CLARK, N.J., VOL. 15 NO. 14

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2004

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TWO SECT

# Clark looks to 2005 after a year of tragedy

#### By David Krewson **Managing Editor**

Many important stories dominated

the news in Clark Township in 2004. Some were enjoyable stories about residents' lives while others were tragedies also involving residents'

The following is a rundown on the stories that made news in the township this year.

#### January

• The Clark Board of Education asked the state Legislature to help pay its financial obligation connected to deregionalization.

For decades, Arthur L. Johnson High School was part of the Union County Regional School District. Clark was looking at paying \$10 million to Mountainside and Garwood over the next five years as a result of the 1997 breakup of the regional school district.

• Jack Vacca, 38, of Edison was charged by police with holding up the Clark Getty gas station on Raritan Road on Jan. 7. Vacca took the attendant's cash, jumped into a blue sports

46-year-old Joao DaSilva.

utility vehicle and drove away on Rar-

itan Road toward Edison, police said.

DaSilva, 46, who died Jan. 19 when a

gas explosion caused his Dawn Drive

home to catch fire. He died at St.

Barnabas Medical Center in Liv-

• The Hyatt Hills Golf Commission

said their final goodbyes to Joao parts, \$2 million.

hoped that better weather and a retooled marketing strategy would improve a sagging bottom line in 2004. The Hyatt Hills Golf Complex, located on Raritan Road on the border of Cranford and Clark townships, once was projected to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars in its first operating year. The complex instead produced a net loss of \$9,724 in 2003.

#### February

· Donna Keaveney, 36, and Kenneth Keaveney, 37, of Willow Way were charged by police with child cruelty for allegedly having their daughter care for her grandfather even as he lay dead. Nicola Lombardi's badly composed body was found in his bedroom on Aug. 28, 2003. His daughter and son-in-law were charged with neglect in connection with his death.

 School budget cuts, mostly in personnel, were on the horizon as the Board of Education's budget committee gave the public its first preview of the proposed budget for the 2004-05 school year.

commissioner of the state Department

• It will cost Clark taxpayers an additional \$2.3 million to repair the school district's facility, thanks to the passage of four years since the repairs first were proposed.

· The Township Council's goal of an ordinance to place two stop signs on Lincoln Boulevard where it intersects with Harold Avenue and Gloria Street — to make Lincoln Boulevard a less desirable shortcut from Valley Road to Westfield Avenue — sparked the ire of some residents who were concerned that all that the township was to accomplish was to move the problem from Lincoln Boulevard to Franklin Street, one block away.

· Joanne D'Addona, a Clark school teacher, took personal leave after a fire destroyed her Ridge Road home on March 18. D'Addona and her 22-month old son, Michael, escaped from the blaze. Joanna D'Addona, a daughter, was not at home at the time of the fire.

#### April

• The Board of Education approved • In a ruling handed down by the the 2004-05 school budget, driving up the average homeowner's school property taxes by approximately \$160. The budget, at \$41,155,796, was 4.49 percent larger than the 2002-03 school

· Approximately 40 people turned out at a dinner to honor Clark Democratic chairman Carmine Giordano, who retired in 2003.

· Township voters approved a \$25,061,524 budget for the 2004-05 school year and elected three newcomers to the Board of Education in the annual school elections on April 20. Elected to three-year terms were Tom Lewis of Mountain View Road, Jessica Kinsella of Kenneth Place and Sheri Sandler of Cromwell Court.

· There was good news for township residents in the form of a \$140,000 grant from Union County to add a handicap access elevator to the Clark Public Library. The library closed in March for a \$1.75 million in renovations and an addition.

#### May

· Glenn Tillou, the county superintendent of schools was named the next superintendent of schools in Clark, eplacing the retiring Paul Ortenzio.

 A decision by the state commissioner of education was a sigh of relief for Clark taxpayers as they would not have to shell out \$276,000 in sick-day compensation to retired school teach-

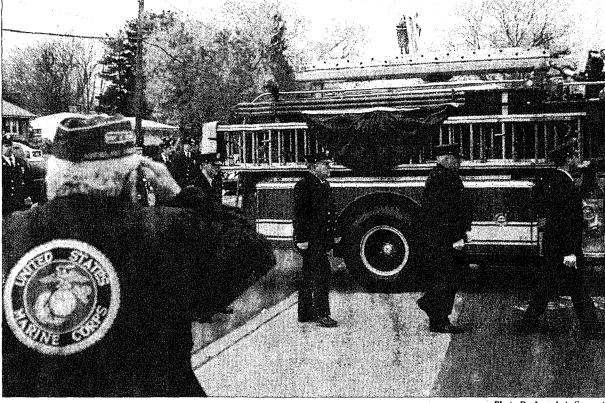


Photo By Joseph A. Sorrentino

Pfc. Stephen C. Benish of Clark was laid to rest this month after he was killed while serving in Irag.

ers. A group of 25 teachers whom the Clark School District had hired after the dissolution of the Union County Regional. School District had argued that they were entitled to financial compensation for the sick time they had accrued but not used as employees of the regional district.

· A June 15 court date was set in Rahway municipal court for a harassment claim filed by Board of Education Vice President Diane Lanigan against former district treasurer James Restaino. An accountant, Restanio had acted as treasurer of the Clark School District for 15 years. His firm was replaced in April. Allegedly, the complaint had its roots in a verbal altercation between Lanigan and Restaino after an earlier school board meeting where the board decided it would not

renew Restaino's contract. • Francis Brattole, Clark's director for a power failure on July 4. A portion of the Department of Public Works for the past three years, died on May 17 after suffering a massive stroke the day before. Brattole, commonly called Sonny by those who knew him, had been the DPW director since Sal

Bonaccorso became mayor in 2001. · Officials from the Target Department Store on Central Avenue sought to make it easier for customers to egress its parking lot with a traffic light. County and municipal officials alike stressed that talks about a traffic light were preliminary.

• At the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington D.C., the lives of 89 World War II veterans from Clark were honored. The names of 12 Clark veterans killed in action were added to the memorial. It was the culmination of efforts by Clark resident Joseph Luckasz. Luckasz knew none of the veterans personally but he became interested in hon-

oring their memories. · Friends and family gave their final farewells to Pete Nevargic on June 8. Nevargic, Clark's 2nd Ward councilman for the past five years, died June 3 at home. About 80 people attended a Mass of Christian Burial for Nevargic at St. John the Apostle Church on Valley Road.

#### July

· Carleen Nevargic, widow of the former Township Councilman Peter Nevargic, was sworn in as 2nd Ward councilwoman succeeding her late husband.

· Members of Arthur L. Johnson High School's Student Council and advisor Kurt Epps made an effort to seek representation on the Board of Education as non-voting members. The council was incensed that a \$2,500 payout from its main funding source — vending machines — would only come after the first two years of a contract between the Coca-Cola Corporation and the Board of Education.

A loose connection was to blame

of Meadow Road had to be closed for a short period of time on the Fourth of July when officials discovered the problem. Transformers move electricity from high-voltage power lines to lower-voltage lines that feed directly into the houses.

· Alvin Jones, 28, of Tinton Falls was being held on bail after he allegedly crashed his vehicle into a utility pole on Madison Hill and Raritan roads and attacked police who had been chasing him.

· The Arthur L. Johnson High School girls' gymnastic team was set to be back in action for the 2004 season. The team, which had to rely upon private funding since 2003, had about \$2,500 left to raise of its \$8,700 budget. The team received approval July 20 from the Board of Education to continue to compete as a school team. See SOME, Page 2



Mayor Sal Bonaccorso lays a flower on the coffin of former 2nd Ward Councilman Pete Nevargic, who died in

of Education on Feb. 5, the Clark

School District was ordered to pay its

March

rowed to four in the Board of Educa-

tion's selection process for a replace-

ment for Superintendent of Schools

· The field of candidates were nar-

A January fire at a Dawn Drive home claimed the life of

· Family, friends and neighbors Garwood and Mountainside counter-

Paul Ortenzio.

Plans were made public in September for an age-restricted housing complex on Terminal

## Turnpike Authority seeks regional solution to GSP traffic circle

#### By David Krewson

**Managing Editor** 

A formal response is on the way. The Turnpike Authority is preparing a response to a letter from Mayor Sal Bonaccorso to Acting Gov. Richard Codey criticizing the governor for placing Turnpike expansion plans ahead of Garden State Parkway Exit 135 woes.

According to Michael Lapolla, executive director of the Turnpike Authority, part of that response will be an offer for the authority to host a meeting with Clark Township and Union County officials.

"We have been looking at this issue for the past year. Any solution will be complicated and very expensive. While the Turnpike Authority would be willing to participate in the cost sharing of the improvements, we believe that it is not exclusively our responsibility and that the cost of the solution should be borne by various levels of government," Lapolla said.

Bonaccorso said that Lapolla, a former Union County manager, knows the traffic issues associated with the circle at Exit 135

Lapolla, in a telephone interview, noted that redesigning the traffic circle at Exit 135 will not be cheap.

"Turnnike engineers have very preliminary cost estimates at approximately \$40 million, Lapolla said.

Lapolla added that Clark, Union County and the state Department of Transportation should work together to come up with an acceptable solution and figure out a way to pay for it.

part of the issue but there is growing traffic coming from other roads into the circle that contribute to the problem,"

In his Dec. 1 letter to Codey, Bonaccorso blasted the acting governor for his announcement that the state plans to spend \$1 billion to expand the Turnpike over a 20-mile stretch in Middlesex, Mercer and Burlington counties.

"I find it disconcerting that the State of New Jersey is dedicating over a billion dollars on a traffic reducing plan still requiring study and plan development prior to implementation," Bonaccorso wrote.

Further, he stated that "the Township of Clark has long suffered the regional traffic impact of the Garden State Parkway Interchange 135."

He stated that the traffic congestion at the circle affects towns beyond Clark's borders.

"The regional issue requires an overall state solution to resolve the traffic congestion in this area and to improve and reduce travel requirements for a large number of Union and Middlesex County motorists," he wrote.

He noted in his correspondence that solutions to traffic delays that frustrate motorists exiting the Parkway onto Central Avenue have already been developed but have 'wallowed in local county and state politics.'

In his correspondence, Bonaccorso urged the governor "to 'dust-off' these initiatives and use the full power of state government to provide relief to Clark's citizens."

Bonaccorso said that the \$40 million cost to redesign the

"We acknowledge that the traffic from the Parkway is traffic circle is a relatively small amount compared to the \$1 billion that Codey said the state will spend to expand

> In last fall's campaign, Republican candidates, including Bonaccorso, talked about looking into adding a lane for traffic heading from Brant Avenue to Valley Road, to avoid the circle altogether.

During a Township Council meeting on Dec. 20, Bonac-

corso said that the township will remain "vigilant and help with the traffic congestion.'

Bonaccorso added that the township will also continue to raise the issue with the Turnpike Authority about a possible Parkway exit and entrance on Inman Avenue on the Edison border. Local officials in Rahway and Edison have in the past opposed adding a Parkway exit at Inman

#### Offices closed

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Friday in observance of New Year's Eve. We will reopen on Monday.

The deadlines for the Jan. 6 edition are as follows: · Lifestyle, including church and club

news, etc. - Today, noon.

• Legal advertising — Monday, noon. Letters to the editor — Monday, 9

What's Going On - Monday, 4

· Display ads -- Monday, 5 p.m. for

Section A and noon for Section B. • Sports news — Monday, noon.

· General news — Monday, 5 p.m.

Classified advertising — Tuesday, 3

We wish all of our readers and advertisers a Happy New Year.



## Welcome to THE **EAGLE**

How to reach us:

The Eagle is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, ar independent, family owned newspapei 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:

#### Voice Mail:

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

To subscribe:

The Eagle is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two year subscriptions for \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover.

#### Missing newspaper:

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

#### Back issues:

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

#### News items:

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

Story reprints:

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

#### Letters to the Editor:

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

e-mail:

The Eagle accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is

Editorial@thelocalsource.com e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guidelines at ads@thelocalsource.com

To place a display ad:

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

To place a classified ad:

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

#### To place a public notice:

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

Facsimile transmission:

The Eagle is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day. For classified please dial 973-763-2557. For all other transmissions please dial 908-686-

#### Website:

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Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.localsource.com. Find all the latest news, classified, community information, real estate, and

Postmaster Please Note: THE EAGLE (USPS 005-988) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$21.00 per year in Union County, 75 cents per copy non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE EAGLE P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083.

## Some new faces grace Clark in '04

(Continued from Page 1) providing it found funding elsewhere.

August · Plans to extend the repayment of Clark's debt to other members of the former Union County Regional School District met with opposition from officials in Garwood and Mountainside. Clark was scheduled to pay Garwood about \$479,500 over the next five years as repayment of money the state commissioner of education said was not distributed fairly when the regional district broke up in the late

 Clark officials were awaiting word whether they could use land uphill from the Garden State Parkway to add onto the Clark Public Library parking lot.

· A number of lawn ornaments were reported missing from Clark homes in a seven-day spree of thefts of lawn

#### September

• James Ostegarro, 31, and Daniel Kavadias, 30, both of Edison, were arrested by police for a burglary at the U.S. Gypsum Company on Raritan Road.

· Patrick O'Connor of Kent Place succeeded Carleen Nevargic as 2nd Ward councilman. Nevargic had assumed the role on June 29 after her husband, former Councilman Pete Nevargic, died earlier this year.

• Plans for a \$40-million senior housing complex at the former Tyco Submarine facility on Terminal Avenue were made public for the first time at a Township Council meet-

#### October

• Officials and volunteers laid out plans to usher in the holiday season with a new tree lighting event. The new tree-menorah-lighting ceremony was scheduled to take place at the Charles H. Brewer Municipal Building on Westfield Avenue. A separate event, organized entirely by volunteers, had been held in years past at Madison Hill Road and Westfield Avenue.

#### November

· It was a clean sweep for Republicans as Mayor Sal Bonaccorso and his team of GOP council members won election and re-election to new terms.

Angel Albanese and Al Barr both held on to their atlarge council seats and Sheila Whiting earned her first term. Patrick O'Connor won the remaining two years on the term of former 2nd Ward Councilman Pete Nevargic.

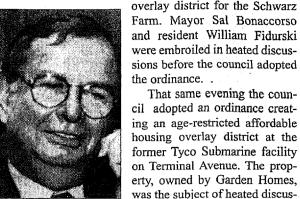
• Pfc. Stephen Benish, 20, of Clark, died Nov. 28 in Ar Ramadi, Iraq. Benish was a 2002 graduate of Arthur L. Johnson High School.

#### December

· Hundreds of people, including a United States senator. township officials and residents turned out at a funeral at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Clark for Pfc. Stephen Benish, 20, of Clark, who was killed as a result of enemy fire in Ar Ramadi, Iraq in late November.

· In the last meeting of the year, tempers flared during the Township Council meeting's public hearing on an ordinance to establish an age-restricted affordable housing overlay district for the Schwarz

That same evening the coun-



Tillou

sions because of its proposed development into a \$40 million

senior citizen residence. · A "downtown" core for Clark was in the offering for the township for 2005 as discussions continued on revitalizing Westfield Avenue from Brant Avenue to Madison Hill Road in a streetscape program. The project is expected to take a decade before it is completed.

• The cost of heating the district's four school buildings went up as Board of Education officials announced a 22percent increase with its natural gas supplier, Woodruff

• The Board of Education granted \$4,000 to the Student Council initiatives at Arthur L. Johnson High School. The Student Council had received \$2,500 during the first two years of a vending contract with the Coca-Cola Corpora-

The Student Council received nothing during the past three years.

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

The Community Calendar is prepared by The Clark Eagle to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To publicize your community events, mail your schedule to: The Clark Eagle, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Saturday

• The Clark Township Council reorganization meeting will be held at noon in Council Chambers, behind the Police Department, 315 Westfield

#### Upcoming Jan. 9

• The Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, will present its annual Christmas program at 4 p.m. in the Banquet Hall. This musical program will feature Zbigniew Szczypior, organist and cantor of the St. Stanislaus Church in Newark, with Katarzyna Szczypior who will recite poems and texts in English.

After the concert will be a sing-a-long of Christmas carols with the audience.

Tickets are \$20 per person which includes the concert and a traditional polish buffet. The seating is limited. Make your reservation before Monday by calling 732-382-7197.

#### Jan. 14

· Clark AARP Chapter 3733 will meet at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave. Jan. 20

• The Clark Seniors will meet at the Brewer Senior Center, 430 Westfield Ave., at 1 p.m.

For more information, call Lillian B. Krov at 732-381-3823.

Ongoing

• The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla through Friday. The gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m.,

on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak, gallery director. at

732-382-7197.

#### **SENIOR NEWS**

#### Seniors meet Jan. 20

The next regular meeting of the Clark Seniors will be Jan. 20 at the Brewer Senior Center, 430 Westfield Ave., at 1 p.m. For more information, call Lillian B. Krov at 732-381-3823.

#### AARP meets second Friday of the month

Clark AARP Chapter 3733 will meet at 1 p.m. the second Friday of each month at the Brewer Senior Center, 400 Westfield Ave.

Dan Flynn is collecting teddy bears, puzzles, games and toys for the homeless children. He also collects knitted infants hats, baby bath supplies, etc., for the Visiting Nurse Ser-

Joe and Jean Olterzewski will be collect soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, new socks, sweat pants, books etc., for holiday packages for the veterans' hospitals and nursing homes.

Ongoing activities include the volunteer programs at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights, under the leadership of Marian Connally. There is a need for knitted lap robes, shrugs, and

The following trip has been sched-

• June 14-18 — Cape Cod, Mass. \$369 double, triple, quad occupancy; \$453 single occupancy.

For more information on trips, call Ann Miskovich, AARP trip coordinator, at 732-388-4033.

Ongoing projects include knitting lap robes and shrugs, collection of pennies for expenses; magazines, jigsaw puzzles, etc. for the Veteran Hospital; VNA Layette items for needy infants and collection of small gifts for bingo prizes at the Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, located in Berkeley Heights.

The chapter invites area residents with membership in the National AARP to join the local group and enjoy the social gatherings, trips and volunteer programs and to keep abreast of matters of interest to retirees and those anticipating retire-

#### Senior classes offered

The Clark Department of Senior Citizens meets at 1 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in the cafeteria of the Brewer Municipal Building. Line dancing is offered Mondays

from 10 a.m. to noon in the gym with instructor Phyllis McGarry through December.

Union County College LIFE Class will be offered Mondays through

December from 1 to 3 p.m. in the cafeteria with instructor Anthony Troncone teaching HIS 091-131 Contemporary American Issues. Exercise sessions will be offered

on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 to 10 a.m. through December in the cafeteria or gym with instructor Mary Jane Yurick. Arts and crafts will be offered Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon in the cafeteria with instructor Catherine LaBruno.

For more information, call Lillian B. Krov, director, at 732-381-3823.

#### Senior bus service

For free senior bus service, call the Municipal Building at 732-388-3600 from 9 to 11 a.m. one day in advance to reserve a seat on the bus, Mondays through Fridays, except holidays.

Call the same number if it becomes necessary to cancel a reservation. The schedule is subject to change.

· Mondays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Rahway library, until Clark is open. No food shopping.

• Tuesdays: first Tuesday, morning, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators in Linden; afternoon, Watchung/Blue Star; second Tuesday, Garwood Pathmark and Garwood mini-mall; third Tuesday, Garwood Pathmark/mini-mall/Home Depot. fourth and fifth Tuesdays, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators Linden: fifth Tuesday, Pathmark/National Wholesale Liquidators in Linden, and afternoon,

Blue Star Shopping Center, Watchung. · Wednesdays, morning and afternoon: first Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall: second Wednesday, Menlo Park Mall; third Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; fourth Wednesday, Woodbridge Mall; if a fifth Wednesday, Menlo Park Mall.

· Thursdays: morning, ShopRite; afternoon, Aviation Plaza.

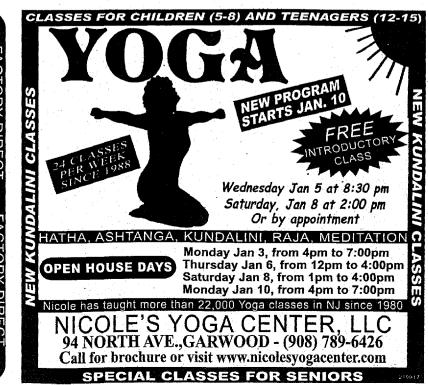
· Fridays: morning, A&P, Linden Plaza; afternoon, Target, Clark stores, no food shopping.

#### Pets must be registered by Jan. 31 The township is reminding resi-

dents that any dog and/or cat owned, kept, harbored or maintained by residents or any household member must be licensed within the Township of Clark by no later than Jan. 31. After Jan. 31, a \$5 late fee will be assessed.

Proof of spay/neuter and rabies vaccination valid through October 2005 is required to purchase a license.

Note that for safety reasons, only checks and money orders payable to the Township of Clark will be accepted. No cash transactions.



## AT THE LIBRARY

#### Birds of prey the topic

Students in grades three through six are invited to learn about the work of The Raptor Trust with birds of prey on Jan. 22 at 11 a.m. in Rahway Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza.

Laurie Virostek of the trust will present a slide show in the library auditorium and introduce the audience to a live raptor.

Seating is limited, and tickets will be distributed at 10:30 a.m. on Jan. 22 in the Children's Department. Students ages 8 to 11 must have a parent or adult guardian remain in the building during the program.

#### Contact librarians

Even with the Clark facility closed, Clark librarians can be contacted via e-mail about events at the Rahway library during the closing.

Library Director Maureen Baker Wilkinson can be reached at mbwilkinson@clarklibrary.org

Youth Services librarian Kathy Percoco can be reached at kpercoco@clarklibrary.org

General reference questions can also be sent by e-mail to ref@clarklibrary.org or general information inquiries to info@clarklibrary.org.

### Rahway Library hours

Rahway Free Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, currently offers the following hours of operation:

• Monday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

· Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. • Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

• Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. · Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information, call 732-340-1551.

#### Wireless Internet

Rahway Free Public Library is offering a wireless hot spot.

This hot spot allows computer users to access the World Wide Web with a laptop computer or PDA equipped with a wireless 802.11b or 802.11g network, also known as WiFi or Airport card. There is no charge for access.

