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CLARK, N.J., VOL. 14 NO. 17

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004

myclark.com

TWO SECT

Family bids dad farewell

Funeral is today for victim of fire

By David Learn
Managing Editor

Family, friends and neighbors will say their final goodbyes today to a Clark man who died Monday evening after a gas explosion at his house early that morning.

Joao DaSilva, 46, of 63 Dawn Drive died at St. Barnabas Medical Center in Livingston. Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. today at Grace and Peace Church, 950 Raritan Road, Cranford.

"He loved being with his wife and children," the Rev. Peter Follgado of Grace and Peace Portuguese Ministries said Wednesday morning. "His priority was all to his family. He was certainly a man who loved God and had his priorities straight."

The fire started about 3:45 a.m. Monday, fueled, officials believe, by a broken gas main nearby on Westfield Avenue.

"I woke up and the whole thing was on fire," said Don Reider, a neighbor of the DaSilvas who described them as "quiet, nice people."

After Constance DaSilva, whose hands were burned in the fire, left in an ambulance with her husband, Reider said he took their sons, Roger, 19, and Manny, 17, to the hospital.

"They seemed pretty fine," Reider said Monday afternoon. "It probably hadn't sunk in yet."

After the fire, the DaSilvas' home was ordered razed by Clark's municipal construction official. For the time



Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

Tragedy struck the Dawn Drive residence of the DaSilva family early on Monday morning, when a natural gas leak turned their house into an inferno that killed the family's father.

being, the DaSilvas are staying with family friends in Colonia.

"They haven't decided yet where they're going to stay," said Follgado. "Obviously it's still too fresh, and they're not in the right place."

The funeral this afternoon will follow a wake scheduled to run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., also at Grace and Peace Church.

Follgado, who has known the DaSilvas since they moved to the area nearly four years ago, described the family as coping with their loss better than might be expected.

"They are people that have tremendous faith in God," said Follgado. "That's what is holding them up."

The church has started a fund to help the DaSilvas. Donations can be

sent to Grace and Peace Portuguese Ministries, 950 Raritan Road, Cranford, 07016.

Advocates for a Better Clark also has established a fund to provide short-term financial assistance for the DaSilvas, at Columbia Savings Bank. Donations to that fund can be made through Clark's public schools and at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building.

"By doing it through the ABC, we can bring together all four schools and the entire community," said Jill Curran of the ABC.

Checks should be made out to Fund for DaSilva Family.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. remains unsure what led to the gas leak that fueled the deadly fire, although spokesman Chris Reardon said the

stresses caused by cold weather and the heavy traffic on Westfield Avenue may have contributed.

The line break was not caused by mechanical failure such as gas being forced through the pipe under extreme pressure, he said.

The company checked gas lines throughout the area on Monday for additional breaks, but found none.

"Situations such as yesterday are extremely rare," he said, referring to the Monday morning fire.

About 45 Clark firefighters responded to the blaze, accompanied by crews from the Garwood and Kenilworth companies, said Clark Fire Chief John Pingor.

"Most of the structure was on fire when we got there," said Pingor.

\$160K cont for GOP chair

Mayor: 'He'll do a good job'

By David Learn
Managing Editor

A company owned by the Union County Republican chairman stands to gain more than \$150,000 under a contract awarded this year by Clark officials.

Amalgamated General Agencies, a risk management consultant owned by Ron Frigerio of Westfield, will represent the township in its insurance jointure throughout 2004. The Township Council and mayor also are all Republicans. This is the fourth year AGA has received the contract.

"This is not proper business procedure," said Nancy Sheridan, chairwoman of the Clark Democratic Party. "You have to be extra sensitive to this when you're in a position of public trust, and they haven't been."

A risk-management consultant such as AGA can make insurance recommendations to a municipality by tracking the ever-shifting state of the insurance market, and by advising it when claims are made against it, among other duties.

The contract is likely to pay about \$160,000 over the course of the year, Business Administrator John Laezza said Tuesday.

"I'm not in a position to make accusations, but it raises a red flag," said Sheridan.

The AGA contract was awarded without a bidding process. New Jersey law does not require competitive bids for professional services.

"I know him very well. I know he'll do a good job," Mayor Sal Bonaccorso said of Frigerio. On the reason for switching to AGA, he said: "It's a 3-year-old question, so it's kind of irrelevant."

Frigerio will have been the county party chairman for four years in June, when the party will elect a chairman. During that time, neither he nor AGA has given any money to Republican election campaigns in Clark.

The county Republicans gave \$3,500 to the Clark GOP campaign during the 2000 election, which ended in the election of Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and at-large council members Angel Albanese, Jim Ulrich and Al Barr, all Republicans.

The county party gave another \$4,500 during the 2002 elections, which ended in a Republican sweep of the four ward seats on the Township Council.

Rich Kazanowski, a Democrat who held the 3rd Ward seat until losing to Councilman Rob Bothe in 2002, like Sheridan, questioned the appropriateness of the political and business relationships between Frigerio and the Clark officials.

"I wouldn't touch it with a 10-foot

pole, to eliminate the illusion of conflict," he said.

Frigerio said the business relationship between AGA and its clients has nothing to do with his political stature.

He would not identify municipal clients of AGA, although he said the company does do business with municipalities throughout New Jersey.

"We don't specifically get ins because it's Republican or Democratic," Frigerio said. "You can take it from me, we do both sides of the track."

Westfield, a Republican town where Frigerio formerly was mayor, appointed AGA as its risk management consultant for 2004, but so did Kenilworth, which this year has a Democratic mayor and borough council after a decade of GOP control.

Cranford, which has a Republican majority on its township committee but regularly swings between the two parties, does not contract with AGA. It contracts instead with Fleet Insurance Services for most forms of liability insurance, but belongs to a joint insurance fund for workers' compensation, said Cranford Township Administrator Marlena Schmidt.

Situations where political donors receive professional contracts — a practice critics call pay-to-play — in recent years have prompted grass roots organizations such as Common Cause to lobby for greater regulation of business relationships between government and political donors.

Thirteen municipalities in New Jersey, mainly around Mercer County, already have adopted an ordinance drafted by Common Cause to limit the annual amount of money businesses can contribute before they become ineligible to perform contract work in those municipalities.

"It creates a cozy relationship if someone's giving you money," said Heather Taylor, a spokeswoman for Common Cause in New Jersey. "It's hard to maintain a check on them to see if they're giving you a quality service."

Awarding contracts for political favors also reduces the potential pool of contractors and can lead to inflated fees as donors recoup their political donations through their contracts.

"This doesn't happen in every community, we don't make that assumption," said Taylor.

The Common Cause ordinance sets limits of \$400 for each candidate or \$500 for local or county parties. Additional provisions prevent businesses from making donations through third parties.

No municipality in Union County has passed such an ordinance, Taylor said.

Township readying for Brewer overhaul

By David Learn
Managing Editor

The township administration soon may be getting a million-dollar facelift as it has new roofs put on three of its buildings.

The Township Council on Tuesday night introduced a measure that would authorize borrowing \$1 million to replace the roofs at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, the Police Department and the Department of Public Works building.

The council is expected to approve the measure when it meets Feb. 17. Actual work could begin by April, said Business Administrator John Laezza.

The repairs are necessary because of ongoing problems with leaks, Mayor Sal Bonaccorso said Tuesday night. The expense connected with repairing the leaks at Brewer were one of the reasons the Board of Education named for selling the building to the township administration in 2002. Until that sale was concluded, the school board had been leasing the building to the township for \$1 a year, and was obligated to pay half of any repair bills.

"We've stopped the water today, but there's been oceans of blacktop poured up there," said Bonaccorso.

The replacement roofs will be flat,

'...we're finally bringing it up to code.'

— Mayor Sal Bonaccorso

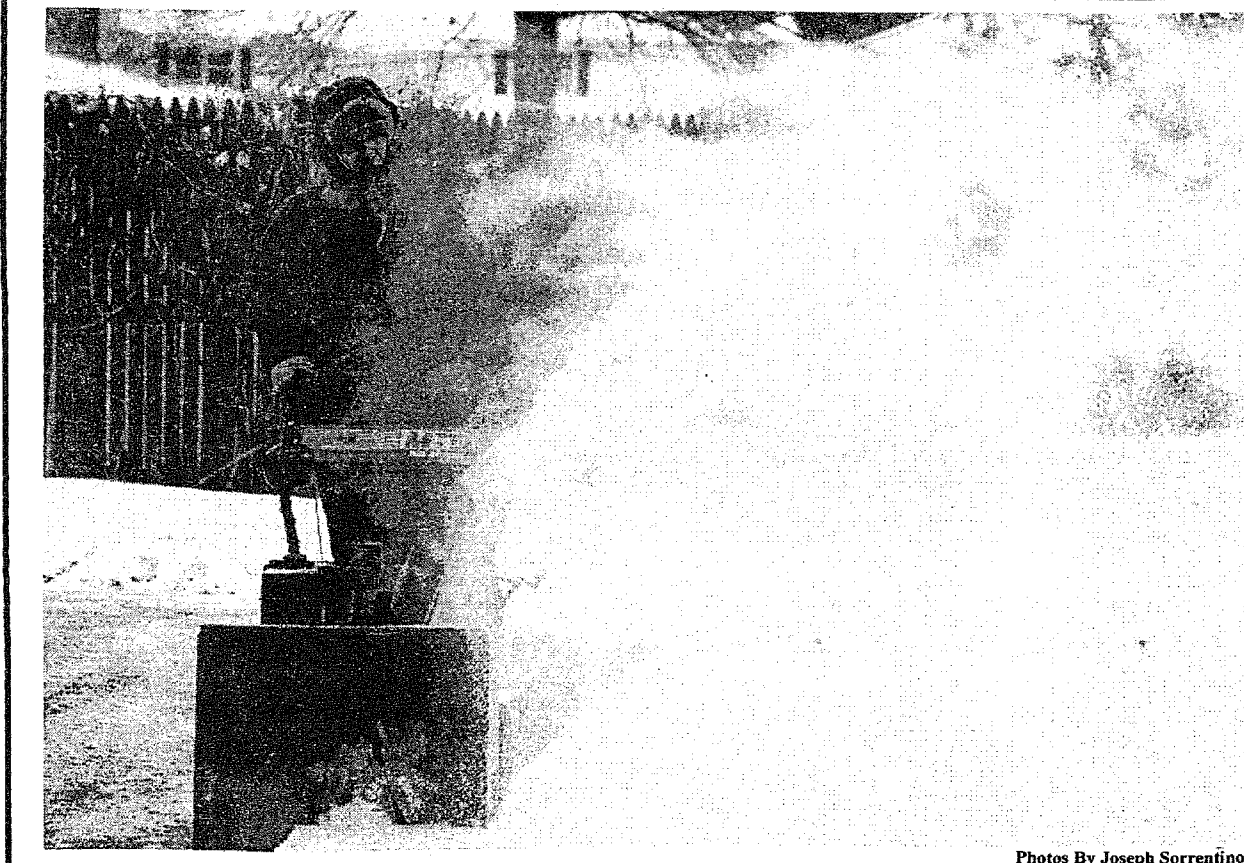
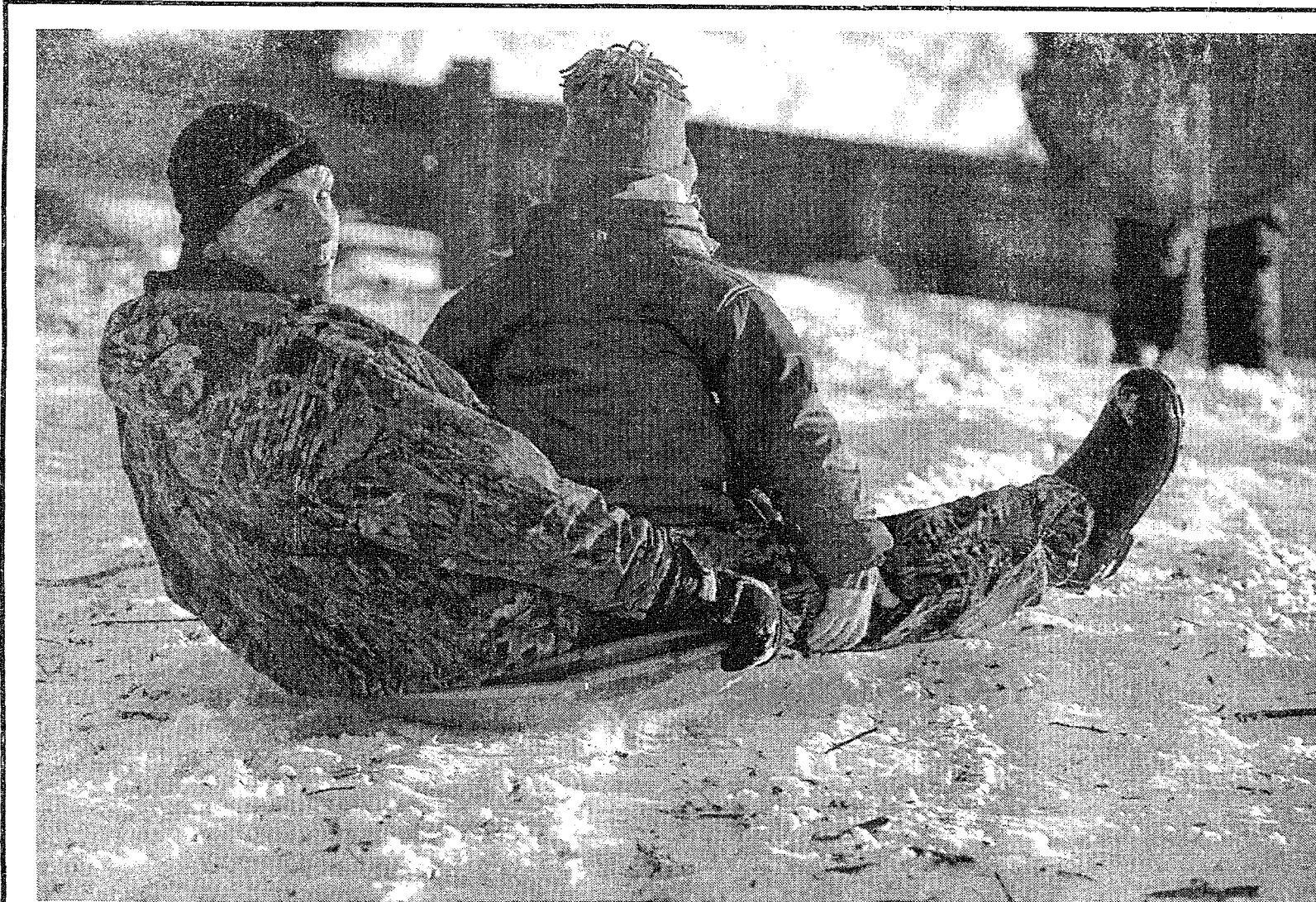
as the current roofs are, although the front of the Municipal Building is expected to get peaks added to make it look more like township offices and less like a school, as the Brewer building had been used previously.

The council also approved a \$9,500 contract with Professional Roof Services of Middletown, Del., to prepare specifications for the roofs project.

Changes are planned for the inside as well. The township's local-access cable station has been a utilitarian room with equipment limited to broadcasting tapes. Plans call for changing that to an actual cable TV studio capable of broadcasting live shows.

The administration also plans to expand renovations that began in 2003 by ripping out more of the hall lockers from the old Brewer School and making other repairs and upgrades.

"It's a building that's been neglected for many, many years, and we're finally bringing it up to code," said Bonaccorso.



LET IT SNOW — With Jack Frost nipping at the nose and thermometers far from in the red, the weather is perfect for enjoying winter activities. Whether it's sledding — as David and Stephanie Greenhill of Clark enjoy doing on a slope near the Garden State Parkway, above — or snowblowing the driveway, as John Ruby, left, does, Old Man Winter has been more than happy to oblige with cold weather and white crunchy snow this month.

Photos By Joseph Sorrentino

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The Eagle is published every Thursday by Worral Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

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Gingerbread houses



On their way to go Christmas caroling, the Monagle family of Clark displays gingerbread houses at Genesis Eldercare in Westfield. Pictured are Michael, current Key Club governor for New Jersey; Maureen, a former ALJ Key Club secretary; John, one of the co-presidents of the Carl H. Kumpf Middle School Builders Club; Ed, a member of Clark Kiwanis, and Peggy, former president of the Clark Kiwanis. During a December snowstorm, the Monagles and other Kiwanis members sang carols and distributed Santa Claus dolls and the candy-topped houses to residents.

EDUCATION

ALJ Booster Club meets in high school library

The A.L.J.Booster Club will meet Feb. 5 in the library of Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave. Principal Robert Taylor and Vice Principal Patricia Qualshie will speak on middle states accreditation at the meeting. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. the first Thursday of every month. For more information, call Jim Molloy at 732-388-4543.

Parents, children invited to visit nursery school

Osceola Nursery School, which meets in Osceola Presbyterian Church, 1689 Raritan Road, will hold an open house Tuesday. Parents and children are invited to come to meet with teachers from 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mail-in registration for classes for September 2004 will begin Feb. 1. Registration materials will be distributed at the open house. Osceola Nursery School offers

developmentally appropriate learning activities for preschool age children to foster social, emotional, intellectual, physical and spiritual growth.

As the school begins its 40th year, it offers two-day-a-week classes, morning or afternoon, for 3-year-olds, and three-day-a-week classes, also morning or afternoon, for 4-year-olds. To be eligible, children must be 3 or 4 years old respectively by the cut-off date for kindergarten in the public school system in their hometown.

The school this year has added a staggered afternoon schedule to facilitate dismissals at both Clark and Cranford schools as well as neighboring towns.

The school provides children with socialization opportunities, creative outlets and play experiences. The program includes musical experiences, a wintertime exercise program, and visits to child-oriented places in surrounding communities.

Osceola Nursery School is accredited by the National Academy of Early Childhood Programs, the branch of the National Association for the Education of Young Children

which has found the school to be in compliance with its criteria for High-Quality Early Childhood Programs.

For more information about the school's programs, call Judith Burlew at 908-272-3668.

Parents invited to plan 'safe' graduation party

Project Graduation will meet at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 9 in the cafeteria of Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave.

The meeting is open to all parents of high school seniors. Project Graduation plans safe graduation celebrations that do not involve alcohol or drugs.

For more information contact Marianne Serrattelli at 732-381-6731.

Register for kindergarten at elementary schools

Kindergarten registration for the Clark School District will take place on March 9 at Frank K. Hehnlly School and March 11 at Valley Road School. Registration will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Registration forms are being sent out to all eligible students.

Parents should bring with them an original birth certificate, health history and health record from physician, and proof of residence.

Children who will be 5 years old by Oct. 1 are eligible to enroll.

For more information, call Hehnlly School at 732-381-8100, and Valley

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, NJ 07083.

Friday
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Readers' Theater program for elementary school-aged kids who can read and would like to act. There is no memorization involved. The program will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

Sunday
• The Polish Cultural Foundation will close the Polish Christmas season with a Christmas concert featuring the Slavic Arts Ensemble at 3 p.m. at Skulski Art Gallery, 177 Broadway. Tickets cost \$10 per person., and include the concert and a reception to meet the artists. For more information, call the foundation at 732-382-7197.

Monday
• The Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet from 8 to 11 p.m. in the municipal courtroom, 315 Westfield Ave.

Tuesday
• Osceola Nursery School, 1689 Raritan Road, will hold an open house from 9 to 11 a.m. and 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Registration materials will be distributed at the open house. Mail-in registration for classes for September will begin Feb. 1. For more information about the school's programs, call Judith Burlew at 908-272-3668.
• The Board of Education will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Arthur L. Johnson High School library.
• The Planning Board will meet at 8 p.m. in the municipal courtroom, 315 Westfield Ave.

Wednesday
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will launch its winter Tots' Storytimes. Offered for children 2½ to 4 years old, the event includes stories with a simple activity and runs from 10:30 to 11 a.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.
• The Clark Public Library Board of Trustees will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Ayers Community Room of Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave.

Upcoming Jan. 29
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m. This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.

Jan. 30
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Readers' Theater program for elementary school-aged kids who can read and would like to act. There is no memorization involved. The program will run from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Register by calling the library at 732-388-5999.

• Rahel Musleah will discuss the Jews of India at Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah during the temple service. The program is the yearly Edith and Mark Lief Memorial Scholar-in-Residence Shabbaton. The lectures will be offered after services and are open to the public. Reservations are required for a Shabbat dinner, which will be held at 6:45 p.m. For more information and reservations, call temple office at 732-381-8403.

Jan. 31
• Clark Unico will hold a flea market and collectible show from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave. The flea market will include new merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage/tag sale section. For more information, call 201-997-9535.

Feb. 2
• The Township Council will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 16 of the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave.

Feb. 5
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold a Toddler Time program for babies and toddlers up to 2½ years old. The program runs from 10 to 10:20 a.m. This program includes nursery rhymes, songs, stories and movement activities. No registration is required.
• The A.L.J.Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the library of Arthur L. Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave. For more information, call Jim Molloy at 732-388-4543.

Feb. 6
• Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Ave., will hold its first meeting of the Teen Advisory Group. Contact Youth Services Librarian Kathy Percoco at 732-388-5999 to register. You must be at least 11 to attend.

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Cops: Man had illegal bullets

By David Learn
Managing Editor

A Piscataway man ended up being charged with possession of hollow-point bullets after being pulled over for not wearing a seat belt earlier this month.

Russell Farlow Jr., 37, of 369 Vail Ave., was released on \$5,000 bail bonds after his arrest at 11:12 p.m. Jan. 5. Also arrested was Diana Orr, 40, of Brighton Terrace, Irvington, who police said had a glassine envelope with suspected heroin.

Sgt. Mike Pollock stopped the two at Fulton Street and Westfield Avenue after noticing the two were not wearing seat belts as required under New Jersey law.

Farlow, who police said did not have his driver's license with him, was allowed to look for it in the trunk of his car. There was no license, but Pol-

lock and Patrol Officer Joseph LoPrete, who had arrived as backup, did find a clip of .45-caliber hollow-point bullets inside a gun case.

Hollow-point bullets — designed effectively to explode on impact — are illegal in New Jersey.

"They found the clip, and with the hour and the exigent circumstances, they conducted a search of the vehicle for a weapon," said Capt. Denis Connell of the Clark Police Department.

During the search, police discovered seven vials of suspected cocaine and a black plastic bag that contained unspecified drug paraphernalia.

After Orr gave her name and address to police, they discovered four outstanding warrants for her arrest from Newark, and another from Hammon-

ton. The five warrants were worth a total \$2,805.

Police also discovered a glassine

envelope that Orr had with her, containing suspected heroin, and unspecified drug-related paraphernalia.

Police also found outstanding warrants for Farlow totaling \$2,063, from Annandale, Warren, Piscataway and Elizabeth.

Farlow was charged with driving with a suspended license, driving without insurance, possession of a controlled dangerous substance and failing to wear a seat belt, in addition to the weapons charge and a charge for having a controlled dangerous substance.

Orr was charged with possession of a controlled dangerous substance, and with failing to wear a seat belt, Connell said.

The two were released on \$5,000 bail each, pending their court appearances.

Smoke alarm, gas smell draw department

FIRE BLOTTER

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Sandalwood Drive residence at 6:15 p.m. Jan. 4 for a fire alarm.

A second-floor smoke detector had been activated by steam from a shower.

The Fire Department responded to Raritan Road and Central Avenue at 8:16 a.m. Jan. 5 after passing a motorist reportedly smelled natural gas.

Firefighters could not locate any natural gas leaks.

The Fire Department was dispatched to a Colonial Drive residence at 11:02 a.m. Jan. 5 for carbon monoxide alarm.

The house was aired out. Elizabethtown Gas Co. workers remained on scene to make any repairs necessary.

The Fire Department responded to the Log Cabin Estates on Raritan Road at 6:30 p.m. Jan. 6 to handle a burning trash bin.

The bin was fully engulfed when firefighters arrived. The Fire Department extinguished the fire.

The Fire Department responded to an Oleander Way residence at 9:25 p.m. Jan. 7 for a basement fire.

Firefighters traced smoke in the residence to the motor assembly of a dryer. The dryer was disconnected and

removed from the residence and the house was aired out with a fan to remove the smoke.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. was asked to place a cap on the gas line, which had been closed with the ball valve.

The Fire Department was summoned to Target on Central Avenue at 2 a.m. Jan. 8 for a leaking propane gas tank used to fuel a cleaning machine.

The tank already had been removed from the store and was no longer leaking by the time crews arrived.

The Fire Department was dispatched to U.S. Gypsum on Raritan Road at 7:08 a.m. Jan. 8 for a fire alarm.

A door had been left open, allowing steam from an adjoining room to activate a smoke detector.

The fire alarm system was reset.

The Fire Department was dispatched to the Lake Avenue railroad overpass for a car fire at 1:05 a.m. Jan. 11.

There was no fire. The car had overheated and was leaking antifreeze.

The Fire Department was sent to Valley Road at 10:13 p.m. Jan. 13 after someone reported smelling natural gas.

Firefighters discovered there had been a large discharge of natural gas in the sidewalk area. Elizabethtown Gas Co. crews asked the Fire Department to remain until the gas leak could be secured.

The interiors of area buildings also were checked to ensure that no natural gas had made its way into the structures. The source of the natural gas leak was a cracked 8-inch natural gas main.

The Fire Department was dispatched for a report of smoke coming from a garage on Oleander Way at 2:40 p.m. Jan. 14.

