



NICOLE DIMELLA/
STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
South Plainfield High School boys basketball team sweep the championships in holiday tournaments. See the story on page B-1.

Briefs

Anger management

METUCHEN — Registration is underway for an anger management workshop sponsored by Women Helping Women. The workshop runs Tuesday nights for four weeks beginning Jan. 8. Fee is \$25 per session. Reduced rates are available. For more information and registration, phone (732) 549-6000.

Lifeguard training

METUCHEN — A lifeguard certification course is scheduled this weekend at the Metuchen-Edison YMCA on High Street. A preliminary test is 1 p.m. tomorrow. Those who pass the preliminary test can begin the course Sunday. Participants must be 15 or older. Cost is \$175 for members and \$185 for non-members. Registration is required; phone Marie at (732) 548-2044.

Hypnosis workshop

EDISON — Two hypnosis-related workshops are scheduled Wednesday at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road. A stop-smoking workshop runs 6:30-7:30 p.m. and a weight-loss workshop follows 7:30-8:30 p.m. Barry Wolfson of the Flemington-based Hypnosis Counseling Center is the presenter. Fee for each workshop is \$40. For registration, phone (908) 996-3311.

Pallone holds forum

HIGHLAND PARK — Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. has scheduled two community forums for the public to discuss health-care and retirement issues. The forums are Monday night at the Highland Park Public Library, 31 N. Fifth Ave. Pallone plans to speak about what Congress is doing to strengthen patients' rights. He also wants to hear from people about Social Security and Medicare, as well as ideas for what Congress should do to improve hospitals. For more information, phone (732) 249-8892.

Author to speak

HIGHLAND PARK — Judy Freeman, author and expert on children's literature, visits Irving School on South 11th Avenue this week. She will conduct two assemblies Monday: the first 9-10 a.m. for preschool and kindergarten, the second 10:15-11:15 a.m. for Grades 1-2. Freeman will hold a workshop for Irving teachers after class that day. For more information, phone Cindy Williams at (732) 572-1205, Ext. 1307.

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Chamber honors those who served 9/11

By GARY GOVELITZ

STAFF WRITER

METUCHEN — Those who stepped forward and rushed to the aid of New York City on Sept. 11 will be honored as the Citizens of the Year by the Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce at the 49th Annual Installation Dinner Dance on Jan. 19.

The Citizen of the Year honor will be shared by the members of the Metuchen Volunteer Fire Departments, the Metuchen Police Department and P.B.A. Local #60 and the Metuchen Rescue Squad who came forward to volunteer their services after the

call for help following the World Trade Center attack on Sept. 11, 2001.

Metuchen sent eight firemen and a truck to the disaster. They were on Staten Island, the next crew to go in to fight the fire, when they were sent back. Two officers, Sgt. Robin Rentenberg and Ptl. Arthur Flaherty, were on the scene. Sgt. Rentenberg, who is an EMT, helped with triage while Flaherty helped search for victims in the rubble.

The entire First Aid Squad mobilized with 10 going with two rigs and the first response unit to Liberty State Park where triage was performed on the wounded coming in from the city and the rest remaining

on alert in town.

"The chamber, and the rest of the community, appreciate our volunteers coming together at a time a crisis," said Brian McGowan, past chamber president and member of the nominating committee.

The Organization of the Year is the John F. Kennedy Medical Center, which is managed by Solaris Health Care Systems. A constant contributor to the community, this year Solaris sponsored the Holiday Parade.

"We in Metuchen and in the surrounding area are very fortunate to have a hospital of the caliber of J.F.K. Medical Center," McGowan said. "We appreciate everything

they have done for us over the years."

Two former chamber presidents have been chosen for the chamber's Distinguished Service Award.

Marcia and Al Salton moved to Metuchen as newlyweds in 1956. Al has been a member of the Kiwanis and was president of the Metuchen Board of Health. Marcia has been on the Board of Education and with the League of Women Voters. She is also the host of "The Business of Business" for METV.

