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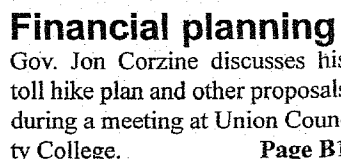
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VOL. 83 NO. 12

A Worrall Community Newspaper

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Voice Mail:

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

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The *Union Leader* 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 day-time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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PBA to present Silver Life Cards

Kenilworth PBA President Daniel Sims has announced that the two recipients for the Honorary PBA Silver Life Card will be former Kenilworth Mayor Gregg David and Blackthorn Pub & Restaurant owner Eugene Gillespie.

On March 10 at 6 p.m., the Kenilworth Silver Card Association will be hosting the dinner at the Garlic Rose Bistro in Cranford. The association, founded by Robert Schielke of NJ Driver Insurance from Cranford, along with George Wittmann and Kenneth Mentzel of Schering Plough Corp., Kenilworth, will put together an ad journal and recruit members.

"This dinner is open to the public," said Mentzel, also of the Kenilworth Manufacturers Association. "This is a

business networking event so local business people can meet face to face and get to know Kenilworth police officers, and also network with the several different businesses that attend and are members of the SCA."

"The award is a very prestigious one" according to PBA state delegate, Fred Soos. "The honorees are thoroughly investigated prior to approval from the New Jersey State PBA President for this honor."

David is being honored in the wake of his recent departure from Kenilworth politics.

He was nominated for the award after his many years of service to Kenilworth, but more importantly, his fairness to the PBA over his political career.

Eugene Gillespie is being honored for his dedicated friendship to the PBA, since his business came to Kenilworth in 2004. He has been a staunch supporter of the PBA, offering his restaurant for many needs of the PBA, such as hosting the annual Motorcycle Run, and has become close friends with many of the members.

According to Sims, "this is a token of appreciation for the friendships that the PBA has made with both Gregg and Gene, and we look forward to also meeting some new faces."

The dinner includes an appetizer, a full prime rib dinner, soda, beer, wine, dessert and coffee. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Fred Soos at 908-705-5156.

Wrestlers plan 'hair-raising' event

Live professional wrestling will be in the Union area on Feb. 15 at 7:45 p.m. at the Union Elks Lodge, 281 Chestnut St., for benefit of local Boy Scout Troop 63.

The popular WWE television "legend" Brutus "The Barber" Beefcake will be in town early that day, checking out many of the local barbershops to purchase a brand new pair of sharp oversized scissors, for his Loser Gets A Haircut Match that night. The victim could end up being his opponent in the match, former WWE wrestler Salvatore Sincere, who must come up with a win to prevent the in-ring embarrassment of losing his hair.

A number of other wrestling stars will be in Union as well, including former WWE and WCW wrestler, "The Patriot," who will be part of a six-man tag-team grudge match along with "Indian Brave Draven" and a mystery partner, against the evil "Baghdad Bullies," Saddam Insane

and T.N.T. as well as one-time ECW brawler, "The Equalizer." Also scheduled to appear are the Q-T Pies, Myke "G.Q." Quest and Rhett Titun. Another local standout will be getting some coveted ring time to showcase his talent, Fred "Bonecrusher" Sampson, who has already had many matches at Madison Square Garden for the WWE.

Tickets can be purchased at the following locations in Union: Napoli Italian Deli & Catering, 336 Chestnut St.; Main Street Barber Shop, 956-A Stuyvesant Ave. and Proud Papa's Pizza, 470 Chestnut St.

Tickets can also be purchased at the following Kenilworth locations: Kenilworth Diner, 614 Boulevard; Dollar Center Plus, Boulevard and Michigan Avenue. In Cranford, tickets can be purchased at Pads, Paws & Claws, 25 North Ave. In Roselle Park, tickets will be sold at Crystalz Barber Shop, 13 West Westfield Ave.

'First lady' to speak at Union AARP meeting next week

The AARP Union Chapter 4026 will meet on Feb. 14.

The special guest speaker will be Rene Goodwin, who will be in character as Eleanor Roosevelt.

Goodwin will portray the famous first lady who "did her own thing" and made a great impact on national politics during a very crucial

time in our nation's history. This first-person interpretation allows the audience to see and hear the woman who managed to make her mark in a political world that had been reserved primarily for men. Goodwin will answer questions at the end of her 25-minute performance.

On Monday, chapter volunteers will visit the Veterans Administration Nursing Home in

Lyons, Somerset County, where they go monthly to conduct bingo games and hand out snacks and prizes to the residents.

On Tuesday, there will be a trip to Showboat Casino in Atlantic City. For reservations, call Shirley at 908-289-6770. There will also be a trip to The Brownstone on March 28 for the Feast of St. Joseph Luncheon/Show.

An all-you-can-eat luncheon will be served family-style with a one-hour open bar.

A trip is scheduled to the Woodloch Pines Resort in Hawley, Pa. for a special Spring Fling Buffet on April 15. The main attraction at The Brownstone during another trip on May 9, will be the Brighton Beach Big Top, featuring Russian circus stars.

Study will examine feasibility of bridge rehabilitation

(Continued from Page 1)

The collapse prompted inspections of local bridges in municipalities throughout the nation, to ensure that structural deficiencies and aging would not cause other structures to collapse.

Federal funding has been offered in many states for studies and repairs of local bridges.

Officials, however, will not confirm whether the Minnesota bridge collapse also prompted the Gordon Street Bridge study. Project Manager John G. O'Leary of Dewberry-Goodkind would not comment on the study and Union County Spokesman Sebastian D'Elia did not return calls for comment on the issue.

In July of 2006, a Bridge Re-Evaluation Survey report prepared for the New Jersey Department of Transportation rates the Gordon Street Bridge as "basically intolerable,

requiring high priority for corrective action."

The original Gordon Street Bridge, which crossed a busy span of the Central Railroad of New Jersey, was constructed under the administration of Mayor George Horning nearly a century ago. An ordinance approving the construction of the 175-foot steel structure was passed by the Borough Council on Aug. 15, 1911. It was then built by the Pennsylvania Steel Company of Steelton, Pa.

Years of bearing the weight of vehicles crossing the bridge weakened the thoroughfare. Making repairs to the bridge proved difficult in the past, however. After the Central Railroad went bankrupt in 1967, the Gordon Street Bridge became one of several "orphan bridges" in the state that were abandoned when railroad companies shut down. For several years, neither local, county or state officials would

take responsibility for repairing the structure. In 2005, a state Department of Transportation grant made it possible for the bridge to undergo a \$900,000 repair project.

"I see this as part of the post 9-11 homeland security initiative," said Roselle Park resident Alexander Balaban.

Balaban lobbied local, county, state and federal officials for several years in order to stress the need for the 2005 repairs to the bridge. Balaban said that he and other residents had begun to notice that the infrastructure of the bridge appeared to be weakening and the blacktop on the bridge was deteriorating.

"It took over a decade before our voices were heard on this," Balaban

said, adding that "any improvement to the existing infrastructure in Roselle Park is a plus."

In order for the bridge to be repaired, engineers must follow federal guidelines under the National Environmental Policy Act, as well as the National Historic Preservation Act, due to the structure's historic significance.

The now-defunct Central Railroad of New Jersey, which was chartered in 1831, was the first line to cross New Jersey and tap the coal mines of Pennsylvania. It served as the chief conduit, carrying coal from the Lehigh valley region of Pennsylvania. Passenger trains also lumbered along the lines, transporting thousands of immigrants from Ellis Island to points west

of the New York area.

The span also runs between two factory buildings in Roselle Park, which once housed the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Corporation of America Building. It was from within those buildings that the earliest Marconi radio broadcasts were transmitted. The factory now housed the Romerovski Corp., a textile company.

The proposed \$4.9 million renovation, which has yet to be approved, would take up to one year to complete and would close the bridge to traffic for the duration of construction, according to information provided by Dewberry-Goodkind.

Toniann Antonelli can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 122, or union-leader@thelocalsource.com.

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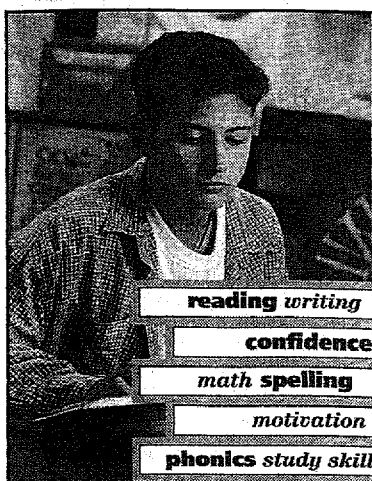
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It's a great time to schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to see if your cat needs some dental care. More than 85% of cats older than four years have some form of gum disease. The bacteria on a cat's teeth and gums can not only cause bad breath and contribute to tooth loss, it can spread to other organs and cause infections. Regular veterinary care and good care at home can prevent gum disease. If necessary, your vet can clean the teeth, remove tartar, and fill cavities. He or she can even perform a root canal. Be sure to also take care of your cat's teeth at home with regular brushing.

The dental hygiene of cats is often overlooked; however it is definitely part of your cat's overall health. At T.L.C. PET DOCTOR, we are experienced animal experts, and you can entrust the complete care of your animal with us. During a regular check-up and examination we take the time to fully examine your cat which includes an oral examination. Bring your pet to 1326 Stuyvesant Ave., Union or call 908-686-7080 for more information. We know much you care about your pet, because we care about them too. P.S. A diet of coarse-textured food is best for your cat as it can prevent plaque build-up.

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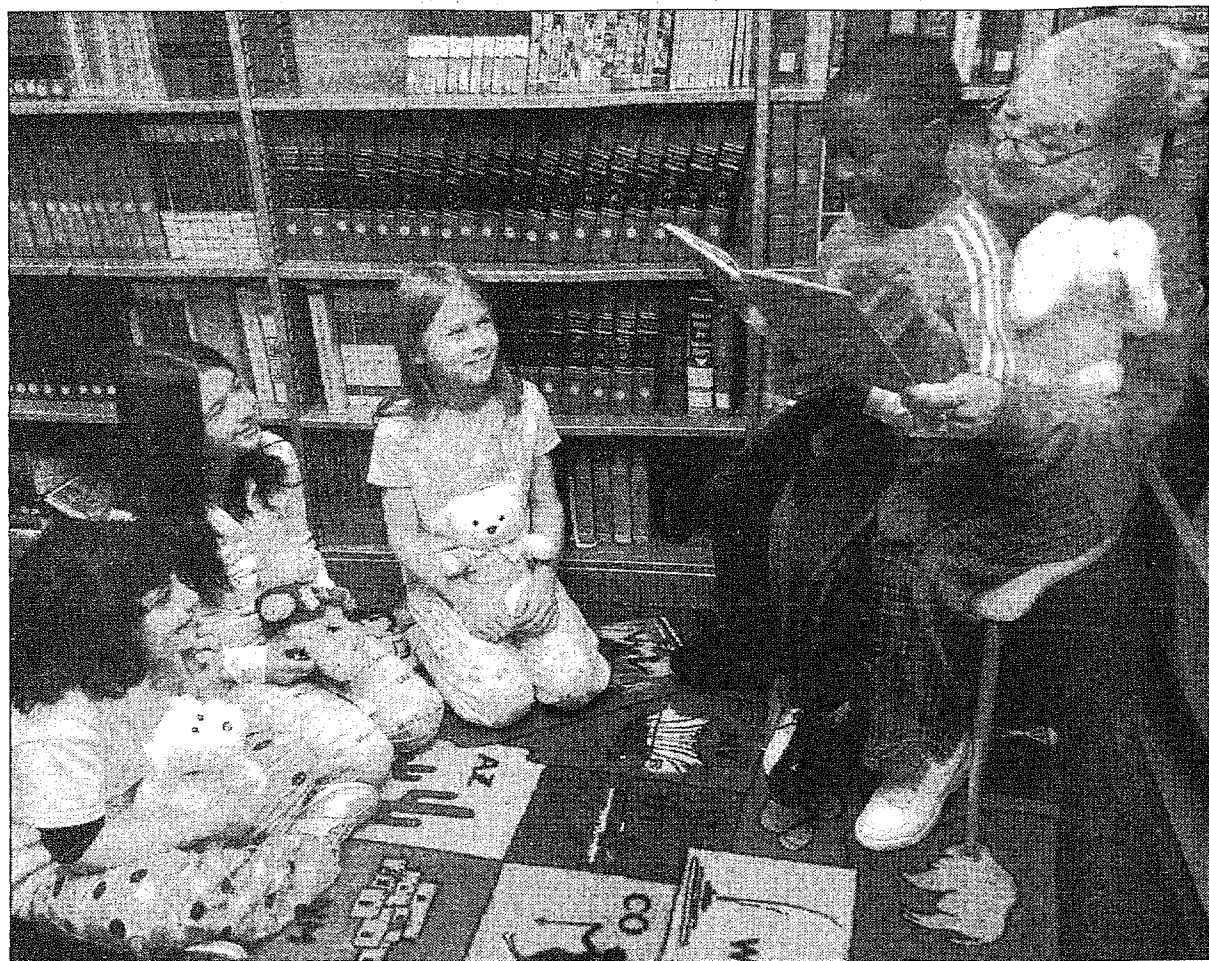
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Once upon a time...



Holy Spirit Elementary School Principal Barbara Prescott reads to students Rebecca Rodriguez, Angelica Cedeno, Svitlana Kahuy and Robert Adelson during pajama day, which was part of the Union school's Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Union graduate makes TV debut

Neal Roden of Sherman Oaks, Calif., formerly of Union, was a contestant Jan. 24, on the television game show, "Are You Smarter Than A Fifth Grader."

Roden, 50, who had to answer 10 questions based on fifth grade lessons, won \$300,000. He missed the \$500,000 question, which asked him to provide the name of the author of

"Gulliver's Travels." Later, however, he redeemed himself by remembering the answer.

Roden graduated from Union High School in 1975. A former teacher, he is the principal of the Sherman Oaks Middle School in California.

He brought his brother and the entire school, teachers and pupils to cheer him on and to be part of his stu-

dio audience for the show.

Roden was born in Union. His mother, Amelia Roden, still resides in Union and volunteers at nursing homes and senior citizen centers with a program called "Do You Remember When?"

Roden's late father, Paul, was a member of the Union Board of Educa-

Art, black history come together

The inspiring story of artist-activist Kim Berman's poverty-relief initiatives in South Africa, and a Kenilworth student art campaign to support such efforts, will be the focus of the Kenilworth Historical Society's Feb. 21 Black History Month celebration.

Visitors are welcome to attend the program, which will be conducted at 7 p.m. at the Kenilworth Senior Center, 526 Boulevard, Kenilworth. Admission is free.

Art instructor, Janice Marsili, of David Brearley Middle/High School in Kenilworth, will introduce the program with an overview of Berman's use of art practices and interactive communications to address poverty, illiteracy and the AIDS crisis in many provinces throughout South Africa.

Marsili learned about the South African venture through a printmaking project of her own design that she initiated at Brearley through a grant awarded by the Artists-in-Education Consortium, which includes the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, Arts Horizons and Young Audiences New Jersey. The consortium has recognized the endeavor as a best practices grant project and Marsili, as a best practices teacher.

Marsili will discuss how Berman's work, which started with a vision to teach marketable printmaking skills to impoverished South Africans and grew to additionally include papermaking and embroidery, inspired a Kenilworth student art project. The project was to create and sell "paper prayers," which are monoprints inspired by people who have been touched by Berman's work, for the benefit of the Artist Proof Studio that Berman established in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Participants in the Feb. 21 black history program will have an opportunity to view the Brearley High School students' artwork and to view an award-winning documentary that chronicles Berman's experiences in South Africa. The film, "A Ripple in the Water," features interviews with Berman and many of the impoverished South Africans who have benefited socially and economically from the poverty-relief art programs that Berman has spearheaded. Through these individuals' words and faces, the film shows how Berman's vision to help others has caused a ripple effect that is enriching many lives in extraordinary ways. It also demonstrates the underlying value of art in bringing about social and economic change as well as in promoting cross-cultural communications.

The Feb. 21 showing of "A Ripple in the Water" is made possible through the efforts of Janice Marsili and with the cooperation of film co-producers Eileen Foti, assistant professor at Montclair State University, and Patricia Piroh, producer for the department of broadcasting at Montclair State University.

Light refreshments will be served during the program. Parking and entrance located at the rear of the Kenilworth Senior Center. For more information, call 908-709-0434.

The Artists-in-Education Program, which provided funding for the Brearley printmaking project that will be discussed on Feb. 21, is carried out through a partnership between the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and a consortium made up of Arts Horizons and Young Audiences New Jersey. This program provides New Jersey schools with long-term artist residencies.

Big game ends with brawl outside township tavern

Union

Instead of ending a night of Super Bowl Sunday festivities with friends, one person ended up in the hospital with serious injuries.

A fight allegedly erupted in front of local pub Paddy's Place, located just off Stuyvesant Avenue, shortly after 1 a.m. Monday. A 26-year-old man from New York City sustained injuries and was rushed to University Hospital in Newark after receiving first aid from fire personnel.

The motive for the fight is still unknown. The individual who assaulted the 26-year-old man is believed to have fled the scene immediately after the altercation. There is no suspect information and an investigation is currently ongoing. The attacker is being sought for aggravated assault.

Paing Kyaw, 28, of State College, Pa., was arrested for driving under the influence Sunday at the Quick Chek convenience store on the 1500-block of Morris Avenue. Kyaw allegedly knocked down four pedestrian signs and a pole while driving.

Four summons were issued for driving an uninsured vehicle, reckless driving and resisting arrest. The New Jersey Department of Transportation was notified about the damaged signs.

Burnet Barbecue was reportedly burglarized Sunday. The register was found broken into with cash taken. Entry was reportedly gained by breaking the front door.

Jamie L. Maxwell, 18, of Lawrence Harbor, was arrested Sunday for shoplifting at the Stop & Shop supermarket on the 1200-block of

POLICE BLOTTER

Stuyvesant Avenue.

A pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle Sunday at the Lowe's Home Improvement store on the 1700-block of Morris Avenue.

The pedestrian was transported to the emergency room at Overlook Hospital in Union.

East Orange resident Tajuan A. Miles, 26, was arrested at the Ghaffari Lounge on the 1600-block of Stuyvesant Avenue Saturday for disorderly conduct and obstruction of the law. During an investigation, it was discovered that Miles had active traffic warrants out from Passaic and Newark.

A two-car accident resulted in injuries Friday at 8:29 a.m. The accident occurred in the area of Mary and Springfield avenues. One person sustained head injuries and was transported to Beth Israel Hospital in Newark.

A pedestrian was struck by a motor vehicle on the corner of Arnet and Morris avenues Friday at 5 p.m. One person was injured but refused medical attention and a summons was issued to the driver of the vehicle for failure to yield to a pedestrian.

An accident in the area of Burnet Avenue and Grove Road resulted in two injuries Friday. The two individuals who sustained injuries were transported to Overlook Hospital in Summit. A summons was issued for careless driving.

An accident involving a pedestrian that was struck on the corner of

Magie Avenue and Galloping Hill Road caused traffic tie-ups after the area was closed briefly on Friday at 5:35 p.m. The pedestrian was transported to Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth for hip and head injuries.

Kenilworth

A trailer was burglarized Saturday night on the 300-block of Market Street. The time of the burglary is unknown and there is no suspect information available.

A report was filed by Patrolman Joseph Scuzorzo and Sgt. John Zimmerman. The suspect is being sought for burglary of a motor vehicle, attempted theft of less than \$200 and criminal mischief.

A motor vehicle was reported stolen Friday from the A&P supermarket parking lot on the 800-block of the Boulevard. Patrolmen Christopher Bryson responded but no suspect information was available.

The Kenilworth First Aid Squad and Lt. Kenneth Grady responded to a motor vehicle accident at exit 138 of the Garden State Parkway north ramp Friday at 1:35 p.m. A driver involved in the accident was transported to Rahway Hospital.

Following a motor vehicle accident, Irvington resident Adenola O. Adebisi was arrested by Patrolman Joseph Balwierczak Friday for driving under the influence and disorderly conduct. The accident occurred on the 600-block of North Michigan Avenue at 1:50 a.m. A pedestrian was struck by Adebisi's vehicle, but refused medical attention. Adebisi was later released.

AT THE LIBRARY

Make a valentine

A Valentine's Day Craft will be presented at the Kenilworth Public Library on Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon in the activity room for children ages 4 and older.

Children ages 4 to 6 years old who attend the program must be accompanied by an assisting adult.

Talk turns to 'Night'

The next meeting of the Hillside Public Library's Pageturners Book Club will be Feb. 21 from 6 to 7:45 p.m.

The book, "Night," by Elie Wiesel will be discussed. This poignant memoir, written by Nobel laureate Wiesel, a survivor of the Nazi concentration camps, was the first step in his lifelong project to bear witness to those who

perished in the Holocaust.

