

12/20/96

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METUCHEN • EDISON

# THE REVIEW

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## Despite council cuts, taxes will rise in Edison

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — Although the Township Council trimmed the proposed municipal budget, taxes will continue to climb in Edison. As amended, the \$69.8 million budget would raise taxes four points, or \$65 for the average homeowner with a property assessed at \$164,000. Mayor George Spadaro had proposed a \$71.2 million budget. "Edison still maintains the second lowest tax rate (39 cents per \$100 of assessed property value) in Middlesex County," Councilman Billy Kruczak said at a special budget hearing Tuesday. In a 5-2 vote, with Councilmen Raymond Koperwhats and Peter Barnes III dissenting, the council approved a resolution amending the mayor's budget. Mr. Kruczak praised the council for

working diligently to come up with the budget reductions. Mayor Spadaro's budget proposed raising taxes 6 cents per \$100 of assessed value, or about \$97 more per year. It would have raised \$27.9 million (not including reserves for uncollected taxes) and spent \$5.23 million of bond money reserved for contingent liabilities to pay a portion of the budget. In comparison, the amount to be raised

in local taxes for municipal purposes in the amended budget is \$26.3 million. Part of the difference was achieved by not including 10 additional police officers and three new firemen proposed by Mayor Spadaro, with a total reduction of \$1.1 million in salary and wages. Also eliminated from the budget was \$600,000 in operating expenses. And although several of the council members previously objected to using a

large portion of the bond money set aside for contingent liabilities, those funds will be used in the budget. Councilwoman Eileen Teffenhart questioned whether that bond money can be used in the budget. Councilman Barnes said he thought her question was valid, saying the question is whether money earmarked for other purposes can be used to artificially lower the tax rate. (Please turn to page A-2)



Norman Edge conducts the Edison String Players at Menlo Park Mall Sunday night.

## Student strings play with flair

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — The sounds of Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert soothed frenzied Menlo Park Mall shoppers Sunday evening. The Edison String Players (ESP), along with the Morris Nanton Trio and Viennese dancers, performed a program called "A Night In Vienna." A large crowd gathered in the Nordstrom's rotunda enjoyed the music, and others merely passing by during holiday shopping excursions took in the sounds. Cranford resident Shelley Laurel was on one of those excursions when she was struck by the familiar sounds of Mozart and "A Little Night Music." As a student at Kean College, Ms. Laurel said she had heard the song several times before in her Intellectual and Cultural Traditions class. "Before in class it was totally boring. Now I can really feel it," she said. Ms. Laurel expressed shock when she found out the performers were high school students.

"These are students? Really?" she said. "I think they are just outstanding. They really did Mozart justice."

To sound that great, it took seven months of practice under the tutelage of ESP conductor Norman Edge. J.P. Stevens High School junior Michael Fan said the students were given the "It was entrancing. It was beautiful. These kids have a career before them."

— Phil Labasi  
Board of Education member

music in the summer to start practicing. After all that hard work, Michael and principal violin player Chien-Yu Chiang said they thought things went pretty well. Chien-Yu said he enjoyed changing the traditional winter concert program. "The other Christmas carols sort of get boring after awhile," he explained.

Chien-Yu also said he liked the idea of performing with the Morris Nanton Trio, comprised of Jeff Brillinger on drums, Mr. Edge on bass, Morris Nanton on piano and singer Dave Blocker.

Michael said the string players were not daunted by the task or the audience. "We were pretty much in tune to our audience," he said. "It didn't seem like anyone was that nervous."

Board members Philip Labasi and Felton King were on hand for the performance, saying the musicians played like professionals. Mr. Labasi said they gave concert hall quality performances.

"They were entrancing. It was beautiful. These kids have a career before them," Mr. Labasi said, noting he too once played the violin. "Unfortunately, when I played the violin, baseball was more important. I was supposed to go to Julliard."

Ann Osaki, president of the ESP Parents Association and mother of viola player Terumi, said it takes enormous dedication and discipline for students to be involved in ESP. "It's a gift. This is the skill they will carry all

(Please turn to page A-2)

## 13 students are charged in assault

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — Township police arrested 13 more teenagers in connection with an attack last month on a J.P. Stevens High School student that left him with a broken jaw. Sgt. Matt Freeman said the arrests are the result of a three-week investigation into a Nov. 20 assault on a 15-year-old sophomore who was ambushed while going home from school.

All 13 of the teenagers are being charged with rioting and eight also face charges of simple assault. The students, ranging in age from 14-17 years old, were charged on Monday and released into the custody of their parents pending a hearing in juvenile court.

Sgt. Freeman said involved in the assault were two 14-year-olds, five 15-year-olds, four 16-year-olds and two 17-year-olds.

Prior to these arrests, two 17-year-old students and a 14-year-old were also charged with aggravated assault and unlawful possession of a weapon, the martial arts weapon nunchaku.

"Somehow they all played a part in the assault that took place," Sgt. Freeman said.

He said some of the students may have punched and kicked the individual while others may have prevented him from escaping.

The assault was touched off by a verbal dispute between one of the attackers and one of the victim's friends. The victim had been heading home from the high school (Please turn to page A-2)

## Board recalls Lepre's car

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — The superintendent of schools had his 1983 white station wagon recalled Tuesday night.

It wasn't Ford that recalled the vehicle and its broken tail light, however; the Board of Education stripped Gennaro Lepre of the car Tuesday night. In a 6-2 vote, the board decided to sell the station wagon and 10 other vehicles, citing the need for economy and safety.

Board members John Roberts and Terri Kohl dissented, arguing the car provided to the superintendent was part of his compensation.

Ms. Kohl asked for the station wagon to be taken off the list until the board decides how to replace it. Until the board has a plan for compensation or mileage, it should not move to sell the cars, she said.

Before the board's vote, Mr. Lepre said he would like to discuss the issue.

However, Ms. Kohl's motion was defeated in a 5-3 vote. (Please turn to page A-2)

## Technology plans considered

Metuchen school board must choose a direction soon

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — The future of the district's technology plan will top the Board of Education's agenda next month.

The school board will be reconsidering a vision statement adopted last February by the previous board.

"This can't be hanging out there too long. The board needs to give the administration a clear direction on technology," board President Colleen Convery said Wednesday.

The entire board will work out the issue as a committee-of-the-whole, she said, noting the idea was suggested by Superintendent of Schools Gennaro Lepre.

During Tuesday night's board meeting, Mr. Lepre said the decisions on the district's technology initiative are too important to be made in committee.

Mr. Lepre asked the board to reconsider the vision statement to decide what direction the district

will take with phase two of its technology initiative.

Last year the board supported the Technology Task Force's plan to put five computers in each classroom. The plan would have cost taxpayers \$2,274,000 over five years and was proposed for inclusion in an overall capital improvement referendum. But with the failure to put the referendum on the ballot, the school board set aside \$156,000 in this year's budget to begin phase one of the technology program.

However, it is unclear what direction the district will take in phase two because of a dispute between board members on whether it is best to have a computer lab or classroom computer pods, small groups of computers. There is also the question of how much the board is willing to spend on the second phase of its technology program. Added into this mix is a proposal for free technology consultation by the Institute of Learning Technologies (ILT) at Columbia

University Teachers College.

Mr. Lepre, who met with ILT last week, said the group has offered to help prepare and process large grant applications for the district; train staff in design, development and use of educational software; and provide the district with wide area network educational programming.

"No one did not see any value of being part of such an association," Mr. Lepre said.

Because of these free benefits, members of the public have been strongly urging the board to move forward and accept ILT's offer.

At Tuesday night's meeting, residents again pleaded with the board to accept the ILT offer. However, board President Colleen Convery told residents the board needs to be assured of what costs are associated with an agreement.

One of the costs involved would be installing wide area networks in the district. Although Mr. Lepre said he had some of the figures (Please turn to page A-2)



RANDALL MILLER/THE REVIEW

### From one generation to another

Eve Tutak talks with John Adams Middle School student Rachel Griffiths during the school's Intergenerational Holiday Tea on Wednesday.

**It's not too late!**  
Last-minute ideas;  
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Special section inside



### Early Deadlines

Because holidays fall on Wednesday, Dec. 25, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, *The Review* will have early deadlines: 5 p.m. today for the next issue, and 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 27 for the following issue.



**Spirit of the season**  
Scouts give their all  
for the holidays  
See Weekend Plus inside

# DOT wants Route 1 friendly for walking, biking

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — For those who can't even imagine a Route 1 that's friendly to drivers, it may seem impossible to conceive walking or bicycling across Route 1.

But that's just what a plan being commissioned by the state Department of Transportation (DOT) has in mind. A group of consultants is developing a way to improve conditions for bicycling and walking within the Route 1 corridor from Woodbridge to Trenton. The state plan is an attempt to help meet standards established under the federal Clean Air Act.

Consultants from planning and engineering firm The RBA Group, Greenways Inc., and Bicycle Federation of America of Washington, D.C. were on hand Monday for a public workshop on the Route 1 Bicycle and Pedestrian Corridor Plan at Stel-

ton Community Center.

"This is by far the most congested corridor we've looked at with 80,000 vehicles a day," said Peter Moe, project manager of Bicycle Federation of America. "That number is just outstanding."

Mr. Moe asked residents at the meeting to make suggestions to make the roadways more accessible to pedestrians and bicyclists.

"We are first looking at some of the key problems: crossings at key intersections and what to do to make them more friendly," Mr. Moe said. "It's a big effort. This isn't an event. It's a process."

"Trying to get from point A to point B by walking is almost impossible," Clark Ellison said.

A resident of the Lindeneau section of Edison, Mr. Ellison said the amount of pollution and poor planning in Edison limits his decisions on where to walk.

Local conservationist Walter Stochel suggested a pedestrian bridge be constructed across Route 1 near Vineyard Road. He said this would allow the high school students who live two blocks from Edison High School to cross the state highway. Now, he noted, those students are bused across the highway.

Woodbridge Avenue resident Bob Takash said to decrease truck traffic on Route 1, the tolls on the New Jersey Turnpike should be reduced. Truck traffic has risen steadily since the toll increases went into effect, he said.

Others noted the absence or different width of shoulders on the side of the road and sidewalks. They also cited the "New Jersey barrier" which pedestrians often have to jump to cross Route 1. Residents also suggested adding a greenway to make the area more attractive for pedestrian traffic.

The residents' suggestions include integrating developments throughout communities along the corridor.

Chuck Flink of Greenways Incorp. said what residents have done for the last 35 years has been carefully orchestrated. Many communities are not offered any choice in transportation, he noted.

"I definitely know people who would like to bike and walk today," he said.

Mr. Takash said area residents would be willing to slow down, get out of their cars and use the sidewalks and pedestrian bridges if they were provided.

"They (residents) don't have to do it in the same kind of hurriedness," Mr. Takash said.

DOT Bureau of Suburban Mobility Project Manager Bill Feldman said the roadways would be retrofitted into other projects being undertaken by the state agency.

Funding could come from the federal grant Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA), which subsidizes alternate ways of transportation. Mr. Feldman said the department is committed to the project, but limited resources are available.

Based on the suggestions from residents, the consultants will develop recommendations and a plan to submit to the DOT by June 1997. From those recommendations the DOT will select project priorities.

"It makes little sense for us to put in sidewalks if there is nothing on county or local roads," Mr. Feldman said. "It's not enough for the DOT to respond to this. Our project is not going to solve this. An integrated approach is really going to be needed. Others are going to have to do something as well."



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

### Old-time reminiscing

Three senior citizens stand by the new plaque dedicated at the Morris Stores Building in Metuchen. For story, see page A-4.

## Board recalls superintendent's car

(Continued from page A-1)

As chairman of the board's vehicle committee, Mr. Povacz offered to have the district provide Mr. Lepre with a Saturn station wagon.

"Number one, you don't have the authority to offer me a station wagon. You are one member of the Board of Education," Mr. Lepre told Mr. Povacz.

Board President Colleen Convery said as head of the vehicle committee, Mr. Povacz did have the right to offer the car.

Ms. Convery said the committee also would offer to let the superintendent buy the station wagon for \$1.

Board Attorney James Smith added there is no written contract with Mr. Lepre. Even if there were, the board is not obligated to provide a specific car, he said.

The board has determined many of its vehicles are either in poor condition or are unnecessary. The

11 vehicles are four buses, three vans, a truck, a Chrysler car, a Jeep and the station wagon.

Mr. Povacz decried the poor condition of the vehicles, saying a door to one of the vans is tied to the driver's seat, and another van has an expired inspection sticker.

"What happens if we can get into an accident?" he asked.

One vehicle is so old, board member Walter Magdich said it has nine motor vehicle violations, and another has eight violations.

"To me this is a no-brainer," board member Fred Kutner said. "These vehicles are antiques."

Mr. Roberts objected to the action because the resolution had not been included on the board's agenda.

Mr. Lepre said there had been no discussion prior to the meeting about which vehicles would be on the list for sale.

However, Ms. Convery noted this was the third meeting on district

vehicles. They will not be sold until March, she added.

The board had previously proposed selling its six school buses because of an agreement with Middlesex County Education Services to provide busing to the district. The buses, 4-15 years old, range from 40-seat buses to 10-seat buses.

In addition, the board also changed its gasoline policy, voting to remove all fuel cards from district employees. The cards are used to obtain gas at the borough's Department of Public Works garage.

There will be only one fuel pump pass distributed to school employees. Every time employees obtain gas, they must sign their name and give an odometer reading of the car.

"It sounds very reasonable. It sounds like this is a step in the right direction," Mr. Roberts said.

## Metuchen must choose a direction

(Continued from page A-1)

that would answer questions at the meeting, he did not provide them, leaving the matter to be addressed at a board meeting in January.

Another question was whether ILT understands the district's inability to guarantee additional funding for the computer initiative.

Former board candidate David Liss said there is no link between the past referendum proposal and ILT's offer, which is based on what the district currently has.

Ms. Convery said because of the uncertainty of state funding and the amount of money needed for computer maintenance and repair, the board's technology allocation could shrink if residents do want the technology to be offered in greater numbers, she said, a decision might have to be made about cutting other programs.

After the meeting, Ms. Convery said the board will act on the ILT offer and decide on the second phase of the district's technology initiative in January, even if it means calling a special meeting. One compelling reason is the

school board must provide the administration with direction prior to its putting together a budget for review by the state Department of Education.

"I understand the frustration some of the audience felt," she said. "I know they want a clear direction from the board."

But she said residents have missed the fact that Mr. Lepre had a successful meeting with ILT. The district is not in danger of letting ILT's offer slip through its hands, Mrs. Convery added.

"ILT is more than willing to wait for that (the details to be worked out). ILT is more than excited to do business with Metuchen. There isn't a problem here. The only problem is that they are not allow-

ing us to work out an agreement," she said. "We are still in the early stages of our technology program and yes, this is a great time for ILT to become a part of that."

She also said the school principals' requests to add one computer for each classroom seems reasonable, but questioned if it can be done within the school budget. Metuchen cannot afford another \$1 million budget increase, she said, noting several other school districts have failed recently to push through referendum proposals.

"Somewhere you are going to have to make a tough decision on a reasonable budget," Ms. Convery said.

## Despite cuts, Edison taxes will rise

(Continued from page A-1)

A member of the council's finance committee, Mr. Barnes had also questioned whether the township should reduce the amount of money set aside for contingent liabilities. Also a member of the township insurance commission, Mr. Barnes said he was worried about Edison's liabilities in several cases and workmen's compensation claims.

Chief of Staff Arthur Cifelli said there is only one case that has not been resolved from those the

Township Council bonded for when it went to a transition year budget. He noted the other cases referred to by Mr. Barnes were not obligations then.

The bond money was generated when the township switched from a calendar-year to fiscal-year budget with a \$65 million transition year bond in 1993. Roughly \$32 million was used to make the budgetary conversion, with the rest of the money set aside for various projects, including closing the Edison landfill, sick-time buyouts of

township employees, and contingent liabilities such as the Sansone lawsuit and Ford Motor Co. tax appeal.

Former Councilwoman Jane Tousman and citizen activist James Kukor also expressed concern about the bond money. Mr. Kukor noted the tax increase facing the township was predicted in 1993 when the Township Council approved the transition-year bond.

The council will vote on adopting the budget 7 p.m. Monday at Town Hall.

## 13 more students charged in attack

(Continued from page A-1)

with his friend and another student when they were attacked in a pathway behind James Madison Intermediate School on New Dover Road.

While the other two students escaped, the victim was struck about the head and the body and had his jaw broken. He was treated at Raritan Bay Medical Center in Perth Amboy and released.

Three of the students charged also faced expulsion.

Board of Education member Felton King said the district's investigation into the event is ongoing and will probably conclude within the next month.

"We have a list of the students involved, but we can't comment on it," he said.

If the students are expelled, the district must pay for them to receive tutoring.

The police investigation was led by Det. Mark Anderko, the department's liaison to J.P. Stevens High School.

## Students perform well

(Continued from page A-1)

their life and I have seen the focus and discipline that it requires," she said.

Next year members of ESP will be taking their act to England.

The string players are: Audrey Bansil, Sophia Chae, Alan Chang, James Chang, Gladys Chang, Suk-Won Chang, Joseph Chen, Vincent Chia, Chien-Yu Chiang, Christina Cho, Janet Choi, Judy Chung, Douglas Eichenblatt, Michael Fan, Edward Fong, Brian Gimelstob, Regina Johnson, Sherry Kan, Babar Khokhar, Eun-Jung Kim, Janice Kim, Jubin Kim, Soo-Yeon Kim, Thomas Kim, Daniel Lee, Diana Lee, Karen Lee, Peter Lee, Anthony Lin, Marvin Lin, Dereck Meinhold, Terumi Osaki, Suysh Paliwal, Sarada Peri, Shabiha Sheikh, Susie Shin, Nicholas Tropeano, Logan Wang, Clark Wen, Wan-Ju Wu and Anthony Yang.

Accompanying the music were Viennese dancers Nancy Brown and Steven Dougherty.

gina Johnson, Sherry Kan, Babar Khokhar, Eun-Jung Kim, Janice Kim, Jubin Kim, Soo-Yeon Kim, Thomas Kim, Daniel Lee, Diana Lee, Karen Lee, Peter Lee, Anthony Lin, Marvin Lin, Dereck Meinhold, Terumi Osaki, Suysh Paliwal, Sarada Peri, Shabiha Sheikh, Susie Shin, Nicholas Tropeano, Logan Wang, Clark Wen, Wan-Ju Wu and Anthony Yang.

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# Man allegedly gets kick in groin, punches woman

**EDISON**  
Gerald Zanzalari, 43, of Newton, Pa., was charged with assault after punching a woman in the face in the parking lot at Menlo Park Mall Saturday, police said.

The 42-year-old victim told police she stopped to wait for a parking space to open when Mr. Zanzalari allegedly began harassing her, yelling "Get the (expletive deleted) out of the way."

"Just hang on," the victim's son reportedly responded.

After additional words were exchanged, the victim's son and Mr. Zanzalari exited their vehicles and confronted each other.

When the mother intervened to prevent escalation, Mr. Zanzalari allegedly called her "a fat old (expletive deleted)."

"I'm going to call a cop," the mother reportedly responded.

After Mr. Zanzalari allegedly tried to convince her he was a policeman, the mother replied, "I don't think so."

Mr. Zanzalari then allegedly raised his hand, preparing to strike the victim. Instead, she kicked him in the groin. Mr. Zanzalari managed to punch the victim with a closed fist before returning to his car, according to reports.

Minutes later, the same pattern of arguing began again, police said.

"Move it," Mr. Zanzalari reportedly yelled, provoking the mother and son to re-exit the vehicle.

"I'm going to put you in the hospital," the son reportedly said to Mr. Zanzalari.

The mother then kicked Mr. Zanzalari in the shin, police reported.

Mr. Zanzalari attempted to flee the scene toward Route 1 in a Chevy Suburban, police said. He was apprehended by police moments later and was returned to the scene of the alleged crime. The victim quickly identified Mr. Zanzalari, who was subsequently arrested.

The victim sustained swelling to her cheek, but did not require medical attention. Police did not report any injury to Mr. Zanzalari.

A 1994 Nissan Sentra worth \$10,000 was stolen from in front of Edison Medical Laboratory on Oak Tree Road between 2:30 p.m. Tuesday and 12:30 a.m. Wednesday, police said.

Two unusual incidents of criminal mischief at a New Durham Road office building were reported this week.

On Monday, the owner of Brunswick Holding Co. discovered several large objects jammed in the toilet bowls of bathrooms on the first and second floor. Flooding caused damage to floors, rugs and ceilings.

The owner also reported finding excrement smeared on the wall and oil splattered on the floor of one of the bathrooms Dec. 9.

Both incidents occurred between 8 a.m.-noon, the owner told police.

In addition, the owner said he has been having problems with several tenants, but offered no specific suspects. The owners fears these incidents "could escalate into something more substantial."

The cost of plumbing repair and rug and floor replacement is estimated at \$10,000.

Two thefts occurred at A-Tech Concrete on Taylor Road in recent weeks, police said.

The wheels and tires of a 1967 Pontiac GTO, valued at a total of \$1,500, were stolen between 10 p.m. Monday and 6 a.m. Tuesday, police said.

In addition, a Coleman generator worth \$900 was stolen between 6 p.m. Dec. 1 and 6 p.m. Dec. 2. Someone apparently cut a hole in a rear fence, entered a trailer and

## Police log

stole the generator.  
There are no suspects for either incident.

Derwin Moses, 28, of New York, N.Y., was charged with stealing merchandise worth \$945 from Fundamental Things on Taylor Road Tuesday, police said.

Mr. Moses allegedly stuffed several items, including a Nextell security radio, into a bag. When employees noticed Mr. Moses' action, they chased after him, police said.

Mr. Moses fled onto Brunswick Avenue toward Plainfield Avenue when police intervened and apprehended him.

Mr. Moses, hired by Fundamental Things as a temporary worker, was on his first day at the job.

An undetermined amount of jewelry was stolen from a Central Avenue home about 5 p.m. Tuesday, police said.

Police were alerted to the situation after an alarm sounded. Upon arrival, the front door was found forced open, but no suspects were on the site nor was anyone home.

Inside the house, a trail of jewelry, taken from the master bedroom, was spotted leading toward the front door. Nothing else appeared disturbed, according to reports.

A property loss report will be filled out by the victims.

Two figurines totaling \$2,045 were stolen from Gift Gallery of Menlo Park Mall between 3-4:45 p.m., police said.

More than \$12,000 of merchandise was stolen from Lesco Inc. of Brunswick Avenue between 11:15 p.m. Saturday and 7 a.m. Monday, police said.

Thieves apparently forced entry through a metal garage door, which was found smashed. Damage is estimated at \$500.

Inside several spreaders and washers were stolen in addition to \$206 cash.

Computer accessories worth \$9,000 were stolen from a Fieldcrest Avenue law firm over the weekend, police said.

A laptop computer worth \$6,000 and a hard drive worth \$3,000 were found missing from Lipman, Selznick and Witkowski 11:24 p.m. Sunday. Entry was apparently gained through a smashed window. Damage is estimated at \$500.

An undetermined amount of cash was reported stolen from Mon Marie on Oak Tree Road between 12:01-5 a.m. Monday, police said.

When police arrived, two front-glass doors were found smashed. Inside, cash registers were found emptied on the floor. When the report was filed, the owners had not been notified yet.

Damage is estimated at \$300.

A display of 12-15 men's bracelets totaling \$6,000 was stolen from White Hall Jewelers of Menlo Park Mall between 9:10-10 p.m. Friday, police said. The manager told police the store was extremely busy then and employees were preoccupied.

Rosanna Genao, 21, Jinie Hernandez, 19, and Judith Lopez-Jimenez, 21, all of Perth Amboy, were charged with shoplifting clothing totaling \$468.96 from Macy's of Parsonage Road 8 p.m. Monday, police said.

Several parts of a snow plow totaling \$2,500 were stolen from a

yard owned by the Board of Education on Brower Avenue between 3:30 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. Monday, police said.

A cellular phone worth \$250 was stolen from an unlocked 1989 Chevrolet on New Dover Road between midnight-10 a.m. Monday, police said.

A 1988 Honda Civic worth \$5,000 was stolen from Judson Street between 8:30 p.m. Sunday and 7:45 a.m. Monday, police said.

A 1984 Oldsmobile Delta worth \$3,500 was stolen from Wick Plaza between 11-11:15 a.m. Tuesday, police said.

A Sony compact disc player worth \$325 and black leather shoes worth \$59.99 were stolen from a 1988 Volkswagen at Menlo Park Mall between 8:30-9:45 p.m. Saturday, police said.

Shopping bags containing \$377 of merchandise were stolen from a Ford Aerostar on Route 1 between 9:15-9:45 p.m. Saturday, police said. Entry was gained through a passenger's side window, which was found smashed.

Shawn McGinness, 18, of Iselin, was charged with shoplifting five Sony cassettes worth \$9.95 from Drug Fair on Wood Avenue between 4:15-4:45 p.m., police said.