"Marcia and Al Salton have put in countless hours for the good of the chamber and for the Borough of Metuchen," said McGowan.

Officials sworn in

By GARY GOVELITZ

STAFF WRITER

EDISON — Two new councilmen joined Mayor George Spadaro and Councilman Anthony Massaro as the victors of November's general election took their place at the dais.

Robert Diehl and Parag Patel became the newest members of the council taking the places of William Stephens and Antonia Ricigliano both of whom were defeated in the June primary. Stephens had challenged Mayor Spadaro for the mayor's seat. After being denied, by a close vote, the regular party line on the ballot by the Democratic committee, Stephens ran against Mayor Spadaro in the primary. Ricigliano had joined with Stephens in his revolt and both were defeated in June.

In a low key campaign, Mayor Spadaro was elected for his third four-year term. Councilman Massaro is beginning his second four-year term and Diehl and Patel are beginning their first terms.

"I can't think of a better group of people to help lead our township," Mayor Spadaro said. "Edison's future is wonderful."

Patel is the first member of the Asian Indian community to be elected to the council.

"I am very proud and happy for my husband," said Sonal Patel. "We are very excited."

Councilman Massaro was unanimously elected to a second term as council president. Councilman Charles Tomaro was elected as vice president of the council. Councilman Tomaro has been on the council for seven



Robert Diehl takes his oath of office, administered by Mayor George Spadaro. With the newly sworn council member are his wife Ann, son Robert and daughter Diana.

years.

"Charlie and I started together as green as peas," said Councilwoman Joan Kapitan. "He has grown to do a wonderful job."

"This is what makes this a great council. We are not only colleagues but we are friends," said Massaro who then addressed the council and gathered guests.

"I am looking forward to a year

where, together, we can approach our job of doing the business of the people in a professional, efficient and courteous manner," Council President Massaro said.

In addressing the council, he singled out a number of goals for Edison's future including: open space, public safety, communications upgrade, length of service awards for volunteers, services

for senior citizens, parking around the Clara Barton section and traffic lights around town. He also addressed taxes, flood control, property maintenance and sewer infrastructure.

"The future is ours if we set aside our differences. We need to act as if we all live in one Edison. If we can do that, the possibilities are limitless."

Students sing for senior residents

John Marshall School kids entertain Edison Estates Nursing Home

By GARY GOVELITZ

STAFF WRITER

EDISON — Someone is going to have to remind the students and faculty at the John Marshall School that Christmas is the time to be good and nice and not the time to put Santa out of business.

The school's "Make A Difference" program is working year round to make sure that the students can focus their energy on the community throughout the year.

On Thursday, Dec. 20 the student council members sang their favorite holiday songs to senior citizens at the Edison Estates Nursing Home.

"We have adopted the Edison Estates Nursing Home," said Principal Gerald Young. "We will be going there on St. Valentine's Day. We also went to the veteran's home in November."

The school also collects coats and toys for the needy and puts together food baskets.

Not only will the school choir be there to sing with the senior citizens, but the entire school created hand-made cards to distribute to the residents. The tradition unites students with the elderly. The school encourages students to find ways to make a difference in other's lives.

"It's a lot of fun to go and see people in the nursing home," said Brittany Bobik, 9.

As they boarded the bus, the children put on their coats and special holiday hats: halos, which made them look like angels, or antlers or bows or snowflakes.

The children brought with them songbooks of their favorite holiday sing-a-long songs. With Principal Young wearing his Santa hat



With Principal Young wearing his Santa hat and leading the way, the children boarded the bus and were off to spread holiday cheer at the Edison Estates Nursing Home.

and leading the way, the children boarded the bus and were off to spread holiday cheer.

"The children love to sing. This is a very diverse group and we work on all different kinds of songs," said Rosemary Kimowski, the

school's music teacher. "We just finished the Nutcracker in which the children learned to tell a story with dance. Going to sing for the seniors is something special for them. It is something they love to do."