The smoke was coming from a wood stove at a residence on Lupine Way.

The Fire Department was summoned to Valley Road and Nassau Street when someone reportedly smelled natural gas at 4:24 a.m. Jan. 15.

Workers discovered a hole in the ground with a large discharge of natural gas.

Elizabethtown Gas Co. repair crews asked the Fire Department to remain on scene until the gas leak had been dealt with.

The interior of a residence on Valley Road was checked to ensure that no natural gas had made its way into the structure.



Mother Seton Regional High School students celebrate the 'Seton spirit.' Shown kneeling are Angelica Bonus and Kristen Ditchko. In back are Tiffany De Jesus; Melissa Felicio; Kelly Powell; Gabrielle Maertz of Clark; Sister Mary Anne Katlack, coordinator of campus ministry; and Carol Henderson, home economics teacher.

Students share Seton school spirit

Through various campus ministry and service projects, students at Mother Seton Regional High School are committed to sharing their "Seton Spirit" with others.

The school's mission and philosophy inspire the entire Mother Seton community to share their time, talents and their resources with others.

During Seton Spirit Week, students participate in a food drive for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation in Scotch Plains. The schoolwide collection amounted to 3,463 items.

The food donations were given to families with a child suffering from pediatric cancer. The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation supplies groceries to area families with little time to shop and whose budgets are strained by the illness of their children.

The Seton Outreach Club sponsored Denim Day and other activities to support breast cancer awareness. Students made donations and placed their ribbon on the Tree of Life located in the school's main rotunda.

Several students also participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk-a-thon under the name Team MSR.

The money raised was sent to the Cancer Society and to the Susan B. Komen Foundation for Breast Cancer.

The Student Council conducted the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. Each homeroom donated a turkey and all of its accompaniments for a com-

plete Thanksgiving dinner.

Additional food supplies for future weeks were also included in each family's basket. A total 50 baskets were prepared for needy families in the area, as well as for local parishes to distribute.

For the start of the winter season, the campus ministry office sponsored a winter coat drive for needy families in Middlesex County. The students saw this as a great opportunity to help keep someone warm this winter.

More than 200 coats were collected for infants through adults. Scarves, gloves and mittens also were supplied. Coats were distributed to area homeless shelters through Emmaus House in Perth Amboy.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, students set up a Giving Tree from which students took tags and brought toys and clothes for children of various ages and/or for victimized parents. These gifts were distributed to The Rose Garden in Rahway and to the newly established Josephine's Place in Elizabeth.

The Stamp Out Despair project

consisted of collecting stamped envelopes, paper and pens for asylum-seekers at the Elizabeth Detention Center. These items enabled them to write letters and keep in touch with family and friends in the United States and in their homelands so that their feeling of isolation is lessened.

Mother Seton students will continue their Gift of Giving throughout the second semester. In February, the Seton Outreach Club will sponsor a socks drive for children. At that time, the club will be collecting socks, gloves, hats and scarves for children.

In March, the Home Economics I class will sponsor a drive for a local battered women's shelter. Students and faculty will gather new towels, notions and toiletries and other items which a family may need if they come to a shelter in an emergency.

In addition to their donations, many students donate time in various hospitals and nursing homes. They also donate time to tutor their peers.

The Seton leadership team is available to assist with activities and projects sponsored at the school.

Foundation holds Polish Christmas concert

The Polish Cultural Foundation will close the Polish Christmas season with a Christmas concert featuring the Slavic Arts Ensemble at 3 p.m. Sunday at Skulski Art Gallery, 177 Broadway.

According to Polish tradition, the

Christmas season and Caroling begins with midnight Mass on Dec. 24 and lasts until Feb. 2.

Tickets cost \$10 per person., and include the concert and a reception to meet the artists.

The Slavic Arts Ensemble was

founded in 1977 by Mieczyslaw Gubernat, with the goal of promoting Polish and Slavic chamber music and providing a forum for performances by emerging young musicians.

For more information, call the foundation at 732-382-7197.

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Johnson wrestlers working hard at improving for future *Cilento has young squad for first year at helm*

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

NEW PROVIDENCE - Taking their lumps now to become better in the future.

That's what the Johnson High School Crusaders are doing this season.

"I have a very young team," first-year Johnson wrestling coach Nick Cilento said. "I have 11 freshmen on the team, so we're trying to rebuild."

Cilento, a teacher at the school, takes over from John Denuto, who spent the last two seasons as the Crusaders' head coach.

"This is my first head coaching job," Cilento said. "I was a volunteer assistant at Colonia last year, so when the job opened up, I applied for it and got it."

A graduate of Colonia, Cilento wrestled at the school for four years and captured the Greater Middlesex Conference crown and District 17 title as a senior at 125 pounds. He then went on to wrestle at the University of Maryland for four seasons.

"Hopefully, with my experience, I can help these kids win some hardware," Cilento said. "I think our lower weights at 103, 112 and 135 have a good chance of gaining in tournament competition."

In a 69-6 loss at New Providence last Saturday night, freshman Anthony Priore scored Johnson's only points when he won by pin over Adel Afzal at 103 to improve his record to 7-1.

With the loss, Johnson had its record drop to 2-3, while New Providence improved to 9-1.

Johnson's roster also includes sophomore Matt Rusin at 112 pounds, senior captain Jeff Lim at 119, freshman Mike Newman at 125, classmate Cris Golias at 130 and junior captain Mike Coler at 135.

"Matt is tough at 112 and Jeff is constantly improving every day," Cilento said. "Mike Coler is 6-2 on the season and won the Rahway Tournament at 135. He's one of the guys we look at to make something happen out there."

Junior captain Dave Juzefyk mans the 140-pound spot, while senior captain Peter Russo is at 145. Junior Scott

Diaz is at 152, while freshmen John Kandell, Mike Morra-ta, Matt Kohen, Dennis Bremhe and Eric Kamininsky round out the 160 to heavyweight classes, respectively.

"Dave has a good record (6-3) and is very dedicated," Cilento said. "Peter is also very tough, while Scott took second in the Rahway Tournament."

Even though Kandell and Morrata - as of Monday - had still yet to capture their first wins of the season, Cilento expects that to come very soon.

Johnson had its record evened at 2-2 on Jan. 14 when it dropped a 36-30 home decision to Ridge.

Prior to that setback, Johnson had wins over Roselle Catholic and Barringer. The Crusaders' only other loss came at Mountain Valley Conference power Rahway, which began the week at 7-1 after falling at home to Bound Brook by a 36-33 score last Friday night.

"We ran into a really good New Providence team," Cilento said. "My guys wrestled their hearts out and never stopped fighting."

Cilento's staff includes Joe Herits, Dave Valquenera and younger brother Mike Cilento, a 2003 graduate of Colonia, who went 26-6 and finished second in District 17 at 130 pounds a year ago.

"We want the team to place in the top four in the county and district," Cilento said. "We can do that as long as we improve and some of our guys beat some of the opponents they have already lost to."

Cilento believes success lies in the thinking side of the sport.

"I stress mental toughness," Cilento said. "If you're mentally tough, you're going to drill hard, run hard, work hard and be able to wrestle."

Johnson was scheduled to wrestle at Manville last night and is set to compete at Brearley Saturday at 7 p.m.

The Crusaders are then scheduled to host Roselle Park Wednesday night at 7.

"Two years from now, my freshmen will be juniors," Cilento said.

"Hopefully, we'll be really tough and give other teams a beating."

Cranford's Grier goes for 1,000 tonight

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

CRANFORD - Reaching a milestone.

That's what Cranford High School boys' basketball standout Terence Grier should be able to do today in the Cougars' 7 p.m. home game against Union.

The junior guard is only three points shy of reaching the 1,000-point plateau.

Entering Tuesday's home game against Plainfield needing only 12 points to reach the mark, Grier was held to nine by a very aggressive Cardinal defense in a 76-40 setback.

"I knew it was going to be a hard game against Plainfield because they entered with a 8-2 record," Grier said. "Obviously, we got blown out. I didn't want to get it like

that. I'd rather get my 1,000th point in a win."

The Cougars are in dire need of a victory over the Farmers as their record dropped to 6-7 with the setback.

Cranford is scheduled to host Watchung Conference-National Division foe Scotch Plains Saturday at 1 p.m.

"Night in and night out, you're not always going to have a great game," Grier said. "Nobody's perfect, so I guess I didn't have it today."

Grier did have it last Friday night as he scored a career-high 42 points in an 89-72 triumph at Kearny.

Prior to that game, Grier scored a career-low seven points in a 55-46 loss at Irvington on Jan. 13.

"Every one has their ups and downs," Grier said. "Hopefully, against Union, I can be on a high."

First in the mile



Photo by Reena Rose Sibayan

Cranford track and field standout Sean Gerrity finished first in the mile event in 5:12 in last week's tri-meet against Elizabeth and Union at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth. The Cougars also came up with victories in the 3,200 and the high jump at Sunday's NJSIAA Group 2 boys' indoor relay meet in Princeton. Ryan McMahon, Nate Thompson, Dan Lordan and Brian Brown won the 3,200 in 8:26.96, while Tom Planer (PR 6-0) and David Styler (5-8) were first in the team high jump at 11-8 for third-place Cranford.

Cranford girls' basketball is out to sustain momentum *Cougars began week seeking to reach .500*

By Jeff Wolfrum
Staff Writer

Looking to sustain momentum and carry it over to the rest of the season.

That's what Cranford High School girls' basketball coach Brian Chapman wants his team to do in the second half of this season.

With a record of 5-6 as of Tuesday's scheduled game at Plainfield, Cranford had won two straight, including a convincing 73-14 triumph over visiting Newark East Side last Saturday afternoon.

"We've played well for the better half of the season," Chapman said. "In four of our six losses, we had the lead and lost a very close game."

After opening the season with a 62-30 setback to visiting Watchung Conference-National Division rival Scotch Plains on Dec. 19, Cranford rebounded the next day to take a 55-31 decision over non-conference rival Metuchen.

Cranford then dropped a 48-30 conference home contest to visiting Linden on Dec. 20 to bring its record to 1-2.

In the Millburn Christmas Tournament from Dec. 27-30, Cranford took a very respectable second-place finish.

In first-round play on Dec. 27, the Cougars defeated Millburn 39-23. Theresa Minitelli and Amanda Porter each scored seven points.

Three days later, Cranford was handed a 56-43 setback by Irvington in the championship game. Senior guard Melissa Montalvo paced the Cougars with 14 points, while fellow classmate and backcourt partner Amanda Mitchell added 10.

"Melissa and Amanda play well together in the backcourt," Chapman said. "They can both run the floor, bring the ball upcourt, pass and play good defense."

The Cougars evened their record at 3-3 after a 51-29 triumph at Westfield in conference play on Jan. 3. Montalvo and Mitchell each scored 10 points in the victory.

"Since we play a lot of transition basketball, our guards control the game," Chapman said. "Both girls run the point and show great leadership."

Cranford's record dropped to 3-4 on Jan. 8 after a 58-31 setback at conference rival Shabazz, ranked No. 1 in the state. Freshman forward Lisa Levonas sparked the Cougars with 11 points, while Meg Brady added 10.

"I usually play 10 girls in our rotation, so I'm trying to find minutes for everyone," Chapman said. "We've had six

girls score in double digits in at least one game this year, so we're a pretty deep team."

On Jan. 10, Cranford lost a heartbreaking 45-44 overtime decision at Elizabeth to bring its record to 3-5.

Three days later, the Cougars dropped a 51-46 decision to visiting Irvington to take them to 3-6. Montalvo paved the way with nine points, while Lyndsay Dolan added eight points, Mitchell seven and Brady six.

"We lost a bunch of close games to a lot of quality teams," Chapman said. "There are two ways to look at that. We can either be upset or learn from it."

Cranford improved its mark to 4-6 after a dominating 63-26 victory over visiting Kearny last Friday. Mitchell led the charge by sinking five of six shots from the floor and had four steals to pace five players in double figures. Montalvo added 11 points, while Levonas, Rebecca Flanagan and Courtney Koellner each scored 10.

"We are doing a better job of closing games out now," Chapman said. "We've also done a better job in our half-court transition game by not turning the ball over."

In the win over East Side, Montalvo and Minitelli pumped in 10 points each, while Mitchell and Dolan added eight apiece and Brady six.

"I think we're better than I thought we were when we opened the season," Chapman said. "When we're playing well, we're a very good team."

Cranford is scheduled to play at Union today at 4 p.m. and at Scotch Plains on Saturday.

"This is a big week for us if we want to qualify for the state playoffs," Chapman said. "We need to maintain our play for four quarters. Now is the time to make our move and take a run at making the states."

NOTES: The cutoff date to qualify for the state playoffs is Saturday, Feb. 7. Teams must be at least .500 after games played that day to qualify.

Cranford is in North 2, Group 2 this year. The Cougars did not qualify in North 2, Group 3 last year, finishing with a record of 7-15.

Union entered last Saturday's scheduled game at Westfield with a 3-7 record as the Farmers are down a bit from previous seasons.

Last year, Cranford was defeated by Union 55-38 at home. Mitchell paced the Cougars in that contest with a team-high 19-point performance. Brady chipped in with eight points, while Montalvo added seven.

Ice hockey standouts



The Cranford Hockey Club Mite B squad was third in the Stars and Stripes event at Mennen Arena in Morris Twp. Back row, from left, are coach Joe Pijanowski, Alex Plick, coach Chad Reiber and Garrick Ellwood. Middle row, from left, are Jack Nunziato, James Potter, Cody Reiber, Dan Murphy, Kevin O'Brien and Sean Rogan. Front row, from left, are Tim Padden, Joe Lomeli, Mike Ciesiak, Alex Kempinski and John Pijanowski. Not pictured are Evan Samer, coaches Dan Lomeli and Brian Samer and GM Glenn Potter.

Poskay, D. Drechsel will be honored at Hot Stove event

The Union County Baseball Association will honor a number of student-athletes during award ceremonies on Feb. 8.

Among the young award-winners will be high school graduates Matthew Poskay of Johnson, Jessica Ballweg of Union Catholic, David Drechsel of Cranford and present Roselle Park High School seniors Erin O'Callahan, Becky Riccitelli and Amanda Strahan.

The students will be honored for their achievements in sports at the 68th Annual Hot Stove League Dinner beginning at 1 p.m. at the L'Affaire Banquet Center, 1099, Route 22 East, Mountainside.

The dinner is sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Poskay will receive the Chris Zusi Memorial Award for Outstanding Male Athlete in Union County. Poskay distinguished himself in football and lacrosse at Johnson and is now a nationally-ranked lacrosse midfielder in his sophomore year at the University of Virginia.

Ballweg will receive the Joseph R. Lombardi Memorial Award for Outstanding Female Athlete in Union County.

Ballweg played soccer and basketball on championship teams at Union Catholic and continues her successful soccer career now in her junior year at Santa Clara University.

Drechsel will receive the Edward Cooper Memorial Award for Most Valuable Scholastic Baseball Player. Drechsel was Union County Players of the Year with the 2003 Cranford baseball team, batting .435 with 16 stolen bases. He's now catching for the Lafayette College team in Easton, Pa.

O'Callahan, Riccitelli and Strahan will share the Banyasz Brothers Memorial Award for Most Valuable Scholastic Softball Player. O'Callahan was chosen to the First Team All State in 2003, batting .325 as catcher for Roselle Park's Group 1 state championship game. Riccitelli compiled a 24-1-1 pitching record and was also chosen to the First Team All State. Strahan was Roselle Park's regular third baseman, making only one error in 26 games. She earned Second Team All State honors.

Admission to the awards dinner is \$35 per person, with proceeds going to help fund the Union County Youth Baseball League for youngsters 8 to 15 years and the newer Fall Teen League.

Call 908-527-4910.

Ahead of the field

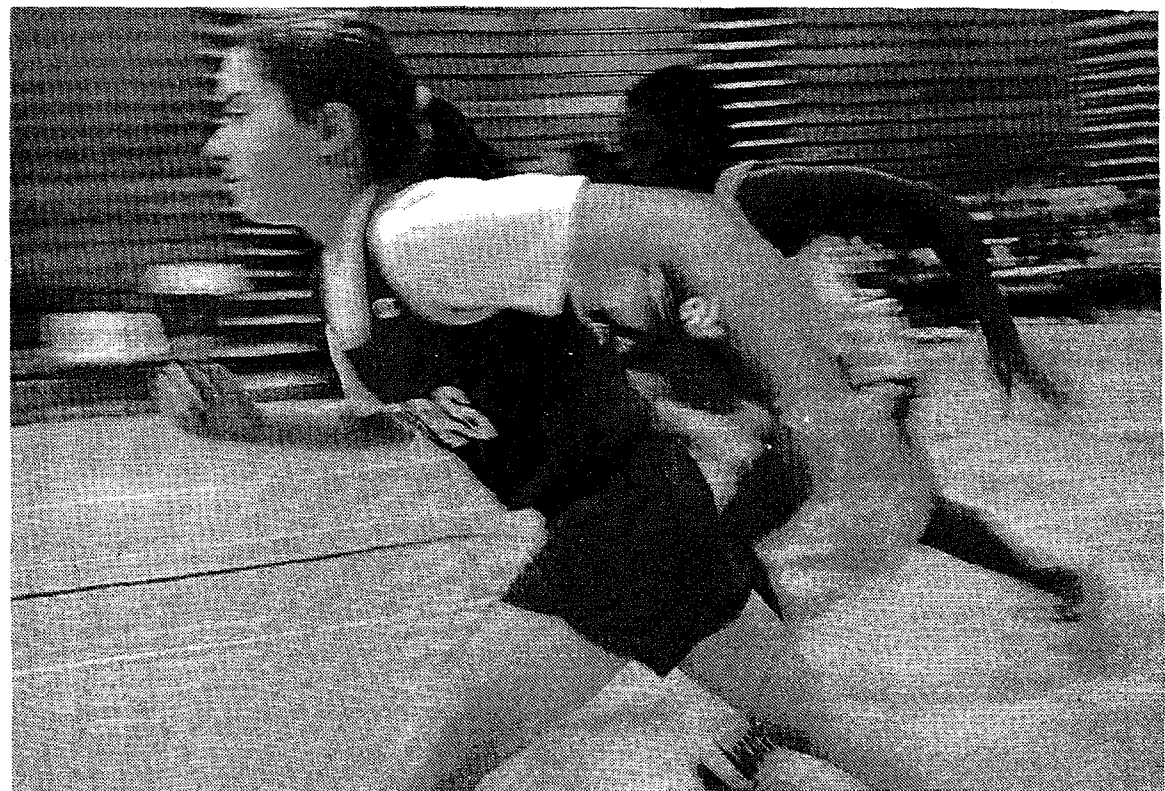


Photo by Reena Rose Sibayan

Cranford's Johanna Riggi takes the lead in her heat during the 400-meter run at last week's tri-meet against Elizabeth and Union at the Dunn Sport Center. Riggi did well to finish the event first in 70.8 seconds for the Cougars, who also finished second in the event in 72.8. Cranford also captured the 1,600 meters in 6:15, was second in the 800 meters in 3:06.8, was victorious in the 3,200 meters in 12:48 and was second in the 1,600-meter relay in 5:08.1.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Garden Club honored for community service

The Cranford Chamber of Commerce Pride in Cranford Committee presented the Garden Club of Cranford a Community Service Award on Oct. 22 for its years of volunteer work.

The award is presented to an individual, group or organization because of their efforts in making Cranford a better community through volunteerism.

The club's contributing projects include an annual scholarship to a Cranford student pursuing a major in the field of environmental studies, plantings around Cranford Public Library and Community Center, and flower arrangements for Mobile Meals of Union County for residents in Cranford.

The club also works closely with Cranford Historical Society and decorates the interior and exterior of the Crane Phillips House for holidays and special events.

The club, which recently celebrated its 75th anniversary, also takes on other projects. Last year it provided table arrangements for the prom of the Cerebral Palsy League of Union County.

This year will be highlighted by a "Entertaining in Garden Rooms," a tour of eight members' gardens from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 5, with proceeds to be used for more community projects.

Camera Club sponsors flower photo competition

The Cranford/Millburn Camera Club will hold a competition on flowers Monday at Millburn's Taylor Park, between Main Street and Whittingham Terrace. The judge is Chuck Moore, a member of the New Jersey Federation of Camera Clubs.

Members may enter three prints and three slides in an open competition and three slides in the assigned subject of flowers.

For more information, call Ruth Mysiak at 908-272-1434.

Speaker to tell club 'all about gnomes'

The Wednesday Morning Club, a woman's study group, has scheduled following department meetings:

- The Fine Arts Department will meet at 1 p.m. today at the home of RoseMarie Gatto. Gatto will lead the program, "Comparison of Rafael and Perugino."

- The Applied Arts/Home Life will meet in the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., at 10 a.m. Monday. Cora Foltz will instruct the members on how to make a tri-corner winter scarf.

Local women interested in the club, can call Marie Mastorakis at 908-272-6243 for more information.

VIA committees report year of progress, giving

The Cranford Village Improvement

Association held its general meeting Jan. 12 at B.G. Fields in Westfield.

International Affairs Chairwoman Marie Knoeller reported that since 2000 more than 36,000 canceled stamps have been collected for St. Benedict's Day Nursery and Infant Hospital in Georgetown, West Indies, and pennies are constantly being donated to CARE for Third World countries to relay to parents the importance of their daughters being educated instead of being field workers.

Jacqueline Ellis sent a thank-you to the Cranford Department of Public Works for garden maintenance of the Girl Scout Park on Springfield Avenue and to Troy Landscaping for cleanup of the park.

The Home Life group sent to the nursery at Beth Israel Hospital in Newark handmade articles consisting of six huggy bears, five newborn hats and four receiving blankets.

Mary Stine stated that plans are being made for a day trip to the Doris Duke Estate in Hillsborough in May.

Elaine Hamilton for the evening department will sponsor a financial planning program in the Community

Center soon. It will be open to the public.

Marilyn Troiano, for the Public Affairs Committee reported that six blankets were sent to Cranford Hall, 50 magazines to the Menlo Park Veterans Home, 30 magazines toys and games to JFK Hospital, 100 pairs of eyeglasses to Eyes for the Needy, 30 telephones were given to Abused Women and five bags of clothing were delivered to Cranford Family Care.

The arts creative group sponsored a program on Jan. 9 at the Community Center titled "Patriotic Art."

Chairwoman Lynn Mac Whirter, resident artist, taught members how to decorate clothing articles and footwear.

A Valentine's Day luncheon is being planned for the February meeting. The program for this monthly meeting was "Safe Winter Driving." Chairwoman Sybil Limon introduced Col. Peter O'Hagan, consultant for the AAA of the New Jersey Automobile Club, and former director of the state Highway Traffic Safety Commission.

The Cranford VIA meets the second Tuesday, and the evening depart-

ment meets the fourth Tuesday of each month.

For information about daytime meetings, call Andrea Augustyn at 908-276-6920. For evening meetings, call Elaine Hamilton at 908-272-1022.

Mars ongoing subject of upcoming lecture

Al Witzgall, a past president of Amateur Astronomers Inc., will give a lecture before the Cranford club at 8:30 p.m. Feb. 6 on "What's Happening on Mars?"

Witzgall, chairman of the club's Instrument Qualification Committee, will discuss the Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, their quest for life on the red planet, and some of the challenges associated with this ambitious NASA project.

The free lecture will be held at the William Miller Sperry Observatory, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave.

For directions and more information on Amateur Astronomers Inc., visit www.asterism.org or call 908-276-STAR.

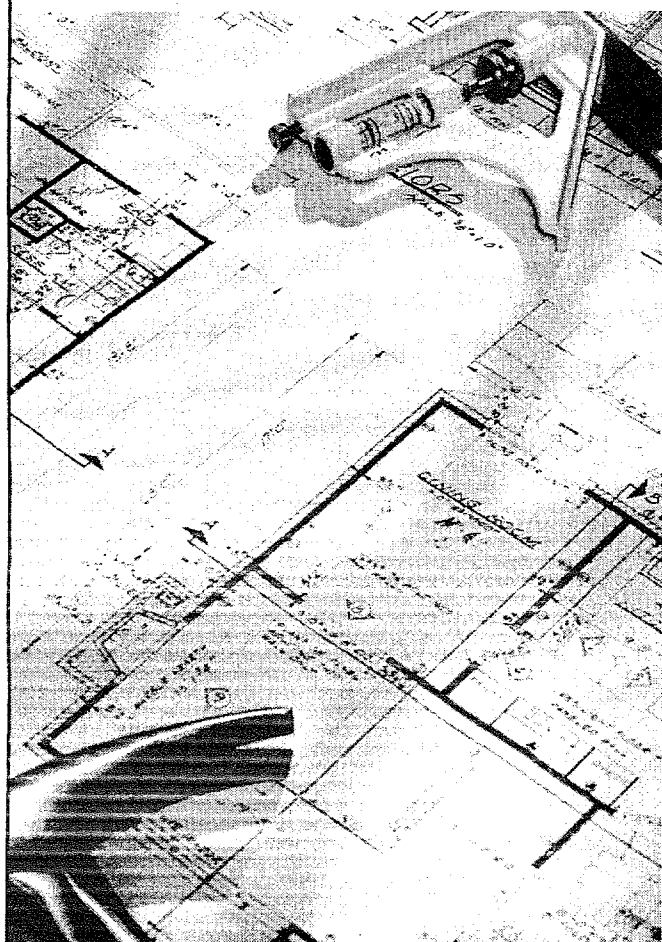
Kids invited to jam in their jammies at public library

Cranford Public Library is hosting a pajama party singalong with popular performer Yosi at 7 p.m. Monday, in the children's programming room.

