call per month. Thankfully, many times these people are found within a short period of time. But one never knows if that will always be the case. The first 24 hours are critical in such cases. With Project Lifesaver, the sheriff estimates the average time to track a missing person is approximately 22 minutes.

Those who suffer from Alzheimer's or similar diseases sometimes wander away from home and become disoriented and lost, which becomes a dangerous situation. Police, fire and rescue personnel sometimes search for hours before a person is found. This can cause undue stress for loved ones, but also can put a strain on emergency resources.

With Project Lifesaver, patients would be outfitted with simple plastic bracelets that are tuned to a certain radio frequency. Authorities then would use a radio unit to track the frequency of the wristbands.

Union County follows Morris County, which was the first in the state to begin Project Lifesaver. The county is seeking organizations such as Rotary or Kiwanis clubs to help fund the bracelets for those who might not be able to afford it. While Union County has secured 20 bracelets to get the program started, Morris has reached out to its benevolent organizations to aid in funding the initiative.

The cost for the program is not spectacular. The wristbands cost $275 each while wristband batteries, which must be changed every month, cost $15. The radio units that police use to track someone cost approximately $2,500. Union County has used forfeiture funds to purchase two units.

It's unfortunate when people can no longer care for themselves. Some senior citizens reach that point where they need to be cared for and looked after around the clock. Project Lifesaver uses simple technology to help address a situation that is difficult for families as well as law enforcement.

Families or sponsors interested in Project Lifesaver can call the Union County Sheriff's Office at 908-527-4450.

The Eagle

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MUSICAL MULTICULTURALISM — Students at St. John the Apostle School demonstrate costumes and musical instruments from various countries as part of an assembly on multiculturalism sponsored by the Parent Faculty Guild. Bruce Seigal was the presenter.

Perspective is one of the first things we've lost

Omphaloskepsis

By David Learn
Managing Editor

In Roselle Park, merchant Charles DiStefano is refusing to sell the French wines his store carries.

In Cranford, high school students who voice objections to the war in Iraq claim they are being bullied and harassed by members of the pro-war majority.

In Kenilworth, if you want to buy french fries or french toast, you're out of luck. Following the antics of U.S. Rep. Bob Ney, R-Ohio, the Kenilworth Diner has stricken the word "french" from the menu and replaced it with "freedom."

My friend Greg Hartman tells me that some activists have spit on soldiers stationed in his hometown of Colorado Springs, Colo., and called them baby-killers in a nightmarish return to the worst days of the Vietnam War protest.

What do all these incidents have in common? They represent a fundamental inability of some people to accept viewpoints that differ from their own.

I'm not sure which is worse, the anti-French sentiment that has led Ney to strike the word "french" from the menus in Washington and the related xenophobia that has been sweeping the nation as otherwise rational people follow his example and vilify the French, or the attempts to silence critics of the war.

Let me start with the anti-French sentiment.

The United States and France have a long history as allies. Although we fought on opposite sides of the French and Indian War in the mid-18th century, France came to our aid when we declared ourselves as sovereign states, independent of English rule.

It's no exaggeration to say that we owe our existence as a nation to the French.

The Marquis de Lafayette was one of our biggest personal allies during the American Revolution, giving aid to the Continental Army on more than one occasion, and France also was the country that sold us the Louisiana Territory, a sale that pushed our national border west from the Mississippi River out to the Rocky Mountains.

We've also come to France's rescue more than once. As Speaker of the House Tom DeLay has pointed out, it was primarily American troops that liberated France toward the end of World War II in Europe.

French is one of the most common foreign languages taught in the United States, and France itself — particularly Paris — deservedly remains one of the most popular spots for Americans to visit when going abroad.

In other words, our relationship with France is a venerable one, too valuable to toss away or damage over this disagreement. When a friend criticizes me, I use the opportunity to see myself from a new light and grow if it is warranted, not to harm my friend.

At the moment, it's true, France and the United States have widely divergent official views on our foreign policy.

That's no surprise, really; because they also refused to let us use their air space when President Reagan had Libya bombed in the 1980s.

That was their right, just as it was their right to threaten to defeat any new U.N. resolutions calling for military action against Iraq.

The Security Council is designed the way it is to keep any one country from turning the United Nations into a puppet that does its bidding.

For whatever reason, France has chosen to exercise those checks and balances and use its veto power.

They're hardly alone in their objections. Plenty of nations — and plenty of Americans — have concerns about the morality of what we're doing in Iraq.

Which brings me to the second example of wrongheadedness we shouldn't be seeing: an intolerance of other views.

As Americans, we have the right to disagree, even to disagree heatedly. No one has the right to silence, through intimidation or other tactics, the right of others to free speech.

Our diversity of opinion is one of our nation's greatest strengths. That's why I'm so disappointed that students especially can't bear to see their peers have an honest difference of opinion.

What has been lost here is a proper sense of perspective. In its place is a hideous distortion of right and wrong into a black-white scenario, when anyone who disagrees is somehow undeserving of respect, legitimacy or even basic human dignity.

That's a frightening place to see. Grown a little further, this demonization of other people leads to insular thinking, interpersonal barriers and, full grown, to the sort of unthinking hatred that has led to hate crimes and acts of terrorism.

A note to such people, and others with similar mindsets: You're acting like a bunch of kids. Grow up before you hurt someone.

Protesters should remember to vote in 2004

Reporter's Notebook

By Steven Reilly
Staff Writer

With Operation Iraqi Freedom merely two weeks old, news media, citizen action groups and politicians are falling all over themselves trying to get their views and interpretations of the military action into the forefront of the national debate.

Some of these views are simple enough. In Union, the Township Committee passed an honorary resolution supporting our troops and the president.

A quiet, simple act.

Just what a governing body at the local level of the great American democracy should do. Our freely elected president has, as commander in chief, committed this country to a formidable task.

It is not the time to offer dissent as a nation while our young men and women are being shot and killed by less than noble individuals. We had nearly one full year to offer dissent. Now is the time to give support.

That brings me to the municipalities that have passed anti-war resolutions. There are two in Union County. They are Elizabeth and Plainfield. What were they thinking?

If it wasn't so disturbing, I would be laughing at their audacity.

Forget trying to get violent urban gangs out of these cities, or working to improve the quality of life for their residents.

No, these officials felt it was imperative that they voice their position on the international political stage with their honorary resolutions.

"I think local government leaders need to be vocal because we see residents every day," said Elizabeth Councilwomen Patricia Perkins-Auguste in a previous interview with staff writer Joshua Zaitz.

"We're the closest ones to their hurt, their pain, their issues. We need to transform that and send that to our federal and state representatives."

I wish the honorable councilwoman would transform her efforts to helping the homeless people I pass every day in downtown Elizabeth on my way to work instead of drafting a meaningless resolution not even worth the paper on which it is printed.

This is not to say that personal objection to the military action in Iraq is wrong.

It is good to see citizens exercising their freedom to peacefully assemble and protest an injustice. It is, after all, a constitutional right.

I have just one question for anyone who participates in these protests. I wonder what the percentage of registered voters to non-registered voters is at these peace rallies.

I wonder how many of these people voted in the 2000 presidential election?

Statistically speaking, fewer than one quarter of these people actually voted. This does not take into account demographics and socio-economic factors.

So by all accounts, out of an estimated 100,000 protesters at the peace rally in New York a few weeks ago, fewer than 15,000 were registered voters. Even fewer voted for the president in 2000.

But beyond the political grandstanding and public outcry, the most disturbing thing to come to light in the past two weeks is the self-serving commercialization of the military action by the news media.

War profiteers. That is what we called the factory owners in Europe who used enslaved Jews to profit from Germany's war effort in World War II.

What is the difference between them and the news channels that broadcast 24-hour coverage of the Armed Forces in Iraq seven days a week?

Somebody should tell these journalists that our Congress is about to pass a federal budget that has more than $300 billion in tax cuts to the rich and no way to pay for the rebuilding of the country we are slowly destroying.

Maybe if we had 24 hour coverage of the Senate House Budget Committee we wouldn't have a $400 billion deficit.

There is one great thing that the broadcast media did do, albeit for a brief and fleeting moment. It reminded us of the hell that is war.

On the first Sunday of Operation Iraqi Freedom, America awoke to images of dead U.S. Marines, Army POWs and shot down British pilots. Welcome to hell.

I just hope all of the protesters remember to vote in 2004.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Clark Eagle welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officials and employees of the Township of Clark and the County of Union.

The Clark Eagle reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave. Union, 07083.

The Clark Eagle also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is editorial@thelocalsource.com.

"The impure history of modern America — Vietnam, Watergate, Iran-Contra — proves that reporters have a duty to dig for the truth, whatever the public thinks."

—Maureen Dowd, journalist, 1998

SPEAK OUT

Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our Infosource hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.

Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Callers can remain anonymous.

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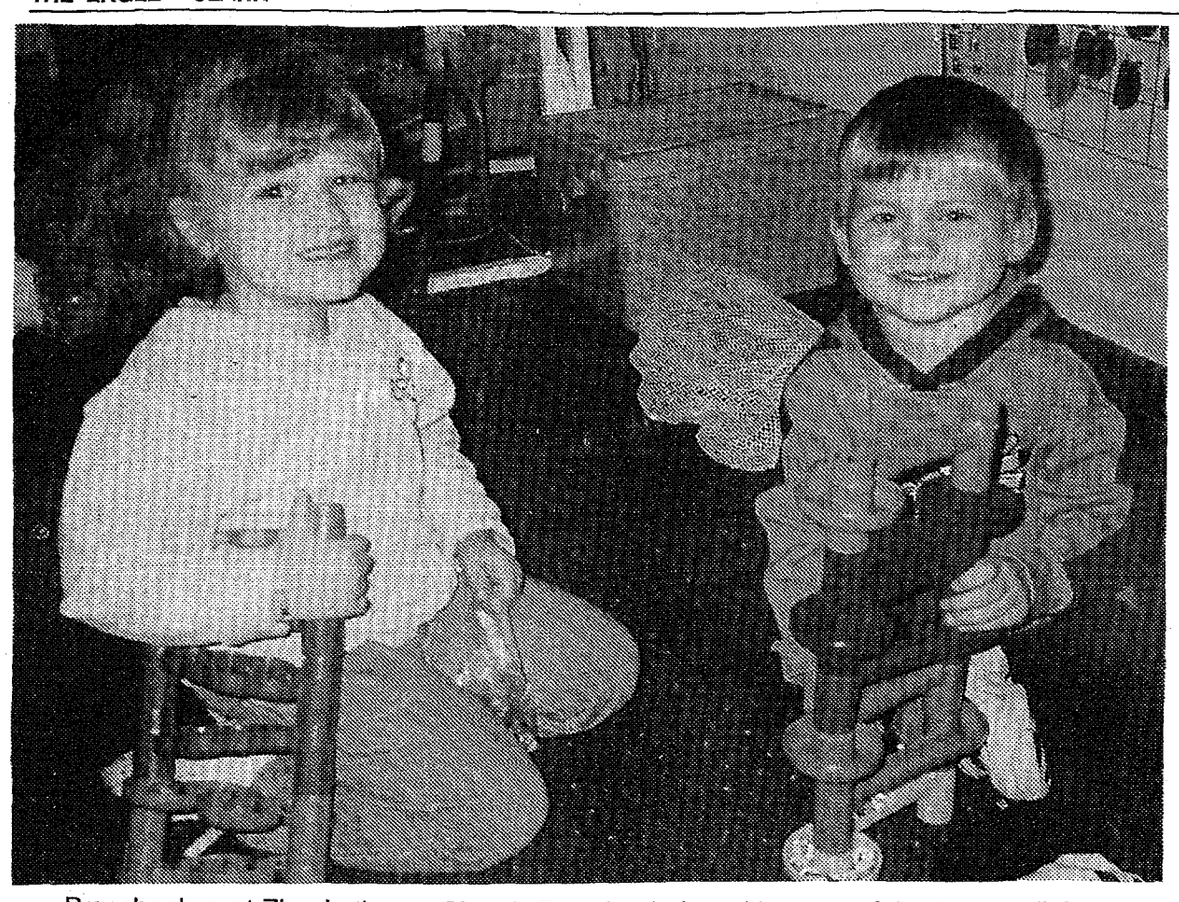

Preschoolers at Zion Lutheran Chruch Preschool play with some of the toys available at the preschool during free play time.

Registration ongoing at preschool

Zion Lutheran Church Preschool, located at Raritan and Oak Ridge roads, is accepting registrations for the 2003-04 school year.

In order to accommodate greater demand, a new class is being offered for the coming school year. The preschool meets at the church and offers morning and afternoon sessions for 3 and 4-year-olds.

Each session is three hours long, running from 9 a.m. to noon for morning sessions and 1 to 4 p.m. for afternoon sessions.

Parents have the option of choosing two, three, or the newly offered five-day-per-week classes.

The preschool is a nondenominational Christian program using an age-appropriate curriculum that includes reading readiness, math, social studies, language arts and science. Free play is included in the day to allow children to pursue their own interests while encouraging exploration, decision-making and self-reliance.

The preschoolers have an opportunity daily, weather permitting, to play in a fully equipped, fenced-in outdoor playground. The school also offers a diversity of creative art experiences. Special programs, classroom visitations and field trips enhance the regular curriculum.

Staffed by professional, experienced teachers and aides, the Zion Lutheran Church Preschool is certified by the state Department of Education.

For more information, registration forms or to schedule a visit to the facilities, call preschool director Rebecca Schulz at 732-732-7663.

CANDIDATES

Henry Varriano

I am a candidate for the Clark Board of Education because I feel that I can make a difference. I have gone through the Clark public schools and am a graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School. As a teacher in the Elizabeth public school system, I am familiar with school curriculum and the workings of a school system.

I have lived most of my life in Clark, and have been actively involved in community activities. I am a member of Clark Unico, where I have served as president, Columbus Day program chairperson, and cultural program chairperson.

I am a member of Advocates for a Better Clark, which was responsible for getting a parade committee, and have served on the Clark Public Library board of trustees.

In Elizabeth I served on the committee to establish an elected school board. I believe that we need more communication between the Board of Education and the residents of Clark. We should institute a quarterly newsletter highlighting the achievements of our school district. This would be mailed to all residents.

Our community needs to be more involved with the schools. The Board of Education and the administration need to make the community aware of the schools various academic, cultural and sports activities.

I would like to see the students in our schools become more involved with our community. Students should be made aware of various community functions, such as parades and other celebrations. Student organizations should be welcomed to participate.

Every child needs to be educated to the best of his or her ability. In addition to our academic offerings, we must not forget vocational classes.

We want our school system to one of which we can be proud. Our high school was rated 45th in New Jersey by New Jersey Monthly magazine. The high quality of our schools is one of the reasons why people move to Clark. We must continue this tradition of excellence.

Henry Varriano

OBITUARIES

Josephine Garcia

Josephine Garcia, 62, of Alpharetta, Ga., formerly of Clark, died March 14 in Portsbridge Hospital, Dunwoody, Ga.

Born in West Virginia, Miss Garcia lived in Clark before moving to Georgia eight years ago.

She worked for Rahway Hospital as a housekeeper for 10 years and retired in 1980.

Surviving are a sister, Olga Wittman, and two brothers, Gerald and Manuel.

Dorothy Toth

Dorothy Toth of Clark died March 23 in Rahway Hospital.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Toth moved to Clark 52 years ago.

She was a member of the Rosary Society of St. Agnes Church, Clark, and the Wednesday Senior Senior Club, Clark.

Surviving is her husband, John.

Ann C. Ficke

Ann C. Ficke of Clark died March 24 in Union Hospital.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Ficke lived in Roselle before moving to Clark 61 years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Robin Scocca and Betty Waterson; two sons, Edmond F. Jr. and Donald; a sister, Mary Willner; 12 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Emma L. Fleming

Emma "Jerry" L. Fleming, 95, of Clark, formerly of Cranford, died March 25 in the Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was the widow of the former fire chief of Cranford, Bernard F. Fleming, who died seven years ago.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Fleming lived in Cranford and Las Vegas before moving to Clark three years ago.

She was a color tester for Monsanto, Hillside, for many years and retired in 1963.

Surviving are a grandchild and three great-grandchildren.

Frederick Reick Jr.

Frederick W. Reick Jr., 63, of Clark died March 22 in Runnells Specialized Hospital, Berkeley Heights.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Reick moved to Clark 58 years ago. He served in the Army during peacetime.

Mr. Reick volunteered at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Surviving are his mother, Lucille Reick, and two brothers, Kenneth R. and Robert A.

STUDENT UPDATE

Golden Key honor society inducts Ashleigh Snow

Ashleigh C. Snow of Clark has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honour Society and was individually honored during a campus ceremony.

"It is only fitting that a high academic achiever like Ashleigh be recognized by Golden Key," said Alexander D. Perwich II, Golden Key executive director. "Our members are inspired and motivated by the challenge not only to be recognized for their outstanding accomplishments but also to make a positive impact on our world through the society's commitment to service."

Golden Key International Honour Society is a nonprofit, academic honors organization that provides academic recognition, leadership opportunities, community service, career networking and scholarships.

The society has more than 300 chapters in the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa and New Zealand. Membership into the society is by invitation only to the top 15 percent of juniors and seniors in all fields of study.

For more information, visit the society's Web site at http://goldenkey.gsu.edu.

Azoia on dean's list at Duke University

Timothy Joseph Azoia, son of Eugene and Linda Manasia of Clark, was named to the fall dean's list at Duke University.

To make the dean's list, students at must rank in the top third of their college class; for dean's list with distinction, they must rank in the top tenth.

EVENTS

VFW post schedules vendor's day Saturday

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3930 will hold a vendor's day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the VFW hall, 6 Broadway.

For more information, call 732-340-0102.

New association forming for women who play golf

Women golfers, unite.

A new nine-hole women's golf association is forming at the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex. The group's general meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday at the golf complex, 1300 Raritan Road.

The league will play Tuesday afternoons, starting at 4:15 p.m.

For more information, call Judy Winters at 908-276-1575.

'Tricky Tray' auction will be held at ALJ

Eighth-graders from Lincoln School in Garwood will host a Tricky Tray Auction April 10 at Arthur L. Johnson High School, Westfield Ave.

Doors open at 6 p.m. The $6 admission fee includes coffee and cake, one sheet of bidding tickets and a chance to win a door prize.

Tickets will be sold at the door, but reservations are available by calling 908-233-4862.

Historical society restarts 'Open House' programs

The Clark Historical Society will resume its "Open House" programs from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

The Clark History Room will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. the first and third Sundays of each month.

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OBITUARIES

Emma L. Fleming

Emma "Jerry" L. Fleming, 95, of Clark, formerly of Cranford, died March 25 in the Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

She was the widow of Bernard F. Fleming, former fire chief of Cranford, who died seven years ago.

Born in Plainfield, Mrs. Fleming lived in Cranford and Las Vegas before moving to Clark three years ago.

She was a color tester for Monsanto, Hillside, for many years and retired in 1963.

Surviving are a grandchild and three great-grandchildren.

'Ado' Castelluccio

Adalinno "Ado" Castelluccio, 77, of Jackson Township, formerly of Cranford, died March 26 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Castelluccio lived in Cranford before moving to Jackson Township 14 years ago.

He was a salesman at Sears in the Raceway Mall, Freehold, for 14 years and retired in 2001.

Mr. Castelluccio previously had worked for Brick Church Appliance, West Orange, and before that, for 20 years for Curtiss-Wright Co., Mahwah, as an expeditor.

Surviving are his wife of 32 years, Ruth; two daughters, Dale Kennoy and Debra; two sons, Gary Kennoy and Dean, and four grandchildren.

Lenore Rosenblum

Lenore Rosenblum, 82, of Hazlet, formerly of Hillside and Cranford, died March 28 in Riverview Medical Center, Lakewood.

Born in the Bronx, Mrs. Rosenblum lived in Hillside, Cranford and Lakewood before moving to Hazlet last year.

She was a member of the Menorah Group of the Original Leisure Village, Lakewood.

Surviving are three daughters, Annette Mellett, Dorothy Israel and Janis Roff; a sister, Gertrude Lauscher; six grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Mary Jane Smith

Mary Jane Coppola Smith, 79, of Cranford died March 29 in Rahway Hospital.

Born in Youngstown, Ohio, Mrs. Smith lived in Newark before moving to Cranford in 1987.

She was a waitress at the Robert Treat Hotel, Newark, from 1980 until her retirement in 1985. Previously, Mrs. Smith was a waitress at Newark International Airport for six years.

Surviving are a daughter, Janice Bottino; two sons, Peter and Paul Coppola; two sisters, Julia Jackson and Helen Smith; a brother, Michael Sarbu; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Thelma J. Bunn

Thelma J. Bunn, 63, of Hillside, formerly of Cranford, died March 28 in JFK Medical Center, Edison.

Born in Irvington, Mrs. Bunn lived in Cranford before moving to Hillside 10 years ago.

Surviving are her husband, Ray; two daughters, Elizabeth Haber and Suzanne Quick; a son, David Vitkovitz; two sisters, Anna Stoll and Cora Melnyk; seven grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Money donated to Project Home

The Cranford Junior Women's Club recently donated proceeds from its holiday house tour to Project Home of Cranford. The donation will provide financial assistance to Cranford families in danger of homelessness due to unemployment, medical bills or other crises. Pictured are Joy Urbanski, co-chairwoman of the tour; Barbara Harrington, president of Project Home; Carol Vosseller, co-chairwoman of the house tour; and Project Home members Dottie Beniewicz and Fay Perotta.