Buck is clear for building

By IRENE RIEGNER

CORRESPONDENT

HIGHLAND PARK — Buck Woods is, once again, available for development.

A consent order will allow JSM at Highland Park, LLC, (a.k.a. developer Jack Morris) to submit a new plan for the development of the six-acre property, announced Howard Geneslaw, attorney for the Planning Board at its Dec. 27 meeting. According to Robert Kluger, board chairman, any new plan which JSM files must conform to zoning and land use requirements. Neither Geneslaw nor Kluger said they were aware of plans to develop the property.

When asked if JSM expects to submit a new development plan, Karen MacDonald, Director of Land Acquisition for JSM, said, "I can't answer this now."

The approval process must start from scratch without carryovers from previous proposals, officials said. In August, 1999, JSM had applied for permission to construct 24 single-family homes on the Buck Woods property. On Nov. 16, 2000, JSM's application was denied and JSM appealed to Middlesex County Court.

By signing the consent agreement, JSM agreed to relinquish the right to use plans and testimony previously submitted to the planning board. Middlesex County Superior Court Judge Douglas Wolfson agreed to the consent order last October, ending the litigation between the planning board and JSM.

On Dec. 18, the borough council rezoned Buck Woods to give a builder two options: either cluster housing or the traditional single home development. According to Geneslaw, the zoning change should not adversely affect the consent order. The applicable zoning is the zoning in effect at the time a planning decision is rendered. Should JSM submit a new application, the updated zoning would apply. Recent decisions by the Supreme Court of New Jersey, continued Geneslaw, uphold a municipality's right to decide land use.

The cluster housing option requires open space but increases housing density. The traditional design option reduces housing density but does not allocate open space.

Under cluster housing, 40 percent of the property must remain undeveloped. The remainder is available for single-family, detached, houses at a density of 4.5 units per acre. Minimum lot size is 5,000 square feet. Applied to the six-acre Buck Woods site, 2.4 acres (40 percent) would remain undeveloped. Up to 27 houses (4.5 units per acre) could be constructed.

Under the traditional option, no acreage is set aside for open space. Three single-family, detached homes can be built per acre. Minimum lot size is 12,000 square feet. On the Buck Woods property, 18 houses could be built (three houses per acre).

Piscataway, Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2001 — a year in review

By CHERYL ORSON
STAFF WRITER

PISCATAWAY — In a year of triumph and tragedy, Piscataway saw its own share of heartache and happiness.

The year also began with the swearing-in of Mayor Brian Wahler along with Councilman James Huben. Councilman Steven Cahn was later chosen to fill Wahler's seat then officially elected to the seat in November. The council discussed putting time limits on public speakers and later did so. Former Board of Education Vice President Robert DePaul gave up his board position later moving out of the township. The school district began forming its five-year strategic plan.

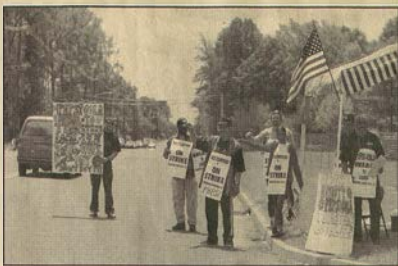
In February, the council first discussed forming an Open Space Committee later forming one. The board of education began its budget talks, fended off a report in New Jersey Monthly concerning violence statistics on the state report cards. The board also discovered Former Superintendent Ronald Bolandi was seeking to leave the district and accepted delivery of modular classroom units in the middle schools.

A bright spot in an otherwise gloomy month was that a police officer's mother stricken by a stroke on the eve of the snow storm and revived with a defibrillator donated to the department made a successful recovery.

March saw Township Administrator Gregory Feinbach quit amid rumors he was to be replaced, which he later was with former Watching Administrator Lyn Evers. The board of education continued its money-making talks, discussed a tax-bus transportation service and responded to a controversial play staged at Conackmack Middle School, dealing with adult themes such as racial prejudice, suicide and teenage pregnancy.