A 1989 Mazda MX-G worth \$5,500 was stolen from Hidden Valley Drive between 11 p.m. Friday and 6 p.m. Saturday, police said.

A 1995 Ford Mustang worth \$20,000 was stolen from Crawley's Tavern on Woodbridge Avenue between 12:30-1:45 a.m. Saturday, police said.

A Van Buren resident reported a JVC Camcorder was stolen from his front porch 9:30 a.m. Dec. 14.

Lt. Keane said the property, including a carrying case and batteries, is valued at about \$1,000.

A decorative wreath and plant, estimated at \$45, were stolen from outside a Charles Street home in the morning on Dec. 8.

Edison resident Irma Archer, 42, was charged with drinking in public after allegedly drinking a 16-ounce beer in the area of the

Monday, police said.  
Lt. Keane said Mr. Behzad is charged with punching a woman after an argument became physical. The victim ended up going to JFK Hospital for treatment, Lt. Keane said.

Mr. Behzad was served with a restraining order and released on his own recognizance.

Louis Patella, 39, of Newark, was charged with shoplifting at Edwards Supermarket 6 p.m. Dec. 13, police said.

Lt. Keane said Mr. Patella was caught stealing three packs of Fuji 35 mm film worth \$67.

A Van Buren resident reported a JVC Camcorder was stolen from his front porch 9:30 a.m. Dec. 14.

Lt. Keane said the property, including a carrying case and batteries, is valued at about \$1,000.

A decorative wreath and plant, estimated at \$45, were stolen from outside a Charles Street home in the morning on Dec. 8.

Edison resident Irma Archer, 42, was charged with drinking in public after allegedly drinking a 16-ounce beer in the area of the

Metuchen train station 9:45 p.m. Dec. 11, police said.

A bicycle was stolen from a Van Buren resident's garage on Dec. 11, police said. The GT-BMX 20-inch bicycle is valued at \$450.

George Wells, 29, of Durham Avenue, was charged with assaulting a woman 10:20 a.m. Tuesday, police said.

The victim was allegedly punched and kicked, Lt. Keane said. She was transported from headquarters to JFK Hospital by the Metuchen First Aid Squad.

Wan Lee, 22, of Avenel, was charged with obstructing justice and possession of a unlawful weapon, a homemade billy club, police said.

Police were investigating a car accident Mr. Lee was in when they determined he was using someone else's driver license information, Lt. Keane said.

Officer Temple saw the billy club in plain view, which the suspect said he keeps in the car for protection, police said.

Mr. Lee also received numerous motor vehicle summonses.

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**Weaving a story**

Cynthia Clegg of the Museum of Early Trades and Crafts shows students old weaving equipment during a recent interdisciplinary program at Edgar School.

# Pooja approval reversed

## Edison council overturns Zoning Board's ruling

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — The Township Council was greeted with cheers after overturning the Zoning Board's decision permitting Faith Fellowship Ministries on Oak Tree Road to be converted into a banquet hall/restaurant, offices, art gallery and television studio.

In a special hearing Monday night, the council voted to overturn the board's August ruling granting the necessary bulk and use variances for Pooja M. Inc. to carry out its plans. The decision to side with appeals from 272 residents of Edison, South Plainfield and Metuchen drew cheers and stunned many in the audience.

"They restored my faith in Edison. I can say that," Park Avenue resident Robert Robbins said. "This was a reason I would have moved out of Edison."

Attorney John F.X. Irving, who represented many residents in the appeal, said the council's vote was "democracy in action."

"This is the first time I've felt fresh air in Edison in 12 years and it's almost startling," said Mr. Irving, a veteran of Edison Zoning and Planning Board appeals.

Laura Avenue resident Gayle Fredericks said she had been concerned about how the banquet hall would impact the character of her neighborhood.

"Something went the right way," Ms. Fredericks said. "I got here late and they didn't want me to speak, but I am happy about the outcome."

Ms. Fredericks added that the residents would continue to stick together even if the applicants, Pooja Inc., appealed the decision to Middlesex County Superior Court.

Township Councilman Raymond Koperwhats said he doesn't believe the applicants could win an appeal in courts.

"I think we have more than an excellent chance of sustaining it," he said.

Former Councilwoman Jane Tousman said the Save Oak Tree Road citizens group would continue to raise funds to file an amicus brief in support of the council's decision.

During the appeal hearing, Pooja attorney Kevin Morse laid out a case for why the Township Council

should not hear the appeals and gave a possible argument for overturning its decision.

He pointed out that Edison is only one of two municipalities in the state that allow parties to appeal a use variance decision by the Zoning Board to the council. Usually appellants have to take their case to Superior Court for a ruling.

"I would submit there is a good reason for that. Zoning Board members are appointed members, Judges are appointed members. They have to make decisions that may or may not be popular based upon the facts in the record that's before them," he said. "There is an extra consideration when you are elected ... There is obviously a cloud that whatever decision that is going to be made is perhaps going to offend somebody and on the other hand may even garner support from some people."

Councilman Peter Barnes added he did not believe the applicant had met the burden required to be granted the 10 variances needed for the banquet hall/restaurant application.

"I am perplexed how the Zoning Board could ever have approved (the application)," he said.

Fellow council members Joan Kapitan and Charles Tomaro also noted the increased traffic. Ms. Kapitan described the traffic congestion in that area as "legendary" while Council President Bill Stephens noted the public safety hazard that would be created in the area. He also said he didn't believe the traffic from the facilities would be less than that of Faith Fellowship Ministries, noting the worship facilities are used only twice a week as compared to the six days a week the banquet hall would be open.

Councilwoman Eileen Teffenhart said she thought the Zoning Board's decision amounted to spot-zoning by allowing a banquet hall in a residential area.

Mr. Koperwhats also said knowing the legitimate concerns of the residents of the area, the Zoning Board should have conducted its own traffic impact study. The board could have paid additional traffic experts to verify or refute the claims made by the applicant's traffic experts.

Later the councilman, a former Planning Board member, explained the board could have used money bonded by the applicant and put into an escrow account to hire those experts.

The Zoning Board had ruled the Pooja facility would:

- have a substantially less intensive land use;
- be more compatible to the mix of adjacent office, warehouse, railroad and manufacturing uses than the existing use;
- be less incompatible to the more distant surrounding residential uses than the existing large religious use.

Councilman Billy Kruczak did not attend the meeting and recused himself from voting because of a conflict of interest. Township Attorney Louis Rainone said Mr. Kruczak had business dealings with the owners of Faith Fellowship Ministries.

*This is the first time I've felt fresh air in Edison in 12 years and it's almost startling.*

— John F.X. Irving  
Appellants' attorney

"By taking an appeal, it turns a zoning board decision into a political situation," Mr. Morse added. "It turns it into a political football."

He also said the banquet hall's policy of BYO (bring your own liquor) would be similar to that already used at VFWs, first aid squads, and other catering halls in the township. The restaurant would not be a detriment to the public good and would fill the void of such service for the large area Asian-Indian population, he said.

Mr. Morse also said the site could easily be converted to the proposed use and no additional parking would be needed.

"It is a particularly efficient use of the site," he said.

But the council disagreed, citing the township master plan, public safety and traffic concerns.

"The 1985 master plan specifically excludes a banquet hall," Councilman Raymond Koperwhats told the crowd gathered in the municipal chambers.

# Libraries to get full funding

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — The township's Bookmobile will continue to roll.

Under a budget agreement reached last week, there will be enough funding to keep alive the Bookmobile and the Clara Barton Library branch.

Both services were possible targets for budget cuts before the Township Council's finance committee and representatives of the library board met Dec. 13 to discuss library funding. The cuts were likely if the Township Council had adopted a budget allocating the library system the minimum amount of funding allowed by the state. Instead, the Township Council introduced a budget amendment that restored the library system's funding to its 1995-96 level of \$2.53 million.

"We were very glad to have the \$186,000 restored," said Susan M. Krieger, director of the Edison Township Free Public Library System.

Ms. Krieger said the meeting between library officials and other local government officials had restored the communication between the entities. However, she also predicted a rough time ahead for the library.

Because of the budget crunch at the township level, there are no guarantees the libraries will receive the same funding next year.

"At our board meeting in January we will definitely have to look at our situation. The problem really hasn't been solved," she said. "I asked the question 'where do we go from here?' We still haven't answered the question, but at least we have begun communication."

Council President Bill Stephens said the library board will have to begin looking at ways to trim its budget. He added he also is investigating possible ways to help solve the libraries' budget crunch, including volunteers helping staff the libraries and closer cooperation with school libraries.

"Everything has to be looked at. We have to look at creative ways to

service the community," Mr. Stephens said. "Certainly we don't want to deprive any of our residents from reading a book."

Also in question is whether the library system can afford to expand its Clara Barton branch and purchase a property located behind it.

Ms. Krieger said there is consensus among the library board to go ahead with expansion plans at that branch. To fund the project, the board will launch a building fund campaign, he said. Contributions will go toward an addition to the library and a parking lot.

The branch is squeezed for space and offers only three dedicated parking spaces for all its patrons.

The township administration had proposed giving the libraries \$2.34 million, the minimum amount required under state law, arguing \$500,000 in surplus could be used toward the budget. But the library director argued those funds were earmarked for capital expenditures, such as the purchase of the property to expand the Clara Barton branch and a new roof at the North Edison branch.

# Metuchen principals present their technology wish lists

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — Principals laid out their wish list for more computers a week before Christmas.

But school officials would not commit to playing Santa Claus, having not determined what direction will be taken in the second phase of the district's technology initiative.

That didn't deter Moss School Principal Fred Cohen, who asked the Board of Education to install additional computers in classrooms at Tuesday's board meeting. The three multimedia computers added to the school library this fall are far too few to accommodate all the kindergarten through second-grade students at the school. Teacher Dee Sneddon said that only gives students in her class three minutes

on the computer. To alleviate that, Mr. Cohen requested one multimedia computer in every classroom, including one for special needs students. He also asked for another multimedia computer and large screen monitor for the library, local and wide area networks, and access to the Internet.

Campbell School Principal Bob Gugliara said his third-through fifth-grade students want to expand on the 10 multimedia computers already purchased this year. Mr. Gugliara requested Internet access and a wide area network to be established. He also asked for either a pod of five multimedia computers for each grade level or one for each home room.

Edgar School Principal Ed Joyce said he would like to add to the local area networks used for science and reading at his school. He

recommended the board add two additional networks for social studies and provide Internet access for all the networks. In addition, he requested six more computers in the school library and a multimedia computer in every classroom. Along with that, he said, would go the peripherals, such as VCRs and laser disc players.

"I see a future that is full of promise," High School Science/Mathematics Supervisor Joe Bulman said before spelling out his technology vision for the school at the meeting.

That vision includes installing a

strong network to five sites in the school, a local area network and the possibility of piggybacking onto a wide area network with other district schools. Mr. Bulman also said the district should invest in laptops which could be used by students and teachers, a mobile multi-media computer, and three five-computer units in the school. One of those units could update drafting, he said. In addition, he requested another video microscope for chemistry class.

The video microscope in use by the high school for biology is drawing rave reviews from students and

teachers alike. Other requests were made for additional software and other computer peripherals.

The board allocated \$156,433 to begin the first phase of its technology plan in this year's budget. Those funds purchased:

- five multimedia computers, an active matrix LCD Projector, a video disc player, a video micro-

scope and camera, and software at the high school;

- ten multimedia computers, two servers, software and training at Edgar School;
- ten multimedia computers, one server, software and training at Campbell School;
- three multimedia computers, a large monitor, software and training at Moss School.

**THE REVIEW**  
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# YMCA may manage Edison pool

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — The Metuchen-Edison YMCA's efforts to expand into the township might include opening a family swim club. YMCA Executive Director Bill

Lovett said negotiations are under way with Edison Elks BPOE Lodge No. 2487 on Old Post Road to co-sponsor an outdoor pool. "Essentially it would be an Edison family community pool," Mr. Lovett said.

The idea raised hope among a

few township residents at last week's Township Council meeting, who noted Edison does not operate its own municipal pool. One resident had asked the Township Council to negotiate lower fees for township residents at the Metuchen Community Pool.

Council President Bill Stephens said an agreement with the Elks may solve that problem.

The YMCA would manage the pool, Mr. Lovett said. Details such as operating hours and rates have not been worked out.

Mr. Lovett was reluctant to comment further, because some details were still unsettled. He did say "all the lights are green" to work with

the Elks Lodge on the project.

The YMCA has already expanded its efforts to get Edison residents into the swim of things, offering swimming classes at Wardlaw-Hartridge this year. Mr. Lovett said that experience is serving as a good example for the Metuchen-Edison YMCA to follow.

"That has been a great success," he said. "It (the family swim club)

has the same potential."

After completing its successful Y2000 campaign to raise funds for its building renovation and expansion in Metuchen, the YMCA is focusing on expanding its outreach into nearby Edison.

Metuchen Elks Lodge BPOE Lodge No. 2487 member Harry Wagner could not be reached for comment.

# Witty's

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1.75 liter

**DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL**  
**27<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**GORDON'S Vodka 80°**  
**11<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**SMIRNOFF Vodka 80°**  
**12<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**ABSOLUT or FINLANDIA Vodka 80°**  
**21<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**JACK DANIELS**  
**27<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

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**11<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

PHILDELPHIA Blended Whiskey  
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1.75 liter

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1.75 liter

KING WILLIAM  
**16<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

LEEDS Gin  
**9<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

BEEFEATER Gin  
**24<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

GORDON'S Gin  
**12<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

FLEISCHMANN'S Vodka 80°  
**10<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

TANQUERAY Sterling Vodka 80°  
**20<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

SKYY Vodka 80°  
**17<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**SEAGRAMS VO**  
**16<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

JOHN BEGG  
**16<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

WHITE HORSE  
**18<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

FLEISCHMANN'S Gin  
**10<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

LEEDS Vodka 80°  
**8<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

POPOV Vodka 80°  
**10<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

SMIRNOFF Vodka 80°  
**9<sup>99</sup>**  
1 liter

ABSOLUT Vodka 80°  
**14<sup>99</sup>**  
1 liter

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**17<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

**BACARDI RUM Silver/Amber**  
**15<sup>99</sup>**  
1.75 liter

Happy Holidays from Witty's Liquors

### 750 ml FAVORITES

750 SEAGRAMS 7 CROWN	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b>	750 J & B Scotch	<b>12<sup>99</sup></b>	750 SEAGRAMS Gin	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b>
750 JACK DANIELS	<b>13<sup>99</sup></b>	750 JOHNNIE WALKER RED	<b>12<sup>99</sup></b>	750 FRIS Vodka 80°	<b>10<sup>99</sup></b>
750 CROWN ROYAL	<b>13<sup>99</sup></b>	750 PINCH DIMPLE	<b>17<sup>99</sup></b>	750 FINLANDIA Vodka 80°	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
750 GRANTS Scotch	<b>10<sup>99</sup></b>	750 CHIVAS REGAL	<b>19<sup>99</sup></b>	750 JOSE CUERVO Gold Tequila	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
		750 GLENLIVET Single Malt	<b>20<sup>99</sup></b>	750 MYERS RUM Planters Punch	<b>9<sup>99</sup></b>

### JUGS

GALLO Chab. • Red Rose Wht. Gren. • Burg.	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b> 3 liter
CARLO ROSSI All Flavors	<b>7<sup>49</sup></b> 4 liter
FRANZIA Blush • Chablis Chenin • Golden White Grenache	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b> 5 liter BOX
ALMADEN Rose • Chablis Burg • Rhine • Gold	<b>8<sup>99</sup></b> 4 liter

### HOLIDAY CASE SPECIALS All Cases 12-Bottles 750 ml

NANDO Asti Spumante	<b>72<sup>99</sup></b>	BACARDI Silver • Amber	<b>83<sup>99</sup></b>	SEAGRAMS 7	<b>85<sup>99</sup></b>	KORBEL Brut • Extra Dry • Brut Rose	<b>100<sup>99</sup></b>	WHITE HORSE	<b>101<sup>99</sup></b>	JOHNNIE WALKER BLACK	<b>229<sup>99</sup></b>
CUTTY SARK	<b>133<sup>99</sup></b>	ABSOLUT Vodka 80°	<b>137<sup>99</sup></b>	DEWAR'S WHITE LABEL	<b>145<sup>99</sup></b>	JOHNNIE WALKER RED	<b>148<sup>99</sup></b>	COURVOISIER VS	<b>219<sup>99</sup></b>	CHIVAS REGAL	<b>229<sup>99</sup></b>

### WORLD OF WINE

**DOMESTIC**

750 SUTTER HOME White Zinf. • Red Zinf. • Sauvignon Blanc • Solo	<b>3<sup>99</sup></b>
750 TURNING LEAF Chard. • Fume • Red Zinf.	<b>4<sup>99</sup></b>
750 COLUMBIA CREST Chardonnay	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
750 R. MONDAVI Woodbridge Cabernet • Chardonnay	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L VENDANGE White Zinf. • Sauv. Blanc	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L CORBETT CANYON Cabernet • Chardonnay	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L GLEN ELLEN White Zinf. • Sauv. Blanc	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
750 COLUMBIA CREST Cabernet	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b>
750 COLUMBIA CREST Merlot	<b>9<sup>99</sup></b>
750 KENDALL JACKSON VR Chardonnay	<b>9<sup>99</sup></b>
750 KENDALL JACKSON VR Cab. • Merlot • Pinot Noir	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
750 STERLING Chardonnay	<b>10<sup>99</sup></b>
750 STERLING Cabernet	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
750 STERLING Merlot	<b>13<sup>99</sup></b>

**IMPORTED**

750 BLUE NUN Liebfraumlich	<b>4<sup>99</sup></b>
750 ANTINORI Santa Christina	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L CITRA Trebiano • Montepulciano • Blush	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
750 JABOULET PAR 45 Cotes du Rhone	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
750 LOUIS JADOT Beaujolais Villages	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
750 MOUTON CADET Red • White	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L CONCHA Y TORO Cab./Merlot • Chard. Blend	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L LANCERS Rose • White	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L RIUNITE Lambrusco • Bianco • Rosato • D'Oro	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
750 MARQUES DE RISCAL Red	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L CAVIT Pinot Grigio	<b>8<sup>99</sup></b>
750 HARVEYS BRISTOL CREAM	<b>8<sup>99</sup></b>
1.5L BOLLÁ Valpolicella • Soave • Chard • Merlot • Sangiovese • Pinot Grigio	<b>9<sup>99</sup></b>
750 GEORGES DUBOEUFF Pouilly Fuisse	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
750 RUFFINO Ducale Tan	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b>
750 SANTA MARGHERITA Pinot Grigio	<b>13<sup>99</sup></b>

### CHAMPAGNES

J ROGET Extra Dry	<b>2<sup>69</sup></b> 750 ml
COOKS Brut • Dry	<b>3<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
BALLATORE Gran Spumante	<b>4<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
CINZANO Asti Spumante	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
NANDO Asti Spumante	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
KORBEL Brut • Dry Brut Rose	<b>8<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
MUMM'S Cordon Rouge Brut NV	<b>19<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
PIPER HEIDSIECK Extra Dry NV	<b>19<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml

### CORDIALS

ALIZE Liqueur	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
KAHLUA Reg. • Royale	<b>12<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
MOHAWK Blackberry Brandy	<b>14<sup>99</sup></b> 1.75 liter
OBLIO Sambuca • Caffè	<b>14<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
BAILEYS IRISH CREAM	<b>15<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
FRANGELICO Hazelnut Liqueur	<b>15<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
CHAMBORD Raspberry Liqueur	<b>16<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
MOLINARI Sambuca	<b>16<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
SOUTHERN COMFORT	<b>16<sup>99</sup></b> 1.75 liter
SHERIDANS Liqueur	<b>16<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
GODET Belgium White Choc. and Cognac	<b>17<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
AMARETTO DI SARONNO	<b>19<sup>99</sup></b> 1 liter
DRAMBUIE Liqueur	<b>22<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
GRAND MARNIER	<b>24<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml

**Beaujolais Nouveaux**

750 GEORGES DUBOEUFF Beaujolais Nouveau	<b>5<sup>99</sup></b>
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### BEERS OF THE WORLD

BECK'S Regular • Dark Oktoberfest	<b>17<sup>99</sup></b> Bottles
OREGON Ale	<b>18<sup>99</sup></b> Bottles
SAM ADAMS (except Seasonals)	<b>18<sup>99</sup></b> Bottles
PETE'S WICKED ALE	<b>18<sup>99</sup></b> Bottles

### BRANDIES & COGNACS

750 E & J VSOP Brandy	<b>8<sup>99</sup></b>
750 CRISTAL ARGUARDIENTE Brandy	<b>10<sup>99</sup></b>
1.75L CHRISTIAN BROS. Brandy	<b>14<sup>99</sup></b>
750 HENNESSY VS Cognac	<b>19<sup>99</sup></b>
750 COURVOISIER VSOP Cognac	<b>28<sup>99</sup></b>

### GIFT SET SPECIALS

REMY MARTIN VSOP Glass Set	<b>29<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml	BOLLA 4 Bottle Wood Set	<b>24<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
KAHLUA Mug Set	<b>12<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml	CORVO 2 Bottle Set	<b>11<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml
SAMBUCANA ROMANA 2 Bottle Glass Set	<b>16<sup>99</sup></b> 375 ml	DRAMBUIE Glass Set	<b>22<sup>99</sup></b> 750 ml

### VERMOUTH

1L CINZANO VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry	<b>4<sup>99</sup></b>
1L NOILLY PRAT VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry	<b>4<sup>99</sup></b>
3L G & D VERMOUTH Sweet • Dry	<b>7<sup>99</sup></b>

### SODA

24-12 oz. Cans COKE • SPRITE • DIET COKE	<b>6<sup>99</sup></b>
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# Commentary

## Holiday search

Look hard, and you'll find the joy of the season

Where's the holiday cheer, the joy of the season? Factions in Edison grapple over the fate of needed renovation of the schools. The board minority and its supporters in Metuchen exchange barbs and bicker with the board majority and its allies. Edison Mayor George Spadaro remains locked in battle with township unions. More teenagers are charged in a vicious assault on another student. And the litany of negativity continues.

Yet the joy of the season, where the traditions of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa converge, hasn't disappeared. It can be found among our youth, particularly within their schools, and within volunteers and kind hearts of all ages.

It's in Metuchen High School's Community Service Club, which made it a December to remember for 50 residents of Roosevelt Hospital on Tuesday. Students from the club delivered donated gifts, decorated rooms and provided entertainment for residents.

It's in school officials like John Marshall Elementary School Principal Gerald Young, who, supplemented by the Rotary Club and township businesses, continues to run an annual coat drive throughout the school district for adults and children. It's also in students at the elementary school, who have said they want to help needy residents stay warm this winter.

It's in the sounds of the various holiday concerts hosted at local schools, and in the performance of the Edison String Players at Menlo Park Mall, playing classical music of the greats with the skill it deserves.

It's in the gift baskets and holiday cards made by students throughout Metuchen and Edison, who have brought holiday cheer to many. It's in the hope that nurturing our children's compassion for the less fortunate will help create a kinder society.

It's in the toy drive held by children's advocate Heather O'Neil, who collected new toys and gifts for abused and neglected children up until last Sunday.

It's in the many other acts of compassion and joyfulness, too many to mention, that brighten up our lives and cheer our neighbors.

There are too many positive things worthy of celebration to let Grinches keep a dark cloud over the joy of the season.

## How to get the most from The Metuchen-Edison Review

The Metuchen-Edison Review invites readers to get involved with your local newspaper by calling or writing to let us know what you think is newsworthy. Our staff is always eager to hear your opinions, suggestions and comments.

If you have a news tip, or would like to get some publicity for a coming event, call editor Dave Block at 722-3000, Ext. 6310, or reporter Vera Carley at Ext. 6321.

The deadline for news releases for publication in the following two issues is 5 p.m. Friday. You can mail them to The Review, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, fax to 526-2509, or send E-mail to fornews@cnj.digex.net.

### LETTERS

For the next two weeks, letters should be sent to the above address by 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's paper.

Letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number for verification purposes. An evening number is also helpful.

We prefer letters to be typed and double-spaced. If it is not possible to type a letter, please print neatly. Because of the chance of misinterpretation, we reserve the right not to accept letters that are handwritten in cursive.

We reserve the right to edit letters for matters of libel, clarity, fairness and space. We also reserve the right to reject letters if they do not meet this letter policy.

### CORRECTIONS

Our goal is to provide accurate and fair reporting. To comment on coverage or report errors, call the editor. Corrections will run in this space.

Last week's Review should have indicated that food boxes were donated and cards shared by all students at James Madison Primary School, not just those in the English as a Second Language program.

### COMMUNITY EVENTS

When submitting information on a coming event, include the name and phone number of a contact person. We must receive the information by 5 p.m. Tuesday for it to make that week's edition.