Pageturners meet monthly at the library and membership is open to anyone interested in reading and discussing a variety of books. For further information, call Susan Lipstein at 973-923-4413.

Friends of library will welcome new members

The Friends of the Kenilworth Public Library will meet at 7 p.m. on Feb. 19 in the library's activity room.

Agenda items will include planning for the 2008 membership drive and the annual spring membership reception.

An individual membership in the Friends brings with it the opportunity to help the library and get involved with a great group of people.

In addition to providing funding for numerous library programs for both adults and children, funding from the Friends has also enabled the library to purchase a digital camera, portable microphone, moveable coat rack, DVD display table and books and DVDs for the library's collection. The Friends have also assisted by providing refreshments at numerous library events.

Membership applications are available at the library and will be available at the Feb. 19 for people wishing to join at that time.

Membership is open to all members of the general public, including people who reside in communities other than Kenilworth. For more information, call the library at 908-276-2451. The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 548 Boulevard.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Kudos to Union County residents

No matter which side you are on in terms of Governor Jon Corzine's plan for financial restructuring and debt reduction proposal, the fact that county residents filled the hall at Union County College in Cranford, gives hope that this plan will get a full analysis before the time comes when the legislature and governor battle over the plan's details.

More than 800 residents came to Union County College Wednesday night to fill Roy W. Smith Theatre.

The governor's plan would create \$40 billion to pay for transportation projects. Those will include projects not only on the toll roads but on other highways and on the mass transit system. To do so, Corzine wants to increase tolls 50 percent in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022. Those increases would include inflation adjustments, and after 2022 tolls would increase every four years until 2085 to reflect inflation.

Many of the people who questioned the governor were against the plan. This is expected when you get a forum like this, but they also raised several possible alternatives. There were also a select few that commended Corzine for his proposals.

Corzine has been trumpeting the backing of several congressmen or state officials, even some Republicans, like former Congressman Bob Franks. The Alliance for Action, a non-profit, non-partisan coalition of business, union, professional and other groups has backed the governor's measure.

Despite the backers, there is still plenty of doubt to go with the far-reaching proposal. Polls showed support for the plan when he initially announced it, but that has been steadily eroding as the weeks have passed.

We think Corzine's plan is sickening. There is almost universal agreement that our state is in the middle of a fiscal nightmare. The governor's response is to create more spending, to borrow more money and to push the payment of our debt further into the future.

Corzine has said that he would be willing to consider alternative solutions. There will be several more town hall meetings held throughout the state, and then the detractors, like state Senator Thomas Kean Jr. — the republican senate minority leader — will be able to begin the raucous legislative debate.

To get more information about financial restructuring and debt reduction plan, residents can read about it on the Internet at www.state.nj.us/governor/home/070628_principles.html. or through a link on Governor Corzine's homepage, www.state.nj.us/governor.

More spending?

Budget season is upon us in Trenton and Washington. Residents may want to keep one hand on their wallets.

Even with all the talk about fiscal responsibility, politicians find budget time the perfect opportunity to propose education initiatives. Many of them are worthy but unaffordable given the country's financial status.

When the state first announced that \$6 billion in funds to finance school-construction projects in Abbott districts had been allocated several years ago, urban politicians sought additional funding. That money has been spent, some would say in a wasteful manner, but in a recent court hearing with attorneys for the Abbott districts, a letter was released announcing that state officials would seek another \$2.5 billion for additional projects within those districts.

Previously, \$8.6 billion in state bonds were issued for all school-construction projects statewide. With interest, residents will be responsible for about \$11 billion in repayment. Given the \$40 billion deficit-reduction plan Gov. Jon Corzine has proposed, and the toll-road increases expected, we wonder how residents will be able to handle another \$2.5 billion plus interest.

The longing for expensive initiatives is not limited to governors or Democrats. In his final "State of the Union" message, President George Bush, a Republican, proposed extending a federal program in Washington, D.C., to the nation. In his request to Congress, Pell Grants for Kids would allocate \$300 million to low-income families so their children could attend any school, public, private or religious. Forget that this sounds like a plan for educational vouchers to private and religious schools. With federal funding in many departments under scrutiny, Bush's request to fully fund military actions overseas, the national economy in decline, and a \$150 billion economic-stimulus package to boost the economy, how can we afford issuing another \$300 million in bonds and defending the church-state lawsuits such funding would produce?

Clearly, it does not matter if politicians are liberal or conservative, Democrat or Republican. Given the opportunity, politicians will announce new, expensive proposals every year. We must ask them to restrain their urges for new spending until we are sure it is affordable.

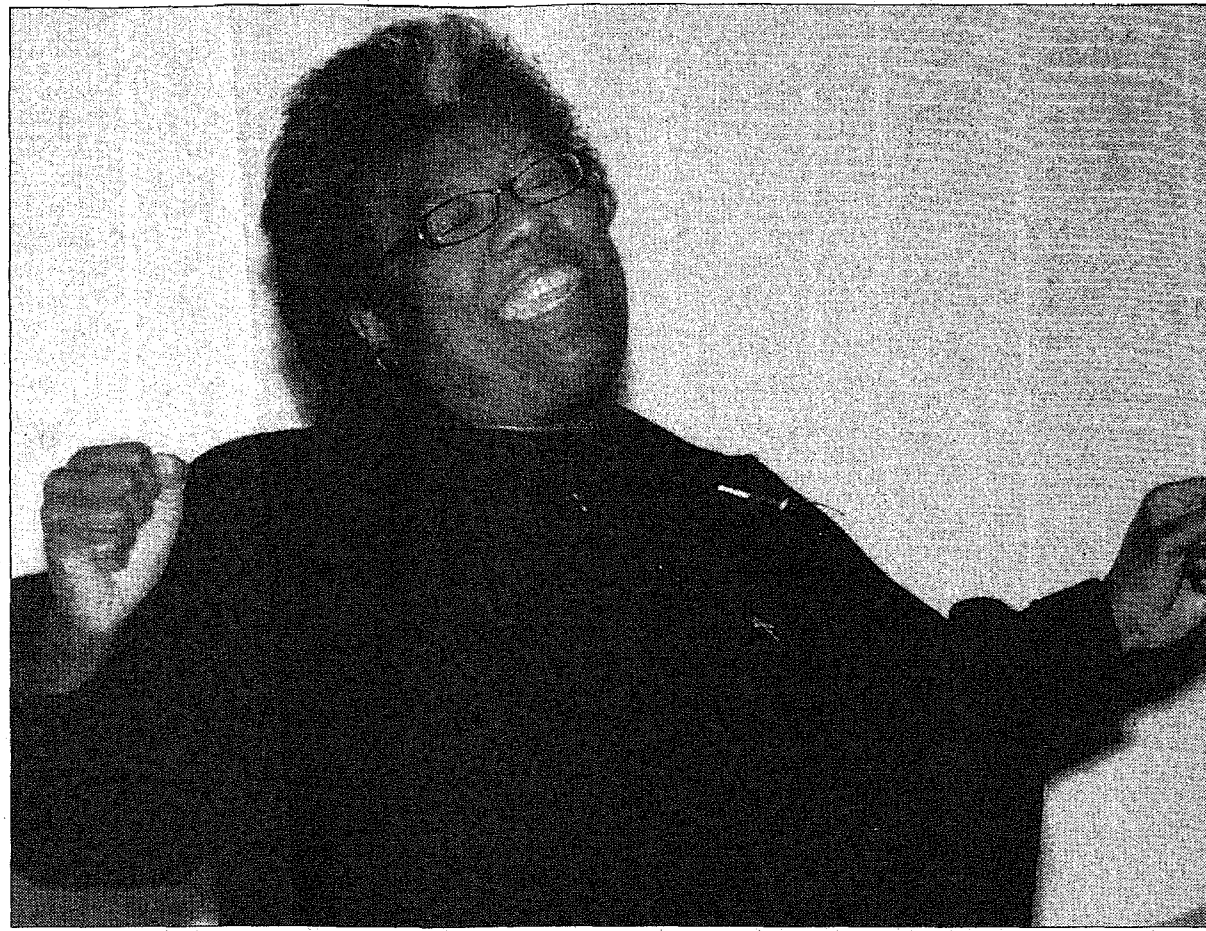


Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

The Rev. Regina Thomas, New Jersey's former secretary of state, gives the keynote address during the recent 100 Women of Faith rally at the Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in the Vauxhall section of Union.

Curtain will rise on Union County's latest sinkhole

Seems To Me

By John Bury

Government can provide a nice living for a lot of people if projects sold as essential keep popping up.

In Union County in 2004, it was the reconstruction of the arts center in Rahway that became a tax-money MacGuffin.

A former vaudeville and silent movie palace built in 1927 devolved into an X-rated movie house in the 1980s, until the appearance of VCRs left it an arts center — which basically means a home to puppet shows that can come up with the rental fees.

What most people would have viewed as the next home for a Walgreens, the Union County Freeholders saw as the first step in making Rahway an entertainment hub. Build a state-of-the-art theater, get Joe Piscopo to open a comedy club, throw around that county money and voila: Branson — East.

But like a prisoner left in solitary for years, the all-Democratic freeholder board seemed to have taken no counsel other than the voices in their heads. They might have looked at other similar venues and dreamed their dreams. The Count Basie theater in Red Bank does well but that's in the middle of an arts town surrounded by upscale suburbs. Around here, you'd draw more people from Winfield Park

with a tractor pull than the Bolshoi. The John Harms Center in Englewood books about one big event per month and I don't remember anything at the Ritz Theater in Elizabeth since Raymond Lesniak brought in Ich Troje.

What possessed the decision-makers in Union County to believe that reviving a burlesque theater in the middle of Rahway would be worth the millions of dollars of tax money they were prepared to sink?

This paper perceptively editorialized on April 1, 2004: "the taxpayers have enough of a financial burden on their collective plates without having to add this one to it. We know it's a done deal, we know the transaction will occur, and it will occur despite what anybody says in opposition to it because that's how the almighty freeholders conduct business — with total disregard to the populace who elected them."

To this, Freeholder Daniel Sullivan

responded three weeks later by accusing the newspaper of "misrepresenting the facts about county government in a very partisan manner to a dwindling subscription base."

After the requisite three insults that all freeholders are obligated to hurl when addressing the public, he moved on to bandy phrases like "spur economic development," "investment in the arts," and "new jobs and increased rates." All worthy goals, but why a theater, why in Rahway, and why county tax money?

You could hire 1,000 workers to dig holes or give \$300 checks to everybody making less than \$75,000 and claim many of the same benefits.

The theater just happened to be available. Had a hospital, racetrack, or liquor store been on the block and the freeholders needed to divert money back to their supporters through no-bid contracts, we would have had similar paeans to their rehabilitations.

Rahway is a Democratic town with a nice tax cow in Merck that allows their local government to play spending games with the county without much voter backlash. If the county did not undertake these development projects, there would be little justification for the existence of this layer of government.

So where is the UCPAC today? It will host a stepping competition on Sunday, admission \$7, and there are 532 of a capacity 876 seats left. Joy Behar will be there on May 3 and an Alan Ayckbourn romantic comedy will have eight performances in February.

When you go on www.ucpac.org and check ticket availability, both acts seem to have an unusual number of available front-row center seats with the rest of the house unclickable, possibly to give the impression that you and your date won't be the only ones in the audience to see Joy Behar and whomever on the freeholder board is up for election this year to introduce her.

So what does this whole episode teach us? That government officials may be able to run strip clubs but not an arts center? That you can't locate an entertainment complex in Rahway without some sort of happy hour?

No. The lesson here is that if you stay silent while self-dealing politicians squander your money on vanity projects then you deserve the tragedy-comedy that will be played out, not on the UCPAC stage but in the Union County Administration Building.

John Bury is a resident of Kenilworth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hillary is wrong for the White House

To the Editor:

After the South Carolina primary declared Barack Obama the winner, the Clintons made a hasty exit, disappearing faster than cockroaches in sunlight.

Isn't it funny how the Democrats see nothing wrong with former president Clinton's treatment of Obama, a treatment that borders on the racist. The Clintons want to return to the White House by any means possible and will do whatever it takes to achieve their goal. If it means doing something questionable or immoral, so be it. When has Clinton ever worried about morality? With his red puffy face and angry fist-pounding rhetoric, Clinton is beginning to suggest Lester Maddox.

I told you this country was a few years away from a black president but I hope with all my heart the Democratic candidate is Obama. Let's face it, it won't be John Edwards. In the eyes of Hillary and her cronies, Edwards is a loser. As John Kerry's running mate in 2004, Edwards folded in the debate with Dick Cheney and came off looking like a green kid who got whipped. For this reason, she won't have Edwards as her running mate. It will probably be someone like Bill Richardson, who is Latino, so she can pander to the Hispanic vote and have a mate with a "regular American" name. As the other Democrats have already faded into obscurity, this leaves Hillary. Or should I say Billary? Because if we elect her, we're going to get him too. The two of them are despicable and odious in the extreme. And Hillary's number one lackey is none other than our esteemed governor, the slavish Jon Corzine.

Hillary as president? The United States will sink into quicksand. You think we have a lot of problems now? Multiply them a millionfold. Just don't expect any unbiased reporting from the media, who turn a blind eye to the liberals' shortcomings. Bad press is simply not reported.

How many recall the "Reverend" Al Sharpton calling Mitt Romney's Mormon faith a false religion? Not too widely known, is it? You'd think the press would have a field day with that, coming from one of the most vicious racists in America, but there was no outcry. It will be the same with Hillary's misdeeds, and believe me, there will be many. For she is about as qualified to be president as her pals Streisand, Sean Penn or George Clooney. The "Blame America First" gang.

Hillary vilifies President Bush unmercifully, but at least our current president, who admittedly is no Thomas Jefferson, has not engaged in countless sexual liaisons like his predecessor.

She is horribly arrogant, feeling the presidency is her right. She simply exudes insincerity and is the biggest phony I have ever seen in my life. I can't understand how everyone does not see this.

I hope Americans are not going to fall into the Clintons' web of deceit and return these shameless self-serving wretches to power.

Richard Lime
Union

Public should view proposed budget

To the Editor:

Residents and members of Hillside Residents for Change and Solidarity, I write in response to your letter dated Dec. 21, 2007.

I do want you to know that a notice of the public hearing on the Hillside Township SFY 2008 budget and tax resolution, which was held on Nov. 27, 2007 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building, was published in the *Union Leader* on Nov. 15 by the Hillside township clerk in accordance with governing statutes.

On Feb. 7, 2008, the township clerk will (send) a notice to be published in

the *Union Leader* concerning a public hearing on the amendment to the approved FY 2008 budget in compliance with governing statutes. This public hearing will take place beginning at 7 p.m. at the Municipal Building on Feb. 19.

I strongly encourage you and the Hillside Residents for Change and Solidarity to demand that Mayor Karen McCoy Oliver be present at such public hearings. The mayor, as chief of the Hillside township administrative branch of government, is legally responsible for the timely preparation of the budget and, with the Township Council, should be present at all public hearings on the budget to explain the proposed budget provisions and amendments to Hillside citizens.

As head of the administrative branch of government in Hillside, Mayor McCoy Oliver oversees the Department of Administration and Finance — including the treasurer's office, which prepares the budget — and the tax collector's office, the Department of Law, the Police Department, the Fire Department, the Department of Engineering, the Department of Public Works and the Department of Recreation.

Finally, the mayor also oversees the Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library, the Local Assistance Board, the Planning Board and the Mayor's Council on Drug and Alcohol Awareness. Funding for these departments and councils represent the greatest part of Hillside's proposed budget and questions concerning the FY 2008 budget and amendments should be addressed, in the first instance, to Mayor McCoy Oliver.

As you know, copies of the proposed budget have been available for examination since Nov. 15, 2007 in the office of the township clerk at the Municipal Building, located on the corner of Liberty and Hillside avenues in Hillside, during the hours of 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, we, as a council, promise you and others, more than this administration, we have copies of the proposed budget (that) are held in the Senior Citizens Center and by the reference librarian at the Hillside Township Public Library and are available for examination during the library's hours of operation, which includes Saturdays.

Thank you for your continuing interest in the government of Hillside.

Leonard D. Gilbert
Council president
Hillside

Union children showed generosity

To the Editor:

The Veterans Committee of Union Elks Lodge 1583 BPOE received a call recently from Washington School. The call was about some candy that the students collected and wanted to donate to our hospitalized veterans and those serving in the war on terror.

When we picked up the candy, we were amazed with the nine, large, 30-gallon bags full of candy with most of it already sorted for us. This candy was mailed to our troops serving in the war zone, distributed to our hospitalized veterans and we even had enough left to donate some to the Special Needs Children's Committee who support those children with physical limitations.

The Veterans Committee, our veterans and our "special children" cannot thank you enough for your caring, generous and charitable nature.

We would publicly like to acknowledge Principal Mark Hoyt, the PTA, the faculty and especially the students of Washington School. The township should be, and I know their parents are, aware of their hard work to serve those who are serving America.

The Veterans Committee and I are especially proud of these young Americans. For the Union Elks Lodge 1583 Veterans Committee, thank you.

Dan M. Williams
Past chairman
Union Elks Lodge 1583

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Published Weekly Since 1925

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Union student picked to sing to sports fans at Knicks game

By Jacqueline Leon
Staff Writer

UNION — Burnet Middle School student Tiyonna Stewart is living every young girl's dream. The budding singer was among three in the tri-state area selected to perform at a New York Knicks basketball game against the Los Angeles Clippers Monday.

The performance was part of the Knicks Kids Talent Search, designed to showcase undiscovered talent among children younger than 14 years old. Three contestants are chosen monthly to perform during half-time at select Knicks home games, and each competes for college scholarships. The competition has been in existence for five years.

Many who have performed at a Knicks Kids Talent Contest have gone on to appear in movies and Broadway shows. Bianca Ryan, a winner of NBC's "America's Got Talent," participated in the Knicks Kids Talent Search during the 2004-05 season.

Tiyonna said she was excited to have been selected for the prestigious contest, but revealed that she did not feel nervous.

"What I get is an unquenchable feeling when I perform," she said. She explained that she loves to be on stage. The 12-year-old said she hopes to attend an Ivy League school and one day become a Broadway actress.

In order to be chosen, Tiyonna participated in a 30-second audition. As



Tiyonna Stewart

required to be selected, she also submitted a video recording of herself singing a song of her choice. According to Tiyonna's mother, Dorothy "Dee" Stewart, her rendition of pop singer Christina Aguilera's song "Hurt," was the clincher.

In the past, Tiyonna has demonstrated her singing prowess to the pop group The Cheetah Girls, while they were on tour in Pennsylvania. She also sang at Carnegie Hall last year.

"While she did a solo for a school concert, someone in the audience wanted her to be in the Gift of Music Red Cross fund-raiser at Carnegie," her mother said.

Tiyonna was thrilled to perform at the world-renowned Carnegie Music Hall.

"It was just her, an opera singer and a prodigy Asian pianist," Dee said.

Tiyonna said she was impressed by the amazing facility and its acoustics.

"You don't need a microphone to be heard there," she said excitedly. "The acoustics there are that awesome."

Dee said that opportunities have arisen for her daughter "by the grace of God" and consequently, the young girl remains humble.

"It's definitely a blessing from God to open doors for Tiyonna," she said. "And she knows that she is singing for his glory and no one else's."