Clark residents have full access to

the Rahway library's programs, resources and staff while the Clark library is under construction. The wireless network is firewalled Municipal Building.

from the existing library network to maintain security Users cannot access e-mail or other online services such as FTP, VPN and

telnet, with the wireless network. Use of a library computer terminal is required to print out Web sites or to access the library's automated card catalogue; these services cannot be

conducted over the wireless network. The library, although it currently maintains limited hours, also has several computers available to the public with Internet access.

Those who wish to use the Internet must show a valid library card.

#### Learn basic Internet, computer skills

Rahway Free Public Library, 2 City Hall Plaza, offers free computer classes. Current classes include Intro to the Computer, Intro to the Internet, Intro to Word Processing and Intro to Email. For dates and times, call the Reference Department at 732-340-1551.

Registration is required. You must be a resident of Rahway or Clark to

#### Return library materials to Municipal Building

Residents can return library materials borrowed from either the Clark or Rahway public library to a drop box in the front of the Charles H. Brewer

The drop box will be emptied several times a day, with material taken to Rahway Free Public Library for

Clark residents who reserve library material will be called as soon as the requested item becomes available. Reserved items can be picked up at the circulation desk at Rahway Free Public Library, Milton Avenue and Main Street.

The Rahway library is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays.

### **Eugene Ficula**

Eugene Ficula, 63, of Clark died Dec. 18 in Robert Wood Johnson Uni-

versity Hospital at Rahway. Born in Poland, Mr. Ficula lived in Irvington for 11 years before moving to Clark in 1977. He was a maintenance mechanic for Wakefern Co., Elizabeth, for 35 years before retiring

Surviving are his wife of 38 years, Gertrude; a daughter, Julie; two sisters, three brothers and three grandchildren.

#### NICHOLAS A. GIUDITTA III ATTORNEY AT LAW

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#### **Lorraine Melick**

Lorraine Melick, 83, of Clark died Dec. 18 in Overlook Hospital, Sum-

Born in Newark, Mrs. Melick lived in East Orange before moving to Clark 52 years ago. She was a secretary for Rahway Day Care for 15 years before

retiring many years ago. Women in Military Service Auxiliary.

John: eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marie Serpico Marie Serpico, 88, of Freehold, formerly of Clark, died Dec. 23 in the CentraState Medical Center, Freehold.

lived in Clark before moving to Freehold nine years ago. She was a member of the Freehold

Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Serpico

Senior Citizens.



## **OBITUARIES**

Mrs. Melick was a Navy veteran and served during World War II. She was a member of the American Legion Post 318 in Clark, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7363 in Clark and the

Surviving are a daughter, Cather-

ine; three sons, William, Robert and

Surviving are her husband of 69 years, Arthur F.; a daughter, Arlene Rodoquino; two sisters, Florence Hansen and Eleanor Wolke; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

## Firm to update board's policies

By David Krewson **Managing Editor** 

The Clark Board of Education awarded a \$16,000 contract Dec. 13 to a Toms River firm to write and update board policies.

Strauss Esmay Associates will write and update all of the board policies. In a 10-0 vote, the board voted to hire the company to do the work.

"The company will take our policies and documents and bring them up to date," board member Jessica Kinsella said. She added that this is expected to take less than a year to complete.

Kinsella explained that some of the district's policy manual "is seriously out of date." Some portions of the policy manual are approximately 15 to 20 years old.

Kinsella noted that the \$16,000 is a one-time fee. However, she said, the board could pay Strauss Esmay \$2,345 per year to automatically update board policies.

"This will be tailor-made to the Clark district, and it is a positive step," Kinsella said.

She noted this will allow for updates in board polices for board members to make intelligent deci-

Kinsella noted this will give protocol and procedural aspects to board

During the meeting, board Presi-

dent James Rooney said that "this is something we had to do -- to get our policies in shape.'

Rooney noted that the board had made previous attempts at updating

"We tried and tried to do it ourselves, and with this firm we hope to get very good results," he said.

Board member Henry Varriano said the move came about on Nov. 29 as a result of the consensus of two committees: the Education and Curriculum Committee and the Policy

He added that on Dec. 9 an agreement was reached with Strauss Esmay Associates to write and update board policies.

## New exhibit opens next month

Diversity Art Gallery will hold its 13th exhibition in Clark, with the focus on quilts and fabric art. Each of the displays includes various themes, styles and types of art on display for the enjoyment and education of the public.

This is the second quilt/fabric show, which was conceived to recognize the creativity of artists who sew, glue and paint diverse fabrics. The public is invited to attend an artists' reception from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 16.

The gallery is located in the historic 1840's chapel building of Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, Clark, which is right on the Clark Circle, adjacent to the Garden State Parkway, Exit 135.

Gallery Director Frank Papandrea said this exhibition is relevant to facilitating the mission of Diversity Art Gallery. The gallery's goal is to bring together artists of diverse styles, approaches, and cultural expressions for shared appreciation and understanding, and to encourage additional educational and multi-cultural exchange, lifelong learning, and intergenerational sharing through audience participation.

Area quilting and fabric artists such as Nubian Heritage Quilters Guild of Irvington and Heritage Quilters of Scotch Plains will be providing numerous works for gallery displays and sale. New Jersey fiber artist Giendora Simonson and quilt enthusiast Carolyn Davis founded Nubian Heritage Quilters in 1995 to promote, preserve and document the importance of African-American quilting.

Adopting the African Adinka Symbol, Sankofa, the group took its meaning. "Learning from the past in building for the future", as its mission statement. The quilters celebrate and expand upon the legacy of African-American quilting through mutual quilting experiences and by incorporating ethnic patterns and fabric, thereby preserving their heritage and nurturing future creativity.

The Guild's quilts have been to wear, as well as Laura Fyhr, who left.

exhibited at the Newark Museum and the Newark Aljira Gallery and they have participated in such events as the African-American Heritage Festival in Holmdel, Morristown Women's Festival and New Jersey Folk Festival in New Brunswick. As part of giving back to the community, members donate their time, talent and crafts to creating baby quilts for boarder babies at local hospitals and donate lap quilts to the Veteran's Administration Hospi-

Artists Glendora Simonson, Catherine Sheffield and Carolyn Davis will display six large and smaller quilts plus two team effort art works by the Guild's membership. In addition, creations by Artists Judy Covington of Princeton, Linda Bhan of Woodcliff Lakes and others will be on display throughout January and Febru-

Debbie Lee of Springfield has conducted quilt workshops with many schools and institutions, including The Newark Museum, the Abigail Adams Smith Museum and the N.Y. Women's Center. She has been making quilts for 17 years and has taught the art to both children and adults.

Through her residency at the The Newark Museum's educational programs, she has shared her technical expertise with children, but also enabled teachers to incorporate what works best with students into future curriculum. She is well versed in many different techniques and has been awarded in various categories.

Carpet designers Kennedy and Silvia Reyna of Rahway will display creative wool fabrics from their Rahway business. Alpha Custom Rugs and Design. They reproduce other designer works for corporations, as well as create art works for homes, matching home decor needs with traditional or modern pieces of any size or color with computer graphic color schemes.

Giri Pagdon, DAG volunteer who eates quilt clothing, will be on hand with more beautiful quilt work, ready There are only two known map quilts

hand makes beautiful fabric dolls.

The exhibition will be open to the public from Jan. 16 through April 3, every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., and by appointment.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 732-574-1479 or visit the Web site at www.diversityart.com.

According to a history of quilting, provided by The Newark Museum, the making of a quilt was a labor of love that required an enormous amount of time, patience and labor. Early 19thcentury quilts were made entirely by hand, intricate design, requiring incredible patience and skill. Although quilts were made by individuals, the final joining together of the meetings of kin and friends were an important part of the social fabric of 19th-centu-

One of the few occasions when women could meet regularly, a quilting was an opportunity to share patterns or traditions for a special wedding quilt, while discussing current issues. Susan B. Anthony gave one of her first speeches defending the equal rights of women at a quilting.

A unique and personal way of expressing love or thanks, quilts were always popular choices for gifts and commemorations.

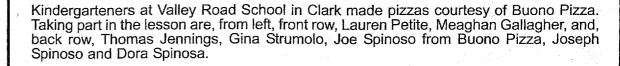
By the middle of the 19th century a new form of quilt, the "album quilt" began to appear with increasing frequency.

The romantic desire to commemorate and memorialize major events influenced the popularity of quilts. Each block of this quilt type is like a page in an album, often initialed or signed by one or more people. Another type of quilt, the "crazy quilt" became popular in the early 1880's.

This new craze, inspired by Japanese textiles and design as part of the

Movement, offered an opportunity era of rigid Victorian social rules.

Valley Road School pizza party



#### **EVENTS**

#### Christmas party Jan. 9 at Polish Foundation

The Polish Cultural Foundation has invited its members and all interest for the annual Christmas program at 4 p.m. on Jan. 9, at the Banquet Hall, 177 Broadway.

This musical program will feature Zbigniew Szczypior, organist and cantor of the St. Stanislaus Church in Newark, with Katarzyna Szczypior who will recite poems and texts in

Zbigniew Szczypior graduated as the philharmonic musician. For several years he was a member of the Czestochowa Philharmonics in Poland. He performed in concerts in Italy, Spain, France, Germany and other European countries. Since 1995 he was the organist and cantor at the Polish Mission in Stockholm and also at the Stockholm Cathedral.

Katarzyna Szczypior is the recipient of many awards in the poetry recitation competitions on regional and national level. In the United States her first appearance took place at the for individuality and originality in an Polish Festival in Union and also at Polish churches

> After the concert will be a sing-along of Christmas carols with the

audience. Tickets are \$20 per person which includes the concert and a traditional polish buffet. The seating is limited. Make your reservation before Monday by calling 732-382-7197.

#### Current events discussed weekly

What is the latest news from Israel, and how does it impact our local community? What does Judaism have to say about stem cell research, the political process, war and other topics being discussed in the media? How do today's political, social and religious issues impact on the Jewish community here and elsewhere?

All these issues and more are discussed every Monday from 10 to 11 a.m. in an open format led by Rabbi Michael Klayman, the new spiritual leader of Temple Beth O'r/Beth Torah, 111 Valley Road, Clark.

The "Jewish Current Events" class is free and open to the public.

For more information, call the synagogue at 732-381-8403.

#### Exhibit on display through Friday

The Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broad-

way, Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla through Friday.

Ilona and Andre Bugla, a husband and wife team, were born in Poland and both graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. They live and work in Jever, Germany.

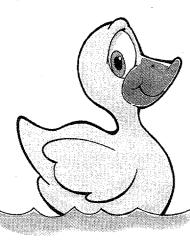
Ilona Bugla received her master's degree in painting and tapestry in 1982. Her art has met with widespread recognition around the world. Today her paintings and tapestries may be found in the homes of art aficionados in Japan, France, Germany, Poland and the United States.

Andre Bugala received his master's from the sculpture department in

#### Residents earn honors at Union Catholic

Three Clark residents achieved first honors for the first marking period at Union Catholic Regional High School in Scotch Plains. Earning honors were junior Carolyn Moran, sophomore Charles Defendorf and freshman Gabriela Moura. The announcement was made to the students and their parents at an honors breakfast.

First honor students must attain a grade point average of 3.75 with no grade below a B.



# FIRST BABY OF 2005

WHO WILL THE FIRST BABY BE? Are you expecting a Special delivery? If you're expecting a bundle of joy around the first of the year, you can win a bundle of great prizes for you and baby from the participating sponsor's listed below. Just refer to the official guidelines listed here and best of luck to all of you!

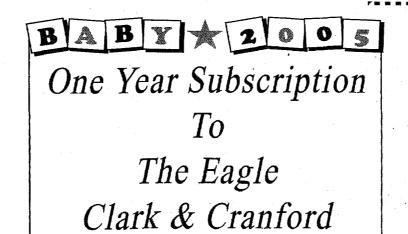
#### - GUIDELINES -

- 1. Parents must be a resident of Clark or Cranford
- 2. Ballots must be received at our office at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, N.J. 07083. No later than 5 p.m. Jan. 6, 2005. (Ballots may be
- 3. The first baby born after the stroke of midnight, Dec. 31st will be declared the first baby provided the ballot has been received before deadline in guideline number 2 and is substantiated by birth certificate, physician's certification, town records or other official record accepted by judges.
- 4. Ballots even for earlier babies cannot be accepted after the deadline has passed.
- 5. Entrants agree that pictures of the baby, the mother and the father may be published in this newspaper to announce and publicize
- 6. The decisions of the judge will be final.
- 7. In the event that no ballot is entered by Jan. 6, 2005 the search will be extended another week.
- 8. Envelope must be marked "First Baby" in lower left hand corner.
- 9. Employees of the newspaper or any participating firms or their families are not eligible to enter.
- 10. First Baby applies to First Baby born in one of the respective towns.

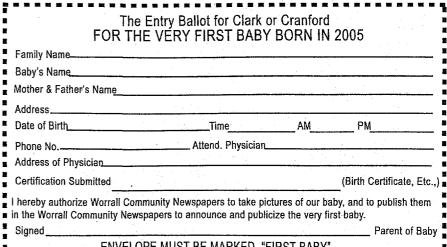
Best Wishes to the New Parents Check out our Daily Deli Specials

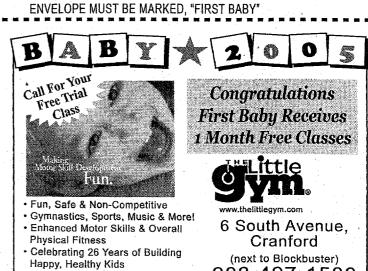
Free "Two for Tuesday" 2 ft. long subs - 2 chips 2 21 oz. sodas

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# COMMUNITY FORUM

#### **EDITORIALS**

## The right call

The state appears one step closer toward a constitutional convention to evaluate the way in which taxes are levied in New Jersey. More specifically, a high-profile committee of publicly elected delegates could soon be taking a serious, open, and definitive look at restructuring tax codes. We say it's about time.

The call for a convention came from the Task Force on Property Tax Reform, a 15-member panel established by the Legislature in September. The panel has met 15 times since its creation, and last week released a brief, 24-page report of its conclusions. Its central recommendation is to convene a convention, comprised of 80 or possibly 120 delegates, who would be elected by voters during the next General Election. The convention, within a one-year period, would study the way the state raises revenue, and propose changes in the interest of equity.

In the coming months, it will be up to the legislators to decide whether or not to implement this recommendation. And if they agree, they must structure its process and define its mission. Then in the November 2005 election, voters will decide if a convention should be called, and at the same time elect the delegates who will comprise its membership. Then in the 2006 election, voters will approve or disapprove the constitutional changes proposed by the delegates. This timetable seems reasonable.

In nearly every municipal election we have covered during the past few years, we have heard one recurring complaint from voters: Property taxes are too high. But every candidate has given the very same reply: The real reform can only come from Trenton; all we can do at the local level is cut expenses. Trenton has now heard its cue, and we hope legislators don't get stage fright.

New Jersey residents pay the highest per capita property taxes in the country. The approximately \$17 billion raised each year underwrites nearly 75 percent of the cost of local services, with the bulk of the balance coming from statewide levies. The national average is almost 50 percent. Things are out of balance in the Garden State.

Some have criticized the task force for not recommending a broader mission for the convention. They would have it also focus on the reduction of spending. But we agree with the task force. There will be enough on the table without adding a restructuring of the Abbott decision, the elimination of mandated programs, or the need to cut payrolls at the state, county and local levels, among other issues. Those are difficult, and in many ways inflammatory, issues that could only delay the convention or push it off course. The delegates will have enough problems just considering tax increases for the upper brackets, adding new sales taxes, and passing tax burdens from homeowners to businesses.

This might be the one big chance our generation has to set things right. And it should provide a straightforward, open and comprehensive debate. The Legislature should follow through with the recommendations of the task force and put the question before voters in November.

## Happy New Year

Although it seems like only yesterday that 2004 was just getting started, New Year's Day is almost here, and with it, 2005. A new year seems to mean more to the young, who still view the world in linear terms, from day to day. As we grow older, years are replaced by phases in our lives, from college to marriage to parenthood to retirement. Even the year itself is grouped differently, arranged by sections such as tax time, vacations, holidays, even sports seasons.

There was a time when the end of the year meant more than staying up late, drinking some bubbly and watching the ball descend in Times Square. In ancient Rome, a 12-day festival called Saturnalia was celebrated, where Romans lit candles to Saturn, the god of the harvest, and decorated their houses with wreaths of laurel and evergreen. Germans had a similar 12-day celebration of the victory of the sun god and the south wind during winter and the storm god, destroyer of life. They gathered around roaring fires and toasted their good fortune with spirited punch, just as the Druids in what is now Great Britain cut boughs of mistletoe at the end of every December.

Our ways of celebration may have changed, but we still rejoice about the success of this year, even as we make resolutions to make next year even better. Just remember, no matter how spirited the celebration, a good resolution every year is not to drink and drive. Don't let friends drive who have had too much to drink; they'll thank you later. It's a good practice, one that should become a tradition.

And in keeping with tradition, we wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous new year.

David Worrall Publisher

Editor In Chief Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

David Krewson Managing Editor

George S. Gannon Marketing Director

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The Eagle

Your Best Source for Community Information

Published Weekly Since 1999

Published By

Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.

1291 Stuyvesant Avenue

Union, N.J. 07083

908-686-7700

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Tom Canavan

John D'Achino Circulation Director



OPERATION CHRIST-MAS CHILD — The Puppies class at Osceola Church Nursery School in Clark adds their boxes to the growing pile of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The boxes will be sent to children around the world.

## Remembering the magic of Christmas past

Every time the month of December rolls around, it brings with it thoughts of Christmas and New Year's Eve in the good old days. This was back when our only concerns were about what Santa Claus might bring and before there was any need to decide what gifts would have to be acquired to be presented to any one else in the family. After all, Santa took care of all of that, didn't he?

As we got a little older, and the population increased, it appeared that an over-worked Santa had delegated some of his usual Christmas activities to some of the older members of the family. He no longer had to be burdened with bringing a tree on his sled, or having to somehow force the tree down the chimney.

It was also became acceptable for for a member of the family to wander through the various lots that were now covered with all sorts of evergreen trees and wreaths and look for the perfect tree to bring home. The younger members of the family were usually allowed to accompany the buyer on this mission.

There appeared to be an art to this mission, for the price of the tree could often be negotiated even though there was a sign posted listing the price of the tree.

Buying a tree too early in the season was not recommended, as the seller was not yet concerned about having any of his stock left over after Christmas.

# The Way

By William Frolich

There were many entrepreneurs at that time looking to make a fast buck by selling trees as a sideline to their regular businesses.

Gas stations were well known for stretching a rope along their property and leaning a number of trees against it for display. Temporary strings of electric lights were usually added for prospective customers to examine the the family automobile. merchandise even into the late night

As the days grew shorter, colder and closer to the 25th of December, there might be some noticeable changes in the sales person, especially at night. Red and runny noses were quite obvious, as was the stamping of feet in an effort to restore warmth to them. An old oil drum might be used as a firebox, with scrawny, un-sellable trees used as fuel and set far enough away from the stock so as not to set it ablaze from flying sparks.

Another hazard to this once-a-year business was the possibility of a heavy snowfall, as most of the dealers left their trees outside both day and night. Snow covered evergreen trees might have been a pleasant sight to passersby, but who wanted to buy such a tree?

Although there were a few tree

even on Christmas Eve, most of the dealers would rather sell a tree at any price, than have it still on the lot the day after Christmas.

In those days, most trees cost less than \$5, and many could be had for a single dollar. As time grew short, even 50 cents or a quarter could close a sale. After the tree had been purchased, it was a simple matter to carry it home by hand, if the distance was not very great.

If snow lay on the ground, the good old trusty Flexible Flyer sled might bear the burden, but in most cases, the tree was driven home on the roof of

Hoisted up to the rather flat roof of the car, it was also an easy matter to tie it fast with string, cheerfully donated by the seller, from a large ball of twine he kept on hand.

Those old cars had lots of places to which strings could be fastened, such as door handles and hinges. It was even possible to pass the strings from one side of the car to the other side through the open windows.

Those slightly open windows did not let in air that was much colder than what was already in the car, considering the inefficient heaters in most of the cars at that time.

Once the tree had been brought home, it was usually stored in the barn to await Christmas Eve and the arrival of Santa Claus, who would set it up and trim it. It was never quite clear to the younger generation how this could sellers who would not cut their prices happen all over the country at the

same time, but it mst have, for there was the proof.

The tree had been in the barn on Christmas Eve and on Christmas morning, it was standing in the front parlor and decorated with what seemed like thousands of shiny, colored balls hanging from every branch and twig. Santa was indeed a miracle worker!

As further proof that there really was a Santa Claus, there was that sooty footprint on the white marble hearth-stone in front of the fireplace, showing where he had stepped out from his trip down the chimney. Also, the cookies that had been carefully placed on the mantle for him were gone, and they had been placed too high for the family dog to have taken

More importantly, there was a large pile of beautifully wrapped presents nearby. Some were actually hanging from the tree, but most were on the floor near it. Presents that were too heavy to hang were more interesting than those very lightweight ones, that might have just a pair of stockings concealed inside.

Heavy ones suggested the possibility of a wonderful toy within, that might provide hours and hours of

Such was Christmastime in the good old days, a time that can be relived only in memory.

William Frolich is a member of the Union County Historical Society.

## Seven guiding principles in celebrating Kwanzaa

Recently I overheard a conversation in which one person was telling another that she was not into Kwanzaa because she was a Christian and did not celebrate Muslim holidays. Since the conversation was not directed at me, I did not choose to try to correct her misinformation. I will, though, provide what information I know about Kwanzaa so that others might receive the facts as I know them.

Kwanzaa is a cultural celebration and has no specific religious designation. It can be celebrated regardless of one's religious beliefs. Kwanzaa is not a black version of Christmas. It is an African-American holiday that stresses African traditions and culture over a seven-day period. Each of the seven days is represented by one of seven principles of the Nguzo Saba. Kwanzaa is an East African Kiswahili word which means "the first fruits of the

This holiday was originated by Maulana Karenga, a professor of black studies and the executive director of the Institute of Pan-African Studies, in 1966 after studying different African groups and their holidays.

Karenga saw the need for African-Americans to claim as their own a cultural celebration that stressed the values of their African ancestors and other present-day African peoples.

Kwanzaa is a time for African-Americans to emphasize their struggles, their families and their futures. Kwanzaa is celebrated from Dec. 26 through Jan. 1. Each day is a gathering together of families and friends to talk about and relate to seven symbols and seven principles of Kwanzaa.