The Council discussed getting a light and making improvements at the intersection of Stetson and Drake roads. The fire department received an emergency generator to assist those dependent on medical devices during power outages. President George Bush flew into Johnson Park on his way to an East Brunswick event.

In April, the council unanimously voted to allow the controversial Homestead Tavern at the corner of West Fourth and Rock in the Arbor



PEPSI Cola plant production workers at the New Brunswick Avenue plant went on strike midnight June 1, claiming unfair labor practices.

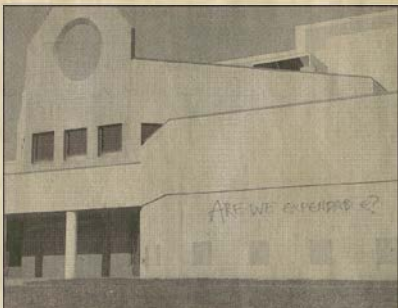
section to stay and retain its license as no violations were found against it. A cyclist bicycling home on Stetson Road after completing his shift at Bazzoka's was killed by a motorist who was later charged with his death.

In May, a dead cow testing positive for West Nile was found in the Lake Nelson section. Bolandi officially announced he intended leaving the district for Tewksbury where he had a similar position. River Road residents united to oppose a developer's plans to build an office complex across the street from their neighborhood which was later denied by the Zoning Board of

Adjustment. The school district held its annual township-wide art and music festival at the high school.

In June, Pepsi workers at the New Brunswick Road plant canned their jobs for two months during a strike which later fizzled out. The board of education began a search for a new superintendent and began contract negotiations with teachers who packed one heated spring meeting.

In July, the council officially renewed the Homestead Tavern's liquor license. The Zoning Board approved of Voicestream Wireless attaching an antenna to an exist-



THE MESSAGE 'Are we expendable?' was spray-painted in black on the Washington Avenue side of Quibletown Middle School on the corner of Washington and Academy Street, the side of the building most visible by the street. The message was first spotted and reported on Aug. 21, during the height of teacher contract negotiations.

ing emissions stack on Prospect Avenue. The Department of Recreation sponsored free golf lessons for students at the Raritan Landing Golf Course. The Council approved of the Cornell Dairy Farm and Geeling's Greenhouse entering the state's Farmland Preservation Program, discussed transforming an abandoned gas station on West Fourth Street into a Community Policing substation, doing library renovations and replacing a troubled bridge over water on South Washington Avenue. The Zoning Board approved of Lackland developers building 340 townhouses on Birch Run Drive.

In August, the council discussed making improvements in the intersection of Metlars Lane and South Randolphville Road, continued its zoning regulation changes and began discussing the possibility of bringing a YMCA into the township. Neighborhood watch groups held their annual gatherings on National Night Out. Resident Frank Romeo was allegedly murdered by resident Delaney Caldwell who was later arrested and charged with shooting the victim to death outside a South Second Street residence following a fight over a mutual female friend. Police sought a rapist assaulting women at Motel 6, cracked down on lewd acts reported in Johnson Park and investigated the case of the phrase "Are we expendable?" being spray painted in Quibletown Middle School.

September began normally with the council discussing the changing of job titles in municipal hall and the board of education finishing staffing the district. Following the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, however, the township quickly responded. Township business Hoffman International sent cranes and heavy duty equipment into the city to assist in search and rescue. Families at the Star Point complex on the Edison border held out hope for relatives who had commuted into the city via the nearby train — none returned alive. Township churches united in holding ecumenical services. At the end of the month the township began a return to normalcy agreeing to enter a lawsuit to save trees on Fountain Avenue being threatened by Texas Eastern/Duke Energy. Police saved a woman drowning in her own car after crashing into creek off Sidney Road.