This program, free to Cranford children and their families, is being funded by Friends of Cranford Public Library.

Youngsters are welcome to come in pajamas. Space is limited. Register in the children's department of the library, 224 Walnut Ave.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Run for it

If you care about the education Clark's children are receiving in the public schools, or if you care about how much it's costing, there's an upcoming job vacancy that should interest you. It's on the Board of Education, and it's going to be filled April 20.

The next three years will be significant for the Clark School District. The board in office on July 1 will set the tone for the public's relationship with the new superintendent of schools. It will witness and help the state facilitate the long-overdue repairs to Arthur L. Johnson High School and other schools in the district. It probably will close the current cycle of contract negotiations with teachers and definitely will begin the next cycle in three years' time. And, working with the new superintendent, it will have to make difficult decisions at budget time for the next three years as the district once again is forced to manage ever-spiraling expenses into a budget that voters are likely to approve.

Those are issues that should be of concern to everybody who lives in Clark, and for that reason we're hoping enough people will run for the school board that there will be a contested election this year. The race last year was disappointing, to say the least. With three seats opening, only three candidates made it onto the ballot — and two of them were incumbents. A fourth candidate was disqualified because of a snafu with his voter registration. Candidates, who must register at the school board's administrative offices in Arthur L. Johnson High School before 4 p.m. March 1, if they win will help to ensure that the district retains the high quality and standards it now enjoys. The requirements are straightforward. Candidates need to be registered voters at least 18 years old, live in Clark and have a petition of support signed by a handful of other voters.

So who should run for the school board? You should consider running if you are a parent, with children anywhere from preschool to high school; or if you have professional experience in education, as a teacher, as an administrator or simply doing clerical work. You should consider running if you're just out of college, if you have a master's degree, if you have a doctorate or if you have a high school diploma or GED. You should consider running if you're a young professional with goals, if you are comfortable with your career where it is, or if you're happily retired. In short, if you're black, white, Asian, Jewish, Christian, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, married, single, divorced, widowed, tall, short, fat, thin, athletic, lazy, a professor, a lawyer, a writer, a janitor, a real-estate agent, a doctor, a nurse, a skiing instructor, liberal, conservative, middle-of-the-road — or anything else — you should give some consideration to running for the school board this year.

The students need you.

A helping hand

Now is the time for Clark's elected representatives in the Legislature to step forward and help in a way that will spell relief to everyone living here. With the Board of Education and Township Council seeking help, the Legislature should come forward with the money needed to bail Clark out of the mess created by the breakup of the Union County Regional School District.

To do otherwise would be to further penalize people who overwhelmingly recognized deregionalization as a bad thing and voted accordingly. The fallout from the larger district's breakup has haunted Clark in the years since and can be blamed in no small part for its ongoing fiscal struggles. Deregionalization, after all, left Clark with a number of high-end academic programs not usually found in districts this size, programs that typically require a broad base of financial support to function. It left Clark with a substantial number of experienced, high-earning staff. And while it did leave Clark with a relatively new set of bleachers around the football field, it left the school district saddled with a high school that appears to have been held together with spit and baling wire through most of the regional district's history.

The thrust of the lawsuit driving the anticipated \$10 million repayment to Garwood and Mountainside is that when the district dissolved, its assets weren't distributed fairly. Springfield, Clark, Kenilworth and Berkeley Heights each received a high school, and the liquid assets distributed to Garwood and Mountainside weren't enough to make everything equitable. That may be so; the state Supreme Court certainly agreed that it wasn't, in its ruling a few years ago.

But what is equitable in this situation? Garwood and Mountainside may have contributed to the cost of building ALJ, but they certainly aren't contributing to the repairs made necessary by years of neglect by the regional district. The whole situation, as it now exists, has been bad for everyone.

Bailouts from higher-ups in government can be a bad thing, but this is not a case where they are. The Legislature needs to act quickly and assure everyone concerned that the money will be made available without placing an undue burden on the people of Clark. That's about as equitable as it can get.



Photo By Joseph Sorrentino

STRENGTH IN NUMBERS — Another Canada goose decides to follow the flock instead of thinking for itself, and lands in the gaggle gathered in the ice and snow near the Clark Fire Department on Broadway. Maybe the old cliché about birds of a feather has some truth to it after all.

Accentuate the positives of living here in Clark

The View from Here

By Bob Barrett

There is an old song that begins titled "You've got to accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative."

The song goes on to add, "Latch on to the affirmative and don't mess with Mister In-Between." It was written by Johnny Mercer and Harold Arlen, and I seem to remember Phil Harris or another popular singer singing it in the 1950s. I am sure that we older folks remember the song and Phil Harris, but our younger generation prefers a different type of music.

The point of mentioning this song is not to debate music but to reflect on the main words: "You have to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative." We are nearing one of the four most disliked days in the year. Feb. 2 is one of them, when our real estate taxes are due.

After reading in *The Eagle* about Clark's fiscal problems associated with our schools, I happened to turn to a radio station that was actually play-

ing the above song.

I decided instead of getting aligda (Italian for heartburn, according to my Italian friend), I decided to list the positives that we have from residing in Clark, and to eliminate the negatives.

Safety was the first thought that came to my mind. I am sure most of us feel very safe in town. The police blotter indicates the majority of serious crimes are relatively few and most are committed by nonresidents.

We have excellent relations among different faiths. I have not heard of any problems on religious holidays for displays of all faiths on public property. We appreciate the individual's right

to their own beliefs and celebrations.

We have many quality homes in Clark with an excellent resale value.

Homeowners maintain their homes and property in top condition.

Although we have fiscal problems associated with our schools, we have dedicated teachers and good students.

We have easy access to the Garden State Parkway. Routes 1, 22 and the New Jersey Turnpike are not far away.

For recreation we have the Hyatt Hills Golf Complex, Oak Ridge Golf Course and two other county courses close by. We have a municipal swimming pool and a free fitness center for our older residents. The Esposito farm will soon become a park.

We have a large body of water, the Clark Wildlife Preserve and Habitat, that runs through Clark and has great potential for recreation when funds become available for walking paths, fishing areas and benches for just plain relaxing.

We have a competent and excellent police department. We have a dedicated and responsive volunteer First Aid Squad and Fire Department.

We have the Deutscher Club, Gran Centurions, Barnes and Noble, American Legion and other businesses that provide services to our community.

We even have free grass pickup for homeowners who cut their lawns, and we don't have to pack leaves in brown paper bags like Edison and Metuchen homeowners.

Yes, there are some negatives in our town, but all residents should support our elected officials and town workers to eliminate the negatives.

Remember that come Feb. 2 even our politicians and town employees must pay taxes. Let's accentuate our positives of living in Clark and eliminate the negatives at least for one day.

Bob Barrett is a resident of Clark.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Town's angle on Parkway exit flawed

To the Editor:

Expectedly, the state highway authority would probably be very happy if municipalities around the state spontaneously volunteered to become bigger interchanges on New Jersey's major toll roads. Reading through "State open to circle changes" (*The Clark Eagle*, Jan. 8), however, makes one ask why Clark would volunteer to become a bigger Garden State Parkway circle.

Under the saturated traffic conditions in our area, traffic goes wherever there is room. The more roads we build, the more traffic we will have. If an extra lane is added to the Parkway circle connecting Brant Avenue to Valley Road, traffic will have the opportunity to immediately bypass congestion at the circle and move along Valley Road, through the school zones at Valley Road School and St. John the Apostle, and access the Parkway at Exit 136. We will only be putting more commuter traffic on local roads.

Clark's traffic problem largely exists because there was always supposed to be a Parkway interchange at Inman Avenue in Colonia. Unfortunately for Clark, both Woodbridge and Rahway have always been able to exert enough political muscle to resist the development of an interchange there.

Making public announcements that Clark's efforts to get an exit on Inman Avenue will probably be unsuccessful is probably not a wise strategy. In case nobody noticed, the director of the Parkway Authority lives in Westfield, and the state Department of Transportation keeps press clippings in its files.

In order to get everyone's attention on the traffic problem, Clark needs to generate traffic and safety data to demonstrate the congestion and unsafe conditions generated in Clark that are caused by forcing all traffic between Parkway interchanges 135 and 131 onto local streets in Clark. Without significant expenditure of funds, Clark could ask Police Chief Anton Danco to rotate some of the Clark Police Department safety checkpoints to Oak Ridge Road at the municipal pool between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m., daylight and weather permitting. While monitoring vehicle safety, the Police Department would get some idea of traffic volumes generated outside of Clark, and if this traffic presents a safety hazard to township residents. A simple checklist could be designed for completion by hand to show traffic volumes and numbers of various safety infractions encountered. The forms could be sent to the state, Rahway and Woodbridge by mail.

Similar safety checkpoints could be rotated to locations at Lake Avenue at Starlite Drive and Westfield Avenue at Madison Hill Road. Hopefully, the data collected will be convincing enough that Rahway and Woodbridge will be less resistant to an interchange at Inman Avenue. As we have found in the past, just asking the state to study the matter does not appear sufficient to get the job done.

William T. Fidurski
Clark

Mayor's actions aid Clark taxpayers

To the Editor:

I want to commend Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and the entire council for their initiative in asking our state legislators for financial relief related to the funding needs of the Clark Board of Education associated with deregionalization. Without such assistance, taxes related to the Board of Education will increase significantly, causing great strain on every taxpayer, and especially senior citizens living on a fixed income.

The Board of Education and the municipal government are completely autonomous of one another. The mayor has no say in any of the actions of the

board, financial or administrative. Regardless, he and the council have taken action that could provide the Board of Education and the taxpayers some needed financial assistance. His recognition of the consequences of the financial straits that Board of Education is in and his quick action to see if others can provide some relief are attributes of his strong leadership qualities.

When deregionalization first occurred, Bonaccorso was a councilman, and led an effort to petition our state legislators in 1998 for relief. He was extraordinarily successful then in getting over \$1.7 million in 1998, and a total of over \$4 million over the next few years.

Hopefully, our current state legislators recognize the significant burden being placed on Clark taxpayers related to the deregionalization process that Clark overwhelmingly voted to prevent. I just hope that the initiatives taken now by the mayor and council are equally successful in relieving the Clark taxpayers of this major burden.

Ernest M. Spies
Clark

Railroad critics 'a handful of whiners'

To the Editor:

William Fidurski's continued harping against the reactivation of the Rahway Valley Railroad must be countered. First, the railroad was never abandoned. The state and county had always known this valuable right-of-way must be preserved for rail freight and/or passenger operations, which is being done now by the Morristown & Erie. The last election proved the public does favor the rail restoration. The Republicans tried to make this a factor to unseat the Democratic freeholders and lost. Ellen Steinberg, a Democrat who abandoned the party's principle of "The Greatest Good for the Greatest Number," also lost when she should have won.

Fidurski lauds the Middlesex "rails -to-trails" fiasco of stealing the former Lehigh Valley line from Metuchen to Perth Amboy, which was a natural cross-country trolley line. The question of who wants to walk the distance in the rain in the winter instead of riding a warm trolley? But Middlesex is headquarters of the New Jersey Turnpike, which sees all rail as competition. The Monmouth-Ocean-Middlesex rail passenger service will provide intrastate travel to 100 destinations, but Middlesex County Freeholder David Crabial still tries to thwart it. There are no honest Nimbys anywhere. That was made public when an official of Lakeland Bus was quoted in *The Star-Ledger* as wishing people lived near Kearny Junction so Nimbys could have been rallied to stop the highly successful Midtown Direct trains.

The selection of a shortline to operate the freight service proves the freeholders are aware of reality. The class ones are only interested in large shippers. Only shortlines have the ability to solicit the small shipper, who provides rates, jobs and real estate taxes locally. This is something the public understands, but not Fidurski or the Nimbys who parrot him.

Fidurski harps on the movement of garbage in environmentally proper rail cars. I guess he would rather see it continue moving by open-top trucks with canvas tops that often overturn, spilling garbage all over the roads and always leaking garbage juice into streams. Garbage is a part of life, and trying to keep it "somewhere else" is stupid.

Finally, Fidurski, Westervelt and others are in the wrong when they restrain interstate commerce and they deny Ninth Amendment rights to mobility and tax relief to everyone else living in Union County. There are 515,000 residents, not a handful of whiners.

William R. Wright
Cranford

The Eagle

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Published By
Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.
1291 Stuyvesant Avenue
Union, N.J. 07083
908-686-7700

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2003 was a year Clark made progress, and its officials kept promises

The past three years have passed very quickly and I look forward to serving you and to continue to fulfill the promises that were made when I was elected.

My first promise was to restore integrity in town management. With the right people in place, actions have been taken and significant improvements have been realized in our financial reporting and record keeping.

The mayor and our business administrator, John Laezza, have worked very hard to make sure that needed improvements in our financial reporting process and internal controls were implemented. New enhancements in our financial systems are being worked on as well, including the implementation of a new general ledger financial system which is in process.

Once again in 2003 our budget was prepared on a timely basis in accordance with the laws of the state and was presented in an open format to our residents and broadcast on public

Point of View

By Angel Albanese



access TV station. For some time now the administration has been working diligently in preparing the budget for 2004.

Openness in government is very important to me and I am glad to see our council meetings and the meetings of the Board of Education televised. For those who don't have cable TV, the videotapes of the meetings can be obtained at the library.

It would be even nicer to have all of our township boards, committees and utility meetings televised, and to have the broadcasts shown live. That time is coming as the cost of technology declines.

I am pleased with the success of

the OurClark.com Web site — which councilmen Al Barr, Bob Bothe and Brian Toal have worked on so diligently. I have received a lot of positive feedback about the Web site and look forward to further enhancements in the future.

Second, I remain committed to stabilizing taxes and bringing fiscal responsibility to our community. Though a small part of our tax dollars go toward our municipal budget, I will continue to do my best to eliminate wasteful spending and work to share services with the Board of Education.

I can tell you that I am satisfied that finances are tightly controlled by the administration to ensure that spending is within budget. I think every department director in the township can attest to this.

Third, I am committed to provide support to Clark youth organizations and to provide a senior citizen center. I look forward to serving as chairwoman of the recreation committee again this year and working with our

recreation director, Keith Dolan.

Dolan has done a terrific job and is a real asset to the township. This year we tried some new programs — including a summer tennis clinic, which was a great success and I hope will continue in the future.

Significant improvements have been completed on the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building. The recreation area is much more clean and inviting.

I couldn't be more pleased with the success of our new senior fitness center this past year. I was confident it would be a success — but the participation level from our senior citizens speaks for itself. I was also pleased to see so many of our seniors participate in the senior breakfasts and senior barbecue.

My fourth promise was to reduce traffic congestion. The mayor's traffic advisory committee has been extremely effective in dealing with various traffic issues, and I appreciate the detailed reports that 2nd Ward Councilman Peter Nevargic has provided to our residents at council meetings, informing them of the status of the issues that have been presented and are in process.

My fifth promise was to provide intelligent future planning. Clearly we want to maintain a residential environment and maintain open space. I am extremely enthusiastic about the establishment of Peter J. Esposito Park. Last year when we met this was only an idea and now it will soon become a fact.

My sixth promise was to implement an annual bulky clean up. This is a terrific program.

In addition to following through on these commitments, I am also personally committed to improving our library and the important role it plays in our community.

Last year I pledged to you that I would work to expand our library and make the improvements needed. One of the first steps taken in 2003 was the unanimous passage of an ordinance to

expand our library.

We now have the final plans from our architect and have gone to bid. There will be lots of hard work and some sacrifices we will all need to make during this process, but I am committed to making the process as painless as possible in these upcoming months.

We will of course need input from our residents and continued support for the many volunteers who contribute their time and talent. Utilizing all these resources we will make Clark the best it can be.

To the residents, let me say that serving Clark large continues to represent a special opportunity for me, and I am committed to doing the best job possible.

Don't hesitate to call upon me — I look forward to hearing about your concerns and opinions.

Angel Albanese, councilwoman at large, made this address at the Jan. 5 Township Council meeting.

Students' backpacks: Too heavy a burden to bear

Do you know what weighs 10 pounds? Here are just some examples: 20 medium-size cans of tomato sauce, two small shih tzus, one-and-a-half 12-inch-screen laptops, and my backpack, on a light day.

Schools require homework to be done. This is no big shock to most students in attendance and adults who have been educated. However, what is shocking is the heavy loads students are expected to carry home everyday.

Lisa Rosenthal of GreatSchools.net stated in an editorial, "In 2001 backpacks were the cause of 7,000 emergency room visits and countless complaints of muscle spasms, neck and shoulder pain."

Clearly, heavy, oversize backpacks are not mere complaints, but factors that could possibly be detrimental to a young child's health.

From personal experience, I can attest to having been required to bring almost every book and notebook home on an almost daily basis. Even if no homework is assigned in a specific class, the notebook comes home so new material may be rehearsed and committed to memory.

This is especially the case when a student is enrolled in accelerated courses in which the curriculum de-

Point of View

By Ashley Gallagher

mands such an intense studying schedule. However, though these items are justified in being brought home, the fact has still not been changed that they pose a serious health hazard to students.

Naturally, questions are posed examining what should be done and what has already been done to help rectify the situation.

Springfield Board of Education member Linda Duke offers, "Due diligence (is required) on the part of parents and teachers to make (students) discriminate. 'What do I need to bring home?' 'Can I use something else instead?'"

Duke, along with the other members of the Springfield Board of Education, has addressed this topic and its gravity on the students.

As a result of the efforts of the Springfield employees of its middle school, a list of suggestions was sub-

mitted to the Board of Education to show how teachers are trying to enforce lighter loads for their students.

Each grade level, ranging from fifth to eighth grade, has a corresponding team of teachers. Each team is presented with a list of ideas that helps promote leaving books in school.

For example, the sixth-grade team was asked to create a locker organizer detailing what needs to be taken home and what does not, for each student. Even small suggestions such as that can help younger children to decide what not to take home.

Then, as the grades become more advanced, more efforts are made. Springfield's eighth-grade team, for instance, staggers when certain books are needed to complete an assignment at home. Social studies books are never required to be brought home, but other subject areas like computer arts, science and math are only necessary on certain days.

The Springfield Board of Education also formulated a future plan encompassing new, larger lockers to accommodate rolling backpacks as well as the possible institution of CD ROMs instead of hardcover texts.

"In today's day, and age (people) rely too heavily upon textbooks," says

Duke. Duke further suggested that research centers should be established where students could use their textbooks in class to do work or allow small-group sessions in which students may use a single book together.

In this way, any extra textbooks could be sent home and left at home as a source for students. However, a second set of textbooks may not always be the answer as Duke later indicates, "Money is tight. Many districts just can't afford that type of addition to the budget."

So, what is to be done? Effectively, promoting the idea that students should not be taking all their books home every night and supporting environments in which students share books seem to be the most probable immediate solutions.

The replacement of hardcover textbooks by CD-ROMs and software texts, however, seem to be the most effective, cost-efficient projection of how to remedy the oversized backpack dilemma.

Until then students, look before you take another book!

Ashley Gallagher is a resident of Clark and a student at Arthur L. Johnson High School.

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth McCrorie

Elizabeth McCrorie, 92, of Clark, formerly of Roselle and Elizabeth, died Jan. 13 in Union Hospital.

Born in Bayonne, Mrs. McCrorie lived in Roselle and Elizabeth before moving to Clark two years ago.

She worked in the office of Elmora Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth. Mrs. McCrorie was a member of Elmora Presbyterian Church, where she also was a choir member and member of the Women's Circle.

Surviving are a daughter, Cynthia Bogda; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Stella Zajac

Stella Zajac, 88, of Clark died Jan. 18 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Zajac lived in Point Pleasant before moving to Clark five years ago.

She was a member of Ironbound Senior Citizens Clifford Street, Newark, past president of the Mother's and Daughter's Group 602-Polish Women's Alliance America and a member of the Union of Polish Women in America.

Surviving are a daughter, Eleanor

Mirandi; two brothers, Casimir and Ted Klaslo; a sister, Eleanor Mack; a grandchild and three great-grandchildren.

Margaret Garcia

Margaret Hack Garcia, 87, of Rahway, formerly of Clark, died Jan. 13 at home.

Born in Barnsboro, Pa., Mrs. Garcia lived in Clark before moving to Rahway 33 years ago.

She was a former member of Mountside Elks Lodge 1585.

Surviving are three sons, Walter, Theodore and Robert Hack; three brothers, Paul, Michael and Fred Popovich; three sisters, Doty Tardiff, Ann Labut and Irene Parratt; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

James Acosta Sr.

James Acosta Sr., 79, of Clark, formerly of Hillside, died Jan. 13 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico, Mr. Acosta lived in Hillside before moving to Clark 20 years ago.

He was a tool and die maker for Western Electric, Kearny, for 28 years

and retired in 1984. Mr. Acosta served in the Army during World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Candida; a son, James Jr.; a brother, five sisters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Hermine Brinkman

Hermine L. Brinkman, 92, of South Plainfield, formerly of Rahway and Clark, died Jan. 16 in the Care One at the Highlands, Edison.

Born in Bad Essen, Germany, Mrs. Brinkman lived in Rahway and Clark before moving to South Plainfield.

She was a waitress at Howard Johnson's Restaurant, Clark, for six years and retired in 1988.

Earlier, Mrs. Brinkman worked in the same capacity at the former Voss

Confectionery, Rahway, for 34 years and in the cafe of Lord and Taylor, Westfield, for 12 years.

She was a member of the Deutscher Club in Clark and the American Association of Retired Persons in Rahway.

Surviving are a daughter, Linda Mazzo; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Felia T. Dobrowolski

Felia T. Dobrowolski, 89, of Clark died Jan. 15 in the Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Clark.

Born in Adams, Mass., Miss Dobrowolski lived in Irvington before moving to Clark nine years ago.

She was a factory worker for RCA Corp., Harrison, for 10 years.

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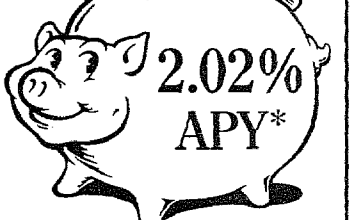


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OBITUARIES

Thomas F. Taylor

Thomas Foster Taylor, 77, of Westfield, formerly of Cranford, died Jan. 13 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Buchhaven, Fifeshire, Scotland, Mr. Taylor lived in Cranford and Garwood before moving to Westfield 45 years ago.

He was an electrical contractor in Westfield and retired in 1989.

He served in the Navy during World War II aboard the USS Lake Champlain in the Atlantic.

Mr. Taylor was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 11467 and American Legion Martin Wallberg Post 3, both of Westfield.

Surviving are his wife, Dora-Jean; a daughter, Carol; a son, Thomas J., and four grandchildren.

Elvira Bergen

Elvira C. "Vera" Bergen, 85, of Plainfield, formerly of Cranford, Roselle and Rahway, a retired teacher in Elizabeth and Roselle, died Jan. 12 in Raritan Bay Medical Center, Perth Amboy.

Born in Cranford, Mrs. Bergen lived in Roselle and Rahway before moving to Plainfield a year ago.

She had been a substitute teacher with the Elizabeth, Roselle and Winfield Park school systems.

Mrs. Bergen also owned Cranford Taxi Service, Cranford, since 1980, a business, where she had been a partner since 1942.

She received a bachelor's degree in 1972 from Rutgers University, New Brunswick, where she majored in English and minored in music.

Mrs. Bergen also received a degree in music from Eastern Conservatory in Roselle.

She served as a Sunday school teacher and organist at the First Baptist Church, Cranford, and as organist for the past 40 years at Ebenezer AME Church, Rahway.

Mrs. Bergen also was organist at St. Mark AME Church, Cranford; Heard AME Church, Roselle; Mount Zion AME Church, Plainfield, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, New Brunswick.

She received the Quality of Life Award from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Surviving are three sons, Ernest and Paris Boyd and Joseph Bergen Jr.; a sister, Phyllis H. Anderson; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

George McFadden

George R. McFadden, 80, of Cranford, formerly of Linden, died Jan. 15 in the Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care Center, East Orange.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. McFadden lived in Sayreville and Linden before moving to Cranford six years ago.

He was a bartender for the past 20 years at Towne House Tavern and Restaurant, Linden, and American Legion Post 328, Clark.

Before that, Mr. McFadden was an accountant and salesman for 3M Co., Sayreville, for 30 years.

He was a 1954 graduate of Seton Hall University, South Orange, where he received a bachelor's degree in accounting.

Mr. McFadden was a Navy veteran of World War II. He served in the Asia-Pacific theater and was a member of American Legion Post 328, Clark.

Surviving are his wife of 30 years, Gladys; two sons, Robert and Kent; a daughter, Dawn; a brother, Joseph; a sister, Edna, and six grandchildren.

Russell Decker

Russell N. Decker, 86, of Cranford died Jan. 14 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Cranford, Mr. Decker lived in Warren for many years before returning to Cranford 12 years ago.

He was a custodian with the Warren School District before retiring.

Earlier, Mr. Decker was a tool and die maker for American Type Founders, Elizabeth, for 25 years.

He was a former chaplain of Elks Lodge 2252, Watchung Hills, and a

member of Freemasons Atlas Pythagoras Lodge 10, Cranford.

Surviving are a son, Norman; two sisters, Viola and Doris, and four grandchildren.