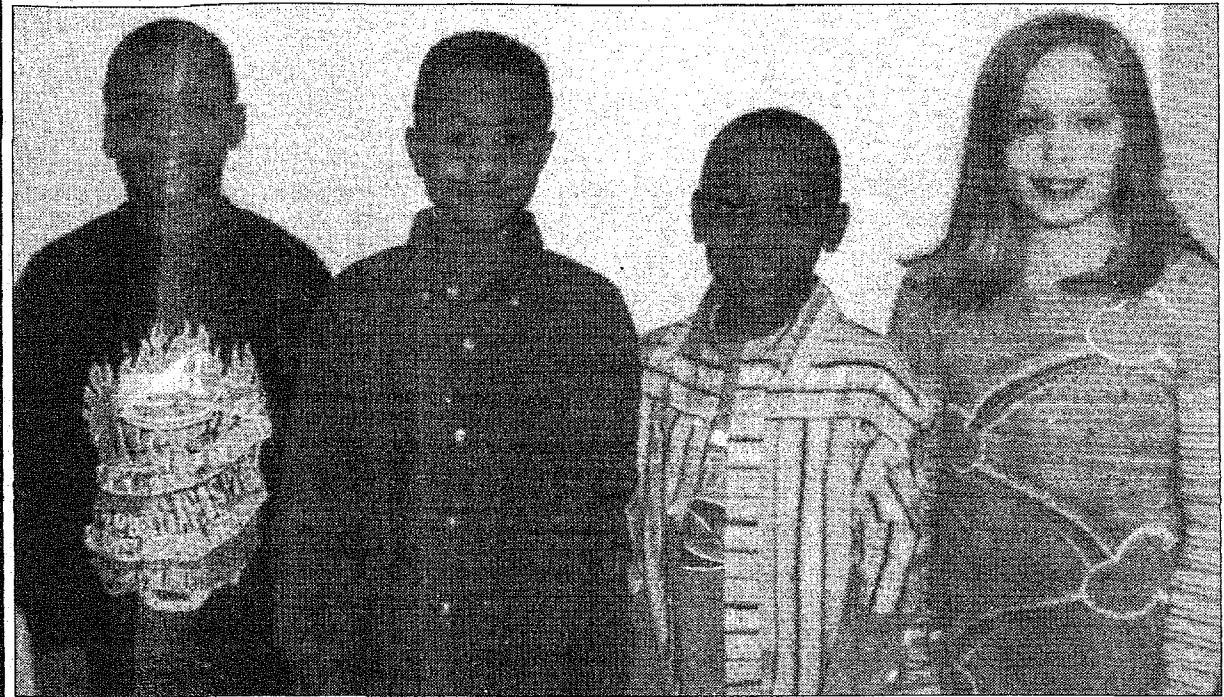
Both of Tiyonna's parents have had their brush with fame. Dee works as a security guard at Burnet Middle School, but sings during her spare time and has been working on a contemporary gospel compact disc with her husband, Tony Stewart. Tony is a former running back for the University of Iowa Hawkeyes and was the draft pick for the NFL's Seattle Seahawks.

Dee said Tiyonna inherited her father's drive.

"They have that same drive but it's just a different arena," she said. "His is sports and her's is performing arts."

Jackeline Leon can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext.126, or union-leader@thelocalsource.com.

Representing their peers



Fourth grade students at Battle Hill Elementary School in Union recently selected members of their Student Council. Members of the school's student governing body include, from left, Joshin Smith, secretary, Achim Younker, president, Camerum Hannah, vice president and Erin Roberts, treasurer.

School conducts dedication

Hillside Catholic Academy conducted a dedication ceremony for its new media center on Friday.

The Sister Louise Cababe O.P. Media Center was officially opened. The Cababe Center houses 17 computers that are linked to Internet. It also includes assorted resources materials.

It will be used for the school's computer education class. Computer education is taught by Miguel Recaldi. Each student receives one class a week in computer education.

"This new media center will enable us to prepare students for the future," said Michael J. Butchko, principal of Hillside Catholic Academy. "It is all part of the quality education we offer at Hillside Catholic Academy."

The Cababe Media Center was blessed and dedicated by The Rev. Kevin Hanbury, superintendent of schools, and vicar of education for the Archdiocese of Newark.

"This is a wonderful room, which truly captures the spirit of Sister Louise," he said.

Also in attendance at the dedication were Sister Joan Amelia Ferragiaro, S.S.J., assistant superintendent of elementary schools. Hillside Catholic Academy is a Catholic elementary school located at 397 Columbia Ave. in Hillside.

For more information, contact the school at 908-686-6740 or e-mail admin@hillsidecatholicacademy.org.

It's all in the cards



Members of Cub Scout Pack 116 of Roselle Park look at the array of sports memorabilia on the walls and counters of Attack of the Baseball Cards in Union, as owner Steve Mandy presents a collecting seminar to the cub scouts during a recent field trip.

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For example, if a house's foundation is crooked or unsteady, it will distort the walls. You'll see cracks in the plaster. Doors won't fit properly. Windows may not open. You can repair the cracked plaster and trim the doors and windows to fit again. But how long will these "cover-ups" last?

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Computers, crafts, movies fill library schedule

The Hillside Public Library has several free programs and events planned for February.

Registration is required for all adult computer classes.

- Today — Word Two computer class, 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Word One, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Friday — After school movie, "Hairspray," from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Monday — At 7 p.m., local authors Shirley Stewart, author of "Changes," and Sebrina Adams, author of "Regretful Decisions," will discuss their newly-published novels featuring African-American contemporary women facing life's challenges.

can contemporary women facing life's challenges.

- Tuesday — Internet Two, 11 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.; after school Valentine's Day craft, 4 p.m.
- Wednesday — pre-school story time, 11 to 11:30 a.m.; after school Kente cloth craft, 4 p.m.
- Feb. 14 — Introduction to Internet, 2 to 3:30 p.m.; Word Two, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Feb. 19 — "Hip Hop Saved My Life," 4 p.m.

This is a high-energy musical show by Hillside's Rahfeal Gordon, whose hard luck stories combined with inspirational triumphs and hip-hop music will move and motivate.

- Feb. 20 — Preschool story time, 11 to 11:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21 — Bidding and buying on eBay class, 2 to 3:30 p.m.
- Feb. 21, — Introduction to computers, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Feb. 22 — After school movie "Akeelah and the Bee," from 4 to 6 p.m.
- Feb. 25 — Getting to Know Your Computer class, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Feb. 25 — Excel introduction, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 — "Teach a Dog to Read," 6:30 p.m.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

CALVARY ASSEMBLY OF GOD INTERNATIONAL, A Pentecostal church seeking the face of God, 953 W. Chestnut St., Union. Church/964-1153, Fax/964-1153. Rev. John W. Bechtel, Pastor.

Sunday Services:
 Sunday School - 10:05am
 Morning Worship - 8:45am, 11:00am
 Evening Service - 6:30pm
 Wednesday Services:
 Ladies Bible Study (Heart & Home) - 10am
 Family Night 7:30pm with
 Royal Rangers boys program (ages 3-14)
 Missionettes girls program (ages 3-17)
 Adult School of the Bible
 Friday Services:
 Youth Night - 7:30pm
 College & Career - 7:30pm
 In addition there are monthly meetings of Women's Joy Ministries and Men's Breakfast Fellowship. For directions call 908-964-1153 and press 4.

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 Sunday Evening: 6:30 PM
 Food Pantry (Wednesday) 5:45-6:45 PM
 Wednesday Family Night: 7:00 PM
 Spanish Service (Saturday): 7 PM

BAPTIST

ANTIOCH BAPTIST CHURCH, 640 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield. Rev. Clarence Alston, Pastor. Church phone (973) 379-1465.
 SUNDAY: 9:30 A.M. Family Bible School; 11:00 A.M. Worship Service. WEDNESDAY: 7:30 P.M. Mid-Week Service. Holy Communion every First Sunday. Nursery Care available every Sunday. If transportation is needed call the church office. Everyone is Welcome at Antioch.

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Jeong, Pastor; Mr. Johnathan Schneider, Music Director. Worship Service at 9:30 a.m. Followed by Fellowship & Bible Study. Join us in Joyous Celebration of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

KOREAN CENTRAL CHURCH (UMC), 455 Boulevard, Kenilworth 908-272-1995, Pastor: Rev. Jim Wolk Jeong. Worship Service at 11:30 A.M. Web: www.koreancentral.org

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF UNION, Berwyn Street at Overlook Terrace, Union, Rev. Percival Gordon, Pastor. Jonathan Schneider, Music Director. Church Office 687-8077. Parsonage 686-2412. Worship Service 11:00 A.M., Sunday worship includes a children's sermon, followed by Sunday School, and communion on the first Sunday of each month. All welcome. United Methodist Men's, Women's and Youth groups. Home Bible Studies 3rd Saturday each month.

MORAVIAN

BATTLE HILL COMMUNITY MORAVIAN CHURCH, 77 Liberty Ave., Union, 908-686-6866. Rev. Percival Gordon, Pastor. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 9:15 a.m. Women's Group meets first Wednesday of every month 1:30 pm. Men's Group meets every other Wednesday 9:00 am. Wednesday, Bible study and Prayer Group 7:00 pm.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

KENILWORTH GOSPEL CHAPEL Newark and 23rd Street, Kenilworth, 908-262-5131, Pastor Donald Dunkerton, Sunday 9:15 am Communion, 11:00 am Family Bible Hour and Sunday School for all ages, Wednesday 7:00 pm Prayer and Bible Study, (childcare provided), Friday 7:00 pm Youth Activities for Grade School age, Jr. High and Sr. High. kenilworthgospel.org

MAPLEWOOD BIBLE CHAPEL: Worship and serve together in a warm and caring Bible centered fellowship, located at the intersection of Lexington, Tuscan and Burnett Avenues. Sunday services: Adult Bible Classes and Sunday School, 10:25 A.M. Family Bible Ministry Hour, 11:00 A.M. Tuesday 8:00 P.M. Prayer and Bible Study, lower meeting room. Special activities for children and youth on Friday evening. Call us for details at 201-761-6430.

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CONNECTICUT FARMS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 888 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union. Sunday Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. Sunday School/Confirmation Class and "For Adults Only Education" at 10:00 a.m. Child care provided. Sound system for the hearing impaired. Coffee hour follows the service. Ample parking is provided. New contemporary worship service the "First Friday" of the month at 7:30 p.m. Men's, women's, and youth groups provide a variety of opportunities for participation. Church actively involved with the community through Vacation Bible School, "Friday Night Happening" for middle school youth, CF Food Pantry, weekday Nursery School, and Cub and Boy Scout Troops. Serving the community since 1730, Connecticut Farms is a vibrant, caring congregation committed to renewal and growth. We welcome all to join us for worship and fellowship. For additional information, call the church office at 908-688-3164 or log on to www.ctfarms.org.

TOWNLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 829 Salem Road, Union. Worship and Church School Sundays at 10:00 A.M. Nursery Care during all services. Holy Communion the first Sunday of each month. We offer opportunities for personal growth and development for children, youth, and adults. We have two children's choirs and an adult Chancel Choir. We also have a youth fellowship, regular adult Bible Study, a Book Club and Summer Vacation Bible School. Come and worship with friends and neighbors this Sunday. Townley Church is a growing congregation of caring people. Church Office 686-1028. Rev. Christopher Taylor, Pastor.

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NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by World Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication.
 Please address changes to:
 Connie Sloan
 1291 Stuyvesant Ave. P.O. Box 3109
 Union, N.J. 07083 U/N

EVENTS

A look at Lincoln's life

On Tuesday, in honor of Lincoln's birthday, Nat Bodian, 87, a Cranford historian, will talk on Abraham Lincoln and the Jews in his life.

The talk will cover Lincoln's entire life, from his earliest experiences with Jews, to his support by Jews in his drive for the president, his experience in Washington, his issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, his military related actions including the appointment of the military's first Jewish chaplain, wartime Jewish appointments and partons and up to his assassination and the Jewish reaction to his death around the nation.

Included in the talk will be one of the nation's most anti-Jewish acts, by Gen. Grant — the infamous "order Number 11" and Lincoln's reaction to the act.

Bodian has written and lectured extensively on American's presidents. However, his lecture for Tuesday was prepared exclusively for that date as it will also commemorate his own 87th birthday.

The program is open to the public. For information, call Susan at 908-289-8112.

Have some pasta, then grab a microphone

On Feb. 23 at 5 p.m., the fun begins.

Begin the evening with a hearty pasta supper complete with meatballs, sausage, salad and desserts and coffee from 5 to 7 p.m. At 6 p.m., the real fun begins with a karaoke program. The dance floor will also be open.

This event will take place at the United Methodist Church in Union, located at 2095 Berwyn St.

Call the church at 908-687-8077 by noon on Feb. 21 to make your reservations. Be sure to leave your name and how many adults and children will attend, along with a telephone number where you can be reached.

Bus trip will benefit the Deborah Foundation

There will be a bus trip to Atlantic City on Feb. 24.

The bus will leave at 10 a.m. from the parking lot across from the Kenilworth Veterans Center on South 21st Street in the Kenilworth. The group will leave Atlantic City at 6 p.m. for the return trip to Kenilworth.

The trip is a fund-raiser for the Deborah Hospital Foundation. For additional information or tickets, contact Christine Orband at 908-272-6308 or Rosemary Palmer at 908-272-1705.

YM-YWHA will welcome Moshe Schreiber

On Feb. 17, the YM-YWHA of Union County will welcome guest

speaker Moshe Schreiber, to speak on "Anti-Semitism Around the World Today."

Recently returned from his two-year stay in Israel, Schreiber has insightful information on the current political situation in and out of Israel. With the constant and emerging changing occurring on the ground and the many negative images that Israel faces in the press and in world opinion, he feels it is critical for the Jewish community to remain active and involved and educated in current issues.

This program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Susan at 908-289-8112. Light refreshment will be served.

Presbyterian Women planning flea market

The Presbyterian Women of Connecticut Farms Church have scheduled their annual indoor flea market for April 12, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Dealers are welcome.

The market will feature a variety of new and "gently used" merchandise. Handcrafted items are also acceptable. For further information or to reserve a table, call 908-245-0562.

Presidents Day lunch planned at the YWHA

On Feb. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., the Senior Department of the YM-YWHA of Union is hosting its annual Presidents Day luncheon.

The luncheon will feature musical entertainment by Ted O'Connell. The dinner will include roast chicken, salad, fruit cup and dessert.

O'Connell has entertained throughout the state and is a blend of music from the 40s, 50s and contemporary classics. To make reservations, call Susan at 908-289-8112. All reservations must be made by Feb. 18. This program is open to the community.

Find out what your future holds at fair

The Roselle Park High School PTSA will host a Psychic Fair at the Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut St., Roselle Park on March 8, from noon to 4 p.m.

Readings are by appointment only, and the \$20 donation includes a 15-minute psychic reading through numerology, palm readings, tarot cards and exploration of past lives. Light refreshments will be served.

Half of the donations will go toward the Roselle Park High School PTSA scholarship fund, which provides several scholarships each year to students.

Anyone 18 years of age or older can make an appointment by calling Linda Uhrig at 908-245-7473.

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SPORTS

Sports Numbers
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Hillside's Desir featured in video

Apparently, New Jersey City University men's basketball star senior swingman Aaron Desir of Hillside also has ability on the lanes as a bowler.

Desir and NJCU senior and three-time All-America bowler Vicki Spratford of Woodbridge were featured on the College Sports Television Network as they competed against reporter Cyrus Ahalt as part of a segment entitled, "Hoops Odyssey."

Spratford outlasted Desir 197-166. To view the video, visit: www.cstv.com/video/?s=video-hub&vid=6141.

Spratford was the Division 3 National Player of the Year in 2007, received more votes on the All-America Team than any kegger in Division 1, 2 or 3 and recently appeared in *Sports Illustrated* after winning back-to-back tournament championships.

Local teams qualify for states in basketball

On the boys' basketball side, Union and Brearley qualified for the state playoffs, while Brearley and Hillside made the grade for the girls'.

Union's boys' team qualified in North 2, Group 4 for the first time since 2003.

Union entered Tuesday's home game against Linden with a 15-3 record, a five-game winning streak and the Farmers were 6-0 at the Louis J. Rettono Gymnasium at UHS. Linden entered with a 16-3 record.

Union last won North 2, Group 4 in 1999 and before that won the section and then Group 4 for the first time in 1997.

The Brearley boys' will be in the Central Jersey, Group 1 field as will the girls'.

The Hillside girls' are part of the Central Jersey, Group 2 field.

The state playoffs are scheduled to commence Feb. 25.

The sectional finals will take place the week of March 3.

The seedings should be announced today by the NJSIAA on its website.

UNION COUNTY BOYS' TEAMS THAT MADE THE STATES (14)

Union - North 2, Group 4
Elizabeth - North 2, Group 4
St. Patrick's - Non-Public, North B
St. Mary's - Non-Public, North B
Dayton - North 2, Group 1
Brearley - Central Jersey, Group 1
Cranford - North 2, Group 3
Gov. Liv. - Central Jersey, Group 2
Plainfield - North 2, Group 4
Linden - North 2, Group 4
Rahway - North 2, Group 3
Roselle - Central Jersey, Group 2
Scotch Plains - North 2, Group 3
New Prov. - Central Jersey, Group 1

UNION COUNTY GIRLS' TEAMS THAT MADE THE STATES (18)

Elizabeth - North 2, Group 4
Hillside - Central Jersey, Group 2
Dayton - North 2, Group 1
Brearley - Central Jersey, Group 1
Gov. Liv. - Central Jersey, Group 2
Cranford - North 2, Group 3
Roselle Catholic - Non-Public, North A
Linden - North 2, Group 4
Plainfield - North 2, Group 4
New Prov. - Central Jersey, Group 1
Westfield - North 2, Group 4
Scotch Plains - North 2, Group 3
Oak Knoll - Non-Public, North A
Summit - North 2, Group 2
Kent Place - Non-Public, North A
Johnson - Central Jersey, Group 2
Benedictine - Non-Public, North B
Mother Seton - Non-Public, North A

UCT Bowling at Jersey Lanes in Linden

Union Team 1, Jan. 29:
Sharif Warden 186-191-199-576
Ed Helberg 112-135-134-381
Andre Leverett 180-138-131-449
Anthony Wachter 162-172-179-513
Renee Reidlinger 142-163-122-427

Union Team 2, Jan. 29:
Kevin Klaw 194-162-186-542
Peter Kuziola 101-133-95-329
Taheera Griffin 111-124-112-347
Kyle Stevens 132-117-120-369
Brian Fischer 182-144-144-470

JR's SPORTS BLOG
All the latest sports chatter, opinions, and scores for Union County.

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Brearley boys' playing well

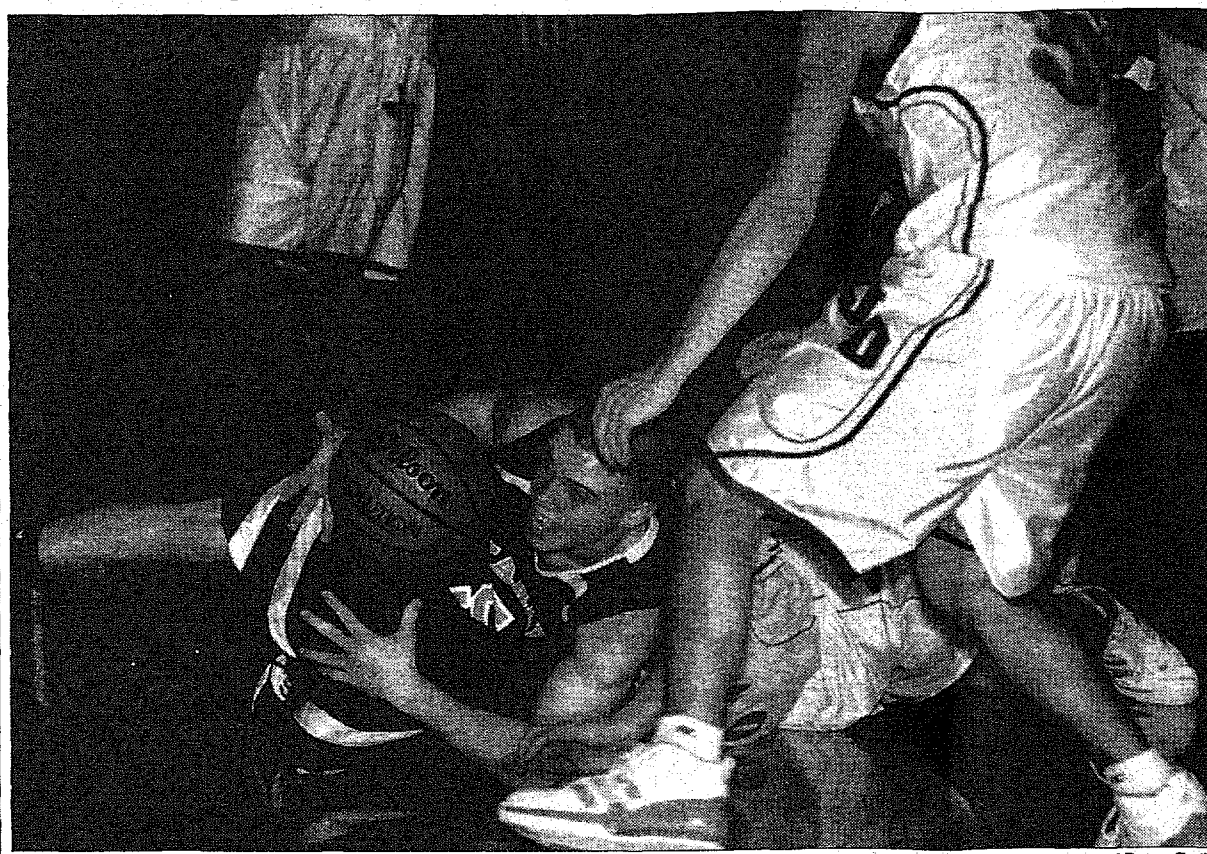


Photo courtesy of Peter Cook

The Brearley boys' basketball team was able to sweep Dayton in Mountain Valley Conference-Valley Division play, with its latest win a 56-43 decision at home last Friday. The Bears will be participating in the Central Jersey, Group 1 playoffs, which will commence the week of Feb. 25. Brearley began the week with an 11-6 record and three-game winning streak. Shadee Daniels scored 14 points, Billy Sues 13 and Dominick Vitale 10 in Brearley's second win over Dayton.