The first symbol is the Mkeka, a straw mat which is laid on a table. The Knowledge Is Power

By Harry Paden

Mkeka is a symbol of African-American history and ideas. The Kinara, or candleholder, is a symbol of family members who have died, our ancestry, genealogy and African beginnings.

Seven candles, called Mishumaa Saba, are placed in the Kinara. Each candle represents one of the seven principles. A black candle is placed in the center, three red candles on the left, and three green candles on the right side. The colors are also symbolic. Black stands for African people, for without people there can be neither struggle nor hope.

Green is for the earth that gives us life and for our youth and the new ideas they bring, and red is for the struggle for self-determination waged by our ancestors and for the fire in our hearts which guides us to work hard for the things in which we believe.

The next symbol, the Maazao, a basket of fruits, nuts or vegetables, which symbolizes the crops or fruits of the harvest, is placed on the Mkeka. Next is Muhindi, or ears of corn, one for each child in the family — even if there are no children, one ear is put on the mat - which symbolizes that children are important and to reinforce the challenges and hopes children bring.

A Kikombe Cha Umoja, the unity cup, is placed on the mat. This symbol is the special vessel used in the daily performing of the libation ritual. Finally, the Zawadi, or gifts, symbolize growth and self-development dur-

ing the coming year. Two gifts are given to each child, a book and something made by a family member or something from Africa. One of the Nguzo Saba principles

is emphasized each of the seven days of Kwanzaa. Each day is started with the special greeting, Habari Gani, which means "what is the news." The person addressed responds with the principle of the day.

On Dec. 26 the principle Umoja, or unity, is stressed, "To strive for a principled and harmonious togetherness in the family, community, nation and world African community."

On Dec. 27, Kujichagulia, or selfdetermination, is "to define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves instead of being defined, named, created for and spoken for by others.'

On Dec. 28, Ujima, or collective work and responsibility, is "to build and maintain our community together and make our sisters' and brothers' problems our problems and solve them together.'

On Dec. 29, Ujammaa, or cooperative economics, is meant to "build our own businesses, control the economics of our own community and share in all its work and wealth.'

On Dec. 30, Nia, or purpose, is conducted "to make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional great-

On Dec. 31, Kuumba, or creativity, occurs "to do always as much as we can in the way we can in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it."

On Jan. 1, we experience Imani, or

faith, "to believe with all our hearts in our creator, our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle."

On the first day of Kwanzaa the black candle is lit, on the second day the red candle closest to the center is lit along with the black candle. On the third day the green candle closest to the center is lit along with the previous day's candles until the seventh day, when all candles are lit in order, ending with the last green candle.

The Karamu, or feast, is held on Dec. 31, the sixth day of Kwanzaa. Everyone tries to bring some food to share no matter how little. Even if people have no food to bring, no one cares. Everyone is welcome.

After the meal the gifts are given, though this can take place on any day during Kwanzaa. On the seventh day, after all the candles are lit, Kwanzaa celebrants discuss mistakes and accomplishments of the previous year. Afterward they discuss changes and goals expected for the New Year.

The final libation of water or juice is poured in the cup. The cup is then raised and Harambee, or "Let's Pull Together," is shouted, and the gathering responds back, "Harambee" seven times and the cup is passed and each person takes a sip.

The Kwanzaa celebration ends with the Tamshi La Tutaonana, the farewell statement, "A clear and concise statement of values and wisdom we must embrace if we are to liberate ourselves and reshape reality according to our needs and interests.'

Harry Paden can be reached at harry\_paden@hotmail.com.

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## Labryinth walks in the new year

By Amy S. Bobrowski Staff Writer

New Year's celebrations usually center around hordes of people getting together to enjoy good food, drinks, loud entertainment and a kiss at the stroke of midnight.

Those looking for an alternative to the bustling New Year's party environment can find it this year at the First Presbyterian Church.

Members will sponsor a special New Year's Eve Labyrinth Walk on Friday from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., allowing others to ring in the new year with a spiritual experience.

The church's labyrinth, an 11-ringed pattern painted on canvas, is modeled after the 13th-century Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France.

"Walking the labyrinth is an ancient spiritual practice of prayer and meditation," said a church statement. "In Medieval times, walking the labyrinth symbolized the Christian pilgrimage to Jerusalem for those who could not personally make the journey."

The canvas pattern occupies the entire gymnasium at the church's Bates Hall.

Virginia Waters, this year's labyrinth facilitator said the path has three parts.

"Walking through the labyrinth to the center, you're releasing, shedding, letting go and freeing yourself of burdens," said Waters. "At the center, people fill themselves, become inspired or find a solution to a problem they've been having. On the way out, it's like a path of unity where you bring out those feelings with you."

The significance of walking the labyrinth at the turn of the year mirrors the three aspects of the walk, said Waters.

"On the way in, you're letting go of anything from the past year that's bothered you or held you back," she said. "At the center, you're open to receiving inspiration, attention, healing, and energy that will help you go back out and prepare for the year to come."

Co-facilitator Rosemary Schultz agrees with Waters. "Walking the labyrinth on New Year's is walking in a new year for peace, harmony and love," she said.

The church holds labyrinth walks during the first Sunday of each month, during Advent and for bereavement ses-

After her husband died about 11/2 years ago, Waters and her close ones walked the labyrinth in her husband's mem-

"People said they experienced him on the labyrinth, that he was giving them support and messages," said Waters. "It really helps to heal the grief."

Schultz had similar experiences remembering her late mother as she walks the calming and enlightening pattern. Waters, who's walked the labyrinth numerous times, said the walk is different for everybody and different each

subsequent time you travel the unicursal path. "Saying 'I walked the labyrinth once' is like saying 'I prayed once," said Waters.

Candles and soft music contribute to creating a sacred, quiet and meditative experience.

"The labyrinth creates peace," said Waters. "We have so little opportunity for quiet in this world. It's a very busy and bustling place. It's very rare we can be quiet and achieve inner peace."

For more information, call 908-276-8440.

## Skate with CHS ice

hockey on Jan. 8 Skate with the Cranford High School Ice Hockey Team on Jan. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Warinanco Ice Skating Center in Roselle. Tickets are \$6 and are available at the door or via CHS Ice Hockey athletes. The evening

will also include Score-O Shots. For more information, call Janet at 908-272-2905 or Rosanne 908-276-

#### Historical society to present author

The Cranford Historical Society will present Ethel Washington, author of "Union County Black Americans" on Jan. 9 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Dr. Carl Hanson House, 38 Springfield

Washington, history program coordinator for the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, has recently published a book, "Union County Black Americans", which is filled with more than 200 photos and illustrations. Some of these photos date back to the era of slavery.

Washington spent about a year and a half doing the research throughout Union County. Local historical organizations, including the Cranford Historical Society were valuable resources for Union County archival photographs.

**EVENTS** 

Washington will give a brief discussion of how she did her research in addition to a question and answer period. Books will be available for purchase. Washington will also be available to sign all books.

Refreshments will be served. Admission is free.

For more information, call 908-276-0082.

#### Medicare the topic of Wednesday Club

President Sandy Pells will preside at the Wednesday Morning Club business meeting on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the Community Center, 220 Walnut

Don Kalem, coordinator for SHIP - State Health Insurance Assistance Program - will speak to the group on the changes occurring in Medicare. The monthly philanthropic tea will not be held during the month of January.

#### Indie film, 'Tap Dreams', to be screened at CDC

"Tap Dreams," an independent

Joe Gatto Orchestra from 1950

zero budget movie, filmed by New Jersey Actors in New Jersey, will have a premier at the Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre, 78 Winans Ave., Cranford, on Jan. 16.

Tickets cost \$10 and all proceeds will benefit a Korean War veteran who has extraordinary medical expenses.

For more information, call Anthony Giordano at 908-620-0734, e-mail to giordanoanthony@hotmail.com, or visit www.giordanoworks.com.

"Tap Dreams" began as a play with a production at Love Creek in New York City in 1998. That and subsequent productions in Australia, Canada, England, South Africa and most recently in Holland provoked the idea of turning it into a screenplay.

Filmed on a shoestring budget with all involved deferring payment until profits were realized, "Tap Dreams" the film became a reality in Septem-

"Tap Dreams" is about four diverse women whose search for an escape from the reality of their lives has brought them together in the dressing room of a tap class. While their backgrounds range from a nun to an illiterate country wife, they share the universal longing to achieve a childhood dream.

#### **Donald Phelan**

Donald J. Phelan, 83, of Cranford died Dec. 18 in the Father Hudson House, Elizabeth.

Born in Manhattan, Mr. Phelan lived in Pleasantville, N.Y., Farmingdale, Long Island and Lakewood before recently moving to Cranford. He was a professional photographer and owned his own business, Don Phelan Inc., since 1980.

Mr. Phelan retired in 1998. During World War II, he served with the Navy as an aerial photographer first class, where he earned his Air Crew wings and the Philippine Liberation medal with a Bronze Star.

He was past president of the Viceroy Civic Association of Farmingdale, Long Island. Mr. Phelan was pat president of the Long Island Advertising Club.

Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Lillian; two sons, Joseph and Don; four daughters, Beth Brown, nina Aldrich, Janet Collins and Winnie Scuteri; a sister, Eileen Sobka, and 14 grandchildren.

#### **Helen Trov**

Helen Troy, 101, of Cranford died Dec. 19 in Overlook Hospital, Summit. Born in New York City, Mrs. Troy lived in Newark, Union and Lakewood before moving to Cranford a year ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Norma Cohen; a sister, Sylvia Mandel; a brother, Morton Mendelowitz; two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

#### Rose Lifschitz

Rose Lifschitz, 81, of Cranford died Dec. 18 in Union Hospital.

Born in Chattanooga, Tenn., Mrs. Lifschitz lived in Elizabeth, Fanwood and Westfield before moving to Cranford six months ago. She was a clerk with the Domestic Court Division of the Union County court system before retiring many years ago.

Surviving are two daughters, Edie Lara and Judy Schiraldi; two sisters, Rebecca Gutkin and Sara Dubrow; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

#### Ethel P. Szczepaniak

Ethel P. Szczepaniak, 80, of Tinton Falls, formerly of Linden, died Dec. 20 at home.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Szczepaniak lived in Linden, Cranford and Brick before moving to Tinton Falls last year. She was an executive director for the Union County Medical Society in Mountainside for 20 years before retiring in 1989.

Surviving are six daughters, Patricia Stevens, Laura Valentine, Kathleen Vallee, Irene Kapsaskis, Jodi Crook and Margaret Szczepaniak; a son, Stephen Sepaniak; two brothers, John and Eugene O'Reilly; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

#### Thomas McGuire

Thomas J. McGuire, 80, of Cranford died Dec. 24 in the Cranford Health and Extended Care.

Born in Scranton, Pa., Mr. McGuire lived in Roselle before moving to Cranford 15 years ago. He was a manager at Linden Motor Freight for 20 years before retiring in 1989.

Mr. McGuire was in the Navy during World War II.

Surviving are two daughters, Mauyra Eska and Aileen Dziki; a son, Thomas J., and five grandchildren.

#### Joseph P. Gatto

**OBITUARIES** 

Joseph Paul Gatto, 84, of Cranford died Dec. 22 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Gatto moved to Cranford 50 years ago. He was a clerk with Premiere Lighting and Electric Supply Co., Garwood, for 45 years before retiring in 1999.

Mr. Gatto was a renown piano player and musical arranger. He appeared with Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn, Billy Eckstein, Billie Holiday, Kay Starr, Patti Page, the Ames Brothers and the original Ink Spots.

Mr. Gatto was an Army veteran of World War II, in 1940 and was the featured pianist with the Herbie Field Orchestra, touring in the European Theater of War. He recorded with RCA Victor, Coral Label and Ecca records. He was the proprietor of the

through 2002. Surviving are a daughter, Cecelia Crecca; a son, Joseph A.;

sisters, Lucy Guttman and Anne Saniuck, and seven grandchildren.

Alternative Worship Service: Sunday - 9 a.m.

Traditional Worship Service: Sunday - 10:15 a.m.

Sunday School: 10:15 a.m.

Youth Group: Sunday - 6-8 p.m

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers no later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays

prior to the following week's publication.

two brothers, Sebastian and Vito; two

#### **WORSHIP CALENDAR**

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

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:
Applicant: Charlotte Drive Associates
L.L.C.
Address: 251 Westfield Avenue
Clark, New Jersey
has applied for preliminary and final subdivision approval and preliminary and
final site plan approval for:

Property Street Address: 575-605 Raritan Road Block 28 Lots 7 and 8

FOR THE PURPOSE OF: Subdividing the property into 8 lots to be developed with 8 single-family dwellings, an access road and two cul-de-sacs. The applicant also seeks the following vari-

an access road and two cul-de-sacs. Ine applicant also seeks the following variances:

A variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3c.1 to permit two of the proposed lots to have front yards of 15 feet whereas the Ordinance requires a minimum front yard of 40 feet; a variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3a to permit two of the proposed lots to have frontages of 90.16 feet whereas the Ordinance requires minimum frontage of 100 feet at the building line; a variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3a to permit one of the lots fronting on the end of a cul-desac to have frontage of 36.69 feet whereas the Ordinance requires a minimum frontage of 40 feet; a variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3c to permit one of the proposed lots to have a rear yard measuring 10 feet whereas the Ordinance requires a minimum rear yard of 35 feet; a variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3c to permit one of the proposed lots to have total side yard setbacks measuring 25 feet whereas the Ordinance requires total side yard setbacks of at least 30 feet; a variance from Clark Zoning Ordinance 34-8.3b to permit lot coverage of 15.05% and 15.86% for two of the proposed lots whereas the Ordinance requires a maximum lot coverage of 15%; and a de minimus exception from the Residential Site Improvement Standards (RSIS) to permit one of the cul-de-sacs to have a right-of-way width of 40 feet whereas 50 feet is required under RSIS.

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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

The applicant also requests any other variances or waivers that may be required in connection with this application.

This matter will be heard by the Clark Township Planning Board at a public hearing at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2005 in the Municipal Court Room, 315 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey, Any person or persons affected by this matter may have an opportunity to be heard at said meeting.

Copies of the application and plans are on file and may be examined at the Building Department, Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey during regular business hours.

By: Rudolph E. Daunno, Member U98050 CCE Dec. 30, 2004 (\$28.88)

## LEGAL NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Zoning Board of Adjustment, Township of Cranford, County of Union, New Jersey has rescheduled the reorganization meeting on Monday, January 10, 2005 at 7:45 p.m. in Room 108 of the Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, New Jersey with the following agenda:

13. NO APPLICATIONS SCHEDULED

CHARLOTTE DRIVE ASSOCIATES L.L.C.

1. Statement of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.
2. Roll Call.
3. Swearing in of Members
4. Election of Officers
5. Appointment of Board Attorney
6. Appointment of Scribe
7. Designation of Official Newspapers
8. Time Schedule of Meetings
9. Communications
10. Resolutions of Memorialization
11. Minutes
12. Old/New Business

PUBLIC MEETING - ROOM 107 - 8:15 P.M.

Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accor-dance with the rules of the Zoning Board. Barbara Ginsberg, Secretary U98439 CCE Dec. 30, 2004 (\$14.25)

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

CLARK PLANNING BOARD 2005 MEETING DATES Reorganization Meeting January 11, 2005 315 Westfield Ave. 7:30PM Council Chambers

**PUBLIC MEETINGS** January 11 February 15 March 15 April 19 May 17 June 21

July 19
August 16
September 20
October 18
November 15
December 20 CLARK ZONING
BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
2005 MEETING DATES
Reorganization Meeting
January 5, 2005
430 Westfield Ave. Room 16 8:00PM

PUBLIC MEETINGS
315 Westfield Ave. 8:00PM
Council Chambers
January 24 July 25
February 28 August 22
March 28 September 26
April 25 October 24
May 23 November 28
June 27 December 14\*
\*430 Westfield Avenue, Room 16

Kathleen Leonard Township Clerk U98351 CCE Dec. 30, 2004 (\$13.50)

LEGAL NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT TAKE NOTICE that on the 20th day of December, 2004, the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following

actions:

1. Application #Z31-04: Granted variances with conditions to Peter and Kathy Lewis, Applicants, to permit construction of an addition with less than the minimum required rear yard setback and a deck with less than the minimum required rear yard setback on Block 143, Lot 20, as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 8 Moss Lane in the R-3 Zone. Zone.

2. Application #Z39-04: Granted variances with conditions to Paul Conway, Applicant, to permit construction of an addition that will connect the principal

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

structure to the existing garage with less than the minimum required rear yard setback on Block 268, Lot 7, as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 325 Casino Avenue in the R-3 Zone.

3. Application #Z43-04: Granted variances with conditions to Gary Patti, Applicant, to permit construction of a single-family dwelling that will exceed the maximum allowable impervious surface on Block 483, Lot 5.01, as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 201 High Street in the R-4 Zone. Barbara Ginsberg, Secretary U98440 CCE Dec. 30, 2004 (\$14.63)

CLARK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL 2005 MEETING DATES Reorganization Meeting January 1, 2005 315 Westfield Ave. 12:00 PM EXECUTIVE MEETINGS 8:00 P.M. 430 Westfield Avenue Room 16

January 3
February 7
March 7
April 4
May 2
June 6
July 5 (Tuesday)
August 1
September 6 (Tuesday)
October 3
November 7
December 5

PUBLIC MEETINGS 8:00 P.M. 315 Westfield Avenue Council Chambers

January 18 (Tuesday)
February 22 (Tuesday)
March 21
April 18
May 16
June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21

U98352 CCE Dec. 30, 2004 (\$16.13) PENTECOSTAL TRINITY PENTECOSTAL

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## **SPORTS**

**Sports Numbers** Phone: 973-763-0700 Fax: 973-763-2557

#### Cranford Boys' Basketball Jan. 4 at Scotch Plains, 4 p.m.

Jan. 6 Linden, 7 p.m. Jan. 8 at Westfield, 1 p.m. Jan. 11 at Union, 4

Jan. 13 at Plainfield, 7 Jan. 15 Newark East Side, 1

Jan. 18 Kearny, 4 Jan. 20 Irvington, 4

Jan. 27 Shabazz, 3 p.m. Jan. 29 at Elizabeth, 1

Feb. 1 Scotch Plains, 7 Feb. 3 at Linden, 4

Feb. 4 Bernoskie Games, 7: 30 p.m. at Rahway Recreation Center Feb. 6 Prime Time Shootout, 10:30 Feb. 8 Westfield, 4

Feb. 17 at Bridgewater-Raritan, 7

#### Cranford Girls' Basketball

Jan. 4 Scotch Plains, 7 p.m. Jan. 6 at Linden, 4 p.m.

Jan. 8 Westfield, 1p.m.

Jan. 11 Union, 4 Jan. 13 Plainfield, 4

Jan. 15 at Newark East Side, 1 Jan. 18 at Kearny, 4

Jan. 20 at Irvington, 4

Jan. 22 Elizabeth, 1 Jan. 27 at Shabazz, 4

Jan. 28 Montville, 7

Feb. 1 at Scotch Plains, 4 Feb. 3 Linden, 4

Feb. 8 at Westfield, 4

Feb. 17 Bridgewater-Raritan, 7

#### Cranford Wrestling

Jan. 5 at Union, 5 p.m. Jan. 7 Plainfield, 5

Jan. 12 Scotch Plains, 7 p.m.

Jan. 14 at Kearny, 5 Jan. 17 Brearley, 7

Jan. 19 Elizabeth, 5

Jan. 22 at Hudson Catholic, 3 p.m. Jan. 26 Westfield, 5

Jan. 28 at Shabazz, 5 Jan. 29 Roselle Park, 7

Feb. 2 at Irvington, 5

Feb. 4-5 UCT at UHS

Feb. 8 at North Bergen, 7

Feb. 10 at Newark East Side, 5 Feb. 16 at Northern Valley, 7

Feb. 19 at Par. Hills Quad, 10 a.m.

#### Cranford Ice Hockey

Jan. 5 at MKA, 7 p.m. Jan. 10 Chatham, 6 p.m.

Jan. 12 Ridge, 3:30 p.m.

Jan. 14 at B-Raritan, 7:50 p.m. Jan. 17 St. Joseph's, 6

Jan. 18 at Old Bridge, 3:45 p.m.

Jan. 22 at Ridge, 7:45 p.m. Jan. 24 MKA, 6

Jan. 26 at St. Joseph's, 8 p.m.

Jan. 31 West Essex, 6

Feb. 5 at Morristown, 8:15 p.m.

Feb. 7 Montclair, 6 Feb. 9 Bridgewater-Raritan, 3 p.m.

Feb. 13 at Lakeland, 8:45 p.m.

Feb. 15 at Summit, 8:30 p.m.

## Cranford

**Swimming** Jan. 5 Rahway, 4 p.m. Jan. 6 Westfield, 4

Jan. 11 at Union, 3 p.m.

Jan. 14 Roselle Catholic, 4 Jan. 18 Elizabeth, 4

Jan. 20 at New Providence, 4

Jan. 21 West Orange, 4 Jan. 27 Boonton, 4

Feb. 1 at Hudson Cath./St. Dom., 4:30 Feb. 2 at Union Catholic, 5:15 p.m.

#### Cranford **Bowling**

Jan. 4 Kearny, 3:15 p.m. Jan. 6 at Newark East Side, 3:15 Jan. 11 Irvington, 3:15

Jan. 13 at Linden, 3:15 Jan. 15 Central Jersey Classic, 1 p.m.

Jan. 18 Summit, 3:15

Jan. 20 at Westfield, 3:15

Jan. 25 at Livingston, 3:15 Jan. 27 at Shabazz, 3:15

#### Cranford Winter Track

Jan. 3 UC Girls' Relays, 4 p.m. Jan. 5 UC Boys' Relays, 4

Jan. 9 State Relay Championships

Jan. 12 Drew Invitational, 4:30 p.m.