William Danyus

William H. Danyus, 51, of Long Neck, Del., formerly of Cranford, died Jan. 1 in the Beebe Medical Center, Lewes, Del.

Mr. Danyus was a real estate agent with Realty Executives of Rehoboth Beach, Del., and also worked in the field of education for many years.

He received a doctorate of philosophy in educational administration from Strassford University, London, England.

He also graduated from the University of Virginia, College of William and Mary and William Penn University.

Surviving are three brothers, Robert, Mark and Jeffrey.

Dolores Sawicki

Dolores Sawicki, 76, of Cranford died Jan. 15 in Robert Wood Johnson

University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Rahway, Mrs. Sawicki moved to Cranford in 1955.

She was a member of the Rosary Society of St. John the Apostle Church and the AARP, both in Clark.

Surviving are her husband, Stanley; two sons, Ronald and Gregory; a sister, Anna M. Nash, and a grandchild.

Thomas C. Hilken

Thomas C. Hilken, 49, of Cranford, died Jan. 15 at home.

Born in Jersey City, Mr. Hilken lived in Cranford for the last 30 years.

He was a merchant marine for Atlantic Richfield, based in California and worked there for 26 years before retiring in 2000.

Mr. Hilken was a member of Cranford Elks Lodge 2006 and Knights of Columbus Msgr. Walsh Council 5437, Garwood.

Surviving are three sisters, Diane D. Hilken-Ernst, Linda J. Kiempisty and Kathleen A. Hilken, and two brothers, Charles M. and Robert W.

William Coull

William T. Coull, 81, of Cranford died Jan. 15 in Union Hospital.

Born in Montrose, Scotland, Mr. Coull lived in New York City, the Oranges and Irvington before moving to Cranford in 1991.

He was a tanner and taxidermist at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City for 31 years before retiring in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, James and William; a daughter, Nancy; a sister, Margaret Drumm, and four grandchildren.

Clementina Anderson

Clementina Anderson, 90, of Navesink, formerly of Elizabeth, Cranford and Linden, died Jan. 16 in the King James Care Center, Navesink.

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Anderson lived in Cranford and Linden before moving to Navesink nine years ago.

She was a member of Eastern Star Chapter 183 of Elizabeth.

Surviving is a sister, Stella Rohrmann.

Joseph Bazilus

Joseph F. Bazilus, 87, of Cranford died Jan. 17 at home.

Born in Bayonne, Mr. Bazilus lived in Jersey City before moving to Cranford 52 years ago.

He was a chemical operator for Beecham Corp., Piscataway, for 12 years and retired in 1982.

Mr. Bazilus served in the Army Air Force during World War II.

He was a former member of the First Aid Squad.

Mr. Bazilus was a manager and coach for the Cranford Baseball League, a member of the Cranford Tuesday Senior Citizens Club and an usher at St. Michael's Church, Cranford.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Florence; two sons, Gregory and Brian; a daughter, Cheryl Dewey; a sister, Mary Bartosik, and seven grandchildren.

Hyman Buzin

Hyman Buzin, 79, of Union and

Pembroke Pines, Fla., formerly of Elizabeth and Springfield, retired owner of a Cranford cleaning business, died Jan. 14 at home in Pembroke Pines.

Born in the Bronx, Mr. Buzin lived in Elizabeth and Springfield before moving to Union two years ago.

He also maintained a residence in Pembroke Pines.

Mr. Buzin was the manager of Cranford Cleaners in Cranford, where he worked for 43 years before retiring 15 years ago.

He was a member of the Springfield Chapter of B'nai B'rith.

Surviving are his wife, Sandra; two sons, Arthur and Elliot; a daughter, Phyllis Gilardoni; a brother, Jack, and five grandchildren.

Dr. Alfonse Medeiros

Dr. Alfonse J. Medeiros, 79, of Springfield, retired director of psychiatry in Cranford, died Jan. 8 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Sucre, Bolivia, Dr. Medeiros lived in Madrid and Bolivia before coming to Springfield.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

APOSTOLIC
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Pastor Michael Gibney
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Pastor Frank Sforza
(908) 272-6788
THF1@juno.com

PRESBYTERIAN
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www.rosellechurch.org
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Traditional Worship Service: Sunday - 10:30am
Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth Group: Sunday - 6-8 p.m.

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.

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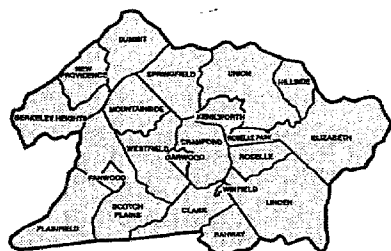
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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2004 - SECTION B

<http://www.localsource.com>

Spread the word

Elizabeth Gloeggle stood on the child's stage at the Clark Barnes & Noble, but her message was very serious. An estimated 25 percent of the county's population has some level of reading deficiency. She speaks about the need to help some be able to read the back of a medicine container, prepare a job application or read to their kids.

With the thermometer hovering at zero, she came with her assistants Jessica Comacho and Ginger Ng. They were recruiting volunteers to serve as tutors for Literacy Volunteers of Union County.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

In their sweaters and winter garb, these ladies could have blended in nicely at the nearby café drinking coffee and reading. In their presentation to a group of about 20, they take on the mantra of recruiters bordering on perky as they readily grade the potential converts as asking "really good questions."

Still, they know their job and do it well. The Union County group was actually named by the parent group Literacy Volunteers of America Inc., as the affiliate of the year for their efforts.

With the changing culture of our population, the need to address the problems where English is a second language remains constant. You have to be impressed as well with another of the group's focus, the county's prison population.

The basic theme is that by giving only an hour a week of tutoring, you can help someone else become more proficient in the language. After five or six training sessions, the tutoring can begin. The tutoring takes place in public places like libraries, community centers and book stores. The need in the urban areas of our county is constant.

I like the passion in the recruiters' efforts. They help waiters learn to communicate with customers. As part of a prisoner's rehabilitation, he learns to read. The recruiters speak that it's time to understand that if we spread the word the entire community benefits.

After the presentations, Gloeggle patiently answers questions while she carefully sizes up potential new tutors. They are an estimated 125 in the county.

In Elizabeth the program has the support of the Elizabeth Urban Workforce and Heat Start programs. Mayor Albert McWilliams of Plainfield praises the program as "providing fundamental skills to enhance communication."

In a related area, Paulina Goldman of the Hispanic Directors Association says, "Right now in New Jersey there is a crisis" in terms of the need for bilingual education.

Kean University has taken the lead in promoting job opportunities in the field of bilingual education. Last Saturday, at Thomas Edison State College, a job seminar for job opportunities was held.

Still, the beauty of the Literacy Volunteer program is that you don't have to be bilingual; just willing to give some time. The first training of the new year for new recruits will be Feb. 2 at the Westfield Memorial Library starting at 6 p.m.

Gloeggle and her staff hand out business cards which ask "How much time does it take to change a person's life?" They also answer the question: "One hour a week."

The question is whether the student or the tutor is receiving the greater change.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

County budget up \$24 million

Average tax hike expected to be \$69

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

County taxes are expected to increase by \$13.5 million in 2004. The proposed 6.6 percent increase over last year's tax levy will cost the average homeowner in Union County an additional \$69 per household, according to preliminary figures.

Union County Manager George Devanney introduced his 2004 executive budget on Jan. 15. The \$359-million spending plan includes a \$204.8-million tax levy, an increase of \$13.5 million over last year's tax levy of \$191 million. The budget represents a 7 percent increase over last year's \$335.4 million spending plan. In 2002, the tax levy was \$174 million.

"This budget continues with the services residents have come to expect," said Devanney.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will review the budget over the next few months and then vote to adopt it. Typically, freeholders introduce a revised budget in April and approve it in May.

If the budget is approved as it is, every municipality within the county, with the exception of Berkeley Heights and Winfield, will see an increase in the county portion of their taxes.

Mountainside and Westfield will see the biggest tax increases this year at \$131 and \$121, respectively.

"It's typical," said Mountainside Mayor Robert Vigilanti of the county tax hike. "The better you do, the more they want to nail you."

Vigilanti has continually said that

municipalities like Mountainside, Berkeley Heights, Westfield, Scotch Plains and New Providence pay a tremendous amount of money in county taxes yet do not receive an appropriate amount of service in exchange.

"We do not get back half of what we put in," he said.

Westfield Mayor Gregory McDermott had similar sentiments.

"I would like to know what we get out of it," he said. "We get nothing from the county that we can't do ourselves."

Even with the increased tax levy, Summit residents will still pay the most taxes per household in the county, an average of \$2,811. Westfield and Mountainside rank just behind, paying \$2,007 and \$1,749 respectively.

Summit Mayor Jordan Glatt said one of the reasons his city's portion of the county's tax levy is so high is because Summit has the highest assessed property value.

"I wish that the county would bring their other assessments in line," he said. "That would help Summit a lot."

Summit reassesses its properties approximately every 10 years. Other municipalities, such as Elizabeth, Glatt said, have not reassessed their properties in 30 years.

"We kind of get hurt as we bring our assessments up to date," Glatt said.

County taxes account for 25 percent of a homeowner's tax bill, with an additional 25 percent going toward municipal taxes and 50 percent going towards municipal school taxes.

Union County Director of Finance

Town	2003	2004	Change	Open space
Berkeley Heights	\$1,643	\$1,617	(\$26)	\$60
Clark	\$1,150	\$1,249	\$99	\$48
Cranford	\$1,220	\$1,309	\$89	\$50
Elizabeth	\$677	\$750	\$73	\$29
Fanwood	\$1,149	\$1,212	\$63	\$46
Garwood	\$958	\$1,029	\$71	\$39
Hillside	\$688	\$763	\$75	\$29
Kenilworth	\$913	\$1,009	\$96	\$38
Linden	\$736	\$806	\$70	\$31
Mountainside	\$1,618	\$1,749	\$131	\$67
New Providence	\$1,603	\$1,688	\$85	\$64
Plainfield	\$662	\$690	\$28	\$26
Rahway	\$678	\$733	\$55	\$28
Roselle	\$577	\$626	\$49	\$23
Roselle Park	\$731	\$825	\$94	\$32
Scotch Plains	\$1,327	\$1,407	\$80	\$54
Springfield	\$1,166	\$1,227	\$61	\$46
Summit	\$2,753	\$2,811	\$58	\$108
Union	\$838	\$917	\$79	\$35
Westfield	\$1,886	\$2,007	\$121	\$76
Winfield	\$70	\$69	(\$1)	\$3

Source: Union County Department of Finance

The columns labeled 2003 and 2004 are the amount of county taxes for the average assessed home in that community. The change is the difference between the two — parentheses indicate a decrease — and Open Space is the amount to be paid solely for the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund.

Lawrence Caroselli said there are several reasons for the tax increase this year.

Insurance is up 20 percent over 2003. The 2004 budget includes approximately \$6.5 million for insurance.

Salary, contractual and Social Security increases also account for the higher tax levy, Caroselli said.

"With those specific costs and the continual security-type costs still emanating from Sept. 11, it required us to increase taxes by \$13.5 million," he said.

As a way to initiate savings for the county, Devanney has instituted a Vacation Time Purchase program this

year. The program is offered to non-essential personnel employees. Employees will be able to purchase five days of vacation time for three days of pay. The maximum amount of vacation days allowed to be purchased is 15.

County employees who may be on call 24-hours-a-day — nursing staff, police, correction officers — will not be allowed to participate in the program.

The money to purchase the vacation days will come out of the employee's paycheck.

Caroselli said the program is offered in other states as "either a cost See COUNTY, Page B2

Freeholder field narrows

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

John Wohlrab of Hillside appears to be the front-runner to replace state Sen. Nicholas Scutari of Linden when he vacates his seat on the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

"I'm very interested in it but I'm not in a position to talk about it right now," Wohlrab said.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo did not confirm or deny that Wohlrab was the front-runner to fill the seat. However, she said she could not discuss potential replacements "until I've talked to possible candidates."

Scutari was sworn into the state Senate on Jan. 13 and has said that he will vacate his seat on the freeholder board, although a date to do so has not been determined.

"We haven't had a determination as to when Senator Scutari is leaving," said DeFilippo.

Not all Democrats are happy with Wohlrab being the front-runner.

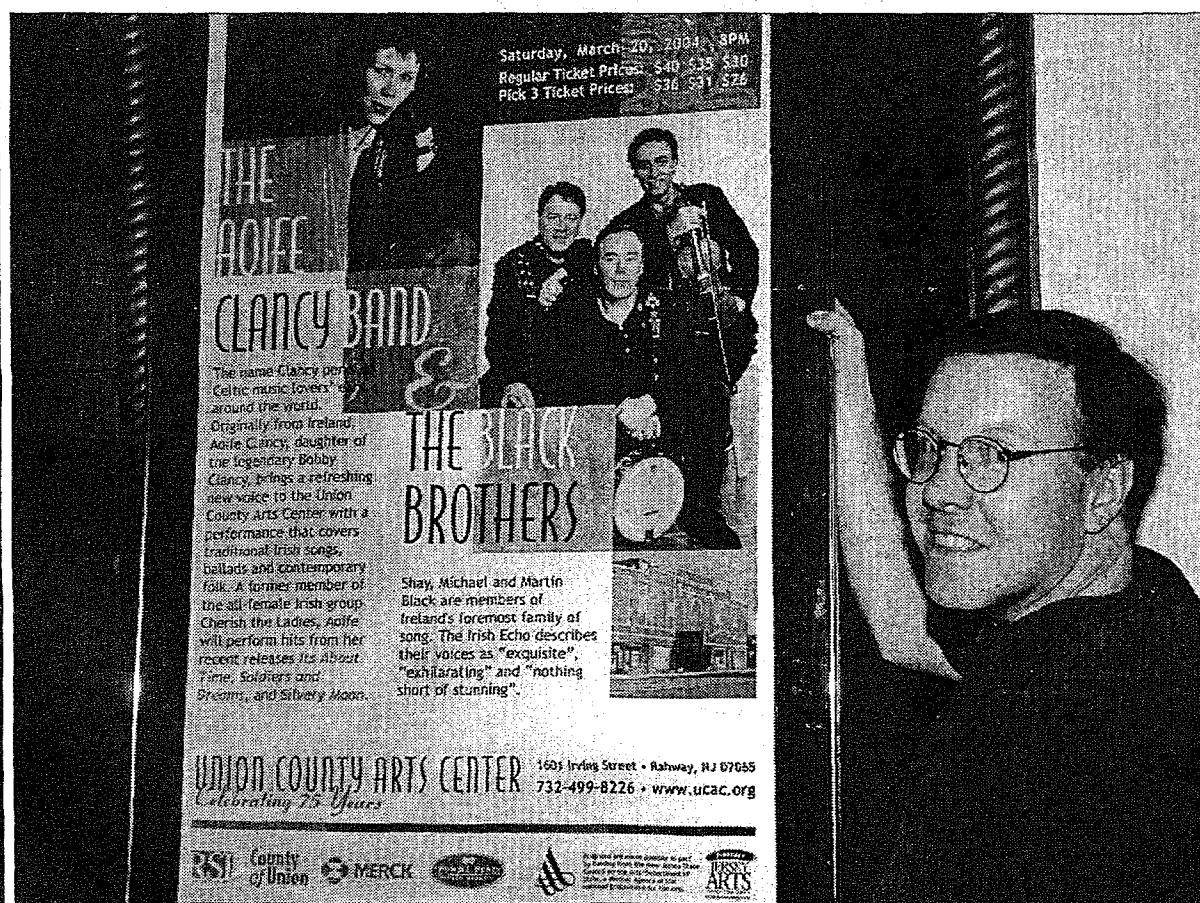
Linden Councilman Eugene Davis has said he's interested in filling the freeholder seat.

Davis, a former school board member who has served on the Linden council for five years, said he believes the seat should remain in Linden.

"Being that we have one of the largest populations in Union County, I think we should be represented by someone from Linden sitting on the freeholder board," said Davis.

Davis said fellow Councilman Charles Crane, who had been interested See CANDIDATES, Page B1

75 years in Rahway



Stephen Peter of Rahway, a trustee of the Union County Arts Center, hangs a poster for an upcoming event at the arts center. The center hosted a 75th anniversary cocktail party on Saturday. For more, see Page B3.

Local Dems still behind Dean

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

Democrats in Union County supporting former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in his bid to become the Democratic nominee for U.S. president are undeterred in their choice following a disappointing third-place finish in Monday's Iowa caucuses.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo and Sen. Raymond Lesniak have endorsed Dean, as well as Assembly members Neil Cohen, Joseph Cryan, Jerry Green and Linda Stender.

Dean finished third in the Monday's caucus behind Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry and North Carolina Sen. Jon Edwards.

Kerry received 38 percent of Iowa's delegate support, to Edwards who received 32 percent and Dean who received 18 percent.

Other candidates included Connecticut Sen. Joseph Lieberman, former Gen. Wesley Clark, Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich and the Rev. Al Sharpton. Gephardt has since dropped out of the race.

"I don't think the endorsement was premature," said Cohen.

Cohen said that Gephardt decided to go after Dean and the negativity between the two candidates allowed Kerry and Edwards to pull ahead in Iowa.

"That's why Dean suffered the loss," said Cohen. "In

New Jersey, those who endorsed Dean are still sticking with him."

"People have to realize that often support is about asking," said Rahway Mayor James Kennedy, explaining that Dean was the only Democratic presidential candidate to attend the New Jersey League of Municipalities last November. "He asked key legislators for their support."

Gov. James McGreevey was successful in garnering support for Dean from Democrats in the state.

Kennedy never lent his support to Dean. Instead, he's been backing Kerry.

"We weren't terrible surprised," said Kennedy about the Iowa caucus. "We felt he was the best candidate."

Traditionally, because New Jersey's primary comes so late in the year, the Democratic presidential nominee is usually decided by the time state residents cast their votes. This often equates to New Jersey not having much significance when it comes to the nomination.

In an effort to garner support from the possible future president, Democrats throughout the state backed Dean last month, when he appeared to be the front-runner to win the party's nomination.

Kennedy admits that the race for the nomination is far from over. "Iowa doesn't settle everything," he said. "It puts the candidate into a strong position as he moves to the next series."

The candidates next stop will be New Hampshire, where its primary will be Tuesday.

Barisonek takes over as assignment judge

By Joshua Zaitz
Staff Writer

For the longest time, Judge Walter Barisonek had a note on his bench to remind him not to interject when presiding over cases; to remind him that he's not a lawyer anymore.

"The thing you have to learn when you become a judge is that you're not an attorney anymore," said Barisonek.

"You have to stay neutral and keep a level playing field and make sure everyone gets what they're entitled too in terms of a fair trial."

Barisonek took over as assignment judge of the state Superior Court of Union County last week, replacing Judge Edward Beglin, who had held the position for the last 21 years.

"Judge Beglin is a tough act to follow," said Barisonek.

"He is a very dedicated, hardworking man in this county who had a lot of respect and deservedly so. To follow him is going to be difficult."

As the chief judge in the county, Barisonek will be responsible for handling all the aspects of general administration, including the assignment of judges to cases and the handling of all personnel.

"Being assignment judge you have a much more administrative responsibility and less time to devote to actual trials," he said.

Barisonek said he will miss presiding over as many cases as he had before being appointed to his new position.

"Every once in a while I hope to squeeze some in," he said. "Keep my hand in it so to speak."

The trial work, Barisonek said, has always been the most interesting aspect of being a judge.

"You deal with the attorneys, try the cases. I always liked the public part of it," he said.

Union County Bar Association President James McGlew said he was very pleased with Barisonek's appointment.

"He's been a member of our association and he certainly has the respect of our association," said McGlew.

Barisonek was appointed to a judgeship in 1984 by Gov. Thomas Kean. He was reappointed with tenure in 1991 by Gov. James Florio.

After initially serving in the Family Division of the Superior Court in Union County, Barisonek, who has resided in Mountainside for the last 26 years, was appointed as presiding judge of the division before working

in both the civil and criminal divisions in the vicinage. He was the presiding judge of the Criminal Division in Union County from 1993 to 1997. Since 1999, Barisonek has filled the role of acting assignment judge whenever Beglin was absent.

Barisonek did not consider a career in law until his junior year at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY.

"I had a professor who I took an elective course with my third year in college," said Barisonek.

"I didn't have any interest in the law at that point because I didn't know anybody in the law. I did very well on the exam and he was a lawyer and encouraged me to take the law boards."

Barisonek did well in his law studies and graduated from Seton Hall Law School.

Upon graduation, Barisonek practiced law in several different private firms from 1968 to 1984. He also served as municipal prosecutor in Clark.

To receive a judgeship, candidates are screened by retired state Supreme Court justices who interview people who know the candidates. The justices pass their findings onto the governor and counsel who decide if they want to go forward with a nomination for judgeship.

If they wish to go ahead with the nomination, the candidate's application is sent to the state's Bar Committee, which passes the name onto the county's Bar Committee, which interviews the candidate.

If the county's recommendation returns to the state's committee favorably, then the State Police conducts a background check on the candidate. Based on the State Police's finding, the governor then decides if he will submit the nomination.

Superior Court judges are nominated to a seven-year term and then can be renominated to a lifetime term. However, judges must retire by age 70.

Since garnering a judgeship, Barisonek has written several published opinions in all areas of the law. He has served on both the New Jersey Supreme Court Criminal Jury Charge Committee and the Judicial Education Committee.

"He's someone who is well respected among judges and lawyers," said McGlew.

"We're looking forward to working with him."

County budget calls for tax hike

(Continued from Page B1)
savings measure or revenue opportunity."

The program, he said, will result in a savings for the county, although he cannot determine what that savings will be until employees begin to take advantage of the program.

"The unions that we've offered it to so far have shown a lot of interest in it, said Caroselli.

During the past year the county's ratable base increased by more than \$6 billion. County officials attribute the increase to the "booming real estate market" and economic development projects in Elizabeth, Linden Plainfield and Union.

The county's surplus also increased by 35 percent in 2003.

Devanney said that throughout the last five years the county's surplus has declined but with this budget the county has finally "turned it back around."

"In 2003 our surplus for the first time in five or six years has gone up," said Caroselli.

At the end of 2002, the county had approximately \$14 million in its surplus.

By end of 2003 the surplus had increased to approximately \$19 million.

This year, the county is using slightly more than \$15 million from the surplus as revenue in the budget.

"We're giving it back to the taxpayers," said Caroselli. "We're not sitting back and hoarding it."

The county's goal is to increase the surplus again at the end of this year, explained Caroselli. However, he said it's too early to anticipate what the surplus will be. "There are too many variables."

Devanney said there are no proposed layoffs in the 2004 budget.

"What I plan to do as finance chairman is organize meetings with our directors and look for opportunities to save additional money in the budget," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, this year's Finance Committee chairman.

Freeholder Mary Ruotolo said the proposed budget is a nice foundation for the freeholder board to work off of.

"The budget shows an increase in services which is a pretty amazing feat considering our national economy," she said.

Candidates express interest

(Continued from Page B1)

ed in the seat, no longer is seeking the county post. Crane could not be reached by presstime Tuesday.

Scutari's seat on the nine-member board is the only one currently held by a Linden resident.

However, Wohlrab does have the support of Linden Mayor John Gregorio.

Currently a resident of Hillside, Wohlrab is a native of Linden and purchased a home in Linden last week.

Once Scutari steps down from the freeholder board, the Union County

Democratic Committee will conduct a special election to decide who replaces him.

Whoever is selected to fill the vacancy would have to run in a special election in November to serve to the remaining year of Scutari's term, in addition to the three freeholder seats up this year. Other names that have surfaced in recent months as possible replacements included Cranford Township Committeeman George Jom and Springfield Mayor Clara Harelik.

Harelik said right now her priorities

are with her township.

"Somewhere down the line if a freeholder position opened up I would be honored and privileged to be considered for such a position," said Harelik.

Harelik said that Springfield and its neighboring municipalities should have a better sampling of representation on the freeholder board.

Of the current freeholders, two reside in Elizabeth, two in Rahway, one in Union, one in Fanwood, one in Plainfield and one in Westfield, in addition to Scutari.

Celebrity bartenders raise money for annual parade

The Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee will sponsor its celebrity bartender fund-raiser, featuring soap opera stars and local political and sports celebrities Saturday from 7 to 11 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Ave., Union. Parking will be available.

Admission is \$5 and proceeds will go toward expenses of the annual Union County St. Patrick's Day parade in Union.

Music will be provided by Celtic Cross Band, an Irish-American band, along with St. Columille Pipers and Union County Pipers and Drums.

For more information, call 908-686-4504.

Employment the topic at UCLSA meeting

Union County Legal Secretaries Association, the association for legal professionals, will meet Tuesday at B.G. Field's Restaurant, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield.

Following a social gathering at 6 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m., the guest speaker will be Shari Nisenon of Lorelei Personnel. Nisenon will provide a presentation on employment in the legal field. Cost is \$23 for dinner.

All legal professionals, secretaries and other support staff employed anywhere in the legal field — private practice, corporate practice, federal, county, state or municipal government, police departments, etc. — are

COUNTY NEWS

welcome to attend. Prospective members and guests are also welcome — you do not have to be a member.

The association offers educational opportunities to legal professionals and members are eligible to receive nationwide discounts on products and services from NALS, the national affiliate.

For more information regarding reservations, call Reservations Chairwoman Judy Reed at 908-355-4892.

For more information on membership, networking opportunities and available scholarships, call Helena Goworek at 908-527-4587 or Susie Mack at 973-849-2543.