RECREATION

Adult billiards program continues until May 2

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is sponsoring an adult billiards program at Cranford Community Center.

The program is intended for adults 18 and older, and involves a mix of instruction and game play.

The program, which is ongoing, will conclude May 2. It will meet for eight weeks beginning today. Cost for the program will be $15. The program requires at least eight participants, but no more than 16.

For more information call 908-709-7283.

Courts open for players wanting to shoot hoops

If you are looking to beat the bad-weather blues, try one of the basketball programs sponsored by the Cranford Recreation Department.

The Recreation Department sponsors adult basketball at Orange Avenue School Tuesday nights and an Adult Over Age 35 Basketball night Mondays at the Community Center. The program will run through May 19. Registration costs $45. For information call 908-709-7283.

Registration is ongoing for pool summer camp

Cranford Pool and Fitness Center will offer a one-of-a-kind summer program for children 5 to 10 years old.

If you want your child to have a summer filled with fun, games, new friends, arts and crafts, and field trips, the Centennial Avenue Kidz Klub is the place to be.

Camp begins June 23 and continues to Aug. 22, with sessions running every day from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with early drop-off and late pick-up for working parents.

Children may attend just one week or all nine, depending on the parents' schedule. Space is limited. Registration is ongoing.

The program includes a balance of quiet activities and large motor development activities with an emphasis on positive self-esteem by providing a range of different activities on a daily basis.

The program is not designed for children who need a one-on-one setting.

The program is available to Cranford pool members only. For more information, including rates, call 908-709-7260, ext. 12 or ext. 17.

Teens required to display school ID to use center

Cranford students from fifth to 12th grade are required to show their Cranford Community Center or high school ID to use the game room and gym at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

IDs also will be required for seventh-grade movie nights, seventh- and eighth-grade teen center Friday evenings and the high school teen center on Saturday evenings.

Fifth- to eighth-graders who have not received their IDs at school and wish to use the facility should call the Cranford Recreation and Parks Department at 908-709-7283.

ID cards are required for admission.

STUDENT UPDATE

Salisbury U. dean's list

Salisbury University has announced its dean's list for the fall 2002 semester.

Area students who earned a 3.5 or better grade-point average are Elizabeth Coccia and Alison Martines, both of Cranford.

At Salisbury University some 6,700 students pursue liberal arts and professional degrees.

Urbanski on dean's list

Cara Urbanski, a senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Urbanski of Cranford, was awarded honors on the Marist College dean's list for the fall 2002 semester.

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EVENTS

Historical society to hear about Carter House

Arthur J. Cotterell, a trustee and past president of the Summit Historical Society, will speak at the meeting of the Union County Historical Society at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, on the Carter House, its restoration and archives in conjunction with the history of Summit, the "Hill City."

The meeting will be at the Dr. Carl Hanson House, 38 Springfield Ave., Cranford.

Cotterell was a history teacher in Summit High School for 29 years, 19 of them as department chairman. He received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Seton Hall University, South Orange.

Jaycees hold fund-raiser

The Cranford Jaycees will have its annual NCAA fund-raiser from 7:30 to 10 p.m. Monday.

The fund-raiser will be held at the Cranford Hotel Cellar Grill. Admission costs $20, and includes a Great burger and refreshments.

For more information, call Dave Weichert at 908-276-5487 or Rich Leahey at 908-276-2033.

Tickets available for ball to aid local organizations

Tickets are available for the Cranford Junior Woman's Club's annual Charity Ball that will be held Friday at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

The event, which begins at 8 p.m. with a cocktail hour and hors d'oeuvres, continues until 1a.m. with dinner and dancing to the music of the band, Mission Dance. A gift basket raffle will also be featured. Tickets cost $80 per person.

Proceeds benefit the Cranford Fund for Educational Excellence, the Cranford Junior Woman's Club and their Cranford charities.

For more information, to make a donation toward the gift baskets or to purchase tickets, stop by Cranford Corner at Crisanti Shows or 4D Jewelers or call 908-497-0133.

Chamber to hear address on redevelopment work

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce has invited Mayor Dan Aschenbach to be its guest speaker at a membership breakfast to be held at The Office restaurant at 7:30 a.m. Tuesday.

Aschenbach will provide input regarding the ongoing development of the downtown and other important items of interest to the business sector, which the chamber serves.

A charge of $5 per person will be required to cover the cost of the buffet breakfast that will be served.

This is the third networking breakfast provided to members by the Chamber of Commerce. Others offered this year included a speaker from the Union County Prosecutor's Office speaking on terrorism and a speaker from the Small Business Administration speaking about "Starting a New Business."

For more information, call the chamber office at 908-272-6114.

Battle of Bands returns for snow date appearance

The Cranford High School Class of 2003 will hold its "Battle of the Bands" at 7 p.m. April 11 at in the high school auditorium, 201 West End Place.

Performing are five area bands, including Unununium, Averse to Society, The Inconvenienced, Silent Cat Trio and Plain English.

Advance tickets cost $5. Admission at door costs $6. Previously purchased tickets will be honored, since the events was postponed due to the severe February snow storm.

Call 908-276-0895 for more information.

CHS plans Science Expo for morning of April 12

Science Expo 2003, "A Celebration of Science," is scheduled for April 12 at Cranford High School.

The event will be open to the public from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. In addition to fifth- to 12th-graders investigating and presenting topics of interest, this year's Expo also promises to highlight some of the teaching and learning occurring in Cranford School District.

Hillside Ave. School alive with 'The Sound of Music'

Hillside Avenue School will presents Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" at 7 p.m. April 11 and at 7 p.m. April 12.

General admission costs $5. Admission for senior citizens is $3.

For more information, call 908-709-6229.

Cranford Chamber holds Secretaries Day luncheon

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Secretaries Day luncheon April 23.

The luncheon will be held upstairs at the Cranford Hotel. The event is closed — reservations will be required — but is open to nonmembers of the chamber.

The event will run from noon to 2 p.m., and will cost $25 per person, for lunch, wine and door prizes.

To make a reservation, call the chamber office at 908-272-6114.

Jumpstarting spring

Kindergartners at Bloomingdale Avenue School enjoy a break from the cold weather. Yearning for the lazy days of summer, everyone dressed in warm weather gear to celebrate "Summer Day." The day was enjoyed with games and activities reminiscent of the boardwalk and the beach.

Newspaper's policy on weddings, engagements

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, doubled spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verfication or if questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title and the date of marriage.

Information requested for weddings are parents names, date of wedding, where the wedding took place, who officiated, who attended the bride and groom, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and town where located, job title and where the couple honeymooned and will reside.

Bringuier promoted to senior vice president

Catherine M. Bringuier, a resident of Cranford, recently was named senior vice president of American Savings Bank of New Jersey.

American Savings has served New Jersey residents for more than 80 years from its headquarters on Broad Street in Bloomfield. The bank recently opened a new branch on Pompton Avenue in Cedar Grove.

Bringuier, who also serves as American Savings' chief lending officer, has worked for the bank for 13 years. Her responsibilities include overall coordination and supervision of the bank's commercial real estate, residential real estate and consumer loan operations, and development of all lending policies and procedures.

Bringuier also serves as the bank's community reinvestment officer.

Prior to American Savings, Bringuier was assistant treasurer and branch manager at United Counties Trust Company. She also served as residential mortgage underwriter and branch manager for Crestmont Federal Savings and Loan Association.

In addition to her position at American Savings Bank, Bringuier is committed to the community as a member of Sunny Acres and as a Cub Scout assistant.

Bringuier lives in Cranford.

Catherine M. Bringuier

Donations accepted for county's Sept. 11 memorial

Union County is seeking donations from the public for a permanent memorial being built at Echo Lake Park to honor the memory of those killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The committee is seeking contributions to fund construction of the memorial. This provides the public an opportunity to play a part in creating the memorial. Mirabella said $100,000 is needed in donations to cover costs for building the memorial.

The memorial will be located at Echo Lake Park near the flagpole on the hill where the summer concerts in the park are held. There will be trees framing the memorial, which will include a seven-and-a-half-foot tall eternal flame, a granite block with a stainless steal plaque with the names of the 58 county residents who died at the trade center and on Flight 93 that crashed in Pennsylvania. In addition, there will be two steel girders recovered from the World Trade Center incorporated into the design.

The county is hoping to break ground in March and have the memorial completed for a dedication ceremony in the fall.

All donations are tax deductible and can be made payable to the Union County Sept. 11 Memorial Fund and sent to UC Sept. 11 Memorial Fund, c/o The Office of the County Manager, Administration Building, 6th Floor, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, 07207.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLARK BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT, the following action was adopted at the Public Meeting of the Clark Board of Adjustment, held on March 24, 2003: Cal.# 5-03 - The application of Richard Szaro and Edyta Szaro was denied for permission to allow the existing deck to remain as built on the property located at 8 Melvyn Court, Clark, N.J.

The file papers for the above decision are available at the Clark Township Building Department, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, N.J. for public review during 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.
Fink Rosner Ershow-Levenberg, LLC
Attorneys for Applicant
U5971 CCE April 3, 2003 ($8.99)

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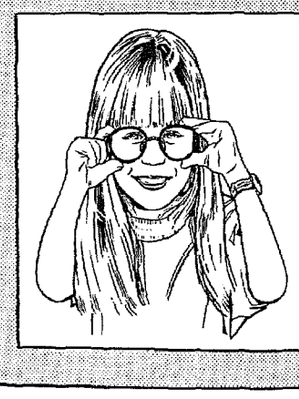

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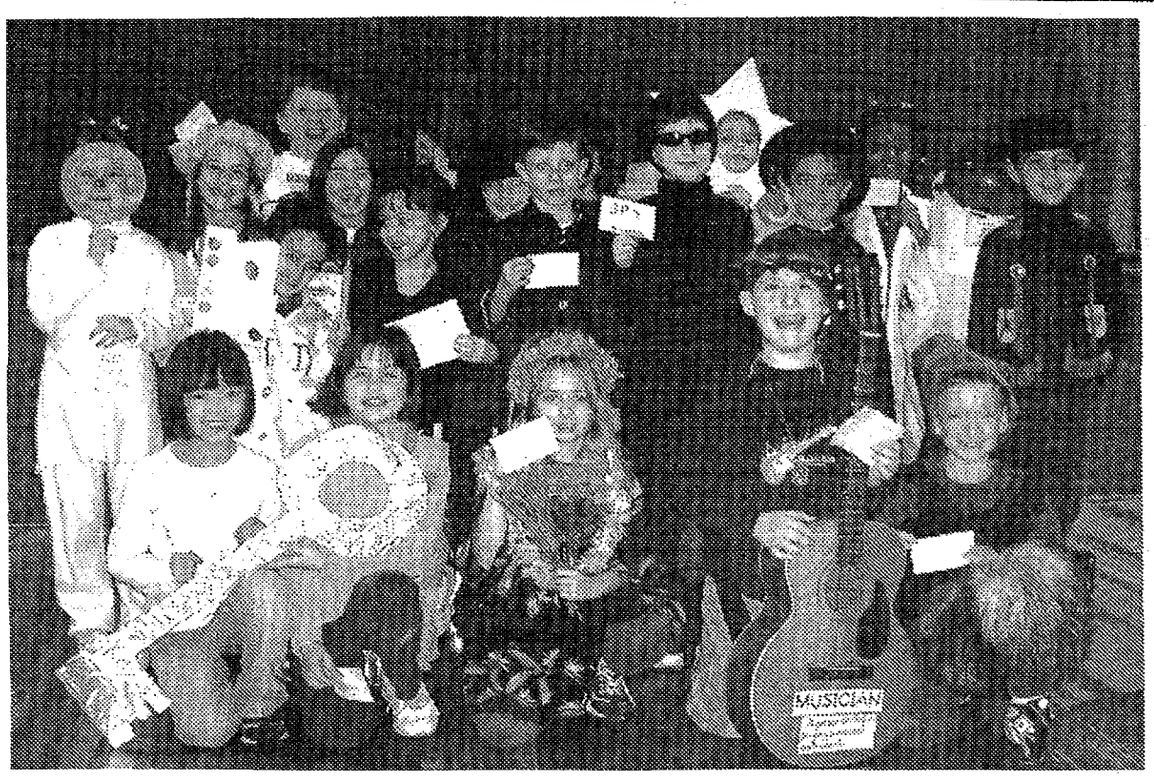
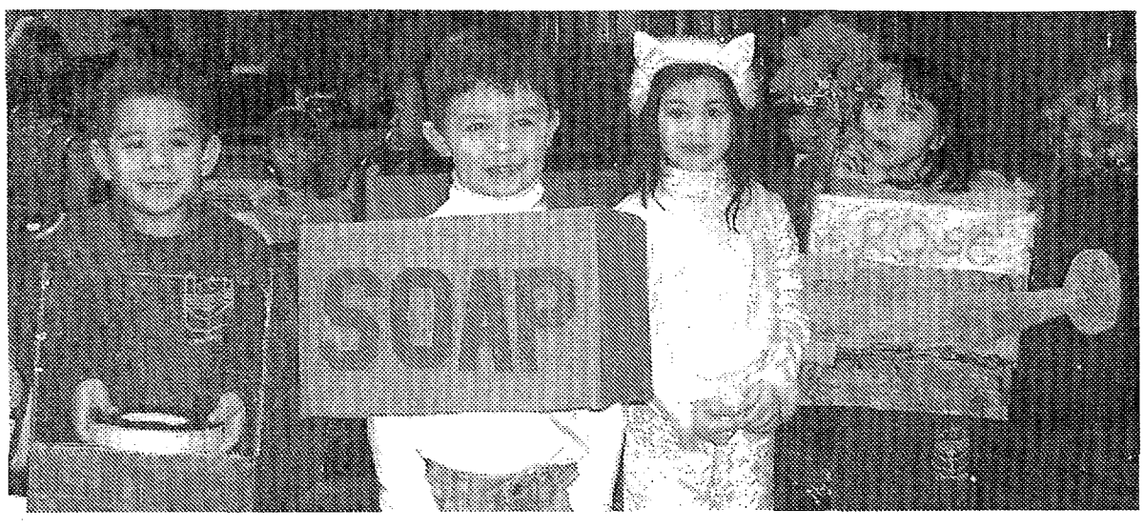
EDUCATION

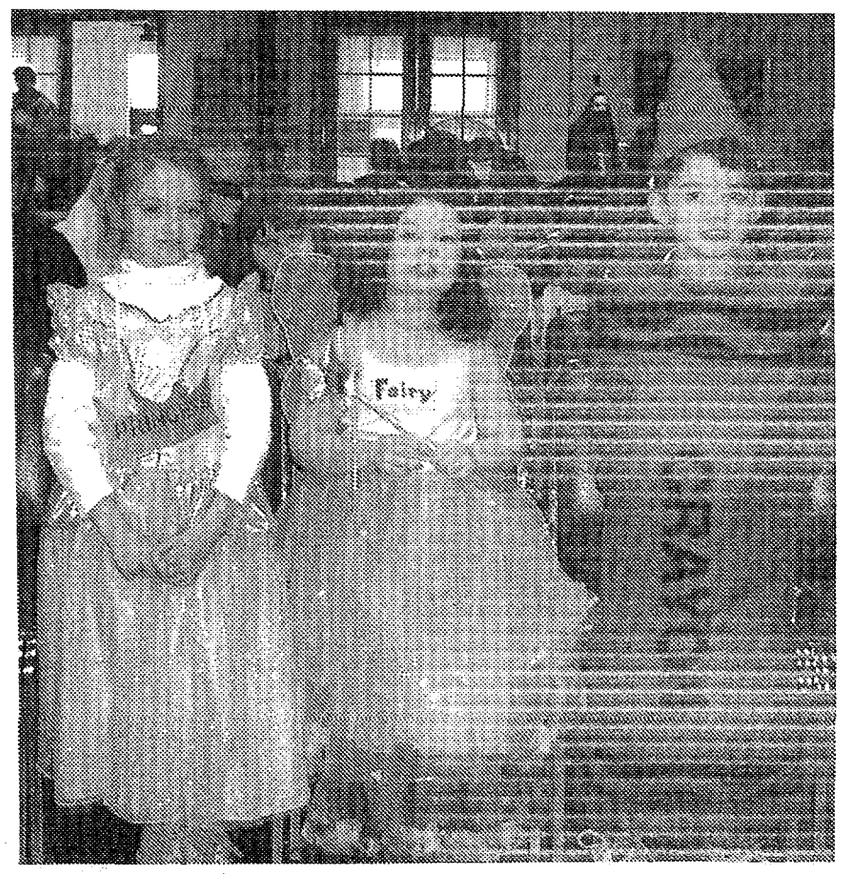
Students at St. Michael's School in Cranford celebrated "Vocabulary Day" in March, as students wore costumes that captured the spirit of their words. Matthew Monte took a fiduciary approach to the event and came dressed as *money,* sitting alongside fellow students Liam McKay; Shannon McGovern, dressed as *tree;* and Erica Lysick, who came as *cat.*



The entire second-grade class was in on the act, with students embracing words as divergent as *spy, key* and *musician.*



For Aramis Gaston, the word to be was *car,* while Richard Hummel preferred the cleaner concept of *soap.* Isabella Imbergamo and Susanno Jaramillo chose natural things, coming as *cat* and *rose.*



Christopher Dombrowski, right, chose the most colorful outfit when he came dressed as a crayon. His classmates, Julie Byrne and Katherine Carolan, embraced popular storybook themes, dressing as *princess* and *fairy.*

EDUCATION

Student's original art showcased in museum

Senior James Graff's artwork, a digital photo manipulation collage, titled "Self-Evaluation" has been accepted into the annual Fresh Perspectives Juried Exhibition at the Morris Museum.

The exhibition will run April 15 through June 15, with an opening reception May 1.

The annual exhibition began in *1989 to give high school students* a professionally organized museum experience and to recognize the art teachers who encourage them.

Course on safe boating offered at UCC campus

Coast Boating School is planning to conduct a personal watercraft/safe boating course at Union County College.

For more information or to register, call 908-709-7601.

School PTAs to hear preliminary budget

Lawrence S. Feinsod, superintendent of schools, and Robert Carfagno, business administrator, will present the 2003-04 school budget to the PTAs on the following dates:

• *Wednesday, 9 a.m.,* Hillside Avenue, Livingston Avenue and Walnut Avenue schools at Walnut Avenue School.

• April 10, 9 a.m., Brookside Place School.

The presentations are open to the public.

Jaycees scholarships offered to seniors

Cranford Jaycees Scholarship Award forms are available now to all high school seniors who reside in Cranford.

This award is based on an applicant's record of community service and grade-point average.

Forms are available at the Cranford High School guidance department, Cranford Public Library or online at cranfordjaycess.com, the Cranford Jaycees' Web site.

The deadline for returning the completed applications and all supporting documentation is Saturday.

For more information, contact Mark Mayer at 908-276-1462.

High school class helps library survey students

A Cranford High School Marketing II class, in partnership with John Malar and Cranford Public Library, and with assistance from Paul Scipione of Montclair State University, will survey the CHS students about the frequency and habits of library use among teens.

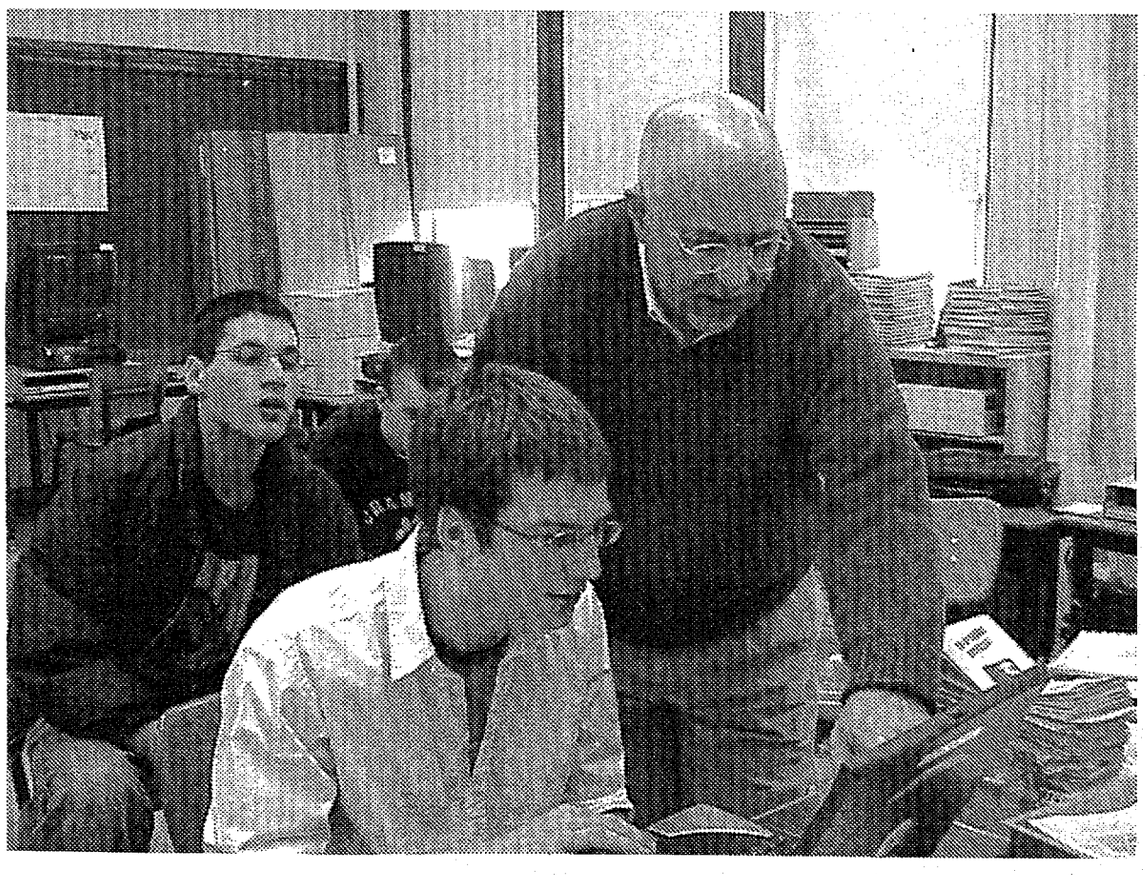
Surveys were distributed in study halls and the cafeteria to students in ninth through 12th grades.