In October, the council passed its \$33.9 million budget with taxes going up nine percent. The board of education held programs to combat prejudice among its students in the wake of the terrorist attacks. Police helped student learn to walk safely in the Keep Middlesex Moving program and in turn received help themselves in the form of an armored vehicle donated by Coin-Depot of Elizabeth. The board of education again discussed its \$52.8 million referendum and responded to a state report on its special education department. The Council discussed dumping money into improving its sewers. An emergency drill was held including all township rescue squads and fire

departments.

In November, the council discussed charging the public fees for public information, various spending proposals for many departments and an ordinance guaranteeing the right-to-farm, which later developed a conflict with a noise ordinance. A resident Charles Rashid, was arrested and charged with kidnapping his wife, Orquidea Tejeda-Rashid to death in their West Seventh Street house in the Arbor section of town. A goat and rabbits were reported missing and possibly killed in Johnson Park.

The board of education deferred its referendum question until March 2002, heard an annual audit report, began talks on reforming curriculum, reinstated extra-curricular busing and heard

raising \$8 million in bonding for various projects and passing resolution supporting the creation of a heritage area over Councilman Mark Hardenberg's objection that the revolutionary event never occurred in Piscataway. Wahler's third child, Michael Casey, was born in an East Brunswick doctor's office, much to the surprise of Paulette, his wife, who wasn't due for a month.

Conackmack Middle School counselor and high school soccer coach John Menza was arrested and charged with assaulting two female high school students by biting them. The board of education heard from angry student and parents protesting against the current GPA system. The Council discussed the growing cost a suit preventing Duke Energy from felling



FORMER PISCATAWAY HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR KEVIN HANOYSKI SITS AMONG THE MANY BAGS OF CLOTHES COLLECTED DURING A CLOTHING DRIVE, ONE OF THE STUDENTS' MANY FUND-RAISING EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT GRADUATION, THE ANNUAL ALCOHOL, DRUG-FREE POST GRADUATION CELEBRATION.

the voice of a parent requesting her son's varsity jersey number be retired in his honor. A new emergency signal was dedicated on Rossumtown Road.

In December, the council gave itself a Christmas present author-



ON NOV. 11, THE CLEAR, BLUE SKIES COULD NOT MASK THE GRAY, SOMBOR MOMENT WHILE AREA VETERANS REMEMBERED THOSE WHO HAVE DIED FOR THIS COUNTRY'S HONOR. AND THIS YEAR, THAT INCLUDED NOT ONLY SOLDIERS, BUT STOCK BROKERS, SECRETARIES, RESCUE WORKERS AND COMMON CITIZENS, AS WELL.

See Next Week For
The Metuchen, Edison And
Highland Park Years In Review

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SATURDAY, Jan. 5
Women's Fellowship 8:30 a.m.
SATURDAY, Jan. 19
Men's Fellowship 8:30 a.m.
FRIDAY, Jan. 25
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Ms. Merry Christmas, now and then

By GARY GOVELITZ
STAFF WRITER

METUCHEN — When Christine McGee was crowned Miss Merry Christmas, 2001 she took her place in a list of winners that stretches back to the Golden Age of High School Spirit in the 1950s.

Every since the first Miss Merry Christmas, Janet Anderson, was crowned in 1958, the crowning has made special memories for anyone lucky enough to wear the tiara.

The contest was originally sponsored by Morris Stores which was a clothing store on Main Street for many years.

Bobbi Keers Flood, listed as Barbara Keers in the official list of winners, can recall every detail of her crowning in 1979 and the parade that followed.

"Back then the parade was before Thanksgiving Day and was on Monday nights," she recalled from her office in the YMCA where she works as assistant facilities manager. "The crowning was at the front steps of borough hall. We would line up and a member of the Chamber of Commerce would walk behind us and put the crown on the head of the winner. I was thrilled when she crowned me. The parade was the nicest thing in the world."

Although the robe was a loaner, she still has the crown and



Oh-My-Gawd! Look at all that hair! Things sure have changed since Kristen Turk was crowned Miss Merry Christmas in 1988, seen here with her court. Below is Sharon Hallman, Miss Merry Christmas 1960, riding a float in the annual parade.

still recalls her court: her sister Beth, Erika Brinza, Nancy Finden and Debbie Pastras.