Counselors association selling '04 books

The Union County School Counselors Association is selling Entertainment '04 Books to fund "We Care" awards granted to chosen high school students in Union County.

Students who have made significant contributions in their communities and in helping others in need are chosen by guidance counselors throughout the county to receive these monetary awards in recognition of their good deeds.

Entertainment Books offer discounts for fine dining, casual dining, special attractions, hotels, airlines, movies, dry cleaning, and car washes to name a few. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New Jersey at costs of \$20 and \$30.

To obtain books, call Carmine Venes, president of UCSCA, at 908-233-1086.

Free tax assistance

RSVP and AARP both offer free tax assistance to senior citizens and other lower-income taxpayers at locations throughout Union County.

To request an appointment, taxpayers must call the site in their local community and bring with them their 2003 records of income, deductions, property tax bills, and their 2002 income tax file. Last year, volunteers aided more than 2,600 citizens with their tax returns.

Free tax assistance will be offered from early February until April 15 at the following locations:

- Berkeley Heights Free Public Library, 290 Plainfield Ave., 908-464-9333.
- Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., 732-388-3600.
- Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., 908-709-7283.
- Elizabeth Free Public Library, 11 S. Broad St., no appointments necessary. Tax help on Thursdays from Feb. 5 to April 15, 9 a.m. to noon.
- Kenilworth Free Public Library, 548 Boulevard, 908-276-1451.
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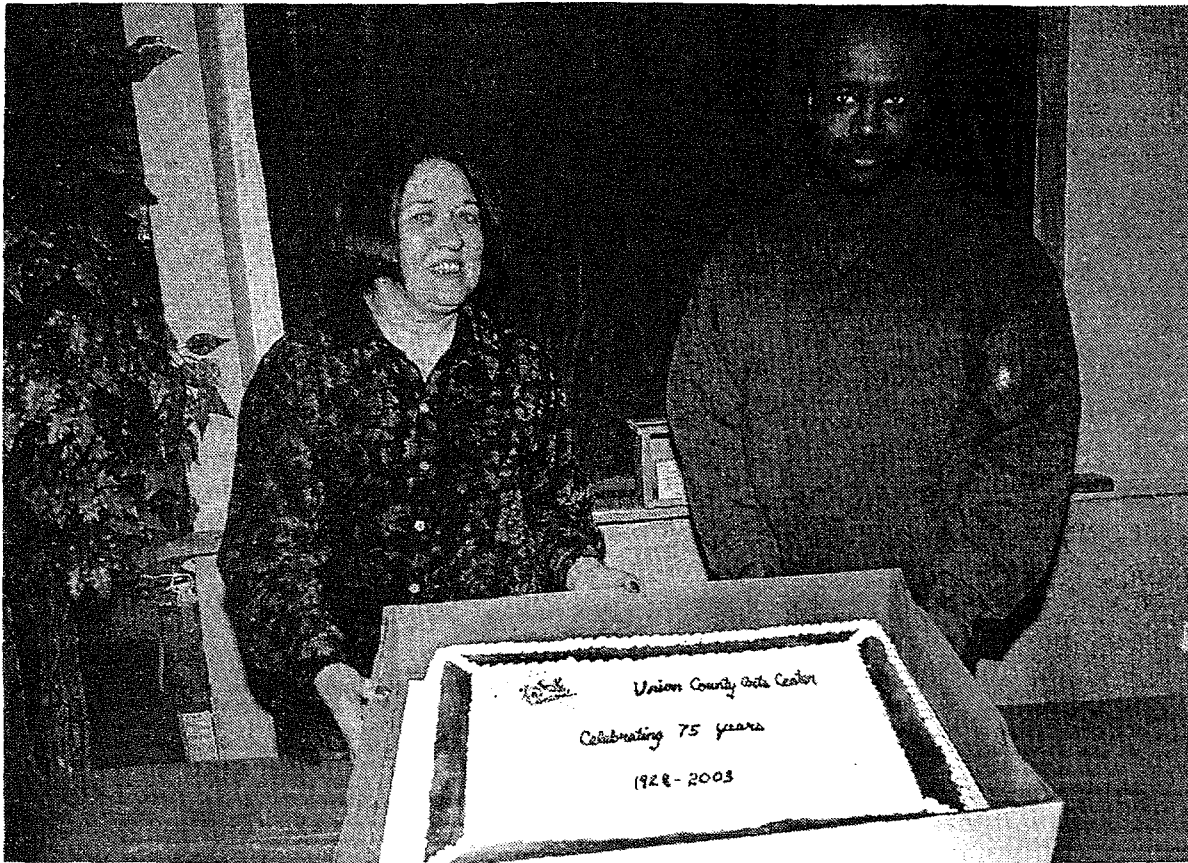
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Happy birthday, UCAC!



New Union County Arts Center Executive Director Donna Sandorse, left, and technical director Joseph McKie prepare the birthday cake for the UCAC's 75th Anniversary Gala last Saturday in Rahway.

Photo by Barbara Kokkalis

Volunteers needed for Teen Arts

Do you like working with artists, teachers, and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.

The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at the Union County College campus in Cranford.

The event, scheduled for March 18 and 19, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in Union County.

"At the Teens Arts Festival, more than 3,000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline — visual art, music, writing, theater and

'We appreciate the invaluable assistance of Union County residents.'

— Freeholder Chester Holmes

dance," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites and staff information stations," Holmes added. "We appreciate the invaluable assistance of Union County residents with this exciting program."

For information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550; Relay users call 800-852-7899; or send e-mail to klearly@ucnj.org.

Ori receives HEART Grant to capture county's gardens in photos

Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights, well-known local photographer and educator, as recently received a 2003 HEART Grant — History, Arts, Education Reaching Thousands — from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders to help, in part, to create photography at local garden sites.

Ori's project is to create a body of photographs made within a small part of the Garden State, namely Union County, which will be exhibited in the county at the project's end. The project will provide a balance of images between the four seasons as well as

the basic elements of turf, wood and water, reflecting the variety of local public and private garden designs and architecture. Some of the garden spaces shown can be found adjacent to historic sites and are open to the public, such as Liberty Hall Museum in Union, Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, the Cannonball Museum Gardens in Scotch Plains, and the Shakespeare Garden at Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield.

Simply defined, a garden is a plot of land for the cultivation of flowers, vegetables, herbs and fruit, when the

creativity of man intervenes with Mother Nature and creates orderliness. The space is laid out with flowers, trees and ornamental shrubs and used for recreation or display.

Ori said, "There is certainly a lot of crossover between landscape and garden photography, but for me garden photography is more about smaller controlled spaces and close-ups. Some are romantic in style and provide a strong contrast to the local towns, some are bold forms or use an empty space as an aesthetic organizing element, most are planned or contain artistically composed plantings, while some provide a very formal element."

She has spent the last few months doing some research on the sites and has begun photographing the numerous locations. Her artistic selection of subject matter for the exhibit will be determined by the best summary of images to depict "the places where flowers bloom, shrubs and herbs are arranged in artful patterns, where havens have been created for peace and quiet, places where the plantings help to reduce stress, where one can watch wildlife and relax, while inhaling the fragrance of the flowers."

"Since 1970, I have traveled throughout the world working on various photographic and video projects which has given me the opportunity to explore many popular and cherished places. I have discovered that right here in my own backyard, there are wonderful sites to photograph and images to share. I proposed this and four other HEART Grant projects over the last six years in order to best volunteer my skills to benefit my own

'Ten best' shows diversity, style

Compiling "10 Best" lists always makes me take stock, and this year's best movies tell me that the highest-quality films as both entertainment and art continue to reflect the times in which we live.

The do indeed hold up Shakespeare's mirror for us to gaze upon. They also tell us something about the future of the medium, but more of that later. In the order I saw them, except for the final three, the 10 Best are:

"American Splendor" is the independently produced recreation in comic book-style of the art and life of Harvey Pekar. It is a splendidly realized and ultimately moving dramatization of what the film calls the ordinary life of the famous cartoonist and his wife, expertly played by Bart Giamatti and Hope Davis, in working-class Cleveland.

"Dirty Pretty Things" is Stephen Frears' newest melodrama about immigrants struggling to survive in the lower depths of working-class England. This British movie relies on a brilliant performance by the African Chiwetel Ejiofor, the best actor of the year, as the doctor-hotel worker at the immigrant fringe which many of us never take into account.

"The Magdalene Sisters" dramatizes the chilling effect of the Irish state-church's treatment of wayward or just rambunctious girls, in a type of rigorous institutionalizing up to just a few years ago, which amounted to imprisoning them. Peter Mullan's fine Irish film relies on strong characterization of three girls in the telling of this Dickensian story.

"Mystic River" is Clint Eastwood's tome to the dark side of family life and struggle with great tragedy and common disappointment. A singularly American movie set in Boston, the film particularly shows off the nuance of ensemble performances led by the unflinching development by Marcia Gay Harden of a woman led by her growing doubts and fears of betrayal in the best performance by an actress.

"Love Actually" is a thoroughly

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

amusing and sometimes startling British satire of failed and successfully loving relationships, skillfully written and directed by Richard Curtis. Built upon the highly accomplished craft of a lively cast led by Hugh Grant and Laura Linney, the nine separate stories intermesh and complement each other to tell an often but not always funny, modern story about love and its absence in our fractured world.

"The Human Stain" is the most underrated American film of the year. Built by Robert Benton on Phillip Roth's prize-winning novel, it explores a whole complexity of contemporary themes in an engrossing narrative. I thought the issues of sexual and racial compromise, and the effect of vindictive or sanctimonious judgments by counterfeit moralists on the personal lives of others in the Clinton era, were particularly finely etched by the splendid cast, including the magnetic and multi-talented Nicole Kidman.

"The Barbarian Invasions" is Denys Arcand's boisterous and finally deeply felt and moving refocusing on a life's ending. This best foreign film matures a dialogue this French-Canadian writer began two decades ago about the decline of the American empire. The movie has so much that is serious to say to us in its view from Quebec that it may take several screenings for us to move past the potent and magnetic language to see and hear its song of immortality.

The last three movies of my top 10 were made for television, and in that fact lies a message about the potential of that medium and its commercial and artistic strength when the networks are bypassed.

"Nicholas Nickleby" is an abridged BBC production for British television of the great classic book by Charles Dickens and the momentous Broad-

way play about sacrifice and social reform in 19th-century England. Performed by the Royal Shakespeare Society with some wild-card additions such as Nathan Lane, this television version is pure dramatic richness.

"The Boys of Second Street" is a Showtime cable documentary portraying through remarkably perceptive and honest interviews the lives of a group of mainly post-World War II Jewish friends from Coney Island. The work of Dan Klores, who is a part of the group but never imposes himself on the viewer, this chronicling of ups and downs of those from a certain cultural and neighborhood commonality is both sobering and uplifting.

And finally, the best film of the year — and, in fact, for many a year — is the Home Box Office production of "Angels in America." Remarkable performances abound, including those a restrained yet loathsome Al Pacino and a fresh, almost cherubic Mary Louise Parker, as well as by the powerful and theoric Emma Thompson as the descending angel and the great Meryl Streep in multiple roles she transcribes from the TV screen to us with her unique talents and distinction. Directed by Mike Nichols, this elaborate, cinematic, dramatic, witty, entertaining, challenging and thought-provoking dramatization of Tony Kushner's remarkable play is about America and Americans in the face of contemporary public plagues, including McCarthyism and AIDS. There is, too, in this "Angels in America" a dissection of public and private disillusion as we seek life's joys and meanings. It is a wonder for which HBO should be hailed and honored.

Jon Plaut is a regular contributor to this newspaper.

Editorial deadlines

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



'Spring Garden,' taken at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit, is an example of the works photographer Nancy J. Ori will document, highlighting the county's gardens.

VALENTINE GREETINGS

Publication Date

Thursday, February 12, 2004

Copy Deadline February 6, 2004

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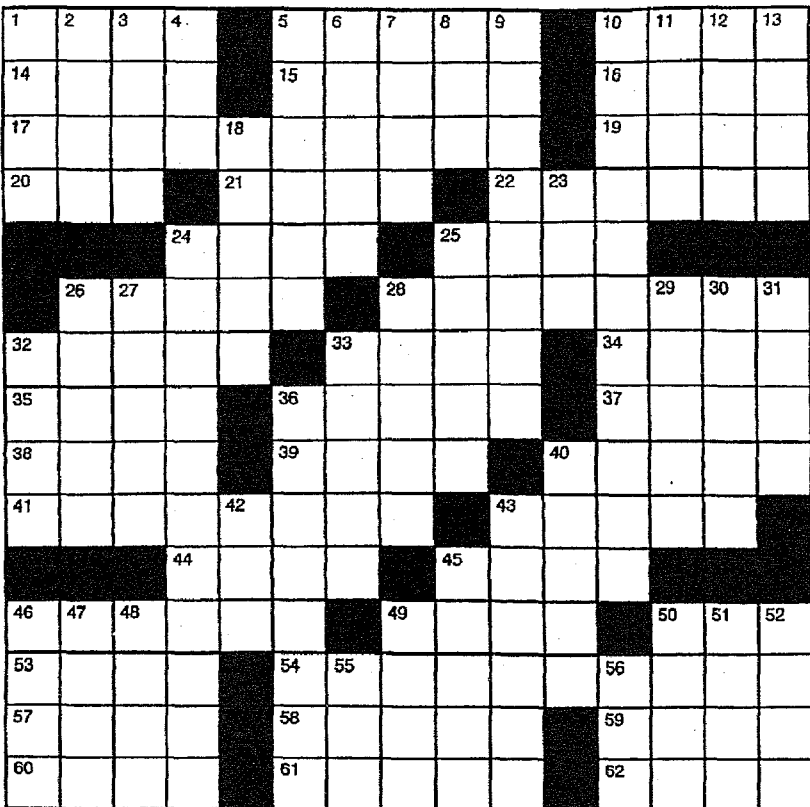
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COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

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HOROSCOPE

Jan. 26-Feb. 1

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You are very much in tune with your subconscious. Listen to your instincts and allow yourself to be guided along a safe, yet fascinating path. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Activities with a club, group or organization are highlighted. Gather together with like-minded friends or associates and have some fun. GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A professional presentation or proposal is met with success. Share your ideas and offer solutions to a challenging and ongoing problem. CANCER (June 22-July 22): Tolerance is a key word for you this week. Avoid sitting in judgment of others or blindly forcing your thoughts or beliefs on them. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Budgetary concerns are brought to the forefront. Find the time to review and revise your budget. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Cooperation with a partner or mate really pays off. Do your best to blend your dreams

and goals together instead of constantly pulling apart. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Avoid overextending yourself at work or during routine duties. Compile a list of things that must be done and make a conscious effort to stick to it. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Enjoy a unique popularity on the social scene. Take advantage of an opportunity to increase or expand your circle of friends and associates. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Loved ones are very supportive and understanding in an emotional crisis. Don't hesitate to reach out to them during a time of need. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is a mentally active and highly communicative period for you. Divide your attention equally between work and personal affairs. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your finances are subject to change or uncertainty. Pay attention and avoid spending more than you can afford. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your best foot forward and make a positive

first impression on the people you will meet this week. Smile and conquer. If your birthday is this week, expect a very active and expansive period in social and financial affairs during the coming year. Practice moderation in spending and approach personal relationships with a methodical anticipation. Avoid manipulation or power plays and seek compromise in no-win situations. Note an artistic or creative idea and plan to incorporate it into your future endeavors. Also born this week: Mario Lanza, Louis Rukeyser, Oprah Winfrey, Elijah Wood, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, and Anita Baker.

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What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY January 24, 2004

EVENT: Big Indoor Flea-Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 1 Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Call for information 908-245-2350
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

SATURDAY January 31th, 2004

EVENT: Flea Market and Collectible Show
PLACE: Arthur L Johnson High School, 365 Westfield Ave, Clark
TIME: 9am-5pm, Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: Great items including new merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage/tag sale section! For information call 201-997-9535.
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by: Clark UNICO

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SUNDAY February 1, 2004

EVENT: FLEA MARKET, CRAFT & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
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TIME: 9am-5pm, Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage/tag sale section! For information call 201-997-9535.
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by: BHS Wrestling

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OTHER

SUNDAY January 25, 2004

EVENT: OPEN HOUSE
PLACE: St. James The Apostle School 41 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield (Morris to Mountain to South Springfield)
TIME: 1pm-3pm
INFORMATION: The Principal, Teachers and Staff will be available to speak with parents on an individual basis. Information about the admission process will also be available. We have a few classes with waiting lists already for the 2004-2005 School Year. For more information call 973-376-5194
ORGANIZATION: St. James The Apostle School in Springfield

FRIDAY

January 25, 2004

EVENT: BEEFSTEAK DINNER- AND RAFFLES
PLACE: Knights of Columbus - Janet Avenue Union.
TIME: 7pm-10pm
INFORMATION: All you can eat: Salad, Beer, Soda, Dessert.
PRICE: \$35.00 per person - Proceeds to benefit Union High School Performing Arts. For information call 908-851-9465
ORGANIZATION: UHSPAC Parents Association

REUNIONS

- The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, May 15.
Union High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, July 24.
Battin-Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, July 31.
Hillside High School Class of 1964, 40-year reunion, July 31.
Governor Livingston Regional High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, Aug. 7.
Union High School Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, Aug. 28.
Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, Springfield, Class of 1969, 35-year reunion, Oct. 8.
Plainfield High School Class of 1954, 50-year reunion, Oct. 9.
Westfield High School Class of 1974, 30-year reunion, Oct. 23.
Hillside High School Class of 1954, 50-year reunion, Nov. 20.
Governor Livingston Regional High School, Berkeley Heights, Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Nov. 26.
Union High School Class of 1969, 35-year reunion, Nov. 26.
Union High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Nov. 26.
Union High School Class of 1984, 20-year reunion, Nov. 27.
Westfield High School Class of 1984, 20-year reunion, Nov. 27.
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979, 25-year reunion, Dec. 31.
Westfield High School Class of 1994, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31.
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30 year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005.
Scotch Plains High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005.

Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005.
Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005.
Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, Dec. 31, 2005.
For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown, 07726; or call 908-780-8364.

Union High School Class of 1954 will conduct its 50-year reunion June 4 to 6, 2004. For information, write to Class of '54 Reunion Committee, 250 Globe Ave., Union, 07083.
Linden High School Class of 1959 will conduct its 45-year reunion June 19, 2004 at the Sheraton Woodbridge. For information, call Jan Murawski at 732-381-1763.

New submission info for A&E

Effective immediately, all arts and entertainment information for Union and Essex counties should be sent to A&E Editor Bill VanSant at: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557; phone inquiries may be directed to 973-763-0700. Submissions may be sent via e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com; the subject line should read either "B. VanSant" or "A&E."

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Concert series announce gigs

Two of the county's most popular coffeehouse series have announced events scheduled for the month of February.

On Feb. 14, Second Saturdays Coffee House in Summit will present its Open Mic night at the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., corner of Springfield Avenue, Summit. Admission is \$4. Sign-in for performers is at 7:30 p.m., and the start time is at 8 p.m.

Also on Feb. 14, the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Springfield will present "Songwriters in the Round."

Hosted by pop-duo Open Book, featuring Ina May Wool and Dan Bonis, the event will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Admission is \$12, and the start time is at 8 p.m.

The following week, on Feb. 21, the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield will present DaVinci's Notebook at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St. on the corner of North Avenue, Westfield. Admission is \$12, and the start time is at 8 p.m.

The "Songwriters in the Round" Series is part of the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Springfield. Join performers and other audience members for a special night of acoustic music and harmony! Pop-duo Open Book will host the first of four



DaVinci's Notebook will bring their eclectic style of music to the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series in Westfield on Feb. 21. Also highlighting the month will be the first installment of the 'Songwriters in the Round' series, an informal opportunity for local audiences to experience the work of up-and-coming singer-songwriters.

intimate evenings in this series, where audience members are introduced to the varying musical styles of several

local singer-songwriters. The setting will be cozy, the atmosphere will be warm and magic is guaranteed to hap-

pen! If you've never experienced this style of musical performance, do not miss this!

Tickets available for UCAC's winter lineup

The Union County Arts Center in Rahway has announced its Winter/Spring 2003-04 75th Anniversary season. For information, call 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site at www.ucac.org.

- Friday, 8 p.m.: Movie, RKO tribute, "King Kong" with Fay Wray. All tickets are \$5.
- Saturday, 7:30 p.m.: Matinee Movie, RKO tribute, "Swing Time" with Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. All tickets are \$5.
- Saturday, 7:30 p.m.: Movie double feature, "My Favorite Wife" and "Citizen Kane." All tickets are \$5.
- Sunday, 2:30 p.m.: Silent film, "My Best Girl" with Mary Pickford with live theater organ accompaniment. All tickets are \$5.
- Feb. 20, 8 p.m.: "My Way: A Musical Tribute to Frank Sinatra." All tickets are \$5.
- Feb. 21, 8 p.m.: Richard Nader's Doo Wop Reunion Tour with Lou Christie, Emil Stucchio and The Classics, and The Chiclettes. Tickets are \$40, \$35 and \$30.
- Feb. 22, 3 p.m.: Children's show, "Martin Luther King Jr.," a musical tribute. All tickets are \$10.
- Feb. 28, 8 p.m.: Gospel Fest starring Yolanda Adams. Tickets \$40, \$35, \$26.
- March 20, 8 p.m.: The Black Brothers and The Aoife Clancy Band. Tickets are \$40, \$35 and \$30.
- March 21, 3 p.m.: Duck Soup Magic Show. All tickets are \$10.
- March 26, 8 p.m.: "Sophisticated Ladies: The Music of Duke Ellington." All tickets \$35.
- March 27, 8 p.m.: The Amazing Kreskin. Tickets are \$40, \$30.
- April 3, 2:30 p.m.: Movie Matinee, "Sons of the Desert" with Laurel and Hardy. All tickets \$5.
- April 3, 7:30 p.m.: Movie double feature, National Lampoon's "Animal House" and "The Blues Brothers." All tickets are \$5.
- April 4, 2:30 p.m.: Movie Matinee: "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World." All tickets \$5.
- April 10, 8 p.m.: Silent film, "Wings" with live theater organ accompaniment.
- April 17, 8 p.m.: Westfield Symphony Orchestra. Tickets \$25 to \$60.
- April 24, 8 p.m.: "An Evening With Joy Behar." Tickets \$54, \$46, \$38.
- May 8, 8 p.m.: Cinco de Mayo weekend celebration with Latin rock band DeSol and special guest, comedian Joey Callahan. All tickets are \$25.

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Sunday, February 1st 2004



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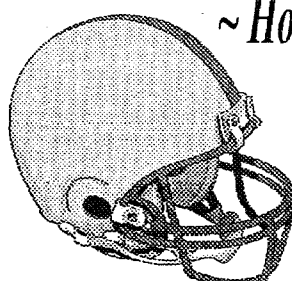
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Fax: 973-379-0438

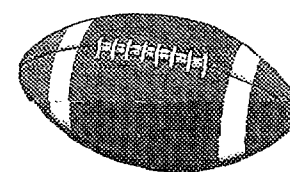
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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill VanSant, Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

ART SHOWS

UNION COUNTY TEEN ARTS EXHIBIT will be on display at the Rahway Recreation Center, East Milton Avenue in Rahway, through Jan. 29. For information, call the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 908-558-2550; Relay Service users dial 711.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Jan 30.

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

PORTFOLIO, the works of photographer Barbara Wirkus, will be on exhibit

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 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.