Girls' swimmers make splash at Union County competition

Santomauro captures event for Farmers

By Jeff Cummins
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH — Christina Santomauro of Union swims virtually every day of the year, with the lone exception of the month of August, when she gives herself a break. Consider that for a moment. When the weather is sub-zero, Santomauro goes to the pool and swims. When she's sick, she swims. When she's under stress, she swims.

When you work that hard, it has to pay off, and Santomauro earned her reward last Saturday at the Dunn Sport Center when she finished the 100-yard butterfly in 1:00.32, edging the nearest swimmer by six-hundredths of a second to capture the Union County championship in her sophomore year.

"It feels really good," Santomauro said. "All the hard work I put in has paid off. I didn't expect to win this at all. I was so nervous that I didn't know what to expect of it."

Later in the meet, Santomauro completed the 500-yard freestyle in 5:22.43, finishing second to Westfield senior Alexi Kuska, who won the event in 5:01.29.

Westfield captured its 16th consecutive county title, amassing 287 points and outdistancing second-place Scotch Plains, which finished with 221. Kent Place of Summit was third with 144.5 points, Summit fifth with 97, Union sixth with 90, Cranford eighth with 56, Gov. Livingston ninth with 45, Johnson 10th with 26, Dayton 11th with 14, Roselle Catholic 13th with six and Elizabeth was 14th with two.

Summit's Jen Nerby finished fifth in the 200-yard freestyle in 2:03.93. Teammate Kearsley Olcott, a sophomore, won her heat in the 200-yard individual medley.

"I think everyone is just swimming slower today," said Olcott, who was able to put some distance between herself and the closest competitor in her heat as the event wore on. "During the backstroke I saw her, we were together, and then I didn't see her anymore."

"I expected that I'd take second or third in my heat. I didn't think I'd win it."

Boys' swimmers impress at the Union County meet

Union soph Nelson does well to finish 100 free

By Jeff Cummins
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH — Summit senior Jason Toffey is confident without being boastful. He's simply aware that he and his teammates have dedicated themselves and put in a lot of work and that gives them the confidence to expect strong performances.

The reason for that feeling was obvious last Friday night. Toffey swam the anchor leg of Summit's 200-yard medley relay team and he and teammates Silas Newcomb, Kevin Ng and Doug Jones finished in 1:44 to win the title at the Union County boys' swimming meet held at the Dunn Sport Center.

"It's teamwork," Toffey said. "We all go in there with confidence and we are all very enthusiastic. We have plenty of motivation. We're a strong team together."

Ng also won the 100-yard breaststroke in 1:03.12. Summit did well to finish with 242 points, second to Westfield with 333.

Among local schools, Oratory Prep of Summit was fifth with 108, Gov. Livingston sixth with 94, Cranford seventh with 69, Union ninth with 43, Roselle Catholic 10th with 32, Elizabeth 12th with eight and Johnson 13th with four.

Toffey also finished second in the 50-yard freestyle in 22.94.

"I'm proud I got 22. I didn't think I was going to do that," Toffey said. "I usually do 22 in the relays, but when I'm doing the 50 free by itself, it's a lot harder to get to 22. It starts different. When the relay starts, you can go a lot faster, and that's how I usually do it."

Freshman Eric Walano continued the Walano tradition of swimming for Cranford, finishing the 100-yard backstroke in 1:02.51. Walano's older brother, Michael, a senior, finished the 100 freestyle in 59.47, while their mother, an official at the meet, watched from the deck.

Sophomore Allison Schneider sparked Cranford with a personal best in the 500-yard freestyle, finishing in 5:28.79, which was good enough for fifth place. The result was a pleasant surprise for Schneider.

"I didn't think I'd get lower (faster) than 5:30," said Schneider, whose forte is the long-distance swims. "I was nervous. I was trying not to think about it."

Schneider also swam the anchor leg on the Cougars' 200-yard medley relay team, which finished sixth with a time of 2:05.31. The rest of the Cranford relay team consisted of senior Mary Kate Miller, freshman Kathleen French and sophomore Danielle McAuliffe.

Dayton junior Jeanine Costa of Springfield won her heat in the 100-yard butterfly, finishing in 1:32.58, surpassing her previous personal best of 1:32.64.

"The water was really cold," Costa said, expressing surprise at her success. "I had no idea what I was doing. Usually I had better times at Drew University, because it's always the right temperature at Drew."

Twins Jenny and Sandra Hornig, both freshmen, competed in the 100-yard breaststroke for Dayton.

"I think I did all right," said Jenny. "I'm just tired from swimming the 500 free."

Sandra said her performance was not her best.

"There were definitely better meets, but I've been kind of out for a little bit," Sandra said. The twins swim for the Jersey Gators, a swim club based in Cranford.

Johnson freshman Gabby Levine finished in ninth place in the 100-yard butterfly in 1:06.93.

"I wasn't really expecting that much because the other girls next to me were more experienced," Levine said.

Kent Place junior Katie Cummins, a Summit resident, finished the 200-yard freestyle in 2:04.99.

"It wasn't my best, but it felt good," Cummins admitted. "I never really swim very well in this pool. I think that shallow end wall is a little slippery some times."

Jeff Cummins may be reached for additional comment at jcummins@thelocalsource.com.

Union boys' down Linden in OT thriller

White nets career-high 24

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

UNION - Aishon White missed Union's last two games because he was out sick.

He did not return to practice until Saturday.

White got better at just the right time for the Farmers to deliver his best performance ever on the basketball court.

The 6-2 sophomore guard came off the bench for only the third time this year to score a career-high 24 points, including a 3-pointer at the buzzer to send the game to overtime and six more in OT to help lift Union past Linden 81-74 Tuesday in a battle of Watchung Conference champions squaring off at the Louis J. Rettono Gymnasium.

A near capacity crowd of nearly 2,000 attended one of Union's biggest boys' basketball games in a long time.

Union, the Watchung Conference-American Division champion, improved to 16-3 and won its sixth straight. Union also defeated Linden for the first time in quite awhile.

Linden, the repeat Watchung Conference-National Division winner, fell to 16-4.

The teams could meet again in the Union County Tournament and the North 2, Group 4 playoffs.

The UCT was to be seeded yesterday morning, while the North 2, Group 4 seeding will be announced on the NJSIAA's website today.

After two free throws by Linden senior guard Jerelle Louis gave Linden a 63-60 lead with six seconds left, White took a pass from senior forward Travis Taylor and swished a 3-pointer from the right side, right on the hand of the Union Fighting Farmer decal on the gym and pretty much in between half court and the Union 3-point line.

"It was like, behind me, so my big man, Travis, got me the ball," said White, who was Union's leading scorer on the Farmers' freshman team last season. "It wasn't for Travis, it would have never happened."

Union then scored the first six points of overtime to take a 69-63 lead before Linden came back to pull to within 69-67 and 71-69 on free throws by Desmond Wade and Aderson St. Germaine.

Union closed overtime on a 5-0 run after Wade's final point of the game made the score 76-74. Wade and Taylor each finished with 27 points.

White scored three free throws and Union junior guard Dion Nesmith made a basket before the final buzzer for the game's final five points.

"For a guy who just missed a week of basketball, he played a great game," second-year Union head coach Tony DiGiovanni said.

White missed Union's games against Newark East Side and Elizabeth last week, although the Farmers went on to win both.

In 17 games and 14 starts, he has 186 points for an 11-point average (rounded out). He scored 13 more points than his average Tuesday against Linden.

In a Tournament of Champions semifinal at Rutgers last year, Linden was defeated by Bloomfield Tech 59-56 when junior R.J. Hall made a 3-point shot at the buzzer from halfcourt.

"I tip my hat to the kid," said Linden head coach Phil Colicchio, in his 11th season at the helm. "He not only made the 3-point shot at the buzzer, but made another big 3-pointer in the corner earlier when we had him covered pretty well. He will remember the shot, in this atmosphere, for the rest of his life and he should. He made a very special play."

"We have a habit of losing games on half court shots, I guess. That might be our motto here."

This was the second straight overtime win for Union, which defeated Elizabeth 86-79 at home last Thursday. Union is 2-0 in overtime and 7-0 at home.

Linden is now 2-2 in overtime this year, previously defeating Neptune and Elizabeth in overtime back-to-back in a four-day span two weeks ago. Linden opened with an overtime loss to Plainfield.

"In overtime we knew we had to work hard, because we knew Linden was coming out strong," White said. "We came right back at them."

There were so many outstanding and unsung performances in another Watchung Conference game where two heavyweights slugged it out for 32 minutes and then for another four.

"I thought that it was a great basketball game and a great atmosphere, a college atmosphere like Cameron Indoor Stadium (home of the Duke Blue Devils)," Colicchio said. "The whole atmosphere was everything positive about high school basketball. The kids in the stands with their bodies painted, I thought that was really cool."

"There were two teams that made an awful lot of big plays and big stops when they had to. They made one more play than we did."

"Then they went up real quick in overtime and we came back in a blink of an eye. It was two pretty evenly matched teams and the fans got their monies worth."

"This may just be Round One. We may face them again in the counties and states."

NOTES: Union is scheduled to host Irvington today at 4 p.m. and then play at Cardinal McCarrick Saturday night at 7.

Union will be playing a first round UCT game either Tuesday or Wednesday night. Linden played St. Anthony last night and plays St. Raymond's Sunday.

LINDEN (16-4)	12	11	10	30	11 - 74
UNION (16-3)	9	16	18	20	18 - 81

LINDEN: Desmond Wade 7-0-13-27, Aderson St. Germaine 2-0-4-8, Jerelle Louis 3-2-8-20, Qadeer Lewis 1-0-3-5, David Bruce 2-0-3-7, Xavier Freeman 0-1-2-5, Rommell Bateman 1-0-0-2, Charlton Wilson 0-0-0-0. **Totals:** 16-3-33-74.

UNION: Dion Nesmith 3-1-0-9, Aishon White 3-5-3-24, Travis Taylor 9-0-9-27, Joshua Kolas 2-1-0-7, James Daniels 1-0-0-2, Javon Moore 2-0-2-6, David Jackson 0-0-1-1, Bryce Lewis 1-0-0-2, Thomas Goubadia 1-0-1-3. **Totals:** 22-7-16-81.

See JR's Sports Blog at www.localsource.com for compete boys' and girls' UCT seeding information. Both UCTs were to be seeded yesterday.

Union Suffragettes registration Saturday

Union Suffragettes Softball League new players only registration - for Union Township residents only - will take place Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Union Recreation Department at 1120 Commerce Ave., behind Hannah Caldwell School. Those in grades 3-6 are eligible for the Junior Division and those in grades 7-12 for the Senior Division. A parent or guardian must register new players in person. Returning players will receive a separate mailing. The registration fee is \$40 for one player and \$30 for each additional player in the same family. Checks are to be made payable to: Union Suffragettes.

All players will receive a team shirt and visor. Player placement is determined by opening son given teams. Siblings are placed together.

More information may be obtained by calling Bill Jereb at 908-688-8578 or by e-mailing him at billj@unionsuffragettes.org. Additional information may be obtained by visiting the league's website at www.unionsuffragettes.org.

The Suffragettes have 18 teams comprised of two divisions, nine in the Junior and nine in the Senior. Games are played on Saturdays at 8:45 and 11 a.m., beginning in April and until June. Sundays may have to be used to accommodate rainouts.

Practice times will be determined at the coaches meeting in late March.

Union Little League registration wraps Sunday

The final day of Union Little League registration for the spring season - for new and returning players - is Sunday from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at Hall Stadium on Lehigh Avenue.

New players must present a photocopy of their birth certificate and register with a parent or guardian. The registration fee must be paid at the time of registration. In addition, there is also a Work Bond Agreement that must be completed and paid at the time of registration.

To be eligible, all players must be between the ages of 7-12 by April 30 and must be a resident of Union.

More information may be obtained by calling 908-686-5722.

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

Scare tactics

Compared to other "town meetings" Governor Jon Corzine's visit to Union County College last week was pretty tame.

His young, very serious staffers escorted public officials to their seats and were unfailingly polite to the citizens.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

The people came to listen.

The crowd that filled the college theater generally divided into two groups—the seriously curious, and those who have already made up their mind.

Corzine in his trademark sweater vest has his speech and visual presentation down pat. The fellow operating the computer visuals was in sync with the Governor.

Under the plan Corzine has banked his governorship on, he is selling residents and more importantly legislators on cutting state debt in half and coming up with a fund for future transportation projects. Based on polling and the views of those exiting the college, he has his work cut out for him.

Corzine explained the underlying plan of raising tolls on the highways by 50 percent then 20 percent three more times by 2021. The existing \$32 billion debt is a staggering number describing a state which has lived well beyond its means.

The poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University last week found 60 percent against his plan and 33 percent in favor. In the world of politics that leaves a small group of persuadables. Corzine calls his plan the best available option.

The citizens lined up patiently after his remarks to address their dissatisfaction. The expected, well worn arguments about cutting the fat and the need for review by different people were presented. One of the speakers, a Fanwood resident shot out that the legislators comfortably sitting in the front rows should come forth with their views.

Thomas Kean Jr., state senator and Republican minority leader, said this weekend, "This is the biggest financial gimmick that this state and this country have ever seen. My hope is the plan goes down to bi-partisan defeat."

Corzine has countered with a series of business leaders supporting his plan. One editorial writer termed his proposal a "scare tactic."

The suggestions by some of the citizens were the really scary part of the meeting. One speaker casually said we should just have the state declare bankruptcy. Cutting back on school funding and ignoring collective bargaining agreements, and pressure for state employers to pay greater health benefits were all pitched to Corzine.

Sadly the real questions like just how dangerous is "unfunded liability" and how solid is our state's bond rating never got asked.

As the staffers watched, the well coached Corzine acknowledged the suggestions and even praising the critics whenever possible.

When Cranford resident Robert Milkowsky got up and thought it was important to inform all he was a former Linden resident, he found a willing ally in Corzine regarding consolidation of services.

Of course Milkowsky's grand plan included smaller communities like Kenilworth merging their police administration with larger towns. The fact that the move didn't affect Milkowsky's life is typical of the problem.

There is an acknowledgement of the problem and the debt. The problem is that everyone is looking for someone else to shoulder the financial burden.

Anybody but themselves. It's a very scary tactic.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

Corzine rolls into UC to buoy debt plan

Governor: transportation fund will be broke by 2011 without proposal

By Katherine Paster
Staff Writer

As he makes his way across the state to present New Jerseyans with his controversial "Financial Restructuring and Debt Reduction" plan, Governor Jon Corzine addressed Union County residents last week, where he explained his plans to hike toll costs, fund local transportation construction projects, and dig New Jersey out of its financial crisis.

At the standing-room only Union County town hall meeting, Governor Corzine presented his controversial plan to use New Jersey toll roads to pay down 50 percent of the state's debt, to freeze spending for the next fiscal year and limit borrowing without a voter-approved revenue source.

Corzine's plan, which hundreds of local residents showed up at the Union County College Cranford campus to oppose, includes numerous scheduled toll hikes over the next 25 years, raising the toll rate from its current average of \$1.21 on state roads.

Under the proposed schedule, the same trip would cost \$2.05 in 2010, \$3.46 in 2014, \$5.84 in 2018, \$9.86 in 2022, and \$12.50 by 2033.

"I want people to understand this is not something we do because we proactively want to raise tolls, but because we have a financial emergency in this state," Corzine explained at the Jan. 30th meeting.

One of the major motivating factors behind the hike is the fact that as of 2011, the New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund will run out of money, leaving the state with no funding to fill potholes, build roads or maintain bridges — projects which have Corzine estimates will cost up to \$40 billion over the next decade.

New Jersey will spend more than \$42 billion on highway, bridge and transit projects over the next decade if Corzine's plan to borrow against future toll increases is approved by the legislature.

"We have massive transportation needs in this state," said Corzine. "We have 700 deficient bridges in this state, and I don't feel comfortable making a proposal that does not account for the anticipated costs."

While New Jersey drivers stand to bear the financial burden of the toll hike, Corzine explained, that on average, 46 percent of drivers on state roads are non-New Jersey residents, thus bringing in external revenue into the state.

Out-of-state drivers pay 51 percent of tolls on the Turnpike and 26

percent on the Parkway.

"The return will be much greater than the dollars collected from New Jersey drivers," said Corzine.

For New Jersey residents and businesses, who use state highways on a daily basis, the Governor plans to offer "frequent user discounts."

In an effort to "invest in our future with regard to our infrastructure," Corzine is proposing numerous transportation-based construction projects throughout Union County, totaling \$3.4 billion, which the governor believes will reduce congestion and improve safety on Union county roads.

With the funds collected from the toll increases, Corzine plans to construct two additional ramps at interchange 142 where the Garden State Parkway meets Route 78 in Hillside and Union townships.

"We will start some of these projects very quickly, while others are longer term," said Corzine, whose transportation construction plans include the addition of another rail tunnel in the Hudson River.

Additional projects include the replacement of the Morris Avenue Bridge in Summit, where construction is currently underway, and North Avenue Corridor improvements in Elizabeth.

"In Union County there will be significant investments in public transportation," said Corzine, who noted that over the next decade, Union County could see a return of as much as \$3.3 billion.

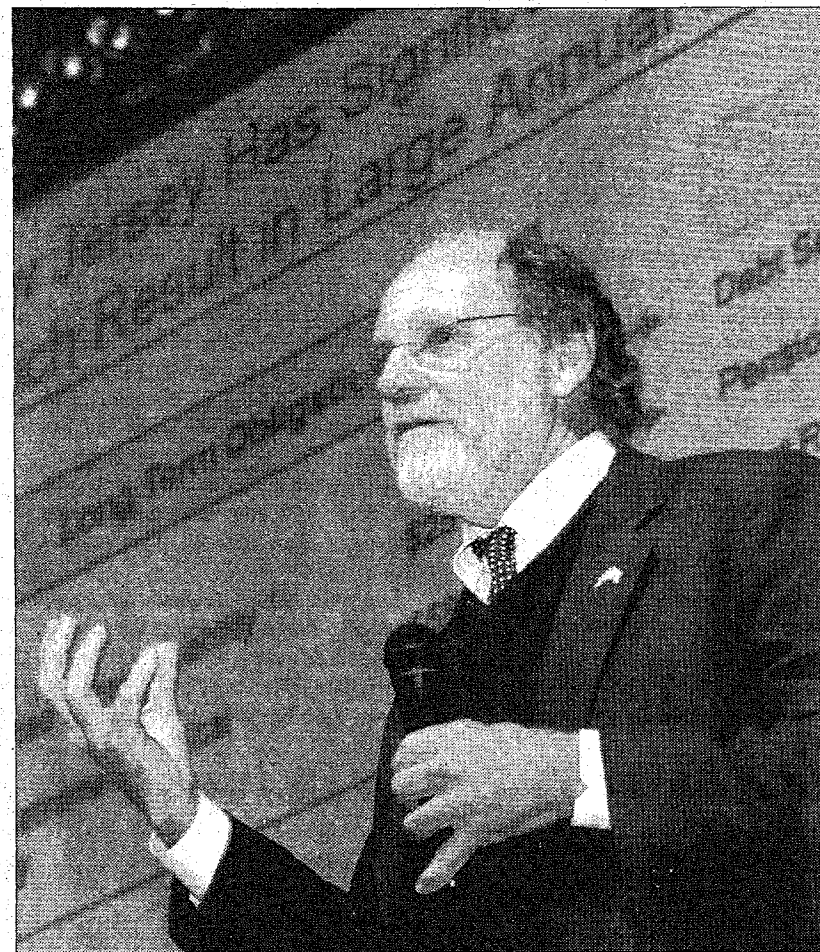
However unpopular, Corzine insists that the transportation-focused plan to save New Jersey's economy is the best possible solution to what he calls "20 years of short-sighted financial decisions by both parties" that consisted of mis-spending, overspending and irresponsible borrowing.

"As a result of decisions made across administrations and across party lines over the past 20 years, New Jersey, has amassed over \$30 billion in debt and staggering unfunded pension and healthcare liabilities," Corzine told a room full of concerned Union County residents. "I think this plan puts us into a healthier financial situation for a longer amount of time."

According to Corzine's estimation of how New Jersey's debt impacts taxpayers, "every man, woman and child is individually responsible" for \$3,700, or an average of \$10,200 per household.

Despite Corzine's proposal to "freeze spending in 2009," school districts across the state were recently granted substantial increases in

New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine, right photo, appealed to Union County residents to back his "Financial Restructuring and Debt Reduction" plan during the county's town hall meeting on Jan. 30. Corzine is holding a town hall meeting in each county of the state to bolster his plan. One of the main elements of the controversial proposal is extensive hikes in tolls for the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway.