Jan. 16 State Group Meet Jan. 19 Drew Invitational, 4:30

Jan. 22 Varsity Classic

Jan. 24 UC Girls' Relays, 4

Jan. 26 UC Boys' Relays, 4

Feb. 14 Varsity Classic, 4 Feb. 27 Meet of Champions

#### **Cougars ice Westfield**

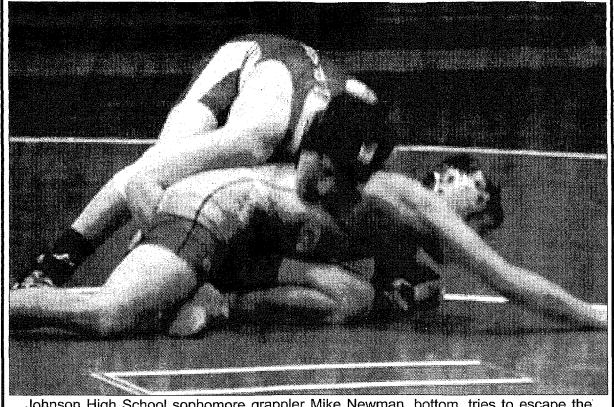
The Cranford High School ice hockey team beat Westfield after tying the Blue Devils last week at Warinanco Ice Rink in Roselle.

Cranford won 3-1 Dec. 22 after a deadlock by a 5-5 score on Dec. 20.

In the tie game, J.J. Hoeffler scored three goals, while Paul Milonas and Joe Conte netted one for the Cougars.

Conte also had an assist. Cranford, with a record of 4-2-1, will resume its season Wednesday night at 7 vs. MKA at Clary Anderson Arena in Montclair.

## Trying to escape



Johnson High School sophomore grappler Mike Newman, bottom, tries to escape the clutches of Roselle Park senior Brian Swick in their 130-pound bout last Thursday night at Roselle Park. Newman was defeated 12-4, while Roselle Park rolled to a 55-11 win. Johnson was scheduled to participate in the Rahway Tournament yesterday and is set to return to Rahway for a Mountain Valley Conference match on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m.

## Johnson girls' capture their 3rd straight holiday tourney

## Crusaders will begin January with a 3-1 mark

By Jeff Wolfrum Staff Writer

ROSELLE PARK - Solid defense is the key.

That's what Johnson High School girls' basketball coach Steve Kaelblein feels has been the difference in his team's three-game winning streak that climaxed with the championship of the Panther Pride Tournament Tuesday night at the Ralph T. Williams Gymnasium.

Johnson defeated Metuchen 49-38 in the championship game to claim its third consecutive Panther Pride Tournament title and improve to 3-1.

The Crusader "D" helped Johnson jump out to an early

Just minutes into the contest, a loose ball picked up by junior forward Samantha Parin led to a five-foot banker to start off the surge. Metuchen, which had its record evened at 2-2, finally

scored its first points of the game at the 5:09 mark when

center Joelle Greene made both ends on a pair of free throws to make it 7-2. That's all the Bulldogs would score in the quarter as Johnson closed out the period with a 4-0 run. Senior guard Kerry Sullivan capped off the drive by tallying on a layup off a nice pass inside by sophomore center Lauren Slad-

"Defense has been the key for us," Kaelblein said. "We held them to two points in the first quarter and that's because it all starts with defense.

However, it was the offense that pushed the Crusaders in the beginning of the second quarter as they went on another 7-0 run to boost their lead to 18-2. All-Tournament selection Jamilee Pflug, a junior guard, capped the surge by stopping and popping a 10-footer in the paint.

We got an early lead because we scored on a lot of fast breaks and our transition game was good," Kaelblein said. "However, after we got a big lead, we didn't play smart by slowing it down and running our offensive system better."

Metuchen took advantage of that fact and got back into the contest at 18-8 after a 6-0 run. Freshman point guard Kristen Edmonds, who finished with 15 points and was named to the All-Tournament team as well, capped off the run by grabbing a defensive rebound and driving coast-tocoast for a layur.

"We didn't turn the ball over in the first half and that helped us in our transition game," Kaelblein said. "We also

did a good job of not allowing their best player (Edmonds) to get off and into the rhythm of the game in the first half. She only had four points at the half."

The Crusaders then outscored the Bulldogs 8-6 down the stretch to bring the contest to 26-14 at intermission.

Johnson picked up where it left off to start the third quarter as Parin scored all four points in a 4-0 run to push the Crusader lead to 30-16. She capped her performance by coming up with a steal and racing in for an easy layup.

"Samantha got the first four points of the third quarter and that helped turn a 12-point lead turn into a 16-point lead right away," Kaelblein said. "That really changed our approach because when you go into halftime with a lead you don't want to come into the third quarter and allow your opponent to get back into the game.'

Johnson didn't let that happened as it outscored the Bulldogs 8-7 the rest of the period to take a 38-21 advantage heading into the fourth quarter. After taking a 40-25 edge midway through the final

period, Metuchen mounted a 6-0 run to close to within a score of 40-31 with 3:22 remaining. Greene, who also made the All-Tournament team, capped off the surge with a 20footer from the left wing. However, after moving the score to 43-33 minutes later,

the Pflug sisters brought any hopes of a Metuchen comeback to an end by scoring all six points in a 6-0 run to take a 49-33 advantage. Jamilee sandwiched a pair of layups around a pair of free throws from younger sister Kelli, a sophomore for-

ward, who garnered tournament MVP honors. "I was kind of surprised because I thought everyone on the team did a great job," Kelli Pflug said. "We have a lot

of good players on the team." Metuchen then closed out the contest with a 5-0 run.

Edmonds ended it by drilling a three-pointer. Jamilee Pflug finished with 12 points, while Kelli Pflug chipped in with seven.

"My sister and I have been playing together since we were very young," Kelli Plug said. "In fact, almost all of our team has been playing together since the third grade, so we know each other really well."

Johnson hopes to keep its winning streak intact to start the new year.

The Crusaders are next scheduled to play at Union Catholic on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in Scotch Plains.

Off to a good start



The Johnson High School boys' basketball team, sparked by the play of the senior Youseff Amer (No. 33), defeated Roselle Park Tuesday afternoon in the consolation game of the Roselle Park Tournament. The Crusaders will continue at Roselle Tuesday at 4 p.m. in Mountain Valley Conference play and then return home to host non-conference foe Iselin Kennedy Thursday night at 7. Johnson begins January with a record of 3-1, with its only loss coming to Metuchen Monday in the Roselle Park Tournament.

# Cranford boys' bounce Summit

Sought Kowal Tourney final The Cranford High School boys' basketball team is quickly making up for

last year's rare season without a state playoff appearance and a record over .500. The Cougars improved to 3-0 Sunday night with a 64-57 win over Summit in the first round of the John Butch Kowal Tournament at Rahway.

Cranford, which finished second with a 2-1 record in last year's tournament - falling to South Plainfield 71-50 in the final - finished just 9-14 last year after reaching the Group 3 state championship game the year before.

Cranford defeated Colonia 61-52 and then J.P. Stevens 69-48 in last year's

The Cougars were scheduled to play Westfield in the tournament's first semifinal Tuesday night. Westfield defeated J.P. Stevens 59-38 Sunday. Monday's results included South Plainfield downing St. Peter's Prep 61-49

and Scotch Plains besting Rahway 57-50. That put Rahway facing St. Peter's Prep in yesterday's second consolation, followed by a semifinal of South Plainfield vs. Scotch Plains.

The first consolation Tuesday night pitted J.P. Stevens vs. Summit.

The tournament is to wrap today with the seventh-place game at 2 p.m., followed by the fifth-place game at 3:30 p.m.

The third-place game is set for 6 p.m., followed by the championship game Standout senior guard Terence Grier paced Cranford with a 22-point effort against Summit, while senior Steve Caprio added 14. Greg Federici made three

clutch free throws in the final minute to aid the Cougars. Cranford opened its season on Dec. 18 with a 66-56 non-conference win over Neptune in the Tipoff Classic held at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth.

Cranford followed up that victory with a 74-61 Watchung Conference-National Division triumph over Shabazz on Dec. 21. Grier did well to score a game-high 34 points in the conference win over the

Junior guard Chris Brown scored 13 points, Dave Snyder seven and senior Chris Drechsel five.

Girls' improve to 2-1: Cranford's girls' team improved to 2-1 with a 33-31 win over Union Monday in a Rams Roundball Festival contest at Randolph. The Cougars were scheduled to play St. Elizabeth Tuesday night and tonight

are scheduled to face Randolph at 6. Sophomore Samantha Cartwright made a layup with just three seconds remaining to give the Cougars the victory.

Union fell to 1-3, with all of its games close. The Farmers won at Kearny by a 36-32 score, fell at Irvington 33-29 and lost at home to North Bergen 51-48. Another standout sophomore for Cranford, Lisa Levonas, paced the Cougars

with a 14-point effort against Union. Cartwright finished with seven points. Cranford outscored the Farmers 10-4 in the fourth quarter for the come-from-

The Cougars opened with a 45-41 overtime win at non-conference foe Union Hill Dec. 18. Levonas paced Cranford with a 15-point performance.

Courtney Koellner added 10 points, Amanda Porter seven, Rebecca Flanagan six and Cartwright four.

Cranford's first setback this year was a 66-33 conference defeat to Shabazz on Dec. 21.

#### Johnson boys' defeat R. Park in consolation

The Johnson boys' basketball team defeated Roselle Park Tuesday afternoon in the consolation game of the Roselle Park Tournament. Johnson, which now stands at 3-1, lost to Metuchen Monday in a first-round contest.

#### Rams Roundball Festival at Randolph

Monday, Dec. 27 Cranford 33, Union 31 Randolph 56, St. Elizabeth 32 Tuesday, Dec. 28 Cranford vs. St. Elizabeth Union vs. Randolph Thursday, Dec. 30 Cranford vs. Randolph, 6 p.m. Union vs. St. Elizabeth, 7:30 p.m. **NOTES:** Cranford defeated Union by a 33-31 score Monday night to

improve to 2-1. Cranford previously defeated Union National Division competition.

Hill in non-conference play and lost to Shabazz in Watchung Conference-The Cougars faced St. Elizabeth Tuesday night and tonight are scheduled to play Randolph at 6.

#### John Butch Kowal Tourn. at Rahway Results and Schedule Results and Schedule Sunday, Dec. 26

First Round Westfield 59, J.P. Stevens 38 Cranford 64, Summit 57 Monday, Dec. 27 First Round

Scotch Plains 57, Rahway 50 Tuesday, Dec. 28 Consolation: J.P. Stevens vs. Cranford Semifinal: Westfield vs. Cranford Wednesday, Dec. 29

South Plain. 61, St. Peter's Prep 49

Consolation: St. PP vs. Rahway Semifinal: South Plain. vs. S. Plains Thursday, Dec. 30 Seventh Place: 2 p.m. Fifth Place: 3:30 p.m. Third Place: 6 p.m. Championship: 7:30 p.m.

### Cranford track athletes impressive

Cranford High School winter track and field standouts Ryan McMahon, Nate Thompson, Joe McKenney and Brian Mahoney captured the 3,200-meter relay event at Monday's 24th DeSchriver Invitational at Drew University in Madison.

The combined for a winning time of 8:19.74. Anthony Abitante of Governor Livingston won the pole vault in a record score of 14-6. The former record of 14-0 was established in 2000 by Scott Davidovich of Livingston.

Johnson

Wrestling

Jan. 7 at Rahway, 7 p.m.

Jan. 12 Bound Brook, 7

Jan. 26 Brearley, 7

Feb. 9 Westfield, 7

Feb. 16 Edison, 7

Feb. 11 at Millburn, 7

Jan. 19 New Providence, 7

Jan. 22 Ridge/Manville, 10

Jan. 29 Highland Park, 11 a.m.

Feb. 12 Newark Central, 11 a.m.

Feb. 17 at Iselin Kennedy, 7

Feb. 19 North Plainfield, 11

Feb. 2 at Gov. Livingston, 7

Feb. 4-5: UCT at Union

Jan. 8 Elizabeth Tournament, 10 a.m.

#### Johnson Boys' Basketball

Jan. 4 at Roselle, 4 p.m. Jan. 6 Iselin Kennedy, 7 p.m. Jan. 7 at Newark Central, 4 Jan. 13 Ridge, 7 Jan. 15 at Brearley, 7

Jan. 18 at South Amboy, 7 Jan. 20 Roselle Park, 7 Jan. 21 Rahway, 7

Jan. 25 Hillside, 4 Jan. 27 St. Mary's, 7 Jan. 28 Pequannock, 7 Feb. 1 at North Plainfield, 4 Feb. 4 at Gov. Livingston, 7

Feb. 8 Roselle Catholic, 7

Feb. 15 Delaware Valley, 7

#### Johnson Girls' Basketball

Jan. 7 at Union Catholic, 7 p.m. Jan. 11 at North Plainfield, 4 p.m. Jan. 13 Gov. Livingston, 7

Jan. 14 at Roselle Catholic, 7 Jan. 20 Roselle, 4 Jan. 21 at Rahway, 7

Jan. 25 at Hillside, 4

Jan. 27 at Oak Knoll, 4 Jan. 28 Union Catholic, 4 Feb. 1 North Plainfield, 4

Feb. 5 at Roselle Catholic, TBA Feb. 7 at Gov. Livingston, 7 Feb. 11 at Dayton, 7 Feb. 15 at Roselle, 4 / Feb. 18: Rah., 4

#### Johnson Ice Hockey

Jan. 2 at Nutley, 6:50 p.m. Jan. 5 Nutley, 6 p.m.

Jan. 10 Madison, 6 p.m. Jan. 12 at Westfield, 8:30 p.m.

Jan. 15 at West Orange, 6 p.m. Jan. 19 Westfield, 6 p.m. Jan. 26 West Orange, 6 p.m.

Feb. 2 South Brunswick, 6 p.m. Feb. 3 at Verona, 5 p.m.

Feb. 7 at Pequannock, 8:30 p.m.

Feb. 9 Summit, 6 p.m.

Feb. 16 Point Pleasant, 6 p.m.



# Union County : News : Arts : Arts : Entertainment : Classified : Real Estate

News

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- **Automotive**

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**WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS** 

# can't fight city hall

I love the scene in the movie "Rudy" when the Notre Dame priest said after all his years he learned two basic facts, "There is a God, and I'm not him." A secular fact to learn is that you can't fight City Hall.

Ask the family of Fernando Vidal who died in an explosion at the Elizabeth City Yard on Jan. 22, 1999.

Earlier this month the state Appellate Division affirmed a Union County law determination dismissing the claims of the Vidal estate against the City of Eliza-

## Left Out

By Frank Capece

The court found, "No reasonable jury could conclude that the city's conduct or that of any of its employees were palpably unreasonable."

That palpably unreasonable test is pretty tough to get around. But first the facts. In January 1999, the City Yard facility was cold. The Elizabethtown Gas Company found the leak, and after a little confusion outside contractors brought in made the repairs.

The superintendent of public buildings said he "relied on the training and expertise" of the contractors brought in to fix the prob-

The facts get a little murky but the court found "there was no coordination between the contractors." Evidently Vidal captured a sample of a burning substance, entered the room filled with the gas, and there was an explosion. Six people were badly burned, and Vidal died soon thereafter.

Under New Jersey's Tort Claims Act, the court ruled the Vidal estate had no case because it was "not established that the boiler room was a dangerous condition or that the city had actual knowledge of a dangerous condi-

John Ryan, the attorney who brought the action was philosophical. He spoke about the dangerous conditions around the garage as establishing the requisite actual knowledge. He acknowledged it was still an uphill fight.

Another uphill fight is being fought over the proposed \$12-billion acquisition of PSE&G by Excelon, an Illinois energy giant. If approved, it will become the largest utility in the country.

Out of the box the announcement predicted this merger would save utility users throughout New Jersey some \$900 million in costs within two years after the approval, which is expected by 2006.

It turns out the state's Public Interest Research Group is gearing up to fight a pretty big city hall, the state Board of Public Utilities. This agency has oversight before such a merger can be approved.

PIRG is warning the state's electric users will be "vulnerable to the pricing of the biggest power company down the road."

The group wants to see if the so-called savings are at the expense of quality employee service and increased danger to the environment. Their argument is that the two companies "have a history of generating power from dirty and dangerous sources."

The whole thing sounds a lot like the deregulation of the cable industry. Has anyone checked their cable rates lately or remember the hollow promises back then of cheaper rates and quality serv-

PIRG could argue that the merger is just palpably unreasonable. Probably better to just pray to God the electric bills don't go too high.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2004 - SECTION B

# New and old issues arise during past year

## Staff Writer

Elections, investigations, awards and objections. Union County saw it all in 2004. While some new issues were resolved, others continue to plague the county. Some events and occurrences of the past year follow.

• The \$2 million construction of Phil Rizzuto Park was finished this year, and the park opened in July.

Featuring a playground, soccer field, spray pool, gazebo, and a pedestrian bridge, the park was named for the baseball Hall of Famer and Union County resident Phil Rizzuto, who lives in Hillside.

The construction, which began in November 2002, was derailed by bad weather and opened a year and a half behind schedule.

Located at Morris and North Avenues, the park borders Elizabeth, Hillside, and Union.

· The Union County Board of

Freeholders continued its program to remove geese from county parks. Officials said the geese have created serious problems, such as threatening water quality, polluting the environment, destroying turf and are a hazard to health and

Wohlrab

safety. As in 2003, the county's efforts were met with opposition from some residents. A demonstration in front of the freeholders' meeting on March 11 allowed residents to voice disapproval of the county's policy and name alternatives to extermination of the unwelcome avian residents.

• The new Union County Police Headquarters in Westfield was completed this year, with a final budget of over \$11.6 million. The new facility includes a forensics lab that will process narcotics, blood, and DNA evidence. While the old headquarters continued to be in operation, it is slated to be demolished in favor of the new 51,209-square-foot facility.

• The Trap and Skeet Range at Union County's Lenape Park in Cranford has come under attack over environmental concerns. While the county first considered shuttering the facility, the Board of Chosen Freeholders instead passed an ordinance that banned lead shot from the facility. Patrons of the range fought to save it and opposed the ordinance, but ultimately won the first and lost the sec-

#### Juvenile detention center

While some things in Union County have changed and improved, others are an issue year after year. One such situation is the juvenile detention cen-

The youth jail has been a center of controversy for a long time, and 2004 was no different.

A year-long probe by the state Office of the Child Advocate released in November detailed the facility's shortcomings in a 10-page report. Temperatures of 45 degrees in sleep-

ing areas were deemed problematic, as were the infestation of cockroaches and rodents at the facility. Again, overcrowding was cited as an issue, and suicide hazard checks were performed too infrequently.

The report also stated that the facility's practice of separating juveniles into groups, isolating individuals for the first 24 hours of detention, and conducting extended lockdowns were a violation of the state's Manual of Standards.

The George W. Herlich Juvenile Detention Facility, located atop a parking garage in Elizabeth, has long been a contentious issue. In December, the state Office of the Child Advocate warned that the county must begin building its new detention center "within the next 60 days," calling the current facility "substandard and unacceptable."

County officials have made progress toward a new center, but said that it is unrealistic to expect them to break ground before next August.

Earlier this year, the county acquired a four-acre property in Linden on which to build a new center. A \$4.3-million purchase by the Union County Improvement Authority and funded by the county, the negotiations for the Linden property, located at 1075 Edward St. off Routes 1&9, began late last year.

The purchase was announced in February and closed in April for the site, which currently holds an 80,000square-foot assembly plant that will be demolished to make way for the new center.

While some officials had hoped to break ground this year, the current timeline has the design development phase completed in February, with construction tentatively set to begin in August and conclude in November

The cost of the project has been estimated from \$20 million to \$40 million for an 80-bed facility. The current facility houses 38 juveniles, and has housed upward of 50 juve-

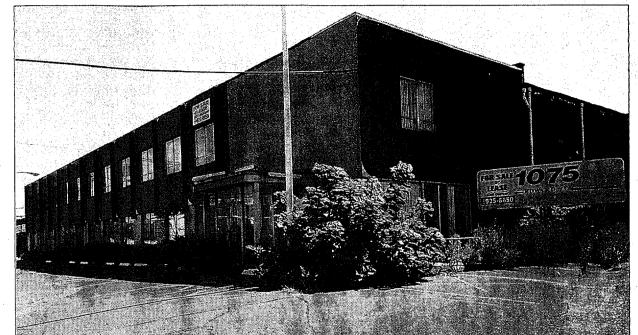
A cap on the population of the current juvenile justice center has led the county to explore alternatives. Currently, the county contracts with Morris, Warren, Bergen, Middlesex and Sussex counties to house juveniles at their centers, and has expanded its home detention program, in which kids stay in their community under watch by the court system.

#### Arts center

While the sciences were evident at the magnet school, the arts were in focus elsewhere in the county.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders voted in August to spend \$6 million to acquire and renovate the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Seen by county officials as a part of Rahway's downtown redevelopment, the first phase of the renovation began this year under the design of USA Architects Planners & Interior Designers and the construction under the direction of Joseph Jingoli & Sons Inc.

The Union County Arts Center is a historic facility. Built in 1928 as the Rahway Theatre, it opened a a classic vaudeville and silent movie palace. Saved in 1984, the building seats over



Union County has purchased property in Linden to build a new juvenile detention center, but not as quickly as the state would like.

1,300 people and currently puts on live performances that include symphonies, plays, popular acts and enter-

A study conducted by NBBJ assessed its immediate needs and long-term objectives. Improvements suggested for the first phase of the project, which is dedicated to "enriching the building" include air conditioning, as the center is currently open for only eight months of the year due to the lack thereof.

Other improvements include widening the stage depth, constructing new dressing rooms, expanding lobby space, and upgrading the plumbing, electrical and fire protection equipment.

While county officials would not commit to more than the first phase discussed in the study, the second two phases recommended involve "enriching the community" and "enriching the region" which would involve an additional \$10 million expense at \$3 million and \$7 million for the two phases, respectively.

The theater currently employs a small staff including a manager, several full-time employees, and a number of volunteers to keep the arts center running.

#### Elections

While the biggest election news was that up until Nov. 3, New Jersey was in play as a swing state in the presidential race, Union County which ultimately voted for Kerry had its own elections in which almost 70 percent of voters went to the polls.

Faces changed on the freeholder board prior to the election, with three stepping down and being replaced by appointees, two of whom later went on to win election.

First to leave was Nicholas Scutari of Linden, who stepped down effective March 1 after winning a state Senate seat. Replacing him was John Wohlrab, also of Linden, who served until October.

Wohlrab ultimately stepped down as well only month before the election in the wake of his Oct. 7 arrest. Wohlrab was charged with assault stemming from what is believed to be a domestic violence incident.