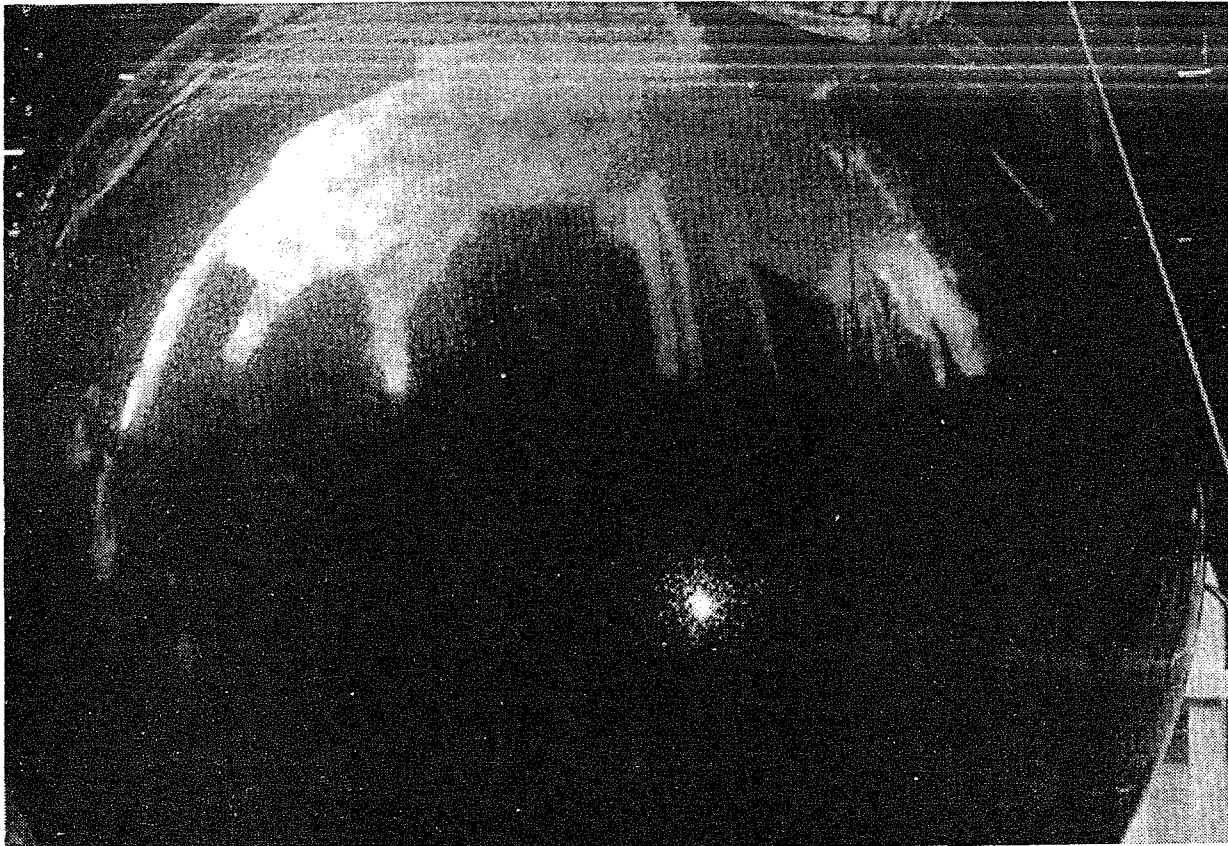
CLASSICS BOOK CLUB meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble of Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan

artists through June at two locations through June.
Feb. 14: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by acoustic duo Open Book, Springfield
Feb. 21: DaVinci's Notebook, Westfield
March 13: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Bob Malone, Springfield
March 20: We're About Nine, with opener Devon Sproule, Westfield
April 17: Caroline Aiken, Westfield
May 8: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Ritt Henn, Springfield
May 15: Sonia/Disappear Fear, with opener Chris Glenn, Westfield
June 12: Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Jessica Owen, Springfield
June 19: Zoë Lewis, Westfield

Westfield concerts are presented at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield; Springfield concerts are presented at Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Tickets are \$12 and include refreshments. For information, call 908-232-8723 or visit the Web site at www.coffeewithconscience.com.

Westfield concerts are presented at the First United Methodist Church, 1 E. Broad St., Westfield; Springfield concerts are presented at Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Tickets are \$12 and include refreshments. For information, call 908-232-8723 or visit the Web site at www.coffeewithconscience.com.



'CHRISTMAS AT ROCKEFELLER CENTER' captures the magic of New York City during the holidays, reflected in a tree ornament. The photo by Sheila Lenga of Union is among the works on exhibit in 'Odyssey With an Open Eye' at the Les Malamut Art Gallery. For information, see the 'Art Shows' listing on this page.

it through Jan. 30 at the Pearl Street Gallery in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Pearl Street Gallery is located at 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-558-2550, NJ Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the works of Jerry Winick and members of the New Jersey Photography Forum throughout the month of January. CHS is located on New Providence Road in Mountainside.

AN EDGE IN SPACE/A SPACE IN TIME will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway through Feb. 6.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays 1 to 3 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.

FROM THE ROCKIES TO THE PACIFIC, works by photographer Marie Burns, will be on exhibit in the Wisner House at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through March 8. An artist's reception will take place Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Exhibit hours are weekdays, 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 www.reeves-reedarboretum.org.

ODYSSEY WITH AN OPEN EYE, works by photographer Sheila Lenga of Union, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library from Jan. 31 through March 10. An opening reception will take place Jan. 31 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. in Friberger Park, Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

PAINTINGS BY MATT JOHNSON will be on exhibit in The Commons at Union County College in Cranford from Friday through March 22. An opening reception will take place Friday from 7 to 9 p.m.

The Cranford campus of UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, including exhibit hours, call 908-709-7155.

BOOKS

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and

Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

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.

BOOKS WE LIKE, a reading group featuring staff recommendations, will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble of Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

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 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.

CLASSES

SPRING SEMESTER COURSES are offered at duCret School for Art, Plainfield. Day and evening courses are offered on a full- or part-time basis. Classes meet once a week for three hours. The spring semester ends May 14. For more information and course availability, call the school at 908-757-7171, fax 908-757-2626 or visit www.ducret.edu/.

CONCERTS

COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES in Westfield and Springfield will presept a series of

SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks.

Saturday: Comic/singer-songwriter Cheryl Wheeler

Feb. 14: The Best of Jersey acoustic performers

Feb. 22: Tom Rush

Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 973-376-4946 or visit www.sanctuaryconcerts.org.

NEW JERSEY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will appear present "The Dvorak Centenary: Inspiring America" through Sunday in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark, as well as at other locations in the state. Tickets are \$17 to \$79.

Today: "From the New World," 7:30 p.m., \$21 to \$79

Saturday: "From the New World," 8 p.m., \$21 to \$79

Sunday: "From the New World," 3 p.m., \$21 to \$79

NJPAC is located at 1 Center St., Newark. For information, call NJPAC at 888-466-5722 or NJSO at 800-255-3476, or visit their respective Web sites at www.njpac.org or www.njsymphony.org.

CHILDREN OF UGANDA will appear in "Tour of Light," a concert of music and dance, Saturday at 2 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14 years old. A parent-child workshop is offered in conjunction with the performance; fee is \$11 for adults, \$6 for children.

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

EAST-WEST ENSEMBLE will appear in concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$26.

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

THE NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA will appear in concert Sunday at 3 p.m. at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, Cranford. Admission is free. For information, call 908-656-0097 or visit www.njio.org.

SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER in New Providence will present violinists Nevena Bojovic and Milan Milinkovic and pianist Luba Vasilyeva in concert Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for students and senior citizens. The Suburban Community Music Center is located at 570 Central Ave., New Providence. For information, call 908-790-0700.

VOCALIST PETER CINCOTTI will appear in concert Feb. 5 at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark as part of the Cabaret at the Chase series. Tickets are \$45 and \$56.

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

WESTFIELD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA will appear in concert Feb. 7 at 8 p.m. at The Presbyterian Church in Westfield, East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue. For information, including ticket prices, call 908-232-9400.

THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC will appear in concert, under conductor Daniele Gatti, on Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$16 to \$69.

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

VIOLINIST HILARY HAHN and pianist Natalie Zhu will appear in concert Feb. 15 at 3 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$11 to \$49.

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

DANCE

STARS OF THE ROYAL DANISH BALLET will be presented Jan. 29 at 7:30 p.m. in Prudential Hall at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$13 to \$59.

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

NAI-NI CHEN DANCE COMPANY will present "The Year of the Monkey" on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$19 for adults, \$10 for children younger than 14.

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

JANT-BI: THE GERMAINE ACOGNY COMPANY will appear in "Rwanda: Fagaala" on Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$26.

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. 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

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

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 inquiries via e-mail to TMRCInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

VOCALIST NNENNA FREELON will appear in concert Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Victoria Theater at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Tickets are \$36.

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

KIDS

CRAFT TIME for children ages 5 to 10 years old will take place every Monday at 11 a.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

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

POETS LAURA BOSS AND MARIA MAZZIOTTI GILLAN will be presented in an evening of readings Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the Women's Resource Center, 57 New England Ave., Summit. Admission is \$5. For information, call 908-273-7253 or visit www.womenresource.org.

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 third 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 local 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 Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-688-8816.

THEATER

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS will present "Visiting Mr. Green" by Jeff Baron through Saturday. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12. WCP is located at 1000 North Ave. West, Westfield. For information, call 908-232-1221.

NEW JERSEY PERFORMING ARTS CENTER in Newark will present "The Full Monty" from Feb. 3 to 8 in Prudential Hall. Shows are at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 to 5, 8 p.m. Feb. 6 and 7, with matinees Feb. 5 at 1:30 p.m., Feb. 7 at 2 p.m., and Feb. 8 at 3 p.m. Tickets

are \$12 to \$54 Feb. 3 to 5, \$14 to \$64 Feb. 6 to 8.

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

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present "The Tale of the Allergist's Wife" by Charles Busch through Feb. 8. Shows are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. Ticket are \$30 to \$67.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays at 7 p.m. in the mezzanine, today through Feb. 5; audio-described performances, with sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain, Feb. 5 at 2 p.m., Feb. 7 at 2:30 p.m. and Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.; and a sign-interpreted performance Feb. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit the Web site at www.papermill.org.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night, and solo artists and bands on Saturdays. Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 tacos. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night

Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam, all pints are \$2

Every Wednesday: Hi-Fi Wednesdays with G.L.O. with DJs and musicians; Corona, Cuervo, Margaritas, \$2 all night

Every Thursday: Rolling Rock beer, \$2 all night

Today: Gravy Train, and Bad Excuses

Friday: B.B. and the Slingers, opens at 9:30 p.m.

Saturday: Funky Black Widows Jan. 29: TBA

Jan. 30: Dead v. Hendrix — New Rising Sun and Alligator

Jan. 31: Fat Cat

For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.xxroads.com

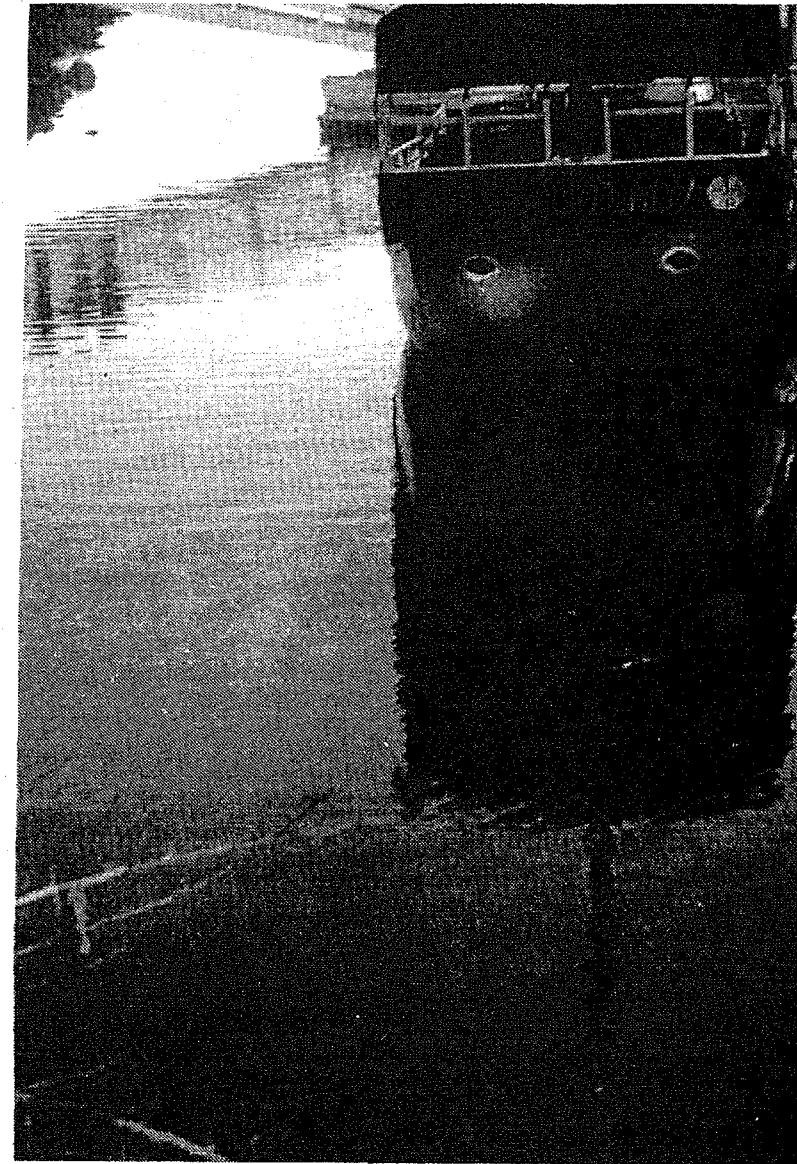
SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEE-HOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" forum of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are served. Admission is \$4. Talent is sought for future dates.

For information, call 908-928-0127 or send e-mail to info@secondsaturdays.org.

VAN GOGH'S EAR, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesday," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mic participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

Sunday: Howard Parker and His Hot Take-Out Band, 9 p.m.

For information, call 908-810-1844.



'DRAGON LADY — CALIFORNIA' is another work by Sheila Lenga that makes use of reflection to impart the photograph's power. Her works are on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery. See the 'Art Shows' listing.

Exhibit at Newark Museum ‘digs’ deep into the past in exploring ‘Microworlds’

A collection of dazzling photographic images resembling abstract works of art, exhibited with specimens from the Newark Museum’s renowned natural science collection, are on view in the Prudential Foundation Gallery of the museum’s Victoria Hall of Science through April 11.

The Victoria Hall of Science is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.

“Ancient Microworlds” is the second installation in the Prudential Foundation Gallery, which is dedicated to introducing visitors to the fascinating world of scientists and the research in which they are involved. The current exhibition showcases scientific photography by Dr. Giraud Foster and Dr. Norman Barker and includes 20 large-format images co-mingled with remarkable fossil specimens in five areas of study: Sea Creatures, Bacteria, Plants, Dinosaur Bone, and Shelled Marine Animals.

Typical of the highly magnified images is a photograph of a dinosaur bone from the Jurassic period unearthed in the Morrison Foundation in Colorado.

Resembling an abstract painting, what was once bone and tissue now presents as swirls of red and blue amidst gem-like deposits of quartz. Magnified and captured by the camera, the fossil-as-art appears to be the work of an abstract master.

Another specimen, from the early Jurassic period, discovered in Somerset, England, depicts complex sparkling inner facets of fossils in blue and gold appearing to fall into frame like a momentary stop in the magical formations of a kaleidoscope.

Foster is a physician and biochemist, as well as an archaeology/geological researcher. Recently retired, he is best known for developing image-making systems using radiant energy.

Barker, a biomedical-scientific photographer, is assistant professor of pathology and art as applied to medicine at the Johns Hopkins University Medical School. They collaborated in macrophotography for 12 years to publish the book “Ancient Microworlds” three years ago.

“The photographs in this collection,” Dr. Foster said, “expose the complex patterns of ancient life on Earth. The dynamic compositions of color, texture and pattern reveal the beautiful intricacy of these ancient microworlds.”

Drs. Foster and Barker captured the photographic records of past life using large-, medium- and 35mm-format cameras. Their high magnification photos, however, were created with Hasselblad 503 cw cameras mounted with 80mm or 120mm lenses.

“Ancient Microworlds” allows Foster and Barker to share their fascination with the fossil world and their passion for presenting their scientific research as an art form, as well as a philosophical statement. “All the images are harsh reminders of the precariousness of life and the uncertainty of man’s future,” Dr. Barker said.

Visitors to this new installation in the Newark Museum Victoria Hall of Science will marvel at how the talents and scholarships of scientists Foster and Barker have transformed remnants of millennia past into an art form for today.

Alliance is now offering theater discounts

New Jersey Theater Alliance, the consortium of the state’s professional theaters, has launched a discount ticketing Web site dedicated solely to New Jersey’s performing arts. With the nation’s first Web site of its kind, bargain-hunting arts patrons can now go online for an overview of performances across the state and to purchase “hot tickets,” deeply discounted tickets for same-day performances. Hot tickets are available 24 hours in advance of a performance and can only be purchased at www.njArtsTix.org.

Plays, dance performances, symphonies and classical concerts, jazz and pop performances, family events and more will be sold through the site. In addition to the professional theaters, many of the state’s presenting organizations and dance companies have joined with NJTA’s membership to give customers access to as many types of performing events as possible.

Searching for events in theater, musical theater, dance, classical

music, folk/pop/jazz, family events and free events is easy, and customers will have the ability to create their own accounts and receive e-mail alerts on a weekly basis. They will also find directions and information about parking and nearby restaurants for each venue.

Once a purchase is made, the customer will receive a confirmation by e-mail. This confirmation can then be printed out and the purchaser can take it to the theater box office to pick up their tickets. A 10-percent service charge will be added to the cost of the discounted ticket to help support the site.

“New Jersey is one of the richest performing arts states in the country, offering world-class theater, dance, music and legendary performers. The launch of njArtsTix.org is a win-win partnership between arts patrons and arts organizations. It provides a one-stop shopping address for discounted tickets and a great vehicle for theaters to attract new audiences while selling any remaining seats on performance days,” says Barbara Andrews, director of marketing at Princeton’s McCarter Theater. “This is an important new initiative that will help the arts to continue to flourish in our great state.”

Thanks to leadership grants from The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and Verizon, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and many other funders, NJTA was able to develop the site which promises to break down economic barriers to the performing arts. After interviewing several candidates, NJTA hired Plumb Design of New York City, an award-winning Web design firm, to develop the project.

“NJArtsTix.org is a great example of having technology work for us, instead of vice-versa. Everybody wins with this new service — the patrons, the individual theaters and other presenting organizations, the Theater Alliance, and New Jersey itself as a place to live,” said David Grant, executive director of the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.

The alliance is also offering a \$40 VIP membership that will give customers access to discounted tickets 48 hours in advance of a performance. This service will provide customers with extra time to make plans, and to have first chance at obtaining tickets that may be limited. Further information about VIP membership can be obtained on the Web site. Customers are encouraged to check in often, as events will change daily.

Customers can log on to www.njArtsTix.org and begin browsing for hot tickets as well as obtaining information about future performances across the Garden State. Customers can call 973-540-0515 with questions about the Web site, or send inquiries via e-mail to NJTA at info@njtheatrealiance.org.

“We are hoping njArtsTix.org will encourage people to try different performances and theaters they may not have ventured to before,” says John McEwen, executive director of the New Jersey Theater Alliance.

ARTS CLIPS

Hospital shows artists

Children’s Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States, will exhibit the work of the New Jersey Photography Forum and pencil artist Jerry Winick of Little Falls throughout the month of January.

Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights and Michael Creem of Summit started the New Jersey Photography Forum in 1995 as an opportunity for professional photographers, photo educators and serious amateurs to meet and discuss their work, share expertise, advance skills and explore exhibit possibilities. The forum just completed a one-month show at the Watchung Arts Center and this exhibit now moves to Children’s Hospital for two months. Approximately 50 photographs were selected from the membership of the forum by several noted judges.

Winick is an artist who uses a pencil as a painter uses a paintbrush. He has taken the art of pencil drawing to new heights. Winick’s style of photorealism is so unique that most people, when viewing his work for the first time find it difficult to imagine that these drawings are done with only a pencil.

The artist has been drawing most of his life and is a teacher of pencil drawing at Pencilworks Studio, which he owns. Winick has won more than 300 awards and his work may be found in numerous private collections and museums in the New York metropolitan area.

Monthly exhibits are sponsored by the Auxiliary at Children’s Specialized Hospital. All artwork is available for purchase with a portion of sales benefiting the Auxiliary.

All artwork is available for purchase with a portion of sales benefiting the Auxiliary. Admission is free and exhibits can be viewed from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. by entering through the hospital’s East Wing entrance, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

For information, call 908-233-3720, ext. 5379.

St. Michael’s in Union lists events for week of celebration

St. Michael School, located at 1212 Kelly St. in Union, will be holding an open house at the school from 10 to 11:30 a.m. following the 9 a.m. Mass at the church on Sunday.

St. Michael’s is a Catholic elementary school which offers classes for pre-K for 4-year-olds through eighth grade. The school is Middle States-accredited and offers curriculum based on the New Jersey state standards. In addition to academic classes, programs are offered in accelerated math for middle school students, technology, art, music, physical education and health, as well as Spanish for grades one to eight. Extra-curricular activities include sports, cheerleading, drama, forensics, and student council.

Before- and after-care programs are available for families with working parents.

During Catholic Schools Week, the students will be celebrating their success in a variety of ways. Various art projects will show the artistic talents of the children throughout the building. It is a taste of an art show that is scheduled for March. During the week, other activities include staff members trading places to try a new grade, and older students pairing with younger students to enjoy a treat and work on a project. Grandparents will be invited to an appreciation day with the Pre-K children and older-grade children will be able to invite their parents to come visit them by appointment to the classroom. At the Home School Association meeting the evening of Jan. 27, former principal Sister Margaret William O.P. will be honored for her 28 years of service to the school. Distinguished Alumni Awards will also be presented that evening to first-grade teacher Melissa Zola and youth minister Philip Matrale. The week will end with a visit from a player from the New Jersey Devils, a visit from a government official, and a volleyball game between the teachers and the eighth-grade.

New principal Adele K. Ellis, along with Assistant Principal Antoinette Telle, find the new environment of St. Michael School one that does not only encourage the child to grow intellectually but also to use all of his or her talents to become the best he or she can be. Ellis says, “The faculty and staff encourage students to shine in the best talent he or she has and to improve on others. Not only do our students succeed in the basics, we encourage talents in sports, music and citizenship.”

The school will be producing in May the musical “Oliver!,” cheerleaders will be entering dance competitions, and spring track will be introduced.

Open enrollment for students for the 2004-05 school year will be Feb. 4 for Pre-K students and Feb. 5 for kindergarten through grade eight. The hours will be 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. for both days. To find out more information, contact the school at 908-688-1063 or visit the Web site at www.myschoolonline.com/nj/StMichaelSchool.

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Healthy Living

Nicole's Yoga Center greets the new year with lineup of classes

The newly renovated 2,500-square-foot studio of Nicole's Yoga Center, located at 94 North Ave. in Garwood, started the Early Spring Session the week of Jan. 12.

Nicole Mode founded Nicole's Yoga Center in 1988, and is dedicated to maintaining the purity of the art of yoga; the studio teaches yoga exclusively. The center is open year round and offers 24 yoga classes per week, with daily morning, afternoon and evening programs designed for every level of ability, physical condition, age, etc. Mode's yoga is more than just a form of exercise; it is an holistic experience that benefits the body, mind and spirit. The center offers five different levels of classes where four types of yoga are practiced: Hatha yoga, the objective of which is to transform the human body to make it a worthy vehicle for self-realization; Asthanga yoga consists of different practices — breath control, posture, concentration, meditation, moral observance, and self-discipline; Kriya yoga is the union between the male and female creative principles; Kundalini yoga is the final realization of the self.

Mode's method of studying yoga is orderly and progressive: step by step instructions, proper posture performance, breathing, meditation, and visualization techniques are used during each class. The center offers classes for back activities, breathing, weight reduction, Yoga for Children, Yoga for Seniors, and teacher-training programs.

The Restorative Yoga class consists of exercises done on the floor or chair

for people with disabilities. A series of movements are performed with great attention and without pain. This class will utilize Asanas — posture — to develop balance, limberness, and strength. Benefits are proper alignment, increasing circulation and flexibility, and a reduction of stiffness in the hand, wrist, knee and ankle joints. Special props are utilized to stabilize the spine and open the body to meet the outlines of Asanas. That class is recommended for people with limited possibilities and stiffness in joints, post-surgery and cancer patients, and pregnant women.

The Yoga Back class is experienced in a sitting or lying down position. This class is well suited to people with respiratory problems, asthma, back problems, cardio-vascular difficulties, etc. The student will learn to use core techniques while breathing awareness is recognized within each posture. Benefits include restoring balance, hip-joint opening, expansion of the thoracic cage, strengthening stomach and back muscles, reducing cardio-vascular stress and normalizing muscle tone.

The Yoga for Children class, for 6- to 10-year-olds, is designed to be adapted to any level of ability of the children. They will practice basic posture, breathing technique, and philosophy that explores subjects such as taking care of their bodies, developing their attention spans, and recognizing their unique-

Stress symptoms are reduced and the nervous system is refreshed and enlivened. Meditation is the process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances.

ness. Yoga is a gentle, non-competitive form of exercise that promotes flexibility, strength and coordination.

All of Mode's yoga classes end with meditation and visualization. The secret of a successful meditative experience is to relax and to allow constructive adjustments of mental states. Stress symptoms are reduced and the nervous system is refreshed and enlivened. Meditation is the process of removing attention from conditions and circumstances. Mode is the choreographer of all classes. She creates each meditation and visualization, which is always offered at the end of each class.

For information, call 908-789-6426 or visit the Web site at www.nicolesyogacenter.com.

Senior Care offers options for the elderly

Senior Care Activities Center offers caregivers of elderly individuals a structured, entertaining and safe environment with interesting social activities and companionship.

The center has three bright activity rooms and a caring staff, including two registered nurses and a social worker. There is a daily schedule of activities including creative crafts, exercising, table games, sing-alongs, outings, music,

parties for special occasions, reminiscing and, of course, bingo. Special activities are offered for individuals with dementia. Hot mid-day meals and nutritious snacks are served and door-to-door transportation is provided at no extra charge.

Senior Care also assists caregivers by providing a complimentary caregivers support group the first Monday of the month from 7 to 9 p.m. at the center. The next meeting is Feb. 2, and all caregivers are invited to attend.

If you are caring for someone who should not be left alone during the day; feels lonely, isolated, depressed; or has moderate memory loss, why not enroll them in Senior Care and Activities Center? Not only will they have companionship and care throughout the day, but you, the caregiver, will be giving yourself the gift of peace of mind knowing your loved one is in a safe and stimulating environment while

you work or take a much needed break from the stress of caregiving.

Located in Montclair at 46 Park St., Senior Care recently celebrated its 25th year of offering complete adult day care services for residents of Essex and Passaic counties.

For more information or to arrange a tour of the center, call Fran Moravic at Senior Care at 973-783-5589.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

Support groups lined up at Kessler Institute

Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation, one of the nation's leading providers of physical medicine and rehabilitation services, hosts monthly support groups that encourage current and former patients, family members and caregivers to share their insight with others.