Students entered the data into the computer, with results expected in mid-April.

Scipione and Malar gave a software presentation to students in the class, and will return to have the class graph and analyze the survey data.

The experience let Cranford students benefit from the knowledge of Scipione, a senior marketing professor at Montclair State College, and taught them how to use SPSS software, specific to market research.

The public library also received help with its survey to stay current with the habits and tastes of its young adult readers



Paul Scipione of Montclair State University and John Malar of Cranford Public Library assist Cranford High School students with the SPSS software, designed for market research, as students analyze the results of a recent survey they conducted.

Attention churches and social clubs

This newspaper encourages congregations, temples, social and civic organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities.

Releases should be typed, double-spaced, and include a phone number where a representative may be reached during the day.

Send information to: Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

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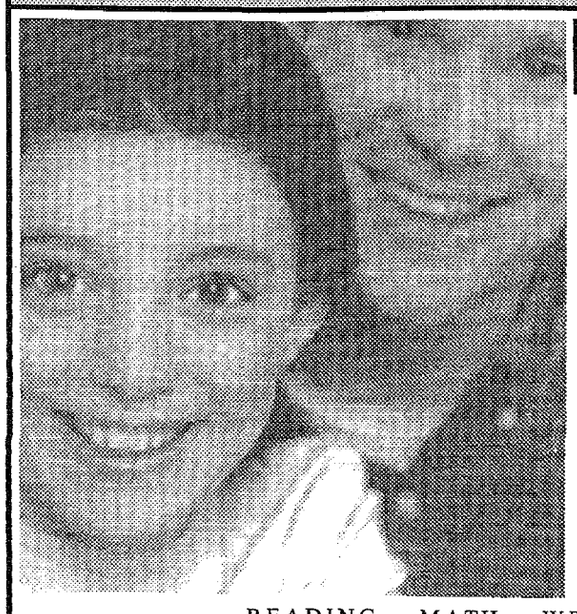

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RELIGION

Newark Boys Choir ends series on sacred music

The world-famous Newark Boys Choir will perform at Trinity Episcopal Church at 4 p.m. April 27.

Due to limited seating, admission will be by ticket only. To purchase tickets in advance, send $20 per ticket and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Clint Miller, c/o Trinity Church, North and Forest avenues, Cranford, N.J. 07016. Checks and money orders should be payable to Trinity Church. Do not send cash. Ticket orders will be filled in the order in which they are received.

Under the direction of Donald C. Morris, the concert is the finale of Trinity's current "Music in a Sacred Place" concert series.

The series is a nonprofit, self-supporting program that brings professional musicians into Trinity's sacred space for the enjoyment of Trinity's congregation, the Cranford community, and music lovers throughout New Jersey.

Trinity Episcopal Church is located at Forest and North avenues in Cranford. For more information, call the church at 908-276-4047.

Clergy Council offering scholarship for collegians

The Interfaith Human Relations Committee of the Cranford Clergy Council has announced that scholarship application forms are now available at all houses of worship, Cranford Public Library, Cranford Community Center and Cranford High School.

The award will be given in recognition of outstanding service in community affairs and for significant contribution to the advancement of human relations.

To be eligible for the award, applicants recipient should be a graduating high school senior attending a public or private school in Cranford or be a graduating senior who belongs to a Cranford house of worship.

Applicants must be active in their church or synagogue and must plan to continue education after high school.

The deadline for applications is Saturday.

Contributions to aid this scholarship are appreciated. Send tax-deductible donations to the Cranford Clergy Council — Human Relations Scholarship, c/o the Rev. Valencia Norman, First Presbyterian Church-Springfield Ave., Cranford, 07016.

St. Michael's to collect alms throughout Lent

Alms, the ancient discipline of giving of your treasure, will be part of the Lenten observance at St. Michael Church. Alms is spoken about throughout the Bible.

As part of the environment within the church, there will be a symbolic soup kitchen created, where soup bowls may be obtained. Each soup bowl will contain an envelope with the name of a local soup kitchen or charity that assist in feeding the poor.

Those participating in this discipline will be asked to return the envelope containing the Lenten Alms on Saturday and Sunday, Alms Sunday.

All money received through this exercise will be distributed to the proper charities.

Take a ride on the 'Carousel'

Cranford residents Erin Traynor, Eddie Eagan and Tom Sheridan were part of the cast of "Carousel," performed Feb. 27 and 28 and March 1 at Oak Knoll School of the Holy Child. The production was staged at the Mother Mary Campion Center for the Performing Arts at the school's Summit campus on Blackburn Road.

SENIOR NEWS

Thursday Club

Cranford Seniors Thursday Club meets at Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., at 1 p.m.

The following events have been scheduled:

Today: Business Meeting, followed by Presentation of Pressed Flowers, by Lynn MacWhirter, also recognition of birthdays and anniversaries.

April 10: Superintendent of Schools, Lawrence Feinsod, will speak about the School Budget.

April 17: Bonco

April 14: 18th Anniversary Party at Westwood, noon

The following trips are being planned:

• June 9-12 — Lake George, Saratoga, Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Lake George's Georgian Resort, choice of menu, $438 double occupancy.

• Sept 22-Oct. 10 — Las Vegas and national parks, including Grand Canyon and Branson. $1,991 double occupancy. Call 908-272-5375 for more information.

The public is welcome on all trips. Cranford departure. Call 908-272-5375 for more information.

Happy birthday to Louise Mazzeo, Pam Canzano, Louise England, Bob Herbster, Anne Kelly, Stanley Olszewski, Mary Wheeler, Rose Cicariello, Georgia Talarowski and Eleanor O'Brien.

Happy anniversary to Mary and Bob Herbster, and Mildred and Ralph Nary, both 46 years; Audrey and Bill Jones, and Rose and Celso Rodriguez, both 47 years; Pam and Fred Canzano, 41 years.

Friday Club

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

The following activities have been scheduled for April:

• Friday: Business meeting/social.

• April 11: R.J. Pavone will speak on St. Therese.

• April 18: Good Friday. No meeting.

• April 25: Bingo/social.

The following members of the Cranford Seniors Friday Club, have April birthdays:

Vinnie Cerciello, April 23; and Ed Connolly, April 28.

The following trips have been planned:

Wednesday: Atlantic City. Cost $16. Other trips are scheduled for May 14 and June 11, for $17. Departure is at noon from the Centennial Avenue Pool Complex.

• April 23: Foxwoods 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 p.m.

For reservations and/or more information, call Helen at 908-276-2849.

Wednesday club

The Cranford Seniors Wednesday Club is planning upcoming trips to Showboat casino in Atlantic City.

For more information about the club, call Elaine Barbuto at 908-276-5535.

Tuesday club

The Cranford Seniors Tuesday Club meets at 12:30 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Monday movies

Movies will be shown to Cranford seniors at the Cranford Community Center in the Audio Visual Room. Arrival time for the movie is 11 a.m. Movie will start at 11:10 a.m. promptly and will run until about 12:40 p.m.

Current movies are the theme this month. The following movies will be shown.

• Monday: "Sweet Home Alabama," 108 minutes. A young woman, played by Reese Witherspoon, returns to her hometown in Pigeon Creek, Ala., to get a divorce from her estranged husband. The more time she spends with him, though, the more she feels sparks flying between them again.

• April 14: "Signs," 106 minutes. When a 500-foot crop circle mysteriously appears on a Bucks County, Pa., farm of the Rev. Graham Hess, played by Mel Gibson, the family starts to get the message that they are not alone in the fields behind their house.

• April 21: "About a Boy," 100 minutes. Hugh Grant plays London's most frequently eligible bachelor who gets some lessons in growing up from an awkward 12-year-old boy.

• April 28: "Domestic Disturbance," 89 minutes. John Travolta stars in this thriller of a divorced husband and his 11-year-old son who has unsettling stories about his new stepfather.

Tax assistance made available for seniors

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department in conjunction with the AARP will take appointments for free tax assistance.

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

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 in Room 205 at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Taxpayers should bring a copy of their previous year's state and federal returns; this year's 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, 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.

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors ages 60 and older to join the Walking Club. The club meets at 10 a.m. Tuesdays 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.

Ceramics classes 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.

Aerobics class

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors ages 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. Thursdays. 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, complete a senior registration form at the Community Center. Class is limited in size.

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

Billiards class held

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department invites Cranford seniors 60 and older to play billiards at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Fridays from noon to 2:30 p.m. Instruction from a staff member will be available.

Sessions will cover sportsmanship 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.

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 welcome.

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

Alliance Church prepares semester of adult classes

Cranford Alliance Church is holding its spring semester of adult classes from 9 to 10 a.m. Sundays through June 1.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

APOSTOLIC

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Pastor Michael Gibney
973-912-0522 or web site:
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7-12 yr. olds, Nursery
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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.
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PENTECOSTAL

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A "Whole Family" Approach to ministry.
"God sets the solitary in families!"

ROMAN CATHOLIC

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.

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: U/S

GRACE M.
Worrall Community Newspapers
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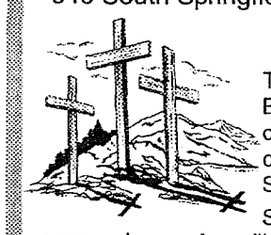
188519

Palm Sunday and Easter Services

191272

The Antioch Baptist Church
640 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield (973) 379-1465



Easter Sunday Services
The pastor and congregation of Antioch Baptist Church extend a warm welcome to the community and others to worship and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Sunrise service will start at **6:30 a.m.** Then our regular service will start at **11:00 a.m.** in which we will continue to celebrate Easter Sunday. Our music ministry will render selections at both services that will be an inspiration to you as they are to us every Sunday morning.
Again we welcome you to worship with us regardless of who you are. God bless you.

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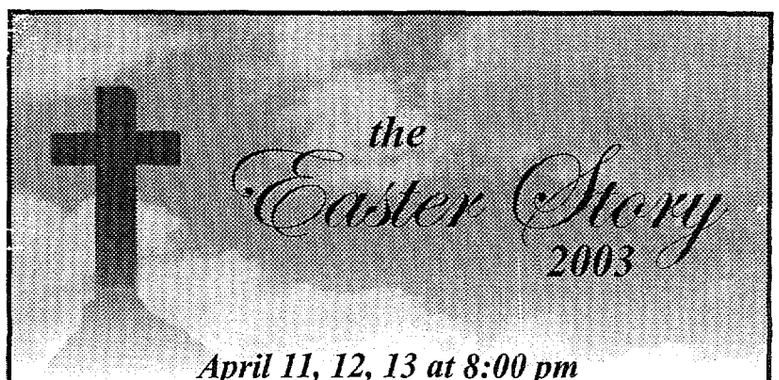

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EASTER WEEK AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH
Join us for this time of reflection and celebration

Palm Sunday - April 13 • 10am

Maundy Thursday - April 17 • 7:30pm

Good Friday - April 18 • 7:30pm
Come see a telling of history's most profound event!
Childcare & children's program for grade 1 and under.

Easter Sunday - April 20 • 10am

191032

NEWS CLIPS

Conservation Center recycles old phone books

Old telephone directories being replaced with new ones can be set at the curb with other recyclable materials or taken to the Cranford Conservation Center on Birchwood Avenue.

Printed telephones book — yellow or white pages — may be set out with mixed paper, bundled or in a brown paper bag. Mixed paper includes items such as catalogs, magazines, junk mail and cereal boxes.

Newspaper and corrugated cardboard are not included.

Spring hours resumed at the Conservation Center on Wednesday. The center will be open 9:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m. Wednesdays and Fridays, and 9:30 a.m. to 3:50 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

Starting in April the Conservation Center will be closed Thursdays for the rest of the year. Residents and businesses can drop off telephone books at the mixed paper container at the Conservation Center during normal operating hours.

The center will be closed April 18 and April 20 for Good Friday and Easter.

2003 Yard Waste Permits for the Conservation Center are being sold through the mail. Interested residents should complete the application from the pink brochure. 2002 permits expire April 15.

Yard waste permits are required for dropping off branches, grass and yard trimmings.

A permit is not required to drop off other acceptable recyclable materials: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, mixed paper — no books — glass bottles, plastic type 1, 2 and 3 bottles, aluminum cans and steel cans.

For more information about Cranford's recycling program, call 908-709-7299.

Donors sought to boost fund-raiser for memorial

The Cranford Jaycees will hold a fund-raiser May 3 at the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex to support the WTC Memorial.

The event will feature a miniature golf tournament, a hole-in-one event and a longest-drive contest.

The Jaycees are seeking donations for the fund-raiser. Desired donations include gift certificates, gifts for a miniature golf hole and larger ticketed items for all three events.

For more information, contact the Jaycees at 908-931-0160 or Chris Brawley at 908-497-0061.

Residents urged to show solidarity with U.S. forces

Concerned Citizens of Cranford and Kenilworth is urging residents on Saturday to show support for American troops by tying a yellow ribbon around trees on their property or on the antennae of their cars for the safe return of our soldiers.

"No matter what your views of the war may be our troops still need your support," a statement from the organization said.

Family Care pursuing spring holiday donors

The beauty and majesty of Easter and Passover will be with us soon and once again Cranford Family Care is asking for the community's help.

The organization is now accepting slightly used clothing for Easter. Spring coats, hats and children's shoes are in great demand.

Cranford Family Care Association also is seeking hams, kosher chickens, fresh fruit, vegetables and all the trimmings for holiday meals. It also is seeking Easter baskets for young children and senior citizens.

Donations need to be in by April 14 to ensure timely delivery.

For more information, or to make a donation, call 908-276-3530 or stop by 61 Myrtle St. between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays.

Cerebral Palsy League benefits from oil changes

South Avenue Sunoco will donate $5 to the Cerebral Palsy League for every oil change done at the station through December. The station is located at South and Lincoln avenues.

The Cerebral Palsy League provides services to improve the lives of children and adults with multiple disabilities and specific medical needs.

Programs include: Kaleidoscope Early intervention program for children younger than 3; the Come Play and Learn Early Childhood Educational Center, a childcare program for children 6 months to 6 years old; Jardine Academy, private schools serving children 3 to 21 years old with multiple disabilities, and the Vincent Coletta Vocational Center, providing a supported work environment for adults with disabilities.

For more information about the Cerebral Palsy League, call Melissa Travera at 908-709-1800, ext. 115.

Auxiliary police continue to seek new candidates

The Cranford Auxiliary Police is seeking candidates who are interested in becoming auxiliary police officers.

This is strictly a volunteer organization that supplements the regular police department during emergencies and at various town functions.

Anyone 18 or older can apply. Candidates who are selected must attend training classes at the Auxiliary Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

Applications can be obtained from the police desk located in the Municipal Building at 8 Springfield Ave. The applications also can be downloaded from the municipal Web site at www.cranford.com/police by clicking on the "Forms" button.

This Web site also provides additional information on the auxiliary police.

For more information, call Capt. Ralph Gregson at 908-276-8875, evenings, or leave a voice message.

Legislators available

In addition to regular business hours on weekdays and one Saturday per month, the legislative office at 203 Elm St., Westfield, is open from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Thursdays.

The 21st Legislative District includes Cranford. For more information, call 908-232-3673.

Cranford historical group seeks membership boost

Cranford Historical Society is accepting new members.

There are three levels of membership: $25, member; $50, patron; and $100 or more, benefactor.

Checks should be made to the Cranford Historical Society 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, Cranford Historical Society has been preserving and perpetuating Cranford history for 75 years.

AT THE LIBRARY

Young readers are invited to design own fountains

As part of the "One Book New Jersey" initiative, Cranford Public Library, 220 Walnut Ave., will sponsor a "Design Your Own Fountain" program for young readers who read the middle grade book selection "Regarding the Fountain," by Kate Klise.

Youngsters who wish to participate may submit their fountain design from Saturday through April 12, when they will be placed on display in the Children's Department of the library.

All participants are eligible to receive a free goldfish, funded by The Friends of the Cranford Public Library. Copies of the book are available to be borrowed at the library.

For more information, call the Children's Department at 908-709-7272.

Preschoolers' storytime schedule announced

Cranford Public Library will hold preschool storytimes through April 10. Programs are for Cranford residents and holders of paid Cranford out-of-town library cards.

The final sessions for 4-year-olds will be held at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and at 10:15 a.m. Wednesday. Children attending must have had their fourth birthday before the first meeting and not yet be in kindergarten.

The final session for 3-year-olds will be held at 10:15 a.m. Tuesday. Children who attend must have had their third birthday before the first scheduled session.

The four-week session for 2-year-olds will conclude with a meeting at 10:15 a.m. April 10.

An adult must accompany each child registered. Parents registering may choose one or the other session. There is a maximum of 12 2-year-olds per group. Children attending must have had their second birthday before their first scheduled session.

Registration for any group must be made in person by a parent at the library.

Registration is limited to a minimum 12 children in any group, a maximum of 15 3-year-olds and 20 4-year-olds per group. An adult responsible for the child must remain in the library during story hour.

New members are sought for discussions of books

The Readers' Forum, the book discussion group of Cranford Public Library, invites new members.

Remaining books slated for discussion in 2003 are "Mrs. Paine's Garage" and "The Murder of John F. Kennedy" by Thomas Mallon, April 14, and "Girl With a Pearl Earring" by Tracy Chevalier, May 19.

Sessions start at 7 p.m. and are held in the library's Robert J. Fridlington Room, 224 Walnut Ave. All are welcome.

For more information, call the library reference department at 908-709-7272.

Give a book to mark loved one's birthday

A program at Cranford Public Library allows people to buy a children's book in honor of someone and donate it to the library.

Under the program, called Birthday Books, anyone can donate a new book to honor someone's birthday or to celebrate any occasion. The honoree's name is written on a decorative paper plaque affixed to the inside front cover of the book.

Looking for a present for a science teacher? Donate a book on planets so youngsters could learn to appreciate science. What about your mom who makes great quiches and artichoke pies? You could donate a vegetarian cookbook to help children learn alternative cooking.

Donors should consult the librarians before buying a certain book to make sure it's needed.

Children's books that would help round out the library's collection include "Airplanes," "Boats" and "Trains," all by Bryon Barton; "Double Fudge" by Judy Blume, and "Daisy Comes Home" by Jan Brett.

A list of birthday book suggestions is available at the children's library desk.

Delivery, pick-up service offered for homebound

Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut 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 who is homebound, either permanently or temporarily, may call the library to request help.

If you are interested in the service and do not have a Cranford library card, you can participate either by 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.

Card catalog available online at library Web site

The Cranford Public Library catalog is available on the World Wide Web.

To access the library's catalog online, go to the Web site www.cranford.com/library and click on "Search the library catalog." In order to access account information, place reserves, and create bibliographies, patrons must have a Cranford library card and a personal identification number, available at the library main desk.

Users can search the library's collection by author, title, subject and keyword, and can perform advanced searches by combining search terms.

Patrons with Cranford library cards also can reserve books online and maintain online bibliographies. They also can check to see what items they have on loan and their due dates.

The library is located at 224 Walnut Ave. Hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday and Saturday.

The upgrade to the library's hardware and software was paid in large part with a grant from the New Jersey State Library.

Cranford High School names pupils to second-quarter honor roll

Cranford High School has released its honor roll for the second marking period. On the honor roll are:

Grade 9

Patrick Ahern, Thomas Anthes, John E. Bender, Melissa Benimeo, Michael A. Berrios, Leah M. Blanes, Rebecca Booth, Michael Bottino, Emily Brewester, Mary Brown, Melissa Cancillieri, Brian Ceci, Amrina Cheema, Monika Chopra, Crista Olaneri, Tracey Coleman, Carmen Delle Donne, George H. Dimayuga, Christina Dipasquale, Catherine Felegi, Arthur Filipek, Rebecca Flanagan, Kristen Ford, Brian Forte, Colin Fraser, Julia Frieri, Courtney Gargas, Thomas R. Gessner, Julie Gilbertson, Nicholas Gunning, Kimberly Hart, Brian Hearon, Andrew Hogan, Max Kaplan, Daniel Kessler, Matthew Kessler, Andrew Koneski, Jessica kowalski, Megan Kuhn, James Kulinski, Katrina Lawrence, Dan Heinrich Manuyag, John Maturo, Jennifer Meyer, Theresa Minitelli, Giovanna Molinaro, Alexandria Moreira, Sara morgan, Dennis Mui, Alexander Nappi, Amy E. Nusek, Erin O'Dowd, Mayra G. Orejuela, Peter Orlandi, Matthew J. Petrozziello, Erin Polito, Noah Polsky, Kathryn Ramey, Katelyn M. Rasmus, Johanna Riggi, Steven Savva, Nicole Siani, Rachel Sigmund, Nicole E. Stapinski, Mary K. Starkey, Peter Stempniewicz, Erica Streeter, Scott Swift, Stanislav A. Tokarev, Patricia Virgili, Leslie Whitty, Steven Wilcox, Sara Winters, Alexandra N. Zamorski.