At the beginning of the year, county officials announced plans to purchase the Union County Arts Center in Rahway and provide \$6 million in renovations.

However, his resignation did not go into effect soon enough to change his name on the ballot, where it remained on Nov. 2. The Union County Democratic Committee named Nancy Ward of Linden to fill the last 10 weeks of Wohlrab's appointment to the board, and to his place on the ballot.

After Freeholder Mary Ruotolo stepped down effective Sept. 10, her unexpired term was filled by Bette Jane Kowalski of Cranford. Ruotolo cited a shoulder injury that included a torn rotator cuff as the reason for her resignation, but remained as the director of development for the Garden State Arts Foundation, an arm of the Turnpike Authority.

Despite a crowded field of candidates that included one Independent. Alexander Savin, Democrats won their 10th election victory in a row in Union County this November. While the new faces include Adrian Mapp of Plainfield, returning ones included Daniel Sullivan, who won re-election, and Kowalski and Ward, who both won terms following their appointments to the board.

Mapp will replace Freeholder Lewis Mingo, who did not seek re-

Republican candidates Frank Arena and Joe Renna, Democrat Patricia Quattrocchi, and Savin were defeated by the full Democratic ticket.

Sheriff Ralph Froehlich also won re-election, defeating Shawn Gianella and Peter Lijoi by over 50,000 votes. Surrogate James LaCorte of Elizabeth also topped the 100,000-vote mark in defeating Michael Panagos of West-

#### Magnet school

The Union County Magnet High School for Science, Mathematics, and Technology had a banner year, January brought its first Governor's School of Excellence Award, one of 25 awarded throughout the state.

For three years, the high school scored perfectly on the High School Proficiency Assessment in both math and language arts, an achievement pointed to by school administrators as a factor behind the award.

Schools that compete for the award must meet criteria including improvement in test scores, creative and increased involvement with the community, a creative and increased use of technology as a tool for learning and a demonstrated success in providing better learning opportunities for specialized population. Union County Magnet High School competed with 93 other schools for one of the 25 awards.

The high school opened amidst criticism in September 1997, and admits 75 students out of 300 applications each year. The 248-student school population this year boasts one thing many high schools can't: a perfect 1600 SAT score.

Senior Sara McArdle, a Scotch Plains resident, is one of less than a thousand students to score perfectly on the SAT in 2004.

McArdle wasn't the only Union County Magnet student with a significant achievement to her credit this year. The magnet school's eight-member team placed third at the Rutgers Academic Challenge, beating out 81 teams for the spot.

A "Jeopardy"-style competition, the Rutgers Academic Challenge is an interscholastic tournament where teams compete by answering trivia questions. Students' quick reactions and broad knowledge base brought

home the bronze in April. A competition of another sort led the magnet school's technology club

to create Vortex. Weighing in at 126 pounds, Vortex is a robot, built with a grant from NASA and sponsorship from General Motors and Merck as well as local businesses.

Students created the wireless, remote-controlled robot to compete in several contests, placing 27th out of 47 teams at the Mid Atlantic Regional and 13th out of 58 teams at the Chesapeake Bay Regional.

Along the way, the team collected the Daimler Chrysler Team Spirit Award and the Rookie Inspiration

Students designed Vortex in six weeks, and gave it the ability to hang, lift and climb using seven motors. It can even lift itself up, mirroring the students' effect on Union County.



Patrons of the Union County Trap and Skeet Range pleaded with the county to keep the facility open and submitted their own plan to address the EPA's concern about contamina-

## 'Beyond Just Riding' clinics offered at Watchung Stable

"Beyond Just Riding" is the title of a new series of win- ic, intermediate and advanced. ter clinics being offered at the Watchung Stable. Sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, the winter clinics will be Saturdays and Sundays from Jan. 8 through Feb. 27.

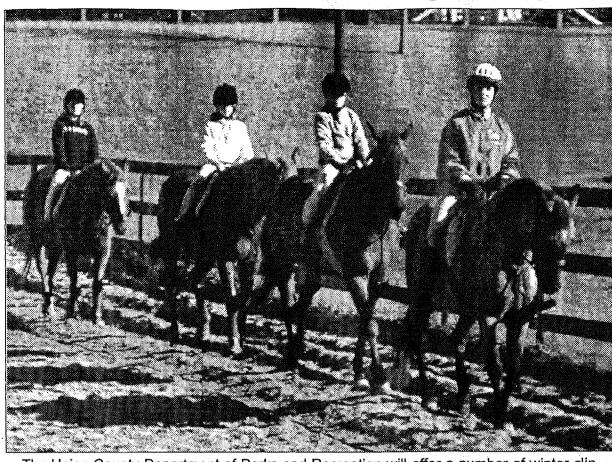
"We are proud to announce the start of this new program which is designed to highlight different equestrian topics with no actual riding," said Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski, liaison to the Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. "This exploration of horses and horseback riding will help people expand their knowledge of the equine, and learn simple behaviors of the horse, the evolution and history of riding, and what it actually takes to own your own horse."

Patrons, ages 9 through adult, are invited to register for as many clinics as they would like. Each "Beyond Just Riding" session will last two hours, and will focus on one of a variety of horse and horsemanship topics offered in new and exciting ways. Classes have been designed for specific riding levels and ages, with some open to all levels of expertise, including people who have never ridden before. The clinics will be held in the barn or the lecture area of the

The winter clinics are being offered as follows:

- Jan. 8, 1 to 3 p.m., Braiding clinic intermediate and advanced.
- · Jan. 9, 9 to 11 a.m., Riding in harmony with your horse, intermediate and advanced.
- · Jan. 9, 1 to 3 p.m., Behavior of the horse, advancedbeginner through advanced.
- Jan. 15, 9 to 11 a.m., Who the heck is George Morris?, intermediate and advanced.
- Jan. 15, 1 to 3 p.m., Basic equine science, all are wel-
- Jan. 16, 9 to 11 a.m., Learn how to groom and tack up, all adults only.
- · Jan. 22, 9 to 11 a.m., Course design and jumping clin-

- · Jan. 22, 1 to 3 p.m., What it takes to own a horse, all are welcome.
- · Jan. 23, 9 to 11 a.m., Bits and pieces, advanced-begin-
- ner through advanced. · Jan. 29, 9 to 11 a.m., Riding and safety basics, begin-
- ner through intermediate. · Jan. 30, 9 to 11 a.m., Conformation and colors of the
- horse, advanced riders only. · Feb. 5, 9 to 11 a.m., Let's go to an outside show,
- advanced riders only. · Feb. 6, 9 to 11 a.m., Grooming and tacking of the
- horse, beginner through intermediate. · Feb. 12, 9 to 11 a.m., How to draw horses, all are wel-
- Feb. 12, 9 to 11 a.m., Horse evolution and history of
- riding, all are welcome. · Feb. 13, 9 to 11 a.m., Anatomy of the horse, interme-
- diate and advanced. · Feb. 19, 9 to 11 a.m., Course design and jumping clin-
- ic, intermediate and advanced. • Feb. 19, 9 to 11 a.m., Legs and lameness, intermediate
- and advanced. • Feb. 20, 9 to 11 a.m., Boots and bandaging, intermedi-
- ate and advanced. • Feb. 20, 9 to 11 a.m., Basic horsemanship 101, all are
- welcome. • Feb. 26, 9 to 11 a.m., Body clipping, intermediate and
- advanced. · Feb. 26, 9 to 11 a.m., Basic tack, beginner and
- advanced-beginner. • Feb. 26, 9 to 11 a.m., Body clipping, intermediate and
- advanced · Feb. 26, 1 to 3 p.m., Extended grooming, advanced-
- beginner through advanced. · Feb. 27, 9 to 11 a.m., Introduction to horses, all are
  - Space is limited and in-person pre-registration is



The Union County Department of Parks and Recreation will offer a number of winter clinics at Watchung Stable in Mountainside on Saturdays and Sundays through January and February.

required at the Watchung Stables, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. The cost is \$20 per person for each two-hour 908-789-3665.

For more information, call the Watchung Stable office at

#### **COUNTY NEWS**

#### 'Women of Excellence' nominations deadline

Nominations are now available for the 13th annual "Women of Excellence" awards program sponsored by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

The commission seeks outstanding women nominees from Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities; Business/Entrepreneur; Community Service; Education; Government; Law; Law Enforcement; Medicine/Health Care; and/or Women's Advocacy. The commission will accept nominations until Wednesday.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on " March 18 at 7 p.m.

For an official nomination norm, call Sean Faughnan at 908-527-4107 or go to www.ucnj.org to download the form.

Once the form is completed, mail to Joan Abitante, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, 07203.

in this annual event, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women is encouraging all nominations to be submitted as soon as possi-

For more information, call Abitante at 908-241-4889.

#### Mothers & More' hosts first meeting of year

The Union County Chapter of Mothers & More, a national, non-profit organization that champions the value and necessity of all mothers' work to society, paid and unpaid, within and outside of the home, will hold its first meeting of 2005 on Wednesday at 7:30 at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield.

The meeting, open to the public, will be an opportunity for mothers in the area to find out more about the chapter's activities, which include mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, a book club, a scrap booking club and more.

This meeting will also feature an opportunity to swap those odd and unwanted Christmas gifts cluttering up the house. Interested persons may bring up to three new or gently used items of any value to swap. One mom's junk may be another mom's treasure.

The Union County chapter holds meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield YMCA.

For more information, call K.C. at 908-789-8626 or Kim at 908-889-2286 or log on to the Union County Chapter's website located at http://www.geocities.com/mothersandmore10.

#### Registration for riding lessons to begin

Spring will be here before you know it, and Union County's Watchung Stable is busy preparing for the start of riding lessons.

All applicants must be 9 years of age or older. Class and troop assignments are based upon riding ability as determined by the stable management. Applicants with previous experience may be asked to demonstrate their rid-Due to the overwhelming interest ing ability in order to be placed in the appropriate class.

Classes are held Tuesdays through Saturdays. Spring troop will last for 10 weeks beginning March 22, and will culminate with the spring troop horse

The Watchung Stable also features adult lessons, for people 18 years of age and older, beginning the week of March 20. Classes for adults are available on Sundays at 12:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.

The cost to participate begins at \$200 for 10 classes, and varies with Union County residency status and troop assignment. Uniforms and helmets are required and must be provided at the rider's expense.

Registration forms and fees must be submitted in-person beginning Jan. 4 at Watchung Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. daily.

For more information, and to obtain registration materials, call 908-789-3665.

#### Free passport, photo IDs for kids under 16

The Union County Clerk's Office is offering free passport and identification photos for children aged 16 and younger through the end of the year, County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi

"This is a 'Happy Holidays' gift to Union County residents from our experienced and professional staff," Rajoppi said.

The photos can be taken at the main Office of the County Clerk in Elizabeth and the annex office in Westfield. The normal processing fee for the photos is \$7.

The Westfield annex, 300 North Ave. East, processes County Identification cards, passport applications, swearings-in of notary publics, and clerk certificates. Normal annex hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays. The phone number there is 908-654-9859.

The Union County Clerk's Westfield Annex, 300 North Ave. East, will be closed on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for technical servicing.

The annex will be open from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., its normal Thursday hours, today. It will be closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday and will reopen on Monday. The annex will also be closed on Dec. 31 and will reopen on Jan. 3.

The main Office of the County Clerk is located at the Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Room 1134, Elizabeth. Regular office hours are Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The main office can be reached at 908-527-4966.

#### Relatives of immigrants sought for centennial

Union County is seeking relatives of immigrants who became naturalized U.S. citizens in Aug. 1, 1903 as part of its observances of the centennicelebrations of the Union County Courthouse.

Immigrants from Ireland, Italy, Russia, Great Britain, Austria, Germany, Romania and Denmark who settled in Union County and became U.S. citizens in the naturalization cer-

Communications verizon

#### emony at the then-under construction Courthouse will be honored in memoriam next year.

Their descendants will be invited to participate in a re-creation of the 1903 ceremony as part of the events celebrating the 100th anniversary of the opening of the Courthouse. Related events and exhibits will showcase the Courthouse as the center of law in Union County.

'This event will honor the relatives of those originally naturalized citizens in 1903 with a re-creation of the event. We are also planning a naturalization ceremony for new U.S. citizens in cooperation with the federal Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services," said Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, chair of the Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee.

The 19 citizens naturalized on Aug. 1903 were:

- · Joseph Batura, Russia
- · Bernard Block, Russia · Simon Breen, Russia
- Aberham Benjamin Canter, Rus-
- · Leo Chirles, Italy
- · William Samuel Cook, Great
- · Harry Gardner, Russia
- Josef Holub, Austria
- · Carl Ihme, Germany · James Kenney, Ireland
- · Abraham Kuntzman, Russia
- · Morris Kuntzman, Russia · Alexander B. Luisardi, Italy
- · Richard Mann, Romania
- · Joseph McDonough, Ireland);
- Joseph Sebel, Russia · Joseph Shea, Great Britain
- · Charles E.H. Sorenson, Denmark
- Charles Wagner, Germany Those who believe they are a rela-

tive of one of those people listed are urged to call the Union County Clerk's Office at 908-527-4787.

#### **Green Party meets**

The Union County local of the Green Party of New Jersey meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month, at Panera Bread on East Broad Street in Westfield. A spectrum of local and state political matters are discussed. All are welcome.

#### Child care food program provides meals

The Community FoodBank of New Jersey's Kids Café Program announces the sponsorship of the Child Care Food Program. This program is designed to provide meals to children in child care centers and recreation programs, etc. Meals are available at no separate charge to all children 12 years old and younger enrolled in the Child and Adult Care Food Program and are served without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex. Eligibility Income Scale

Effective from July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005

Family	Free	Reduced
<u>size</u>	Yearly Income	Yearly Income
1	\$12,103	\$17,224
2 .	\$16,237	\$23,107
3	\$20,371	\$28,990
4	\$24,505	\$34,873
Each additional		
family member	\$4,134	\$5,883

The Child and Adult Care Food Program is a federal program of the Food and Nutrition Service, United States Department of Agriculture. It is operated in accordance with U.S.D.A. policy, which does not permit discrimination because of race, color, national origin, disability, age or sex in the meal service, admissions policy or use of any Child and Adult Care Food Program facility.

Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA-related activity should write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call 202-720-5964, voice and TDD.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: SENIOR QUARTERS AT GLEN RIDDLE LP., SUCCESSOR IN INTEREST TO ATRIA ASSISTED LIVING-GLEN RIDDLE; CICILE WINE, her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest;

or any of their successors in right, title and interest;

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, ESQS.. plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-908-233-8500, an Answer to the Complaint and Amendment To Foreclosure Complaint filed in a civil action, in which Ameriquest Mortgage Company is plaintiff, and MICHAEL MIGNANO, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-21539-04 within thirty-five (35) days after December 30, 2004 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint and Amendment To Foreclosure Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex-CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, together with your check in the sum of \$135.00 representing the filling fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 10/18/2003 made by Michael Mignano and Margaret Mignano as mortgagors, to Ameriquest Mortgage Company recorded on 12/16/2003 in Book 10455 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 799; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 2 Orchard Drive, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076. If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jer-

### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

PUBLIC NOTICE

sey Bar Association by calling 609-3941101. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340. Senior Quarters at Glen Riddle L.P. Successor in Interest to Atria Assisted Living-Glen Riddle is made a party defendant to this foreclosure action by reason of a certain judgment entered in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey bearing judgment number J-193134-2001 on 7/9/01, in the original sum of \$12,628.50, wherein you, Senior Quarters at Glen Riddle L.P., Successor in Interest to Atria Assisted Living-Glen Riddle are the judgment creditor and Michael M. Mignano, Individually is the judgment debtor and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Cicile Wine, her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest is made a party defendant to this foreclosure action by reason of a certain judgment entered in the Office of the Cuperior Court of New Jersey bearing judgment number J-315671-2004 on 11/23/04, in the original sum of \$26,346.00, wherein you, Cicile Wine are the judgment debtor and Michael Mignano A/K/A Michael J Mignano Jr is the judgment debtor and or any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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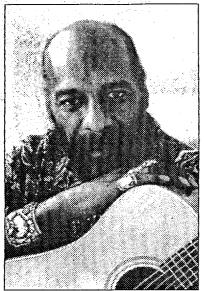
# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Entertainment certainly had its share of moments in the past year

By Jeff Cummins Associate Editor

Throughout 2004, there were numerous memorable performances that took place in Essex and Union counties. Here are some of the performances that caught my eye.

One of the best performances came toward the end of the year, as Laura Theodore added an extra sizzle to the food at The Manor in West Orange with her stunning, sultry performance of many jazz songs, ranging from old favorites to less familiar songs. Theodore showed an uncanny ability to



Richie Havens

alter the mood with each song she still fascinated by his performance at crowd, and I thought, 'That's what this selected, changing her approach to match the songs she sang. Every song she performed was based on the theme of love, and she displayed such passion, such energy, that anyone watching her would have to ask why she's not a household name already.

Theodore displayed so many various strong points throughout her performance, not the least of which was her lively banter with the crowd, a technique that's bound to make any audience member feel as if they're part of her show in some way.

Another point that Theodore showed off was her relentless energy. Theodore brought that extra little zip to her performance, and few, if any, could walk away from one of her performances without agreeing that she's a uniquely talented entertainer whose performance will leave a lasting impression on any audience - and make things very difficult for any entertainer forced to shoulder the burden of following her on a stage. Anyone who wants to see a superstar in an intimate setting should attend one of Chuck Brownley's Cozy Concerts. Brownley brought in the legendary Richie Havens, who opened Woodstock, to play in the Cozy Concerts series at 12 Miles West Theatre in

Havens proved to be anything but the snooty rock musician, and was genuinely thrilled to hear that people were

Woodstock. On the heels of a presidential election, in an era when music is once again involved with a politically charged atmosphere, Havens' performance seemed so timely, and it was easy to get the impression that he felt the

In addition to his very soulful performance, he seemed surprisingly willing to discuss the old days, and re-live past glories. Havens had an ease with the audience, as well as with the media, and he was enthusiastic to deal with both. One of the most pleasant things about Havens was his enthusiasm for Woodstock, and the legacy that it pro-

But more than anything, it was his unpretentious nature that was so appealing. He related the following anecdote about his Woodstock experience:

"I had the least equipment, so they approached me. They didn't have anyone else, so they chased me around and finally convinced me to go on first," said Havens, explaining how he came to play "Freedom," a long song based on "Motherless Child." "I did my 25 minutes and they said, 'Nobody's here. Could you do another set?' So that happened a few more times. Finally, after two hours and 45 minutes, they asked me to sing one more song. The long intro to that song is me figuring out what I'm going to play. Then I said 'Freedom' because I looked out into the

is, freedom.'

Another thing that stuck out was a band that might have been among the many famous acts from the Jersey Shore, with a little more luck. Joe Bonanno is a Newark native, and his band, JoBonanno and the Godsons of Soul, is filled with guys from Essex and Union counties. The band got its current name due to a humorous event that occurred when playing a club on Long Beach Island.

"For Joe Bonanno, the moment was still as clear as if it happened yesterday. He knew the precise moment, the exact time that his band lost the 'e' from its name. " 'We were in Long Beach Island, playing Joe Pop's in Ship Bottom on a Fourth of July weekend,' said Bonanno. 'People inside the club noticed the 'e' from our name was off the marquee, and they asked me what happened. I told them, 'I took the 'e' off when Elvis died."

Perhaps the most impressive thing about Bonanno was the fact that he was able to reconcile his love of performing with the practical responsibilities of everyday life. Like most people, Bonanno was unable to make music a full-time passion, so he got a job. Nonetheless, he and his band continue to play music on the side, keeping their dreams alive through exceptional dedi-

Though it may sound predictable,

the New Jersey Ballet performance of "Nutcracker" at the Paper Mill Playhouse was the perfect marriage of production, venue and setting. There's nothing like a visit to the Paper Mill during the holiday season, when the theater and the surrounding area of Millburn are both in full regalia.

Adding to the charm of "Nutcracker" was the presence of veteran actress Celeste Holm. There's a reason that so many people rave about the Paper Mill. A renowned theater, with a history of bringing Broadway-caliber performers to a setting with water meandering down a brook in back of the theater -it's hard to imagine the person who wouldn't enjoy a visit to the Paper Mill.

During the summer, "Beatlemania Again" brought back memories of the four mop-topped musicians from Liverpool, and had the audience at West Orange's Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Center dancing to the beat. The performance broke The Beatles' career into three distinct phases: The first act, titled "The Early Years," showed the band members in their classic black suits, performing such hits as "Please, please me," showcasing the happy, early days of the band's popularity.

The second act, "Sgt. Pepper," highlighted the band's psychedelic phase. Finally, in the third act, "The Later Years," the band takes on the hippie look it had as it broke up.

Another captivating performance



Laura Theodore

came from cabaret singer Chris Barrett at The Manor. Barrett took the audience on an emotional roller coaster, leading them through a variety of experiences in life, with a song and a story to go along with each one. True, Barrett's performance might not resonate as well with a crowd of people predominantly under the age of 25, but for anyone who's done some living, Barrett's songs hit close to home, leaving listeners crying, laughing, and smiling, just the way life

## Church pipes ring with the majestic sounds of the holiday season

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

The Clan Currie Society has done it again; the Friday night production of "The Pipes of Christmas" at Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, was, in a word, magnificent.

The unusual combination of bagpipes, full string orchestra, and the Solid Brass ensemble, and then later, the Summit Music Festival Chamber Choir, worked together to make this production a joy to hear and see.

The acoustics of the huge cathedral were the perfect fitting for the skirling bagpipes. Its Celtic cross and wonderful organ felt like a different age - perhaps some Scottish castle, hundreds of years earlier, celebrating Christmas.

Kilts were everywhere; in the audience as well; the opening was fitting. Softly narrating to the side of the cathedral was Susan Porterfield Currie, relative of Robert Currie, who is not only the host and producer, but head of Clan Currie worldwide.

"Receive with joy this gift tonight of the 'Pipes of Christmas," said Susan Currie, as the pipes began, and they marched in with traditional boldness playing "The Highland Cathedral," followed by traditional carols: "Joy to the World," and then "O Come, O Come Emanuel." This later hymn became blended with the orchestra, organ, and then the brass joined in, making for music that literally rocked the cathedral with its intensity and beauty.