## THE REVIEW

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### Letters to the editor

## Upgrade the bond committee

### To The Review:

Now that some of the Edison residents (where were the rest of you) have come forward and voiced their opinion on the latest attempt at a school bonding issue, isn't it time to get down to what we can afford and how best to get this done?

Again, I may not be as smart as the suit salesman or his hand-picked "all or nothing" committee, but since this bonding has to do with construction and repair of the buildings, why haven't you thought about formulating a new committee, this time appointing residents that have had experience in the construction field, along with residents who know what amount the residents can afford and live with?

We all know that the buildings have to be repaired, but here we go again trying to stuff it down the throat of the resident, do-as-we-say or all-or-nothing approach. It will never get approved by this method. When will David Dickenson and his inner circle of advisers learn this?

This time let's get the Middlesex County Building Trades Council involved on this committee, along with residents who have the background and can get the job done as cost-effectively as possible. If you do not have the background in the field, you'll come up every time with the outrageous numbers; as was done with this past defeated bond issue.

We residents know this job has to be done, so let's do it with people who can help do it properly, at a cost that will be looked at and after talking about the priorities of the needed work to be done, get it done. Of course we'll need to get the school board to appoint this new "upgrade for today, build for the future" committee ASAP!

STEVE R. SEHEIN  
Edison

## Help move the library forward

### To The Review:

I am the grandson of Dora Engel, one of the founding members of our present Edison library system. My grandmother walked what was then Raritan Township in 1926 and helped collect 246 books which were used to form the Public Library Association. This association is recognized as the beginning of our present-day library system. She started the library in a Woodbridge Avenue rented storefront, and later as a trustee continued with the same vigor as they built the main library, North Edison and Clara Barton branches, and added the services of the popular Bookmobile. In her later years, she continued to support the various expansions and when she could no longer attend the trustee meetings due to her health, she was overcome with pride to learn she was to be honored as a trustee emeritus by then-Mayor Tony Yelencsics. Her satisfaction was complete when the new children's library expansion in the main branch was dedicated as the Dora Engel Children's Library.

Now the library board has announced plans for expansion to the Clara Barton branch. While these plans include much-needed off-street parking, even more exciting is the inclusion of technology and increased services. The expansion of this branch is necessary and long overdue, and more importantly, will be completed at no additional cost to the taxpayer.

I was fortunate enough to be able to attend the dedications when the main and North Edison branches were expanded. I look forward to also attending the groundbreaking at Clara Barton. It is only fitting that these residents enjoy the same library services as the other branches. 1996 marks the 70th year of our fine library system. Let's keep moving forward in the right direction as we approach the 21st century.

ROBERT JULIUS ENGEL  
Edison

### Letters to the editor

## Technology education aids liberty

### To The Review:

In his letter which you published in your Dec. 13 edition, Mr. Sondergard accuses me of:

1. Being a communist;
2. Fabricating a myth of unequal access to technology;
3. Threatening individual liberty and property rights by advocating technology in the schools.

Each accusation is more false than the other.

To compete effectively with the European Community and Pacific Rim countries, we need a well-educated, technologically sophisticated work force. The demand for qualified software developers and other advanced knowledge workers exceeds the supply. Already, American software developers import workers or send jobs overseas because our schools do not prepare enough students to fill the demand. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, this shortage will worsen. If our schools do not offer a strong education in technology, as Mr. Sondergard appears to wish, our children, our town, and our country will decline.

Technology education actually enhances individual liberty and property rights. Liberty thrives on free and equitable access to information and withers when access to information is restricted. Our founders knew this when they framed our First Amendment guarantee of a free press. Once you learn how, you can publish on the Internet for pennies a day. This can make the press far more free than the framers ever imagined, provided we learn to use it. If we restrict on-line access to a privileged few, information will become a tool for tyranny.

Unequal access to technology arrived in Metuchen years ago. Its consequences are now well established in our town. District officials noticed them over five years ago; students from families having computers and on-line access learn more and achieve higher grades than those who must go without. The achievement gap appears in the early grades, and widens as the students advance through high school. Those left behind in the early grades seldom catch up. As employers demand better and better educated workers (according to a 1995 study published by the U.S. Department of Labor, even factory workers need to have two years of training in computers), those who pull ahead prosper. Those who fall behind, stay behind. Unless our schools offer effective training and technology, many of our students will lose opportunities for better lives and our country will lose lifetimes of labor.

"People vote with their feet. If Metuchen remains desirable, the people who want to move in will bid up property values. If our schools fall behind, fewer families will want to move here. This threatens the property rights of all Metuchen homeowners.

Our children's prospects and our country's fate are far more important than the recent despicable spate of name calling and red baiting. Our country's prestige, power and prosperity hang in the balance. We have two choices: We face the challenge squarely and prevail, as we did after Pearl Harbor and Sputnik, or we concede and slink away.

ERIC MINTZ  
Metuchen

This letter was received via the Internet.

## Join together, support the schools

### To The Review:

I am writing this on the afternoon of the Edison bond referendum vote, Tuesday, Dec. 10. My younger daughter has the flu and I am house bound doing some baking for our PTO "Referendum Bake Sale." I will vote tonight when my husband returns home.

I have been feeling disgusted and disappointed since I learned that the "no vote" side has been ripping down our "yes vote" signs placed around town. While acts such as these may be carried out by isolated individuals, I believe that they are indicative of the self-centered positions taken by many of the anti-bond constituency. The rhetoric produced by the anti-bond side left me with no option but to believe that they are only concerned with themselves and their own pocketbooks. I shouldn't be surprised though. This is the feeling around this country. People are turned inward — looking only at what concerns themselves.

In many of our schools, roofs are leaking, student class size is overwhelming, ventilation, lighting and heating systems are archaic, children are eating lunch at their desks. Tell me — would you stand for this in your work environment? These problems will not dis-

appear by themselves. A quality education costs money! But my concerns runs deeper than the immediate needs associated with this bond. I am also concerned with the need for greater parental involvement in the schools, and the apathetic attitude of some parents. Please, open your eyes and look out into the world. Look upon our children, the future of this country. We must learn to care about what is happening around us.

I don't at this point know what the outcome of the referendum vote will be, but I hope that for at least some of us it becomes a starting point for greater involvement. We must wake up and make a difference in our communities. We must take action and do our part to improve education and provide a better future for our children.

If the bond referendum gets voted down, I hope that those of you who voted against it will reconsider and join in supporting our schools. We all have a stake in this. Our children — our future!

SUZANNE KALISH  
Edison

This letter was received via the Internet.

## Girl Scout carolers collect food

### To The Review:

Metuchen Girl Scout Troop 1675 graced many doorsteps this past week singing Christmas carols for the residents along Main Street. Carolers Jennifer Pretyka, Annie Spector, Dianne Volkland, Kelly Morris, Katie O'Neill, Shannon Ruegger, Kendall Black, Mary Kate Brennan, Claire Maikowski and Tressa Van Cise collected food from the homeowners they visited. The response was tremendous. The food was donated to

the Metuchen food bank. We thank you all for your generous contributions.

We are very proud of you girls.

LINDA PRETYKA  
DIANE SPECTOR  
Metuchen

The writers are troop leaders with Girl Scout Troop 1675.

## Look past the man in the red suit

### To The Review:

Christmas is the time for getting and giving presents, but the greatest present ever given was the gift of God of a savior for all of us sinners. My favorite verse in all the Bible explains that so well in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one

and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

This Christmas look past the pretty lights and the fat man in the red suit. Give thanks for the birth of our savior. Happy birthday Jesus!

MARTIN A. "Skip" JESSEN  
Edison

Letters to the editor

Libraries need adequate funding

To The Review:

As far back as I can remember, the Edison library system was only given the minimum amount of funds as required by the state. Despite the mayor's claim to the contrary, the only time the library was given any additional funding, it was given to them by the previous council. That extra funding, for the first time, allowed the library system to attempt to bring

its standards into the '90s.

Despite the tight constraints put on the library board, I must applaud them for their efforts to bring our citizens such a high level of services. I urge the current council to fund the libraries adequately so they can continue to increase the services needed to keep up with today's standards.

Theresa Rizzi Edison

Sorry to see red baiting in letters

To The Review:

How sad to see red baiting in the pages of The Review (Dec. 13 letter from Byron Sondergard) as an argument against the school technology initiative.

Question: Do I live in a town in which so blatantly hateful a statement as this will win converts to the writer's opinion on the technology initiative? Question: Does The Review interpret the First Amendment as requiring it to publish any arrant nonsense the mail brings?

Question: Can there be anyone in Metuchen who, particularly after reading Mr. Sondergard's letter, still does not suspect that much of the leading opposition to the technology initiative is based solely on personal animosity toward some of the initiative's more vocal

supporters?

Question: Why do Mr. Sondergard and others not feel that improving so visible and measurable an area as school technology infrastructure would raise the value of their property many times more than the taxes necessary to pay for it?

Question: Why do I find it necessary to appeal to personal financial motives for support for a measure that would greatly improve the quality of education available in our schools? This one has an answer: Maybe because if I pay insufficient attention to such motives I will be called a Marxist.

Larry Golbe Metuchen

This letter was received via the Internet.

Clean up the bond committee

To The Review:

Dennis Pipala and his hand-picked committee succeeded in getting their message out to all the Edison residents all right, but it wasn't the one we wanted to hear. This type of all-or-nothing, do-it-my-way-or-else sure reminds us who appointed the individuals, the now-replaced Melindo Persi and very-soon-to-be-replaced President David Dickenson and Nanci Gulya, who should have voted against this outrageous bond issue when it came to a vote before the Board of Education.

We now need to appoint a committee, who will sit down with a group of knowledgeable Edison residents, and members of the Board of Education and find a common-ground amount that we can present to the people of Edison, not by strong-arm methods used by the hopefully soon-to-be-dismissed committee, but an amount that will do the most needed repairs and cleanup needed and stand on its own

merit, and be approved by the taxpayers of Edison!

We need a committee that has the necessary background and education in the related building field, not those in the suit industry or in office procedures. I'm sure there are those kind of people out there who would and could do a better job than what was done by this "all or nothing" committee. You can be sure I'll listen to the Edison residents when the elections are over and I have won a seat on our Board of Education. Your votes during this past bond referendum have shown that we Edison residents will have our say, and not be dictated to. It's our given right!

We want another committee appointed that will not laugh at the concerned taxpayers when we ask questions, a committee that knows what the majority of the residents can and will be able to afford. This present "all or nothing" committee should and must be dismissed.

Frank Grammatica Edison

Attack on Mintz was misleading

To The Review:

In his letter to the editor (Dec. 13) Byron Sondergard's comparison of Eric Mintz's statements concerning the unequal distribution of technology in our society to a line from Marx and Engel's pamphlet, "The Communist Manifesto," was misleading and demagogic.

A careful reading of Mr. Mintz's letter to the editor (Dec. 6) presents the argument that technology is most available to those students whose parents have access to it at work. It should not be too surprising that families with strong scientific and technological preparation pass their knowledge, and respect of it, onto their children. Indeed, in knowledge there is strength.

However, to infer from his statements anything remotely related to Marx's utopian vision of "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs" is a misuse of language in argument; a form of

fallacy of irrelevance at best.

At the current time, our educational system is at a crossroad, at a point in its development where it must choose to either follow the path of educational technology or settle on the tools and methods of the past. If our students are to become more productive and competitive in our technology-intensive economy, then it is our responsibility as parents and citizens to afford them that opportunity.

Mr. Sondergard does great disservice to our community by his attacks on public education and technology. He may well profit from a review of the history of science. Perhaps he may become convinced that early American science and ingenuity helped forge our nation into a self-sustained and productive republic.

Alfred M. Barron Metuchen

This letter was received via the Internet.

Moskowitz, Vahalla recap year

To The Review:

The closing days of 1996 give rise to many positive thoughts.

First, we thank the voters of Metuchen who put us back in office, affirming their trust that we will continue to work hard for all the residents of our community.

Next, we joyfully state our pride in the recovery of our bustling downtown site which showcased a spectacular country fair, Chamber of Commerce retrospective, many antique car shows and other visitor-filled events.

We recall the swift and steady snow removal necessitated by a severe winter matched, of course, by the careful monthly recycling program which has affirmed Metuchen's high county status in environmental issues.

We review the zero tax increase of the municipal budget, realizing the assistance given by all the employees, managers and taxpayers of Metuchen. We promise the same careful adjudication for all future budget considerations.

In particular, we applaud the new land use ordinance, Franklyn School site RFP (request for proposal) and town center petition, ordinances unanimously supported by the council, mayor and public each, created as a new, useful development tool for our town. We thank everyone for the support you've given us and we wish all a happy holiday and healthy, prosperous new year.

Beatrice Moskowitz Tom Vahalla Members, Metuchen Borough Council

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Thanks to emergency personnel

To The Review:

I am writing this letter to thank all of the emergency personnel involved in a medical crisis at the complex that I manage and work at on Tuesday, Dec. 10.

Upon finding one of my tenants unconscious in her apartment, I had cause to call 911. The Edison police were here within two minutes and did what they could. They needed additional equipment and because we are located across the street from the firehouse, they responded immediately when they were contacted and literally ran across Route 27. Within an additional few minutes Mercy 9, an ambulance and EMT (emergency medical technicians) were on the scene. Unfortunately, my friend and tenant did not make it.

I have to give my most heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the compassion and caring that everyone involved in handling the situation gave to us. The most difficult task was that her 13-year-old daughter was with us when we gained access to the apartment and had to be told that her mother had died. We

could not wait until her father got there because he was coming from a distance and felt she might need medical attention herself upon hearing the news. The Mercy 9 gentleman and the EMT gentleman (whose names I did not get) had the task of telling her. The two gentlemen handled the situation with such caring, kindness and compassion and comforted her way above and beyond the call of their job. From the firemen, EMT and Edison police officers who responded they all made it their business to give her comforting words and make sure myself and two of my other tenants who were with me were OK.

These men did their job and more. Unfortunately, the public hears about the poor job they are doing. Well, I want the public to know about the great job they did and that what they did was above and beyond the call of duty.

A final thank you to everyone involved in our emergency services.

Barbara Sabatie Edison

Labasi makes alternate proposal

To The Review:

For the third time, Edison voters have rejected a school bond referendum. We can debate the reasons for the latest defeat, but I believe it comes down to the general public, including many young parents of school-age children, not being able to afford the \$37 million bill that would have been imposed upon homeowners in Edison. Whatever the reasons, no one has come up with a way to solve the need to repair and expand the school facilities.

As one of four Board of Education members who knew the bond was too high and voted "no" to the proposal, I don't have a magic answer. Along with the other Board of Education members, I recognize that there are essential repairs and limited classroom expansion that is required. It does no good for me or others to look for a scapegoat as to why the physical plant has been allowed to deteriorate or why uncontrolled development has led to increased student enrollment. My responsibility is simply to find the best possible solution to the problem. Here is a scenario to consider.

First, I believe the repair problem can be addressed in part by the inclusion of the comprehensive repair and maintenance plan as a line item in the budget. This plan totals over \$3 million through the school year 2001-01. For next year, this line item totals \$951,635. The Board of Education has also asked the administration for an additional \$500,000 line dedicated to capital projects in next year's budget. We also were told that based upon reserve fund projections for next year, the Board of Education can count on \$4 million in surplus, and I believe that at least \$1 million can be appropriated from this surplus to begin repair of our roofs. So if the voters approve the next budget, there could be at least \$2.5 million available for some repairs and capital projects. Thus, we have seed money to begin addressing the most urgent needs. But this will not address the need for more class space.

This problem will be addressed by determining what classroom expansion is needed. For next year, the increase in student enrollment will be about 90, which is less than originally estimated. This is due to the change in the kindergarten entry age. However, notwithstanding the good news, we also know that classes in kindergarten-fifth

grade are already too large. So some additional space is needed. Once a realistic space estimate is determined, a bond proposal can be formulated because there are not enough funds in the budget to cover all needed classrooms, plus repairs, roofs and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

But this bond would be substantially lower than the \$37.1 million figure which failed. It would be bare-bones with no cosmetic improvements, painting, driveways or concrete repairs. Cosmetic items would be addressed after all essential repairs and construction is completed. Cafeteriums would also not be included, thus saving \$10.3 million. At least another \$4.5 million in unessential items could be cut from the bond. These were identified previously. ADA would also be reduced to a reasonable figure. Classroom construction would be scaled back given realistic enrollment projections. Every remaining item would be examined closely for its value.

The result could be a bond substantially less than the last proposal. I believe that the approach I suggest will be understood by Edison residents as honest and sincere on the part of the Board of Education. To do this we must also include on any citizens' committee that may be formed, those people

who were systematically excluded from the previous committee. This means citizen activists, senior citizens and parents from both ends of Edison, as well as any Edison staff member who wants to participate. More importantly, the Board of Education must not shirk its responsibility by handing over its responsibilities to a hand-picked committee. Any future committee must not be allowed to become an unelected mini-Board of Education.

All of these ideas may not work. The numbers may change. This may be seized upon by potential Board of Education candidates and used as a political football. Some parents will adopt an all-or-nothing attitude once more. Whatever happens, the problems with our school facilities will remain and well-intended people will continue to strive for a solution.

I hope this Board of Education, and its president, will assume leadership in this matter. The acting superintendent has demonstrated that he is willing to work with the Board of Education. We should all try to set aside animosities and work together to solve this problem with a reasonable solution which is acceptable to a majority of Edison residents.

Philip G. Labasi Member, Edison Board of Education

More letters on page A-8

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Letters to the editor

# Substitute turnover is non-issue

To The Review:

Last week, Charles Barker wrote to express concern about turnover among substitute teachers in Metuchen. Mr. Barker, a member and spokesperson for Taxpayers for Reasonable Educational Expenditures (TREE), calls upon the organization of which I am President, Citizens for Quality Education (CQE), to take on this situation, which my group feels is a non-issue.

In the first place, it would be worthwhile to remember CQE's mission. It is to promote quality public education in Metuchen. We care about what students learn, how they learn and how well they learn. As all organizations must, we have set our priorities. We have chosen to volunteer in classrooms and libraries, and work with parent and teacher groups. We are a source of information to those who care about Metuchen's children and their future. We do challenge the Board of Education when necessary, and when we have something constructive to offer. We have challenged the board on the absence of any meaningful number of parents on the Curriculum Review Committee, the failure to move ahead on any capital improvement referendum, the reduction in the number of public meetings and the chilling call for no public input at open conference meetings by a board member, the failure to adequately address technology issues and the delays in responding to the ILT proposal. Our recent programs for the community in general include a forum on college admissions, co-sponsored with the PTO; a program on Whole Language in the lower grades; "Take Your Children on the Internet Day" and "Seniors on the Net Day," co-sponsored with the Metuchen Public Library; and our recently announced \$1,000 scholarship for the best research paper by a graduating senior.

In his letter, Mr. Barker insinuates that our school district is to blame for frequent movement of substitutes. However, high turnover rates are the rule, rather than the exception, for substitutes. Many substitutes are new teachers who are looking for permanent placement and working per diem only until they can find a steady position. Sometimes, substitutes are teachers who left work to have families and who return once their children are a little more independent. Often, these substitutes are more interested in having a flexible schedule than in regular substitution work.

I don't know how well Metuchen pays its substitutes relative to other school districts. Presumably substitutes will choose to work for the highest pay, the same as anyone else. If Mr. Barker is so concerned, he may want to inquire about raising the salaries of our substitutes. As a rule, our district seeks per diem workers who are professional teachers rather than professional substitutes. This type of substitute will try to impress the school administration with his or her ability, in order to secure a good reference or even a permanent job. Naturally enough, these substitutes perform well for our children and move on to more permanent jobs. The last thing we should want for our children are amateurs willing to spend years in a part-time job — place holders for absent teachers.

CQE is continually assessing the many situations that arise in our district and monitoring the quality of our schools, and we feel that there are enough real issues in our town — substitute turnover is not one of them.

RACHEL GOLDSTEIN

President, Citizens for Quality Education

This letter was received via the Internet.

# Boro commits to town-center attempt

By DANA S. SARTAIN  
REVIEW CORRESPONDENT

METUCHEN — Residents are one step closer to experiencing the benefits of living in a "town center."

At the Borough Council meeting Monday night, council members decided to proceed with their application for town center designation. The completed petition, prepared by Community Planning & Research, will be submitted to the state Planning Commission. If approved, Metuchen may gain town center status as early as the first quarter of next year.

Downtown Planner Jim Constantine outlined some of the benefits of town center status.

"The state DOT is extra receptive to funding requests from town centers," said Mr. Constantine. He went on to explain that because

Metuchen must accommodate so much "through traffic" from Edison, the funds would come in handy to improve driving conditions on borough roads.

The petition states that "Metuchen anticipates working with Edison Township, the Office of State Planning, and the NJ DOT to resolve problems of regional concern at the Middlesex Ave./Lake Ave./Central Ave. intersection of Route 27."

According to a summary of guidelines detailed in the petition, a municipality seeking a town center designation should have a total area of less than 2 square miles, and a population of between 1,000-10,000. Metuchen has an area of 2.8 square miles, and a population of 12,804. Employment criteria have been met, but the guideline for dwelling units has been exceeded by more than 1,000.

Mr. Constantine said that overall, Metuchen is a perfect example of what a town should be, and he expects the Planning Commission to approve Metuchen's request for town center status.

According to Mayor Ed O'Brien, the town center designation would work hand in hand with the recently adopted Change of Use Ordinance, which focuses on the revitalization of Main Street by making downtown Metuchen more "business-friendly."

As a town center, Metuchen would also have access to special funds for "nonconventional improvements," projects that would not be funded otherwise.

According to Mr. Constantine, there is no down-side to Metuchen obtaining town center status.

"It is truly a win-win situation," said Councilwoman Beatrice Moskowitz.

# Both should frequent the library

To The Review:

I read with distress the recent article concerning the impending cuts to the Edison Township library system budget, as set forth in Mayor George Spadaro's 1996-97 fiscal year budget. Furthermore, during discussion of this topic at the Township Council meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11, Clara Barton resident Eleanore Both stated that she never uses the Clara Barton library and the town should close it altogether. Alarm bells should sound all over town. Not only has

Mrs. Both run unsuccessfully for school board herself in the past, but her husband Joe is currently a sitting board member! Is this the type of non-education-minded individuals we want influencing our youth? After being forced to listen to Mrs. Both's opinions'ad nauseum over the years, I can only conclude her time would be better spent using the library!

SYLVIA ENGEL  
Republican Party  
Municipal Chairwoman  
Edison



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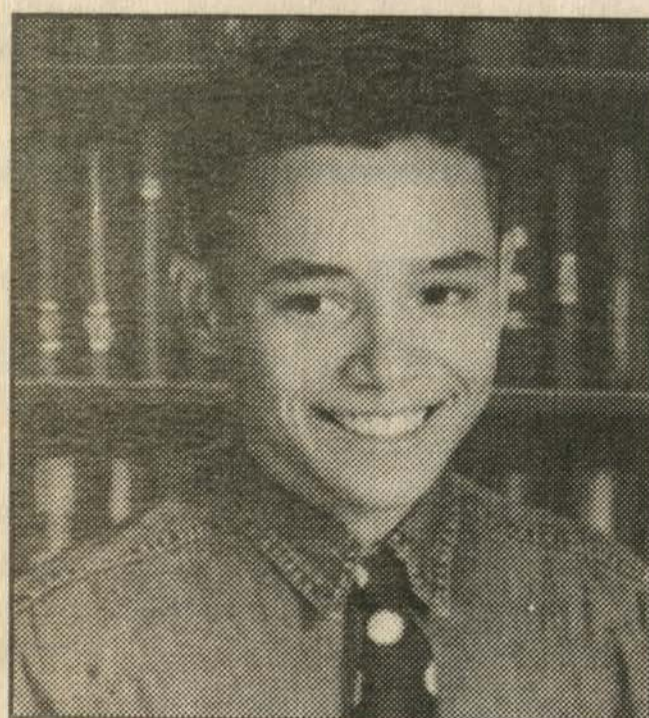
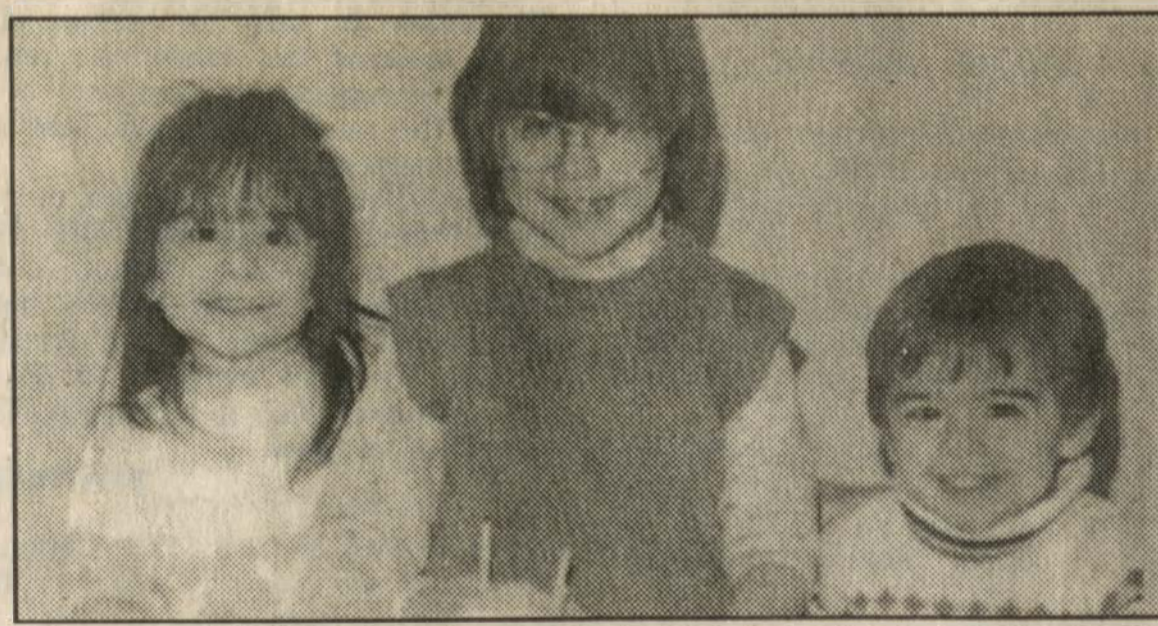


# Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk.