Photos by Frank Wood



state funding, totaling approximately \$7.8 billion in taxpayer dollars.

"I justify it because our kids and their education are at the top of our priorities," said Corzine, who noted that the state was also under court-mandated obligations to provide Abbott districts, the lower income school systems, with more funding.

"We developed the formula we think is fairer across the board for places in Union County like Rahway," said Corzine.

New Jersey currently has the third highest debt burden in the country with \$32 billion in bonded debt.

In addition, New Jersey holds

unfunded pension obligations of \$25 billion, and \$60 billion worth of future health care costs for retirees.

The combination of bonded debt and unfunded liabilities translate to a debt of \$45,000 per household.

Katherine Paster can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext.119, or at unioncountyb@yahoo.com.

Lowney Sr. feted as St. Pat's Parade marshal

Jim Lowney Sr. will be installed as the Grand Marshal of the 2008 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade during an Investiture Mass at St. Genevieve Church in Elizabeth on Saturday at 2 p.m.

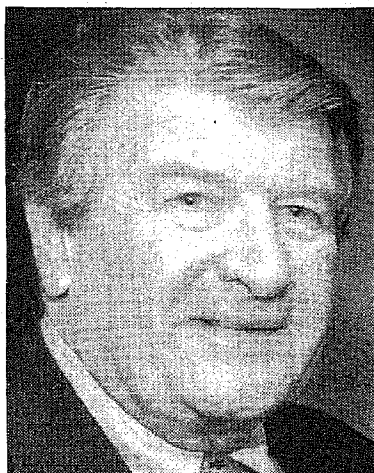
All are invited to attend the Investiture Mass.

Following the Investiture Mass, a reception for the Grand Marshal will be held at 4:00 p.m. at the Blackthorn Restaurant and Irish Pub located at 652 N. Michigan Avenue, Kenilworth.

Admission to the reception is \$25 per person and includes draught beer, wine, soda and food. Live Irish entertainment will be provided by Ian Gallagher.

For more information or tickets for the reception, please contact Jim Lowney Jr. at 848-448-6885 or at jim-lowneyphoto@yahoo.com.

Jim Lowney Sr., a well-known columnist for Irish-American newspapers, will lead the 12th Annual Union



Jim Lowney Sr.

County St. Patrick's Day Parade at 1:00 p.m. sharp on Saturday, March 15, 2008 on Morris Avenue in Union, NJ.

For information about the parade please visit www.unioncountystpatricksdaysparade.com.

Public: options for toll hikes

By Katherine Paster
Staff Writer

Armed with strong opinions, hundreds of Union County residents filled the Roy W. Smith Theater at Union County College in Cranford to share their thoughts with the Governor on his controversial plan to revive the state's economy.

Residents expressed alternatives to the "Financial Restructuring and Debt Reduction" plan, specifically the toll hikes, that included raising the state gas tax, privatizing schools, cutting state spending among others.

For many, the decision to heavily tax highways will severely harm residents who use the state roads more than others.

"I think you know how much this decision is going to affect businesses like mine," said Paul Graven, a Cranford resident who co-owns a food business that involves transporting goods across the state each day.

In response to these concerns, the Governor reassured the speakers that individuals like Graven will be provided with the opportunity to apply for "frequent driver" discounts, which are partially intended to reduce the adverse affect the hike might have on New Jersey's small businesses.

The crowd of concerned citizens applauded in support of the suggestions to hike the gas tax and the toll fees minimally instead of having all of the revenue come from a single source.

Corzine, however, disagreed, blaming the current recession partially on the rising cost of fuel. Cranford's Joseph Barell suggested that while his idea might be equally unpopular, privatizing New Jersey schools could remove a significant amount of mandated funding from the state budget.

"Get the state out of the education business," suggested Barell, who explained that his idea could relieve some of the financial burden on the state. "Sell the school system to private entrepreneurs and eliminate municipal taxes."

For Corzine, who has made education one of his admin-

istration's top priorities, selling the schools was not the answer.

"People move here and stay here because of the schools," said Corzine.

Another concern expressed by members of the public was the over-governance and over-spending of the state of New Jersey across all levels of government; a problem that even Corzine agreed is present.

"I have a concern about spending on all levels of government, but I do find fault on the part of politicians who don't listen to their constituency," said John Marcourt of Fanwood.

For Corzine, trimming the bureaucratic fat off of New Jersey government might help the situation, but it will not ultimately deliver the state from economic crisis.

"There is waste, fraud and abuse in New Jersey and we need to get it under control, but we're not going to solve our financial problem by doing so," said Corzine. "Everybody gripes about what government does, but we have one of the lowest administrative costs in the country."

For many of residents who addressed Corzine at the public meeting, Corzine's failure to communicate with the electorate was one of their largest complaints.

"Numerous members of the public expressed their concern that they could not reach the governor to share their ideas regarding ways to relieve budget costs," said Eric Russell of Basking Ridge.

"I believe there are a lot of talented people in New Jersey who could restructure the government, and I believe the executive and legislative arms of the state government need to build credibility," said Morgan O'Brian of Westfield.

With a clerk on hand taking names of individuals who came to the microphone, Corzine did not evade responsibility for his failure to keep the public involved in the decision-making process.

"We are not as responsive as I'd like to be, and I take personal responsibility," said Corzine.

Katherine Paster can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or at unioncountyb@yahoo.com.

Bills: Illegal gun crackdown

A package of bills assemblymen Neil M. Cohen—D-Union, Gordon M. Johnson, Louis M. Manzo, and Bob Gordon sponsored to reduce illegal gun trafficking in the state by creating new penalties and updating existing laws received final legislative approval recently in the General Assembly.

The measures would impose tougher penalties for gun trafficking and public possession of illegal firearms, and they would strengthen the law concerning the reporting of lost or stolen firearms.

"A disproportionate number of gun-related crimes in New Jersey are committed with weapons purchased outside the state, yet we have no law on the books specifically against gun trafficking," said Cohen (D-Union). "That needs to change before more lives are needlessly lost."

The first measure (A-2697), which would make gun trafficking illegal in New Jersey, passed by a vote of 80 to 0.

Under the bill, anyone who knowingly transports, ships or otherwise brings firearms into New Jersey with the intent to illegally sell or give them to another individual would be guilty of gun trafficking and would face penalties of up to \$150,000 in fines and 10 years in jail.

Currently, gun trafficking is usually prosecuted as a violation of the state's licensing statutes, which carries lesser penalties of up to \$10,000 in fines and 18 months in jail.

A second measure —A-3035—

would make it illegal to knowingly carry an unlawful firearm - concealed or otherwise - in a public place. Violators would be subject to penalties of up to \$150,000 in fines and 10 years in jail. The Assembly passed the measure 60 to 15.

"Many criminals, especially gang members, use guns as a status symbol and a mark of power," said Gordon —D-Bergen. "By creating strict new penalties for carrying illegal weapons in public, we remove some of that power and hopefully get some weapons off the street."

A third measure—A-4620—would help curtail "straw purchasers" - individuals who buy weapons in bulk and later sell them on the black market.

Currently, when a weapon used in a crime is traced back to a legal purchaser, the purchaser can claim the weapon was lost or stolen, thereby avoiding culpability for the crime. This loophole effectively allows straw purchasers to sell weapons without fear of repercussions.

"When it comes to stopping gun crimes, law enforcement needs all the help it can get," said Manzo —D-Hudson. "Mandating immediate reporting of gun thefts will help discourage straw purchasers from running guns on the black market."

The bill would require the legal owner of a firearm to report the loss or theft of that firearm to local authorities or the State Police within 36 hours of discovery. Failure to report the loss or

theft would result in fines of \$500 for a first offense and \$1,000 for all subsequent offenses. The measure passed 66 to 11.

"Honest gun owners who have a firearm stolen have absolutely nothing to fear from this reporting standard," said Johnson —the chair of the Assembly Law and Public Safety Committee. "Criminals, however, will face a tough choice - either provide valuable intelligence to the police or be stuck paying a hefty fine."

A final measure —A-2602—would regulate the sale of handgun ammunition in New Jersey. It was introduced following a December 2006 hearing and a February 2007 report by the State Commission of Investigation calling for regulation of ammunition sales in New Jersey as proof that legislative action is needed to properly address the problem.

Under the bill, only individuals who possess and display a valid firearms purchaser identification card, a certified copy of a permit to purchase a handgun, a valid permit to carry a handgun, a valid New Jersey hunting license, a valid Collector of Curios and Relics license, or valid documentation identifying them as a federal, state, or local law enforcement officer would be allowed to purchase and possess handgun ammunition in New Jersey. Exceptions would be made for individuals purchasing and using handgun ammunition at a licensed target range. The measure passed the Assembly by a vote of 55-20-2.

A Clinton sighting



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Chelsea Clinton, left, shakes hands with an Elizabeth motorcycle police officer during her visit in Elizabeth on Monday. Clinton, the daughter of Bill and Hillary Clinton, walked down Elizabeth Avenue to help bolster her mother's presidential bid on the eve of the New Jersey primary. To find out how Union County voted in Tuesday's primary, check out our Web site, www.localsource.com.

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COUNTY NEWS

SCORE your own business

SCORE, a national non-profit sponsored by the U.S. Small Business Administration, presents a workshop, "Starting and managing your own business," on Feb. 19 from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the SCORE office, 2 Gateway Center, 15th floor, Newark. Subjects include: marketing, business plans, tax obligations, legal requirements, financing, record keeping.

There is a registration fee that includes a free copy of a revised 140-page book, "Starting and managing your own business."

Call SCORE at 973-645-3982 between 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Division helps seniors apply for programs

The Union County Department of Human Services, Division on Aging, will bring its Outreach Services Program for senior adults to Plainfield, Linden, Cranford and Rahway during the month of February.

Division on Aging staff will assist seniors with information and help in

applying for a variety of government assistance programs, including gas and electric support —LIFE LINE, pharmaceutical assistance —PAAD, and home energy assistance —HEAP. There will also be screening for Supplemental Security Income —SSI— eligibility, and information about the Senior Health Insurance Program —SHIP.

"The Freeholders of Union County encourage elderly, isolated individuals from throughout the county who meet eligibility requirements to apply for vital services through our outreach program," said Freeholder Chester Holmes, liaison to the Union County Advisory Council on Aging. "These services can supplement the basic needs of the isolated elderly and sustain or improve their lives."

"Our staff will conduct private interviews on request," Freeholder Holmes added.

The Outreach Services Program will visit the following locations:

- February 11, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Cedarbrook Park Apartments, 1272 Park Avenue, Plainfield.
- February 13, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Ann Ferguson Towers,

1601 Dill Avenue, Linden.

• February 19, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at Cranford Lincoln Senior Housing, 800 Lincoln Avenue, Cranford.

• February 21, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the Clifford Case Memorial Senior Apartments, 337 West Milton Avenue, Rahway.

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

Be a foster grandparent

Be an inspiration to children and youth who need attention and direction from adults age 60 and older. Become part of an exceptional program that seeks your help in showing children the way to a productive and positive future.

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ing experiences that come from working with special needs children, supportive services, transportation expenses, insurance coverage, flexible hours, a stipend if income qualified and more.

Volunteers visit non-profit organizations such as pre-schools, child care centers, elementary schools, youth programs, etc. to help supervised children with reading, literacy, language, academic, socialization skills.

They also comfort, nurture, build confidence, mentor, tutor and utilize distinct attributes to make a positive difference.

Opportunities are currently available in the towns of Vaux Hall, Roselle, Rahway, Elizabeth and Plainfield. Please call 908 354-3040 ext. 389 for more information.

Services for Latino families with asthma

Medical and educational services for Latino families with asthmatic children through the children's Respira education program are available in Union County this month as follows:

- 11 a.m. on Feb. 7 at St. John's

Episcopal Church, 61 Broad Street, in Elizabeth.

• 4 p.m. on Feb. 28 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 61 Broad Street, in Elizabeth.

Respira, which means "breathe" in Spanish, is a bilingual —English and Spanish— education program operated by the UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. It teaches children and parents about asthma triggers, symptoms and disease management. In addition, each child enrolled in the program receives an Asthma Action Plan to control his/her asthma.

Participating families first attend an educational session and Respira staff subsequently conduct two home visits to assess environmental factors that may be exacerbating the child's asthma and provide specific one-on-one reinforcement of the individualized asthma action plan and knowledge of critical asthma facts.

For more information or to participate, families can call 1-888-KID-ASTHMA —1-888-543-2762— or 973-972-7972.

"The prevalence of asthma in New Jersey is continuing to increase at an alarming rate," said Evelyn Montalvo

Stanton, Respira director and assistant professor of pediatrics at UMDNJ-New Jersey Medical School. "Inner-city children are among the most affected, with the highest prevalence rates in Latino children, particularly those of Puerto Rican descent."

Montalvo Stanton established the program in 2006, and it now serves families in Essex, Union, Hudson, Morris, and Passaic counties.

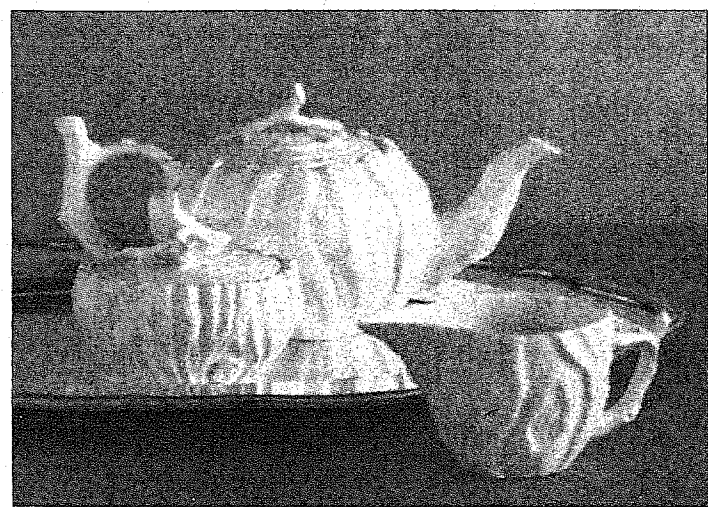
Mothers & More talk holistic resources

Mothers & More will host an evening of holistic happenings on February 20.

Learn more about the Green Movement with Megan McWilliams, publisher of *Relevant Times* magazine; an awesome a bi-monthly magazine that is packed with holistic resources and ways to help you live a healthy and sustainable lifestyle.

Also, Jean Brookwell, writer for *Relevant Times*, will speak about tarot readings, which is an earth-centered forecast based on tarot readings rather than zodiac signs, how we are interconnected, intuition, and sound therapy.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Dancing Goat will dance no more in the village

By Diane Lilli
Staff Writer

On Saturday, local cafe The Dancing Goat closed its doors for the final time. For the past five years, the cafe has offered musical and artistic venues for both the young and old in South Orange.

On a typical day, one might find mothers with their babies sitting in the back of the cafe, sipping herbal tea. Students from Seton Hall might be reading their textbooks or just lounging on one of the comfortable chairs. The mood was never rushed or hectic. It was, as one customer said, "a great place to just hang."

Denise Stennett, owner of the Dancing Goat Cafe, spoke about her grief in closing her business.

"It's so sad. It's so emotional," she said. "It's sad for the entire community."

Stennett spoke about the philosophy of her cafe.

She said, "The Goat is about welcoming everyone. We have mothers breast-feeding their babies, and we have toddlers and students and, at night, we have all kinds of wonderful artists."

Stennett also commented on the diverse venues of art and culture that have graced her business.

"This place has had such a rich history," she said. "We had a marriage take place here, a few years ago. Many books were written right here, in the cafe. We had Katrina survivors in

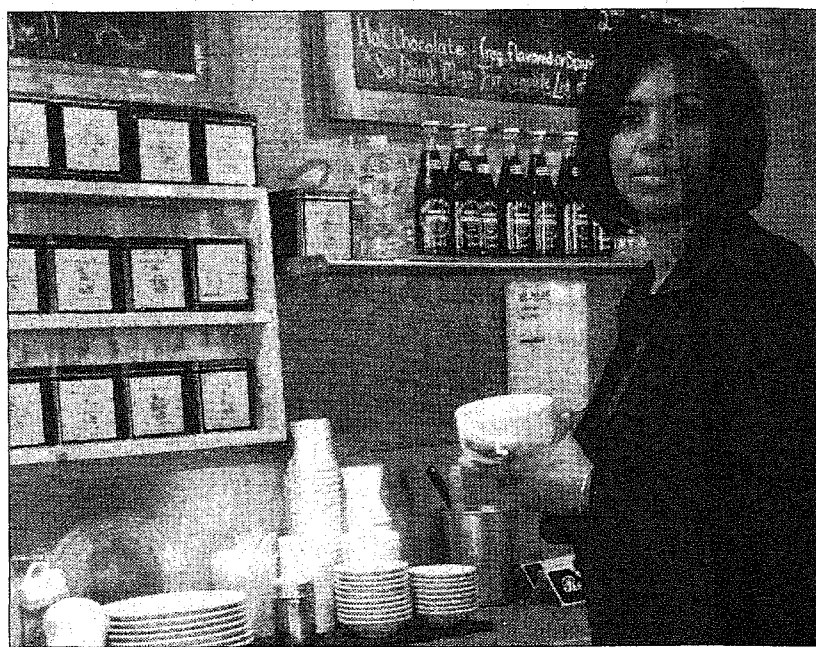


Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Denise Stennett, the owner of the Dancing Goat Cafe, makes tea at the bar on Friday. Saturday was the Dancing Goat's final day of operation. With its closing, a central place for the community to gather together was lost.

here. And, of course, our music, our local music, has been outstanding."

Stennett referred to the way in which the large open space has been utilized.

The very front of the cafe is set up with tables, chairs and even comfortable couches.

In the back, there is a large and welcoming performance area.

"Part of our character is that our

cafe features all local talent. Our area is rich with musical artists, writers and painters. We are just oozing talent," she noted.

Asked about the reason for the closing of the Goat, Stennett spoke about the difficulties of matching up her laid-back style with the harsh reality of her expensive rent.

"To me, this is South Orange as a whole. This cafe sits on prime real

estate. I don't believe that the relaxed environment here is conducive to prime real estate."

But Stennett felt she could not have designed her environment in any other way.

She said, "I lived the corporate life for 14 years and I hated it. I really hated it. So, I left it. I always knew that I wanted to create a place that was like a supper club."

"It's a very expensive lease and my business is the type that you come in, you enjoy the ambiance, sip some coffee, eat dessert and you get to linger."

Elaine Harris, president of the South Orange Chamber of Commerce, expressed sympathy for the closing business.

"It's a terrible loss for the village," she commented. "Parking was a major cause."

Stennett noted that, although parking could sometimes be a problem, it was "not one of my biggest issues."

General Manager Lysha Cumberbatch worked for Stennett for the past two years and spoke about their relationship.

"Oh, I am going to miss this place tremendously. I'll miss the art, the people and the shows. The customers are practically family and friends. Denise is more of a friend now than a boss. I don't know what I'll do yet," she said.

With tears in her eyes, Cumberbatch spoke about the clientele.

"It seems like everyone comes in

here; kids, babies, moms, dad, adults.

"We had a woman who even ran a book and music hour for the children. We would get between 20 and 25 children in and they'd sit with their moms and enjoy their organic food. Then, they'd hear stories and do arts and crafts, all right here in the cafe. Every week we did this," she said.

The weekly event was called "The Children's Happy Hour" and was run by Denise Deubel Patierno. Patierno is a teacher of folk art and early childhood music, as well as a performer. She is a lifelong resident of South Orange.

"I think it has been so good for the entire village," she said, referring to the cafe.

"I have lived here all of my life. My grandparents came here in the 1920s. All of my five children have benefited from the Dancing Goat. I loved doing the 'Children's Happy Hour.' It's been so great and none of us want it to end," she said.

Customer Janet Epp-Rosenthal, a South Orange resident, noted her sadness as she held her 2-year-old daughter.

"I'm terribly disappointed. It's a lovely place. I'm not one of the late evening crowd. I'm one of the daytime crowd. It's a great place, not just for coffee, but for a nice lunch, too. South Orange needs more establishments like this. We should not be losing them and we should be keeping them open," she said.

Joel Levin, former public relations manager for the Goat Cafe, mused about the future of places like The Goat in South Orange.

"I wonder," he asked, "can the town sustain a bohemian cafe in South Orange? They are a rare breed."

Stennett spoke of her faith that somehow, somewhere, her dream will live on.

"I've learned so much. It's in my blood, so I may open something again. But now, part of a new venture would have to involve a sensible real estate deal. Maybe I'd find a building that has rental properties for income, to help pay the bills, if I owned it."