This beginning had the audience excited and thrilled, and each following piece was preceded by narration. Narrating with Currie were Ronnie Stewart and Frederick Clark. One of the most beautiful carols was the 17th century "Hush, Little Lamb."

Outstanding was an unusual duo of talent: Isaac Alderson on the Uilleann pipes, and Paul Woodiel, the Celtic fiddler. Both blended in soft and then fast medleys that had everyone's feet tapping, and they received much applause.

Jason Tramm led the Summit Music Festival Chamber Choir, of young people with beautiful voices, singing both with The Kevin Blandford Memorial Pipe Band, led by Pipe Major Matt Nonnemacher, and the full orchestra

The evening was divided into two parts, with the first part ending in "Amazing Grace," a favorite of bagpipe bands, but before this began, Currie told the story of its author, John Newton, and how he had been a slave trader. After a near-death experience

Scottish carol, "Balulalow Lambe" or aboard a slave ship, he was converted and wrote the words and music of this favorite hymn.

> As poignant as this is with just bagpipes, it became spectacular with the orchestra, the brass, organ, and it seemed as though the cathedral had exploded with the combined music.

At this fitting interlude, the surprise guest was announced by host Robert

"Since the musical evening had been listed as a tribute and dedication to our beloved late president, Ronald Reagan, it is fitting that our special guest tonight is the former governor, Christine Todd Whitman."

"Thank you, Bob," said Whitman, "You have been an outstanding leader in this state. The passing of Ronald Reagan this year gave us all time to reflect on his remarkable life ... perhaps

what stood out most was his incredible optimism ... he cared about people, all people, and knew how to listen to them," she said.

Currie then noted that Reagan was of Scots-Irish heritage, and the next piece sung by the choir was dedicated to him. It was "Loch Lomond," sung softly and then accompanied by the bagpipes and full orchestra and brass, with a solemn drum arrangement.

Appropriately, the chorus then sang "America," and "Glory, Glory Halleluia," one of Reagan's favorite

The intermission had everyone enthused and waiting for the second half of the program. Douglas Haislip, artistic director of the Solid Brass, was the arranger of the special tribute to Ronald Reagan.

"The late Kevin Blanchard, and our event is not to be missed.

own Jeff Rickard, at the organ and piano, collaborated on putting all of the parts together to make this amazing performance, putting bagpipes with orchestra," said Haislip. "That is what makes this so different, so special."

He was right. The blending was what made the performance unique and wonderful - of that there was no doubt. Orchestra, brass, organ, fiddler and pipers, complemented each other. Sacred hymns such as "Silent Night," were sung with the chorus and the audience joining in, as well as "O Come All Ye Faithful," with pipes coming in.

Ending with the rousing "Scotland the Brave" as part of the finale could not have been better - it left all in the audience standing and applauding all of the performers.

This once-a-year Christmas special

## Oh, those increasing nuisances

Here's my New Year list of things that drove me nuts in 2004. See how The my peeves compare with yours.

Peeve No. 1. You turn on the tele-tion to hear the news. The Talking

Laughter vision to hear the news. The Talking Heads are doing what they get paid millions for — reading fluff from TelePrompTers and looking sincere. But below them at the bottom of the screen crawls the real news. Looking down you catch just the end of a sentence, reading: " ... and was taken to the hospital today in critical condition. All Americans will be praying." "Who?" you scream. But the moving type moves on. You assume the person hospitalized is American, since all Americans will be praying. That narrows it down to almost 300,000,000. Next item is rolling by: "A major volcanic explosion was reported today with lava covering several miles." That's it, Putting the two together you wonder if the person in critical condition was felled by lava? You see images of him/her running and the lava catching up! You're shuddering, waiting for the original item to roll back, but it never does. While wiping tears from your eyes, the crawling news has jumped on: "the product can be found in most homes and should be treated with extreme caution when disposing of it." Now you are screaming: "Which product? Is it in my home? Are my kids playing with it right now?" No answer. The type is on to spouting sport scores.

Peeve No. 2: Automated Telephone Answerers. Those drive us all to cursing Alexander Graham Bell. Except his idea was person-to-person communication. Now when dialing a major corporation, do you reach a person? Of course not. People have been downsized into one U.T.V. — or Universal Telephone Voice. It is a disembodied, automated female voice that drips with ersatz humanity. It's usual first remark is: "Welcome to ... (their company). Please listen to the main menu that has been changed since the last time you accessed us. To speak in English, press One." All this it says in English. Even so, you humor it and press One --- twice for emphasis. The voice complains: "We are unable to understand the number you want and will return you to the main menu." "No" you shout, but it is too late. You're back to the beginning. None of the menu choices answer why you've called. Finally, you give up and are silent. That does the trick. A disap-

pointed voice says, "We are unable to

By Helen Argers

understand your choice. Please press a key. If you would like the menu to be repeated, press 9." Still, you do nothing. The machine voice is getting desperate. "Please press or say 9." You stay silent and refuse to be intimidated into pressing anything. The robot cracks and says what you've been waiting for: "Would you like to speak to a customer representative." "Gotcha!" you cry. You've beaten the system. Or so you momentarily think. But no. The next sound is another automated voice: "All our representatives are busy right now. Please hold for the next possible customer representative. We value your call. If you cannot wait, go to our Web site at ..." Grinding you teeth, you wait. Finally, finally, a person answers, but on hearing your question, switches you to another department's Voice Mail and the same automated voice asks you to leave a message at the beep. You need an answer now. Desperate, you press another key that pushes you back to the main menu. Automation has defeated

Peeve No. 3: Television news commentators who forget the news and comment on each other, turning their audience into eavesdroppers. The brother of a friend of their producer has just had a birthday, they announce gleefully. So? you ask. But off they go, spending 10 minutes discussing how old this anonymous friend of theirs is and whether he looks it. You don't know him. Don't care how old he looks! You shout that at them, but they are off on another personal aside, blandly assuming your No. 1 interest in life is people you never heard of. This egoism reaches its utmost extreme on the morning shows featuring either Katy or Diane. Both blithely turn you into a wedding planner for two strangers. A job you would not volunteer even for a relative. But for this unknown couple, you are compelled to make a series of very personal decisions. Yes, there you are sitting through 10 minutes weighing a choice of a two-tiered cake with blueiced butterflies crawling over it or a three-tier chocolate cake with splatters of fudge. You can't sleep at night trying to decide: Two tiers or three? By morning you have made your critical deci-

sion and, filled with self-importance, rush to your computer to vote. That means being late for work, but hey, what's more important? Your life? Or theirs? Theirs, of course. Katie and Diane want you to get your priorities straight. So, obediently, the following morning, you wait to see if your vote counted, which means being late again for work. But then, the announcement comes: Yeah! The blue butterflies won! Mr. and Mrs. Anonymous will have their nets out and dine on crystallized lepidoptera. Your life is complete. Now, all you have to do is decide where they will honeymoon and what negligee the bride will wear on her wedding night. Good Grief! Is nothing personal any-Peeve number 4: Television shows

that tell you how to improve your home. The host is always a burly guy holding a hammer. He assures you that with just a few small repair jobs - that anyone can do - your house will be transformed. Anxiously, you await Step One. He looks you in your television eye and orders: "Assemble your tools!" That does it! The only tool you have is a slightly rusty screw driver with paint on the tip from the time you used it to open a paint can. But you assemble that. Next, he tells you to put on your safety goggles. "Hey," you insert, "is this going to be dangerous? You said anybody could do it. Besides, I don't have safety goggles. Will sunglasses do?" You put on your sunglasses, which makes it hard to see, but you press on. "Next," he orders, "pick up your handy drill and your laser leveling tool to set the exact straight line for the 10 holes you will be boring." So much for anybody can do it. With no drill and no leveling tool, you're finished before you've begun. Forgetaboutit!

Think ahead of all the neeves waiting for us in 2005. What to do about them? E-mail or snail mail to the company or television station would either be ignored or answered with a form postcard sounding in type as the automated voice does on the telephone: Thank you for your interest. We are very concerned about your opinion and will take it into account." In other words, "Don't hold your breath." Let's be frank: You can't eliminate life's irritations. Instead limit their ability to get to you by taking time outs.

Helen Argers is an acclaimed novelist and playwright.

## Parsons brings enthusiasm

By Bea Smith Staff Writer

f stage, screen and television through Feb. 6. Estelle Parsons continues to thrill people with her versatile roles onstage is because she has devoted her life to the theater.

During a break in the New York City rehearsals of the forthcoming Paper Mill Playhouse production, "Harold and Maude: The Musical," Parsons happily confided that the stage has always been her life.

"I've done other things through the years, but that was just to make money," she said. "My life is and always has been the stage. And I have been so lucky all of my life to have had such wonderful musicals and plays and such wonderful people with whom to work."

The distinguished actress, a fourtime Tony Award nominee, who also has an Oscar for her role in the film, "Bonnie and Clyde," and an Oscar nomination for the movie, "Rachel, Rachel," will be justifiably inducted into the Theater Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theater on Broadway on

"I'm so excited about it," Parsons exclaimed. "It's the best thing that can happen for a lifetime of achieve-

People of all ages will be flocking

the Paper Mill Playhouse during the Perhaps the reason veteran actress Musical," which will run Wednesday with music by Joseph Thaiken.

> They will include theater-going fans, remembering Parsons in such Broadway shows as "Happy Hunting," "Pirates of Penzance" and "And Miss Reardon Drinks A Little." movie fans of "Bonnie and Clyde" and "Rachel, Rachel," television fans of "Roseanne," in which she played Mother Bev for nine years, and some TV dramas.

Parsons has had a phenomenal career that even included a stint in

She was artistic director for the Actors Studio and directed Oscar Wilde's "Salome" on Broadway with Al Pacino, Marisa Tomei and Dianne

Turning the film, "Harold and Maude," into a play with music took several years.

"It was supposed to be a funny black comedy, stylized with a lot of jokes in it," she said, "and I think that Tom Jones, an amazing writer, has captured the essence of it in this Paper Mill production. I've known Tom since we were kids. He called me about doing auditions for it two or three years ago," Parsons recalled. "I did some readings. But I didn't hear from him in a long time."

Jones wrote the book and lyrics, run of "Harold and Maude: The based on the film by Colin Higgins,

> He ultimately contacted Parsons and the finished project "is a wonderful piece of work."

Parsons explained that "what's so wonderful about this show and the Paper Mill Playhouse is that we all get along so well. We're having a very happy time. It's nice that we're all having a good time here at the Paper Mill. I was here once before, a while back, when I was on a summer tour with 'The Millionairess' with Carol Channing and a host of great performers. We ended the tour at the Paper Mill Playhouse."

As a teenager, Parsons started out

as a classical pianist. But she changed professions and

became an incredible actress. After the run of "Harold and Maude: The Musical," she would like to go back to the "Pirates of Pen-

"I'm always looking for interesting material," she admitted. "But much of it doesn't come along very often. I'd really like to do Strindberg on Broadway next year. What I'd really like to do is a show like 'The Fantasticks' that ran for 31 years."

She added happily, "I'd like to do a play that will run for the next 31 years."

## Dance warms those winter nights

Throughout January and February, contra and square dancing will be all the rage at the Ogden Memorial Church in Chatham.

Jan. 15: Anniversary Dance The callers for an evening of contras and squares will be Barbara Goldstein, Don Flaherty, Donna Hunt, Melanie Axel-Lute, and Ridge Kennedy. Jam Bandits features Tom Gibney, Amy Zaker, John MacDonald, Jessie Fischer, Pete Soloway, and Richard Fischer playing, variously, fiddle, mandolin, tenor banjo, recorder, clarinet, guitar, bass, and

Feb. 5: Tori Barone and Contrazz

piano.

Tori Barone from Delaware will present an evening of contra dances. Complementing her calls will be Contrazz featuring Joe DePaolo on percussion, Sam Zygmuntowicz on fiddle and mandolin, Bob Jones on bass and

guitar and Marnen Laibow-Koser, piano and flute. A Swing Dance Worship will be

held from 5 to 6:30 p.m., led by Ken Crawford. Workshop cost is \$4. Feb. 19: Cindy Harris and Forge

#### Mountain Ramblers

Cindy Harris from Pittsburgh will call contras and squares. Providing live music will be the Forge Mountain Ramblers, with Cal Cizek, banjo; Rich Gilligan, bass and mandolin; Mark Schwartz, piano, and Sue Shumaker,

Swingin' Tern Contra Dances is presented by The Folk Project, a local non-profit music organization.

The dance series offers both contra

and square dancing. Contra dancing is a form of country dancing done with long lines of couples. It resembles the Virginia reel,

familiar to square dancers.

Callers are drawn from all over the country. The bands provide live music and are chosen to complement the caller's style.

Beginners are welcome at the dance and are encouraged to come to the beginner's workshop preceding the dance proper. No experience is necessary and one may come alone or with a partner.

Memorial Church on Main St., Route 124, Chatham. The beginner's workshop starts at 7:30 p.m. with the dance following at 8 p.m.

The dances are held at the Ogden

Admission is \$8 per adult and \$5 per student. Sneakers only are allowed.

For more information, call 973-762-4947 or 973-635-1048.

Non-dancing children must be supervised at all times. Parents can call Melanie at 973-762-4947.

#### **ACROSS**

- 1 Reaction of surprise
- 5 Breathe heavily 9 Native of Basra
- 14 Inter
- 15 Roman god
- 16 Hot wine drink
- 17 Lean 18 Mountain creature
- 19 Spud
- 20 Philosopher's maxim
- 23 Fix shoes
- 24 Perfect place 25 Pouchlike part
- 28 Performed 68 Across
- 30 More orderly
- 32 Churl
- 35 Electric discharge
- 38 Source of 3 Down
- 40 Teachers' org.
- 41 Hair ornament 42 Bear grass
- 47 Golfer's peg
- 48 Piano piece
- 49 Small valley
- 51 Poetic preposition 52 Humorist Bombeck 55 Asian shopping and
- tourist center
- 59 Climbing aid
- 61 Feminine title
- 64 Information
- 65 Change places 66 Rust, in part
- 67 British school
- 68 Part of a cantata
- 69 European river 70 Vulgar
- 71 Home, of sorts

#### **DOWN**

- 1 Florida athlete
- 2 Author Munro 3 Jockey's attire
- 4 Source of sorrow
- 5 What bill collectors seek

**OWNERSHIP** 

6 Iowa State site

- \_ Dame 8 Musical chord
- 9 Chants 10 Bring up
- 11 Sales rep.
- 12 What?, to Rosita
- 13 Neighbor of Leb.
- 21 Word of woe 22 Greek philosopher
- 25 Wading bird
- 26 Example of 71
- Across 27 Crinkled cloth
- 29 Chromosome component
- 31 Broncos' org. 32 Stop
- 33 Warmth
- 34 ABC's Sawyer
- 36 Sheltered place

- 37 Mothers org. 39 Physicians' org.
- 43 Ship 44 DEA agent
- 45 European region
- 46 Home to 22 Down 50 Minstrel performer
- 53 Work on the runway
- 54 Decrease 56 Love
- 57 Saint Kitts and \_\_\_\_ 58 Terrific
- 59 Shade of green
- 60 Pack 61 Pile in a barn
- 62 Tool
- 63 Roman god

**ANSWERS APPEAR ON B10** 

#### 'My One and Only' set for Wilkins man to fly solo across the Atlantic, Gershwin's most beloved tunes.

The Tony Award-winning Broadway musical "My One and Only" will delight audiences with the glorious music of the brothers Gershwin and the sensational choreography of Tommy Tune on Jan. 23, at 3 p.m. at Kean University's Wilkins Theatre.

Loosely based on the musical "Funny Face," the plot of "My One and Only" concerns a barnstorming pilot, Captain Billy Buck Candler, who, while preparing to be the first

meets and falls in love with Edith Herbert. She is a star in an aquatic show, and happens to have swum the English Channel. She's also under the influence of her manager, Prince Nicolai, a Russian spy. As Candler follows the aquatic troupe around many detours occur on the way to a happy ending, all illustrated by spectacular dance numbers along with ets, call 908-737-7469.

"Amazingly delightful and endearing with winning originality," Jack Kroll of Newsweek wrote. " 'My One and Only' splashes romance all over the stage."

Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave. in Union. Tickets

the world to claim his true love, are \$25 for the general public, \$21 for seniors and \$17 for children. For more information or to reserve tick-

## Handbags at Newark Museum

For more than 30 years, a Judith Leiber handbag has represented the ultimate in craftsmanship and design. Leiber's remarkable works of art are the subject of a new exhibition display at The Newark Museum continuing through Feb. 27. A comprehensive survey of the designer's career and art, "Fashioning Art: Handbags by Judith Leiber" celebrates Leiber's extraordinary artistic achievement by showcasing her creative genius and influence on nearly four decades of fashion. The exhibition features more than 170 of Leiber's unique handbags and minaudieres.

The exhibition, organized by the Corcoran Gallery in Washington, D.C., and sponsored by the Nef Fund series, includes a range of work, from the first beaded bag created in 1967, to more recent designs. Judith Leiber bags are inspired by a variety of sources, including Asian culture, nature, Hollywood and museum objects. Coveted by celebrities, socialites and collectors, Leiber's bags take on many forms, including fruits, vegetables, flowers and animals. Artists such as Henri Matisse, Georges Braque, Gustav Klimt and Charles Rennie Mackintosh and periods of art

such as Art Deco and Pop Art are rep-

Craftsmanship and high fashion blend harmoniously in Leiber's cre- er, producing these handbags," said ations through the use of fine materi- Leiber. "I made my first line in a als, including leather, antique fabrics, and Swarovski crystals. Leiber's bags, still hand-beaded in the United States, usually take two years to design. The hand of the artist is evident at every step of the creative

Minaudieres are constructed out of cardboard, stamped in brass, gold plated, and beaded. Every design is assembled with painstaking precision each crystal is picked up with a tweezer and individually glued onto the bag, where the design has already been outlined. One beaded bag can be encrusted with as many as 13,000 Swarovski crystals and can take up to five days to complete.

Born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1921, Leiber was the first female apprentice and master in the Hungarian handbag guild. Eventually she and her husband, an American soldier, moved to the United States and founded their own company in 1963. Their first factory had four employees whom Leiber worked alongside, teaching them her expertise.

"There was such a sense of camaraderie, with all of us working togethgray/green calf which was not that well received. Nevertheless, I was determined to make my bags as beautiful and as well as I could and not to compromise. I have never swerved from that goal. Never."

After only six years in business, Leiber received the Swarovski Great Designer Award for artistic use of the company's crystals. In 1994, Stanley Marcus, of Neiman Marcus, presented Leiber with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Houston Museum of Fine Arts Costume Institute in 1991.

· Scotch Plains High School Class

- of 1979, 25-year reunion, Friday. Westfield High School Class of
- 1994, 10-year reunion, Friday.
- · Westfield High School Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, May 21.
- Scotch Plains High S
- of 1975, 30-year reunion. · Union High School, Class of
- · Union High School, Class of
- 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
- · Union High School, Class of

ESSEX COUNTY PUBLICATIONS

MAPLEWOOD, SOUTH ORANGE,

· Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.

#### OTHER

What's Going On?

SATURDAY January 29th, 2005 EVENT: A Night of Best 70's Outfit PLACE: Praise Temple Church of God, 805 South Orange Avenue, Newark, NJ TIME: 6:30PM

PRICE: Adults \$20; Kids \$10 Prizes and Surprises ORGANIZATION: Praise Temple Church

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Maplewood Office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices. 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291

800-564-8911

information call

Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more

## SPECIAL 20 Words - 10 WEEKS of Exposure for \$39.00 in UNION COUNTY or 10 WEEKS of Exposure for \$59.00 in UNION and ESSEX COUNTY For More Information Please Call The Classified Department at 1-800

#### **HOROSCOPES**

#### Jan. 3 to 9

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Do not allow personal relationships to interfere with your professional duties. Set your priorities and strive to maintain a balance.

**FLEA MARKET** 

SUNDAY

January 2nd, 2005

EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show

lectibles, crafts and a special tag/garage

Jeff Cummins,

**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

PLACE: Belleville High School, 100

Passaic Avenue, Belleville, NJ (off

TIME: Indoors & Outdoors 9-5PM

DETAILS: New merchandise, col-

For information Call:201-997-9535

ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by:BHS

Joralemon Street)

sale section!

Cheerleaders

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: An unusual travel opportunity leads to great enjoyment and excitement. Adventure waits around every corner. Pack light and get in the wind.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Seek the monetary support you will need from a financial backer or willing partner. Avoid speculative or get-rich-quick schemes.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Expand your social awareness through contacts made in a club or group. Relax and let a popular or outgoing individual introduce you around.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Put diet and exercise on top of your list of concerns. It takes a wholesome discipline to stick to the necessary regiment. Dig deep and find it.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Enthusiasm supports or translates into a festive mood. Put forth a lively and carefree effort to make a big splash on the social scene.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Be prepared to handle a domestic dilemma that involves emotional power plays and manipulation. Stay positive and do not buy into blame or shame.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Get focused and follow the instructions you are given to complete a specific task. Slow down and take it one step at a SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec.

21: Avoid going over your budget. Establish a safe cutoff amount for spending and stop buying or shopping once you reach that point. CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19:

Flexibility and understanding work well in personal relationships. Resign yourself to go with the flow and keep AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18:

using puzzles or problem-solving dilemmas. Take notes and harvest a brilliant

Exercise your creative imagination

idea for an artistic project. PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: You

are likely to benefit from associating with powerful or influential individuals this week. Use the names of "who you know"

to open doors. If your birthday is this week, expect an intense and transformational wave

to flow through your world during the Change is the rule of thumb and should be dealt with in a positive and progressive manner.

While experiencing a cycle of learning and growth, strive to maintain a sense of balance, normalcy and self-

Also born this week: Elvis Presley, Paul Revere, Carl Sandburg, Robert Duvall, Dyan Cannon and J.R.R. Tolkien.

### REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:

- of 1985, 20-year reunion, June 11. Scotch Plains High School Class
- 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
- Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.

- · Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006. · Westfield High School, Class of
- 1980, 25-year reunion, 2005. For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions

Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726 or call 732-617-1000. · Hillside High School, Class of 1965, is holding its 40th reunion on

If anyone has information regarding former students or would like to join the committee, contact Barry

Zins at BZins1111@aol.com. · Hillside High School, class of 1955, is planning a reunion on May 20 at the Grand Summit Hotel in

Summit. Contact Paul Ladell at 973-715-

• Hillside High School will hold a

reunion for alumni in Florida on Feb. 26, 2005 at the Country Club at Boca

Contact Marvin Kaleky at 954-720-0125 or send an e-mail with perinformation

hhaafla@yahoo.com. Or call Rhoda Lubetkin at 973-

Editorial deadlines Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social events — Friday at noon.