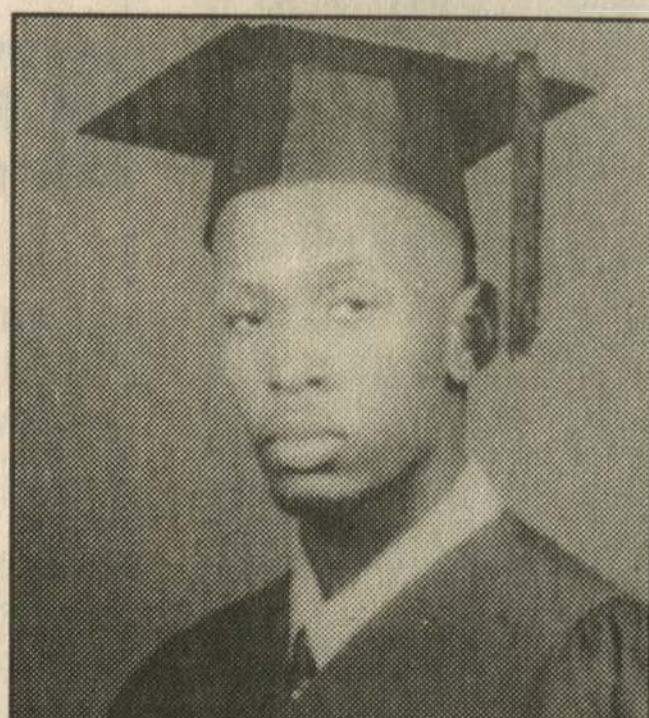
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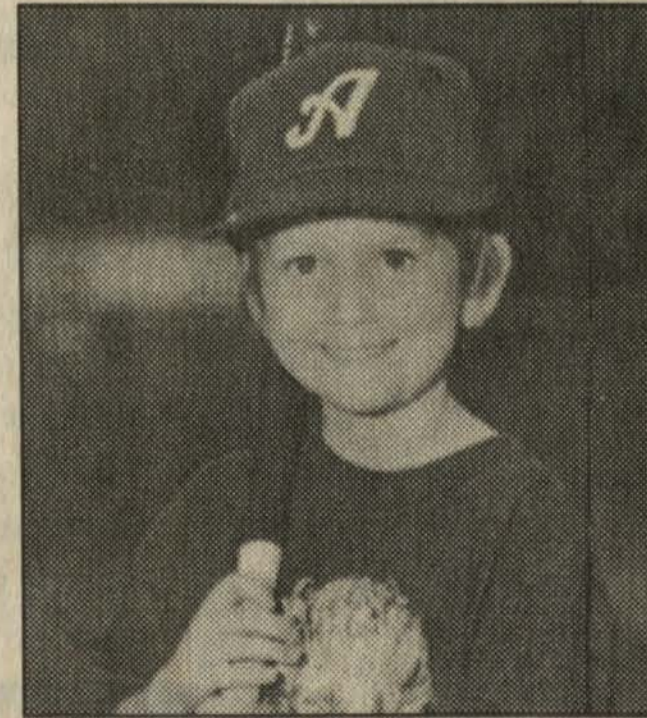
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# Edison board opposes proposed charter schools

By VERA CARLEY  
THE REVIEW

EDISON — Citing their potential financial impact on the school district and questions about their operations, the Board of Education formally opposed two proposals to start charter schools in the Edison area last week.

Managed by a board of trustees, charter schools are public schools free of most state, school district, and union regulations.

Charter schools do not charge tuition like private or parochial schools. They are funded by state and local taxes, receiving 90 percent of the per-pupil expenditure of the student's resident district. Supplemental funding can also be solicited from private sources.

Assistant Superintendent of Schools Robert Ranta said the board opposed the applications of the Red Oak and Greater Brunswick charter schools for a myriad of reasons, including the financial impact on school funding, a duplication of educational offerings, admissions policies that would create a student body not representative of the community, and the need for accountability to taxpayers.

"There were many unanswered questions," board member Gwynne Kesselman said. "They came, they spoke, but the questions that were asked we never got an answer to. They don't even have a building. Neither one has a building to begin."

Bruce Levin, a member of the Red Oak Charter School Founding Coalition, said it would be premature for the organization to make a commitment on a location prior to

being issued a charter. He expressed disappointment about the board's decision, saying parents should have multiple school choices for their children.

The board's concerns are unfounded, he added. Addressing the issue of financial impact, he said charter schools would mean many fewer students that the Edison school district would have to educate.

Board member Philip Labasi disagreed, saying the \$3 million lost over a five-year period would not be balanced out by a reduction in costs.

"We just couldn't handle a \$3

million reduction, particularly in view of reduction in state aid," Mr. Labasi said.

School officials have argued that some charter school students would come from the ranks of private schools, while others would come from different public school classrooms, not totaling enough to allow for a reduction in staffing or other services.

Mr. Labasi said he also objected to the plan because the schools' curriculum offerings would not improve on the education already being offered township students and could exclude students they don't want.

"These schools are meant to be

*'The students and the parents are the customers of our school. We have to hold a very high standard to keep parents satisfied.'*

— Bruce Levin  
Charter school organizer

elitist and exclusionary and only for a limited number of people and with no demonstrated improvement over what's being offered to the Edison public school system," he said.

Board member Felton King said the charter schools would remove funding and the best and brightest students from the public schools.

"I think we have to give public schools a chance," he said at the Dec. 12 board meeting.

But according to Red Oak officials, admission would be open to all students on a non-discriminatory basis in Edison first. If more than 110 students apply

during the school's first year, when it would provide education for kindergarten through second grade, a lottery would be held, which Mr. Levin said would ensure diversity. The charter school, Mr. Levin said, expects to attract more than 110 children.

Mr. Labasi said charter schools have their place in communities that fall far below normal standards, like inner cities, the South and the Midwest.

"It is trying to cure a problem that doesn't exist. We have a high-quality system in Edison," he said.

Mr. Levin said charter schools aren't only about providing a high-level education.

"It is about educating students in innovative and inspiring ways. We want to excite the students about our educational process," Mr. Levin said. "We believe our school design will do that."

He said the educational program would also be significantly different from what is offered in Edison. Red Oak Charter School intends to offer a carefully and methodically designed core curriculum, he explained. For example, foreign languages would be offered in kindergarten classes.

The Federalist Center, a non-profit organization of New Jersey, has designed the curriculum.

"They are providing uncompensated assistance for assisting and promoting the charter school concept," he said. "They are professional educators and we are relying on their expertise to correctly implement their design that they have created."

Mr. Levin said the school has to meet or exceed all applicable school standards.

"The students and the parents are the customers of our school," he said. "We have to hold a very high standard to keep parents satisfied."

At last week's board meeting, Ethics Board member Burton Gimelstob said charter schools would be the death knell for public schools by siphoning off needed funds.

"Shaping the minds of future generations should not be about making money," Mr. Gimelstob explained later.

The board's decision will be

taken into consideration by the state Department of Education Commissioner Leo Klagholz. Dalia Georgedes, director of the Office of Innovative Programs, said that information along with the criteria outlined in the charter schools' applications will be reviewed before a final decision is made.

According to state Department of Education spokesman Richard Vespucci, Commissioner of Edu-

cation Leo Klagholz is expected to make the decisions on charter school approvals Jan. 15.

Ms. Georgedes said the Department of Education is still receiving reaction to the 37 charter school applications made throughout the state.

"Not all local boards are in opposition to charter schools. Some local boards do support them," Ms. Georgedes said.

## PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

### PUBLIC NOTICE EDISON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Edison Township Board of Education has set the following schedule for the remainder of the 1997 School Board Meetings. Meetings will be held at J.P. Stevens High School, Grove Avenue, Edison, New Jersey, 08820 or Edison High School, Boulevard of Eagles, Edison, New Jersey 08817.

#### REMAINDER-1997 SCHOOL BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

Thursday -	January 9, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Finance/Personnel Meeting
Thursday -	January 16, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Work Session
Thursday -	January 23, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Monthly Public BOE Meeting
Thursday -	February 13, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	J.P. Stevens High School Finance/Personnel Meeting
Thursday -	February 20, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Edison High School Work Session
Thursday -	February 27, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Monthly Public BOE Meeting
Thursday -	March 13, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Edison High School Finance/Personnel Meeting
Thursday -	March 20, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	J.P. Stevens High School Work Session
Thursday -	March 27, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Monthly Public BOE Meeting
Thursday -	April 10, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	J.P. Stevens High School Finance/Personnel Meeting
Monday -	April 21, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Edison High School Reorganization Meeting
Thursday -	April 24, 1997 - 7:00 P.M.	Monthly Public BOE Meeting

The agenda to the extent known is to discuss any matter that may come to the attention of the Board. Formal action may be taken by the Board.

Daniel P. Michaud, Secretary  
ME181 TT 12-20-96

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

SEALED BIDS will be received from bidders classified under N.J.S.A. 27-7-35.1 et seq. in the Multipurpose Room, First Floor of the Engineering and Operations Building, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, Trenton, New Jersey, until 10:00 a.m. 01/09/97 and opened and read for: RT 287 SEC 2N & 3S RT 95 SEC 10D RAMP CONSTRUCTION, INTERCHANGE IMPROVEMENTS, SIGNALIZATION AT WASHINGTON & RIVER RD EDISON, PISCATAWAY & SOUTH PLAINFIELD MIDDLESEX COUNTY IM-287-1(674) D-199233

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C. 49 C.F.R. Parts 21 and 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or handicap in the contract award.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975, c. 127. Drawings, applications, and bid documents may be inspected or obtained for a fee \$37.00, for full size drawings, at the NJDOT Plans Distribution Building #8 Throckmold CN 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625, during business hours. Names and addresses of prospective bidders for the project may be acquired by telephoning (609) 530-5544 or (609) 530-5545 during business hours. Their fax number is (609) 530-5347.

Drawings, supplementary specifications, and boring logs may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organizations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations: 200 Street Court Mount Arlington, N.J. 201-770-5141 3908 Church Road Mt. Laurel, N.J. 609-866-4963 Route 79 & Daniels Way Freshkill, N.J. 201-306-4025 NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, PROCUREMENT ME 180 3T's 12-20-97, 1-3-96 \$70.50

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# Community Life

## Golden Nuggets SENIORS

### BIL

The Borough Improvement League clubhouse — the Old Franklin School House — is located at 491 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen.

Round Robin Bridge will be held 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8. The BIL board will meet 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8.

The first meeting for 1997 will be held 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. Delaware-Raritan Girl Scout President Ruth McDonald will speak. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.

For more information about the BIL, call Louise De Courcy at 549-4919 or Lenoir Stewart at 548-9474.

### JCC Senior Adult Club

The Senior Adult Club of the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County is located at 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison.

The following programs are planned:

• Dec. 30: Trip to Atlantic City. Bus leaves JCC at 8:45 a.m. Cost is \$13 per person.

Senior Adult Director Sue Horwitz and Assistant Director Thelma Purdy are planning new programs for next year. Call 494-3232 for more information.

Call Claire Fishkin, coordinator of Senior Adult Services, at 494-3232 for information on senior services.

### Edison AARP

The Edison Chapter of AARP No. 3446 meets at the Victorian Manor, 2863 Woodbridge Ave. As always, members are asked to bring in canned or packaged food items or toiletries for the county food bank. Community Service Chairwoman Kay McCormack also is asking members to bring in holiday gift items for patients in area hospitals — items such as toiletries, grooming aids, clothing, etc.

For information on the Knitting and Crocheting Club, call Kay at 548-1976.

Dede Jinoch is accepting reservations and payment for the Christmas Dinner Dance set for Monday at Victorian Manor. There will be a full-course dinner with music and dancing to follow. This will replace the regular meeting and tickets must be purchased in advance. More details will be given at the meeting.

Vice President Helen Rader is planning the following trip:

• Jan. 19-24: Paradise Island in the Bahamas.

Buses for all trips leave from the Annex of our Lady of Peace in Fords. For more information, call Ms. Rader at 738-7441.

### Metuchen AARP

Metuchen AARP Chapter No. 3208 meets 1:15 p.m. the second Monday of each month at Reformed Church of Metuchen, 150 Lake Avenue.

The Tour Committee has prepared the following trips:

• Feb. 14: Bus trip to see comedy *Wally's Cafe* at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Cost is \$39.50 per person, including transportation and meal. Menu is fried shrimp and scallops, Yankee pot roast, catch of the day, stuffed breast of chicken. Bus will leave Reformed Church 10:15 a.m. and return about 4:30 p.m. For tickets, send a check (payable to Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP) plus a note with your name, address, phone number and luncheon choice to Felonise Kelley.

• March 18: Bus trip to Mount Haven in the Pocono Mountains. Cost is \$38 per person, including transportation, breakfast buffet, activities all day, dinner choice of corned beef and cabbage or Chef's Irish Chicken, four-hour open bar and an Irish show. Bus will leave Reformed Church 8:30 a.m. and return about 6 p.m. For tickets, mail a check (payable to Metuchen Chapter 3208, AARP) plus a note with your name, address, phone number and luncheon choice to Marie Kolwicz, 2 Ethel Place, Metuchen, 08840. For details, call 548-0137.

### Senior Citizen Commission

The Metuchen Senior Center, 15 Center Street, offers trips and activities for anyone 60 years old and older.

A podiatrist will provide routine foot care 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 20 and 27. The cost is \$10 for those with Medicare coverage. Appointments are necessary and may be made by calling 632-8524.

A chess club meets 10 a.m. every Friday and is open to anyone who enjoys playing.

Bingo takes place every Monday and Thursday from 10 a.m.-noon.

Recreational contract bridge is offered at the center 1 p.m. every Wednesday. Players of all levels welcome.

Ceramics instruction is offered 10 a.m. every Monday.

A free senior exercise class is held 10-11 a.m. every Tuesday and Thursday.

For more information, call Alice Fleming at 632-8524.

### Edison Senior Services

The Edison Township Division of Senior Citizen Services, 2963 Woodbridge Ave., offers programs, seminars and activities related to issues of concern to township seniors.

For more information, call Tracy Gray 9 a.m.-5 p.m. weekdays at 248-7345.

### Horainu

Horainu is Temple Neve Shalom's social club for senior citizens. For more information, call Zeldia Sandler at 549-7418.

## Wardlaw-Hartridge lists local honor roll students

EDISON — The Wardlaw-Hartridge School has announced its honor roll for the first marking period. Students on the roll maintained a B-plus or more average.

Edison students were: Grade 6, Stephanie Fields, Samantha Genuso, Adriana Lombardi, Laura Lombardi, Raj Patel, Roshni Patel, Laura Victor, Brittany Walker; grade 7, Chip Bonk, Rahul Patel; grade 8, Chris Lombardi, Kevin Park; grade 9, Lauren Krulik, Khalid Latif, Raghav Murthy,

Edward Tan, Jacquelin Vargas; grade 10 Tara Binetti, Nina Sharma; grade 11, Munish Bakshi, Bryan Bonk, Girish Karnani, Parth Sharma; grade 12, Stephanie Co, Kiran Guthikonda, Jeremy Kenney, Aliya Latif, Oscar Linares, Marissa Owsianik, Michelle Rudnitzky.

Metuchen students were Lauren Bowers in grade 9; Sarah Kovach-Orr in grade 10; Martin Lessmeister, grade 11; and Thomas Sobel, grade 12.

## Pizza pleasures delight students

### Culinary Cultural Club conducts a hands-on study of food

By VERA CARLEY

THE REVIEW

METUCHEN — Edgar School students were rolling in dough at Main Street Trattoria on Monday.

Members of the Culinary Culture Club prepared their own pizza at Metuchen's newest restaurant as part of the group's study of early civilization food.

Club adviser Elaine Goldstein explained the pizza was part of the group's focus on Italy.

"You can learn more about a culture by learning about the food, the clothing and the culture," Ms. Goldstein said.

So far, that philosophy has drawn a lot of interest to the club, which is in its second year at the school.

"We learn about food and where they are from. The best part is eating it," said Francesca Kogan.

The club has also stopped by the Culinary Renaissance for French apple pastries. Although they did not make the desserts, the students got a tour from the owner and saw first hand how the pastries were made.

The only food so far to have gotten mixed reviews was the humus the students made in school. Elizabeth Randolph and Regina Rush said they didn't particularly enjoy the Egyptian fare.

This time, however, both girls seemed to be having a good time. Elizabeth said she loves pizza and enjoys helping cook in her family's kitchen. Regina said she enjoyed throwing up the dough, admittedly just a few inches off the stainless steel counter, and topping it off with cheese.

According to trattoria owner Tom Mezzetti, all the small pizza pies the students made came out well.

"I tell you, all these pies are beautiful," he told the students.

Mr. Mezzetti said he was happy



AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW

Thomas Mezzetti is the latest restaurant owner to host Edgar School's Culinary Cultural Club.

to foster a love for cooking and take time out of his busy schedule to show the students a thing or two about pizza making.

"When I was young somebody taught me, so I kind of like passing it along," he said.

Mr. Mezzetti said he began cooking seriously when he was 22 years old, 15 years ago, after learning in the kitchen with his mom. Now owner of Metuchen's popular trattoria, Mr. Mezzetti said he loves his job as a chef and the opportunities

to meet different people.

One of the club members is already a noted chef. Aram Kachidorian's Armenian pizza earned him second place in ShopRite's Kids in the Kitchen cooking contest from among children 7-10 years old in five states.

"They were rating it on taste and authenticity," Aram said, noting he topped it with onions and peppers, among other things.

Despite his love for cooking, Aram said he has no plans to work

in the kitchen for a living when he grows up.

"I just like to do it in my spare time," he said.

The club baked holiday gingerbread houses Wednesday. Next on the menu: Greek food.

Other students participating in Monday's dough-raising event were: Kaylan Franchak, Angela Guglielmelli, Kristine Covello, Sienna Cocco, Maryellen Collins, Karen Scarfutto, Ellen Mertz, Meredith Fuchs and Megan Donnelly.

## Woodrow Wilson announces honor roll

EDISON — Woodrow Wilson Middle School has issued its honor roll for the first marking period.

Named to the "All A" honor roll:

Grade 8 — Sudha Bahumanyam, Michael Beyer, Ya-Chin Chang, Samantha Choy, Christopher Healey, Jennifer Hsieh, Rebecca Kaplan, Deepak Kumar, Andrea Kung, Anabelle Lee, Amy Linder, Aashdy Lolowang, Hannah Ludwin, Alexandra Oana, Christopher Ramos, Deepthi Rao, Joli Robinson and Yao Yao.

Grade 7 — Prital Kadakia and Samarjeet Wable.

Grade 6 — Jason Chester, Jessica Killian, Anicham Kumarasamy, Won Seok Lee, Rebecca Levine, Vlademir Lisencovey, Dickinson Lolowang, Aparna Rao, Shawn Tejani and Danielle White.

Named to the "A-B" honor roll:

Grade 8 — Yusra Abidi, Emory Adams IV, Nitesh Akhaury, Sonali Amin, Christopher Aurilio, Kimberly Bartus, Anupama Bedi, Oleg M. Bisker, Sung Young Bong, Brian Buonomo, Daniel Burke, Shannon Cadmus, Thomas Caldwell, Eugene Chang, Vaishali Chokshi, Jennifer Chu, Eric Cuzner, Adrienne Darpino, Pankti Dave, Oren Davidian, Robert Diehl, Michael Dondarski, Amanda L. El-sabee, Tse-Seng (Jason) Fan, Jaron Feldman, Diana Finkel, Melissa Fitzpatrick, Jennifer Galbraith, Jennifer Gelfand, Christopher Glowacki, Allison Goldberg, Lindsey Goldstein, Katherine Gonzales, Samantha Gray, Randi Gruber, Karan Gulati, Mukur Hazari, Karen Heinbach, Karon Hush,

Jonathan Kaczynski, Harsha Kalavapalli, Brett Michael Kearns, Gaurav Khosla, Hayan Kim, Jeanna Kim, Tae Wood Kim, Sandra Kirsch, Christine Kowalski, Lev Kreymer, Ida Labao, Hae-Young Lee, Kelvin Li, Brooke A. Lindsey, Shaan Machchhar, Avani Mahiji, Lauren Malinovsky, Gregory Manzi, Sarang Marolia, Phoebe Marulli, Julia Mastrapasqua, Robert McCutcheon, Anne McGreevy, Justin Meisinger, Megha Mody, Samuel A. Moreno, Kwok Tao (David) Ng, Andy Ni, Chintu Patel, Jayesh Patel, Khushboo Patel, Mehul Patel, Shital Patel, Shital Patel, Shital K. Patel, Michael Petrucci, Duyen Pham, Marcella Pugliese, Mohammad Raza, Christopher Riolo, Chelsea Rubenstein, Samir Ruparel, Nadia Saifder, Soumi Saha, Vivek Goriha Sahani, Syed Salahuddin, Denise Santos, Kristin Savulich, Angad Sethi, Bhavik Akshay Shah, Jinal A. Shah, Carolee Solt, Jean Speckin, Damian Suarez, Bayu Suharso, Leslie Thor, Joseph Triola, Sushma Trivedi, Young-Han Tung, Mu (Tom) Tuo, Monica Vazquez, Rachel Wiesner and Tanya Wild.

Grade 7 — Punal Amin, Nilam R. Babaria, Paul A. Bachmann, Tracy Baier, Valerie Bartolini, Lauren Belowich, Robyn Berg, Sara Butler, Stephanie Camp, Marc Cangemi, Emily Chao, Amy Cheng, Enes Cho, Bethany Czeto, Marissa DeJager, Rajas Desai, Daniel Gold-burt, Rama K. Gudi, Brian Healey, Genesis Holland, Courtney Hook, Seth Horvitz, Gaurav Ashok Jani, Jamie Junio, Vyacheslav

Khalamazyer, Robert Kijowski, Seong Bin Kim, Andrew Kitchell, Jessica Kornbluh, Tiffany King, Stefanie Lampf, Krystal Lashley, Scott Lazaruk, Alex Leibowitz, Christine Lenihan, Aleksey Levites, Michael Levy, Stacie Lieberman, Stephanie Lo, Kedar Man-kad, Peter Martini, Maheswari Mistry, Timothy Mitroka, Matthew Monaco, Ann Monasterska, Jeffrey Montgomery, Jason Nacht, Victoria Noginskaya, Arinzechu Nwadiogbu, La'nyia Odoms, Amy Pan, Anjali-ben D. Patel, Avani (Am) Patel, Grishma J. Patel, Jiger Patel, Purvasha Patel, Vaishali Patel, Damien Picault, Natalie N. Pinales, Mayya Polant, Jennifer Poon, Francesca Pugliese, Arshad Rahat, Thomas Raimondo, Kris Rhu, Judd Rosengart, Sheel S. Sanghvi, Elaine Santos, Enrico Saroca, Jeffrey Schiz, Jignasa Shah, Gunjan Sharma, Virendra Sheth, Daniel Silver, Vadim Skibinsky, Laine Smith, Jennifer Snaider, Kristin Speer, Francis Stanislawczyk, Stephen Stetter, Aditya Surendran, Candice Taylor, Wallace Tsoi, Kristin Val-entino, Mikhail Veltman, Danielle Venezia, Michelle Wang, Kevin Yang, Jenner Yeh, Linda Yu and Diyan Zhang.