Grade 10

Natalie Allcock, Michael Alterbrando, Anthony J. Argain, Amanda Aslan, John Backiel Jr., Kevin J. Balla, Jillian Berkowitz, Katherine Bither, Blakley J. Brown, Alana Buonaguro, Patrick Burke, Sarah Capodice, Stephen Caprio, Gerard Checchia, Kimberly Colello, Alisse Connolly, Lauren J. DiMarco, Christopher D. Drechsel, Corinne Eberling, Kenneth Erlichman, Alisa Flesher, Michael Folger, Molly Folger, Sean Gerrity, James P. Goski, Thomas Hannen, Katie Hayeck, Evan Herbert, Allison Hunter, Tara E. Kechner, Christina Kleespies, Christopher D. Laucius, Keith Laudati, Ariel A. Lopez, Brian Mahoney, Kevin Mahoney, Dillon Malar, Lauren Maramara, Melissa Marotta, Karen Marsden, Kathleen Masterson, Ryan Masterson, Michael Milea, Michelle Newton, Melissa Niebylski, Lauren O'Hara, Scott Pender, Caryn M. Pepose, Ashley Rey, Gloria Ryan, Christopher W. Saba, Tara Scaramuzzi, Emmery H. Schulz, Megan Scotti, Victoria Sheehan, Sara Shtrauch, David Snyder, Andrew Soman, Daniel G. Statue, Christine Stolte, Michael Strom, Nathaneal Thompson, Sharon Vosseller, Laura Wagenblast, Stephen Weiss, Dana Welch, Samantha Zebrowski.

Grade 11

Daniel Abramson, Lauren Albert, Edwin Aranzazu, Alex Blitz, Patrick Boyle, Meghan Brady, Steven Carbone, Jillian M. Cathcart, Sara Clader, Christine D'Arcy, Christopher Della Serra, Michelle Della Serra, Thomas Dobbs, Ryan Duffy, Edward Durning, Michael Eisert, Alaina Feldman, Krista Fincke, Lindsay Fisher, Jacquelyn Fortus, Megan Francis, Susan Freeman, Bryan Giannecchini, Lisa Grebenyuk, Jessica Hampson, Lindsay Henoch, Adam Hilaire, Jay Hoffacker, Nicole Hynes, Adam Jenkins, Leigh Johnson, Helen Kaplan, Krystyna Karmol, Lauren Kawczynski, Chester S. Klimek, Stanley Kozek, meredith Krauter, Kate Kuhn, Chelsea Lenier, Melodie MacPherson, Kathleen Maris, John Markowitz, Corinne Marotta, Joseph Marra, Raimi Marx, Joseph McGinley, Michelle McKenney, Rahcel Meeks, Matthew Milwicz, Melissa Montalvo, Victoria Moreira, Bridget Murphy, Alexandra Nowak, Christopher Ozolnieks, Blair Palmisano, Alexandra Perrota, Julia Pitassy, Katie Piwowarczyk, Jason Purdie, Regina Reda, Michael Ressegue, Timothy K. Rial, Robert Rich, Jean Marie Ridente, Kristen Savnik, Amanda Schlenker, Gloriarose Schmitt, Max Schnur, Kurt Sigmund, William Singer, Julia Skwarski, Renold Soman, Nichole Spampinato, Paul Starkey, Meagan Sukovich, Marie Sweeney, Christopher Venditti, Geoffrey Walano, Nicholas Wescott, Todd Wilson, Michael Winters, Sandra Woods, Emily Zemlansky, Noelle Zielenbach, Kristin Zuravnsky.

Grade 12

Stephen Allen, Kimberly Argen, Samuel Ballen, Jessica N. Barr, Caroline Bausch, Jessica Berkowitz, Mark Bostel, Tara Brennan, Joseph Bulthaupt, Samantha Burns, William J. Campaign, Victoria Cetera, Christine Chiaramonte, Richard Vicchelli, Edward Clinton, Zachary Cohane, Joelle M. Correia, Courtney A. D'Elia, Samantha Dango, Robin Danyus, Ashley Daubert, Kelly Donnelly, Christie Downey, David Drechsel, Jennifer S. Eisenberg, Krystal Englese, Robert Faynor, Andrea Harley, Meghan A. Hayes, Meredith Herbert, Paige Heuer, Brianne Hickey, Syreeta Holmes, Crystal Jacobs, Victoria Kochowski, Kristen Lombardo, Lalkha R. Lopez, Sara Mados, Rachel Mambach, Sara Manderski, Khristelle M. Manuyag, Christopher Masterson, Kelly McGovern, Alan McPhaul, Emily Mandersky, Kristelle M. Manuyag, Christopher Masterson, Kelly McGovern, Alan McPhaul, Emily Michaels, Erin Morgan, Patrick Muha, Amanda Murray, Emily Rose Nietzel, Valerie Nigro, Jennifer Nist, Christopher Nowak, Patrick O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Osaben, Christine Pemoulie, Michael Polidoro, Jaclyn Rey, Stephanie Schimkowitz, Crista Sciancalepore, Sergio Sciancalepore, Rachel K. Sekinger, James Sheerin, Kathryn Silvestry, Sara A. Simon, Patricia A. Simpson, Jenna Siragusa, Ryan Smith, Laura L. Sofia, Bella Sorkin, Jessica Styler, Steven Swan, Adam Swider, Adrian Taberna, Teresa VanHorn, Devin Veca, Joseph Vultaggio, Andrew Weingel, Cheryl Weiss, Jillian Widdows, Matthe Wilson, Jaclyn Yates, Andrea Yeager, James Zamorski, Nicholas Zmijewski, Derrick Zulick and Brian Zuravnsky.

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Balanced lineup ready for Johnson lacrosse

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

An athletic team with good balance.

That's what Johnson High School boys' lacrosse head coach Tony Calandra feels about his squad this season.

"We have a number of options on offense this season," Calandra said. "In the past, we've really only relied on Matt Poskay and Kevin Nolan."

Poskay, who holds the state's all-time scoring record, now is at the University of Virginia, while Nolan should be right behind him in that category by season's end.

The senior attackman, who has been a starter the past three seasons, will be the team's main offensive threat this year. Nolan netted 53 goals last year and has 106 for his career.

Nolan is flanked by junior attackmen Nick Mangelli and Bryan Klimchak.

"Nick is a returning starter, while Bryan missed last year with an injury," Calandra said. "I'm expecting good things from both of them this season."

The starting midfielders consist of senior Wayne Giampino, junior Scott Kozachek and freshman Kevin Swierc.

The second midfield team includes juniors Eric Tuoron, Jean Baptiste and Kyle Mulligan, while the third team consists of juniors Gary Cislo and Brandon Bandaunno and sophomore Jeff Smith. The long stick middie is junior Pete Russo.

The defense is led by seniors Ray Megill and Craig McCarrick and junior Eddie Hamilton. The goalkeeper is junior Tom Sousa.

Megill will play for the University of Maryland next year, while Sousa has replaced the graduated Bill Wray.

"The defense and goaltending has been the strength of the team in the preseason," Calandra said. "I was a little worried heading into the year about our goalie position, but Tom has really been good."

In his fourth season at the helm, Calandra led his team to a 13-8 mark and berth in the NJSIAA state playoffs last season. The Crusaders lost in the quarterfinals to Ridgewood.

"I feel we're going to get better and better as the season goes by," Calandra said. "Some of the guys are just now settling into scoring roles and gaining confidence."

In its scrimmages, Johnson faced the likes of Summit, Bridgewater-Raritan and Hanover Park.

"The guys worked on taking chances and firing the big shot when the opportunity presented itself," Calandra said. "We also had some guys step up and take on leadership roles."

Johnson was scheduled to open its season Tuesday by hosting Westfield. The Crusaders then are scheduled to host Ramapo Saturday at 2 p.m.

"We have two of our biggest games of the year right off the bat," Calandra said. "We should learn a lot about ourselves in the first week of play."

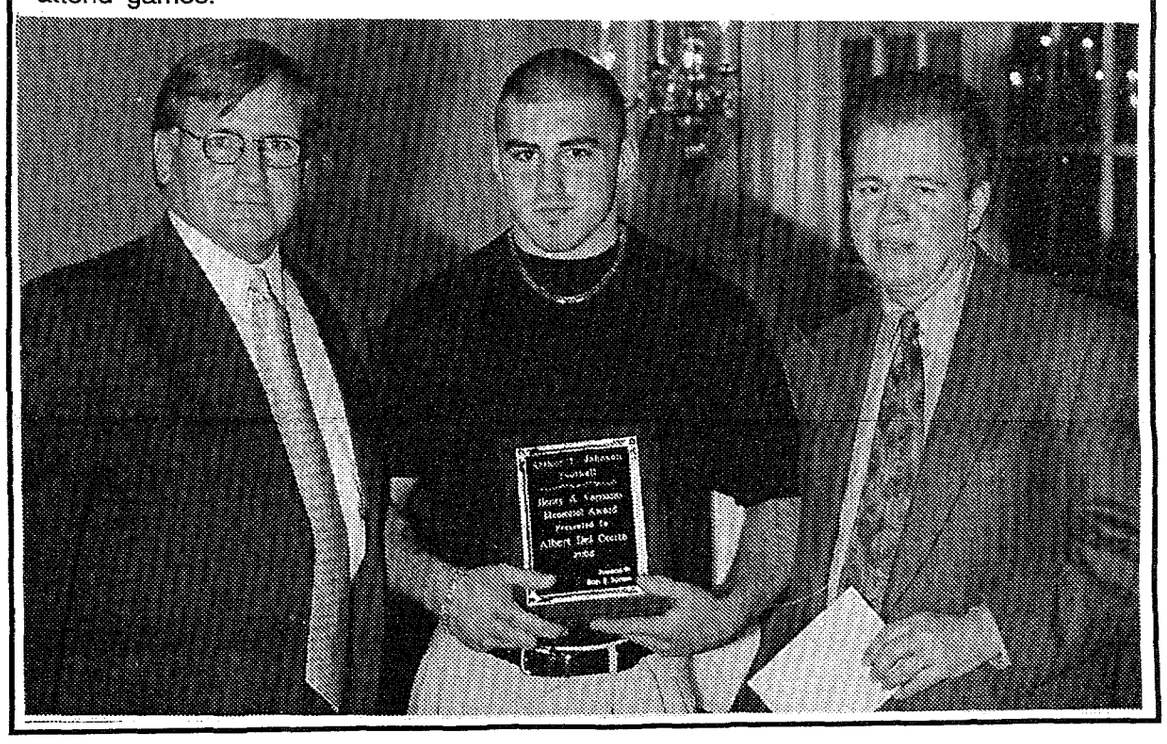
Goals that Johnson has set its sights on this season include contending for a conference championship and advancing further in the state playoffs.

"I would also like to win the inaugural Union County Tournament," Calandra said. "The coaches decided to start one up for the first time."

Calandra feels the team's new approach this season will only benefit the program in the long run.

"The past two seasons we used a unsettled fast-break type of style," Calandra said. "This year, we're looking to take our time and develop things. That approach has worked out pretty well early on, so I feel we're going to have a successful season."

Chris Winter, above middle, a senior captain for the sectional-champion football team at Johnson High School, was honored at this year's football dinner with the William Waterson Award, named in memory of a Clark patrolman who died in the line of duty. Presenting the award are principal and head coach Robert Taylor, left, and Thomas Maye of Station Cab. Albert DelConte, below middle, receives the Harry A. Varriano Award from Taylor and Harry R. Varriano, whose father was an avid Crusader fan, even after needing a wheelchair to attend games.



Cranford Soccer plans events

The Cranford Soccer Club will sponsor the second-annual MLS Spring Camp at Orange Avenue School. The camp is scheduled for April 22-25 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Children ages 7-16 will participate from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the fee is $97. Those ages 5 and 6 will participate at 9-10:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.-noon and the fee is $57.

More information may be obtained by calling MLS Camps at 800-680-6272.

Also ...

• CSC is sponsoring an in-season training program for all CSC recreation and intercounty players. It will be given by highly qualified trainers. The training will be provided Monday nights during the spring season at Orange Avenue School.

Rec 1 and Rec 2 will be 4:30-5:30 p.m. and juniors and intercounty to under-14 will be 5:45-7 p.m.

The program is open to any recreation or intercounty player that wishes to attend, either as an individual or with their team. This is free of charge to the participants.

• CSC is sponsoring in-season goalkeeper training for CSC recreation and intercounty players given by UK Elite on Friday nights during the spring season at Orange Avenue School. Rec 1 and Rec 2 will be 5-6 p.m. and juniors and intercounty to under-14 from 6-7 p.m.

Registration is required. The first 20 from each group to register will be allowed to attend.

St. Agnes wins Frost tourney

For the first time in the St. Agnes School's basketball history, the varsity girls' team won the Greg Frost Tournament with a 34-30 victory over Holy Trinity.

The varsity girls' squad, with players in seventh and eighth grades, has had a successful year under coaches Gary Maertz and George Valedares. In addition to winning the Frost tournament March 15 at St. Michael's School in Cranford, St. Agnes had two players receive honors. Michelle Huey was named the tournament's most valuable player and Melissa Bell was named to the all-tournament team.

St. Agnes reached the championship game after defeating St. James of Woodbridge, 47-40, the previous evening.

Earlier this season, St. Agnes placed second in the Suburban League and the Father Mee Tournament, which was competed in January at St. Agnes.

"Winning the tournament and coming this far is a great victory for these young women. They played hard," said Maertz. "This achievement reflects their determination and the caliber of the St. Agnes School sports program."

The tournament is named in memory of Greg Frost, who died at age 35 from leukemia. Frost coached the fifth- and sixth-grade girls' team at St. Theresa's School in Kenilworth.

Indians' hoop camp signups underway

The eighth-annual Indians Basketball Camp is accepting registration for its four weeks of summer camps June 23-Aug. 1 at Rahway High School.

The camps are open to children in second through 10th grades and is scheduled daily from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Sessions are scheduled for June 23-27, July 7-11, July 21-25 and July 28-Aug. 1

Tom Lewis and John Petela, current athletic director and assistant athletic director, respectively, and former head basketball coaches at Rahway, will direct the camp. The camp will have a staff of high school coaches who know, and how to teach, basketball.

For more information or a brochure, contact Tom Lewis at 732-396-1101 or John Petela 732-396-8022.

Baseball players honored at annual awards function

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

MOUNTAINSIDE — Even though the outside of the L'Affaire Banquet Center was surrounded by snow Feb. 9, the thoughts inside were of green grass, hot summer days and the game of baseball.

That's because the Union County Baseball Association was conducting its 67th annual Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner.

The event, which began at 1 p.m., started with a welcome and message from Freeholder Rick Proctor. Then Reverend Jerome Romanowski, "The Baseball Padre," led in the Invocation and the National Anthem.

Master of Ceremonies and Dinner Chairman Jim Iozzi then spoke to the gathering of what's coming up in the program. He then thanked members of the Union County Baseball Association, the new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame, the guest speaker and the other honorees.

His challenge to the attendants was for them to give input on how to make the event even better in the future. He was encouraged by the increased number of youngsters that made their presence felt at this year's gala.

The event was moved from Wednesday night to Sunday afternoon.

After dinner and a memorial service, it was time for the awards presentation.

The first award given was the Jerry Molloy Memorial Award for service to Union County Baseball. The recipient of the award was John Tighe of Linden.

Tighe has been an avid sports fan for most of his life. His interest in St. Mary's of Elizabeth sports programs is legend. His dedication to the alumni association is unequaled and has set the standard for the organization.

Tighe has been a member of the Union County Baseball Association for more than 12 years and is a valued contributing member. His advocacy of the summer league baseball program and its annual awards picnic has been invaluable. Tighe is also an integral part of the Hot Stove dinner. He is a tireless worker and true asset to the Association.

The Banyasz Brothers Memorial Award for Most Valuable Scholastic Softball Player was then given to Becky Riccitelli of Roselle Park.

"I'm very happy that I was chosen for this award," Riccitelli said. "I was surprised when I got the letter informing me that I was the recipient."

Riccitelli posted a 23-4 record last spring in her sophomore year at Roselle Park with a 0.54 ERA and a school-record 298 strikeouts with only 24 walks. She had a .483 batting average last year and her 22 strikeouts during an 11-inning victory set a school record. Riccitelli was named an All-Union County and All-Group 1 First Team honoree by *The Star-Ledger*.

"It was a good season, but I wished it ended a little better," Riccitelli said. "I'm excited for this season and I'm ready to go."

Marc Weres of Union was then given the Edward Cooper Memorial Award for Most Valuable Scholastic Baseball Player.

"It was a great honor to receive the award because only one person can be selected for it," Weres said. "Accepting the award gives me a sense of accomplishment because of all the hard work I put in."

Weres capped a brilliant 2002 season at shortstop for Union with a two-run homer in Union's victory over Jackson in the Group 4 state tournament championship game. Weres led Union with a .477 average and saved six games as a relief pitcher.

"That home run was great because it was a turning point in the game," Weres said. "The team's success played a big part of helping me win this award."

Weres was named First Team All-State by *The Star-Ledger* and is now attending Monmouth University on a baseball scholarship.

"I like the campus and the program is excellent," Weres said. "I have a chance of starting at third base this season."

The Union County American Legion Senior and Junior Division Champions award was then given. Cranford received the Senior Division award as coach Dennis McCaffery accepted, while coach Brian Mahoney accepted the Junior Division award for Scotch Plains, which completed the season with a 21-3 record.

Jay Cook of Westfield Post No. 3 was then named Union County American Legion Outstanding Senior League Pitcher. Cook led the Westfield Post No. 3 championship team with a 5-0 record.

The Union County American Legion Outstanding Junior League Pitcher award was then handed to Jonathan Sosa of Linden Rec. Sosa led Linden Rec with a 5-0 record.

Samuel Parilla of Linden Rec was the Union County American Legion Senior League Batting Champion, while Art Kleinberg of Livingston was the Junior League Batting Champion. Parilla finished the season with a .486 batting average, while Kleinberg led his team with a .583 mark.

The Union County American Legion Junior League MVP was then awarded to Nick Nolan of Roselle Post No. 229. Nolan posted a 5-0 pitching record and batted .553.

The George Cron Memorial Youth League Awards were then presented. The Minor League MVP went to Peter Granstrand, while older brother Luke won the Major League MVP. The Teen League MVP was awarded to Richard Guttierrez.

Guttierrez, a Hillside resident who's a junior at Union Catholic, was surpised by the selection.

"My brother was only going to play, but then I decided to compete," Guttierrez said. "It was a great experience."

A pitcher and first baseman, Guttierrez had a low strikeout total at the plate.

"People say that they like my swing," Guttierrez said. "They know me for my bat."

The Chris Zusi Memorial Award for the Outstanding Athlete in Union County was then given to Nate Jones. The former Scotch Plains graduate earned All-State honors as a running back and defensive back. He also starred in track and field. Jones is currently a standout kick return specialist for the Rutgers University football team. He has earned All-Big East Conference honors for that role and has also earned all-conference academic honors.

The Joseph R. Lombardi Memorial Award for Outstanding Athlete in Union County went to Jesse Coxson of Westfield. The former record-holder from Westfield is now a junior at Northeastern University in Boston.

Fred Cole of Roselle, William Giglio of Linden and Ramon Ortel of Elizabeth were then inducted into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame.

Ortel presently resides in Summit, Giglio in Basking Ridge and Cole in Highland Park.

Before taking the podium, each honoree had someone such as family or friend induct them.

Elizabeth baseball coach Ray Korn inducted childhood friend Cole, while Giglio was inducted by younger brother Joe.

"I feel great because this is an honor and humbling experience to be elected into the Union County Hall of Fame," Cole said. "Ray is a lifelong friend and one of the most accomplished coaches in the state. It was nice to have him induct me."

The event then wrapped up with guest speaker Steve Balboni addressing the crowd. Nicknamed "Bye-Bye" for his prodigious blasts, Balboni spoke about his career and the many friends and teammates he made throughout his years in the Major Leagues.

Balboni finished with a question and answer session much to the delight of the gathering.

Balboni, who now resides in Berkeley Heights, is a hitting coach in the St. Louis Cardinals organization.