For the immediate future, though, Stennett plans on taking a little break.

"I need to rest for a while," she said. "I'm a single mother of three kids and I am just trying to stay alive. I would love to do it again. I would. I will reinvent."

"Is it too late for the Goat? Is it too late for us to stay here somehow? Well, if there's an angel out there that does not want to see us say goodbye, then please come forward, and do it now," she said.

Perhaps Patricia Castro, the cook for the Goat Cafe, summed it up best.

As she said about the closing, "I love the cafe. I love it too much. Now I may cry. I will miss my kitchen and I will miss my restaurant. I will miss my boss. She is the best boss and I know, I know, I'll never find another boss like that."

Good grief! This is a different kind of 'Peanuts'

Yes, they've been eight years old for 50 years, that Peanuts gang—Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, et al—but have you ever wondered what they'd be like as teenagers?

Well, Burt V. Royal's "Dog Sees God: Confessions of a Teenage Blockhead," the inaugural production of the Battery Factory Theater—formerly Theatre Under the Stars—has.

Royal takes a cold, hard look at Charles Schulz's beloved characters, turning them into horny, homophobic, stoned, profane 18-year-olds.

What "Avenue Q" does to Sesame Street characters, "Dog Sees God" does to the Peanuts gang.

The story may be a slim one, but the metaphysical questions it asks have perplexed mankind since time immemorial. It seems that Charlie Brown's dog—the unnamed Snoopy—in this unauthorized spoof, none of the characters bear the actual names of

Schulz's characters—has died; actually, he's been put to sleep after contracting rabies and mangling his friend, the little yellow bird formerly known as Woodstock. After a sparsely attended funeral-only C.B. and his little sister—Sally—come C.B. wonders, "What happens to us when we die?"

None of his fellow characters, all self-involved twits, provide any help. Linus/Van has become a dread-locked pothead, Sally a Goth performance artist wannabe, Pigpen/Matt a germophobe, —Peppermint— Patty and Marcy/Marcie Valley Girls who curse and drink booze out of lunchroom milk containers, Lucy an institutionalized pyromaniac and Schroeder/Beethoven a virgin of uncertain sexuality.

C.B.'s search for the answer to his question kind of gets lost as the play progresses, although he does have an

interesting discussion with Lucy when he visits her at the psychiatric hospital. Royal's play is derailed by what is, to teenagers, a more pressing question: Guess who's secretly gay?

The answer is more devastating than the dog's death that opens the play.

Leslie Potashner's steady direction moves the action inexorably toward its tragic end. Edward Otto Zielke looks a bit uncomfortable in the beginning, reciting his lines on a bare stage, but as he begins to interact with the other characters, his performance gains in authority.

Mathew Kaplan is hilarious as Van, entirely convincing as a laid-back stoner. Alex Paz's Pigpen/Matt is a one-eighty from the Schulz character with his tube of hand cleaner at the ready; the character's mean streak is also a surprise, and Paz delivers his lines with venom.

Charla Bullock as Marcy and Danielle Petrucci as Patty are very funny, yet scary, as two wild girls indulging in alcohol and sex with abandon.

Their enthusiastic cackling at their own jokes and comments about other girls is a reminder of just how cruel teenage girls can be.

Jennifer Mesce has a great monologue as Sally in which she performs her own work about the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a platypus; despite the incongruity of the idea, she delivers it with aplomb.

The two best performances are turned in by Arnaldo Ortiz as Beethoven and Paula Ribiero as Lucy. Ortiz exudes melancholy, the result of being shunned by the other Peanuts characters—even the usually passive loser C.B. has been nasty and physically abusive to him—and shame at being dragged out of the

closet before he is ready. Ribiero is Lucy to a T: a snide know-it-all who has set the hair of C.B.'s beloved Little Red-haired Girl on fire, landing her in the psych ward, and who has, improbably as it seems, had sex with C.B.

Clearly, these are not the Schulz characters we've come to know and love. If Charles Schulz were alive to see this modern play of teenage angst, written after his death, he might say, "Good grief!"

"Dog Sees God" will be performed Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. through Saturday in The Loft@SOPAC, a black box space in the new South Orange Performing Arts Center, 1 SOPAC Way, South Orange, NJ.

They are available at the SOPAC Box Office, by phone at 973-313-ARTS or on the web at www.sopac-now.org.

For more information, call 973-325-0795 or visit www.wotuts.org.

Juried show begins this weekend at ACNJ

The International Juried Show, one of the artistic highlights of the exhibition year at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, returns on Friday and runs through March 21 at the Art Center, located at 68 Elm Street in Summit.

An opening reception is planned for Friday, from 6 to 8 p.m., with the awards presented at 7:15 p.m. A special dance performance by tango dancers Carolina Zokalski and Diego Di Falco will highlight the opening, which will also feature food and drinks. The public is invited to attend.

This renowned and highly acclaimed annual juried exhibition draws many entrants from around the world, whose work reflects every art medium. This year, the Art Center received 2,300 entries, representing

the mediums of painting, drawing, textiles, pastels, prints, ceramics, sculpture, mixed media, watercolor, and photography; 141 works were accepted into the show.

In addition to the submissions that came from every area of the U.S., entries were received from Germany, Poland, Mexico, Romania, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Armenia, China, Israel, The Netherlands, Turkey, France, Japan, England, and India.

The show is truly an international exhibition.

Each year, a distinguished member of the arts community is chosen as juror; the Art Center proudly welcomed Carter Foster, Curator and Curator of Drawings at NY's Whitney Museum of American Art, as this year's juror. A native of Atlanta, Fos-

ter attended the University of Georgia and received an MA in art history from Brown University.

After curatorial internships at the National Gallery of Art in Washington and the Philadelphia Museum of Art, he worked at the New York Public Library as Print Specialist.

From 1996 to 2004, he was a curator in the drawing department of the Cleveland Museum of Art and published several major catalogues.

In 2004, he was named curator and co-chair of the Department of Print

and Drawings at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. From LA, he moved to the Whitney Museum. Carter Foster has published widely on both contemporary and old master drawings.

Prizes are awarded in several categories. This year's "Best in Show" winner - Paul Kaiser from Connecticut - will receive a \$1,000 cash prize, round trip travel to Summit along with a one-night hotel stay, and travel to New York City to have lunch with Carter Foster.

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County arts center says get in Step with Jersey

Union County Performing Arts Center and United Youth of New Jersey present "Jersey Steps," stepping competition on February 9 starting at 3 p.m. at the Union County

Performing Arts Center.

Join United Youth of New Jersey and the Union County Performing Arts Center for several artful and soulful performances that have culminated

from months of practice and years of tradition.

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Spectator tickets may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online by visiting the Web site at www.UCPAC.org.

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the UCPAC Box Office located at 1591 Irving Street, Rahway.

The UCPAC has re-opened following an extensive construction project. Hosted by the Union County Performing Arts Center, the "Jersey Steps" stepping competition features step and drill teams from throughout the state of New Jersey.

A cash prize will be awarded at the end of the evening.

The Union County Performing Arts Center welcomes United Youth of New Jersey and the competing "Jersey Steps" step and drill teams to the newly renovated Arts Center.

Renovations to the theatre have included: an addition on the back of the theatre, which provides additional dressing rooms, new office space and a rehearsal studio; air conditioning within the theatre; a new roof; an events reception area near the front entrance of the theatre; a fresh look to the volunteer meeting room and the box office; refurbishing of the five original dressing rooms within the theatre; installation of a new lightweight, durable portable — removable — stage thrust and refurbishing of the orchestra pit to its original 1928 style to accommodate the theatre's original

"Mighty Little Wurlitzer".

Located at 1601 Irving Street, the theatre is within walking distance of the Rahway NJ Transit train station and can be reached by taking exit 135 from the Garden State Parkway or exit 12 from the Turnpike.

Parking is available downtown at the Rahway Parking Garage.

A free shuttle is available to and from the theatre.

The Union County Performing Arts Center provides exciting live performances that are educational, affordable and responsive to the diverse interests of our communities.

UCPAC would like to thank the following for their continued support: the City of Rahway, Merck & Co., the County of Union Board of Chosen Freeholders, RSI Bank, Friends of the UCAC, Discover Jersey Arts, PenPAT, Ronald McDonald House Charities, Northfield Bank, and Crowne Plaza Clark.

This program 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 for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Book on disabilities

The Town Book Store in Westfield is hosting a signing for Dina West, Westfield resident and author of "Bloom and Grow with Your Learning Disabilities" from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

This book is for high school and college students, parents, professors, teachers and anyone interested in reading about the extraordinary gift of people with learning disabilities.

Meet her at The Town Book Store located at 270 East Broad Street in

Westfield - corner of East Broad and Elmer streets. If you are unable to attend this event, feel free to call The Town Book Store at 908-233-3535 and reserve autographed copies.

The book will help one to understand learning disabilities through a person who lives with one and studies them; helping high school and college students understand the best ways to help themselves gain success and motivation during the most important years of their lives.

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Community Dining Guide II

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Spiros - Chef/Co-Owner

GARDEN RESTAURANT

By Anne Santos

The success and longevity of an excellent restaurant relies on the experience and creativity of a chef whose purpose is to delight his patrons with incredibly flavorful dishes and eye appeal. I'm sure you have heard the old adage one eats with their eyes first before tasting the dish. The chef who fits the above description is Spiros of the Garden Restaurant. Initially he started his career serving travelers on cruise ships for 10 years. That journey of employment entailed learning from some of the famous masters that travel the seas. Continuing his culinary education he worked in many New York restaurants once again honing his skills. Finally he entered a family partnership with his brother-in-law.

With an acquired 30 years experience his dishes are a corroboration of Mediterranean inspiration infused with Greek, Italian and Spanish culture with a personalized flair. His specialty is sauteing dishes. Nothing is pre-cooked and everything is prepared at the moment it is ordered. Bottom line every dish is prepared from scratch.

Prior to Valentine's Day my companion and I visited the Garden. It was gaily decorated with hanging red hearts, garland and mini red lights. As always we were warmly greeted by George our host. Deciding from the menu was difficult - so many selections. Both of us started with soup. We chose the Beef Barley and Cream of Mushroom. The Beef Barley arrived bubbling hot. It was filled with tender chunks of beef, carrots, potatoes, onions and celery in a savory broth. The Cream of Mushroom was pureed mushrooms in a delightful beef flavored liquid with a dash of cream - superb. For our main meal we selected Fried Shrimp in a Basket and the Giant Gourmet Taco. My shrimp was an excellent choice. There were 6 jumbo shrimp coated in a crunchy breading, accompanied by vidalia onion rings, french fries and coleslaw.

The freshness of all the ingredients made this dish spectacular. The Taco arrived in an oyster shaped tortilla shell filled with chopmeat, guacamole, lettuce, salsa and sour cream. A feast for the eyes and a hearty meal for a hungry soul. Dessert consisted of a fabulous Berry Tart and Caramel Apple Cheesecake. Terrific endings.

Before leaving I inquired about the Valentine's Day Menu. It consists of a Champagne Toast, Shrimp Cocktail or Shrimp Bisque Soup, Fresh Tossed Salad, a choice of 6 entree selections, assorted desserts and coffee or tea. The entree choices are Twin Lobster Tails, Filet Mignon & Lobster Tail, Breast of Chicken filled with goat cheese, Broiled Filet of Salmon, Prime Rib of Beef and Rack of Lamb. The Garden Restaurant is located at 943 Magie Avenue, Union. For reservations call 908-558-0101.

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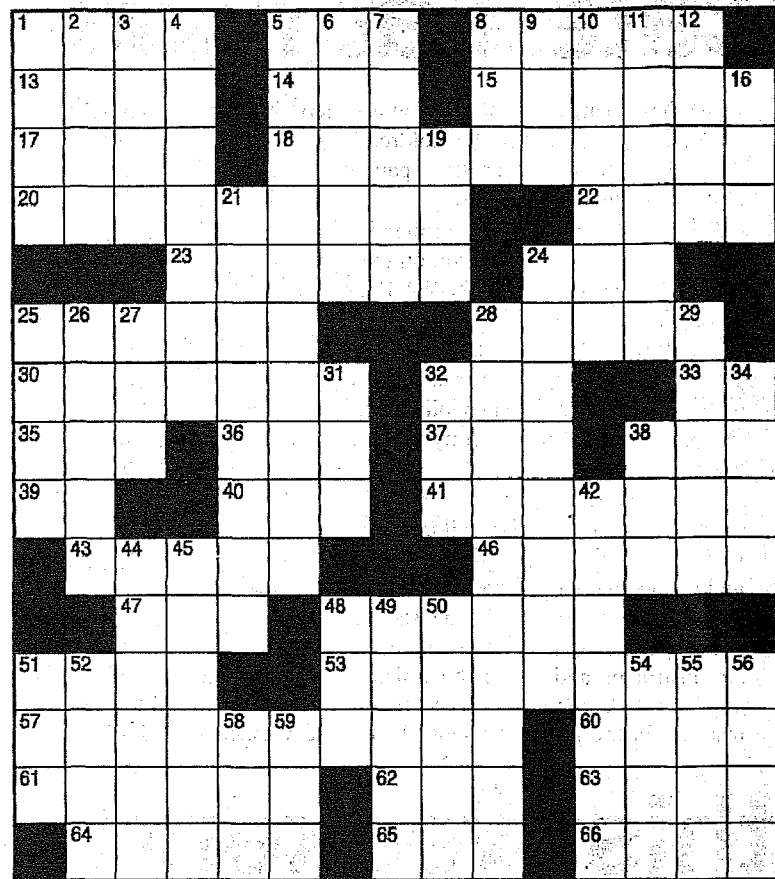
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46. Lathered
47. Agitate the air
48. Thicker in consistency
51. Farm building
53. Apparently reasonable and valid
57. Affording no ease or reassurance
60. Diagonal
61. A five iron
62. Before
63. RC Church calendar
64. Vertically challenged
65. _____ sex: English county
66. Gorse genus

ANSWERS
APPEAR
IN OUR
CLASSIFIED
SECTION

CLUES DOWN

1. Norse goddess of old age
2. Big cat
3. Russian card game D. _____
4. Wool grease
5. Ceratotherium simum
6. Crane
7. Andrew _____, Union commander
8. Cancel or discharge a debt
9. National Network
10. Isopeptic
11. Man who guards the net
12. Av. _____: antipathetic
16. British thermal unit
19. A long thin implement
21. Type of leather
24. Table game
25. Millisecond
26. Moses' elder brother (Bible)
27. _____ compoop
28. Behemoths
29. Ointment
31. Roman god of the underworld _____ Pater
32. A waterproof raincoat
34. Mated
38. Raw material for maple syrup
42. Am. arctic deer
44. Once more
45. Spanish farm
48. Dots per inch
49. P. _____: son of Tantalus
50. Pacific island republic
51. Beats per minute
52. River in NE Turkey
54. Spin a floating log
55. Take on cargo
56. Genus of the family Esocidae
58. What we breathe
59. Moist or soak

What's Going On?

OTHER

EVERY SATURDAY

Month of February, 2008

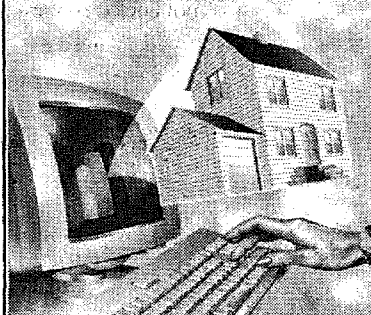
EVENT: Open Meditation & Breathing Session
 PLACE: St. Andrew & Holy Communion Episcopal Church, 160 W. South Orange, Avenue, South Orange.
 TIME: 9:30am - 10:30am.
 PRICE: The session is FREE and open to all and will give you a glimpse of the popular Art of Living Course.
 DETAILS: Attend this meditation and breath workshop, to discover the secret in your breath. 20 million people in 152 countries have experienced the lasting benefits of these breathing techniques. Come and experience it for yourself.
 ORGANIZATION: Art of Living Foundation, a non-profit, educational and humanitarian organization

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What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PRE-PAID and costs only \$20.00 for 2 weeks in Essex or Union County and just \$30.00 for both counties. Your notice must be in one of our offices by 4:00pm on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Offices are located at 463 Valley Street, Maplewood; or 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union. For an additional \$4.00 you can place your ad on the Internet under Announcements.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
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 Write your ad in the spaces below and mail to:
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 DATE _____

DAY _____
 EVENT _____
 PLACE _____
 TIME _____
 PRICE _____
 ORGANIZATION _____
 You can e-mail us at: class@thelocalsource.com

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HOROSCOPE

ARIES, March 21-April 20

Aries, some people will not like what you plan to do this week and will be quite vocal about their opposition to your plans. You will move on with your original plan.

TAURUS, April 21-May 21

There is no point pushing yourself beyond what you can comfortably do, Taurus. How productive will you be if you exhaust yourself putting in extra effort?

GEMINI, May 22-June 21

Gemini, this week you're feeling

vulnerable. Some reassuring words from a close friend will bolster your confidence and you'll be able to move on.

CANCER, June 22-July 22

Cancer, if someone in a position of authority is critical of your work, don't let it bother you too much. Use criticism to your advantage to improve as much as possible.

LEO, July 23-Aug. 23

Try to see the humor in the events this week, Leo. Although it seems like everything is going wrong, there is a

silver lining to every mishap that occurs. Others may not share your good humor.

VIRGO, Aug. 24-Sept. 22

Virgo, make a conscious effort to get your head out of the clouds this week. While it is fine to daydream, once in a while, it is not productive to do so all of the time.

LIBRA, Sept. 23-Oct. 23

Libra, even though you have a lot of responsibilities filling your already packed calendar, you'll take on one more this week when

a friend needs a hand.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24-Nov. 22

You have to figure out what it is about a certain person that is rubbing you the wrong way. Otherwise, you will not be able to move on from this fixation.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23-Dec. 21

Sagittarius, if you want to make your latest venture a success, you have to boost your manpower and financial resources. Without these two elements, nothing gets off the ground.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22-Jan. 20

A last-minute change in plans leaves you flustered, Capricorn. You will rebound, but much more slowly than others involved with this event.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 21-Feb. 18

Aquarius, there are no straight answers for you at work this week and you're frustrated. Fortunately, things at home are a bit more cut-and-dry.

PISCES, Feb. 19-March 20

Keep track of your belongings carefully, because someone close to you is not being honest or trustworthy this week, Pisces.

Famous birthdays:

February 10: Lance Berkman, baseball player, 32-years-old.

February 11: Burt Reynolds, actor, 72.

February 12: Joanna Kerns, actress, 55.

February 13: Robbie Williams, singer, 34.

February 14: Meg Tilly, actress, 48.

February 15: Jane Seymour, actress, 57.

February 16: John McEnroe, athlete, 49.

REUNIONS

Worrall Community Newspapers seeks information on reunions of Union County schools.

Send news of your reunion plans to Reunions, Worrall Community Newspapers, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, NJ 07083, or by e-mail to unioncounty@thelocalsource.com, with "reunions" in the subject line.

Include all pertinent contact information, such as the names of contact personnel, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, so that attendees may inquire about the reunion. All dates and deadlines relevant to the reunion should also be included.

The following schools are planning reunions:

- Sacred Heart High School, Class of 1958, will hold its 50th year

reunion on Sept. 21, at the Quality Inn, Rt. 37 West, Toms River, from 1 to 5 p.m.. If you know of anyone from the class, or for information, please contact Mary Ellen Malone Damiano 908-862-4089 or e-mail adamiano14@comcast.net.

• The 45th Reunion Committee of West Side High, classes of June 1962 and January 1963, are looking for alumni.

The reunion is planned for April 12 at the Riverview Pavilion in Belmar. Contact Irene Tramutola Carlucci at 908-654-3703 or Rae Vella Yurecko at 908-687-2294.

• The USS Nimitz (CVN-68) Association is looking for shipmates — ship's company, staff, squadrons and detachments — who served on board

the Nuclear Attack Aircraft Carrier for a ship's reunion in Nashville, Tenn. from June 19 to 22. The Nimitz is currently deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. For more information, contact Joe Brunner at waldofj@cox.net or 619-466-2132 or log on to www.usnimitzassociation.org for membership.

• The 1958 graduating class of Thomas Jefferson and Battin high schools in Elizabeth will have a gala reunion with cocktails, dinner and reminiscing with old friends on May 3

at Galloping Hill Inn, Union, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their high school graduation. Additional events are also planned.

For more information and reservations, call Lowell Saferstein at 973-731-5449, Sue Farber Christenson at 908-757-7512 or Charles Brandt at 732-323-8840 or CapinCharlie@msn.com.

• The Orange High School Class of 1991 reunion committee is planning a reunion dinner for their class members. Contact Fatima Turner at ohs91@msn.com. The reunion com-

mittee is also looking for staff members. For information, call 973-518-3124 or 973-414-9644.