Grade 6 — Parul Agarwala, Zain Ali, Shama S. Amin, Christina Athas, Robert Bartus, Arvin Batra, Adam Baumgarten, Arthur Biller, Jami M. Bjornstad, Sapna Bolikal, Kaitlin Bonanni, Edward Bong, Cory Michael Brewer, Lisa Broderick, Christina Buonoaro, Benjamin Byun, Elisha Caplan, Raec-laire Capuy, Nicholas Cennamo,

Sukhbir K. Chadda, David Chait, Danielle Y. Chao, Chia-Hwei Chien, Nina Chen, Stacy Cho, Jenny Choi, Kristen Colarete, Rutvi Desai, Pobja Dharria, Diana Diehl, Maria F. Dominguez, Rosalind Doremus, Dana Dubiny, Laura Elfvingen, Christine Eng, Stacey Erskine, David Feldman, Bryan Fischer, Deena Fraiman, Joanne Fu, Nicole Gagliano, Kingsuk Ganguly, Rachel Gelfand, Jaime Geller, Igor Glaz-er, Lindsey Goldfarb, Scott Gold-stein, Fabio N. Hashinaga, Andrew Kaczynski, Timothy Karmazian, Angela Kim, Jin-Kon Kim, Tina Kim, David Kitchell, Christopher Kowalczyk, Alexander Kreymer, Jasmina Labao, Di Lai, Diana Lee, Susan Lee, Zezhi B. Li, Brian Lieu, Frank Littriello, Melissa Marino, Carolyn Mattus, Nicole Molfoy, Matthew D. Morreale, Kristyn Morrison, Laura Novello, John O'Brien, Steven Ondishin, Erin Orther, Aditi Patel, Binal Patel, Harshil D. Patel, Jay P. Patel, Nicole Perez, David Perrone, Christopher Petruzzi, Dinh Pham, Amanda Pikarsky, Catherine Pontoriero, Erik Price, Kathy Ramirez, Patrick Riolo, Diane (Am) Rooney, Geeta Sa-chchedeva, Sonal Sakariya, George Savulich, Taria J. Sears, Hardik Shah, Kavita Shah, Shaali Shah, Rupali Sharma, Jennifer Simbol, Lauren Soltesz, Peter Stivers, Laura C. Sullivan, Adam Szczuka, Stephen Ting, Joseph Tsigourakos, Philip (Tommy) Waid, Jialu Wang, Marc Wilken, Joshua Wolberg, Daniel S. Zalk, Charles Zhang and Benjamin Zisman.

## High schools fare well in math meet at JPS

Two area high schools fared well in the fourth meet of the Central Jersey Math League Dec. 4 at John P. Stevens High School in Edison.

Metuchen High School had 21 of a possible 30 points, good enough for a tie for second with Highland Park High School.

Stephen Healy of JPS had 8 of a possible 10 points as part of a three-way tie for second in individual scoring.

The next meet is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 8 at Middlesex County College.

### St. Luke's announces Christmas schedule

METUCHEN — St. Luke's Episcopal Church has announced its schedule of Christmas services:

Tuesday, Dec. 24, Christmas Eve Celebrations: 4 p.m. Family Carol Service and Children's Christmas

### Community briefs

Pageant; 8 p.m. Solemn High Christ Mass (incense), Virginia Hummel, preaching; 11 p.m. Solemn Christ Mass (no incense), E. Walton Zelle, preaching.

Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day: 10 a.m. Said Eucharist, E. Walton Zelle, preaching.

St. Luke's is at the corner of Oak Avenue and Route 27 (Middlesex Avenue). For more information, call 548-4308.

### Recreation commission offers ski lift discounts

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Recreation Commission has discount ski vouchers available for

several local ski areas. Vouchers save an average of \$7-\$15 per skier on lift tickets and ski packages valid for the 1996-97 ski season. Vouchers are pre-paid coupons which must be ordered at least 48 hours before you plan to go.

Ski areas participating include Montage Mountain, Shawnee Mountain, Jack Frost/Big Boulder, Blue Mountain, Vernon Valley/Great Gorge and Hidden Valley.

For information and a complete price list, call 632-8502.

### Wesley United Methodist sets Christmas schedule

EDISON — Wesley United Methodist Church has announced its Christmas activities.

Sunday, Dec. 22 worship at 10 a.m. includes the adult pageant and service of carols; at 2 p.m. is the Christmas caroling to the

church's shut-ins and at Roosevelt Care Center. Tuesday, Dec. 24, the family worship and "Instant Pageant" is 4:30 p.m. and the traditional candlelight service is 11 p.m.

The community is invited to help provide gifts to needy people by participating in the food collection and to celebrate the Christmas season. For more information, call the church at 738-0232.

### Painless allergy testing offered by Allergy Care

EDISON — A painless blood test for patients suffering from environmental and food allergies is being offered by Allergy Care Centers. Patients are tested with radioallergen sorbent testing (RAST), which does not use needles.

The center also offers traditional percutaneous skin testing. For more information, call 548-9449.

## James F. Lauber, 72 President of area Little League

EDISON — James F. Lauber, 72, died Dec. 13, 1996 at his home. He had been a past president of the Midtown Little League in the township.

A native of New York City, he served in the Navy during World War II and had lived in Edison since 1953.

Mr. Lauber joined the New Haven Railroad in 1946; it later was absorbed into the Metro-North Commuter Railroad and he was an electrical foreman at Grand Central Station in Manhattan when he retired in 1984. He was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church.

## Marion Becker Dudek, 99 Elizabeth native; recently of Edison

EDISON — Marion Becker Dudek, 99, died Dec. 14, 1996 at the JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates nursing home. She was born in Elizabeth and lived in Springfield before moving to Edison in 1989.

Mrs. Dudek is survived by a niece, Marion Becker of Kearny; several other nieces and nephews, all in Wisconsin; a great-niece, Dorothea Burdulis of Belleville; and two cousins, Loretta DePanicis of Roselle Park and Irene McCluskey

of Old Bridge.

Her husband, Louis E., another nephew, Edward Becker, and another great-niece, Barbara Urbanovitch, are deceased.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Monday at St. Matthew's Church, following services at Boylan Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Cross Burial Park, South Brunswick Township.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 15 Roszel Road, Princeton, N.J. 08540.

## Niels Sorensen, 79 Cyanamid engineer; WWII soldier

EDISON — Niels Sorensen, 79, died Dec. 11, 1996 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. He served in the Army during World War II, then joined American Cyanamid Corp. in 1947 and was a maintenance engineer at its Woodbridge plant when he retired in 1982.

Mr. Sorensen was born in Perth Amboy and had lived in Edison since 1965.

His wife, Doris, died in 1983.

Surviving are two daughters, Barbara Hand of Howell and Nancy Terwilliger of Union Beach; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; a sister, Dorothea Urban of Avenel; two nieces and a nephew.

Services were held Saturday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Burial was in Franklin Memorial Park, North Brunswick.

## Joseph Mazur, 79 Was supervisor at a foundry

EDISON — Joseph Mazur, 79, died Dec. 13, 1996 at the Genesis Eldercare-The Woodlands nursing home in Plainfield. He joined the Fords Foundry in 1944 and was a supervisor when he retired in 1982.

Mr. Mazur was born in Carteret and lived in Edison for most of his life. He was a member of the Clara Barton Senior Citizens Club and the Reformed Church of Metuchen.

His wife, Clara S., died in 1994. A sister, Anne Slover, died in 1983.

Surviving are a daughter, Patricia Millard of Roseville, Mich.; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home, Fords, followed by a religious service at the Reformed Church of Metuchen. Burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Hopelawn.

## Martha Gramm Hadley, 90 Retired from stamp manufacturer

EDISON — A private memorial service was held for Martha Gramm Den Bleyker Hadley, 90, who died Dec. 8, 1996 at the Gretna Health Care Center in Gretna, Va. She worked for the Winters Stamp Manufacturing Co. of Elizabeth until her retirement in 1968.

Mrs. Hadley was born in Philadelphia. She lived in Rahway, Edison; Bovina Center, N.Y.; Chatham, Va.; and since 1995 in Gretna.

Her first husband, Martin Den Bleyker Sr., died in 1943. Her second husband, Roy, died in July.

Surviving are a son, Martin Den Bleyker Jr. of Ocala, Fla.; four daughters, Catherine Troost of Chatham, Va., Mauvline Eichert of Toms River, Nancy Den Bleyker and Patricia Hage, both of Edison; 15 grandchildren; 30 great-grandchildren; seven great-great-grandchildren; and a brother, Harry Gramm of Linden.

## Pauline Kandrick, 84 In seniors', Catholic groups

EDISON — Pauline C. Sarisky Kandrick, 84, died Dec. 11, 1996 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division. She was born in Throop, Pa., and lived in Perth Amboy before moving to Edison.

Mrs. Kandrick had been a member of the Edison Senior Citizens Club and St. Ann's Branch 19 of the First Catholic Slovak Union. She was a parishioner of Holy Trinity Roman Catholic Church in Perth Amboy.

Surviving are a son, John A., and

a sister, Mary Horvath, both of Edison; and two brothers, Nicholas Sarisky and Steven Sarisky, both of Perth Amboy.

Her husband, John, died in 1954. Two other brothers, John Sarisky and Albert Sarisky, also are deceased.

Services were held Saturday at Gustav J. Novak Funeral Home, Perth Amboy, followed by a funeral Mass at Holy Trinity Church. Burial was in Holy Trinity Cemetery, Hopelawn.

## Obituaries

### Vincent E. Marcino, 73 D-Day veteran; purchasing agent

EDISON — Vincent E. Marcino, 73, died Dec. 14, 1996 at his home. He served in the Navy during World War II and participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day in 1944.

A native of Elizabeth, Mr. Marcino lived in Rahway before moving to Edison in 1981. He had been with the Apex Chemical Co. for 28 years and most recently was a purchasing agent at its Elizabeth plant.

Surviving are his wife, Lorraine Brown Marcino; three sons, Brennon of Monroe Township, Russell

of Linden and Allen of Rahway; a daughter, Janell Kosinski of Jamesburg; two stepsons, Edward Brown of Hoboken and Michael Brown in Virginia; a stepdaughter, Tracey Brown in Pennsylvania; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Another son, Michael, died in 1994.

Services were held Tuesday at Pettit-Davis Funeral Home in Rahway. Memorial contributions may be made to the Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey, 1915 Old Georges Road, North Brunswick, N.J. 08902.

### Anthony A. Vallario, 84 Supervisor at Philips Lighting

EDISON — Anthony A. Vallario, 84, died Dec. 17, 1996 at the Leisure Chateau Care Center in Lakewood. He had been with the Philips Lighting company for 40 years and retired in 1977 as a supervisor at its Hackettstown facility.

Mr. Vallario was born in Newark and lived in Edison before moving

to Toms River in 1982.

Surviving are his wife, Gloria J. Christopher Vallario; and a daughter, Jean Suleski.

Services were held Wednesday in the mausoleum at Hollywood Memorial Park, Union. Arrangements were by Timothy E. Ryan Home for Funerals, in Toms River.

### John Smietana, 84 Formerly a machinist with Singer

EDISON — John Smietana, 84, died Dec. 12, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. He retired in 1970 after 38 years as a machinist at the former Elizabeth manufacturing plant of the Singer Co.

A native of Elizabeth, Mr. Smietana lived in Roselle before moving to Edison in 1992. He was a parishioner of St. Adalbert's Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth.

His wife, Mary Wojton Smietana, died in 1993.

Surviving are a son, Edward J. of Edison; a daughter, Barbara Fredericks of Rahway; five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, Linden, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Adalbert's Church. Burial was in Mount Calvary Cemetery, Linden.

### Ann Fedor, 79 Rutgers University cafeteria worker

EDISON — Ann Fedor, 79, died Dec. 13, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. She had been a cafeteria worker on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University until her retirement in 1965.

Mrs. Fedor was born in Perth Amboy and had lived in Edison

since 1970.

Her husband, John, died in October.

Surviving are a son, John of Seattle, Wash.; a daughter, Mary Donofrio of Edison; and two grandchildren.

A memorial service was held yesterday at Boylan Funeral Home.

### Louis Olcsvary Sr., 87 Carpenter; once of Edison

EDISON — Louis Olcsvary Sr., 87, died Dec. 13, 1996 in West Palm Beach, Fla. He had been a carpenter.

Mr. Olcsvary was born in Nanticoke, Pa., and lived in Edison before moving to West Palm Beach in 1964.

Surviving are his wife, Ethel A. of West Palm Beach; a stepdaugh-

ter, Carolyn Edwards of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; a brother, Albert in Ukraine; and two sisters, Theresa in Hungary and Jessie Doctor in Ukraine.

Services were held Monday at Boynton Memorial Chapel in Boynton Beach, Fla. Burial took place yesterday in Franklin Memorial Park, North Brunswick.

### Bernard J. Frey, 76 WWII soldier; later a machinist

METUCHEN — Bernard J. Frey, 76, died Dec. 12, 1996 at JFK Medical Center in Edison. He served in the Army during World War II, then joined Anaconda Corp. in 1947 and was a machinist at its Perth Amboy plant until he retired in 1974.

Mr. Frey was born in Perth Amboy and lived in Fords before moving to Metuchen in 1966. He was a member of the Metuchen Senior Citizens Club and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fords.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn Schmidt Frey; two sons, Gene B. of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Dennis L. of Jefferson City, Mo.; and two grandchildren.

A brother, Victor, is deceased.

Services were held Tuesday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Memorial contributions may be made to the Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

## Marian Gibbs Ewing, 85 Was active with hospital in the area

EDISON — Marian Gibbs Ewing, 85, died Dec. 16, 1996 at the House of the Good Shepherd nursing home in Hackettstown. She had been active in the JFK Medical Center auxiliary and for many years was a volunteer at the hospital.

Mrs. Ewing was born in Maplewood. She lived in Metuchen, Edison and Irvington before moving to Hackettstown six months ago.

For 10 years she was the director of the Alumnae Fund at Douglass College of Rutgers University. Mrs. Ewing received a bachelor's degree from the New Jersey College for Women (now Douglass College) in 1932 and a master's degree in education from Rutgers.

She was an elder and a member of the Women's Guild at the Reformed Church of Metuchen. She also held membership in Church

Women United and American Association of Retired Persons Chapter 3208 in Metuchen.

Her husband, Maxwell, died in 1980.

Surviving are a son, Scott of Brandon, Fla.; a daughter, Sally Strusz of Long Valley; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 10 a.m. today at the Reformed Church, 150 Lake Ave., Metuchen. Officiating will be Rev. Raymond Ortman, the church's pastor. Burial will be in Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover.

Arrangements are by Koyen Funeral Home in Metuchen. Memorial contributions may be made to the Douglass Annual Fund, 80 Clifton Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901, or the Reformed Church of Metuchen.

## James L. Johnson, 61 Plant manager; chemical engineer

EDISON — James L. Johnson, 61, died Dec. 12, 1996 at St. Peter's Medical Center. He had been a chemical engineer with Arsynco Chemical Co. of Carteret from 1984-94 and the plant manager of Nutro Laboratories of South Plainfield since 1994.

Mr. Johnson was born in Anderson, S.C. He lived in Sumter, S.C., before moving to Edison in 1983.

He was a member of an Elks lodge and a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife, Viola M. Miller Johnson; a son, Carl of Butler; six daughters, Tammy M. Myers, Ann Marie and Laurie Marie, all of Edison, Terry Hollingsworth of Boise, Idaho, Tami Douglas in North Dakota and Lisa Hamilton in California; and 14 grandchildren. A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Matthew's Church, following services at Boylan Funeral Home. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery, North Arlington.

## Lois Masters, 64 Electrical assembler; services today

EDISON — Lois Masters, 64, died Dec. 16, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. She retired in 1994 after 25 years as an electrical assembler with Loral Controls in Archbald, Pa.

Mrs. Masters was born in Moscow, Pa. She lived in Dunmore, Pa., before moving to Edison several months ago.

She was a parishioner of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Roman Catholic Church in Dunmore.

Surviving are two daughters, Doreen Reid and Mary Ann, and a grandson, Victor Reid, all of Edison; a brother, Michael Perna of Madisonville, Pa.; three sisters, Jo-

sephine Kecip and Carolyn Matyok, both of Niagara Falls, N.Y., and Mary Komora of Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; and many nieces and nephews.

Two other brothers, Louis Perna and Charles Perna, are deceased.

Services will be 8:30 a.m. today at Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, 568 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen. A funeral Mass will follow 9 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Cathedral, Main Street, Metuchen. Burial will be in Hillside Cemetery, Metuchen.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 846 Main St., Fords, N.J. 08863.

More obituaries on page A-12

## Consideration

It is far easier for the family, if a family plot is arranged prior to need. The considerate staff at Hillside Cemetery will assist your selection. All lots are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Hillside Cemetery, located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, is a non-profit organization. Telephone 756-1729.

Hillside  
Cemetery  
Established 1886

## How to Recognize a Quality Funeral Home

One of the most difficult times in a person's life is making last minute decisions about a loved one's funeral. Many people have had the experience of walking through that fog of grief and unreality, while having to make some very important, irreversible choices.

In a society that is used to shopping for an item and becoming knowledgeable before we buy, a funeral is one shopping trip for which we are least prepared. Therefore, we have to put our trust in the person doing the counseling, the director of a funeral home.

Here are some valuable things you should know when faced with that need. Now you can be as informed about buying a funeral as buying any other product or service.

### A quality funeral home:

- takes the time to answer all your questions completely.
- encourages you to check with others who have used their services.
- seeks to make your loved one's funeral a personal experience, not just a cookie cutter event.
- explains pricing and gives you choices in writing.
- provides ample seating, parking, and attendants to make your guests comfortable.

- will not rush your friends and family through hurried proceedings.
- has everything carefully planned and will discuss a schedule with you.
- provides police escorts or special assistance with large funerals.
- shows concern for your guests.
- offers counseling and bereavement workshops to help you through the difficult time after the funeral.
- provides information on Veterans' benefits, Medicaid pre-arrangement planning, cemetery information and insurance coverage needs.
- answers your questions directly, and provides help and caring assistance when you need it most.

For reprints of this article write or call: Brendan Flynn, Sr.

Flynn and son  
FUNERAL HOMES, INC.

Caring for four generations  
(908) 549-8900

EDISON-FORDS: 23 Ford Avenue  
PERTH AMBOY: 420-424 East Avenue

Florida Affiliates: Miami • St. Petersburg • Tampa • Orlando

### LENDING AN EAR

All too often, people avoid friends and even family members who have suffered the loss of a loved one, either because they feel uncomfortable or do not know what to say or how to act. This avoidance problem is understandable in light of the fact that acknowledging death heightens our own sense of mortality. However, if a grieving person wants to talk about his or her feelings, it should be understood that a person can offer comfort simply by listening. Those who do lend a sympathetic ear should concentrate on what is being said, instead of formulating what they plan to say next. Listeners should also avoid interruption and concentrate on how the grieving person is feeling. Finally, when the conversation comes to an end, no effort should be made to push further. It is perfectly acceptable to sit in silence, filled with the knowledge that comfort and support can also be lent by a person's sympathetic presence.

In addition to being available for someone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, there are numerous

Consider  
These  
Thoughts  
by Jay Costello



peer support groups available that can be of great help in dealing constructively with grief of loss. Most funeral homes also offer "after care" services in the form of group or individual grief counseling. At COSTELLO-RUNYON FUNERAL HOME, we offer a full range of funeral services to ease the burdens of family members by providing compassionate services with dignity and respect. Visit us at 568 Middlesex Avenue in Metuchen, or call us at 548-0149 to schedule a consultation. May we wish you a joyous Holiday season.

"The deeper the sorrow the less tongue it has."

Talmud

## Sandra Marie Melvin, 50 Lived in Edison

EDISON — Sandra Marie "Chickie" Melvin, 50, died Dec. 10, 1996 at her home. She worked for Cosmar Corp. at its Somerset plant.

Mrs. Melvin was born in Newark and lived in Edison for most of her life.

Surviving are her husband, Reginald; two sons, Frank E. Rokins and Joseph A. Rokins; a daughter, Sherone M.; four grandchildren; her mother, Ruth Harris; a brother, Joseph Waters; and three sisters, Ruth A. Evans, Laura M. Keith and Lana E. Harris-Bell.

Funeral services were held Saturday at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Newark. Burial was in Evergreen Cemetery, Hillside.

Arrangements were by Perry Funeral Home in Newark.

**Obituaries**

**Albert Stanislaus Duda, 74**

**Truck driver; Teamsters shop steward**

EDISON — Albert Stanislaus Duda, 74, died Dec. 16, 1996 at the Sycamore Manor nursing home in Williamsport, Pa. He had been a truck driver in Northern New Jersey and an International Brotherhood of Teamsters shop steward.

Mr. Duda was born in Brooklyn. He lived in Linden and Edison before moving in 1984 to Cogan Station, Pa.

He retired in 1984 from the staff of the A.C. Berwick Transportation Co. of Woodbridge. An avid golfer and hunter, Mr. Duda was a member of American Legion Post 1 in

Williamsport and the East Canton United Methodist Church in East Canton, Pa.

Surviving are his wife, Alma of Cogan Station; three sons, John F. of Howell, Charles A. of Liberty, Pa., and Michael S. of State College, Pa.; a daughter, Virginia A. Shrodo of Stony Point, N.Y.; six grandchildren; a great-grandchild; and a sister, Wanda DeBasio of Avenel.

Two brothers, Alfonse and Harry, and another sister, Helen Drozdowski, are deceased.

Services were held yesterday in Canton, Pa.

**Grace Fryer Dodds, 85**

**Retired from Westinghouse plant**

EDISON — Grace "Peggy" Fryer Dodds, 85, died Dec. 14, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. She retired in 1957 after more than 20 years at the Route 27 plant then owned by Westinghouse Corp.

Mrs. Dodds was born in Morristown and had lived in Edison since 1966.

Her husband, David T., died in 1987.

Surviving are two sons, Edward

of Doylestown, Pa., and David W. of Edison; a daughter, Betty Lanzara of Chicago, Ill.; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, of which Mrs. Dodds was a member. Burial was in Clover Leaf Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Arrangements were by Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords.

**Hubert Allen, 85**

**Longshoreman; painting contractor**

EDISON — Hubert Allen, 85, died Dec. 12, 1996 at JFK Medical Center. He retired in 1974 after 30 years as a longshoreman and nine years as a painting contractor in New York City.

Mr. Allen was born in Jamaica. He lived in New York City, East Orange and Avenel before moving to Edison in 1986.

Surviving are his wife, Violet Wells Allen; four sons, Claude and

Winston, both of Avenel, Hopeton of Los Angeles, Calif., and Courtney of East Orange; a daughter, Dorothy Scott of Edison; 10 grandchildren; and three sisters, Enid Golding of the Bronx, Alice Stuart of Coral Springs, Fla., and Evie Bernard in Jamaica.

Services were held Wednesday at Crabiel Parkwest Funeral Chapel in New Brunswick. Burial was in Rosehill Cemetery, Linden.

**Jeanne Scopelliti, 87**

**Supply worker at hospital in county**

EDISON — Jeanne Scopelliti, 87, died Dec. 16, 1996 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division. She had been a supply worker on the staff of a Middlesex County hospital.

A native of Perth Amboy, she lived in Edison before moving to Spotswood in 1970.

Mrs. Scopelliti retired in 1971 from the supply staff of what is now Raritan Bay Medical Center,

Perth Amboy Division. She formerly was a member of the Spotswood Senior Citizens Club.

Her husband, John, died in 1943. Surviving are a son, Andrew of Spotswood; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at Eckman Funeral Home in Spotswood. Burial was in Holy Cross Burial Park, South Brunswick Township.

**Edward Rockafellow, 72**

**Union Carbide retiree; Navy veteran**

EDISON — Edward Rockafellow, 72, died Dec. 17, 1996 at his home in Whiting. He retired in 1986 after 43 years at the Piscataway plant of Union Carbide Corp.

A native of Somerville, he lived in Edison from 1948 until he moved to Whiting in 1986.

Mr. Rockafellow served in the Navy during World War II and the Korean War. He held membership in the Cedar Glen Lakes Fishing Club, the Cedar Glen Lakes Security Patrol and the Old Guard of Cedar Glen Lakes, all in Whiting; and Tri-Boro Memorial Post 5479, Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Dunellen.

He also was a deacon of the

Crossroads Baptist Church in Lakehurst.

Surviving are his wife, Edna M. Bliss Rockafellow of Whiting; a son, Kenneth E. in Delaware; three daughters, Kathy J. of Edison, Nancy L. Dice of Gulfport, Miss., and Karen M. Holloway of Mustang, Okla.; 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will be 9 a.m. tomorrow at Crossroads Baptist Church, Route 37 West, Lakehurst. Burial will be in Lake Nelson Memorial Park, Piscataway.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. today at Anderson & Campbell Funeral Home, 115 Lacey Road. Whiting.