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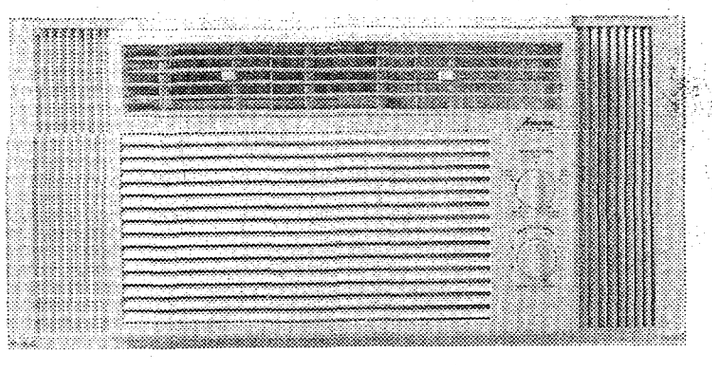

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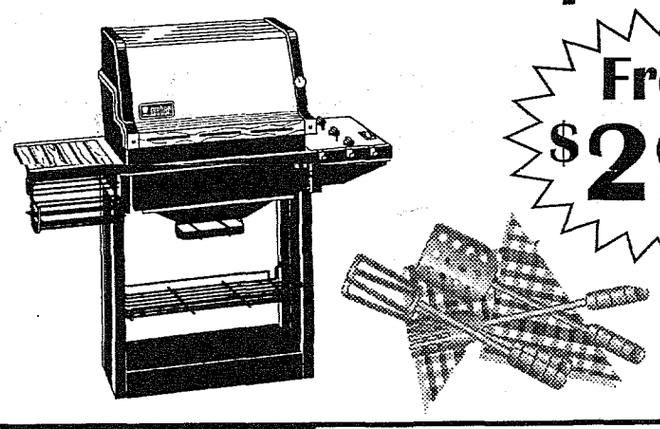

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Manner of dress

Tough decisions can make some people angry. In the next few weeks, Edward Beglin Jr., Union County's top judge, will sort out whether Linden Chief of Police John Miliano can be told to wear his uniform at work.

Last December, Mayor John Gregorio set forth a dress code requiring the department cops, including Miliano, to wear their uniforms when on duty. Police on undercover assignments were exempted.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Some communities have public safety directors to set policy for departments. In Linden, the mayor fulfills that role. The case law in New Jersey talks about the "para-military" role of police but the need for civilian oversight.

The hook for Miliano is the Police Chief's Bill of Rights. Back in 1981, the chiefs' association lobbied for a law which "provides for a line authority with respect to the exercise of the police function."

A rough translation is that the chief runs the day-to-day operations of the department while the civilian officials get to set policy within the limited scope of state law.

Miliano filed his lawsuit in early January. In his suit, he claims the order for him and his men to wear uniforms "interferes with the right of the chief to proscribe the duties and assignments."

In addition to having Beglin rule that the chief has the "discretion to determine the manner of dress," Miliano is demanding to be reimbursed his legal fees in suing the city.

Police departments have always had the club of being able to charge political interference. Just a headline in that area sends any hardened elected official seeking cover.

The charge of threat to public safety seems to pop up around budget time when new equipment or raises are sought. Just a question as to the number of vehicles law enforcement used for commuting is to risk being called anti-public safety. The uniform requirement though seems to be a new wrinkle.

In his answer to the charges, Linden City Attorney Edward Kologi, rejects the complaint. He argues that the subject of the rules "are within the mayor's powers as appropriate authority over the Linden Police Department." In the interim, Miliano has been wearing the uniform.

Unwittingly, Miliano deserves some praise. The Police Chief's Bill of Rights and its authority has never been on the public radar screen. It has, though, been the subject of a bevy of case law.

As the public watches the uniform controversy and considers exactly just what is the proper line for civilian oversight of the department, it has to be a healthy experience, no matter how it turns out.

A car issue is also causing some waves at the Union County Administration Building. With no fanfare, County Manager George Devanney has reduced the county car fleet by 19.

One estimate places the savings at each car in terms of $1,200 in insurance, $600 in fuel, $500 in maintenance and $23,000 in capital costs. Of course, the county manager doesn't have to grapple yet with an employees' car Bill of Rights.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Authorities, schools come together on gangs

Prosecutors offer warning signs of gang identification

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

The Union County Prosecutor's Office has teamed up with superintendents and police chiefs in order to recognize and spot warning signs of gang activity within schools and municipalities and do all they can to help stop it.

"Our kids face a lot of challenges," Acting New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey said. "They face the challenge of sexual predators. They face the challenge of Internet predators. And most importantly, they face the challenge of gangs."

Harvey stressed that gangs are not an urban problem but are both an urban and suburban problem.

Last week, county prosecutors, superintendents and police chiefs attended a seminar on gangs, where they learned about the warning signs of youth-related gang activities, including gang colors, gang slang and gang signs.

School officials were urged to look for identifiable body markings, nicknames, codes and hand signs.

Each gang chooses a specific color that will identify them as a member of that gang. The colors can be worn on clothes, jewelry, or hats.

"You got to look for clusters," said Ron Barrett, Capital Regional Gang Prevention Coordinator. "You got to look for people who share common identifiers within a group."

Barrett urged school officials to consider a zero tolerance on colors. He stressed that schools must remain a neutral ground.

"If you're the Albany High School Falcons and your colors are blue and gray, those are the only colors in your school and the Falcons are the only symbol," he said.

Barrett urged school officials to look at their students, to take note if they're always dressed in the same colors, if they're always using hand signals when they greet their friends.

"Do not say, 'Oh that's Barbara's son I know him. She's a good mother. He's just a little wanna-be; watches too many videos,'" said Barrett. "A wanna-be is a gonna-be."

Gang monikers include "cuz," "piru," "what's poppin," "slob," "e-ricket," "eat food," and "drink milk," among others.

"It's all about being underground," said Barrett. "You don't know who's with who."

Middle schools are the biggest recruitment center for gangs, who target children in seventh and eighth grades.

"These gangs are multicultural," said Harvey. "These gangs are multiracial. They are spread out, as far down as the Jersey shore. They are in every major urban environment and suburban environment."

Harvey said that children join gangs for several reasons. He explained that some are frightened so they join to protect themselves, some are lonely; some are phony-tough; and some are real tough.

"We have to look at the warning signs and there is no better person or persons than school officials," said Harvey. "You see this conduct even more so than the families do."

Harvey said the most dangerous time for children is between 2:30 p.m., when schools let out and children are left pretty much unsupervised until 7 p.m., when adults return home from work.

"They go back to an environment where there is no adult or little adult supervision and they got nobody to talk to," said Harvey. "They have nobody to talk to; nobody to protect them."

It has been part of Harvey's initiative to develop after-school programs, either through faith-based activities, municipal activities or school activities, so children have a place to go and have something to do.

"They need to have a place to go where they can sit. They can go on the computer and do their homework if they need to. They can sit down with other young people who are going in a positive direction," said Harvey.

Barrett suggested that the municipalities contact their local YMCAs and request they remain open for additional hours or keep the school open until 10 p.m.

"Kids feel the safest in school," he said. "Why close the doors at 3 o'clock?"

Deborah White, an assistant county prosecutor, said the only way the gang problem can be solved is by a combination of county, state and municipal organizations.

"The community needs to get involved," she said.

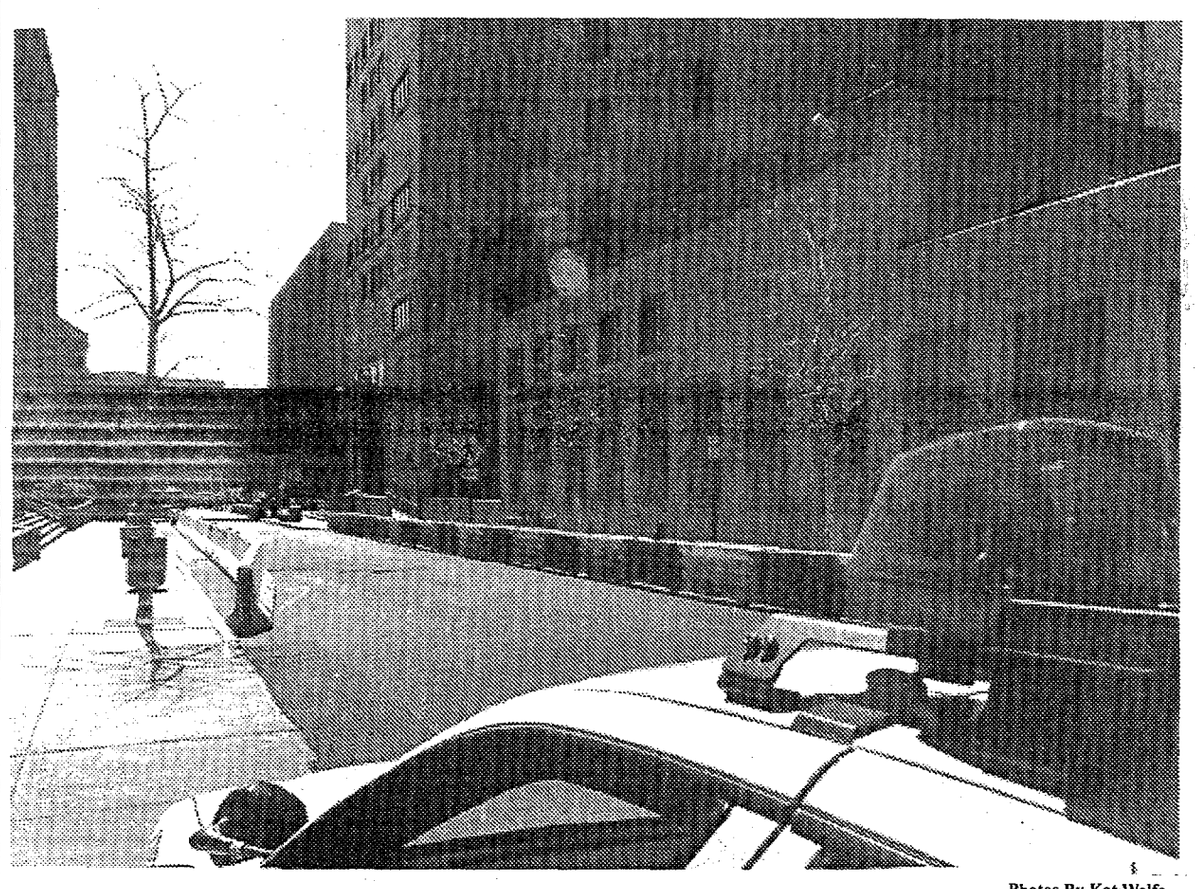
White spoke about the Law Enforcement, Education, Community Gang Prevention Initiative, where prosecutors, school representatives and municipal police representatives can get together and try to eradicate gangs in their areas.

White said that every two months educators will be invited to attend the county's gang liaison meetings, where presentations on how to stop gangs will be made.

"What we would like to see is the beginning of a community partnership; a coalition," White said.

After meeting, the coalition will go back to their communities and form teams there, with the police departments, school-based youth services, staff, guidance counselors, school security, PTAs, and other community organizations.

"At least 80 percent of the people in your municipalities are good people," White said. "What you have to do is reach out to them. Empower them so that they're running the communities and not the criminals."



Photos By Kat Wolfe

Barriers have been placed along the curb beside county complexes in Elizabeth including the county jail, above, as well as the county courthouse, below.

Security beefed up around buildings

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

As an increased security measure, Union County has placed barriers in the streets around its government buildings on Rahway Avenue and Elizabethtown Plaza in Elizabeth.

The barriers make it nearly impossible for vehicles to park alongside government buildings, as it's the county's intention to spoil any terrorist plot of vehicles, filled with explosives, parking outside county complexes.

Some of the barriers consist of steel-reinforced concrete, while others are made of polyethylene filled with water. Both types serve the same purpose, as far as blocking vehicles from parking.

"They're not easily moved," Director of the Union County Department of Public Safety Harold Gibson said. "You can't grab one and just push it aside."

The county placed steel-reinforced barriers in areas where a vehicle could attempt to drive up the sidewalk.

Gibson said the barriers also defeat any attempt of a vehicle ramming into one of the buildings.

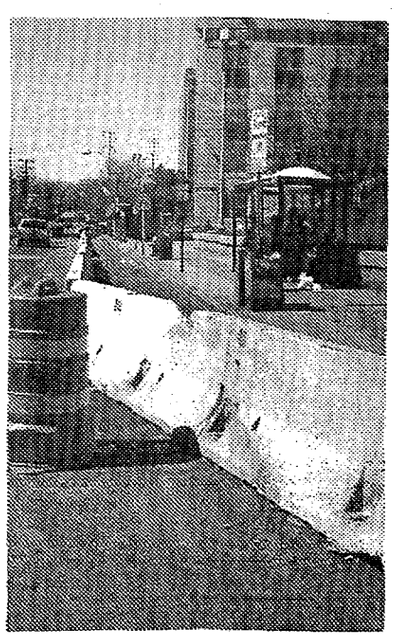
"Although, we hope, that doesn't ever come close to being attempted," said Gibson.

The barriers were put in place approximately two weeks ago not as a specific response to the war in Iraq or Sept. 11, 2001, rather as a precautionary security measure to minimize the potential of a terrorist incident with a vehicle.

"What we're doing is not any different than what has been done at government buildings around the country," said Gibson.

Gibson cited the Oklahoma City bombing of 1995 as an example of

See **BARRIERS**, Page B2



GOP member calls for change

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

What was expected to be a routine off-year convention for the Union County Republican Committee likely marked the start of a campaign for chairman.

George Gore of Plainfield, co-chairman of the state Republican Committee, withdrew his candidacy Saturday for 22nd District state Senate but not before urging the county GOP to reverse its course and concentrate on local elections.

"I remember a time in this county when people were fighting to be delegates," Gore said. "Everybody understood what was required to win. Now we're down to 200 delegates. It's a travesty." There was a time when Union, Plainfield and Elizabeth alone accounted for 200 delegates at a convention, he said.

"It's the slowest year in politics," Union County Republican Chairman Ron Frigerio said, with only state legislators at the top of the ballot. "You'd always like to see more delegates."

Frigerio said the party is down to controlling one of the three legislative districts in the county, compared to two just a few years ago, and last held a seat on the freeholder board in 1997. "It's difficult to generate enthusiasm when you don't have anyone in office. Enthusiasm brings people out."

"There's a lot of work to do, and I say that collectively," Gore said, urging delegates to reach out to neighbors and colleagues.

The Republican party always seems "to self-destruct when in we're in control," Gore said. "The Democrats didn't do it to us; we did it to ourselves. We have to lay our arms down internally."

Gore's comments, which were welcomed by a standing ovation from delegates, likely marked the inception of a campaign for county chairman next year. But the only delegates who were in the auditorium at Summit High School to hear his remarks were those from the 22nd District. Since Gore originally was competing with Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks for the line in the 22nd District Senate race, the party first dispatched with the uncontested races in the 20th and 21st Districts before recessing. Only delegates from the 22nd District — which includes Clark, Fanwood, Linden, Plainfield, Rahway, Scotch Plains and Winfield — returned after the recess. At presstime, Gore was considering running for one of the 22nd District's two Assembly seats.

"We need people to come back and understand the ideology, the philosophy of the Republican party," Gore said. He cited a lack of commitment at the local level to get the vote out to the convention, urging the GOP to spend more time with local politics and less with national politics.

"Fighting is not worthwhile if you have nothing to accomplish. There's too much fighting. It's a breakwater year; we need to re-energize the party. People don't feel empowered to dictate their own destiny."

"There's no question there's a big challenge going on," to improve the GOP, Frigerio said. "That's why we changed from spending money on the freeholder race, to building locally from the bottom. It will work but not overnight." Republicans last held a seat on the freeholder board in 1997.

Frigerio said he would seek re-election to a third term as county chairman in 2004. Last year, he fended off a last-minute challenge from New Providence Chairman Bob Dougherty with the help of Congressman Michael Ferguson and other Republican elected officials. Dougherty's support primarily came from the Plainfield area, as well as Elizabeth. In 1998, Anthony DiGiovanni of Union lost in his challenge to oust incumbent Chairman Frank McDermott of Westfield. Frigerio, also of Westfield, replaced McDermott in 2000 with little fanfare.

As for candidates awarded the GOP line in the primary, Fanwood Councilman Stuart Kline, Winfield Municipal Chairman Bob Reilly and Kenneth Haynes, who previously has run for the Board of Education and Borough Council in Roselle, will run for freeholder.

Work to get under way on county's Sept. 11 memorial

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Fundraising continues for Union County's memorial to local victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, as the county hopes to acquire $100,000 toward the construction and maintenance of the memorial at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

"We've made a commitment that it will not come from any taxpayers' dollars," Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, a member of the Sept. 11 memorial committee, said.

So far, fundraising efforts have resulted in approximately $20,000 worth of donations from the public and various corporations.

Royal Antique Treasures in Rahway was contracted at a cost of $11,300 to construct an "eternal flame," which will rest atop a concrete and cast iron torch of liberty, standing 7½ feet tall with a 5-foot wide base.

The "flame" will be electrical, contained within a plastic cylinder and illuminated with light bulbs. It will remain lit at all times in remembrance of Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania on Sept. 11, 2001, after passengers stormed the cockpit of the hijacked airplane. A semi-circle of trees will set the monument apart from the rest of the field at Echo Lake Park.

Approximately 60 people from Union County were killed in the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. The county's memorial committee included about a dozen citizens appointed by mayors of towns that were affected by the Sept. 11 attacks.

The designs for the monument incorporate two beams from the original World Trade Center, which the county acquired from New York City last September. The beams, measuring seven feet and weighing more than 1,000 pounds, will be featured prominently in the memorial, within a pentagon-shaped brick area, which will pay tribute to the attack on the Pentagon in Washington, D.C.

A stainless-steel plaque inscribed with the names of all Union County victims will be affixed to the granite pentagon.

To help defer the cost of the memorial's construction, the county is using its own engineers to help construct the project. County landscapers have donated their time to help with the ground work.

The county originally hoped to break ground on the project last month but in seeking its $100,000 goal the county opted to continue its fundraising with letters to the business community, as well as soliciting contributions to cover all construction costs. The groundbreaking will most likely happen later this month.

"All the proceeds are tax deductible," said Mirabella. "We have a separate fund set up at the county. People are taking advantage of that."

The county said it's committed to having the memorial completed by Sept. 11 of this year, in order to commemorate the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

COUNTY NEWS

Ammunitions collection April 12 at Warinanco

Residents with unwanted ammunition, fireworks, black powder and other explosives can dispose of these items safely and legally April 12 at a special collection day at Warinanco Park in Roselle.

Police will have a secure disposal unit in the skating rink parking lot from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Officers from the bomb squad will be on hand to assist residents. Also accepted are unwanted war memorabilia.

This is the only safe, legal method of disposing of these items. They may not be included with household waste. In addition, county officials warn, some ammunition, and most fireworks become unstable as they get older. Fireworks, in particular, are not regulated in their manufacturing, so their quality and safety should always be suspect.

For more questions, call the Union ty Police at 908-654-9805.

Senior outreach services

The Union County Division on Aging in th Department of Human Services has announced the April locations of the Outreach Services Program that offers seniors information and help with applications for a variety of important government assistance programs.

The Union County freeholders encourage elderly, isolated individuals who meet eligibility requirements to apply for vital services through the outreach program. These services can supplement the basic needs of the isolated elderly and sustain or improve their lives.

Union County representatives will be available at three locations during the month of April to help residents complete the necessary applications for a multitude or programs, including gas and electric support pharmaceutical assistance, home energy assistance, Supplemental Security Income, counseling on health insurance for Medicare enrollees, and the SHARE Food Program.

Bilingual staff members will be available to assist the senior citizens. Staff members will conduct private interviews on request. The dates, times and locations for the Outreach Services are:

• April 11: Murawski Towers, 1602 Dill Ave., Linden, from 1 to 3 p.m.

• April 15: Community Room, Elizabeth Center Apartments, 809 Pearl St., Elizabeth, from 1 to 3 p.m.

For more information on the Outreach Services Program and other programs offered by the Union County Division on Aging, call the division's toll-free number: 1-888-280-8226.

Patriots' Path Council to honor three women

The Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America will honor four local women at their annual Union County Tribute to Women Awards Luncheon April 11 at the Wyndham Newark Airport Hotel in Elizabeth at noon.

This annual event is a way of honoring outstanding women who serve as exemplary role models for the youth of the area through their vocations, or avocations and who live their lives according to the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law.

Through this event, funds are raised to support the award-winning child abuse prevention programs offered to the community at large by the Patriots' Path Council, BSA. The council ranks first in the nation of all Boy Scout Councils in their fight against child abuse. Currently, the council serves more than 22,000 youth in Morris, Sussex, Somerset, Union and parts of Middlesex counties.

This year, the committee will honor Tressa Brown of Plainfield for her work its supervisor of K-12 literacy/language Arts for the Plainfield School District. Brown has served as the president of the Plainfield Public Library and is presently serving as a member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Committee of the International Reading Association.

Ann Baran, senior vice president of external affairs and hospital services at Trinitas Hospital, in Elizabeth is being honored for her work with "Leadership New Jersey," Community Access, the Greater Union County United Way, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce and the Union County Alliance.

Also being honored is Councilwomen Carla A. Mazza, a lifetime resident of Elizabeth and current City Council president. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Boys and Girls Club of Union County/Elizabeth Chapter and as vice chairman of the Elizabeth Democratic Committee. Mazza currently serves as director of special events for the Union County Democratic Committee.

Karen Kiefer of Kenilworth will be honored for her work with the Boy and Girl Scouts and for her advocacy for special education children throughout the state. She is a nurse at Overlook Hospital and has been recognized for her quality care of patients, advocacy for her patients and their families, and years of service and outstanding performance in her work environment.

If you would like to support this event and congratulate these women and support the Boy Scouts of America, tickets are still available through the Patriots' Path Boy Scout Council. Tickets are $65 each — tax deductible. Table of 10 is $650 and ad space is available for purchase.

Call Karen Duffy at 973-361-1800, ext. 224, for more information.