• Members of Saint Vincent's Academy, Newark, Class of 1957, are being sought to share in the celebration of the 50th anniversary. Contact Joan Bienkowski Hanley at thehanley@msn.com for classmate locations or are interested in more specific details about the annual luncheon and the special plans arranged for the class.

• The 25th Reunion Committee of Irvington High School Class of 1982

is looking for alumni. E-mail them at ihsclassof1982@hotmail.com.

Worrall Community Newspapers accepts information on all reunions of Union County schools. Send news of your reunion plans to Reunions, Worrall Community Newspapers, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union NJ 07083, or by e-mail to unioncounty@thelocalsource.com, with "reunions" in the subject line.

Include all pertinent contact information, such as the names of contact personnel, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

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- Burgdorff ERA.....<http://www.burgdorff.com>
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship.....<http://www.ccfou.org>
- DaunnoDevelopmentCo.....<http://www.daunnodevelopment.com>
- ERA Village Green.....<http://www.ervillagegreen.com>
- Eye Care Center of NJ.....<http://www.eyecarenj.com>
- First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange.....<http://community.nj.com/cc/firstnight-soma>
- Forest Hill Properties Apartments.....<http://www.springstreet.com/propid/389126>
- Grand Sanitation.....<http://www.grandsanitation.com>
- Holy Cross Church.....<http://www.holycrossnj.org>
- Hospital Center at Orange.....<http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org>
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- Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....<http://www.summitvols.org>
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- Trinitas Hospital.....<http://www.trinitashospital.com>
- Turning Point.....<http://www.turningpointnj.org>
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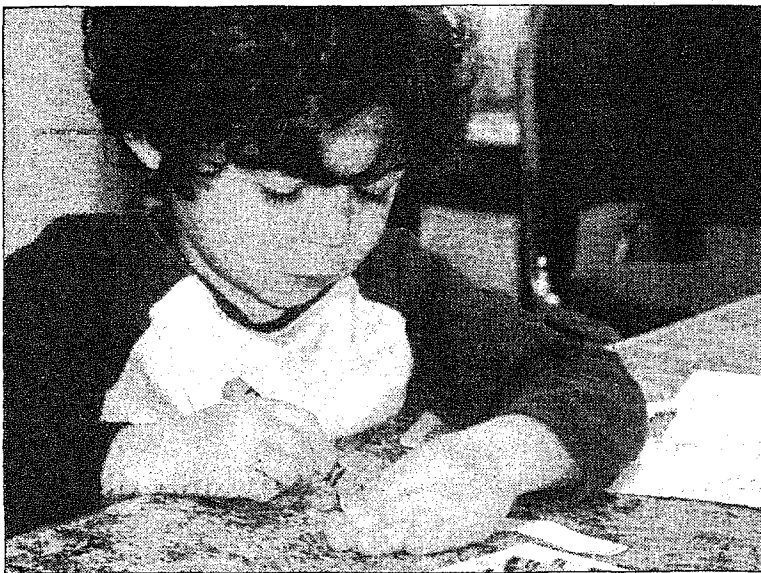
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More preschool fun predicated at Kids 'n' Arts



Preschool students have the opportunity to express their creativity in art, music and drama in the NJWA Kids 'n' Arts program.

The second semester of Kids 'n' Arts, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts drop-off program for three-to-five-year-olds, provides vast opportunities for young children to express their creativity in art, music and drama.

Each week, the Kids 'n' Arts program meets for a two hour session. Parents can choose Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, or the same afternoons from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. The second session, comprising 15 classes, begins on February 12, but enrollment is on-going and students can join at any time.

Kids 'n' Arts is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a premier training center for the fine and performing arts. For more information on Kids 'n' Arts, or any NJWA program, phone 908-789-9696, or visit their studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield.

A complete brochure is available on the NJWA web site at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

The Kids 'n' Arts program contains an art segment, during which children listen to classical music

while they create arts and crafts in a variety of mediums. In theater crafts, the children learn to express themselves through puppetry, pantomime, creative movement, and theater games.

This semester, students enrolled in this innovative program will have instruction on the violin. According to Dr. Ted Schlosberg, NJWA Founder and Executive Director, "The violin teaches children fine motor skills through the coordination which they learn. They also increase their mental skills through memorization." He added, "The violin helps develop strong listening skills and the ability to focus and concentrate."

Additionally, during the music portion of this exciting experience, the children use their voices to learn about rhythm and pitch. Music class will also include opera puppetry based on the theme of the day.

The Kids 'n' Arts staff consists of highly qualified and experienced instructors in these artistic fields. Art instructor and practicing artist, Diane Burkam, holds a BA degree in Art Education and has been a teacher in the art department of both the Westfield

Summer Workshop and the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts.

Valerie Pineda, a graduate in Music Performance from the Manhattan School of Music, contributes to the children's appreciation of music and theater crafts. A vocal music instructor at the NJWA Music Studio, Ms. Pineda is also director of the Little Opera Company of New Jersey.

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Try out for 'Forever Plaid' this weekend

Director Linda Correll of Westfield Community Players, is holding open auditions for the Stuart Ross musical comedy "Forever Plaid" on Sunday at 1 to 5 p.m. and Monday at 7 to 10 p.m. in the WCP theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield, 908-232-9568.

Callbacks will be February 17 at 1 to 5 p.m. at the theater.

Play rehearsals will start in February for performances on April 26, May

2, 3, 9, 10, 16 and 17 at 8 p.m.

In this rollicking send up of harmonizing "guy groups" of the 1950's, the Plaids promising career is cut short by a bus load of Catholic school girls on their way to the Ed Sullivan show to see the Beatles.

When fate intervenes, the Plaids are given one last shot at stardom, singing "Three Coins in the Fountain," "Love is a Many Splendored Thing," "Shangri La" and other hits.

The cast requirements are as follows:

Four male singers-age range 20-30. Each of the parts calls for excellent singing skills and strong acting ability. Singing 4 part harmony and the ability to blend and sell a song is required.

Francis: Second Tenor/Lyric Baritone - Confident but not cocky, romantic crooner and all around good guy.

Sparky: Baritone - Class clown and

cut up with tons of enthusiasm with a heart of gold who loves to perform. Jinx's step brother.

Jinx: High Tenor - Shy and terrified at first, he grows in confidence throughout the show and shines on the high notes. Sparky's step brother.

Smudge: Bass - The worrier with "coulda, woulda, shoulda" syndrome. By the end of the show he lets go and takes the stage.

All performers should bring sheet

music and be prepared to perform a song from the 1950's or early 60's. Songs from the show are encouraged. Sides will be provided for the acting portion of the audition.

Music will be taught at the audition to determine the actor/singer's ability to harmonize.

For more information please contact producer Kay Macrae at the theater 908-232-9568.

To place a classified ad, 908-686-7850

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The Boy Scouts Of America Celebrating 98 Years

2008 is the 98th anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America, which was incorporated on February 8, 1910.

For 98 years, the Boy Scouts of America has provided a chance for adventure, personal achievement, and fellowship to American youth. February 8, 2008 marks the 98th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. An encounter with a helpful Scout on a foggy night in London inspired William D. Boyce to bring Scouting back to the United States, where he incorporated the Boy Scouts of America on February 8th, 1910. Since its incorporation, the Boy Scouts of America has built a solid foundation laid by visionaries such as William D. Boyce, Ernest Thompson Seton, Daniel Carter Beard, and James E. West.

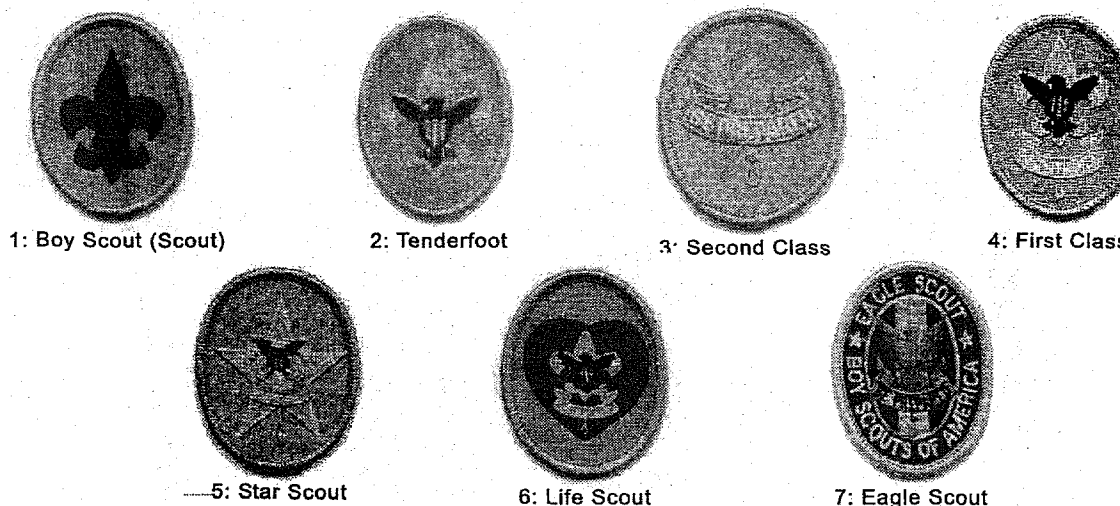


A PAIR OF EAGLES - State Senator Tom Kean, presented joint legislative resolutions to Marc Linger, left and Joseph Cooney, right, of Boy Scout Troop 80 in Cranford for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout.

The Patriots' Path Council, BSA which is the local chapter of the National Boy Scout Council is currently planning annual events to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Scouting in 2010. There are two major events planned for Cub Scout Units and Boy Scout Troops each year culminating with a National candle lighting ceremony on February 8th, 2010 where anyone who has ever been involved in the Scouting movement will be stepping outside their homes to light a candle and recite the Scout Oath and Law. "To be involved in an event of this magnitude is a once in a lifetime opportunity," said 100th Anniversary Chairman, Chris Szymezak.

In conjunction with the 100th Anniversary celebration, the Patriots' Path Council is conducting an Alumni search to reengage Alumni to help us celebrate. The Patriots' Path Council, BSA is a not for profit organization that is dedicated to preparing youth for a lifetime of good citizenship, strong character and personal fitness by committing to the values of the Scout Oath and Law. The Council serves over 19,000 youth and 6000 adult volunteers in northwestern New Jersey. If you are interested in more information about the 100th Anniversary celebration events, contact 973-765-9322 x224 or visit us online at www.ppbsa.org.

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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, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083 or unioncounty@thelocalsource.com. Faxes may be sent to 908-686-6681.

ART SHOWS

The Skulski Art Gallery presents **EWA MASLOWSKA** Painting s from Friday through Feb. 29. The reception will be held Friday from 8 to 10:30 p.m. at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark. For more information check out the Web site, www.polishculturalfoundation.org or call 732-382-7197. Taking the Garden State Parkway to exit 135. Follow circle to Valley Road. Make first right onto Broadway. PCF is 1/2 mile on right.

The Montclair Art Museum announces the opening of the **2008 NEW JERSEY ARTS ANNUAL CRAFTS**. This exhibition will be on display from Feb. 24 through May 11 and is part of a unique series of state-wide exhibitions highlighting the work of visual artists and crafts people from New Jersey. The Montclair Art Museum is located at 3 South Mountain Ave. in Montclair. Information and directions are available at www.montclairartmuseum.org or by calling 973-746-5555. MAM is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and closed on Mondays and major holidays.

The Arts Guild of Rahway presents: **"MENAGERIE,"** an exhibit of recent art featuring animal imagery. The exhibit runs through Friday. Admission is free. Call 732-381-7511 or e-mail at artsguild1670@verizon.net.

ARTS UNBOUND has opened its gallery at 544 Freeman St., Orange. The gallery will be open for the public to view and purchase works of art by artists with disabilities. Fine arts and crafts, large and small, including gifts for the holiday season, are available for sale. Arts Unbound is supported by grants from the United Way of Essex and West Hudson, The United Way of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights, the Grotta Foundation for Senior Care, the Kessler Foundation, the Wallerstein Foundation, the Daniel Jorden Fiddle Foundation, the NJ State Council on the Arts and the Newark Diocese. A portion of all items purchased is tax deductible. For more information and directions visit www.artsunbound.org or call 973-675-2787.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS ARTIST NANCY ORI is featured at a permanent exhibit at Berkeley Heights Public Library, 290 Plainfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 908-464-9333.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP meets at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

KEAN UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS and *The Star-Ledger* have partnered to publish a new book titled "World of Wonder: Exploring the Realms of History, Science, Nature and Technology." The book brings together 90 of the most fascinating subjects surveyed by the World of Wonder series. The book is now available for purchase in the Kean University book store and on The Star-Ledger Web site at <http://www.nj.com/worldofwonder>.

WEEKLY CHILDREN'S STORY TIMES will be Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., and Thursdays at 1:30 p.m., both usually with coloring and/or crafts, at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 west, Springfield.

PAJAMA STORY TIME is the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 west, Springfield.

CLASSES

Registration is now open for kids, teens and adult art classes at **THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY**. To regis-

ter call 732-381-7511 or e-mail at artsguild1670@verizon.net. Classes begin this week. Children's classes include "3 Ways to Art," a class for children to use many materials in art-making; "Drawing, Pottery for Kids;" and "Art with the Masters," an exciting class that introduces young artists to examples from the history of great art from around the world.

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine arts, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit www.ducr.edu.

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations, call 908-527-0400.

COMEDY

Comedy fans in Union County now have a new destination for great comedy. The Comedy Cove at Scotty's, in Springfield. Show times are Fridays at 9 p.m.; and Saturdays at 8 and 10 p.m. for patrons 21 years or older. This weekend, the Comedy Cove features Geno Bisconte and Doug Karpf. Bisconte is an irreverent, shocking, and rude...yet, like the class clown who never grew up, he's strangely charming and outrageously funny. You might know him from his work on the "Howard Stern Show" or the "Opie & Anthony Radio Show". Since moving from Philadelphia, Bisconte has been a fixture at NYC's hottest comedy clubs including Caroline's; Stand-Up NY; The Laugh Factory; and The Comedy Cellar. Bisconte isn't for the easily offended. The Comedy Cove at Scotty's is located at 595 Morris Ave. Call 973-376-3845, or visit www.scottyssteakhouse.com.

CONCERTS

CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD will feature: every Monday, Open Mic Night, every Tuesday, Jazz Jam, every Wednesday, karaoke night.

The Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave., Garwood. For information, call Lee at 908-232-5666, or visit www.xxroads.com.

LANA'S RESTAURANT, 1300 Raritan Road, Clark, will offer dinner and live reggae with Exodus Supreme every Wednesday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

The group **XANDER** will be performing Feb. 23, 8 p.m., at the Woodbridge Hilton. Xander's music covers all styles and influences from classical, swing, jazz, new age, R&B, Celtic, bluegrass, and world folk. He has played with the Cirque du Soleil, many symphonies and well-known artists such as Lionel Richie and Tina Turner among others. He is a solo-artist, producer, musical director, composer, arranger and violinist as well as an arranger for solo artists, pop bands and orchestras. His first solo album is expected in the spring of 2008.

DANCE

Union County Performing Arts Center and United Youth of New Jersey present "JERSEY STEPS," stepping competition on Saturday starting at 3 p.m. at the Union County Performing Arts Center. Join United Youth of New Jersey and the Union County Performing Arts Center for several artful and soulful performances that have culminated from months of practice and years of tradition. "Jersey Steps". It's more than the rhythm. It's more than the dancing. It's more than the music. It's stepping. Spectator tickets may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online

Stepping Out

by visiting the website at www.UCPAC.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the UCPAC Box Office located at 1591 Irving Street, Rahway.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will meet Friday at 8 p.m. at the Field House on Myrtle Avenue at Memorial Field, Summit. Learn ethnic dances of England, Greece, Israel, Romania, Scotland, etc. Partners are not needed. Beginners are welcome any session. Call 973-467-8278 for a calendar of sessions and directions.

SOCIAL DANCING is every Friday at 7:30 p.m. at The Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St., Elizabeth. Live music and DJ. Coffee, cookies and door prizes are available. For information, call 908-355-3131.

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehnlly School, Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492. **LUNA LOUNGE** hosts "Tasty Thursdays" with DJ Richie, who spins reggaeton and hip-hop. Patrons must be 21 or older. Dress is casual but trendy. Parking is available. Luna Lounge is located at 1906 E. Georges Ave., Linden. Call 908-925-4120 for details.

KNITTING GROUP meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Knitters are encouraged to bring a favorite project to the Springfield Barnes & Noble Cafe. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

HICKORY TREE CHORUS, an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in barbershop style, meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center, 570 Central Ave., New Providence. Open to residents of both Essex and Union counties. To learn more about Sweet Adelines, Hickory Tree and its quartets, women and teen-aged girls who sing are urged to visit hickorytreechorus.org or e-mail info@hickorytreechorus.org or call 973-966-6815.

CHESS GROUP PLAYERS of all levels are invited to discuss, play and enjoy chess in the Cafe every Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Book-sellers, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield.

JAZZ

SUE MATSUKI will appear in Le Dome at The Manor, 111 Prospect Ave., West Orange, tonight at 9 in a program called

Tribute to Ella



Sue Matsuki will appear in Le Dome at The Manor, 111 Prospect Ave., West Orange, tonight at 9 in a program called "A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald — First Lady of Song." Matsuki has been singing a program of more than 400 jazzy standards for more than 20 years. Call 973-731-2360 for reservations or www.themanorrestaurant.com.

HOBBIES

THE NORTH JERSEY CAR CLUB meets at the Anthony Amalfi Community Center, 1268 Sheaffer Ave., Roselle, on the first Saturday of each month to discuss driving experiences, auto maintenance tips, safe driving practices and to plan future social outings to places of cultural, historical and scenic interest in Northern New Jersey and the surrounding area. Meetings start at 9:30 a.m. Free refreshments are served to members and guests before the meeting. For directions and more information, call Jim at 908-245-4744.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Park Avenue, Scotch Plains.

"A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald — First Lady of Song." Matsuki has been singing a program of more than 400 jazzy standards for more than 20 years. Call 973-731-2360 for reservations or www.themanorrestaurant.com.

The Jazz Series continues at The Arts Guild of Rahway on February 29, at 8 p.m. with a tribute to Tony Bennett by pianist/composer **VINCE DIMURA** and guest singer **ANDY GALE**. Tickets are available now at The Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving Street in downtown Rahway between 9 a.m. and noon, and 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 732-381-7511 or e-mail your request to artsguild1670@verizon.net. The Montclair Art Museum will hold one of its signature events, **JAZZ FOR ART EDUCATION**, on February 22 at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum. Jazz artists Claudio Roditi and Dave Valentin and Steve and Iqua Colson will perform. To

order tickets, or for more information, contact: MAM Special Events, 973-746-5555, ext. 210 or e-mail Lori Harris at lharris@montclairartmuseum.org. Proceeds raised by this event will support the Museum's numerous art education programs, including such community programs as free family days, park bench, and the series of school tours.

Lana's Restaurant, 1300 Raritan Road, Clark, will offer dinner and live jazz with **WARREN VACHE** every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

Lana's Restaurant, 1300 Raritan Road, Clark, will offer dinner and live jazz with the **STEWART SHIFFER QUINTET** every Friday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

KIDS

TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORY TIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

The second semester of **KIDS 'N' ARTS**, the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts drop-off program for three-to-five-year-olds, provides vast opportunities for young children to express their creativity in art, music and drama. Each week, the Kids 'n Arts program meets for a two hour session. Parents can choose Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am, or the same afternoons from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm. The second session, comprising 15 classes, begins on February 12, but enrollment is ongoing and students can join at any time. Kids 'n Arts is a division of the New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a premier training center for the fine and performing arts. For more information on Kids 'n Arts, or any NJWA program, phone 908-789-9696, or visit their studios at 150-152 East Broad Street, Westfield. A complete brochure is available on the NJWA Web site at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

SCRIPTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional playwrights born or currently residing in New Jersey, as well as in the surrounding areas of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Premiere Stages Play Festival. To request entry guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura Kelly, producing assistant, Premiere Stages at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union 07083.

SINGLES

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at The Elks Lodge, 1193 Route 22 east, Mountainside. For information, call 908-232-9667 on Tuesdays after 5 p.m.

THEATER

THE MIRACLE WORKER will run at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn, through February 24. There are three added student matinee performances on Wednesday along with Feb. 13 and 14 at 11 a.m. The Miracle Worker is supported in part by an award from the National Endowment for the Arts. Tickets may be purchased by calling 973-376-4343, or at the Paper Mill Box Office on Brookside Drive in Millburn, or on the Web at www.papermill.org. For all performances January 27 buy an adult ticket and receive a children's ticket for half price.