The support groups held at Kessler include ALS, amputee, brain injury, caregiver and spinal cord and stroke. These support groups are hosted by members of the clinical staff, whose experience and expertise have earned Kessler a reputation of success among patients.

Kessler's innovative treatment programs, combined with its focus on individualized patient care, have led Kessler to be consistently named among the country's best rehabilitation centers. In fact, Kessler Institute was again named the top rehabilitation hospital in the East by U.S. News & World Report. And Kessler holds accreditation from the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations and is a Federally-designated model system for the treat-

ment and research of spinal cord injuries.

Kessler continues to provide a continuum of care to its patients, by offering support group services for its program. For more information on the Support Group Services offered by Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation or any of Kessler's other rehabilitation services, call 888-KESSLER, ext. 6809.

Support groups

Kessler promotes patient education by sponsoring a wide range of support groups that encourage current and former patients, family members and caregivers to share their insight with others. These groups provide a support network for all participants and offer a variety of educational resources.

- Alcoholics Anonymous
- West Orange: Every Friday and

Sunday, 7:30 to 9 p.m.; contact Bonnie Evans, Administration, 973-243-6830.

- Amputee Support Group
- Saddle Brook: Every Tuesday, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.; contact Dr. Gerald Donahue, Psychology Department, 973-368-6037.
- Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis — ALS — Support Group
- Saddle Brook: Third Wednesday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- West Orange: First Thursday of the month, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Contact: Kayvan Freeman R.N., ALS coordinator, 973-243-6850.
- Brain Injury Support Group
- East Orange: Last Tuesday of the month, 6:30 to 8 p.m.; contact Betty Collins R.N., Neuropsychology Department, 973-414-4743.
- Chester: First Wednesday of the month, 6 to 7 p.m.; contact Delores

Henseler, Brain Injury Coordinator, 973-252-6402.

- Life After Stroke Support Group
- Chester: First and third Tuesday of the month, 4 to 4:45 p.m.; contact Dr. Jeffrey Kronstadt, Psychology Department, 973-252-6316.
- Moving Forward
- East Orange: Last Wednesday of the month, 6 to 7 p.m.; contact Julie Anderson, Therapeutic Recreation Department, 973-414-4725.
- Overeaters Anonymous
- Saddle Brook: Every Tuesday, 7:45 to 9 p.m.; every Wednesday, 8 to 10 p.m.; contact: Bonnie Canestrino, 201-845-8254.
- Self-Help Amputee Group — SHAG
- West Orange: First Saturday of the month, 10 to noon; contact Ann Silvestrini, 973-759-4142.
- Spinal Cord Injury Family Support Group
- West Orange: Every other Tuesday, 7 to 8 p.m.; contact Diane J. Grzymko, SCI/Resource Group coordinator, 973-731-3900, ext. 2774

Hospice of N.J. offers care with compassion

Hospice of New Jersey, based in Bloomfield and Toms River, provides compassionate and specialized care for the terminally ill.

The hospice concept begins when comfort, not cure, is the main concern. This is available to terminally ill patients who are no longer under treatment for cure of their disease and are in the final stages of their lives.

Hospice of New Jersey believes death is a natural process of life which should be accompanied by dignity and meaning. To accomplish this purpose, the staff provides a supportive and understanding network of caring people to aid patients, regardless of age, and their families making that journey.

Hospice focuses on quality of life when length of life cannot be extended. The primary goal of Hospice of New Jersey is to provide the patient and family with supportive and loving care while allowing the patient to remain at home.

Registered nurses, medical social workers, clergy and volunteers are available. Bereavement services for adults and children are provided for as long as 12 months following the loss of a loved one.

Hospice of New Jersey accepts Medicare, Medicaid and private insurance. For those without insurance coverage, services may be provided through community funds.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any terminal illness, write to Hospice of New Jersey at 400 Broadacres Drive, Bloomfield, 07003, or call 973-893-0818. You may also contact Hospice of New Jersey South, 77 Route 37 West, Toms River, 08753, or call 732-818-3460.

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Leisure Lifestyles **The Cook's Nook**

Super Bowl is super time to score with party foods and recipes

Football fans wait all season for Super Bowl Sunday.

On Feb. 1, Americans everywhere will huddle up to their televisions to watch the battle for the championship ring.

But, the Super Bowl is much more than a game — it's an excuse to hang out with friends and eat party food. Most likely, that food will include cheese, as about 85 percent of Americans say they always or often use cheese when entertaining, according to a www.supermarketguru.com survey in November 2002.

Luana Impellizzeri of Jamesville, N.Y. is a professional food stylist and avid entertainer. She says the best advice she can offer is to keep the food simple. "Nothing that requires elaborate last-minute preparation. Have a combination of hot and cold dishes. Offer a couple of different dips, accompanied by veggies as well as chips. Of course serve lot of 'guy food' like nachos and cheese — try a combination of cheeses, like Jalapeno, Jack and Cheddar and pizza."

This year, why not make a big play of your own, with recipes from the American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc.? That way, whatever happens on the screen, you'll win the entertaining championship!

All recipes come from www.ilovecheese.com, the online source for all things cheese, courtesy of the American Dairy Association. Visit them online to purchase a variety of American-made cheeses, discover the latest cheese trends, and find recipes made with award-winning cheeses from classic family dishes to innovative recipes from renowned chefs.

Touchdown Calzones

Yield: 8 servings

For dough:
1 16-ounce package hot roll mix *
1-1/4 cups hot water
2 teaspoons olive oil

For filling:
1-1/4 pounds spicy Italian sausage
3/4 cup pizza sauce

4 cups (16 ounces) shredded Italian cheese blend

For garlic butter:
2 teaspoons butter
1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese

For filling, remove sausage from casing. Saute sausage in large skillet, breaking up with fork, until sausage is cooked and browned, 5 to 8 minutes. Drain well and set aside. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F. Make hot roll mix according to package direction for pizza, replacing egg and butter with hot water and olive oil. Let dough stand 5 minutes. Divide dough into 8 pieces. Roll each piece into an oval about 5 by 7 inches. Place 1/4 cup of Italian cheese blend in center of each oval. Top with 1/3 cup cooked sausage. Spoon 1 tablespoon pizza sauce over sausage. Sprinkle with another 1/4 cup cheese. Bring up edges of dough and seal securely. Transfer calzone to lightly greased baking sheet, placing seam side up to form a "football" shape. Repeat with remaining dough and filling. Set calzones in a warm place to rise, covered with a towel, 25 minutes. Bake until lightly browned, about 20 minutes. In a small skillet, heat butter and garlic over low heat until butter is melted and garlic is tender, about 3 minutes. Remove calzones from oven when lightly browned. Brush hot calzones with garlic butter and sprinkle each with 1/2 tablespoon Parmesan cheese. Return to oven until cheese melts, about 2 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

To make "football laces" on calzones, cut thinly sliced mozzarella into thin strips. Arrange on calzones after brushing on garlic butter and sprinkling with Parmesan cheese.

* Note: Prepared pizza dough, available in most supermarkets, may be used instead of hot roll mix.

Calzones can be baked and refrigerated up to two days in advance.

Reheat at 350 degrees F. until hot, about 20 minutes.

Championship Cheesy Wontons With Sweet and Sour Dip

Yield: 12 servings, with 2 table-
spoons dipping sauce per serving

12 ounces Jalapeno Jack Cheese
cut into 3/4-inch cubes
24 square wonton wrappers
3 to 4 cups vegetable oil
1 package (8 ounces) cream
cheese, softened

1/3 cup bottled sweet-sour sauce
Place one cube of cheese in middle of wonton wrapper. Fold in half to form a triangle, sealing edges with water. Fold remaining two edges together and seal. Repeat with remain-

ing cheese and wrappers. Heat oil in deep skillet to 375 degrees F. Fry wontons six to eight at a time until golden brown, about 4 minutes. Drain on paper towel.

For dip, combine cream cheese and sweet-and-sour sauce in small bowl until smooth. Serve wontons with sauce for dipping.

Forward Pass Pizza Fondue

Yield: 16 servings

8 ounces (about 1/2 pound) lean
ground beef or Italian sausage *
2 cloves garlic, minced
2 1/2 cups pizza sauce
1/2 teaspoon dried basil
2 teaspoons dried oregano



Touchdown Calzones can be made ahead and reheated, perfect for an easy Super Bowl party snack.

'Offer a couple of different dips, accompanied by veggies as well as chips. Of course serve lot of "guy food" like nachos and cheese.'

— Luana Impellizzeri, food stylist

1/2 cup (about 2 ounces) grated
Parmesan cheese
1 cup (about 4 ounces) shredded
mozzarella cheese

For dipping:
Breadsticks and cubes of crusty
French or Italian bread

Cook beef and garlic in large
saucepan over medium heat until no
longer pink. Drain off fat. Stir in pizza
sauce and spices. Cook over medium
heat until hot, but not boiling. Com-
bine cheese and stir into meat mixture
until melted. Transfer into large serv-
ing dish and serve immediately with
bread.

* Note: Can also be prepared with-
out meat for a vegetarian dish.

Quarterback Queso Fundido

Yield: 8 servings

2 green onion and tops, sliced
4 large cloves garlic, minced
2 tablespoons (1/4 stick) butter
16 ounces Jalapeno Jack cheese,
cut into 1/2-inch cubes
2 to 4 tablespoons milk
8 ounces chorizo (spicy sausage),
casing removed, cooked until
brown, drained, crumbled
2 tablespoons chopped tomato
2 tablespoons finely chopped
cilantro
16 flour tortillas, warm (for wraps)
chopped or sliced fresh vegetable
and tortilla chips (optional)

Saute onion and garlic in butter in
medium saucepan until tender, 2 to 3
minutes. Add cheese; cook, covered,
over medium to medium-low heat
until cheese is melted, 8 to 10 minutes,
stirring frequently. Stir in milk if mix-
ture is too thick. Spoon cheese into
bowl or small chafing dish; sprinkle
with chorizo, tomato, and cilantro.

Spoon about 2 tablespoons mixture on
each tortilla and roll up.

Tips: If desired, cheese mixture can
be served as a dip with tortilla chips
or cut vegetables; it may be necessary
to add more milk if mixture is too thick
for dipping. Browned ground beef,
seasoned to taste with taco seasoning,
can be substituted for the chorizo.

Running Back Blue Cheese Bites

Yield: 6 servings

For filling:
1/2 cup (4 ounces) butter, softened
2 cups (8 ounces) crumbled blue or
Gorgonzola cheese
1/4 cup cooked bacon, crumbled
6 slices pumpernickel or dark rye
bread
6 slices Swiss cheese
6 slices deli roast beef
6 thin slices red onion
6 dill pickle spears

In a small bowl, beat butter and
blue cheese until smooth; mix in
bacon. Spread about 1/4 cup mixture
on each slice of bread and top with a

* Note: Sandwiches can be pre-
pared to this point and refrigerated
three hours before serving.

slice of Swiss cheese *. Place on bak-
ing sheet and broil, 4 inches from heat
source, until cheese is melted, about 1
minute. Top each with roast beef,
onion and pickle and serve open-
faced.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news:
Church, club and social - Thursday
noon.

Entertainment - Friday noon.
Sports - Monday noon.

CAREER & EDUCATION

Felician now offers communications degree program

Felician College has announced the establishment of a baccalaureate degree program in communications to be offered beginning in January 2004.

Formerly a concentration within the English Department, the new communications major was established in response to growth in enrollment and interest in communications arts among students.

Within the major, students will have the opportunity to select a track in journalism or narrative videomaking. "The Department of Communications introduces students to the world of communications in the 21st century with courses that use state-of-the-art digital video technology to produce original work in both long-form journalism and narrative videomaking," says Terry McAteer, chairperson of the Department of Communications.

The journalism track features courses in print journalism, mass media, public speaking, the history of documentary filmmaking, and digital videomaking. Future courses will include broadcast journalism, investigative reporting, and journalistic standards and practices. Also planned are a student newspaper and a student radio station. The narrative videomaking track provides courses in the history of narrative filmmaking screenwriting, film analysis, and digital video-making.

"Felician's Communications program is distinctive because of its dual focus on digital broadcasting and long form and investigative journalism," says Gerard O'Sullivan, chairperson of Arts and Sciences at Felician. Both tracks provide and encourage the opportunity for students to do on- or off-campus internships. "Felician students have earned internship placements and full-time positions with prestigious broadcasting companies thanks, in part," says O'Sullivan, to the College's "cutting-edge equipment and the excellent education they receive under Professor McAteer who is an accomplished screenwriter and filmmaker."

Students will have the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned through the development of a presentation, prior to graduation, of a work of digital video journalism or fiction, a work of investigative print journalism, or a presentation or original scholarly research.

Felician College is a coeducational, liberal arts, Catholic college, that enrolls 1,700 students in undergraduate and graduate degree programs in the Arts and Sciences, Business and Management Sciences, Teacher Education, and Health Sciences. A Division II member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Felician College competes in baseball, softball, soccer, basketball, women's volleyball, cross country, track and field, and cheerleading. Founded in 1942 by the Felician Sisters in the Franciscan tradition, Felician College is located on two campuses, in Lodi and Rutherford.

For more information about the Communications program or for enrollment information, call 201-559-6131.

New submission info for A&E

Effective immediately, all arts and entertainment information for Union and Essex counties should be sent to A&E Editor Bill VanSant at:
Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, 07040.

Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557; phone inquiries may be directed to 973-763-0700.

Submissions may be sent via e-mail to editorial@thelocalsource.com; the subject line should read either "B. VanSant" or "A&E."

Bill VanSant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

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Tuesday, January 27, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

Cranford Lower School:
Wednesday, January 28, 2004, 9:30 a.m.

- Learn about our outstanding dual curriculum
- Meet our faculty and staff
- Tour the campus

For more information, and to make a reservation,
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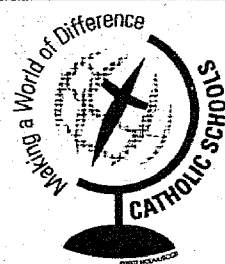
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- Spring "Late Start" classes begin February 9
- Register until February 11 for "Late Start" classes

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Catholic Schools Week

January 25 -
January 31, 2004

Anticipation, celebration mark Catholic Schools Week statewide

"The envelope, please!"

These days, this mantra echoes in the halls of many elementary schools and the hearts of many students in central and northern New Jersey. On Jan. 16, Catholic secondary schools from Middlesex to Sussex informed close to 8,050 eighth-graders of ninth-grade admissions decisions. These students sought entrance into a Catholic secondary school for September 2004.

The Catholic secondary school admissions process begins in earnest in April of the seventh-grader's life with Catholic High School Information Nights and Fairs focusing both student and family attention on gathering data for a decision that many say affects one's future. From September to November each secondary school will sponsor open-house programs in order to explain programs and assist the applicant and family in determining whether a school is the best match for one's interests, talents and needs. Each year in early November, students throughout the metropolitan area, including

those residing in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Brooklyn, join Garden State eighth-graders in sitting for a common admissions examination that serves as the gate-keeper for entrance into the Catholic secondary schools. The Cooperative Admissions Examination Program — COOP — serves nearly 105 Catholic secondary schools and nearly 27,000 students. Through this program, students apply for admission to as many as three Catholic secondary schools in any of the five dioceses served by the program. The examination measures both student aptitude and achievement. Reading, language arts and mathematics are the focus of the achievement component. Scoring takes place at CTB/McGraw-Hill headquarters in Monterey, Calif. Detailed scoring reports are sent to the Catholic secondary schools and Home Reports are forwarded to the family of each applicant.

The period from mid-December to mid-January sees

admissions officials, in collaboration with school administrators, decide which students will gain admission to the 105 Catholic secondary schools. Brother Ralph Darnento, deputy superintendent of schools, indicates that admissions decisions are based on fundamental criteria, "successful achievement and effort as indicated by the official transcript of sixth-, seventh- and eighth-grade marks with accompanying standardized testing results; satisfactory performance on the COOP examination; record of satisfactory attendance and conduct; and the recommendation of the elementary school principal and/or teacher." An individual school might also indicate the completion of an essay and/or interview as part of the application process. Of course, the successful completion of eighth grade is the final hurdle before entrance into the Catholic secondary school of choice in September 2004.

On Feb. 7, each of the Catholic secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Newark will conduct registration for

prospective ninth-graders. On that day, students and families will be welcomed to the school, given pertinent information about scheduling classes, placement examinations, uniforms and/or dress code regulations, financial assistance and tuition schedule. Last year, 4,386 students secured their places as members of the Class of 2007. The Catholic secondary schools of the Archdiocese of Newark opened their doors in September 2003 with 4,657 students. Clearly, interest in a Catholic secondary school continues to grow; enrollment in these schools locally and nationwide is on the increase.

Hopefully, as excited students count down these January days, the envelopes will arrive with the good news of at least one offer of acceptance. Student anxiety will lessen, families will boast with pride of the accomplishments of their children, and the focus is placed back on the daily task of engaging in "education for the future, faith for a lifetime."

St. John the Apostle prepares week of events focused on fun, faith

The parish community of St. John the Apostle Church in Clark/Linden will present its parish school during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 25 to 30, with open houses and registration sessions.

St. John the Apostle School is a Middle States-accredited school, which serves the Union and Middlesex county communities. Immersed in Catholic values and tradition, St. John the Apostle School offers a strong academic program. St. John the Apostle School endeavors to fulfill the spiritual, moral and social needs of students and their families. Every student is treated as an individual and encouraged to reach his or her potential. Students have access to the latest technology in both the laboratory and Inter-

net-enabled classrooms. A challenging academic program emphasizing age-appropriate educational experiences is taught by certified teachers. Students participate in a foundational educational program, which includes a reading curriculum that combines the benefits of whole language with a strong phonics background. St. John the Apostle School has specialized teachers in music, art, world language, physical education, health, and technology. The world language program begins in kindergarten and continues through eighth grade. To further the development of its students, St. John the Apostle School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities.

St. John the Apostle School has full-day kindergarten along with an

outstanding preschool program. The Pre-K program offers 3- and 4-year-olds a variety of educational experiences which foster a lifelong love of learning. St. John the Apostle School also recognizes the unique development needs of its older students and has a progressive middle school program for its sixth-, seventh-, and eighth-graders, including a new laptop computer program. St. John the Apostle's graduates are consistently awarded numerous academic high school scholarships. The school provides before-care and after-care programs. Bus transportation or reimbursement is available for those who qualify.

Some of the special activities for Catholic Schools Week are:
Sunday

9 a.m.: Catholic Schools Week Mass

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Open house and registration for new students in Pre-K to grade seven

Monday
9 to 10 a.m.: "Women in History" assembly for Pre-K to grade three

10 to 11 a.m.: "Women in History" assembly for grades four to eight

1 to 1:45 p.m.: Forensics introduction

Tuesday
1 to 2 p.m.: Spelling Bee for grades two to five in the gym

Wednesday
9:30 to 11 a.m.: Mother Goose Nursery Rhymes for kindergarten

Information regarding open house and registration times can be found by visiting www.sjanj.org/school or by calling 732-388-1360.

St. Joseph prepares for Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week at St. Joseph the Carpenter School in Roselle will begin with a 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Following the Mass, the Adult Guild and school community will host an Open House and hospitality for new parents as well as all current students and parents. The day's activities will continue with the following:

- Registration for new students for the 2004-05 school year from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Book Fair from 12:30 to 4 p.m.
- Family Fun Day, including a laser-light show, from 1 to 4 p.m.

As the week unfolds, events will focus on academic progress, study skills, faculty and student recognition, prayer, and fun-filled activities.

"Drop Everything And Read," or DEAR, a reading happening, is planned for Monday. Upper-grade students will select stories to share with their prayer partners while some lower-grade children may delight their partners with stories of their own.

"Academic Day" on Tuesday will be the highlight of the week with many special events taking place from early morning to evening. Parents and

guardians are invited to share classroom experiences by attending Open House from 9 to 11:45 a.m. During the afternoon session, students will demonstrate trivia knowledge by participating in a school-wide game of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." Summing up Academic Day will be the Adult Guild meeting scheduled for 7 p.m. This will feature a musical presentation by the school choir. Robert Lento, a noted educational consultant, also will speak on "The Parents' Role in Homework and Study Skills."

See STAFF, Page B11

CELEBRATING CATHOLIC SCHOOL, JAN. 25 - JAN. 30, 2004

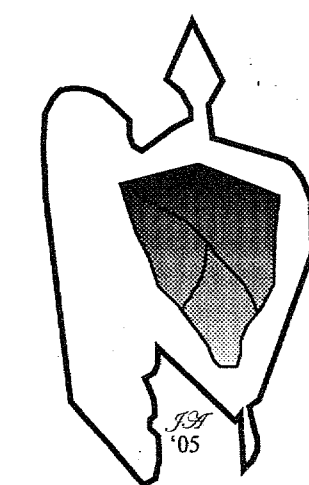


A Catholic Education goes beyond academics, to include both the spiritual and intellectual development of every student. Catholic schools provide the right environment for your child's natural love for learning. The schools develop life-long perspectives that will prepare students to live their dreams and fulfill their potential.

HOLY SPIRIT SCHOOL
970 SUBURBAN RD., UNION
908-687-8415
www.holyspiritunion.org

Registration: February 11 & 12, 2004
Time: 9:00 - 11:00AM; 1:00 - 2:00PM
Full day Kindergarten
PreKindergarten - 8:45 - 11:45AM
Spanish - gr. 6,7,8
Before/After Care Programs

REGISTRATION:
PreKindergarten-child must be four years old by Sept. 30, 2004
Kindergarten-child must be five years old by Sept. 30, 2004



St. Michael School
1212 Kelly Street
Union
908-688-1063
Fax 908-687-7927



Visit the School on
Sunday, January 25, 2004
from 10 am to 11:30 am
For directions please visit our website

<http://myschoolonline.com/nj/StMichaelSchool>

- *Full Day 4 Year Old Pre-K
- *Full Day Kindergarten
- *Before and Aftercare
- *Sports, Drama, Forensics
- *Field Trips
- *Interdisciplinary curriculum
- *Middle States Accredited
- *Certified Teachers

Registration for 2004-2005 school year
Pre-Kindergarten (must be 4 years old by September 30th)
Wednesday, February 4, 2004
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.
Kindergarten (must be 5 years old by September 30th)
through eighth grade registration
Thursday, February 5, 2004
9 a.m. - 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

DISCOVER ST. AGNES SCHOOL (PreK-8)

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- Computer Tech Classes
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(ATTENTION: Parents of Prospective Students!)

OPEN HOUSE!

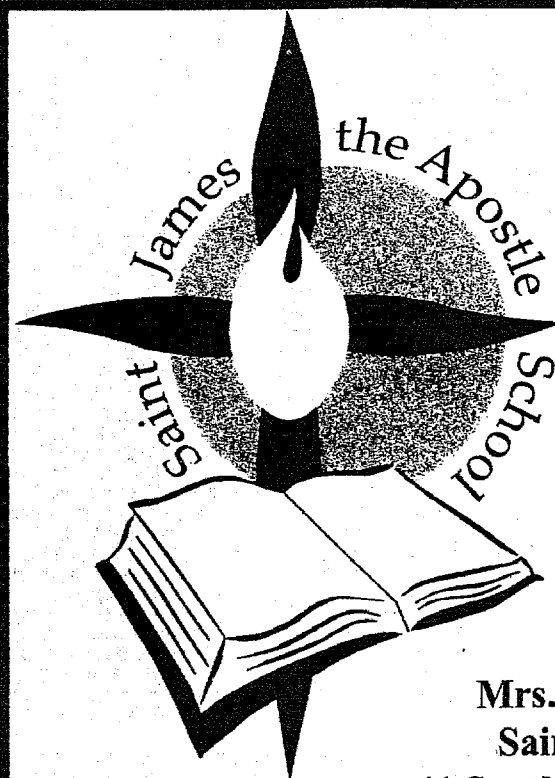
Tuesday, January 27 (9:30 am - 11:00 am)

REGISTRATION (New Students)

Thurs., January 29 (9:00 am-11:00 am) & (1:00 pm -2:00 pm)
Fri., January 30 (9:00 am-11:00 am)

Interested? Call us at (732) 381-0850
for more information.
Visit us at www.stagnesschool.com

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"Celebrating Our Past, Present and Future"
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OPEN HOUSE

JANUARY 25, 2004

1:00-3:00PM

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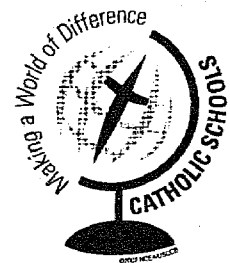
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OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, January 27, 2004 • 7:30 - 9:00pm

Registration: Class of 2008 • Saturday, February 7, 2004 • 9:00am



Catholic Schools Week

January 25 -
January 31, 2004

Staff will be recognized

(Continued from Page B10) Throughout the week, students, faculty and staff will be recognized for academic progress and dedicated service. The faculty and staff will be feted with both a special breakfast on Wednesday, hosted by the Adult Guild, and a luncheon on Friday, given by the administration. Thursday, "Green and Gold Day," will end with rousing cheers at the Student Spirit Rally.

Jan. 30 will conclude Catholic Schools Week with a school-wide prayer service accenting the theme, "Catholic Schools: A Faith-Filled Future."

For information on registering your child for the 2004-05 school year, call 908-245-6560.