**SATURDAY DEC. 21**

- ☑ **SPEAK NOW OR ...** — Toastmasters International meeting. Guests welcome; no obligation to participate. Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 10 a.m. Call 940-2536 or 885-5708.
- ☑ **COME TO THE MANGER** — Christmas drama presented by Christ Community Church (Edison). Free admission; seating limited. Round House Barn, Cook College, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, 3:30 and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 21; 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22, 24. Reservations: Call 393-1812.

**SUNDAY DEC. 22**

- ☑ **ADVENT MASS** — and homily by Rev. Peter J. Cameron. St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral, Main Street, Metuchen, 9 and 10:30 a.m. Call 548-0100.
- ☑ **LESSONS AND CAROLS** — holiday service with choir of Oak

Tree Presbyterian Church, 455 Plainfield Road, Edison, 10 a.m. Call 549-4178.

☑ **REPORT FROM BOSNIA** — with Bojana Blagojevic, refugee from Balkan nation. First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, 10:45 a.m. Call 549-5101.

☑ **MESSIAH** — Christmas portion of Handel oratorio. Donation (child care provided). Centenary United Methodist Church, 200 Hillside Ave., Metuchen, 3 p.m. Call 548-7622.

☑ **RINGING IN CHRISTMAS** — holiday concert with handbell choir of First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, 3 p.m. Free admission. Call 549-5101.

**TUESDAY DEC. 24**

- ☑ **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** — ending with "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. Oak Tree Presbyterian Church, 455 Plainfield Road, Edison, 7:30 and 11 p.m. Call 549-4178.

**THURSDAY DEC. 26**

- ☑ **SKATE NOW** — roller skating party for Metuchen students. Cost \$3 (coupons not valid); non-skating adults free. United Skates of America, Oakwood Plaza, 85 Wood Ave., Edison, 10 a.m.-noon. Call 632-8502.

**COMING EVENTS**

- ☑ **VACATION DAY** — gym games, swimming, New Year's Eve party and more for children 3-4. Members \$15, non-members \$23; pizza lunch \$2 extra. Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dec. 31. Call 494-3232.
- ☑ **CELEBRATE METUCHEN NITE** — "First Night" arts. Adults \$9, children 2-12 \$1; a \$2 surcharge if purchased after Dec. 26. Metuchen, starting 6 p.m. Dec. 31. Call 548-2044.
- ☑ **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** — at Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road, Edison, 8:30 p.m. Dec. 31. Cost \$100 per couple; must register in person. Call 494-3232.
- ☑ **NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY** — sponsored by Men's Club of Congregation Beth-El, 91 Jefferson Blvd., Edison, 9 p.m. Dec. 31. Admission \$65 per couple (BYO liquor or kosher wine). Reservations: Call 287-1819 or 985-7272.
- ☑ **OPEN HOUSE** — and admissions for new students (bring

transcript), Middlesex County College center, 317 George St., New Brunswick, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Jan. 7. Call 249-6207.

☑ **AAUW LUNCHEON** — annual event of Metuchen-Edison Branch, American Association of University Women. Cost \$15. The Barge, 201 Front St., Perth Amboy, 1 p.m. Jan. 11. Reservations required by Jan. 4; call 225-4027 or 819-8540.

☑ **OFF THE PAGE** — taping of cable TV poetry show with Beth Borrus. Free admission. Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 16. Call 321-0130.

☑ **CASINO TRIP** — sponsored by Seymour Feldman Leukemia Fund to Showboat hotel-casino (Atlantic City). Cost \$30; patrons receive \$20-casino credit. Bus leaves from Manny Gerstein office, 1901 Route 27, Edison, 8:45 a.m. Jan. 19. Reservations: Call 985-3800.

☑ **OPEN HOUSE** — to mark first anniversary of Franklin Family Center, 596 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 1-4 p.m. Jan. 19. Call 906-1873 or 548-2044.

☑ **SCRABBLE FEST** — word game party sponsored by Women Helping Women (bring a Scrabble set if possible). St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 17 Oak Ave. (at Route 27), Metuchen, 7 p.m. Jan. 31. Call 549-6000.

Send calendar listings to "This Week," Metuchen-Edison Review, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, or fax (908) 326-2509. Listings must be received 10 days before publication date. No listings will be accepted by telephone.

**Hoover School students ready for debates**

EDISON — Look out, President Clinton and Bob Dole, here come Ms. Mastriano's seventh-grade debate students from Herbert Hoover Middle School.

During January and February, the pupils will be exposed to the pleasures and benefits of debating. They will have the unique opportunity to develop poise, articulation skills and confidence in expressing their opinions. Ms. Lorello's classes will join in the process and allow students to discuss opposing views while utilizing their debating skills.

Students will use persuasive methods, speaking and listening skills, and debating techniques to express their views on a variety of topics, including curfews for minors and the importance of world peace.

After research, discussion, note-taking and several trial sessions in the classrooms, the pupils will then demonstrate their expertise in a final competition. Ms. Mastriano's and Ms. Lorello's classes will take the stage for a formal debate. The two teams (affirmative and negative) will present opening statements, persuasive speeches and convincing rebuttals.

As a culminating activity to the mini-unit, students will access, summarize and critique the quality of the classroom debate through a large group discussion, checklist and survey.

**Celebrate The Season**  
**Holiday Services in**  
**Middlesex County**

**CENTENARY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
200 Hillside Avenue  
Metuchen  
**908-548-7622**  
Christmas Eve  
7:30 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.  
Candlelight Services  
Pastor Paul M. Maliel  
Child Care Provided

**METUCHEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
CORNER OF ROSE & WHITMAN AVE.  
P.O. BOX 261 • METUCHEN • NJ 08840  
Christmas Eve Candlelight 11 P.M.  
New Year's Eve Celebration 8 P.M.  
**549-4163**  
Rev. Donald McFarren, Pastor  
Sun. School, all ages - 9-45  
Worship - 11 am & 6 pm  
Children's Church & Nursery  
Wednesday, Bible Study - 7:30 PM  
Auxiliary Ministries for all ages  
Fridays: Youth Activities  
Day Spring Child Care - 549-1020  
ACADEMY K8TH - 549-7854  
Come Worship with Us

**The Reformed Church of Metuchen**  
Christmas Eve  
Family Service - 7 P.M.  
Candlelight Service - 11 P.M.  
150 Lake Ave. **548-2463**  
**"Come Grow with God's Love & Ours"**  
Saturday Worship 5:30 PM  
Sunday Worship 10:30 AM  
Sunday School 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Raymond C. Ortman, Pastor

**NEW LIFE GOSPEL CHURCH**  
1750 Cedarwood Dr. • Piscataway  
752-4434  
Steve Dibenedetto, Pastor  
9:15 AM - Sunday School  
10:45 AM - Sunday Morning Worship  
6:30 PM - Evening Service  
Wed. 7:30 PM - Evening Prayer Service  
**NEW LIFE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
Daycare - Ages 1 through 5 years  
Elementary School, grades 1-8  
High School, grades 9-12

**North Stelton African Methodist Episcopal Church**  
Craig Avenue & Ethel Rd. • Piscataway, N.J.  
**(908) 287-5184**  
**"The Family Friendly Church"**  
Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School  
10:45 a.m. - Worship Service  
(Nursery Services Available)  
Sat., Dec. 21st - Christmas Concert 6 p.m.  
Sun., Dec. 22nd - Sunday School Christmas Program 9:30 a.m.  
Tues., Dec. 31st - 7 p.m. Kwanzaa Celebration (Dinner Service)  
10 p.m. - Watch Night Service  
Rev. Dr. Kenneth L. Saunders, Pastor

**Oak Tree Church**  
455 Plainfield Road • North Edison, NJ 08820  
**549-4178**  
Rev. Rick Oppelt, Pastor  
Christmas Eve Services 7:30 P.M. & 11:00 P.M.  
Worship & Church School  
10 AM  
Adult Education  
11:15 AM  
Nursery & Playground  
Facilities  
Activities for all Ages  
Come Home For The Holidays!

**GRACE ALLIANCE CHURCH**  
(formerly Rutgers Area Alliance)  
Meeting at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway  
Call 562-1818  
Sunday Worship 11:00a.m.  
Kids' Clubs, Youth Group  
Sunday School, Care Groups

**To Advertise in this space**  
call Connie at:  
**908-722-3000**  
ext. 6258

**Firefighters successfully battle blaze in Victory Court home Wednesday**

METUCHEN — The Fire Department extinguished a fire on Victory Court Wednesday. The fire was reported at 4:11 p.m.

The fire was accidentally started by the tenant's father, who was renovating the apartment, Fire Chief Michael Soltys said.

The fire was brought under control in 10 minutes and fire officials were on the scene until 5:50 p.m. There was considerable fire damage to an upstairs bathroom, and an attic area. The fire also traveled into a common attic area with other apartments. There was minor smoke damage in at least eight other apartments in the building.

There were no injuries, Chief Soltys said.

**Recreation Commission offers ski trip**

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Recreation Commission will sponsor a ski trip Sunday, Feb. 23 to Jack Frost Mountain in the Pocono Mountains.

Jack Frost Ski Area offers skiing for all ages and abilities.

A coach bus will leave Borough Hall, 500 Main St., 6:15 a.m. and return about 7 p.m.

Cost of lift ticket and transportation is \$38; ski equipment rental is \$16; snowboard rental is \$25; snow tube rental is \$14; and group lessons are \$13. Snow chutes are available.

There will be discounts for first-time skiers and those who are 8-15 years old.

For a flier, call Nancy Goldberg, recreation director, at 632-8502.

**Three Wardlaw-Hartridge Upper School students named Bloustein Distinguished Scholars**

EDISON — Three seniors at the Wardlaw-Hartridge Upper School have been named Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholars for the State of New Jersey.

The students are Stephanie Co and Marissa Owsianik, both of Edison; and Andrew Fishkoff of Colonia.

To be eligible for this award, students must place in the top 10 percent of their classes and have a minimum combined SAT score of 1260.

**The Mind/Body Medical Institute at St. Peter's.**

An Affiliate of the Mind/Body Medical Institute of Deaconess Hospital/ Harvard Medical School.

**Program for Cancer**

The diagnosis of cancer is alarming and stressful for patients and their families. Fears and worries often continue long after the initial diagnosis and may be compounded by concerns that arise as treatment progresses. Both disease and treatment may produce symptoms that interfere with comfort and function in everyday life.

This program will teach you a variety of clinically-proven techniques to help you cope with the diagnosis of cancer and take an active role in enhancing care. It can also help you better manage the stress and side effects of chemotherapy and radiation.

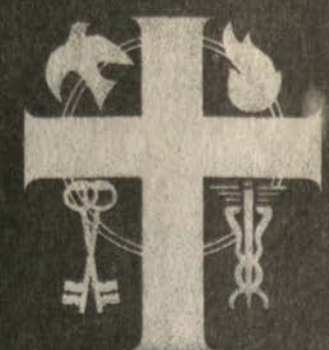
**The 10-Week Mind/Body Medical Program for Cancer**

**When:** January 6 through March 10, 1997  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Sister Marie dePazzi Conference Center at St. Peter's Medical Center

Register by calling (908) 937-6051.

**Nobody knows more about healing.**



**St. Peter's Medical Center**

254 Edison Avenue  
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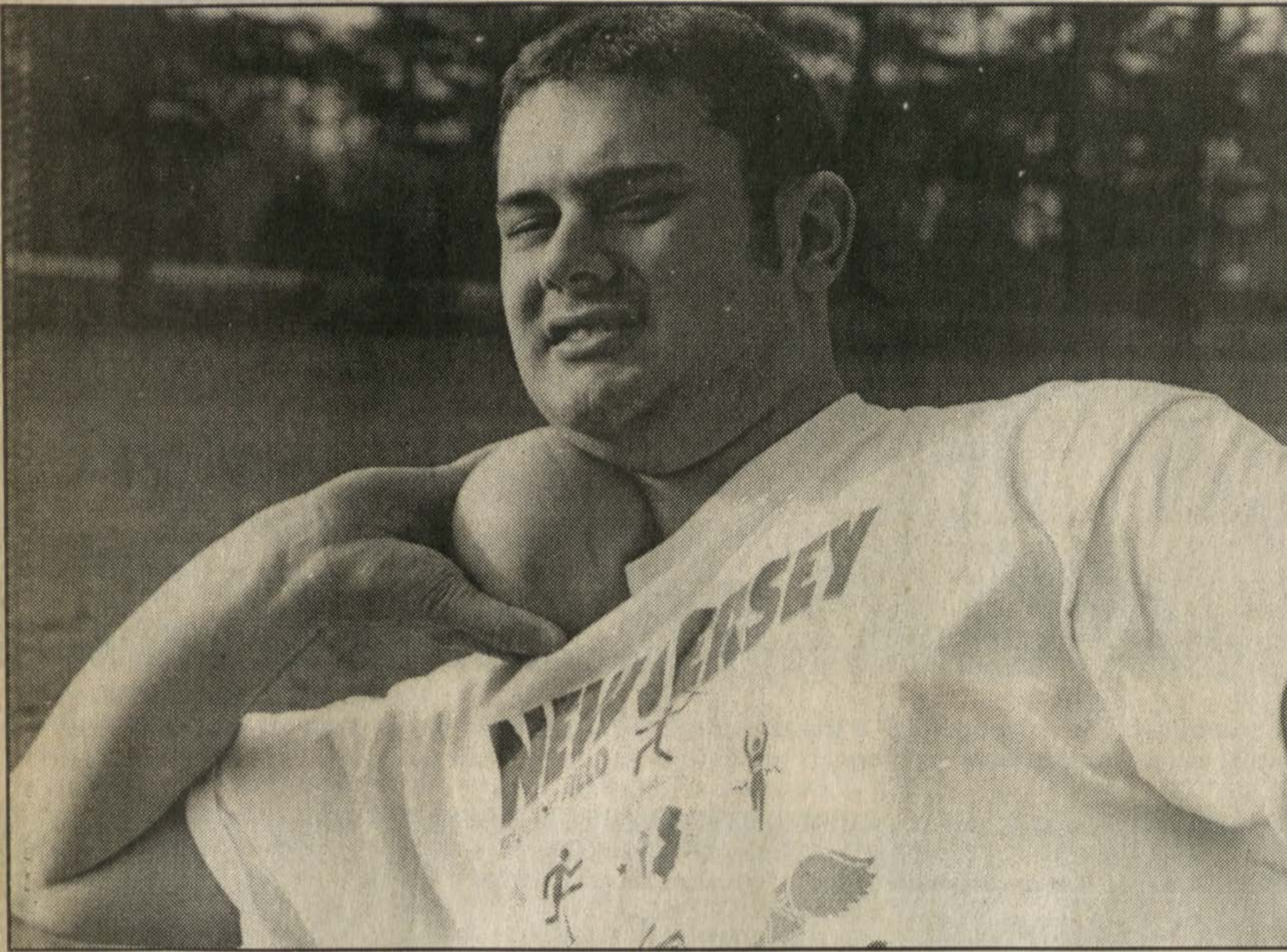
**You said it:**

'I think he has more talent than about 99 percent of the kids out there.'

— St. Joseph's High track and field assistant coach Al Ernst, commenting on Falcon shot putter Keith Rzewuski (see story below).

# Sports

**"FAST FACT"**  
 The last two GMC wrestling Coach of the Year award-winners are Chuck Rutan of J.P. Stevens High (1995-96) and Gerry Nisivoccia of Edison (1994-95).



Keith Rzewuski hopes to put St. Joe's over the top in this winter's track and field season. RANDALL MILLER/THE REVIEW

## The cannonball kid

Rzewuski taking aim at GMC shot records

By MARK CLIFFORD  
 THE REVIEW

Edison resident Keith Rzewuski is a bonafide "natural" at putting the shot.

When Rzewuski, a 6-foot-4, 250-pound junior weight man on the St. Joseph's High track and field team, takes his first throws at tomorrow's East Brunswick Relays, he'll be starting a winter campaign which could very well end with a number of new records and titles.

"I think he has more talent than about 99 percent of the kids out there," said Al Ernst, Falcons' weight coach. "He's an athletic kid. It's not just brute strength. The shot put is also a matter of timing, and he has the athletic timing for it. And you want to have long limbs, which he has, because the taller person has the advantage of being able to push the shot over a longer period of time."

Rzewuski burst onto the scene in his sophomore year, during which



he developed a friendly rivalry with two Falcon seniors, Mike Gokoski and Tony Colondia. The threesome gave the Falcons with an awesome relay combination, and they inspired one another to throw farther and lift more.

"Every day was a duel," Rzewuski recalled. "Everything was a competition, which was good, because it pushed everybody."

Rzewuski's personal best in the shot is 57 feet. He earned a trip to the Meet of Champions in the winter and spring seasons in that event, finishing fourth in the winter and 12th in the spring. He is the defending Greater Middlesex County champion in the discus, an

event in which he has a personal best of 150 feet and placed eighth at last spring's M of C's.

But after a summer of muscle-building work installing fences with his father, Rzewuski came back to school bigger and stronger than ever this year, and there's no telling how much better he'll get before his high school career is over. He says his goal is to reach 62 feet in the shot put, which would break the GMC record.

Ernst said Rzewuski isn't one to get nervous at big meets. In fact, the coach attests, pressure doesn't seem to affect him at all.

Rzewuski said one reason big meets don't bother him is his adaptability. He's not the type of competitor who gets flustered if circumstances don't allow him to perform his usual warmup routine exactly the way he likes.

"I'm not very superstitious," he explained. "Other than the fact I like to wear the same shorts to every meet."

## Edison has work to do this winter

By MARK CLIFFORD  
 THE REVIEW

The Edison High boys basketball team was one of the best stories in the Greater Middlesex Conference during the 1995-96 school year.

But Eagle Head Coach Mike Meagher isn't too crazy about the opening scenes of the sequel.

"I think we have a long ways to go," he said, bluntly. "We just haven't practiced hard consistently. We're not playing real well now."

One thing Meagher knows, it's how to get his message across loud and clear. His peers in the Greater Middlesex Conference voted him their Coach of the Year last season.

The Eagles improved dramatically from a 4-16 campaign in 1994-95 to finish 12-11 and qualify for the state playoffs for the first time in 10 years last season, despite the fact a couple of potentially valuable contributors left the team in mid-season.

Edison lost three starters from that team to graduation — forward Jim Kupko, point guard James Buzzone and center Anthony Napolitano — as well as reserves Brian Fox, Bill Suriano and Brian Lopez-Stiller.

The two incumbent starters are a pair of 6-foot-1 juniors: swingman Dan Kralich — whose role last year was to be the team's defensive specialist at off guard — and burly center-forward Rob Roma.

The rest of the starting lineup will probably include junior Josh Schuck (5-9) and senior Chris Banos (5-10) in the backcourt and junior Oscar Royster (6-1) at forward.

Edison has a number of older players available to come off the bench, but none of them has a great deal of varsity experience.

Seniors Jamar Frink (6-0) and Fred Clark (6-0) and junior Jose Fernandez (5-11) are the substitute guards.

Senior James McGowan (6-3) and juniors Sean Warner (6-1) and Marc Walton (6-1) will see time in the frontcourt.

**WRESTLING**

This could be a crucial year for the Edison High wrestling program, which must establish a new identity following the graduation of Mike Malinconico and Brian Russo, two of the best wrestlers in school history.

"Realistically, it'll probably take us a season to get back to where he want to be," said Edison Head Coach Gerry Nisivoccia, whose Eagles have won the District 19 title in each of the past two years.

But, of course, Edison won those crowns — and compiled back-to-back winning seasons of 11-3 and 8-6 — with Malinconico and Russo in the fold. Malinconico placed second in the 140-pound division at last year's State Tournament, while Russo finished fifth-sixth.

"We have some overall balance, but we have a long way to go to be a contender for the districts," said Nisivoccia.

A year after football player Art Sandora made a major impact after coming out for wrestling for the first time as a senior year, Nisivoccia and assistant coach Vincent Gioffre sold a few other grid-

iron grunts on going out for the team, including 189-pounder Geoff Gifford (senior) and heavyweights Tom White (junior) and Jim Lungo (sophomore).

At the other end of the scale, literally and figuratively, Edison has a number of lightweights with impressive credentials. Sophomore Willie Kearns moves in at 103 after winning a GMC Junior Varsity title last season. At 112, sophomore Anthony Rendina (17-11 last year at 103) will either challenge incumbent starter Jeff McGorvin (15-12), or one of them will move up.

Promising sophomore Griff Banos (119), senior Mike Tofte (125) and junior transfer student Nick Appenelli (130) precede 135-pounder Bill Enoch, a senior team captain who was 18-10 a year ago.

Other contenders to see action include the following: Dave Milroad (Senior 125-30); Jim Gerity (senior, 140); John Vishalakumar (senior, 140); another transfer, Jarrod Hahn (junior, 145); Rami Even-Esh (sophomore, 152); Will Chapman (junior, 152); Dale Newton (senior, 152); Bryan Steinhauser (senior, 160); Felton Monroe (junior, 171) and Dan Curto (junior, heavy-weight).

Edison has a new assistant in Steve Giordano, a former high school state champion at South Plainfield and a two-time Division 3 college All-American at Kean who is currently teaching at the Woodrow Wilson School.

Edison opens the season tomorrow at the Garden State Tournament in Princeton, where the Eagles are the two-time defending team champions.

**GIRLS BASKETBALL**

Despite the presence inside of junior six-footer Amy Bruno, a potentially dominating player, Edison Head Coach Patti Jaworski said she doesn't want to rely on a half-court offense that funnels most of the action through her.

"We want to run the ball more this year; we didn't really have the manpower to do that in the past," she said. "The younger girls are definitely not afraid to shoot the ball, which is something we haven't had in the past."

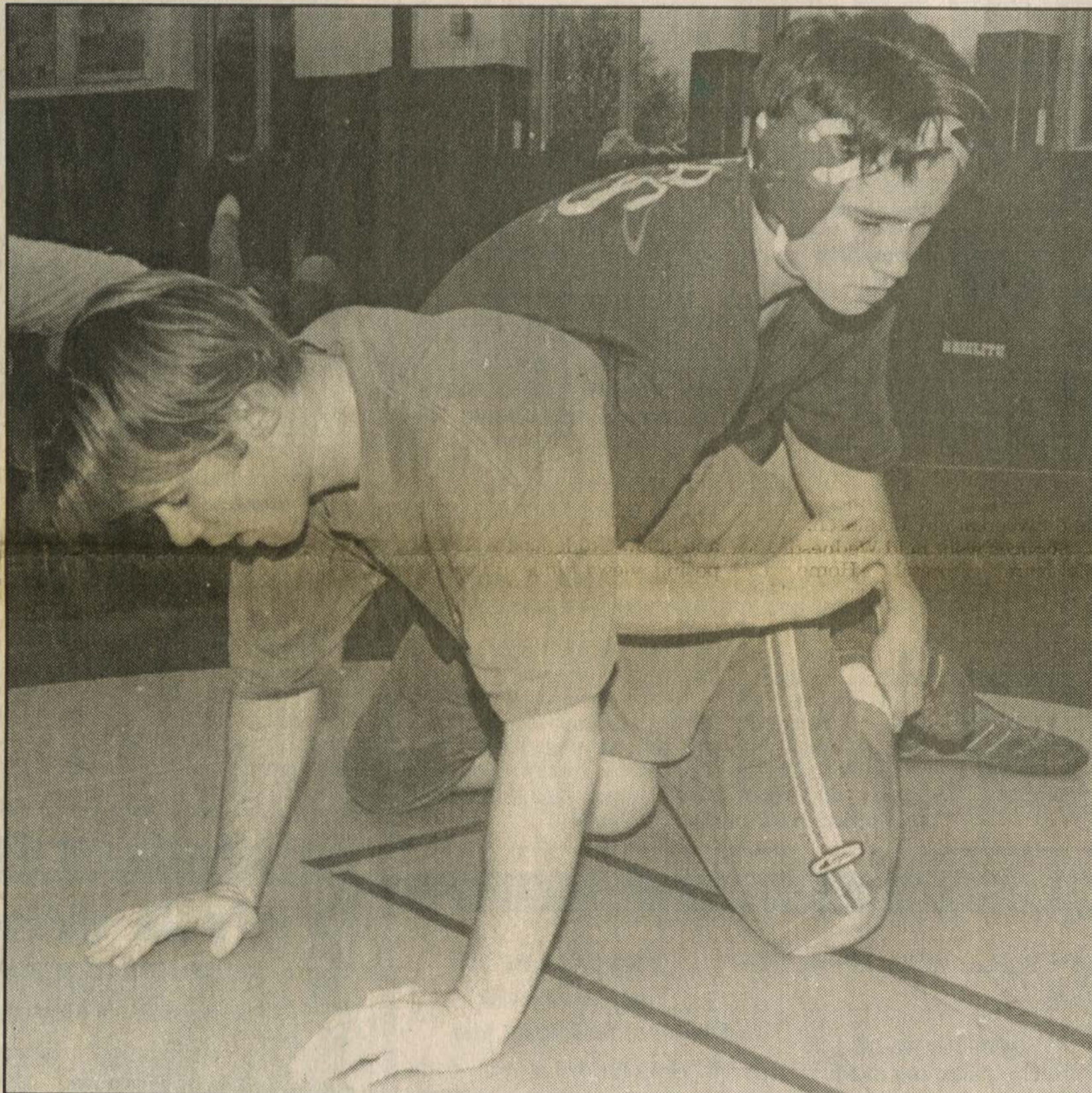
That's not to say, however, that the Eagles (5-13 in 1995-96) don't want to make Bruno a major part of their game plan.