The Alliance Repertory announces the opening of its ninth season as the resident professional Theater Company at the Union County Performing

Arts Center, in Rahway.

The season begins with Alan Ayck-bourn's delightful romantic comedy, **"COMIC POTENTIAL."** Production dates are February 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24. Thursday, Friday and Saturdays evenings at 8 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. Reservations can be made through the Union County Performing Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Box Office phone number is 732-499-8226 or Web site www.uccac.org.

The New Jersey premiere of **"THRILL ME, THE LEOPOLD AND LOEB STORY"** will be presented by new production company, Fully Flighted Productions, founded by Linda Wielkatz at Pianos Bar and Grill, 36 Broad St., Bloomfield. It will be presented in the blackbox theatre, the Broad Street Playhouse. The show runs from Feb. 29 to March 8. For more information call 917-847-3748.

The Playwrights Theatre season continues with PBS host Jim Lehrer's novel **"FLYING CROWS,"** adapted by Associate Artistic Director James Glossman. This world premiere marks Lehrer's third visit to Playwrights Theatre, runs through Feb. 17. From the author and adapter of 2002's "The Special Prisoner," "Flying Crows" is a moving, multi-layered story about old friendships, broken minds, and some vital loose ends from a massacre everyone thought was solved long ago. Check out Playwrights Theatre's Web site at www.ptnj.org. The theatre is located on 33 Green Village Road in Madison. For more information call 973-514-1787.

The Battery Factory Theater, the resident theater of the South Orange Performing Arts Center, will present **"DOG SEES GOD: CONFESSIONS OF A TEENAGE BLOCKHEAD"** by Burt V. Royal through Sunday.

"Dog sees God" is a wickedly funny, unauthorized parody of the Peanuts characters. Set almost 10 years after the strip, the gang is now in high school.

This will mark the first production in The Loft@SOPAC, a black box space in the new South Orange Performing Arts Center, 1 SOPAC Way, South Orange, NJ.

They are available at the SOPAC Box Office, by phone at 973-313-ARTS or on the web at www.sopacnow.org. For more information, call 973-325-0795 or visit www.wotuts.org.

Auditions are being held in February and March for the **PINEDA SUMMER MUSICAL THEATER CONSERVATORY'S CENTER STAGE** program for outstanding high school age performers.

Students will take daily acting, dancing, and voice lessons and perform in a fully staged production of Les Misérables and a Cabaret performance of Broadway's greatest hits. All auditions are by appointment and interested candidates should call 908-731-1377. Scholarships awarded.

THE SHOWCASE THEATER, a tuition-based program, awards scholarship money based on a talent evaluation. For information on the Showcase Theater or any NJWA program, call 908-789-9696, visit the office at 150-152 East Broad St. in Westfield or visit www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

VARIETY

The Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, is holding a **JAGER-FEST (HUNTER FESTIVAL)** on March 1. Music by Bud Gramer and Linda starting at 7 p.m. This evening is open to the public. There is a dress code, gentlemen, please wear a jacket. Kitchen opens at 5:30 p.m. Reservations encouraged.

The Les Malamut Art Gallery will present an exhibition of photographs, "Reflections" by Fanwood photographer **GREG CUMMINGS**, through April 30. Cummings has received numerous awards over the years, including Best of Show and First Place in the Union County Juried Senior Art Show, Best of Show and First Place in Friends of National Wildlife Photo Contest, and Second Place in Wickford RI Juried Photo Show. A meet the artist reception is planned for Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the gallery, which is located in the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., Union. It is open during regular library hours and is handicapped accessible. The exhibit is free and open to the public. For further information, call 908-851-5450.

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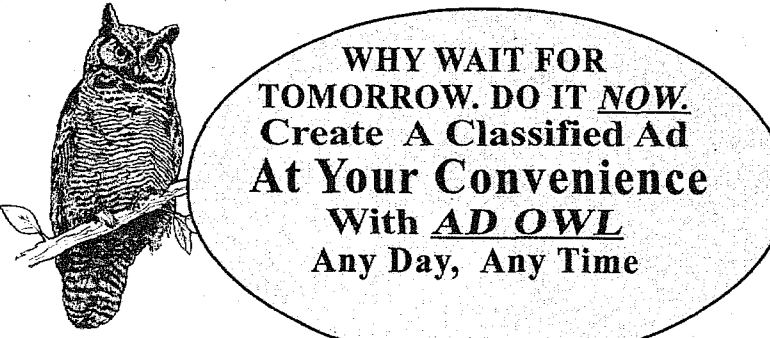
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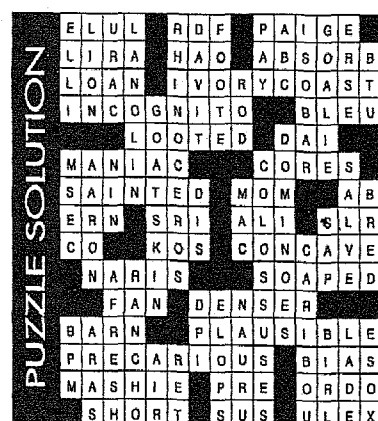
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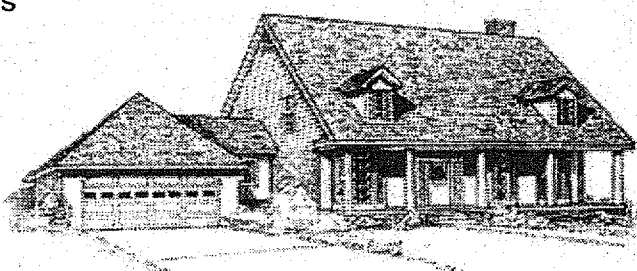
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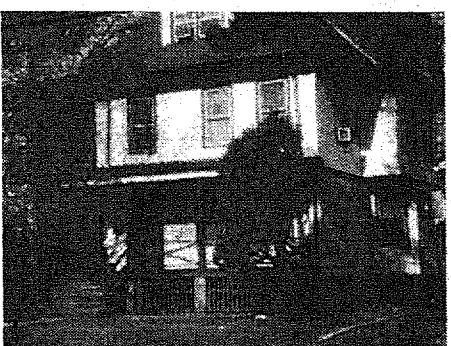
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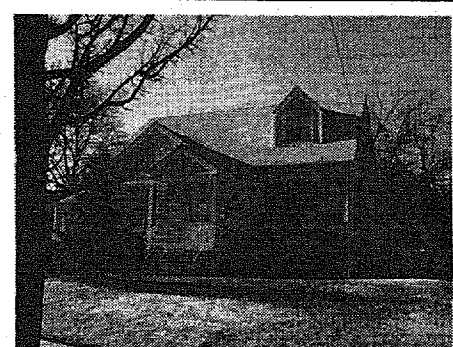
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Well maintained 2 family features 2 newer gas heating systems, EIK, LR & full bath on each floor, 1 car det. garage, unfinished bsmt.
UN18010



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Greatest investment in town! Additional 25x100 lot for possible subdivision. 1st fl store could be converted into apartment. Lg walkup attic. 2 car garage.
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UN18026



UNION \$339,000
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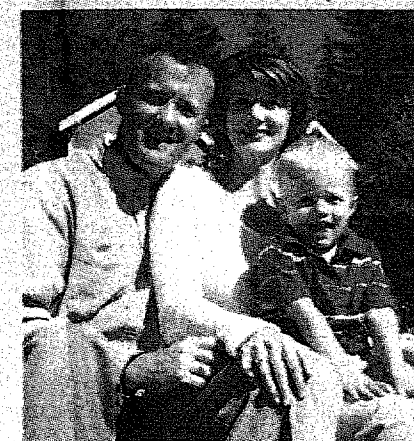
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The purpose of this advertising is to permit the developer to discuss the offering with prospective purchasers and to create a list of persons interested in the project. Drawings or sketches contained herein are partial artist renderings and are subject to change.



Dance company marks Year of Rat

The Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company will celebrate the Year of the Rat at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center with a colorful and diverse program of music and dance that includes new and innovative as well as traditional favorite music and dances.

The company's celebration will include its annual Chinese New Year Banquet and Performance Gala across the street at the Robert Treat Hotel. This year, the Company will honor one of its most important partners in New York, the Harlem School of the Arts.

This year, there will be three performances to celebrate the Year of the Rat at NJPAC's Victoria Theatre: Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Continuing one of its most colorful traditions, at 4 p.m. the Company will host a festive Banquet across the street at the Robert Treat Hotel's elegant Tri-State Ballroom, with a 12-course Chinese New Year. Information and tickets 800-650-0246 or online: www.nainichen.org/YearoftheRat

This year is very special on the Chinese lunar calendar, because it marks the beginning of the 12-year zodiac cycle. Each of those years is symbolized by a different animal, and each cycle is represented by one of the five fundamental elements that the ancient Chinese believed, make up the universe: Metal, Wood, Water, Fire, and Earth.

For the past 10 years, choreographer Nai-Ni Chen has created each and every one of her new works in this famous New York institution and the company rehearses there daily if they are not on tour performing. The diverse, open context of the Harlem School of the Arts has greatly influenced the company's style and choice of artists.

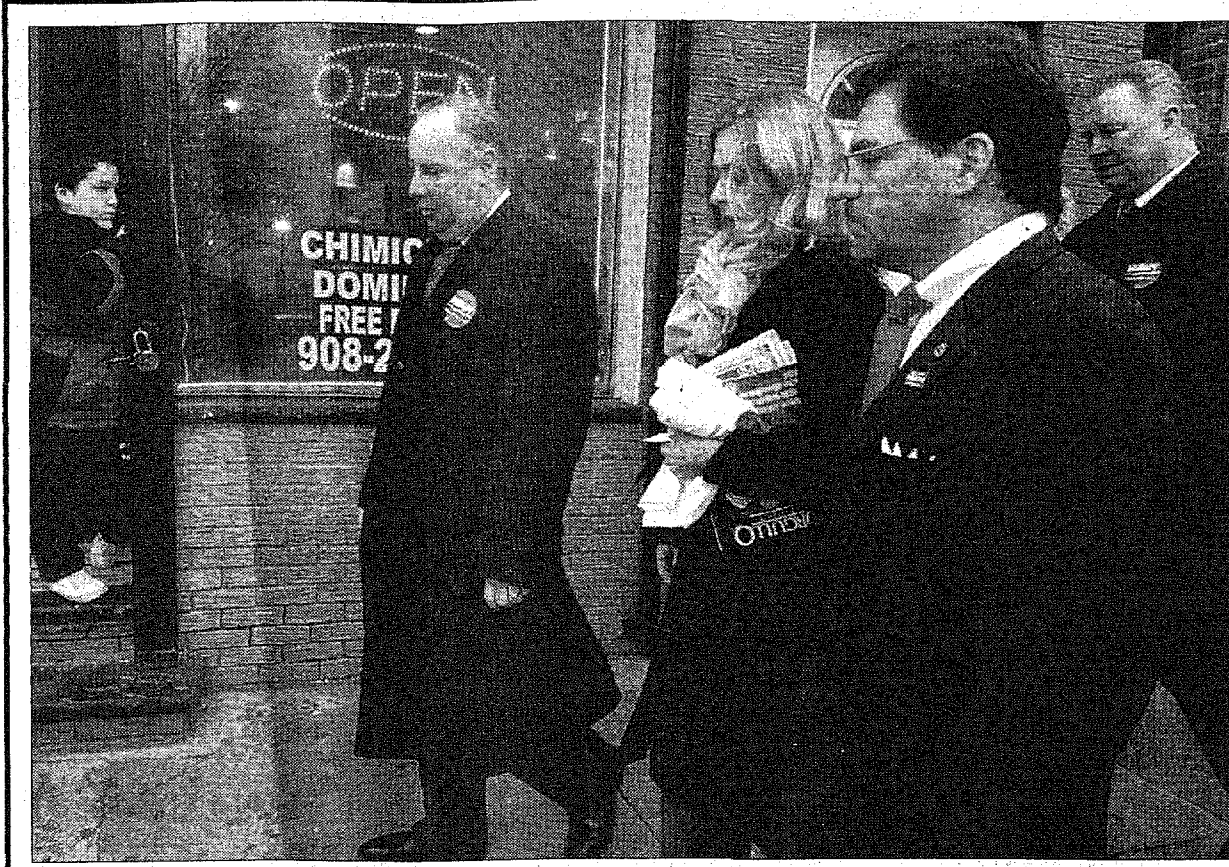


Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

A CLINTON COMES TO TOWN — No it is not Bill or Hillary, but Chelsea Clinton, center, took a walk down Elizabeth Avenue in Union County to bolster her mother, Hillary Clinton, in her bid for president on Monday, the eve of Super Tuesday and the New Jersey primary. Helping her campaign is Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwege on the left of Chelsea. To find out how Union County voted in Tuesday's primary, check out our Web site, www.localsource.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

WESTFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: DEBORAH JORGENSEN, her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest COLE CONSULTANTS, LLC

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, LLC, ESQS., plaintiffs, attorneys whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainview, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-808-233-8500, an answer to the Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2005-2 is plaintiff, and SANTO NARDI, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-34615-07 within thirty-five (35) days after 02/07/2008 exclusive of such date, or if published after the actual date of such publication, 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. 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, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated 12/13/2004 made by Santo Nardi and Deborah Nardi as mortgagors, to New Century Mortgage Corporation, recorded on 01/04/2005 in Book 10992 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0890 which Mortgage was assigned, to the plaintiff, Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2005-2 by Assignment of Mortgage which is unrecorded at this time; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 1080 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 732-249-5000. 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 908-353-4715. Deborah Jorgensen, 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 Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey bearing judgment number J-291982-2005 in 11002/2005 in the original sum of 1,081,954.21, wherein you, Deborah Jorgensen, are the judgment debtor and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Cole Consultants, LLC is made a party defendant to this foreclosure action by

PUBLIC NOTICE

reason of a mortgage dated 10/26/2005, which was made by Santo Nardi and Deborah Nardi to Cole Consultants, LLC, to secure the sum of \$66,500.00 and recorded on 10/31/2005 in Book 11420 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0334, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises. File #XCZ-95077

THEODORE J. FETTER, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

U202940 WCN Feb. 7, 2008 (\$75.75)

PLAINFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: Acqua Soft Systems, Inc., a PA Corp.; and Gloria Alvarado

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiffs, attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Independence Center, 701 Market Street, 3rd Floor, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, phone # (412) 558-3242, an answer to the Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Indenture Trustee for New Century Home Equity Loan Trust 2005-2 is plaintiff, and SANTO NARDI, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket No. F-29657-07 within thirty-five (35) days after February 7, 2008 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. 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, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated September 23, 2005, made by Rafael Perez as mortgagor(s), to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as a nominee for America's Wholesale Lender recorded on October 13, 2005, for Union County in Book 131391, Page 0156 of Mortgages for said County which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, Bank of New York as Trustee for the Certificate Holders of the Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-13, by Assignment which has been sent for recording; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 632-634 Pemberton Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-800-353-4715. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(908) 353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 1-(908) 353-4715.

YOU, Acqua Soft Systems, Inc., a PA Corp., are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Raphael

PUBLIC NOTICE

Perez in Superior Court of New Jersey on January 13, 1990 known as Judgment No. J-004650-1990 and Case No. L-004844-89 to secure the sum of \$4,137.83, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Gloria Alvarado, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Rafael Perez in Superior Court of New Jersey on September 17, 2002 known as Judgment No. J-218955-2002 and Case No. L-006732-00 to secure the sum of \$6,766.18, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises. File #5805

Theodore J. Fetter, Clerk Superior Court of New Jersey U203010 WCN Feb. 7, 2008 (\$66.00)

PLAINFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: MARCIONNE S. LEWIS, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, LLC, ESQS., plaintiffs, attorneys, whose address is: 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainview, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-808-233-8500, an answer to the Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-3 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-3 is plaintiff, and MARCIONNE S. LEWIS, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-33319-07 within thirty-five (35) days after 02/07/2008 exclusive of such date, or if published after the actual date of such publication, 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. 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, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated 11/30/2006 made by MARCIONNE S. LEWIS as mortgagors, to Sterling National Mortgage Company, Inc. recorded on 02/02/2007 in Book 12038 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 471 which Mortgage was assigned on 02/07/2006 to the plaintiff, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-3 Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2007-3 by Assignment of Mortgage recorded on 10/02/2007 in Book 1239 of Assignments of Mortgages for Union County, Page 583; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 436-435 7TH ST. PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot

PUBLIC NOTICE

afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4340. Marcione S. Lewis, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made party defendants to this foreclosure action because executed plaintiff's obligation and mortgage being foreclosed herein and may be liable for any deficiency and because the owners of record of the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein and for any lien, claim or interest may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises. File #CZ 94804

THEODORE J. FETTER, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

U203011 WCN Feb. 7, 2008 (\$68.00)

PLAINFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: HOLLY I. BEY, her heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, LLC, ESQS., plaintiffs, attorneys, whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountainview, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone

PUBLIC NOTICE

number 1-908-233-8500, an Answer to the Complaint, if any, filed in a civil action, in which US Bank, National Association as Trustee for the MLMI SURF Trust Series 2006-BC4 is plaintiff, and LARRY LANG-FORD-DAVIS, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-32887-07 within thirty-five (35) days after 02/07/2008 exclusive of such date or if published after 02/07/2008, (35) days after the actual date of such publication, 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. 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, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 03/27/2007 made by Larry Langford-Davis, unmarried as mortgagors, to Commonwealth United Mortgage a division of National City Bank of Indiana recorded on 04/04/2006 in Book M11532 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 190 which Mortgage was assigned, on 10/20/2006 to the plaintiff, US Bank, National Association as Trustee for the MLMI SURF Trust Series 2006-BC4 by Assignment of Mortgage recorded on 11/15/2006 in Book A81351 of Assignments of Mortgages for Union County, Page 456; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 1274-76 George Street, PLAINFIELD, NJ 07062.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jer-

PUBLIC NOTICE

sey Bar Association by calling 732-249-5000. 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 908-353-4340. Holly I. Bey, 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 Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey bearing judgment number J-077197-2006 on 4/04/2006, wherein you, Holly I. Bey are the judgment creditor and Larry Davis is the judgment debtor and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

THEODORE J. FETTER, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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U203013 WCN Feb. 7, 2008 (\$79.50)

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30 YR FIXED	6.125	0.00	6.150	APP			
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3/1-30 ARM	5.250	0.00	5.922	\$350			

ARM loans up to \$1Million, LTV restrictions apply over \$417K

No Income No Asset Loans Available

Rates were received on 2/4/08 from the lenders and are subject to change. Contact lenders for more information.

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ADVERTISEMENT

The Promenade at Summit features custom-designed single family homes starting at only \$849,900!

True upscale living at an amazing value...just blocks from beautiful downtown Summit

Summit, NJ - Contracts are now being accepted on a limited number of single family 4-bedroom homes at The Promenade at Summit, an exclusive, new mixed-use development just blocks from the desirable downtown shopping district. New homes featuring this type of superior quality and elegant appointments were simply not available in Summit at this price point...until now! This exclusive offering is limited to 7 custom-designed homes beginning at \$849,900 which are the crown jewels of an exciting new development that promises to be one of the most unique and desirable communities to come along in Summit in recent memory.

Ranging in size from 2,465 - 3,530 sq. ft. of living space, the homes feature impressive 9 ft. ceilings throughout the first floor, designer gourmet kitchens with raised panel oak or maple wood cabinets, granite counter tops, top-of-the-line stainless steel appliances, spacious master suites with walk-in closets and a large private bathroom, energy saving features - thermostat, windows, 75 gallon gas hot water heater, 2-zone gas warm air/heat and central AC. Elegant exteriors are designed for beauty and energy-efficiency. In addition to the seven custom-designed, single-family homes, The Promenade at Summit, conveniently located at 545 Morris Avenue, also features 22 luxury condominiums starting from \$549,900, as well as over 15,000 square feet of upscale retail and office space.

Diversified Properties, developers of The Promenade at Summit, is a full-service real estate group having the resources and vision to address the challenges of today's real estate market. "Despite the current state of the real estate industry, buyers have shown tremendous interest in these properties in recent weeks" said Nicholas Minoa, Principal of Diversified Properties. "New homes of this caliber at this price have not been available in Summit for years," added Minoa. "These are top of the line new homes with all the amenities people are looking for, beginning at just \$849,900. Given the quality of these custom designs and the ideal location, it really adds up to an unbelievable value."

Available in 5 distinct models, the homes at The Promenade at Summit boast an impressive list of features. For a complete list of features and to view the floor plans, visit the web site at www.545MorrisAve.com.

Deposits are now being accepted on all models so please contact Sales Manager Joan Dearani at your earliest convenience. Sales hours by appointment:

Monday, Tuesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday: 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tel: 908-273-2400 E-mail: Joan.Dearani@diversifiedproperties.com

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