St. Theresa School

705 Clinton Street
Linden

Will be hosting an
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, February 7, 2004
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



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OPEN HOUSE

for PreK 4 - 8th grade

January 27 • 9:00am to 11:00am

- Early Childhood Program for 4 year olds (1/2 and Full Day Sessions)
- Full Day Kindergarten • Before & After Care Program
- Foreign Language Program
- Science and Computer Lab
- Sports Program • Hot Lunch Program

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St. Joseph the Carpenter School

140 E. 3rd Avenue • Roselle

OPEN HOUSE

Sun., Jan. 25
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Tues., Jan. 27
Grades Pre-K-8
9:00 am-11:45 am

REGISTRATION

(New Students)
Sun., Jan. 25
11:30 am-1:00 pm
Mon.-Thurs.-Jan. 26-29
8:30 am-3:30 pm
Fri., 8:30 am-12:00 Noon

- Catholic/Christian Environment
- Kindergarten - Grade 8
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- Before & After Care Program
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For additional information call 908-245-6560
Mrs. Patricia Graham, Principal

St. John the Apostle School



Valley Road - Clark/Linden, NJ
www.sjanj.org/school



Middle States Accredited

OPEN HOUSE (New Parents)

Sun., Jan 25
PreK-7 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tues., Jan. 27
K-7 9:00 am - 10:00 am

St. John the Apostle School is
"A Faith-Filled School"

REGISTRATION (New Parents)

Sun., Jan. 25 PreK 3 yr. thru 7th
10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tues., Jan. 27 PreK 3 yr. thru 7th
9:00 am - 10:30 am
Thurs., Jan. 29 PreK 3 yr. thru 7th
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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Cranford, New Jersey, USA

Come visit and discover
St. Michael School
at their annual Catholic Schools Week

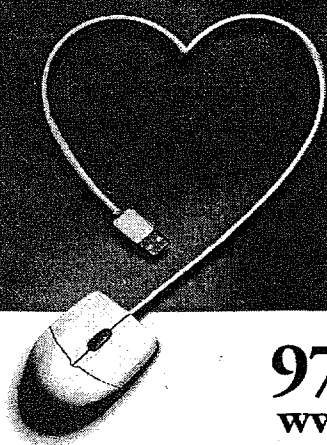
OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 25
10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon
100 Alden Street, Cranford

St. Michael School offers daily religious education, academic excellence, faculty dedication and expertise, parental involvement, personal attention, discipline, accountability and attractive class sizes. All of this and much more contributes to a learning environment where children thrive, families are strengthened and the community benefits.

St. Michael School is Middle States Accredited

For more information, call the school at 908-276-9425
or visit the school website at www.stmichaelscranford.com



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**Come celebrate
Catholic Schools Week
in your community**

January 25 - 31, 2004

High School Registration
Saturday
February 7, 2004

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UCC unveils Johnson exhibit this Friday in The Commons on Cranford campus

The Tomasulo Art Gallery on the Cranford campus of Union County College will debut a new art show Friday. Due to extensive renovations being made to the Mack-ay Library, the next several shows will move from the gallery space to various venues on the Cranford campus. From Friday through March 22, "Paintings by Matt Johnson" will be on display in The Commons, located in the Campus Center on the Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave.

This exhibition consists of large-scale paintings of urban scenes of New Jersey.

The display in The Commons will consist of eight to 10 paintings ranging in size from 6 by 14 feet, 10 by 12 feet, and 5 by 8 feet. The paintings will be large oils on stretched canvas or on hanging tarpaulins. The theme will be of landscapes, predominantly of urban scenes such as bridges, util-

'I have chosen to deal with those elements of that urban/industrial environment, which have surrounded me for many years ...'
— Matt Johnson, artist

ity poles, signage, and storefronts. Johnson is a painter as well as a sculptor. He has found it important in his art to engage himself with works larger than himself that allow for physical interaction that then become athletically challenging. He explains that "this whirlwind of activity manifests itself in the art piece as intensity and aggressiveness which agrees with the nature of the imagery that attracts me. I have chosen to deal with

those elements of that urban/industrial environment, which have surrounded me for many years, which impose themselves with both brutality and grace. In all, documentation, historical correctness, and general commentary are secondary — even incidental — to my need to be immersed in process and activity. The charity of my solitary labors gives life to the work and in the end I experience, essentially spent, momentary satisfaction."

As a sculptor, Johnson created "Dauntless Efforts," a steel sculpture that shows an ironworker amidst the rubble of the World Trade Center. On Sept. 11, 2002, Mack-Cali Corp. dedicated the sculpture at its Harborside Financial Center in Jersey City to honor the efforts of the rescue and recovery workers after the attack on the World Trade Center. Actual wreckage from the World Trade Center was used as the ruins in the sculpture.

Johnson received his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston and his master's of fine arts from Pratt Institute. He is currently an adjunct professor at Pace University and teaches sculpture, drawing, and painting. In 2003, he had an exhibition at the American Museum of Visionary Art in Baltimore, Md.; an annual outdoor sculpture exhibit at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and participated in exhibits at 111 First Street and the Jersey City Museum in Jersey City.

The exhibit will debut Friday, with an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibit is located in The Commons on the campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information, call 908-709-7155.

National Eye Care Month

Caring For Children's Eyes Begins At Early Age
Common Questions Parents Ask Most

Most parents often have questions about the best way to take care of their baby's eyes. Eye care should start before age six. The following questions are those most asked by parents:

Question: My baby's eyes are blue. Will his eyes stay that color or change?
The color of eyes is dependent on the amount of melanin pigment in the iris. As an infant begins to develop and acquire more melanin, the blue eyes may change to a darker color. Eye color is also dictated by hereditary factors.

Question: My baby is six months old. How far can she see?
She can see everything in her visual environment, but not with perfect 20/20 vision. Visual acuity develops over the primary years for a child and will usually reach 20/20 by age 5.

Question: At what age should my child have his first eye exam?
No child is too young for an eye exam. Children should be checked by age 4, just before they start preschool.

Question: Can children have an eye exam if they don't know their letters?
Yes. There are different kinds of eye charts especially designed for children. The charts use shapes children know, like squares and circles.

Question: I have heard of 'lazy eye'. What is it?
The so-called 'lazy eye' is called amblyopia. It is the result of the lack of development of the visual pathway for one eye. Children with amblyopia wear a patch on the good eye to strengthen the vision in the lazy eye, thus preventing poor vision in that eye.

Question: What causes amblyopia?
I could be that one eye either turns in or out, one eye is either very nearsighted or farsighted, or something obstructs the light getting to the back of the eye.

How Your Eye Works

1. Light reflects off an object and enters the visual system through the front of your eye called the cornea.
2. After the light passes through the cornea, it passes through the front chamber of the eye.
3. After the light passes through the front chamber, it passes through the pupil.
4. The iris, the colored part of your eye, regulates the amount of light that passes through your pupil.
5. The light then passes through the lens into the interior chamber of the eye.
6. There, the image passes through the jelly-like fluid called the Vitreous Humor.
7. After passing through the Vitreous Humor, the image reaches the Retina, home of the rods and cones that process the image into a format the brain can interpret. This is where the image flips upside down.
8. The retina sends the image to your Optic Nerve and the Optic Nerve finally sends the information to your brain.
9. Your brain converts the information from your Optic Nerve into the picture of the object you see.



Anatomy of the Eye

The **Cornea** is the transparent outer covering on the front surface of the eye. The cornea is responsible for bending or refracting the rays of light that reflect off an object.

The **Pupil** is the round hole that connects the front chamber of the eye to the interior chamber of the eye.

The **Iris**, or colored portion of the eye, surrounds the pupil and opens and closes to regulate the amount of light that enters the interior chamber of your eye (making the pupil bigger or smaller).

The **Lens** inside your eye is the focusing mechanism of your visual system. It changes shape to bend light rays, allowing the light to focus on the retina.

The **Vitreous Humor** is the jelly-like substance inside your eye and helps to maintain the shape and pressure of your eye.

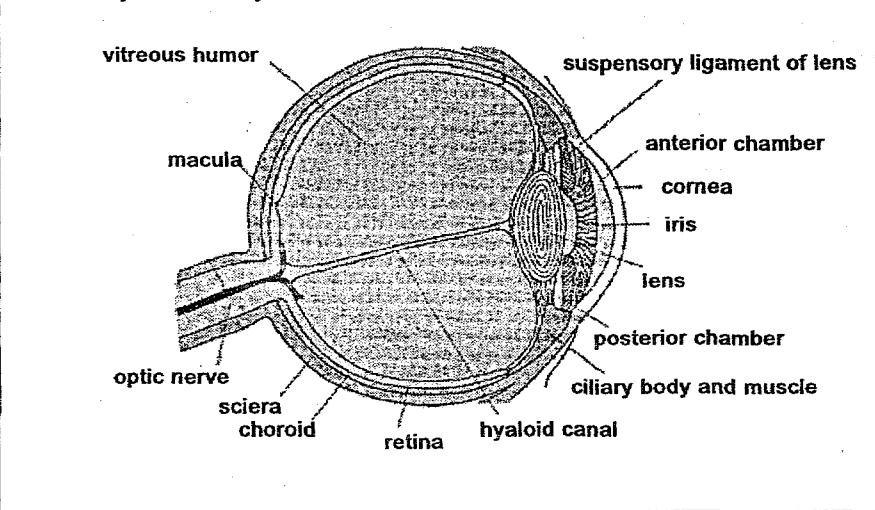
The **Retina** is a thin layer of tissue at the back of the eye that contains the millions of rods and cones. These rods and cones convert the light into electrical impulses for the brain to interpret.

Cones are concentrated in the center of the retina, in an area called the macula. Cones, in bright light conditions, provide clear, sharp central vision and detect colors and fine details.

Rods are located outside the macula and extend all the way to the outer edge of the retina. They provide peripheral or side vision allowing the eyes to detect motion and help us see in dim light and at night.

The **Optic Nerve** sends the converted electrical impulses to the brain.

Anatomy of the Eye



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463 Valley Street, Maplewood
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

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Information is current as of January 19, 2004. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points, and programs are subject to change daily and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Quotes = rate + discount points apr (annual percentage rate), calculated as follows: conventional 20% down and \$100,000 mortgage; jumbo 20% down and \$322,700 mortgage; FHA 3% - 5% down and \$100,000 mortgage. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, but can vary. Maximum conventional loan amount is \$322,700; jumbo loans are in excess of \$322,700. ARM-adjustable rate mortgage. ARM rates are quoted as follows: rate + discount points/APR (type of ARM program is listed in parentheses). LTV-loan to value. MI-mortgage insurance. NA-not available. NQ-rates not quoted. Mortgage rates and programs are updated online daily. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator, and for other extensive mortgage, real estate, consumer financial information-including tips and definitions of terms-please visit our Web site www.CNSFL.com Copyright 2003 Consumer News Systems

Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA - In Freddie Mac's Primary Mortgage Market Survey, the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.66 percent, with an average 0.6 point, for the week ending January 15, 2004, down from 5.87 percent last week. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.97 percent. This is the lowest the 30-year FRM has been since the week ending July 11, 2003, when it averaged 5.52 percent. The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 4.97 percent, with an average 0.7 point, down from last week's average of 5.17 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.36 percent. This is the lowest the 15-year FRM has been since the week ending July 11, 2003, when it averaged 4.85 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 3.62 percent this week, with an average 0.7 point, down from 3.76 percent last week. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 4.03 percent. This is the lowest the 1-year ARM has been since the week ending July 18, 2003, when it averaged 3.58 percent. (Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fees and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.)

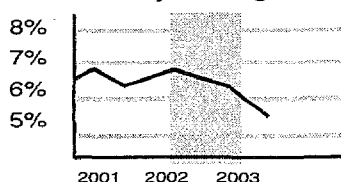
"Expecting job growth on the order of about 150,000 in December, financial markets were taken aback, to say the least, when those figures came in at only around a thousand new jobs," said Amy Crews Cutts, Freddie Mac deputy chief economist. "The lack of recent employment report had a chilling effect on the market's recent exuberance, causing mortgage rates to slide to this week's low levels."

"Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve Board continues to indicate it won't make any rate changes anytime soon, and it looks like we're moving from a job-loss recovery to an almost inflation-less recovery, thus insuring that mortgage rates will remain low and affordable."

National Averages

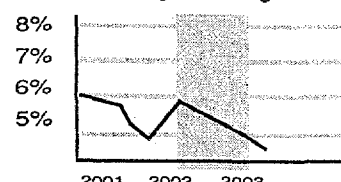
30-year mortgage

- National Average: 5.27%
- National Three-year Average:



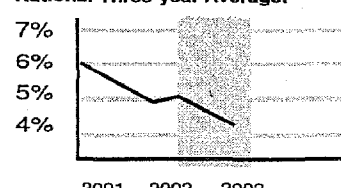
15-year mortgage

- National Average: 4.60%
- National Three-year Average:



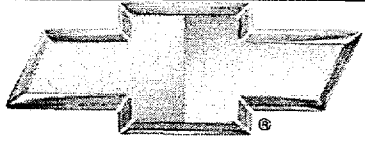
5/1 ARM

- National Average: 4.07%
- National Three-year Average:



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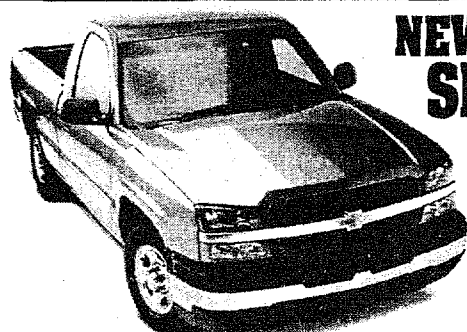
4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, r/def, airbags, B/W A/S radials. Stk#40473. VIN#4B133227. MSRP \$12,840. Price Includes \$1000 Factory Rebate & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.



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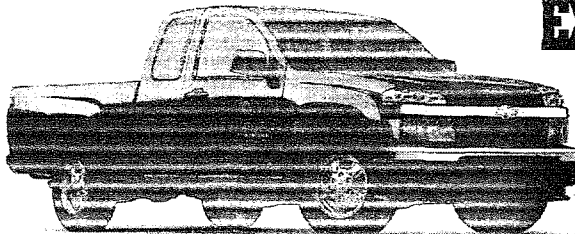
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS, air, am/fm stereo, tilt, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials, lock rr/differential, heavy duty susp. Stk#40452. VIN#4Z214196. MSRP \$20,860. Price Includes \$2500 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

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\$15,601

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\$5250
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\$17,801

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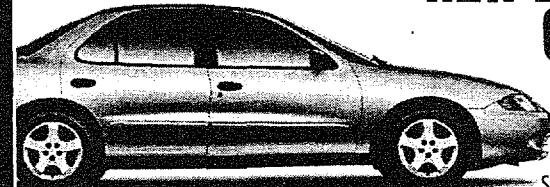


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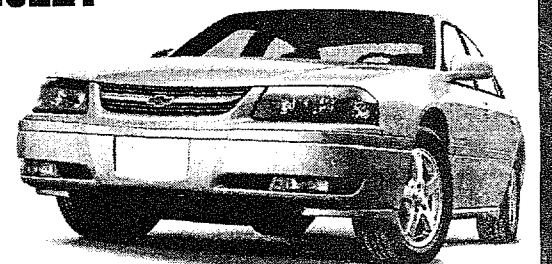


4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bktts, B/W A/S radials. Stk#40470. VIN#47280032. MSRP \$16,115. Price Includes \$3000 Factory, \$500 Bonus Cash & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

\$10,801

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bench seat, B/W A/S radials. Stk#255. VIN#49203012. MSRP \$22,485. Price Includes \$3000 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates also \$750 M.E. Bonus Cash & \$400 College Grad Rebates if qualified.

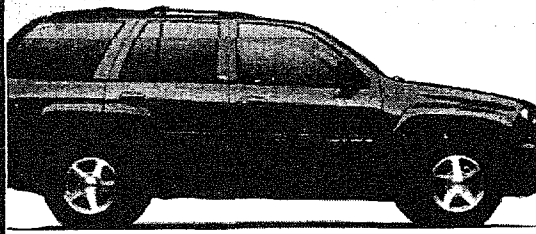


SAVE OVER
\$6275
OFF MSRP

buy for

\$16,201

NEW 2004 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4 DR



6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth bktts, alum whls, B/W A/S radials. Stk#215. VIN#42187891. MSRP \$30,450. Price Includes \$3000 Factory, \$500 Value Coupon & \$500 Bonus Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

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8 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, am/fm stereo, tilt, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials. Stk#40390A. VIN#4B133227. MSRP \$12,840. Price Includes \$1000 Factory & \$500 Value Coupon Rebates also \$400 College Grad Rebate if qualified.

\$9501

2002 JEEP LIBERTY LIMITED 4X4 4 DR
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 30,005 mi. Stk#6445. VIN#2V173995.

\$19,901

1999 LEXUS GS400 4 DR GOLD LUXURY TOUCH!
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sunroof, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 49,100 mi. Stk#40441A. VIN#4009904.

\$21,501

1998 TOYOTA COROLLA 4 DR 5 SPEED DREAM
4 cyl, 5 spd man, p/str/brks/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials. 71,000 mi. Stk#6311A. VIN#W0048014.

\$5901

2000 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 2 DR SPORTY
4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, tilt, r/def, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials. 22,750 mi. Stk#6302. VIN#Y728259.

\$6801

1998 HONDA CIVIC LX 4 DR
4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth int., A/S radials. 48,046 mi. Stk#6432.

\$8901

2000 CHEVROLET TRACKER 4X4 4 DR BEAT THE SNOW!
4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth int., alloys, A/S radials. 33,107 mi. Stk#6344. VIN#16925002.

\$9501

1999 SUBARU LEGACY GT AWD 4 DR ENJOY THE SNOW!
4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sunroof, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, A/S radials. 28,386 mi. Stk#688A. VIN#F725377.

\$11,701

2001 CHEVY EXPRESS 12 PASS VAN 4 DR LIKE NEW 3500 BLUE
8 cyl, auto, p/str/brks, air, am/fm stereo, tilt, cruise, airbags, A/S radials. 35,715 mi. Stk#69343. VIN#11130207.

\$14,501

2002 CHEVROLET ASTRO AWD 4 DR 7 PASSENGER SNOW BUSTER
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, cloth bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 23,021 mi. Stk#635A. VIN#2811755.

\$15,701

1999 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LS 4X4 4 DR MEET THE BUDGET!
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, airbags, cloth bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 43,465 mi. Stk#6461. VIN#35258399.

\$17,501

2001 FORD EXPLORER SPORT TRAC XLT 4X4 4 DR
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 33,810 mi. Stk#6331A. VIN#1A185875.

\$19,701

2001 FORD EXPEDITION 4 DR NICE CHOICE LIKE NEW!
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 22,360 mi. Stk#40190A. VIN#1J1A12704.

\$20,501

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4 4 DR DRIVE ANY TRAIL
6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 31,403 mi. Stk#648. VIN#2211246.

\$22,501

2000 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4X4 4 DR
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 69,223 mi. Stk#69221. VIN#F7251091.

\$23,501

2003 DODGE DAKOTA SIT QUAD-CAB 4X4 4 DR
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs, air, cd, tilt, airbags, cloth bktts, alum whls, A/S radials. 33,293 mi. Stk#6461. VIN#35258399.

\$22,901

2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE 4X4 Z71 4 DR
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 25,209 mi. Stk#6463. VIN#26354007.

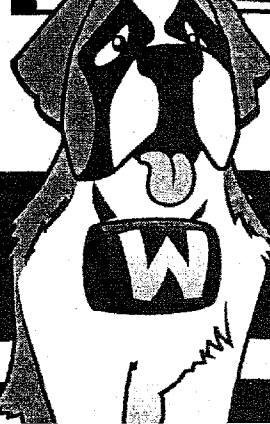
\$27,901

2001 TOYOTA SEQUOIA LTD 4X4 4 DR BLACK - READY FOR WINTER
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, roof rk, airbags, leather bktts, security sys, alloys, A/S radials. 25,209 mi. Stk#40402A. VIN#1504256.

\$32,501

2000 LINCOLN NAVIGATOR 4X4 LOW, LOW MILEAGE
8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, air, cd, tilt, cruise, r/def, sunroof, airbags, leather bktts, alloys, security sys, A/S radials. 30,219 mi. Stk#40390A. VIN#1J10698.

\$26,501



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MAZDA MIATA 1991 low mileage, 69,000 miles. Convertible with hard top, am/fm, cd/cassette. Security system. \$3500. 908-322-0849, Ken.

AUTO FOR SALE

NISSAN, SENTRA, XE, 1994, 4 door sedan, 5 speed, original owner, excellent running condition, 113,000 miles. Asking \$1,900. 908-353-5467.

PONTIAC, GRAND AM SE, 1997, 80K, automatic, loaded, excellent condition, \$3,800. 973-736-0560.

TOYOTA COROLLA 1992. For sale by original owner. 65,000 miles. A/C, 4 door. \$2,200. Call before 4pm 908-351-4126

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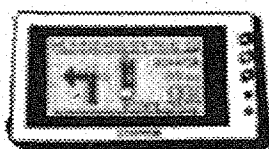


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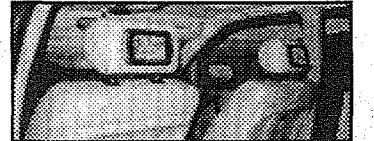
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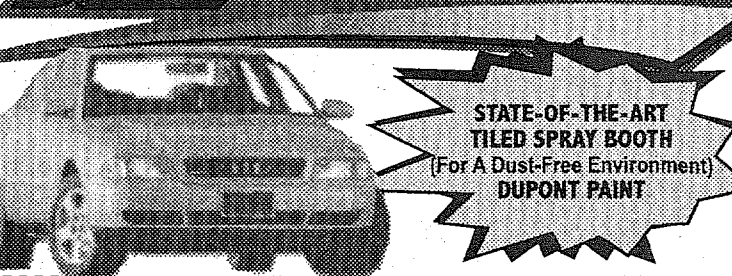
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Brand New 2004 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS GS

V8, auto o/d trans, pwr strbrks/locks, air, cloth int, keyless entry, trac ctrl, AM/FM stereo, CD, b/s paint strip, MSRP \$28,995. VIN #4G614753. 36 month Red Carpet Option (RCO) with 10,500 mi/yr. 20k thereafter. \$0 due at signing. TI 35 pymts \$8365. TI cost \$8365. Final optional balloon pymnt \$11,562. Incl. \$3000 RCL/RCO Cust. Cash, \$1500 Grand Marquis Sales Challenge reb. \$500 AARP reb. if qual. \$1000 Conquest Direct Mail reb. if qual. \$500 Auto Show Test Drive offer, \$500 Returning RCL/RCO Renewal reb. if qual. \$500 LM Owner Loyalty if qual. \$400 College Grad reb. if qual.

\$239 **\$0**
RED CARPET OPTION
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Brand New 2004 MERCURY MONTEREY MINIVAN

6 cyl, auto o/d trans, aux air dual zone, pwr strbrks, cloth int, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, pwr gls, all sen tires, MSRP \$29,995. VIN #4B0J07559. 36 month Red Carpet Option (RCO) with 10,500 mi/yr. 20k thereafter. \$0 due at signing. TI 38 pymts \$11,362. TI cost \$11,362. Final optional balloon pymnt \$11,998. Incl. \$2500 RCL/RCO Cust. Cash, \$500 AARP reb. if qual. \$1000 Conquest Direct Mail reb. if qual. \$500 Auto Show Test Drive offer, \$500 Returning RCL/RCO Renewal reb. if qual. \$500 LM Owner Loyalty if qual. \$400 College Grad reb. if qual.

\$299 **\$0**
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V6, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 115,857 mi. Stk. #4118. VIN #VH148903. As traded.

\$2995

1998 Ford Contour GL

4 cyl, automatic transmission, power strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, 69,993 mi. Stk. #4059. VIN #4059.

\$3995

1997 Mercury Grand Marquis GS

V8, automatic transmission, power strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, 66,711 mi. Stk. #3124. VIN #3124.

\$4995

2000 Mercury Villager

V6, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 72,072 mi. Stk. #3142. VIN #YB11131. As traded.

\$8495

2000 Mercury Grand Marquis

4 dr, 8 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, cruise, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 28,972 mi. Stk. #3120. VIN #1G657258.

\$9395

2001 Mercury Sable LS

V6, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 28,972 mi. Stk. #3120. VIN #1G657258.

\$9595

2002 Chevrolet Impala

3.4L V6 auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 56,126 mi. Stk. #5045. VIN #264895.

\$9995

2001 Ford Escape XLS

V6, 5 spd man trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, spot whit, 28,758 mi. Stk. #4110. VIN #16K46825.

\$10,495

2000 Ford Explorer XLT 4x4

V8, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, spot whit, 28,758 mi. Stk. #4110. VIN #16K46825.

\$12,695

1996 Chevrolet 1500 4x4

V8, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 94,749 mi. Stk. #5968. VIN #1T245615. As traded.

\$14,495

2000 Lincoln Town Car Signature

V8, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 28,972 mi. Stk. #3120. VIN #1G657258.

\$15,495

2001 Ford Expedition 4x4

EDDIE BAUER, V8, auto trans, pwr strbrks/locks/wind, air, cruise, tilt, AM/FM stereo-cass, dual air bags, alloys, 28,972 mi. Stk. #4452. VIN #1L84721.

\$22,495

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