Annual Candlelight Ball

Plans are under way for the ARC of Union County's 2003 Candlelight Ball, the 39th annual dinner-dance, to be April 12 at L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. This year's honorary chairpersons are Sen. and Mrs. Thomas Kean Jr.

The honorees include as 2003 Humanitarian of the Year, the Congregation of the Faith Lutheran Church in New Providence.

James G. Petrucci of J.G. Petrucci and Company, Asbury, will receive the 2003 Community Service Award.

Margaret F. Gordon of the ARC of Union County, will receive the 2003 Mary Lou Panella Advocacy Award.

The 2003 Betty McGhee Spirit of The Arc Award will be presented to Thomas Bistocchi of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools.

Patrick Ryan will receive the 2003 Florence M. Levine Community Achievement Award.

This year's Ambassadors of Goodwill will be Erick Dodd, a former graduate of the Arc Murray Hill Child Program, and Angelo Monaco, a student of The Arc Kohler School in Mountainside.

Proceeds will benefit the programs and services that The Arc of Union County staff and Board of Directors provide to empower and support people with developmental disabilities and their families throughout Union County. They maintain 23 residential group homes, five employment and vocational centers; five special needs day programs, which includes an Adult Medical Day Care facility, Roselle Park, The Arc Bright Beginnings Child Development Center, Cranford; and Early Intervention Program, and a private school, The Arc Kohler School, Mountainside.

Barriers are installed

(Continued from Page B1)

what can happen when a vehicle, loaded with explosives, can get close to a government building.

"That vehicle blew up and took out the whole side of a federal building," said Gibson. "What we're trying to do is avoid that potential."

The barriers did not cost taxpayers any additional money because the county already had a considerable number of them on hand.

"They were not being utilized in any particular location," said Gibson. "We didn't have to take them away from something else in order to put them here."

The county has also tightened its internal security. Measures have been taken to check each person who enters a county building. Security is making sure that all employees, who have always been issued identification badges, are wearing them.

The Department of Public Safety meets regularly with the County Police, Office of Emergency Management, and the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, to discuss whatever security concerns have been raised.

"They also share daily briefings on the latest information that comes from the federal authorities and the state Office of Counter Terrorism," said Robert O'Leary, executive assistant prosecutor of the Prosecutor's Office.

If municipalities within the county spot suspicious activities or notice any trends, they inform the county, which then informs the state and ultimately federal authorities.

"It's a two-way street of communication that's very active, very vibrant," said O'Leary.

Gibson said there is no time frame as to how long the barriers will remain in place.

"As far as I'm concerned they need to stay there for a considerable period of time and it's hard to define what a considerable period of time even means at this point," Gibson said.

Blood Center, Red Cross to sponsor blood drives

The Blood Center of New Jersey and the Tri-County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor the following blood drives:

• Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.

• Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Advanced Physical Therapy, 210 North Ave. East, Cranford; 1 to 6:30 p.m., Acadia Lodge, Frank Street, Roselle.

• Monday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union; 4:30 to 9 p.m., Witty's Liquor Store, 705 St. Georges Ave., Rahway.

• Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Kean University, campus center, second floor, 1000 Morris Ave.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Author mixes topics in pop-culture tome

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

European immigrants and pop-culture Americana don't seem to naturally go hand in hand.

However, author and Newark native Michael Immerso wouldn't agree.

Immerso will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield Monday to sign copies of his latest book, "Coney Island: The People's Playground," a volume that unites the immigrant experience with roller coasters and Nathan's hot dogs.

"I've always been interested in the way in which certain places have affected popular culture," Immerso said, "and also particularly one of the things that's interested me is the way in which America developed out of the immigrant experience."

A simple glance at a timeline will support Immerso's approach.

"One of the things that made it interesting," he said of Coney Island, "is that it rose to prominence right at the time that millions of immigrants were coming to New York City. New York City was becoming a metropolis right at the time."

This isn't Immerso's first foray into the realm of America's immigrants — his first book was "Newark's Little Italy: The Vanished First Ward."

"My earlier book told the history of one of America's most important ethnic neighborhoods," he said. "Coney Island continues that process. It's the story of how immigrants from every ethnic group came together in one place and learned to interact with one another as Americans. And it was that interaction that helped shape this dramatic new form of entertainment."

"Dramatic new form" would barely scratch the surface, according to Immerso.

"Everything that we associate with American popular culture or American mass culture in one form or another has its roots in Coney Island," Immerso said. "All of the mechanical rides, including the roller coaster, were invented at Coney Island."

The nation's first roller coaster debuted at Coney Island in 1884, followed by the first of what would become known as "amusement parks" in 1895. "Beyond that, some of the first motion picture images that were ever shown were recorded at Coney Island. So one of the reasons it became so popular so quickly is because it was the place new forms of entertainment were introduced." That popularity was partially due to these films, by the likes of Mack Sennett, which were seen across the country in theaters and nickelodeons, attracting visitors from beyond the New York metropolitan area.

This growing popularity led not only to the growth of Coney Island itself, but to the phenomenon of amusement parks spreading across the country.

"What happened within a space of five years after Coney Island opened," he said, "2,000 amusement parks opened all across the United States which sought to replicate what was happening at the amusement parks at Coney Island. It was really that rapid."

Immerso spent more than two years researching the topic and amassing photographic images, and another three-plus years working full time to write the actual book.

"In the beginning, like anything else, it starts off like a hobby," he said, "and then you ask yourself, 'Do I have anything new to add to this particular subject?' "

What Immerso did was try to combine the historical data, arguably a dry topic, with the sights and sounds of Luna Park, the Cyclone and the rest of the experience.

"The idea was to try to do something that was very factual, that really told the history of the place in a comprehensive way," Immerso said, "but I also tried to capture the tone and the feeling of Coney Island. My goal is to write about these things from the perspective of the average person being there."

In writing, Immerso sought not only to inform the reader, but to actually put them at Coney Island during the years covered in the book.

As he combined two seemingly diverse topics for his book, the process allowed him to combine two locales. Immerso was raised in Newark, where his family still lives. However, the author reports that he spends most of his time at his home in in Lunenburg, Mass., about an hour from Boston.

"This process has been interesting for me. I grew up in Newark, so I'm used to being in a city and close to New York City, and I'm in a small town up here." His books have given him the chance to return to New Jersey and his roots when he does his extensive research.

Michael Immerso

"So it's a good balance. I do the actual writing up here, but I do the research down there."

His new digs in the Boston area will possibly find their way into Immerso's next book which, not surprisingly, has an ethnic flavor.

"I'm thinking about possibly doing a book that more broadly traces immigrant neighborhoods around the country," he said, such as those found in New York's Lower East Side, Boston and Newark, "to put the first two books into persective. I'm starting to do some research on that."

As with "Coney Island: The People's Playground," Immerso is waiting until further into his research to give his project a green light.

"You test to see if you're finding something new and whether you're the right person to do it."

In the meantime, though, it's the bright lights of Luna Park, the roar of the Cyclone and the smell of the sea that will fill Immerso's time as he promotes "Coney Island."

"Coney Island created a new form of mass entertainment, of mass recreation," he said. "It was the place where American popular culture was created."

Michael Immerso will appear at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 in Springfield, Monday at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-6581.

Book is valentine to long-ago era

On the Shelf

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

Part history book, part pop culture examination, part sociology report, "Coney Island: The People's Playground" by Newark native Michael Immerso is as enjoyable as ... well, an amusement park.

Covering the history of the famed section of Brooklyn from its settling in the 1600s to the present day, Immerso focuses primarily on Coney Island's changing face from the late 1800s through the 1930s.

However, this is more than just an historical overview of an amusement park. Immerso is careful to include the impact had on the park by the various people who flocked there in throngs — and, conversely, the effect had on those people by the ever-changing entertainment Mecca. It's this element of the text that gives rise to the subtitle, "The People's Playground."

Readers thinking they'll peruse pages covering only the amusement parks — Luna Park, Sea Lion Park and the doomed Dreamland — will be surprised to find chapters on the nightlife scene in Coney Island, from the dance halls to the cafes to the gaming palaces; the film industry's infancy on the beaches there, and the manufacturers of rides and attractions who honed their skills and plied their crafts in Brooklyn factories as the amusement park industry spread across the nation.

Peppered throughout the text is historical data, giving a point of reference to the evolution of the area. An example is his reference to the Russian Mountain, a roller coaster-like ride dating back to 16th-century Russia in his description of Coney Island's famed thrill rides. Such mentions are complete enough to provide a colorful point of reference without bogging down the text in tedious historical minutiae.

Throughout the book are images as fascinating as the narrative. Archive photos from such sources as the Library of Congress, the Museum of the City of New York, the New York Public Library and the Brooklyn Public Library are showcased alongside vintage postcards, adding not only flavor but additional appreciation of an era gone by.

Immerso's writing style is engaging and accessible without watering down any of the data to "lowest common denominator" terms. For example, his writing on the various styles of architecture — some old, some hybrids born at the Brooklyn resort — includes trade terminology that is still easily absorbed by the reader within the context of well-constructed prose. In addition, his overall structure of the book takes the reader through the history of the resort in a manner that comes to life, virtually placing one at the center of the action as the tale gets woven all around.

From the doomed Dreamland to the famed Luna Park, from the carousel factories to the Bowery's dance halls, the book is as much of a postcard as the actual postcards pictured between the covers.

Whether the reader is someone who visited the long-ago Coney Island in their youth or someone who never set foot on the famed boardwalk, "Coney Island: The People's Playground" is as fascinating as it is informative, as educational as it is amusing.

Michael Immerso will appear at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West in Springfield, Monday at 7:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-6581.

Steeplechase Park in Coney Island, shown here as it appeared circa 1930, is among the centerpieces of Michael Immerso's book, 'Coney Island: The People's Playground.'

Barbara Cook lives up to her legend in Sondheim concert at NJPAC

Concert Scene

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

The cavernous space of Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center was filled Friday night with the voice of one of Broadway's true legends — Barbara Cook.

Bringing her "Mostly Sondheim" concert to NJPAC, Cook served up a program comprising gems from Stephen Sondheim, as well as tunes the master has described as songs he wishes he wrote.

However, for all the genius in the songwriting, it was Cook who made the evening soar. Her voice — with the power of a Mack truck and the delicacy of Waterford crystal — is as lustrous as it was when she was one of Broadway's most sought-after leading ladies in the 1950s and '60s; and her talents as an actress put her numbers over the top, making each song an emotionally resonant monologue that happened to be sung rather than spoken.

Her patter between songs served to enlighten the audience on the authorship of each tune as well as little-known facts here and there. While there were the occasional references to her own life and career, this wasn't an "autobiography in song" — it was, pure and simple, about the music.

And when it comes to pure and simple musical brilliance, it doesn't get much better than Cook and Sondheim, whom the diva described as being "the Picasso of the 20th century musical theater."

Among the Sondheim tunes Cook performed to perfection were a very amusing "You Could Drive a Person Crazy" from "Company;" "In Buddy's Eyes" from "Follies," which featured some of the most delicate and tear-jerking pianissimo touches; "So Many People" from the obscure "Saturday Night," and a simply breathtaking rendition of "Send in the Clowns," arguably Sondheim's most famous composition. Not quite so accessible were two haunting numbers from "Passion" — "Happiness" and "Loving You" — which felt more like art songs than show tunes.

Cook, however, made this work, pointing out that Sondheim's compositions often *are* art songs, terminology she used to describe one of the master's favorites, the Harold Arlen-Johnny Mercer standard, "I Had Myself a True Love," which Cook sang and acted to perfection, combining exemplary lyrical interpretation with unparalleled vocal stylings.

Among the other non-Sondheim songs that Cook served up were a double bill from Irving Berlin's "Annie Get Your Gun," shifting from the tender rapture of "I Got Lost in His Arms" to the self-aware hilarity of "You Can't Get a Man With a Gun." An arrangement of "Hard-Hearted Hannah," "Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee" and "San Francisco" showcased Cook's jazzy side, equal to her legitimate sound and cultivated as one of the most in-demand performers on the cabaret and concert circuits.

Clearly the highlight of the night was Cook's performance of "Ice Cream," her signature tune that she made famous more than four decades ago in "She Loves Me." The chill that went through the crowd as she said, "Dear friend," to the delicate piano accompaniment was exceeded only by the magic of seeing and hearing the great lady perform the song herself.

However, nothing — neither signature songs nor all-time favorites — could compare with Cook's encore, the title tune from "Anyone Can Whistle," which she performed without a microphone and sent soaring into the top tier of Prudential Hall with an effortlessness that boggled the mind. Even the most hushed notes were ringing and audible in that giant hall. Just a great lady and the pristine, glorious tones of her peerless voice.

Barbara Cook has long been hailed a legend, and deservedly so. But rather than ride that reputation, she continues to earn it. Friday's concert was merely further proof!

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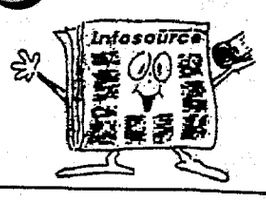

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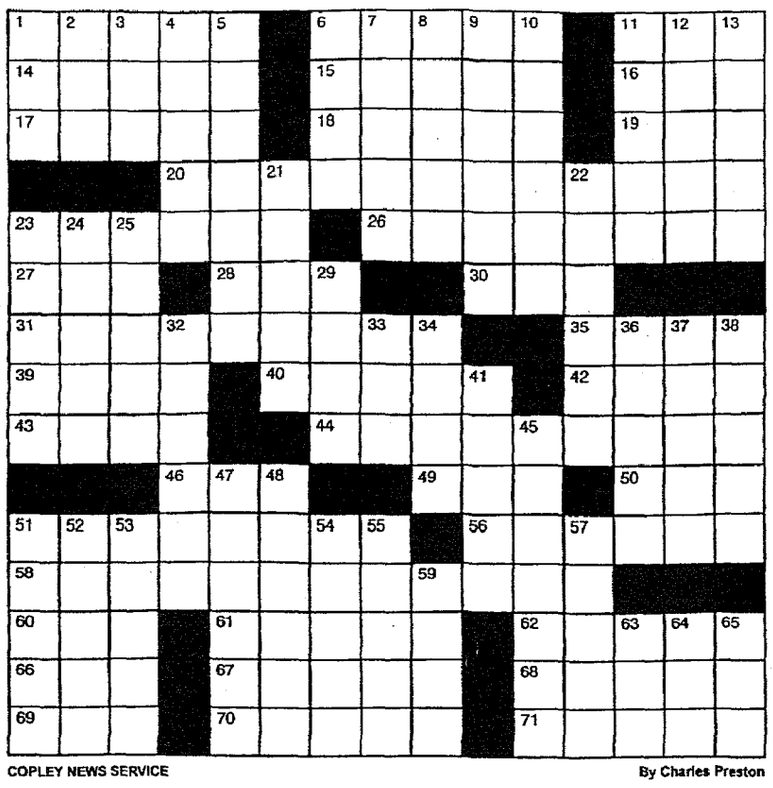

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ACROSS

1 Modify to fit
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11 Proc. of coming together
14 Less contaminated
15 Distribute
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17 Arizona State home
18 Poet's under
19 Coll. student's concern
20 Like a prehistoric tiger
23 Papeete locale
26 They're big grain eaters
27 ___ roll
28 Bad ___, Germany
30 Precedes Oct.
31 Arkansas mascot
35 Fairy tale villain
39 Prayer ending
40 Native of Muscat
42 Ridge on a guitar fingerboard
43 Steering apparatus
44 Deep sea trophy catch
46 Workout target
49 Shooter marble
50 Bishop's jurisdiction
51 Lobe decor
56 Not as messy
58 Central American flycatchers
60 ___ la la
61 Store up as one's own
62 New Hampshire's state flower
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71 River deposit

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7 Trouble indicator
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11 Power
12 Conical tent
13 Yesterday's srs.
21 Fellow: slang
22 Game starter
23 Five books of Moses
24 What's in ___?
25 Light brown
29 Houston and Uncle
32 Where Olympus Mons is
33 Cry of the crow
34 Sheepshank or half hitch
36 Matter for argument
37 View again
38 Upper regions of space
41 Middle Easterner
45 Lived
47 Wine flavored with cloves
48 Get some shut-eye
51 First name in cosmetics
52 Broad expanse
53 Money for 41 Down
54 Munch in the meadow
55 Long, narrow area o land
57 Away from others
59 Fruit drinks
63 Diamond
64 Bar mem.
65 Double it for a dance

See ANSWERS on Page B8

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
April 6th, 2003
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show Outdoors & Indoors
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles and garage/tag sale section! For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: BHS Seniors

RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
April 4th, 5th, 2003
EVENT: RUMMAGE SALE
PLACE: Glen Ridge Congregational Church, 195 Ridgewood Avenue, (corner of Clark Street)
TIME: Fri., 6pm-9pm; Sat., 10am-1pm
PRICE: Free admission. Men's, women's children's clothing and shoes. Books, housewares, toys, electronics, attic treasures, jewelry. Refreshments available. For information call 973-743-5596.
ORGANIZATION: Women's Association Glen Ridge Congregational Church

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BAZAAR

SATURDAY
April 5th, 2003
EVENT: Bazaar- Flea Market
PLACE: Second Reformed Church, 132 Elmwood Avenue, Irvington, (corner of Elmwood and Florence Avenues)
TIME: 10am-2pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Gifts, clothing, jewelry, housewares, appliances, homemade baked goods, and much more.
ORGANIZATION: The Woman's Association

AUCTION

THURSDAY
April 10th, 2003
EVENT: Annual Spring Auction
PLACE: Christ the King Church Hall, 411 Rutgers Ave. & Bloy St., Hillside
TIME: Doors open at 6:15pm
PRICE: Admission is $5. Tickets may be purchased prior to the event at the school or the rectory or will be available at the door. Coffee & cake will be served, with a light menu available for purchase. Sorry no one under the age of 18 will be admitted. For more information call 908-686-6740 or 908-686-0722. Tables can be reserved for groups of 10 or more.
ORGANIZATION: Christ the King School HSA

GARAGE/YARD SALES

FRIDAY SATURDAY
April 11th, 12th, 2003
EVENT: Giant Annual Garage Sale
PLACE: Summit Unitarian Church, corner of Springfield and Waldron Avenues
TIME: Friday 9am-4pm;
Saturday 9am-2pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Lots of Bargains and Treasures! Selected Large items at www.ucsummit.org
ORGANIZATION: Summit Unitarian Church

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Liberty Hall opens its doors to history

Liberty Hall Museum, a National Historic site, opened for its regular season Wednesday and welcomed those who wish to step back in time. The home of New Jersey's first governor, William Livingston, and ancestral home of seven generations of his family, Liberty Hall gives visitors an opportunity to experience more than 200 years of New Jersey and United States history.

Due to its continuous occupancy, spanning more than 200 years, Liberty Hall is a treasure chest waiting to be discovered. Its extensive collection of furniture, silver, china, memorabilia, portraits, toys, books, historical documents, etc., is continually growing, as more and more important artifacts are being culled from closets and attics. Every day yields new surprises and the museum plans to continually update its displays with the items being uncovered.

The museum is open for regular visits Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 4 p.m. Tours of the historic mansion are given by knowledgeable guides who share the stories and history of Liberty Hall with their visitors. An admission is charged and no reservations are required.

On April 12 and 13, it will host a Civil War encampment. The turbulent days of America's Civil War can be relived through the stories, muster and drills of The Kearny Guards, a well-known reenactment group, some of whom are featured in the new movie "Gods and Generals." Their mission, to portray the era as historically accurate as possible, is reflected in the equipment and uniform of the members of the Kearny Guards.

Liberty Hall, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, is directly across from Kean University. Visit the Web site at www.libertyhallnj.org or call 908-527-0400 for a calendar of special events.

Band's love of blues infects crowd

Concert Scene

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

In popular usage, the word "amateur" denotes a lack of professional status and, often, a lack of quality.

However, the word comes from the Latin root *amare*, which means, simply, "to love." By strict definition, an amateur is one who pursues something for love rather than financial reward.

Well, if that's the case, the Broken Bones Blues Band will always be amateurs, regardless of how much they may be justifiably paid for their considerable talents!

Rocking the house Saturday night at the Back Porch in Rahway, the band filled the space with three sets defined by an unashamed joy in the act of making music.

Largely performing cover versions, interspersed with the occasional original composition, the band recalls out-of-the-way blues clubs where you never know who'll get up and join in the music. Such it is with Broken Bones: no fewer than four "guest" musicians got in on the act Saturday night, bringing the number of performers to 10 on some songs.

Adding to the band's performance was the physical structure of the Back Porch, with its high, raftered ceilings creating a rich acoustical environment. As pubs go, this is among the better venues in the area for sound quality.

Front man Bobby Heath does a solid job on vocals, but truly shines on his guitar solos, most notably the plaintive, sobbing feel he gave to "Black Magic Woman," "Five Long Years" and "Night Train," which was treated to two playings Saturday night. "Night Train" was also one of the many numbers enhanced by a tense, smoky solo by band regular "Saxophone Joe" Braverman.

Braverman was joined on several numbers by guests Jerry Yoselevich on bass trumpet and Anthony "Tubby" Spano on trumpet, adding a rousing element to the numbers. The horns added much to Louie Prima's "Jump, Jive and Wail," which had people up and dancing, as did Duke Ellington's "Take the A Train;" the Stray Cats' "Rock This Town," and "Further on Up the Road."