"She's a force to be reckoned with," Jaworski said of Bruno, who averaged over 12 points per game last year. "She's a very good rebounder because of her strength, and she's very good with her back to the basket."

Playing alongside Bruno in the frontcourt will be senior Kristy Suriano (5-10). Seniors Jeannetta Taylor (5-5), Bernadette Murphy (5-6) will start in the backcourt and one of two 5-4 sophomores — Melissa Geoghan or Amy Montalbano — will also start in Edison's three-guard lineup.

"Right now, we go as Jeannetta goes," said Jaworski. "But that's something we'd like to get away from because we need to have other people who can run the offense when she's out of the game."

The Eagles have some height off the bench in juniors Iesha Mayfield (5-10) and Krystal Pasley (5-9) and sophomore Lauren Tudor (5-10), but Jaworski said she has a veritable "overabundance" of guards among seniors Kristen Coyne and Megan Ryan and junior Thalia Tretsis. Junior Michelle Aponte and sophomore Jaime Kuntz are swingmen.



Bill Enoch (top) drills with teammate Jarrod Hahn during a recent Edison practice. RANDALL MILLER/THE REVIEW

**BOWLING**

Mike Moon, who averaged 190 a year ago, leads a strong senior class on a boys squad which lost no starters from a 14-6-1 team in 1995-96.

"His potential is unlimited," fifth-year Head Coach Ken Bjornsen said of Moon. "If he's reading the lanes well, he can bowl as well or better than anyone."

The Eagle boys have a number of other established bowlers, including seniors Rosendo Bezares, Bryan Bowl, Frank Gomolcak and Doug Schneider. Bezares, Bowler and Gomolcak each averaged 180 last season, while Schneider averaged 175.

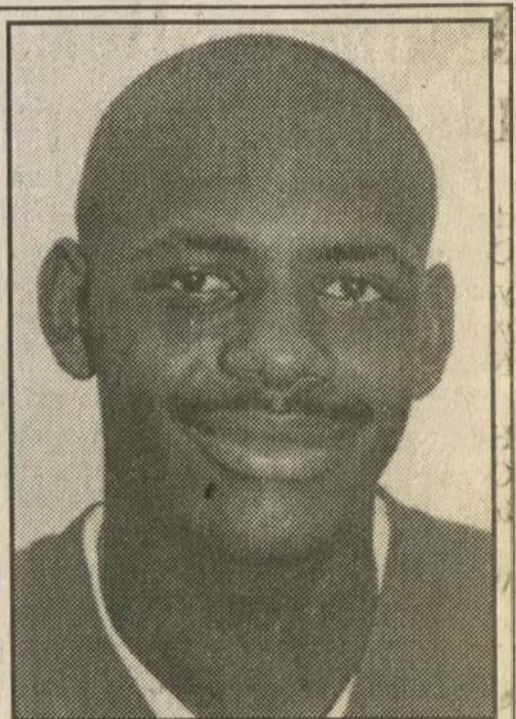
The rest of the team consists of sophomores Rob McEwen, Pete Russo and Greg Mockoviak and freshmen A.J. Tkaczuk and Luigi Beltran.

"The boys team has the potential to be very, very successful," said Bjornsen. "During tryouts, some of the guys really, really looked fabulous."

The girls team finished 5-11-5 a year ago, but could be in for a big turnaround this season.

Like the boys team, the girls roster includes a strong core of seniors, including Kerri Brooks, Elizabeth Daniels, Jamie Honkisz and Elaine Mirasol. There are also juniors Michelle DaGrosa and Melissa Ginsberg, sophomore Krista Nygard and freshmen Jennifer Oardiary, Lisa Montanye and Erica Ungerleider.

"DeGrosa was our top average bowler last year, but some of the seniors during tryouts have been really improved," said Bjornsen.



PAUL BOLDEN

## Bolden redshirts with Rebs

By MARK CLIFFORD  
 THE REVIEW

The Homecoming King has finally come home for the holidays.

Paul Bolden, a former football and basketball standout — not to mention the 1995 Homecoming King — at J.P. Stevens, High, is back home in Edison to enjoy his Christmas break after his first semester as a freshman at the University of Mississippi.

He spent the fall as a redshirt player on the "Ole Miss" football team, and said he considered it time well spent.

"I wasn't strong enough," he explained. "The biggest difference between college football and high school is strength."

He did everything with the rest of the team but play in the games, and after several months in the Rebels intensive weight lifting program, the 6-foot-4 defensive lineman said, he's bulked up to 250 pounds.

"My goals are to get my bench press up to 400 pounds and my power clean up to 300 pounds by the end of next year," he said. "That's not totally out of reach: in the power clean, I'm almost there now."

JPS Head Coach Frank Zarro said as a high school player, Bolden showed the kind of work ethic he would need to get the most out of spending a season practicing without seeing game action.

"He was a good worker, a good practice player," Zarro recalled. "He realized he had some shortcomings, but he worked hard to overcome them."

Spring practice is just around the corner, and Bolden — who is majoring in marketing — said he'll be working out at a couple of different positions, depending on how the team's depth chart shapes up.

"I've gotten bigger, so defensive tackle might be a possibility," he said. "All the seniors who played D-tackle last year are leaving, so there'll be jobs opening up next year. But at D-end, there're no seniors."



Junior Amy Bruno anchors Edison's front line. RANDALL MILLER/THE REVIEW

# JPS is strong on mat

## Boys, girls hoops teams hoping to rebound

By MARK CLIFFORD  
THE REVIEW

A year ago, few expected much of anything from the J.P. Stevens High wrestling team.

It ended up going 16-1 in dual-match competition, and Hawks Head Coach Chuck Rutan was the Greater Middlesex Conference's Coach of the Year.

So it would be a mistake to underestimate JPS this year, despite the graduation of four starters.

"Our goals this year are to win the districts (the Hawks were third in the District 19 Tournament last year), to get 10 or more wins in duals, and to send as many guys to the regionals and states as we can," said Rutan.

J.P.'s most accomplished returning wrestlers include 125-pound senior Rudy Valentino (22-6 and a district champion last year), 130-

pound senior Lorenzo Miceli (17-7), 140-pounder Jarrod Shaw (18-8), 152-pound senior Brian Rocco (15-10), 160-pound junior Lou Riggi (12-6) and 215-pound senior Marino Hwang (11-10).

Other wrestlers in the mix include sophomores Rich Reba and Jason LaBella at 103, senior Brian Miedowicz at 112, sophomore Andy Reina at 119, senior Louis Gershen at 125, junior Randy Reina and senior Tae Kim at 135, sophomore Steve Karmazin at 140, juniors Peter Yoo and Jason Steingart at 145, senior Jai Park at 171, senior J.R. Papernik at 189 and senior Kevin Thompson at heavyweight.



Powell at point guard, Stein at shooting guard, 5-11 sophomore swingman Jamil Davis as a swingman, 6-2 junior Garry Lamb at forward and 6-3 senior Brett Moleta at center.

"This year's team is a lot more athletic," said Westrol. "We're going to be pressing a lot to make up for a lack of size inside."

None of the Hawks have very impressive track records as scorers at the varsity level. Powell will run an offense dependent on transition baskets and perimeter shooting.

"The ball's going to be in his hands 99 percent of the time. He's the catalyst," Westrol said of Powell. "Our problem right now is we might get hurt on the boards, and we also have to be able to score inside to take some of the pressure off our outside shooters."

Westrol hopes he'll get some quality play out of the great quantity of bodies on his bench, which includes the following players: Tashon Palmer (junior, 6-5); Greg Ladislaw (senior, 5-10); Abhishek Singh (senior, 5-10); Martin Tien (senior, 6-0); Keith Ayers (junior, 5-10); Anthony Vaughn (junior, 6-0); Michael Chang (junior, 6-1); Mike Smith (junior, 6-4); Jeran Crawford (junior, 6-1); Doug Levine (junior, 6-2); Alex Valcourt (junior, 5-9) and Shaquan Lane (sophomore, 5-10).

### BOYS BASKETBALL

Head Coach Randy Westrol tells his players every year he wants the program to go one-step further than it did the year before.

Last year, however, it took a giant step backward.

Despite high expectations, the Hawks stumbled out of the gate in 1995-96 with three projected starters on the bench with injuries or illnesses. Things snowballed from that point on, and the Hawks wound up limping home 6-14.

Westrol says this year, his seventh at the helm of the Hawks, will be completely different.

"The team chemistry this year is probably the best since I've been here," he declared.

Westrol credited the leadership of 5-foot-11 senior guard Mitch Stein as the main reason the team has jelled so quickly despite losing four players to graduation and one to the track and field team out from among last year's starting five and sixth man.

The new starting lineup will employ 5-9 junior Frankie

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

It's been a tough couple of seasons, for the JPS girls team, but there appears to be light at the end of the tunnel.

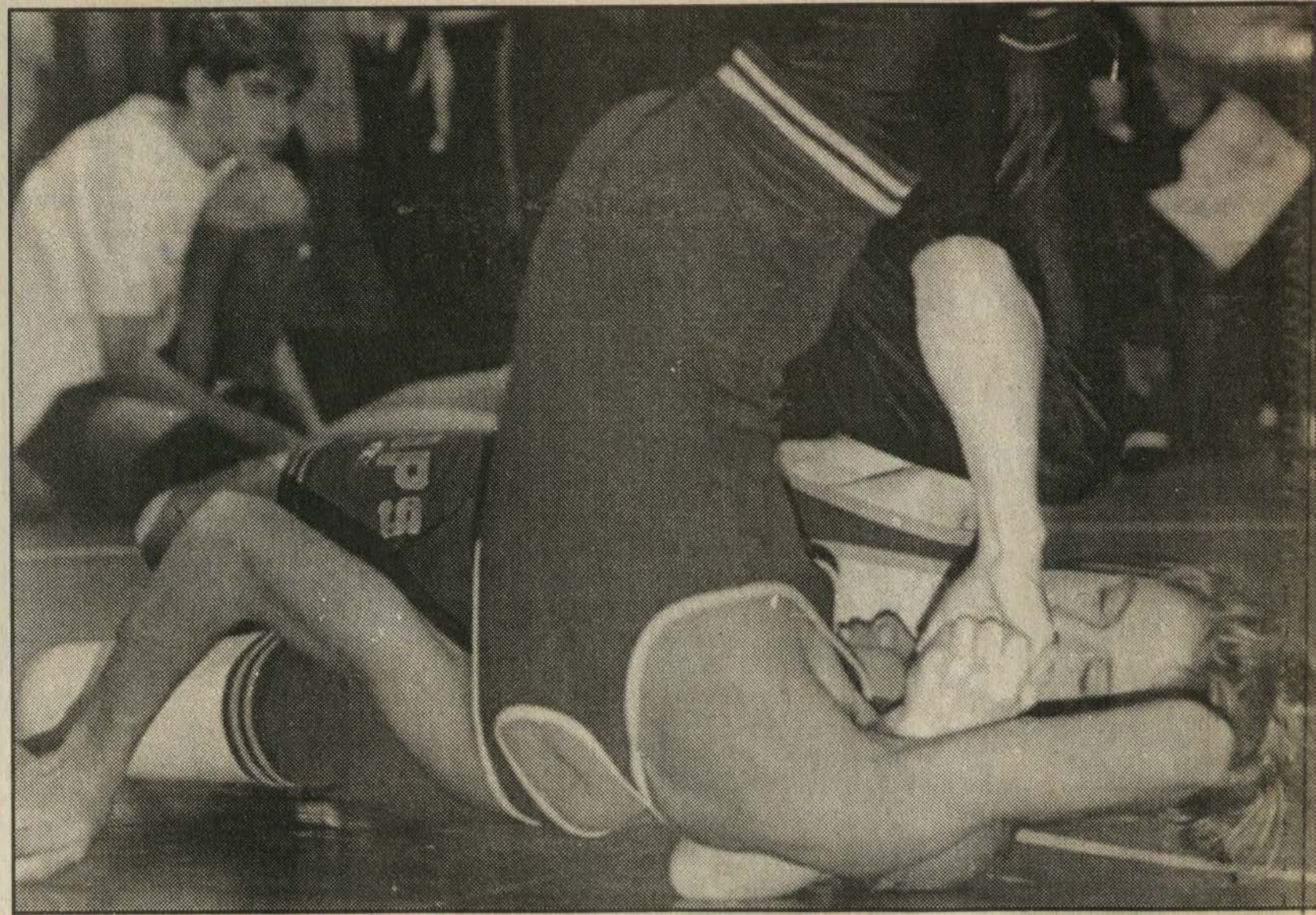
"After two years of rebuilding, we're a much-improved team," said Head Coach Kathy McKeon, whose Hawks were 3-17 last year and 5-16 in 1995-96. "I really think we can go over .500."

The Hawks return a genuine star in point guard Lauren Elwood, a 5-9 junior who averaged 15 points per game last year against a steady diet of box-and-one defenses and double-teams.

McKeon thinks Elwood will get a little more help this year from her supporting cast. The rest of the starting lineup will include 5-4 junior Joanne DiMuzio and either sophomore Terri Brown (5-6) or junior Brooke Kobren in the three-guard alignment, along with sophomore Dana Honcharuk (5-10½) and senior Lauren Brown (5-8) in the frontcourt.

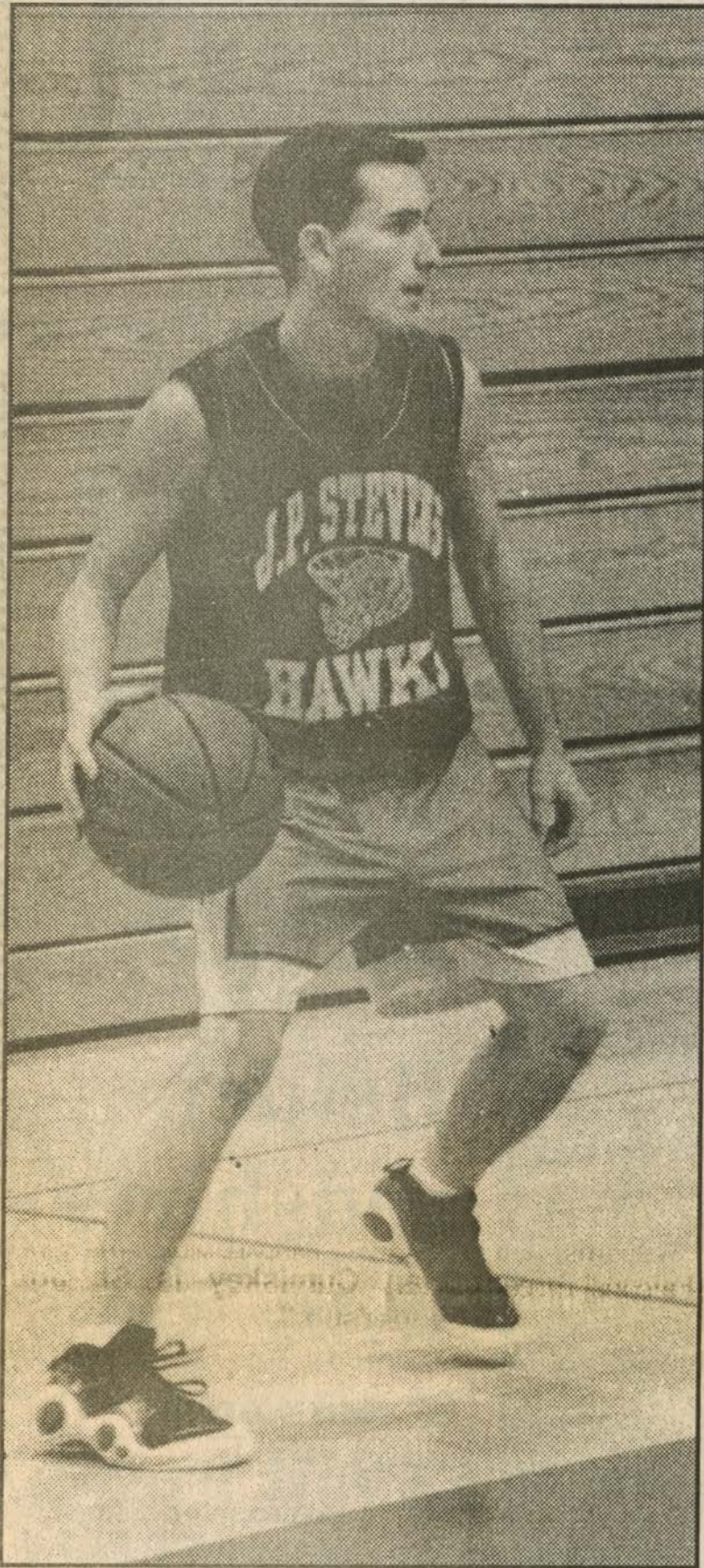
The top reserves are forwards Robyn Lubisco (junior, 5-8) and Mercedes Burch (sophomore, 5-8) and a pair of 5-4 sophomore guards: Megan Beebe and Laurie Canton.

"We're going to play up-tempo," McKeon promised. "Every chance we get, we're going to run. And defensively, we're going to be much more aggressive than we have in the past."



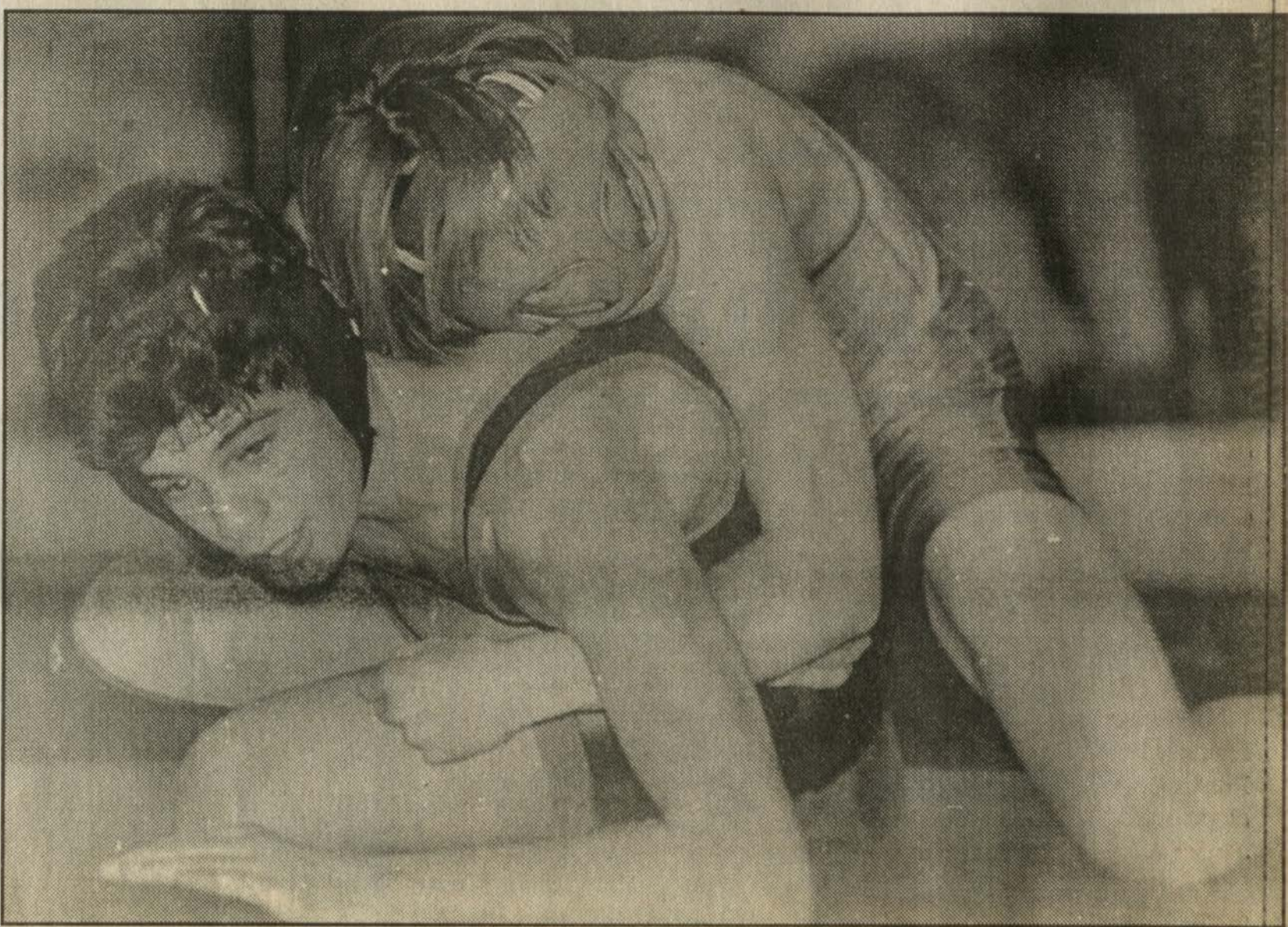
Richard Reba, a contender for a starting position at 103 pounds, upends an opponent during a junior varsity tournament last year.

AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/THE REVIEW



SHARON WILSON/THE REVIEW

Senior Mitch Stein is one of the leaders of the J.P. Stevens basketball team.



Lorenzo Miceli, shown here wrestling Edison's Tom Frantz (wearing face mask) last season, is one of J.P.'s senior stalwarts.

REVIEW FILE PHOTO

### BOWLING

Matt Manenty has been on a roll lately.

He averaged 216 during the pre-season tryouts.

"For his sake, I hope he keeps it up," Stevens Head Coach Fred Valerie said of Manenty. "He lives and breathes bowling. You can go to Caroler Lanes at any time and find him there."

ior, might finish among the top 10 bowlers in the GMC this season. He also thinks his boys team, which finished 8-11-4 last year, could finish among the top three in the GMC-Red Division.

The other members of J.P.'s top six also rang up impressive averages during tryouts, including senior Evan Kanter (188), junior Adam Levy (175), sophomores Adam Kanter (184) and Jarred

Grossman (176) and freshmen Josh Lemerman (170).

Others who made the team and may eventually crack the top six include a trio of sophomores: Jeff Ludwin, Alan Pedinoff and Brian Ackerman.

The top six on the girls team are senior Jennifer Forman, junior Lisa Robak, sophomore Lauren Weiner and Rachel Samely and freshman Nicole Paul.

### HIGH SCHOOL CALENDAR

(All times 7 p.m. unless noted)

J.P. Stevens vs. Old Bridge, 3:45 p.m.

MONDAY DEC. 23

Boys Basketball

Edison at Piscataway, 1 p.m.

J.P. Stevens at Scotch Plains-Fanwood

Metuchen at Carteret, 1 p.m.

Girls Basketball

Piscataway at Edison, 12:30 p.m.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood at J.P. Stevens, 5:30 p.m.

Carteret at Metuchen, 11:30 a.m.

Swimming

Metuchen at Bernards, 8:30 p.m.

TOMORROW, DEC. 21

Track and Field

Edison, J.P. Stevens, Metuchen and St. Joseph's at East Brunswick High Relays, 9:45 a.m.

Wrestling

Edison at Princeton Invitational

J.P. Stevens vs. Woodbridge and South Brunswick at South Brunswick, 10 a.m.

Metuchen at North Plainfield, 10:30 a.m.

TODAY

Boys Basketball

Sayreville at Edison

Piscataway at J.P. Stevens

Highland Park at Metuchen, 7:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's at Old Bridge

Girls Basketball

Edison at Sayreville

J.P. Stevens at Piscataway

Metuchen at New Brunswick

Bowling

Edison vs. South Brunswick, 3:45 p.m.