Entertainment — Friday at noon. Sports news and game results -Monday at noon.

Letter to the Editor - Monday 9

General news and information-

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> To be listed call 908-686-7700

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for further details & bookings.



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UNION COUNTY PUBLICATIONS

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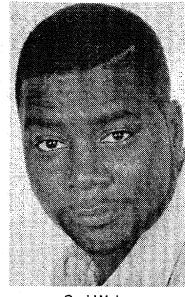
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## Weber's signing set for Springfield

No. 1 Essence best-selling author Carl Weber will be holding a reading and signing of his newly released book, "The Preacher's Son" at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield on Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.

Booklist calls Weber's book, "compelling." An acclaimed bestselling author, Weber has won over readers and critics with his smart, sexy, page-turning tales of family drama, including "Married Men," "Player Haters" and "Baby Momma Drama." His latest book, "The Preacher's Son," turns family values on edge with the tale of a popular pastor from Queens, N.Y., who runs for borough president. The pastor and his children provide the backdrop for an explosive drama about a family that seems perfect on the outside but has "a whole lot of repenting to do ..."



Carl Weber For more information, call 973-

## Ori to display work in Summit gallery

Five-time Heart Grant recipient, Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, will exhibit her Union County historical photographs at Bouras Galleries, 25 DeForest Ave., Summit, Wednesday through February. The Galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-277-6054.

Ori created a large body of photographs that were used in a historical guidebook put together by the county. She spent months doing research on the 38 sites and numerous interiors throughout Union County. Her artistic selection of subject matter is determined by the best summary of images to depict the lifestyle of the people who lived throughout the county during different time periods in our history. Ori refers to these images as "portraits" of the architecture and artifacts.

"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

Workshop

1-4pm

Saturdays, Art Activity Ongoing, 1-4pm

Whimsical and Wacky Holiday Week December 26-31

Suggested Museum Admission: Adults \$5

Children & Seniors \$2

images to share. I proposed the grant project in order to best volunteer my skills to benefit my own community and have since been inspired by not only the interesting subject matter and history of New Jersey, but also by the many volunteers I have met while doing my research and photographing

The body of work will provide a balance of images between the architecture, furniture, costumes and artifacts of bygone eras to reflect those who lived, worked and played in Union County at earlier times. Some images are romantic in style and provide a contrast to the playful collections of antique dolls and toys, some are bold forms of tools and objects presented almost as sculptures, and some are planned or contain artistically composed room setups to provide more formal images.

Ori is recognized internationally as an industrial photographer and video producer for New Jersey Media Center in Berkeley Heights, She also enjoys teaching photography classes and workshops each year throughout the United States and Europe.

#### Hughson named director of ballet company The board of trustees of the American Repertory Ballet and ARB's

Princeton Ballet School announced the hiring of Barry C. Hughson as executive director.

"We are very excited to have Barry joining us," said ARB artistic director. Graham Lustig. "Not only does he bring a dance perspective to the job, he also brings his background as a performing arts administrator."

Hughson has served as executive director for Complexions Contemporary Ballet in New York, and as executive director for the Warner Theater in Torrington, Conn.

"I am thrilled at the opportunity to work with Graham Lusting and the ARB dancers and staff; Mary Pat Robertson and the faculty of the school; and the board of trustees," said Hughson. "My passions have always been in the ballet and education worlds, and I am looking forward to working with an organization with such a rich history in both."

Hughson was tapped for the position after an extensive nationwide search conducted by the board of

Board Chairman Joseph Sobo said, "The board is very much looking forward to Barry's arrival in October. We have recently been through a comprehensive long-range planning process, and he will bring a fresh energy and arts industry insight to the organization as we implement the plan.

American Repertory Ballet is New Jersey's leading dance company and one of the state's most treasured cultural organizations.

Designated a major arts institution by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State since 1987, ARB received a Citation of Excellence in 2003, the only dance company to be awarded both honors. ARB's Princeton Ballet School one of the largest non-profit dance institutions affiliated with a professional company in the United States

- is the official school of ARB. Founded in 1954, ARB's Princeton Ballet School currently has studios in Princeton, Cranbury, and New Brunswick, serving more than 1,250

Funding for ARB is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Hughson joins American Repertory Ballet after serving as executive director of the internationally recognized Complexious Contemporary Ballet in New York City. Prior to that, he was

executive director of the Warner Theater in Torrington, Conn.

He joined the Warner Theater staff in 1992 as director of education and became executive director in 1997.

As director of education, he was responsible for the creation of a community school for arts, summer arts camp, international exchange program, young actors' performance series, daytime programs for young audiences and master teaching residencies in the public schools.

Under his leadership as executive director, the Warner Theater experienced significant growth, with the professional full-time staff growing from three to 13, and the annual budget and programming more than doubling.

His tenure there was capped with a successful multi-million dollar campaign to restore the Warner Theater building.

Hughson's background spans the worlds of dance, theater and arts education. In 1979, he founded the Youth Theatre Ensemble, a non-profit organization that served young people of the greater Waterbury area for 20 years.

As a member of the Washington Ballet in Washington, D.C., he performed with the works of Goh, Balanchine, Tudor, and others in the United States, Europe, Asia, Russia, and as a

resident company of the Kennedy Center. In 1990, he was the only American male awarded a prize at the New York International Ballet Competition at Lincoln Center, and in December of that year, performed in the East Room of the White House.

He also became a master teaching artist serving as a guest instructor for a number of Connecticut organizations. Internationally, he has taught dance and theater in Norway and Hungary, and as a master teacher of Very Special Arts International, he has conducted workshops for people with disabilities in Connecticut, Idaho, and Guata-

He is an accomplished director, having directed numerous musicals and plays from "The King and I" to A.R. Gurney's "Sylvia."

In 1995, he directed Emmy awardwinning actress Susan Saint James in "The Miracle Worker."

He holds a Certificate in Arts Administration from New York University, and is an active member of a number of industry consortiums, including the Association of Performing Arts Presenters, the Consortium of Easter Regional Theatres, the League of Historic American Theatres and the American Association of Community

#### Folk music rapidly approaching series is

The Minstrel Coffeehouse is a coffeehouse/concert series run by The Folk Project, a non-profit music and arts organization. It uses the facilities of the Morris County Park Commission's Cultural Center, 300 Mendham Road, Route 24, Morris Township. It holds shows every Friday, year round, and the second Friday of the month is an open stage/audition night. The music it presents is folk music in its broadest sense. That is, in addition to traditional American and ethnic folk music, it welcomes music of contemporary, primarily acoustic songwriters, and other types of music more folkie in attitude than in content. Shows start at 8:30 p.m.; dress is casual. The sponsors serve coffee, teas, and baked goods. There is no alcohol or tobacco on the premises. Admission is inexpensive; on the regular Friday concerts the sponsors ask \$6 on the way in, and, if you feel the show was worth it, an additional amount at your discretion on the way out which goes to supplement what is paid the feature performer. For travel information or information on shows, call 973-335-9489 or visit Web site at http://www.folkproject.org.

The Folk Project acknowledges major financial support of the Minstrel Coffeehouse from the Morris County Park Commission.

• Jan. 7: David Kleiner and Liz Pagan, and Mark Schaffer. The kick off the New Year will be an all-Folk Project lineup: Dave Kleiner was a founding member of the Folk Project. Together with his wife, Liz Pagan, he presents a highly entertaining mix of his own clever and well-crafted songs and some obscure gems written by his contemporaries in the folk and pop fields. He is a very classy guitarist, and Pagan adds bass and vocal harmonies to the mix. Mark Schaffer celebrates the release of his first CD,

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"Mark My Words," with an ensemble effort including feature act Dave Kleiner on lead guitar and a panoply of other musicians and singers. His material ranges from his own songs to jazz trio harmony numbers from the 1920s and 1930s.

· Jan. 14: Open Stage. This is an opportunity for acoustic musicians of all sorts and stripes to take the stage for a 15-minute set, and a presentation for the audience of a wide variety of music and musicians.

Those who wish to perform should visit www.Folk Project.org and click on Minstrel Coffeehouse. At the bottom of the first paragraph is a link to Open Stage Procedures. Show starts one-half hour earlier than usual at 8

• Jan. 21: The Johnson Girls and Anne Price. The Johnson Girls — Joy

Open House Reception
Thursday January 20th, 2005 7:00 PM

ST. AGNES SCHOOL

Catholic Elementary, Pre K - 8 342 MADISON HILL ROAD CLARK, NJ 07066

Bennett, Maggie Bye, Alison Kelley, Bonnie Milner, and Deirdre Murtha is a New York City-based primarily a cappella group performing traditional and contemporary folk music with an emphasis on sea chanteys and other maritime music.

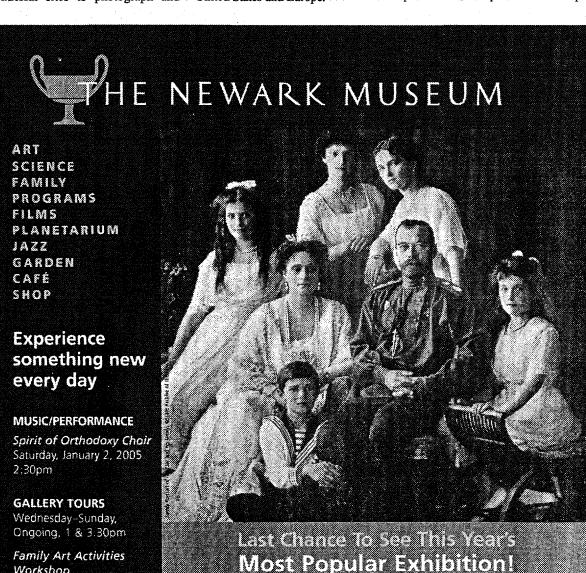
With diverse backgrounds, each member of the group brings a speciality to the ensemble, including traditional work songs, riverboat and minstrel songs, songs in the African-American tradition, songs of fisherfolk, of mining and miners, and songs from the Irish tradition.

Also from New York is opener Anne Price, who plays guitar and lap dulcimer, sings original and contemporary folk songs often of a topical or humorous nature. She is delighted at the recent release of her third recording, "My Time."

Music & Art Programs

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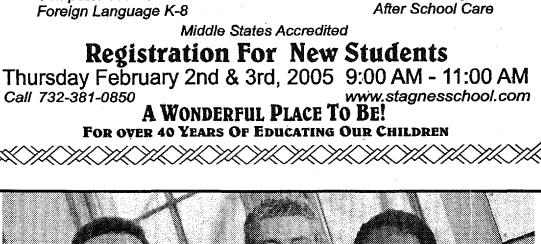
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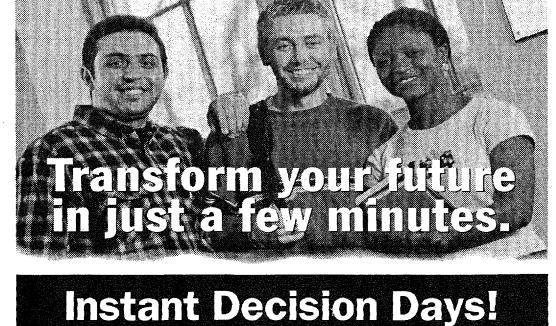
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## Spring 2005 and Fall 2005 applicants are invited to attend!

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Office of Enrollment Management and Admission One Park Place, Bloomfield, NJ

When:

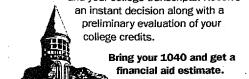
Wednesday, January 5 and Thursday, January 6, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Info/online registration: www.bloomfield.edu/admissions 800-848-4555 ext. 230 or 973-748-9000 ext. 230

Application fee waived with a copy of this ad.

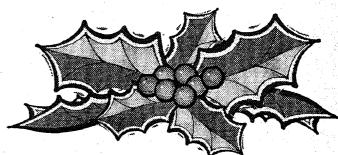
High School Seniors: Bring a completed application, your transcript and SAT scores.

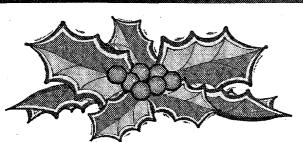
Transfer Students: Bring a completed application and your college transcripts. Receive an instant decision along with a preliminary evaluation of your



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Cottman 1003 West St. Georges Avenue

Linden 908-925-1090 Belleville 973-751-2600

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And

Happy New Year

Walter Worrall

Cindy Klimchock



Chapman Schinestuhl & Swick 35

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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: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

#### ART SHOWS

SWAIN GALLERIES, 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-756-1707.

EDGE ART GALLERY, which opened its doors in Rahway's arts district is presenting its third series of exhibi-

Gallery One will feature Alejandro Anreus, a Cuban born artist who examines the nexus between Christianity and politics as it relates to the Cuban-American identity.

Gallery Two will feature Julio Nazario. In a series of photographic portraits, Julio Nazario reveals the inner spirit and individuality of ordinary Hispanics.

EDGEArt Gallery is located at 1571 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. The current exhibits runs through Friday. The gallery is open from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The phone number is 732-669-0112. EDGEArt Gallery is dedicated to artists who have worked outside the mainstream and who have not followed the latest trend but stuck to their vision against all odds.

BRIGHT, BOLD LANDSCAPES will be the focus of Mountainside resident Cynthia Smith Weiss' work, which will be on display at Bouras Galleries on DeForest Avenue in Summit. The galleries are open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-277-6054. THE SKULSKI ART GALLERY of the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway. Clark, will present the works of Ilona and Andre Bugla through Friday. The public is welcome, admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Ilona and Andre Bugla, a husband and wife team, were born in Poland and both graduated from the Academy of Fine Arts in Krakow. They live and work in Jever, Germany.

The Skulski Art Gallery is open to the public Tuesday through Friday, 5 to 9 p.m., on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 1:30

For more information, call Aleksandra K. Nowak, gallery director, at 732-382-7197.

ELISSA F. MERKL is scheduled to exhibit a series of serigraph prints at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., Summit, from Wednesday to Feb. 14. An artist's reception will be held Jan. 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Wisner House. Wisner House is wheelchairaccessible and open to the public, free of charge, weekdays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information on the exhibition or Reeves-Reed Arboretum, call

#### **AUDITIONS**

AUDITIONS FOR "INTO THE WOODS," will be held on Jan. 8 at 1 p.m., and Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. Callbacks will be on Jan. 11 at 7 p.m. Performances will be on May 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 and 21 at 8 p.m. All tickets will be \$20. For tickets, call 908-276-7611.

"HOW TO EAT LIKE A CHILD" will hold auditions in Cranford for children between the ages of 8 and 13 on Jan. 9 at 2 and 6 p.m. at the Cindy Smith Dance Studio, 98 North Ave. in Garwood. Rehearsals begin on Jan. 16. For further information, call 908-245-

#### **BOOKS**

NO. 1 ESSENCE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR CARL WEBER will be holding a reading and signing of his newly released book, "The Preacher's Son" at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield on Jan. 6 at 7 p.m.

Booklist calls Weber's book, "compelling." An acclaimed bestselling author. Weber has won over readers and critics with his smart, sexy, pageturning tales of family drama. His latest book, "The Preacher's Son," turns family values on edge with the tale of a popular pastor from Queens, N.Y., who

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runs for borough president. For more information, call 973-376-

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, For information, call 973-376-8544.

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

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 n.m. at Barnes and Noble, 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, 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, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-

PAGE TURNERS DISCUSSION GROUP will meet the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-

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, 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, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, to read a Shakespeare play out loud. 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, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS WORKSHOP meets every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in an historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and parttime day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information about the spring term that begins on Jan. 17, 2005, call 908-757-7171, fax:908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.duCret.edu for details.

#### **COMEDY**

THE WATCHUNG ARTS CENTER presents Comedy Night on the third Saturday of each month. The Comedy Night series at the Watchung Arts Cen-

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ter has managed to build a following in its suburban location by drawing from a mix of New York City comedy club stand-ups. Each show features new faces and fresh material

Host Phil Hochman will present master of ceremonies John McMinamen, a headliner and a feature performer. Ticket price includes light refreshments after the show. The show begins at 8 p.m. Saturday, and tickets are \$15.

The seating at the Watchung Arts Center is in an intimate art gallery, with limited capacity. Reservations may be made by e-mail at www.watchungarts.org or by phone, calling 908-753-0190 and leaving a message if necessary. Tickets will be held at the door.

The Watchung Arts Center is located "on the circle" in Watchung, reached from Route 22 or Interstate 78. There is free parking adjacent to the building or around the corner at Best Lake.

GEORGE CARLIN will bring his irreverent humor to the Union County Arts Center in Rahway on Jan. 22 at 7 and 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 and \$40. For tickets or information, call 732-499-

#### CONCERTS

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

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

MEET THE ORCHESTRA concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8. For more information, call 908-790-

**BLUES LEGENDS** Paul Geremia and Emie Hawkins will perform as part of the Sanctuary Concert Series on Jan. 8, at 8 p.m., at the Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased online at www.sanctuaryconcerts.org. Admission includes dessert and coffee at intermission.

"A NIGHT WITH THE STARS OF ROCK & ROLL" featuring Speedo & The Cadillacs, Frankie Lymon's Teenagers, The Del Vikings, Charlie Thomas' Drifters, The Chantels, Emil Stucchio & the Classics, will be presented by LAR Enterprises on Feb. 18 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center. Tickets are \$35. For information. call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org. Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

LOU RAWLS will play at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$65 and \$50. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org. Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rah-

FELIX CAVALIERE'S RASCALS will perform on Feb. 26 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center. Cavaliere founded The Rascals and had hit songs, including "A Beautiful Morning" and "Good Lovin'." Tickets are \$40 and \$30. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org. Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rah-

THE WATCHUNG ART CENTER ACOUSTIC-FOLK SERIES has begun at Watchung Art Center, 18 Sterling Road, Watchung. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., and the shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15. For information and reservations, call 908-753-0190 or e-mail send an WACenter@aol.com.

Web site, http://www.watchungarts.org/Afolk.ht.

The following artists will perform as part of the Watchung Art Center Acoustic-Folk Series:

On Feb. 5, Kristy Jackson. On March 5, Kim & Reggie Harris. On April 2, Bob Malone.

On May 7, John Flynn.

On June 4, Dave's True Story. THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF SPRING-FIELD will take place at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall, Springfield. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-522-1501 or

Stepping Out

send e-mail concerts4causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, http://www.coffeewithconscience.com.

On Feb. 12, Nadine Goellner & Friends.

On March 12, Arny Speace & Friends. On May 14, Basya Schecter & Friends. THE SECOND SATURDAY COFFEE-HOUSE SERIES will be at Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m.

Admission is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-928-0127 or send an e-mail to info@secondsaturdays.org.

On Jan. 8, Mindy Simmons.

On April 9, Amy Carol Webb. Sign-up is at 7:30 p.m. and the shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$4. THE COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCERT SERIES OF WESTFIELD will take place at First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 East Broad Street, Westfield.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14.

For information and reservations. 908-522-1501 or send an email to concerts4causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site.

http://www.coffeewithconscience.com. On Jan. 15, Modern Man. On Feb. 19 Tom Kimmel

On March 19, Peter Mayer,

On April 16, Lowen & Navarro. On May 21, the Kennedys. On June 18, the Dreamsicles.

## **CRAFTS**

THE MILLER-CORY MUSEUM will reopen on Jan. 9 at 2 p.m. with The Legend of La Befana-Italy's Santa Claus. For information about the museum, its winter schedule of events or volunteer opportunities, call the museum office at 908-232-1776.

## DANCE

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehnly School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

"COOKIN," performed by the Fly Dance Company on Jan. 15 at 8 p.m., will feature the rhythmic sophistication of Debussy, Vivaldi and even B.B. King with the physicality and bravado of break dance and hip-hop. Regular ticket price is \$25, students pay \$18. For tickets, call the box office at 732-499-8226 For more information, visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

#### DISCUSSION

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP, led by professional life coach Jami Novak, meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WRITERS' WORKSHOP will meet every other Monday at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reaching Thousands Grant program. Recognizing the importance of culture and the arts to the economy and quality of life, the freeholders established the HEART Grants in 1998. This innovative program supports projects related to history, the arts, and humanities, and demonstrates a commitment to the artists and nonprofit organizations of Union County. "The response to the HEART Grant program in past years has been exciting," said Freeholder Chairman Angel G. Estrada. To request

HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202; call 908-558-2550, Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via email to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

#### FILM

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

"THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI" will be shown on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

"1941" by Stephen Spielberg, will be shown on Jan. 29 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

"THE GREAT ESCAPE," starring Steve McQueen, James Garner and Richard Attenborough, will be shown on Jan. 29 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information, call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

"FROM HERE TO ETERNITY," starring Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra and Donna Reed, will be shown on Jan. 30 at 2:30 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. All tickets are \$5. For ticket information. call 732-499-8226. For general information, visit the Web site, www.ucac.org.

#### 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.tmrci.com.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CEN-TRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue,

#### INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic/ Karaoke Night on Sunday at 7 p.m.. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover charge, and patrons can come in, make new friends, surf the Web, or play a game of Diablo2, NeverWinterNights, WarCraft or Counter-Strike. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: www.theinternetlounge.com.

### KIDS

TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

#### POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD! will take place at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information. call 973-376-8544.

**OPEN MIC 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 First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45year-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

THE NEW JERSEY SCHOOL OF DRAMATIC ARTS announces its partnership with 12 Miles West Theater Company at 562 Bloomfield Ave., Bloomfield. For more information, call 973-566-9700 or visit the Web site, www.niactors.org.

'VOICE OF THE DRAGON," composer Fred Ho's newest action blockbuster, is a groundbreaking muticultural, cross-genre performance epic in a never-before -seen explosive fusion of music and theater with pyrotechnical martial arts, set during the early Ching dynasty in China. The show features a cast of elite champion martial artists and Fred Ho's Afro-Asian Music Ensemble. Tickets are \$25. For more information, call 908-737-7469. Wilkins Theatre is located at 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

"PROOF" by David Autumn will be performed on Feb. 4, 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Seating is reserved, all seats are \$15. For tickets, call 908-

"PASION" ALBORADA SPANISH DANCE THEATER, will be performed at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 5 at 8 .m. A steamy Havana nightclub in the 1950s is the setting for this exotic blend of tango and flamenco dances driven by powerful Cuban rhythms. Regular tickets are \$25, student tickets are \$18. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org. Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway.