Joining Yoselevich and Spano as a "guest artist" was guitarist-vocalist Markus Matlosz, who showed up at the Back Porch on Saturday just in time to bring the house down with "Mustang Sally." The Sir Mack Rice song made famous by Wilson Pickett was galvanized Saturday night by Matlosz's scorching vocals and the horns. Matlosz was also nicely featured on the lead vocal line of "Rock This Town" and "Secret Agent Man," which showed off his rich, rough-edged baritone.

It was this element of people jumping in and joining the band that defined the easy-going feeling of the show. It was clear that these musicians where jamming with each other for the sheer joy of it, a tone that was quite infectious, making for pumped-up night of sizzling tunes.

In addition to Heath and Braverman, band regulars are Mike Thoden on guitar, Lenny Clark on bass, Danny Monico on harmonica and Mike Eisenkerch on drums. Clark and Monico pulled double duty by singing lead vocals on several numbers, with Clark bringing life to his self-composed "Homicidal Blues" and Monico clearly having a blast with "Small Town Baby" and "Black Magic Woman." Clark was joined by his son, Lenny Clark Jr., who jumped in on bongos for the incredible encore of "Night Train."

Thoden's guitar work added an electric thrill to "Further on Up the Road," "Rock This Town" and "Take Five," as well as his "Pink Panther" riff inserted into "Secret Agent Man." And Eisenkranz provided the perfect touch throughout on percussion, underscoring the music without overpowering it. His bongo work in "Black Magic Woman" was a highlight.

There are certain elements of Broken Bones Blues Band that seem rough around the edges, but this only adds to the experience. With guests joining them and sitting back down, and the free-spirited jamming among all concerned, the band maintains a raw freshness that goes so much further than would a high-tone polish. You want music like this to be spontaneous, and Broken Bones is nothing if not spontaneous.

Fresh, in-your-face and filled with passion, this music is like a shot of adrenaline with a Valium chaser — high-octane energy and laid-back coolness all at once.

The Broken Bones Blues Band returns to the Back Porch April 11, and will appear at Club 640 in Elizabeth on April 19. On April 12, Braverman and Matlosz will appear at the Back Porch as the duo, Not in That Order. For information, see the "Variety" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B6.

HOROSCOPE

April 7-13

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You should feel comfortable this week living in your skin. Smile and the world smiles back; give and the world gives back.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Think about your future security. Avoid a get-rich scheme and invest your money in a safe fund that offers long-term benefits.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Your plans should include friends and partners. Spend time surrounded by some of your favorite people and graciously play the role of host.

CANCER (June 22-July 22): A professional high cycle lands you in the driver's seat to success. Proceed with caution and pay attention to important details.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Enthusiasm attracts fun and adventure. Approach life with big expectations and make the most of our your circumstances.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22: Squares to your ruling planet this week denote a challenging time. Take responsibility for your actions and learn from your mistakes.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Bring new, exciting and unusual ideas into a partnership. Keep the conversations lively and never let there be a dull moment in your togetherness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Write down all of your thoughts and concepts and your plans will magically come together. Review and revise as you see fit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):You've mastered the task of creative self-expression. Just be yourself and put on a really good show for friends and family.

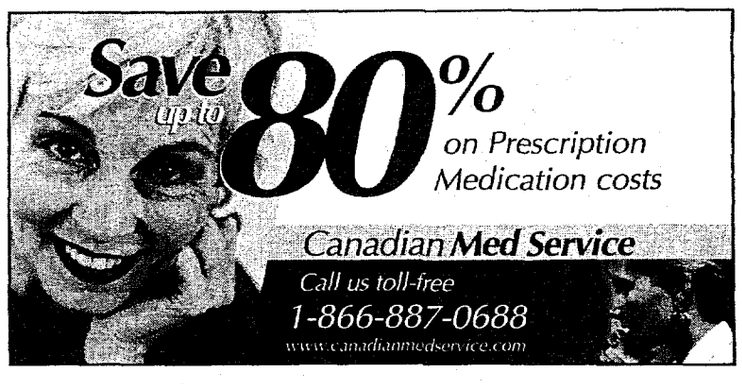
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Work to clear the air on the home front. Forgive a loved one for a mistake that cannot be changed. Agree to get together.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): The message you've been waiting for finally comes through. Do your best to keep your feet on the ground while celebrating the good news.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mqarch 20): Recent financially limiting circumstances begin to ease. Start rebuilding your security funds and promise yourself never to be broke again.

If your birthday is this week, you will come in contact with powerful, or highly authoritative individuals during the coming year. Use their influence to help you fulfill a special purpose or to further an important cause.

Also born this week: Jackie Chan, Sonja Henie, Rachel Stevens, John Madden, Louise Lasser, Andy Garcia and Gary Kasparov.



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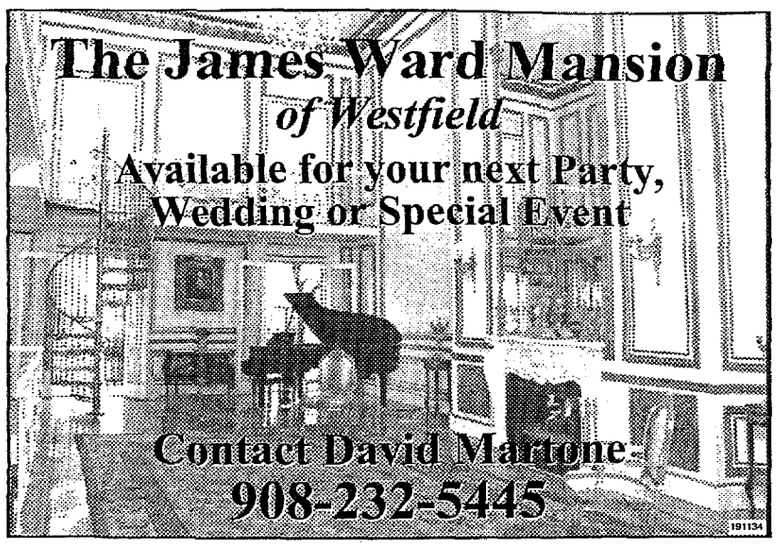

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Fuggedaboutit! 'Tony and Tina' are a big hit at Union's Costa del Sol

On the Boards

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

One always expects to have a really good time at a wedding — fun, dancing, laughing, crying, eating and drinking — but the large crowd that gathered at "Tony and Tina's Wedding" on the night of March 26 at Costa del Sol in Union had the best time of its life.

Literally!

It was a night like no other night, and one of the most riotously, hilariously outrageous fun experiences ever witnessed in the township of Union, or one could even say, the state of New Jersey.

This incomparable spoof on weddings, particularly Italian weddings, which wrung out New York audiences with laughter for 16 years off-Broadway, was brought to Union by the talented actor, singer and musician, Unionite Gregory Allen Boch, who appears in the New York production and who serves as producer of this show And on the evening of April 26, it wrung out its New Jersey audience as well.

Fortunately, for those who "missed" being invited and attending what they are calling fictional madness, the wedding of the century, the longest-running New York show will run again in the same place April 9 and April 16. In addition to the New York cast, Unionites appeared as guest artists, with Bock who also portrayed Donny Dulce, the band leader. The guest artists who participated in this madcap comedy included Yvonne Rago as the caterer's wife; Suzanne Lopes and Kathy Bayer as the caterer's daughters, Nick Basil and Mike Bellina as the caterer's sons, Meridoc "Doc" Burkhardt as the video guy, and Darren Meyer as the photographer.

It all began rather quietly and dignified in the Celestial Chapel at 7 p.m. as the guests came in from the pounding rain and walked down the aisle to their respective seats. A nun, Sister Albert Maria, Tina's cousin, is distributing a paper with words to the music she is about to sing, solo and with the guests. Before long, the family members of both sides arrive and intermingle with the audience-guests. They are all so very friendly one tends to forget that one is at a mock wedding event. In fact, throughout the entire evening, one becomes confused and wonders where the real show begins and the fictional one ends, especially when reality turns to riotous, uproarious hilarity.

The audience is greeted by a nervous, rather disheveled bride, Tina Nunzio, beautifully played by Denise Fennell; a handsome, exceptionally friendly groom, Tony Nunzio, convincingly portrayed by Scott Bielecky; Tony's equally handsome and even more friendly father, Tony Sr., equally convincingly played by John DiBenedetto, who displays his sexy girlfriend, Madeline Monroe, sexily played by Joli Tribuzio, in the sexiest looking dress that seemed to have been sewn on her seductive body; Tina's huge mother, Josephine Vitale, dressed in black, in mourning for her husband, wonderfully played by Jacqueline Carol, and Joey Vitale, a joy to behold in Michael Gargani, as Tina's gay brother, who swished gaily throughout the evening, ignoring the women and looking indignantly, but interestingly, at the men.

At first, the guests are relaxed in the chapel, and then the fun begins, with a priest, who sports an Irish brogue, telling everyone present, "You are the church;" the bridal party is in red, including an unhappy looking, heavyset bridesmaid and a very pregnant bridesmaid. There are speeches made by the bridal party and family about chastity, a poem read by the best man, another by the bride who forgets her lines and is rescued by her brother, and the mumbling groom, who mumbled his vows.

Then, back out into the rain, windswept guests slushed into the ballroom. There were hot hors d'oeurves and real champagne for a toast by the bride's mother, who forgot her speech, but didn't forget to visit each table enlisting the possibility of a pure girl, who, as a bride, could make her son forget his homosexuality. The rousing music of Donny Dolce and the Fusion was conducted and oftimes sung by the versatile Bock. There was music from "The Godfather," and food served family-style. There was line dancing and Italian music, and Presley music, and exciting music.

And before long, there were fights. The bride, strolling around with a beer bottle, managed to hold still long enough to help her groom cut the cake and the drunken groom plunged the gooiest part of the cake into the bride's face. While guests danced with audience members and vice versa, the bridal family members and friends, and even the priest became more drunk and frantic. It was a riot!

There were apologies, and friendly handshakes, and the confusion was absolutely delicious.

What a night! What a wedding! Would one want to return to such chaos on April 9 and April 16? You bet! Why "Tina and Tony's Wedding" is the best musical comedy and the most unusual ever to hit the township of Union. Go ahead. Be a guest.

Guild jazzes things up

On April 4 at 8 p.m., tenor sax player Harry Allen brings his music to the Arts Guild of Rahway in the Guild's continuing fifth season music series.

BMG recording artist Harry Allen has more than 30 recording to his name, three of them having won Gold Disc Awards from Japan's Swing Journal magazine. Allen has performed at jazz festivals and clubs worldwide, frequently touring the United States, Europe and the Far East. He has played with Rosemary Clooney, Flip Phillips, Kenny Bundell, John and Bucky Pizzarelli and Warren Vache.

Tickets are available for this concert at the Arts Guild office, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Call 732-381-7511 for hours. Advance-sale tickets are $12. Tickets can also be purchased for the Harry Allen concert with tickets for the May 16 Eric Mintel Quartet at the Arts Guild for a special two-concert advance-sale rate of $10 per ticket. Tickets at the door the evening of performance are $15.

ATTENTION SCHERING-PLOUGH CORP. 401(k) PLAN PARTICIPANTS

SCHIFFRIN & BARROWAY, LLP has filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of PERSONS WHO PURCHASED OR HELD SCHERING-PLOUGH CORP. STOCK through the company's 401(k)/Employees' Savings Plan between October 2002 and the present.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07085.

Stepping Out

Art Shows

WATERCOLOR STYLES will be on exhibit at the Diverstity Art Gallery in Clark.

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

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT, an exhibit of paintings by Gary Godbee and photographs by Paul Lachenauer, will be on display at The Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway through April 11.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Thursdays from 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, send e-mail to artsguild1670@earthlink.net or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

PRINTS FROM THE COLLECTION OF EILEEN M. FOTI will be on exhibit at the Tomasulo Gallery at Union County College through April 17.

Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays, and Saturdays, from 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays through Thursdays, 6 to 9 p.m. The Tomasulo Gallery is located in the Kenneth MacKay Library on UCC's Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call 908-709-7155.

TRANS•MORPHOLOGIES: "Evolving Artwork of Alexandra Isaievych" will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through April 17.

Gallery hours are Mondas to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

ARTIFACTS BY DESIGN, a joint sculpture and painting show, will be on exhibit at the Donald B. Palmer Museum at the Springfield Public Library through April 24.

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

COLOR AND LIGHT: "The Art of Janet Fish" will be on exhibit through May 28 at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit. A Gallery Talk will take place April 27 at 2 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondas to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 5 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information. call 908-273-9121 or visit www.njcva.org.

CHINESE PAINTER HSU DAN will have his work on exhibit in the Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through June 3. A reception and calligraphy demonstration will take place April 13 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave, Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787 or visit the Web site at www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

Auditions

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS COOPERATIVE THEATER and the New Jersey Performing Arts Center will conduct adutions for "West Side Story" Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Chase Room at NJPAC, 1 Center St., Newark. Being sought are performers between the ages of 14 and 21. Show dates are July 11 to 20. For information, call 908-233-3200.

Books

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

April 16: "The Good Mother" by Sue Miller

May 21: "The Bondwoman's Narrative" 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 908-851-5450.

AUTHOR JAMIE NOVAK will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of her new book, "A Busy Person's Guide to a Life You Love." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit www.townbookstore.com.

AUTHOR SONDRA GASH will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of her new book, "Silk Elegy." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call 908-233-3535 or visit www.townbookstore.com.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday 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.

THE 'LORD OF THE RINGS' READING 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 Mondays 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 973-376-8544.

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. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

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 732-574-1818.

Classes

REEVES-REED ARBORETUM will sponsor watercolor classes; the next eight-week session runs from April 23 through June 25. Fee is $138 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.

Concerts

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

April 19: Amy Carol Webb, Westfield

May 17: Kevin Brody, Springfield

June 21: GrooveLily, Westfield

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

THE LENTEN BROWN BAG CONCERT SERIES will be presented by the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit Fridays at 12:15 p.m., through April 11. Admission is free. Central Presbyterian Church is located at 70 Maple St., Summit.

THE FAB FOUR will appear in "The Ultimate Beatles Tribute" Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Paper Mill: The State Theater of New Jersey. Tickets are $32 to $48. Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit www.papermill.org.

PAUL ANKA will appear in concert April 11 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are $30 to $65. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

GILBERTO GIL will appear in concert April 13 at 7 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $16 to $46.

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

KATHY MATTEA will appear in concert April 14 at 8 p.m. at Paper Mill: The State Theater of New Jersey. Tickets are $40 to $70. Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit www.papermill.org.

Dance

AMERICAN REPERTORY BALLET will present Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are" April 12 and 13 at 2 p.m. in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are $19 for adults, $10 for children.

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

DAYTON CONTEMPORARY DANCE COMPANY will appear April 25 to 27 in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Performances are 7:30 p.m. April 25 and 26, 2:30 p.m. April 27. Tickets are $43.

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 April 11 and 25; May 9, which is an English country dance workshop, and May 23. The season closing party is June 13. Admission is $2, or $12 for half the season; workshops are $5. For information, call 973-467-8278.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehnly School, Raritan Road, Clark. Fee for each lesson is $4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

Discussion

SENIORS DISCUSSING SCIENCE will meet monthly at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield. For information, call 908-486-3643 or send e-mail to science4seniors@aol.com.

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP, led by professional life coach Jami Novak, meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP will meet every other Monday at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West. For information, call 973-376-8544.

Film

THE FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will begin its spring series in the coming weeks at the Loews Theater in Mountainside. The second session of Monday night screenings runs through April 29. Fee is $131 for six 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 a.m. The Main Branch is of the Elizabeth 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.

Jazz

TENOR SAXOPHONIST HARRY ALLEN will appear in concert Friday at 8 p.m. at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway. Tickets are $12 in advance, $15 at the door. For information, call 732-381-7511 or visit www.rahwayartsguild.org.

KEITH JARRETT, Gary Peacock and Jack DeJohnette will appear in concert April 11 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.

DIANNE REEVES with orchestra will present "Celebrating Sarah Vaughan" with special guests The John Pizzarelli Trio April 26 at 8 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.

Kids

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway will present TheatreWorks USA in "Just So Stories" Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are $10. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, will sponsor Tales for Tots Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

Poetry

POETRY OUT LOUD! will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT takes place the second Sunday of every month at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

Radio

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and thirda Mondays of the month at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

Singles

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a loca restaurant; wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9796 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Chruch, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is $2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

Theater

PAPER MILL: The State Theater of New Jersey will present Lerner and Loewe's "Camelot" through May 18. Shows are at 8 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. Sundays, with matinees Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the mezzanine; audio-described performances, with a sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain, and sign-interpreted/open-captioned performances.

Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive. For information, call 973-376-4343, 973-379-3636 ext. 2438 for groups, or visit www.papermill.org.

'BLAST!' will be presented through Sunday in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. today, 8 p.m. Friday to Saturday; matinees are 1:30 p.m. today, 2 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are $14 to $50 today, $17 to $60 Friday to Sunday.

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

'LACKAWANNA BLUES' by Ruben Santiago-Hudson will be presented through Sunday in Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Shows are 7:30 p.m. today through Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are $36.

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 Robert Dubac in his one-man show, "The Male Intellect: An Oxymoron?," April 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are $22 to $32. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit www.ucac.org.

Variety

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m. and karaoke every Thursday night.

Friday: The Hammers
Saturday: Stormy Weather
April 11: Broken Bones Blues Band
April 12: Not in That Order
April 18: Verne
April 19: Gary Costello
April 25: Tom Leonardis
April 26: Diminished 4

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Oscar trivia combines pictures, directors and writers

Below are the answers to the last two Oscar Trivia quizzes: Best Director and Screenplay, which appeared March 6, and Best Picture, which appeared March 13.

Best Director
Best Screenplay

Q. What director has been honored with the most nominations without ever winning?

A. Alfred Hitchcock.

Q. Who are the only two women ever to be nominated for Best Director?

A. Lena Wertmuller ("Seven Beauties," 1977) and Jane Campion ("The Piano," 1993). Though both lost, Campion picked up the Oscar for Best Original Screenplay.

Q. Who is the only African-American to be nominated for Best Director?

A. John Singleton ("Boyz in the 'Hood," 1992). He's also the youngest nominee ever, getting his nod at 27.

Q. Why was Woody Allen not present to accept his Original Screenplay Oscars for 1977's "Annie Hall" and 1986's "Hannah and Her Sisters?"

A. The Oscars were still presented on a Monday night then and Allen was playing clarinet in a jazz combo at Michael's Pub in Manhattan, a standing gig the writer-director refuses to miss.

Q. For what film did Oliver Stone, honored twice as a director, win a Screenplay Oscar?

A. "Midnight Express" in 1978. Stone's directing Oscars were for "Platoon" in 1986 and "Born on the Fourth of July" in 1989.

Best Picture

Q. Two Best Picture-winners hold the Academy record for most nominations. What are they?

A. "All About Eve," 1950, and "Titanic," 1997, with 14 nominations each.

Q. What movie won the most Oscars without also winning Best Picture?

A. "Cabaret," 1972, which won eight trophies, but not Best Picture.

Q. Only one movie was awarded Best Picture without receiving nominations in any other categories. What was it?

A. "Grand Hotel," 1932.

Q. What do Best Picture-winners "Gigi" and "The Last Emperor" have in common?

A. Their Oscar sweeps, with each film winning nine awards in 1958 and 1987, respectively, included a win on every single nomination.

Q. What is the only X-rated film to win Best Picture?

A. "Midnight Cowboy," 1969.

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The Eagle (Cranford/Clark) • The Leader
Spectator Leader • Gazette Leader
Rahway Progress • Summit Observer

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Nutley Journal * Belleville Post
Irvington Herald * Vailsburg Leader
The Independent Press of Bloomfield

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DIAL A BIBLE MESSAGE

The **man of sin** who forbids men from marriage falls from Grace, lives in Sin (Apostasy); 2 Thess. 2:3-5, 1 Tim. 4:1-3. This false religious teacher, teaches demonic doctrine to prevent and deceive for self aggrandizement, 2 Cor. 11:13-15; 2 Pet. 2:1-3. God said **that marriage is honorable,** Gen 2:18-25; Heb. 13:4. Thus, both the Old and New Testament teaches the priest were married men. But Satan distorted the Word of God from the beginning until now, Gen. 3:1-5

The Big Question: Who do **YOU** believe, God or Man?

Who are **YOU** following, man or Jesus?

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See PUZZLE on Page B4

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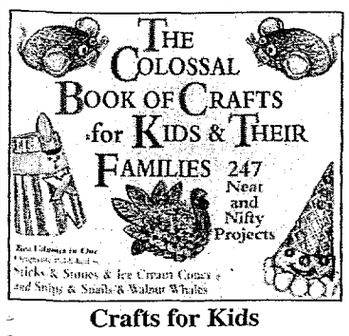

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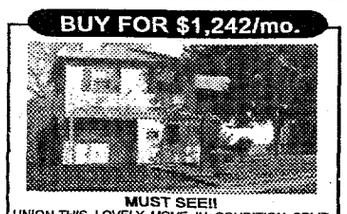
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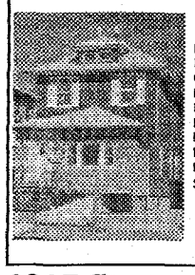
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15 YEAR FIXED	5.25	0.00	5.29	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	5.25	FEE
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15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.04	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	4.88	0.00	4.88	FEE
30 YR JUMBO	5.75	0.00	5.79	$ 0	30 YR JUMBO	6.00	0.00	6.02	$ 375
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15 YEAR FIXED	4.50	3.00	5.01	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	5.18	FEE
5/1-30 YR	4.50	0.00	4.26	$ 350	30 YR JUMBO	5.88	0.00	5.92	$ 395
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					Union Center Nat'l Bk	908-688-9500			
					30 YEAR FIXED	5.75	0.00	6.55	APP
					15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.13	FEE
					3/1-30 YR	3.38	0.00	3.79	$ 350
					Low/Mod Program Available				

Rates compiled on March 28, 2003
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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Rasmussen joins Coldwell

Alan Rasmussen, Westfield resident since 1970, has stepped down as president of R&L Industries Inc., manufacturer representatives to the plastics industry, to join Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage.