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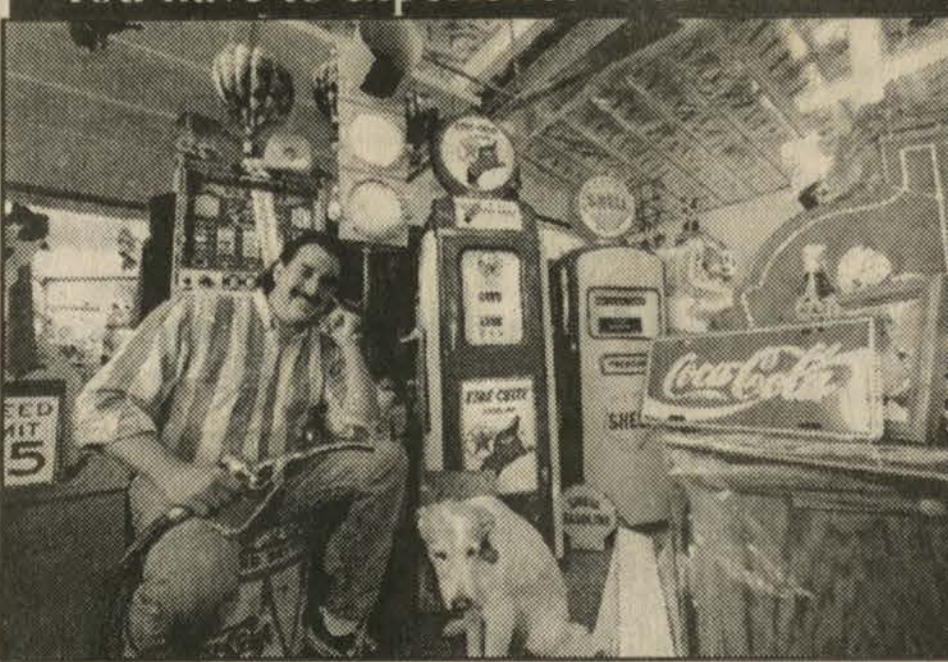
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# Hoops teams inexperienced

## Strong turnout for grapplers

By JEREMY SINGER  
REVIEW CORRESPONDENT

METUCHEN — The Metuchen High wrestling team's biggest problem last season was its inability to fill all the weight classes.

But thanks to an influx of freshmen, the Bulldogs will no longer have to forfeit as many as four matches every meet as they did last year, when they finished 6-6.

Bulldog Head Coach Bob Ulmer said a prime objective this year is to qualify for the Central Jersey Group 1 sectional team tournament, which the Dogs missed by one power point last year.

"Stepping up to wrestle in the counties (the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament) and the districts is another one of our goals," he said. "We want to compete with whoever we wrestle with."

Metuchen will return a core of upperclassmen, including seniors Eli Nadell (125 pounds), Ed Fulton (130), Todd Gibbons (135), Justin Killian (140-145), Sean Kohl (215) and Ben Davis (heavyweight) and juniors Nick Zaneto (103), Francis Hwang (152) and Andrew Joyce (189).

Sophomores include Aaron Bragg (112) and Adam Davis (189). Freshmen who will see action include Matt Sprunger (130), Allen Jensen (130) and Ryan Hale (119).

The 171 weight class is still open, according to Ulmer.

"We could bump people around, and we have some freshmen we can throw in. Against teams in our division, they should be OK," Ulmer said. "Against the bigger

schools, we'll have to see what we have, but they will be competitive."

### BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bulldogs lost all nine of last season's letterwinners to graduation or to other winter sports, which means this year's team enters the season with no varsity experience whatsoever.

Head Coach Jack Kreiger said he feels once his players overcome their early-season jitters, it can become a competitive team.

"The kids are all working hard, but they've never played varsity," he said. "But they've improved in every scrimmage, and I think we can be a .500 club if they continue to work hard."

Center Brian Clark is Metuchen's only senior. Juniors include guards Jeff Dyke, Chris Baffutto and Bryan Stio, forwards Josh Pryslak, Steve Garcia and Maurice Vasco and center Mark Vandzura.

Guards Tim Kenyon and Anquae Freeland, forwards Frank Carniglia and Roger Thomas and center John Stonehocker are sophomores. Freshmen forwards Chris Kates and Scott Leitner may also see action.

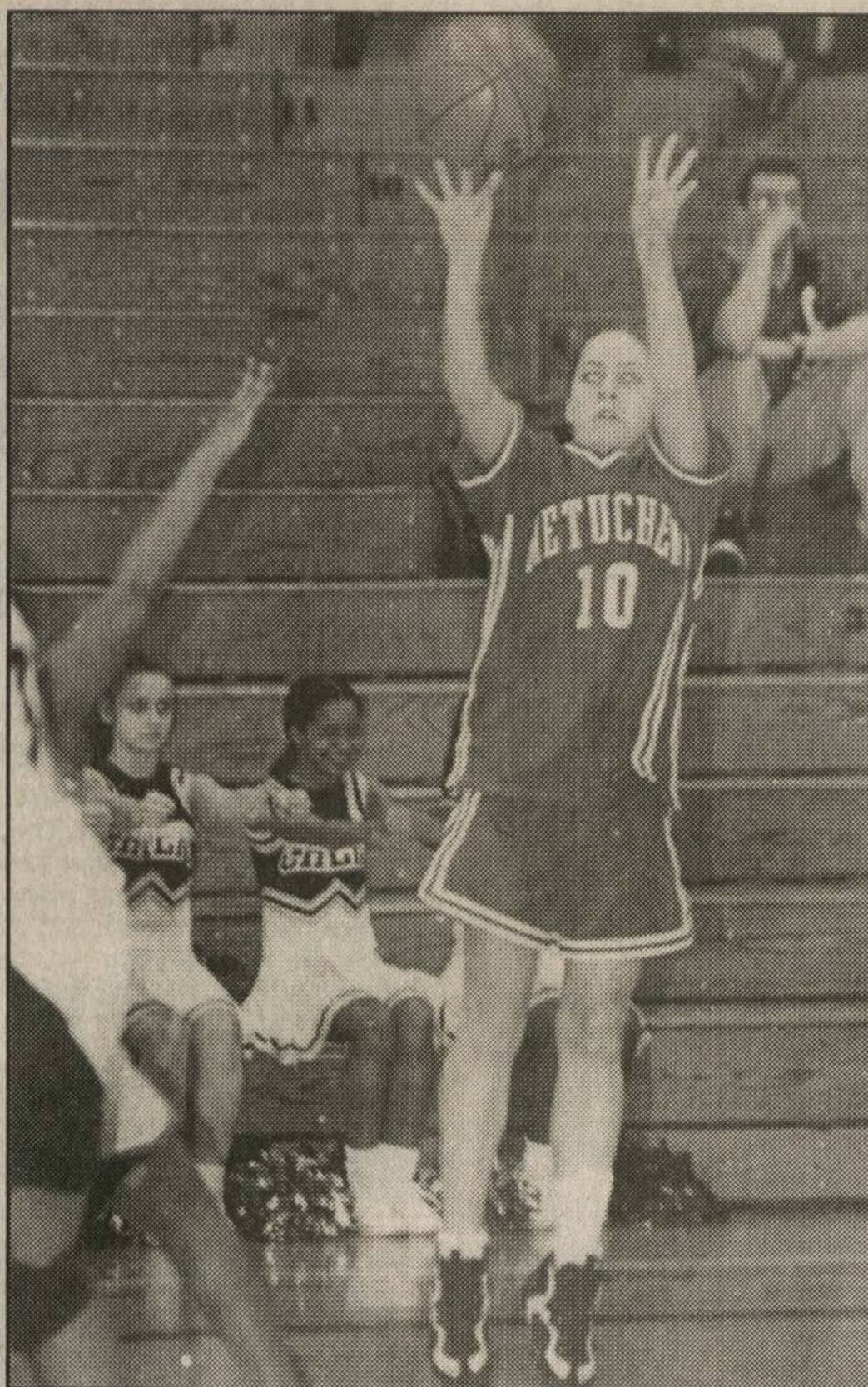
Kreiger said he hopes the Bulldogs can qualify for the state tournament this season, as they did last year when they finished 9-11.

"I knew last season this was going to be a rebuilding year," he said. "I'm going to try to lead us in the right direction, and I think that can be done."

### GIRLS BASKETBALL

Head Coach Val Gazda said she hopes this season will be a learning experience for her inexperienced players.

Metuchen is returning just one



REVIEW FILE PHOTO  
Stephanie Baran is Metuchen's high-scoring point guard.

starter, Stephanie Baran, and one other letterwinner, Tara Muratore, from last year's 10-11 team. The rest of the roster consists of newcomers to the program and players who have only junior varsity experience.

"It'll be a rebuilding year," said Gazda. "We're a young team, but every time the players get on the floor, they're doing something better."

Besides Baran and Muratore, both of whom are junior guards, the Lady Bulldogs will start a front line of senior Jenn Tinker, junior Theresa Sprunger and one of two sophomores, Kim Penny or Emily Mertz.

Other players who will see ac-

tion include senior Theresa Brown (forward), juniors Kristin Haring (guard) and Kristen Kinelski (forward/guard), sophomore Katie Poandl (forward) and freshman Melissa Tiegara (guard).

Gazda said she expects the team's inexperienced players to struggle at the beginning of the season before gradually improving.

"The level of competition is tougher and faster on JV," she said. "Some of our players will have a hard time against that level of competition but we've had three good scrimmages that have given those players good insight on what they need to do."

# Falcon program gaining strength

By MARK CLIFFORD  
THE REVIEW

The "Time of Troubles" is officially over for the St. Joseph's High basketball program.

"We're not quite where we want to be yet," says second-year Head Coach Mark Taylor. "But our goal is, by the end of the year, to be as good as anyone in the county."

The program seemed in serious trouble when St. Joe's hired Taylor before last season. The Falcons were coming off a 4-17 season and had just lost their best player, Forbes Newspapers All-Area first teamer Obi Mgbako, to graduation. The team's top scorer had transferred in mid-season two years in a row, which attracted a considerable amount of controversy and speculation.

But then, under Taylor's direction, an unheralded group of players put together a 12-9 season, and now the tradition-rich Falcons appear to be on the verge of becoming a perennial power again in the Greater Middlesex Conference.

Some key member from that overachieving 1995-96 team have graduated — Ryan Virag, Mike Kenny, Chris Kiemel and Mike Valenza — but Taylor has a legitimate "franchise" player to build around in 6-foot-1 guard Jason Williams, who averaged 18.5 points per game last year as a mere freshman.

"I think we're quicker and a little bit bigger than last year," said Taylor. "Remember, we didn't have a center last year."

This year, however, 6-5 sophomore Paul Vocage will man the pivot.

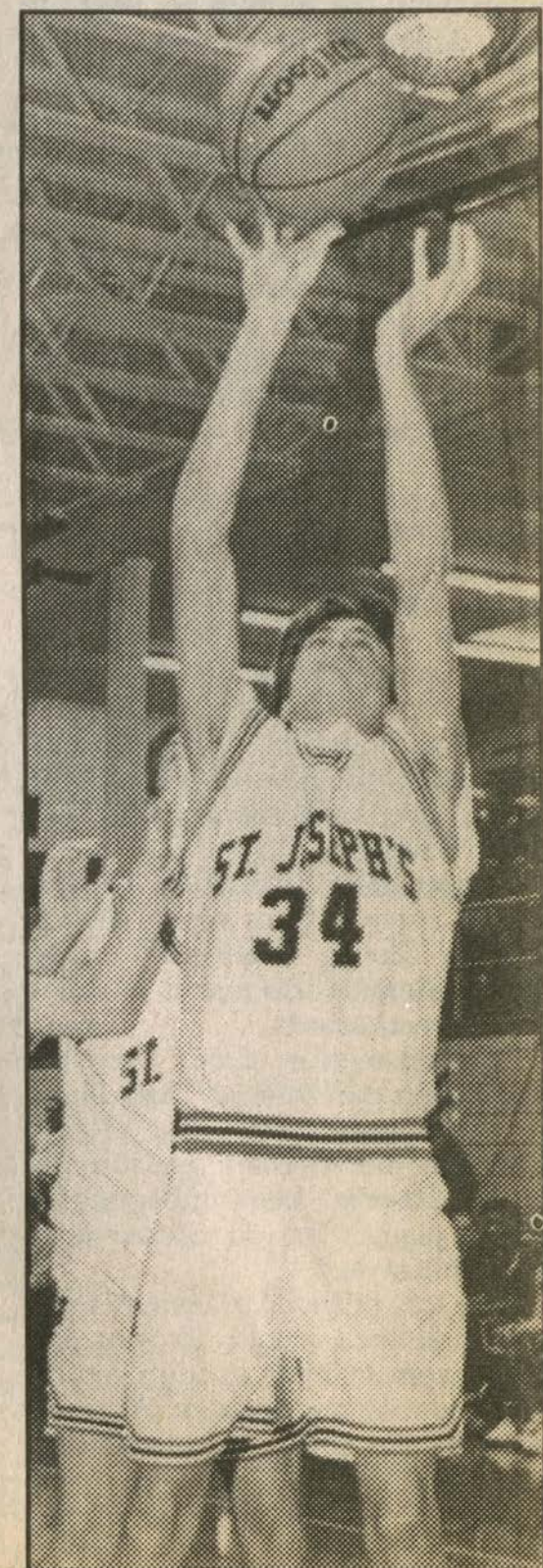
"He never played center before," Taylor said of Vocage. "He was always a forward or a guard, but then he grew a lot. So he still has a lot of those forward-guard skills, and he's still growing. He's learning right now how to play center."

Vocage will have an experienced player alongside him in 6-0 senior forward Kevin Reilly, and another senior, 5-10 Kevin Hopkins, will be running the show at point guard.

The other starter will be a sophomore classmate of Williams, 6-0 Brian Wilson, in the Falcons' three-guard lineup.

There are also three seniors available to come off the bench, including 6-3 center Tim Keane, 6-2 forward Dan Cavanaugh and 6-2 utility man Brian Cumiskey, whom Taylor calls his "supersub" because of his ability to play any position.

St. Joe's has also hired Mike Thompson as an assistant coach. Thompson, one of Taylor's old Falcon teammates of the early 1980's, has spent the past two years as an assistant coach at one of the pre-eminent high school programs in the nation, St. Anthony's of Jersey City.



RANDALL MILLER/THE REVIEW  
Brian Cumiskey is St. Joe's "supersub."



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# BGA looking tough in wrestling, hoops

By **MATTHEW GOLDEN**  
REVIEW CORRESPONDENT

**EDISON** — The Bishop Ahr High basketball team faces a monumental task, replacing graduated point guard Michele Lanigan, a Forbes Newspapers All-Area first-team player on last year's 18-8 squad.

Head Coach Kevin Harper shudders at the prospect.

"Obviously, it's a tremendous loss," he said. "Michele was the best player in the county. She did everything for us. She handled the ball, defended the opponent's best player and shouldered a great deal of the offensive burden. No one player can replace Michele. We each have to do a little extra to replace her contribution."

Lanigan has made an immediate impact as a freshman this year at Division 1 Towson State University in Maryland, averaging 6.6 points and 19.4 minutes per contest for the 5-2 team.

Harper, however, thinks this year's Lady Trojans will be up to playing without Lanigan.

Senior Dawn Van Cleef, a Belle Mead resident, and sophomore Krystle McGrane (Edison) will share Lanigan's backcourt duties.

The front line will consist of senior Toni Johnson (Plainfield), junior Staci Singleton (New Brunswick) and sophomore Nikki Winston (Edison).

Harper also anticipates reliable bench support from senior Sharon Abbate (South Plainfield), sophomore Stefanie Robinson (Avenel) and several others.

"The strengths of our team are speed and our defense," said Harper. "We want to run our offense and play man-to-man, pressure defense. Having the number of talented players we do allows us to play this style."

The loss of Lanigan creates a sizable hole for the Lady Trojans, but they seem to have enough returning talent to compensate. Ahr may miss its star early on, but don't ex-

pect the Trojans to continue struggling for long.

## WRESTLING

With more than two-thirds of this year's roster comprised of returning lettermen, Head Coach Nick Tonzola is expecting improvement over last year's 8-4 finish, perhaps even a first-place finish in the Greater Middlesex Conference-White Division, which lost defending champion South Plainfield and added Woodbridge.

"We're a solid team and should contend with South Brunswick and Woodbridge for the division championship," Tonzola said.

Tonzola believes the strengths of the Trojan lineup will be junior Lucas Ott (Rahway) at 112 pounds, senior Kyle Banashek (South Plainfield) at 152 and junior Rich Chaillet (Linden) at 160.

"I'm looking for big things in those three weight classes," said Tonzola.

Ott is a returning region champion.

Competition will be fierce for the remaining 13 weight classes and the Trojans are likely to send an experienced wrestler to the mat in all but three of them.

"There are 53 members of our team currently," said Tonzola. "The turnout has been outstanding. As a result, there's intense competition for most of the positions and the pre-season has been productive. With this many athletes, you need to work extremely hard if you expect to earn a position."

Ahr's possible starters are:

103 — Chris Ryan (sophomore, Somerset) or Lance Ott (freshman, Rahway)

112 — Brannen Geerhling (sophomore, New Brunswick) or Jason Kearns (freshman, Edison)

119 — Lucas Ott

125 — Jeff Kostiw (junior, Pisca-

taway) or Nick Conte (sophomore, Carteret)

130 — Dave Braine (junior, Edison) or Jay Palmer (Milltown)

135 — John Kolibus (junior, Carteret), senior Tony Encimas (Edison)

140 — Kevin Braine (junior, Edison)

145 — Jay Saunders (junior, Somerset) or John Wonski (Perth Amboy)

152 — Banashek

160 — Chaillet

171 — Alex Montes (junior, Plainfield) or Antoine Thomas (senior, Plainfield)

189 — Tim Zsiga (sophomore, Edison)

215 — John O'Brien (senior, Rahway) or John Marcinko (junior, Perth Amboy)

HWT — Rich Zjawin (Metuchen) or Chris Slomko (sophomore, Parlin)

## BOYS BASKETBALL

The time is now for the Trojans, who open the season laden with experience and depth.

Bishop Ahr will start five seniors as it attempts to improve on last year's 5-11 campaign. Mike Kuzemski (South Amboy) and Brian Loniewski (Milltown) will anchor the backcourt, while Demani Roach (Somerset) and Jeff Ust (South Amboy) man the forward positions. Robert West is in the pivot and Damien Williams (Plainfield), Joe Gallo (Milltown) and Brian Mieczkowski (Metuchen) will contribute off second-year Head Coach Dennis O'Keefe's bench.

Mieczkowski and Gallo, both of whom are juniors, are the only non-senior regulars.

"These guys all played together last season and are comfortable with one another," said O'Keefe.

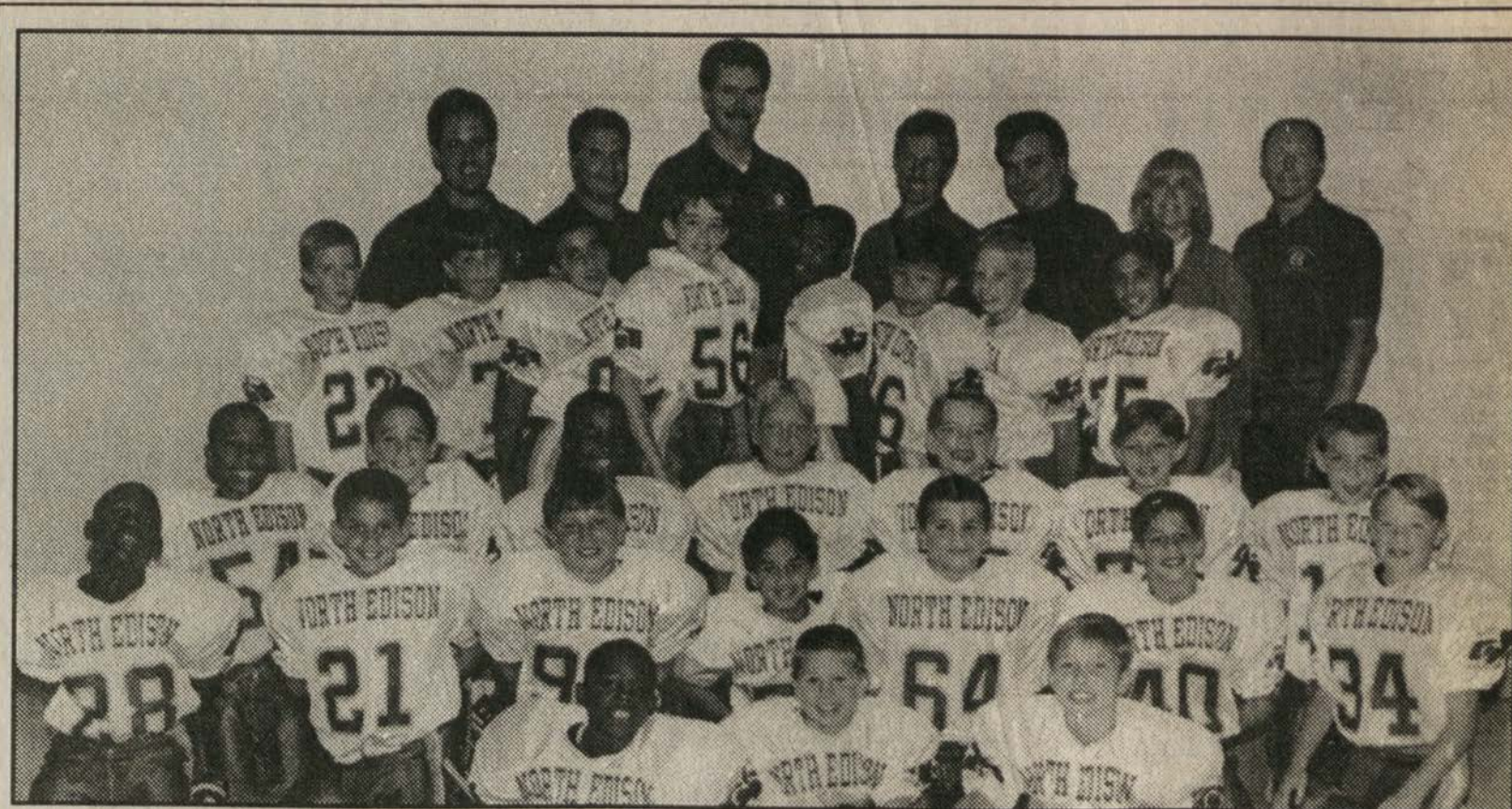
"They're an experienced group that plays well when they play with intensity. When we lose our aggressiveness, we struggle."

If Bishop Ahr can parlay its abundance of experience into improved execution, the Trojans should be a much-improved team.

## BISHOP AHR



Winter Preview



## Junior Pee Wee powerhouse

The North Edison Shemrocks Junior Pee Wee team finished this fall's Pop Warner Football season with a 7-2 record. The Rocks are pictured as follows: sitting — Aaron Miller, Mathew DeZaio, Mark Ferrari; first row, kneeling: Tamar Robinson, David Peraino, Joey Wirkowski, Keval Patel, Mathew VanOrden, Jeffrey Zannetti, Joey Scerbo; second row, kneeling — D'Madrio Viera, Anthony Maffucci, Kasif Salahuddin, Danny Lobacz, Martin Duffy, Gary Dragona, Patrick Duffy; standing — Chris Kirsch, Frank Darabos, Kareem Ibrahim, Michael Curtin, Anthony Miller, Hie Won Kang, Joey Giradano, Abbas Hussain; coaching staff — Frank Peraino, Gary Dragona, Michael Curtin, Jim Wirkowski, Mike Maffucci, (team mom) Margie Lobacz, Joe Lobacz.

## NOTICES

### MATHAWKS MEDAL

Several members of the North Edison Mathawks youth wrestling team placed in Saturday's Fords Bearcats Tournament in Perth Amboy. Jeff Zannetti (67 pounds), Anthony Miller (80) and Tim Karmazsin (heavyweight) placed first.

Chris Grieve (105) placed second and Aaron Miller (60) and Dan Sica (92) were third.

Other Mathawks competitors were Bobby Brower and Greg Sica.

### YMCA REGISTRATION

The Metuchen-Edison YMCA is currently holding signups for its youth basketball program for ages 6-14, and for its aerobic and aquatic classes. For information, call 548-2044.



## Sweet 17

The New Jersey Girls Soccer Coaches Association has chosen Metuchen High's Jen Graf and Liza Fanelli to their all-groups Central Jersey Top 17 all-star team

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ceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Spirit, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. A.D.

**PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN—** (Never known to fail). Oh, most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me, herein you are my mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth! I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my mother. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee (3x). Holy Spirit, I place this cause in your hands (3x). Holy Spirit,

you who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life you are with me, I want in this short prayer to thank you for all things as you confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy toward me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days, the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted. L.J.C.

**THANKSGIVING NOVENA TO ST. JUDE—** Holy St. Jude, Apostle and Martyr, great in vir-

and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor of all who invoke your special patronage in time of need. To you I have recourse from the depth of my heart and humbly beg to whom God has given such great power to come to my assistance. Help me in my present and urgent petition. In return I promise to make your name known and cause you to be invoked. (Say 3 Our Fathers, 3 Hail Mary's, 3 Glory Be's). St. Jude, pray for us and all who invoke your aid. Amen. (Publication must be promised. This novena has never been known to fail. This prayer is to be said for 9 consecutive days). My prayers have been answered: JS

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- 4050 - Cleaning
- 4060 - Convalescent
- 4090 - Health Care
- 4105 - Income Tax
- 4110 - Instruction/Education
- 4120 - Insurance
- 4140 - Legal Services
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- 4170 - Miscellaneous
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- 4210 - Professional

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