"YOUR ARMS TOO SHORT TO BOX WITH GOD" will be performed at the Union County Arts Center on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m. Regular ticket prices are \$40 and \$35. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site, www.ucac.org. Union County Arts Center is located at 1601 Irving St.,

### 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; "Live at Instant Coffee," 8 Every Monday: Open Mic Night,

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Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night;

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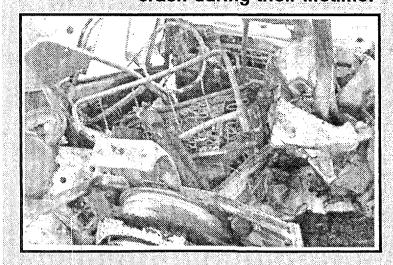
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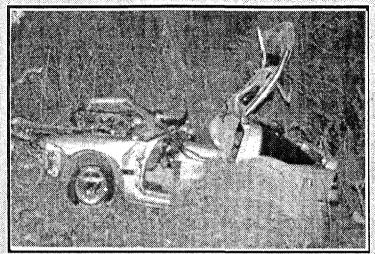
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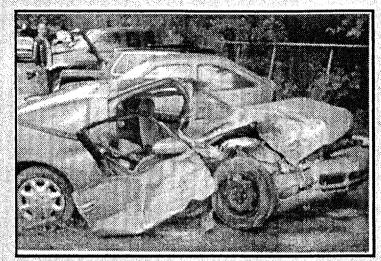
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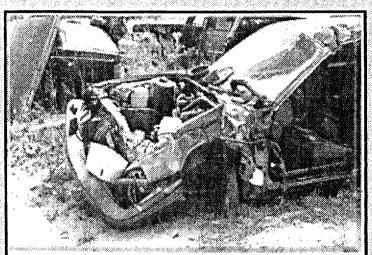












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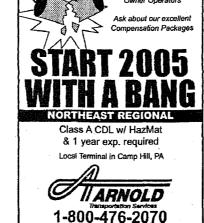
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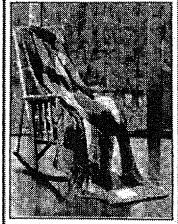
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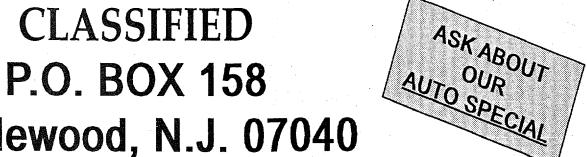
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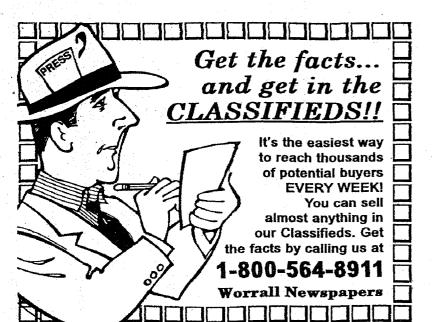
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Weekly Mortgage News McLean, VA - Freddie Mac (NYSE:FRE) today released the results of

its Primary Mortgage Market Survey in which the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.75 percent, with an average 0.6 points, for the week ending December 23, 2004, up from last week when it averaged 5.68 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.82 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.18 percent, with an average 0.6 points, up from last week when it averaged 5.11 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 5.14 percent.

One-year Treasury-indexed adjustable-rate mortgages (ARMs) averaged 4.17 percent this week, with an average 0.6 point, down very slightly from last week when it averaged 4.18 percent. At this time last year, the one-year ARM averaged 3.77 percent.

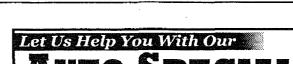
Average commitment rates should be reported along with average fee and points to reflect the total cost of obtaining the mortgage.)

"In November, the ARM share of loan applications slipped to 34 percent from 36 percent in October, in response to the Fed's sequential action to push short-term interest rates higher," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "As ARM rates began to rise long-term rates showed no inclination to follow and remained at very affordable and attractive levels.

"Going into the new year, we expect that the ARM share will continue to run at about 30 percent to 35 percent of loan applications and that the Fed will continue to push short-term rates upward for the time being." Freddie Mac is a stockholder-owned corporation established by Congress in 1970 to create a continuous flow of funds to mortgage lenders in support of homeownership and rental housing. Freddie Mac purchases mortgages from lenders and packages them into securities that are sold to investors. Over the years, Freddie Mac has made home possible for one in six homebuvers in America.

National Averages -

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## New Durango is a winner for the customer

By Jerry Garrett Copley News Service

When the Dodge Durango debuted in 1997, it was heavy, slow, cramped inside, handled rudely and got abysmal fuel mileage. But other than

The Durango actually has been a relatively popular vehicle for Dodge and a modest sales success. As the lone sport utility vehicle in Chrysler's otherwise minivan-laden lineup, it filled a glaring gap.

For 2004, Dodge has redesigned the Durango and addressed its shortcomings in key areas, while offering

new functionality in others. So, the new Durango looks to be more of a win-win vehicle for the cus-

tomer and the company. The redesigned Durango, built in a refurbished plant in Newark, Del., comes on its own specific platform. It no longer shares much of anything with the mid-size Dakota pickup, upon which it was based originally.

Durango actually shares quite a lot of its mechanicals, such as suspension and brakes, with the full-size Ram pickup now.

It is 7 inches longer, 3 inches wider and rides on a wheelbase stretched 3 inches.

Dodge calls it a full-size SUV, although the midsize Ford Explorer is still considered its archrival. The Durango is actually 1 foot longer than the Explorer now, and specs up favorably in some key areas against large SUVs like Expedition.

The Durango starts with a stiff, hydro-formed, fully boxed frame. The frame ends are crushable, as on the Ram pickup redesign two years ago, and can be easily repaired without frame replacement.

Major components, such as the steering box, were moved behind the crush zones for added crash protection.

Rack and pinion steering and an independent front suspension, combined with the longer frame and wheelbase, give the Durango improved handling, stability and steering feel.

A new link-coil type rear suspension, with a Watts linkage system, helped improve not only towing stability and payload capacity, but also facilitated a needed lowering of the rear load floor for more interior room.

This is an area where the Explorer, with its new independent rear suspension, achieved considerable packaging flexibility, stability gains and, supposedly, industry-leading space for a third row of seats.

But both Durango and Explorer third-row seats offer 34 inches of legroom.

"We examined IRS designs," says Frank Klegon, truck design vice president. "But we found that we could save weight with our design, and still a full load of seven passengers no achieve our ride targets, with the linkcoil setup.

"Our rear-wheel geometry is markedly better under load than with an IRS system, and that translates to a more settled trailer, and smoother han-

dling while towing."

The Durango's GVWR of 6,600 pounds, and towing capacity of 8,950, is a big advantage; Ford's patented "Hole in the Frame" IRS system limits the Explorer to a 5,880-pound GVWR and just a 7,000 towing capacity.

A revised engine lineup helps Durango achieve some of its impressive hauling numbers.

Big news is the availability of the lovely sounding Hemi V-8. The highly touted 5.7-liter power plant boasts 335 horsepower and 370 foot-pounds of torque. That's a 40 percent boost over the 5.9-liter Magnum it replaces.

And the Hemi gets better gas mileage, 14/19 mpg, will run on regular unleaded, although midgrade is recommended, and goes 0-60 in 8 seconds flat.

For the truly fuel-conscious, a 210horse, 3.7-liter V-6 is also offered for the first time, as the base motor. Respectable fuel economy numbers, 16/21, almost compensate for the lost

The 4.7-liter Magnum V-8 is also carried over, but it is barely as powerful as the V-6, is heavier and gets worse gas mileage than the Hemi. So, we're not sure who would want it, although Dodge expects a 50 percent take rating on it.

For just \$895 more, guys, get a clue get the Hemi.

A four-speed automatic comes mated to the V-6. A five-speed auto is standard with the V-8s. No manual transmission is offered.

Full-time four-wheel-drive is optional on the V-8s only, it knocks about 1 mpg off the highway fuel economy numbers.

Inside, the third-row-seat denizens will appreciate finally having enough room to feel, not to mention stretch, their legs. Rear-seat entertainment systems further occupy the occupants. And a sunroof can lighten up the environment for the first time.

Thanks to 3 more inches in width, longer feels quite so intimate, and cargo such as 4-by-8 sheets of plywood can load flat on the floor between the wheel housings.

Dodge deserves kudos for extending the available side curtain air bags

to cover all three rows of seats, not just the first two, as most competitors

No question, the Durango has a truck-like feel and stance. Styling cues were borrowed from the recent macho Power Box and Power Wagon concepts. But it also has a few minivan or Pacifica-style touches, such a carlike bumper height and overhangs, a steeply raked windshield and sleek aerodynamics.

Very competitive pricing — \$26,565 base, \$38,875 loaded — has helped Durango get a running start since its November launch.

#### 2004 Dodge Durango

Body style: Seven-passenger, body-on-frame, sport utility vehicle Drive system: Rear-wheel or optional four-wheel-drive

Engine: 3.7-liter 12-valve SOHC V-6, optional, 4.7-liter 16-valve SOHC V-8 or 5.7-liter 16-valve pushrod Hemi V-8

Horsepower: 210 at 5,200 rpm, 4.7 V-8, 230 at 4,600; 5.7 V-8, 335 at

Torque: 235 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm, 4.7 V-8, 290 at 3,600; 5.7 V-8, 370 at 4,200

Transmission: four-speed automatic; 5-speed automatic with V-8s

Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, V-6, 10.2 seconds; 5.7 V-8, 9.1 seconds; Hemi, 8 seconds

EPA fuel economy estimates: 16 mpg city, 21 highway; 4.7 V-8 2WD, 14/19, 4WD, 14/18; 5.7 V-8 2WD, 14/19, 4WD, 13/18

Fuel capacity: 27 gallons

Interior cargo volume: 20.1 cubic feet, behind third-row seat; 68.4 behind second-row seat with third row folded; 102.4 with second and third row seats folded

Front head/leg/shoulder room: 40.8/41.5/59.3 inches

Middle head/leg/shoulder room: 39.2/37.4/59.6 inches

Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 39.2/34.4/59.3 inches

Length: 200.8 inches

Wheelbase: 119.2 inches

Curb weight: V6, 4,671 to 4,676 pounds; 4.7 V-8, 4,825 to 5,045; 5.7 V-8, 4,896 to 5,079

Brakes: Four-wheel discs, with rear

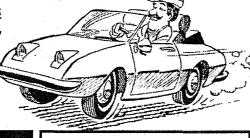
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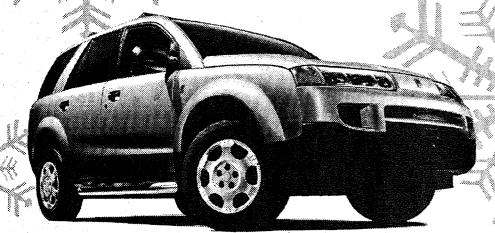


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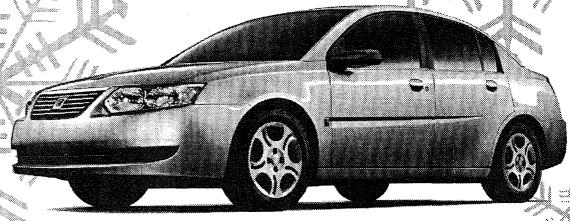
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The Engineered For Family Living Saturn RELAY.

Let the 2005 Saturn RELAY be your guide on a surprising adventure through everyday life.

AUTO, AIR CONDITIONING, POWER STEERING POWER BRAKES. 24K MILES. VIN#2Z101896 STK#U53555

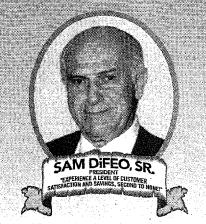
Saturn of Green Brook 270 Route 22 West

752-8383



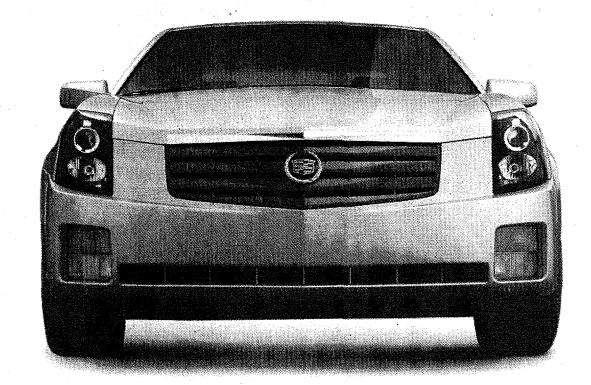






3-DAY/2-NIGHT VACATION WITH THE PURCHASE OF ANY CADILLAC:



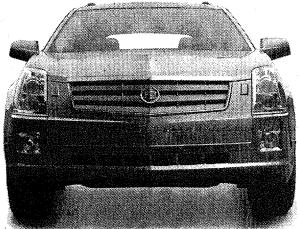


## **NEW 2005 CTS**

LEATHER LONSTAR NAVIGATION LAM/FM STEREO CD DUAL ZONE ELECTRONIC CLIMATE CONTROL

LEASE PER MO. X 24 **MONTHS** 

6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS, pwr wind/seats/lcks/mirrs/trunk/ant, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, s/b tires, OnStar Navigation Safety & Security sys, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, dual zone elec clim cntrl, int wip, MSRP \$33,745, Stk. #V5312, VIN# 50151090. 24 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; .20¢ thereafter. \$295 cust cash or trade equivalent + \$79 1st pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$3769 due at signing. Ttl pymnts \$1896. Ttl cost \$5586. Purch opt at lease end \$21,084. Lease incl. \$1000 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 DMA Customer Cash Rebate, \$1500 Instant Value Certificates if qual\*\*\*, \$750 GM Bonus, \$1000 GMAC Bonus Cash, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual^, \$1500 Cadillac "Q" Incentive if qual\*\* & \$500 GM Military Program if qual††.



**NEW 2005 SRX** 

UNSTAK INAVIGATION LAW/FIVI REAR PARK ASSISTANCE

LEASE PER MO. X 24 **MONTHS** 

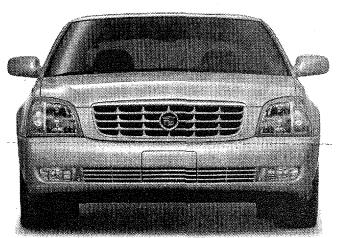
6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/lcks/trunk/ant/mirrs, tilt, cruise, r/def, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, alloys, thir int, int wip, dual air bags, fog its, OnStar Navigation Safety & Security sys, rear park assist, MSRP \$39,035, Stk. #R5062, VIN #50117189. 24 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; .20¢ assist, Mish 33,035, dish are equivalent + \$197 1st pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$4887 due at signing. Ttl pymnts \$4728. Ttl cost \$9418. Purch opt at lease end \$25,482. Lease incl. \$1000 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 NE Customer Cash, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual^, \$500 GM Military Program if qual†††, \$1500 instant Value Certificates if qual\*\*\*, \$500 Crown Loyalty if qual^^.

ATTENTION: **GM & SAAB LESSEES END YOUR CURRENT** AND DRIVE HOME A **NEW CADILLAC TODAY!**"



**OF CHARGE** SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

3-YRS/36,000 MILES WITH THE PURCHASE OF EVERY NEW CADILLAC. CALL FOR DETAILS.



## NEW 2005 DeVILLE

NN SALELLI E RADIO I LEALTER I SUNROUI ONSTAR NAVIGATION I HEATED/COOLED SEATS

**LEASE** PER MO. X 24 **MONTHS** 

8 cvl. auto, air, pwr str/ABS, pwr wind/sts/lcks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM/cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/gls, lthr, s/b tires, 8 cyt, auto, air, pwr str/AbS, pwr wind/sts/cks/trunk/and/mirs, ANV/hWcass, OJ, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/gls, tint, s/o tires, int wip, alum whis, dual air bags, fog its, Prem pkg, XM satellite radio, Comfork & Convenience pkg, Intd. & cooled seats, htd str whi, memory & personalization pkg, FULLY 10ADED! MSRP \$50,125, Stk. #D5157A, VIN #50134452. 24 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; 20g thereafter, \$3995 cust cash or trade equivalent + \$239 Ist pymnt + \$695 bank fee = \$4929 due at signing. Tit pymnts \$5736. Tit cost \$10,426. Purch opt at lease end \$28,893. Lease incl. \$6000 Customer Cash Rebate, \$1000 Oldsmobile Owner Loyalty if qual^, \$1500 instant Value Certificates if qual\*\*\*, \$1500 Cadillac "Q" Incentive if qual\*\*\*, \$500 GM Military Program if qual†††, & \$500 Crown Loyalty if qual^^.

CROWN CADILLAC

- FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE
- FREE ACCRUED DISCOUNTS

**LOYALTY REWARDS:** 

- FREE LOANER CARS • FREE OIL CHANGES
- FREE CAR WASHES
- TOWARDS YOUR NEXT NEW VEHICLE PURCHASE. CALL FOR COMPLETE DETAILS.

# CROWN'S CERTIFIED PRE-OWNED SUPER STORE!

TRIPLE SATISFACTION **GUARANTEE:** 1) PURCHASE

YOUR PRE-OWNED CAR.

2) DRIVE IT. WITH UNLIMITED MILEAGE FOR UP TO 60 DAYS.

3) EXCHANGE IT!\* IF YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY SATISFIED. **NO QUESTIONS ASKED.** SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS.

THIS IS ONLY A PARTIAL LISTING, ALL MAKES AND **MODELS AVAILABLE!** 

#### 2001 Cadillac Catera

Beige, 6 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS, P/wind/seats/lcks/trunk/ ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, lthr int, rads, int wip, dual air bags, fog Its, 40,667 mi, Stk. #812669, VIN #1R036404.

\$17,391

2003 Cadillac CTS

Red, 6 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/sts/lcks/trunk/ ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/gls, lthr int, rads, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, 31,937 mi, Stk. #812707, VIN #30117709.

\$29,993

#### 2002 Cadillac Seville

Blue, 8 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/ sts/lcks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM/ cass/CD, tilt, cruise, r/def lthr, s/b rads, int wip, alum whis, lug rack, conv spare, dual air bags, fog lts, 33,814 mi, Stk. #812769, VIN #2U162381.

2004 Cadillac DeVille

Black, 8 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr ant, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def. Ithr int. s/b tires, int wip, alum whis, dual air bags, fog its, 29,876 mi, Stk. #812762, VIN #4U247533. \$30,994

#### 2002 Cadillac Seville SLS Black, 8 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr str/ABS/wind/seats/lcks/trunk/ant /mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt,

cruise, r/def, alum whis, lthr int, s/b tires, int wip, dual air bags, 30,801 mi, Stk. #812770, VIN #2U140566.

2003 Cadillac DeVille DTS

Blue, 8 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/sts/lcks/trunk/ ant/mirrs, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, ithr int, rads, int wip, alum whis, dual air bags, 29,430 mi, Stk. #812704, VIN #3U113640.

#### 2002 Cadillac DeVille

Blue, 8 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS/ wind/sts/icks/trunk/ant/mirrs, AM/FM/cass/CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/gls, lthr, s/b tires, int wip, alum whls, dual air bags, fog lts, 32,833 mi, Stk. #812760, VIN #2U296925. \$26,992

2002 Cadillac

Escalade Black, 8 cyl, auto trans, air, pwr rrs, AM/FM/cass/CD, tilt, cruise, r/def lthr, rads, int wip, alum whis, lug rack, dual air bags, fog lts, 28,345 mi, Stk. #812763, VIN #2R114045.

#### 2004 Cadillac CTS

Silver, 6 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/seats/lcks/trunk/ mirrs, AM/FM/cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, t/gls, alum whis, ithr. rads. int wip, dual air bags, fog lts, 29,936 mi, Stk. #812706, VIN #30110641.

2004 Cadillac

SRX

Black, 6 cyl, auto, air, pwr str/ABS, p/wind/sts/lcks/trunk/ ant/mirrs, AM/FM/cass, CD, tilt, cruise, r/def, rack, dual air bags, fog lts, 3704 mi, Stk. #812714, VIN #50103877.

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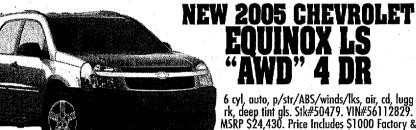
THROUGH

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9am-8pm, Fri & Sat. 9am-6pm



4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, 4 airbags, traction cntrl. Stk#50166.
VIN#5F131421. MSRP \$21,545. Price Includes \$2000 Factory & \$1000 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates. Price includes \$1500 GMAC Bonus Rebate. Must finance through GMAC.

 $T\Pi$ 



6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd, lugg rk, deep tint gls. Stk#50479. VIN#56112829. MSRP \$24,430. Price Includes \$1000 Factory & \$1000 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates. Price includes \$500 GMAC Bonus Rebate. Must

finance through GMAC.



8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, 6 disc cd, 4 airbags, whl flare & mold-ing pkg. Stk#40859. VIN#4G244675. MSRP S39,515. Price Includes \$3500 Factory & \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

SAVE OVER

1.1114 **ASK FOR DETAILS** 

CUSTOMER CASH

NEW 2005 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4 DR

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks, air, cd. Stk#50211. VIN#59140993. MSRP \$23,455. Price Includes \$2000 Factory & \$1000 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates. Price includes \$1500 GMAC Bonus Rebate. Must finance through GMAC.



**NEW 2005 CHEVROLET** 

6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/lks/seats, air, cd, roof rk, OnStar, security sys. Stk#50127. VIN#52126432. MSRP S32,270. Price Includes S2000 Factory & \$1000 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates. Price includes \$1500 GMAC Bonus Rebate. Must finance through GMAC



8 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/ winds/lks/seats, air, cass/cd, leath, trailer hitch, security sys. Stk#40905. VIN#4B107435. MSRP 546,490. Price Includes \$1500 in Instant Value Certificate Rebates.

SAVEOVER



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2002 CHEVROLET CAVALIER

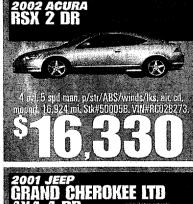
































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