Immediately out of college, Rasmussen joined the firm established

Alan Rasmussen

by his father in 1976, took the position of president, hired personnel and during the next 22 years years, helped to build the business into a multi-million dollar corporation with offices in three states.

"It was fun to see what focus and hard work could produce," Rasmussen said. "We were in control of every aspect of running a successful business from the ground up. It was a learning-by-doing in its perfect form."

Rasmussen, also a bass-baritone, has been performing as soloist and ensemble singer in the New York City Metropolitan area for more than 20 years. As a graduate of Westminster Choir College in Princeton, Rasmussen has sung under the batons of Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Sir Colin Davis and Kurt Masur to name a few and has participated in more than 20 recordings which include Jessye Norman's "In The Spirit" and Kathleen Battle's "A Christmas Celebration." He appears regularly in New York ensembles such as Musica Sacra, New York Choral Artists, the Melodious Accord, the RCA Victor Singers and his television broadcasts include "Late Night With David Letterman," "The Today Show," multiple "Live At Lincoln Center" programs, and others. Rasmussen participated in the music premieres of James Adler's "Momento Mori: An Aids Requiem," "Lukas Foss,' and "American Cantata," among others, and recently completed recording the works of Venitian antiphonal choral music with the Cecilia Consort, a double quartet of professional musicians that he started with colleagues in 1994.

The decision to go to Coldwell Banker was an easy one for Rasmussen.

"I wanted to work with the best in the business. The education that Coldwell Banker provides as well as the extraordinary service given to clients, is proof enough that I made the correct choice."

James Schoening, manager of Coldwell Banker's Union office, speaks highly of Rasmussen.

"Alan is an extremely knowledgeable sales agent and has taken advantage of Coldwell Banker's continuing education, receiving eight diplomas already and is presently working towards Tier 2 status for sales in commercial real estate as well," he said.

The Coldwell Banker office is located at 367 Chestnut Ave. in Union and the phone number is 908-688-3000 with Rasmussen being reached at 908-451-2844. You can also view Coldwell Banker listings on the Internet at www.ColdwellBankerMoves.com.

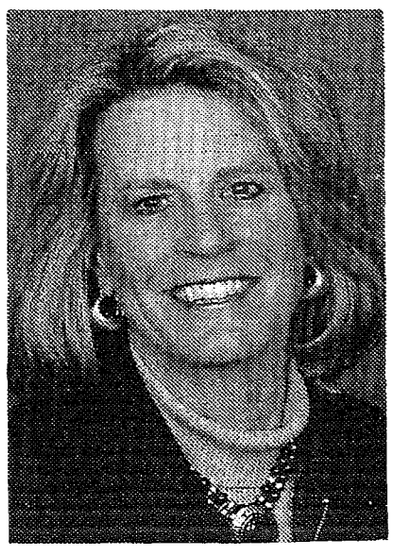
Sullivan to Burgdorff

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Beth Sullivan has joined the company as a sales associate in its Westfield office, located at 600 North Avenue West.

Before joining Burgdorff ERA, Sullivan was associate publisher and advertising director for the "Working Woman" magazine in Manhattan. Her tenure there was marked by results-driven performances in sales management, marketing, key account sales and supervision. She was responsible for successfully training, directing and motivating sales people while developing numerous sales account and category presentations.

Sullivan's background as a senior sales executive in publishing is an ideal fit for real estate. She has a reputation as a persistent and persuasive closer who thrives on challenges. Clients and co-workers appreciate her talents as a bright, flexible and resourceful team player who possesses outstanding interpersonal and communication skills.

Sullivan is a member and past member of the Muhlenberg Hospital



Beth Sullivan

TWIG, a member of the College Women Club of Westfield, a member of the Roosevelt School PTA and the Plainfield Country Club.

A graduate of Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, Sullivan has a bachelor of arts degree in history and business.

Weichert opens a new Web site

James M. Weichert, president of Weichert Realtors, has announced the debut of the company's all-new consumer Web site located at www.weichert.com.

"Real estate consumers on the Internet want information delivered quickly, and when they are ready to act they want to talk to someone immediately," said Weichert. "Our new Internet site delivers information in a variety of new formats, while also presenting the opportunity to interact personally and immediately with a real estate professional at our Consumer Information Center by clicking our new "Make an Appointment" button or by calling 800-872-7653. If you need assistance, you can reach someone — you will find a live person while you are still looking at the house on your screen."

The weichert.com site will feature the listings of all 234 Weichert company-owned and franchised sales offices, as well as a connection to a national search of real estate listings in all 50 states. Included are special searches for those interested in luxury properties, new construction, land, historic homes, rentals, and commercial properties.

Another feature incorporated into the new weichert.com Web site is the ability for customers to select open houses they would like to tour and then print out a route map showing where the homes are located along with point-to-point directions that navigate logically from one house to the next.

Customers can also save listings they see on the site. They will appear as a thumbnail miniature photo in the margin of the Web pages.

"Saving the homes to reference later is a big help when you are viewing dozens of homes on the Web," says Weichert. "The fact that these are stored as small photographs makes it easier to remember which house you were interested in and get back to your favorites quickly."

The new site also allows consumers to receive further updates on new listings via e-mail, along with open houses that are scheduled for homes in selected communities and price ranges. Consumers can also easily navigate from listing searches to open houses, or even real estate career information within the state they are viewing, without having to restart their search.

"Our sales associates and customers contributed greatly to the redesign of weichert.com," said Weichert. "We held dozens of focus groups and incorporated the features that helped the consumer get where they wanted to go, and also connected them to our sales force so that they can get high-tech, high-touch service when they get there."

Weichert Realtors, based in Morris Plains, has more than 10,000 sales associates in 234 company-owned and franchised sales offices located in Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Washington, D.C., North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida. A full-service, family of individually-owned real estate companies, Weichert handles both residential and commercial real estate, and through Weichert Financial Services' Gold Services Program, streamlines the delivery of mortgage, home insurance and title insurance. For more information about buying or selling a home through Weichert Realtors, call Weichert's state-of-the-art customer information center 800-872-7653) or visit Weichert's Web site on the Internet at http://www.weichert.com.

Clothing drive to dress up those seeking employment

The Greater Union County Association of Realtors is collecting business clothing for women, to be used by job applicants who do not have appropriate clothing for employment interviews. The drive continues through April 10.

This is the seventh year for such a drive. The past six drives have been very successful in gathering useful apparel from Realtor members and the community.

All items received will be given to agencies throughout Union County that help job applicants retain their dignity when they go off welfare to meet prospective employers.

All those wishing to donate business clothes for the drive may take them to the office of Greater Union County Association of Realtors, 767 Central Avenue, Westfield, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Garments should be clean and in wearable condition. For information, call the association at 908-232-9000.

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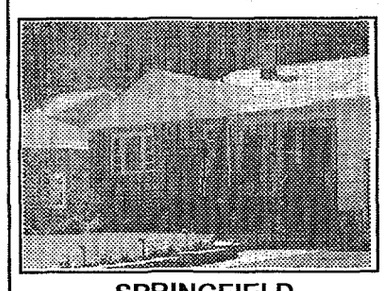

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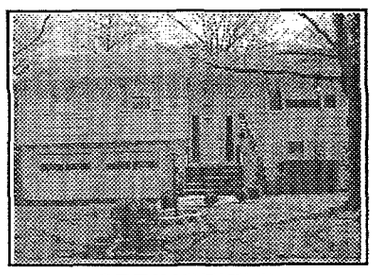

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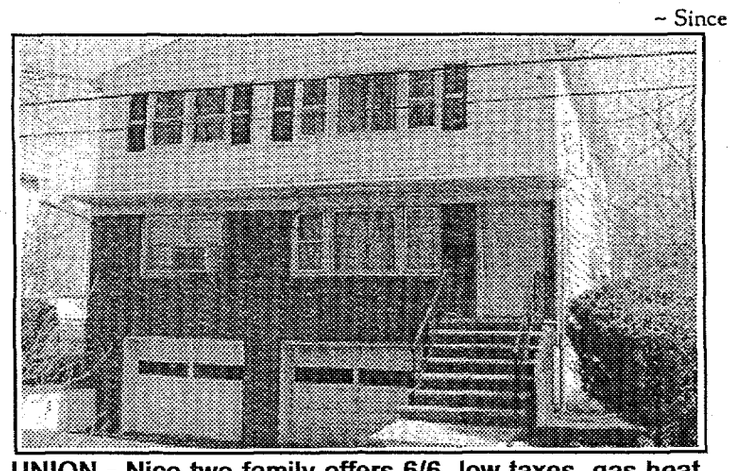

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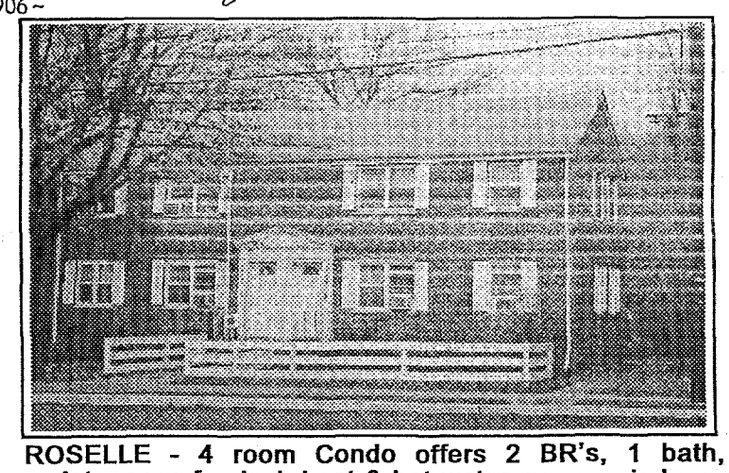

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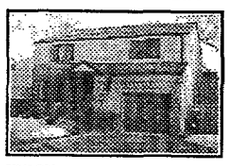

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Let's Ask Jill

Opening Your Door To A Successful Open House
By Jill Guzman

Opening your door to a successful open house is one of the many tools that will turn the key to a successful transaction.

Although it seems like a simple procedure, creating an active, productive and busy open house takes much planning.

Step One:
Is the advertising, which should include wording that catches the reader's eye. Also included in the advertising should be flyers that are placed in visible locales such as restaurants, shops, etc.

Step Two:
The placing of the signs is crucial: waking up very early on Sunday morning and putting signs on main streets in high quantity is a must. In addition putting an OPEN SUNDAY SIGN several days before the open house ensures activity.

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Thank you Jill Guzman

Thanking Jill Guzman Realty, Inc.
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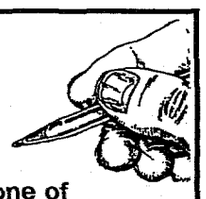

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Thank You,
Hilda Pagan

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Four-seat convertibles seem like a great idea when someone has an eye on an icon of the good life. But sometimes the dream is diminished after the deal is done.

Spontaneity is a key ingredient for a successful convertible, but when it takes too many motions or moments to drop the top, buyers likely find themselves wishing for a sunroof.

It's easy to cobble up a two-seat roadster. All it takes is a snappy design and a burbly exhaust. But a good four-seat convertible must be practical yet free-spirited. It must have four-season usability, function and comfort.

Just try to work those parameters into a four-seat ragtop. Make it too long and the chassis flexes like a Twist-O-Flex. Too short and the back seat is barely usable. Too blunt and the airflow beats passengers about the head and shoulders. Too raked and the doors become huge and heavy. Too luxurious and it might get dirty.

For those who would like to spike their existence with a little carefully planned risk, there is the Chrysler Sebring convertible. The trunk is huge, the back seat has legroom for adults, the chassis is solid, the ride is quiet and the top-down airflow is as good it gets among all the competitors, at least for the driver and passenger.

The Sebring Convertible is presented as a "premium" offering, but it's priced not much more than a special edition Miata. The GTC test car is a sportier model with a starting price of $26,160 and with a few convenience options topped out at $27,550.

For the money, it is a nicely equipped and roomy four-seasons car. And among its assets is how fast the power top folds away. I know of slower power windows. Release the two windshield header latches, press the console button and all four windows go down and the top peels back in about six seconds. And if you get caught midway when the traffic light turns green, the car can be driven off at slow speeds while the mechanism finishes its job.

Other than rain or blizzard, there's really little excuse not to drop the nicely lined top.

The car is fairly nimble, has a tight turning circle and has all the expected power conveniences and numerous storage areas for phones, CDs and other flotsam. And it's not bad looking.

The Sebring convertible comes in four models, and the GTC features a V-6, five-speed manual transmission and a package of sportier extras.

Some money can be saved with the four-cylinder LX (150 hp, 2.4-liter DOHC 16-valve), but the 200 hp 2.7 liter - optional in the LX and standard in the other models - puts a little spark in the driving experience.

The V-6 is responsive, sounds good under pressure and returns decent mileage — 20 mpg city, 27 highway — on regular unleaded. The 2.7 liter engine with automatic transmission is also a Flexible Fuel Vehicle, good for gasoline and E85 (85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline).

A four-speed automatic transmission is the standard choice, while the Limited comes with the AutoStick, for some flexibility in shifting. The manual shifter in the GTC is a no-cost option.

Chrysler says 25 percent of all convertibles are sold with a manual transmission, but is that really so of the four-seaters?

On a cushy cruiser such as the Sebring, shifting gets in the way of daydreaming. Or maybe it's just that Chrysler's five-speed box doesn't make a statement for sporty driving. The action is smooth enough, but the cable-actuated feel doesn't convey that big, chromey Chrysler image. And the sport-tuned suspension is still too soft for enthusiastic driving.

The GTC package adds a low-profile rear deck-lid spoiler, 16-inch painted aluminum wheels, color-keyed bodyside molding and GTC badging. Inside, there are two-tone seats, metallic-looking instrument panel trim to replace the wood-grain, white-faced instrument cluster dials, six-speaker AM-FM CD stereo. The GTC comes in only four colors: bright silver, brilliant black crystal, stone white and inferno red. Interior color options are taupe or sandstone, while convertible top color choices are black and sandalwood.

Opt for the five-speed gearbox and it also comes with ABS Plus, which senses speed differences among all four wheels during braking in a turn or avoidance maneuvers. It's an option on all but the topline Limited.

What Chrysler might want to communicate is that the GTC and its partners are great daily drivers that have practicality with a premium finish. It's a design that won't jar the owner from his or her dream of driving a convertible.

Mark Maynard can be reached online at mark.maynard@union-trib.com.

2004 Chrysler Sebring GTC

Body style: Compact, four-passenger convertible

Drive system: Transverse front engine, front-wheel drive

Engine: Aluminum, DOHC, 24-valve 2.7 liter V-6

Horsepower: 200 at 5,800 rpm

Torque: 190 foot-pounds at 4,850 rpm

Transmission: five-speed manual

EPA estimated fuel economy: 20 mpg city, 27 highway

Fuel tank: 16 gallons; unleaded regular recommended

Features

Standard equipment includes: power vinyl top with boot cover, lined roof and glass, power fold-away mirrors, center storage console with power outlet and cup holders, tilt steering, cruise control, visors with lighted and covered mirrors, power windows, six-speaker AM-FM-CD system, remote locking with lighted entry and variable intermittent wipers.

GTC Package: Includes low-profile rear deck-lid spoiler, 16-inch painted aluminum wheels, color-keyed bodyside molding and GTC badging. Inside, two-tone seats, white-faced instrument cluster dials, 6-speaker AM-FM CD stereo and ABS Plus

Dimensions

Wheelbase: 106 inches

Length: 193.7 inches

Front head/leg/shoulder room: 38.7/42.4/56.3 inches

Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 37/35.2/48.9 inches

Curb weight: 3,452 pounds

Trunk capacity: 11.3 cubic feet

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2000 Mitsubishi Montero 4X4
V6, auto trans w/OD, pwr str/ABS/wind/mirr, AIR, AM/FM stereo cass, tilt, cruise, r def, moonrf, lug rack, alum whls, 34,348 mi, STK #12344A, VIN #YP032971
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7 Pass, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo CD, cruise, b/s mldgs, lug rack, alloys, 41,305 mi, STK #12296A, VIN #1B173871
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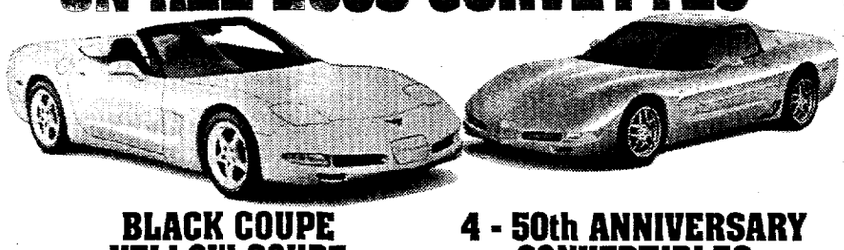

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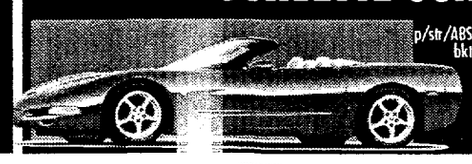
2000 CHEVROLET CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE



RED/BLACK TOP & INTERIOR. 8 cyl, 6 spd man, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, airbags, leath, bkt seats, alloy whls, A/S tires. 21,700 mi. Stk#6288. VIN#Y5112540.

$36,904

2000 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cass, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bkt seats, A/S tires. 27,690 mi. Stk#6269. VIN#Y7169213.

$6904

2000 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, bkt seats, A/S tires. 34,593 mi. Stk#6308. VIN#Y7168686.

$7904

2000 FORD TAURUS 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bkt seats, alloys, A/S tires. 34,592 mi. Stk#453B. VIN#YA261072.

$8904

1999 PONTIAC GRAND PRIX 2 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sunrf, airbags, cloth bkt seats, A/S tires. 24,800 mi. Stk#6243. VIN#XF209845.

$9904

2000 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, cloth bkt seats, A/S radials, airbags. 33,478 mi. Stk#6329. VIN#Y6926129.

$11,904

2000 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bkt seats, A/S tires. 34,388 mi. Stk#6330. VIN#Y9379235.

$12,904

1999 HONDA ACCORD EX 4 DR

4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, leath bkt seats, security sys, B/W A/S radials. 41,785 mi. Stk#6287. VIN#XPA13418.

$13,904

1999 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN AWD 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirr, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, roof rk, cloth bkt seats, alloys, A/S tires. 23,453 mi. Stk#8574. VIN#XB592898..

$14,804

2000 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4 DR

MUST SEE!

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bkt seats, alloys, A/S tires. 34,746 mi. Stk#6310. VIN#YZ380323.

$14,904

2001 CHRYSLER VOYAGER 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks, air, cd, r/def, airbags, cloth int, B/W A/S radials. 29,732 mi. Stk#F717A. VIN#1B103822.

$14,904

2000 CHRYSLER 300M 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sunrf, leath bkt seats, security sys, traction cntrl. 41,097 mi. Stk#8753. VIN#YH251665.

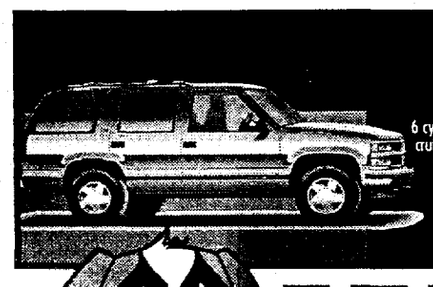
$15,904

2000 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, leath bkt seats, alloys, security sys, A/S tires. 50,223 mi. Stk#504A. VIN#YJ100790.

$19,904

1999 CHEVROLET TAHOE 4 DR



6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leath bkt seats, alloys, security sys, A/S tires. 36,400 mi. Stk#T6076. VIN#XJ571394.

$19,904

2001 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, airbags, alloys, bkt seats, A/S tires. 51,998 mi. Stk#604A. VIN#1E327533.

$20,904

2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LS 4 DR

MUST SEE!

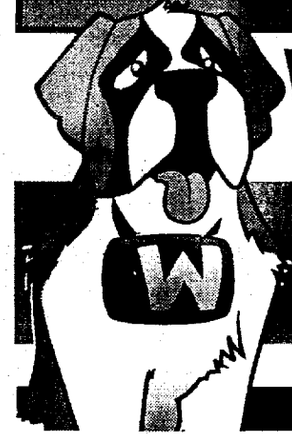
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, cloth bkt seats, alloys, 3rd row seats, A/S tires. 28,199 mi. Stk#6316. VIN#2G187903.

$29,904

2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN 4 DR

8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS, air, cass/cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leath bkt seats, alloys, security sys, entertainment sys VHS. 44,956 mi. Stk#523A. VIN#1G285885.

$25,904



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