"It seems like so long ago."

It was a very good year for her and her sister. Not only was she Miss Merry Christmas, but Beth

was the Homecoming Queen. Still close, they both work at the YMCA having chosen not to follow in their parents footsteps as school principals. Mr. Keers was the vice-principal of the now defunct Franklin School before becoming an elementary school principal in Marlboro. Their mother, Sue Keers, was an elementary school teacher in Edgar School and went on to be a principal in Edison.

Married with four children ages 5 through 10, it was at this year's crowning of Miss Merry Christmas that Flood's children, seeing picture of former winners, learned of her honored past. She will not, however, put any pressure on them to live up to her accomplishments but said she just wants them to be good, well behaved students.

"I hope I have enough spies in the school when they get to high school," Flood said. Summing up her high school days she concluded, "That was a wonderful time of my life, but now is the best."

The full roster of Miss Merry Christmas, past and present, is: Janet Anderson 1958, Patricia Nielson in 1959, Sharon

Hallman 1960, Lorraine Engeland 1961, Joanne Stumpf 1962, Nancy Bailey 1963, Judy Reeder 1964, Nanci Pico 1965, Ann Cologna 1966, Donna Jean Housman 1967, Judy Kenyon 1968, Barbara Hourihan 1969, Beatrice Moore 1970, Mary Jane Hecht 1971, Joanne Potts 1972, Valarie Lee Whitehill 1973, Karen J. Schwin 1974, Margaret Greco 1975, Ellen Goldfarb 1976, Joyce Padilla 1977, Peggy Hoover 1978, Barbara Keers 1979, Sue Peterson 1980, Susan Yaros 1981, Lorraine White 1982, Gayle Jeney 1983, Patricia Gaffney 1984, Mary Matas 1985, Lisa Marquis 1986, Veronica Ruth 1987, Kristen Turk 1988, Suzanne Angus 1989, Christine Wojtowicz 1990, Lora Fanelli 1991, Jennifer Angus 1992, Elizabeth Clark 1993, Josie Hecht, 1994, Lauren Lombardo 1995, Jennifer Kubiak 1996, Michelle Poyle 1997, Jessica Locke 1998, Vanessa Picone 1999, Laura Nemer 2000, Christine Magee 2001.

Diegnan will be sworn in

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Patrick Diegnan Jr. officially becomes the first South Plainfield citizen in a statewide elected office this week.

He will be sworn in as an assemblyman from the 18th District at noon Tuesday at the War Memorial in Trenton.

Diegnan will join colleagues Barbara Buono of Metuchen, elected to the Senate after four terms in the Assembly, and Assemblyman Peter Barnes Jr. of Edison, who will begin his fourth term in the lower house of the Legislature.

The 18th District was redrawn after the 2000 census to include Metuchen, Edison, East Brunswick, Helmetta, South River and Spotswood as well as South Plainfield.

Primary goals for the new assemblyman are boosting education and targeting the state's "open space" purchases toward environmentally sensitive lands, especially watersheds.

"We are committed to tackling problems such as traffic congestion and overcrowded classrooms at four-year universities," he said in a release

issued by the Assembly Democratic Party office.

A former municipal attorney in South Plainfield and Milltown, Diegnan has been a practicing attorney with an office in South Plainfield since 1974. He is a former chairman of the South Plainfield Senior Citizens

"We are committed to tackling problems such as traffic congestion and overcrowded classrooms at four-year universities"
— Patrick Diegnan Jr.

Advisory Commission as well as a former member of the borough's Zoning Board of Adjustment and Environmental Commission.

He also is a past president of the parish council at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church.

Diegnan holds a bachelor's degree in political science and government from Seton Hall University plus a law degree from the Seton Hall Law School. He and his wife of 25 years, Anita, have two daughters, Heather and Tara.



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Commentary

What to do in '02

Here are some of suggestions of what we would like to see happen in 2002:

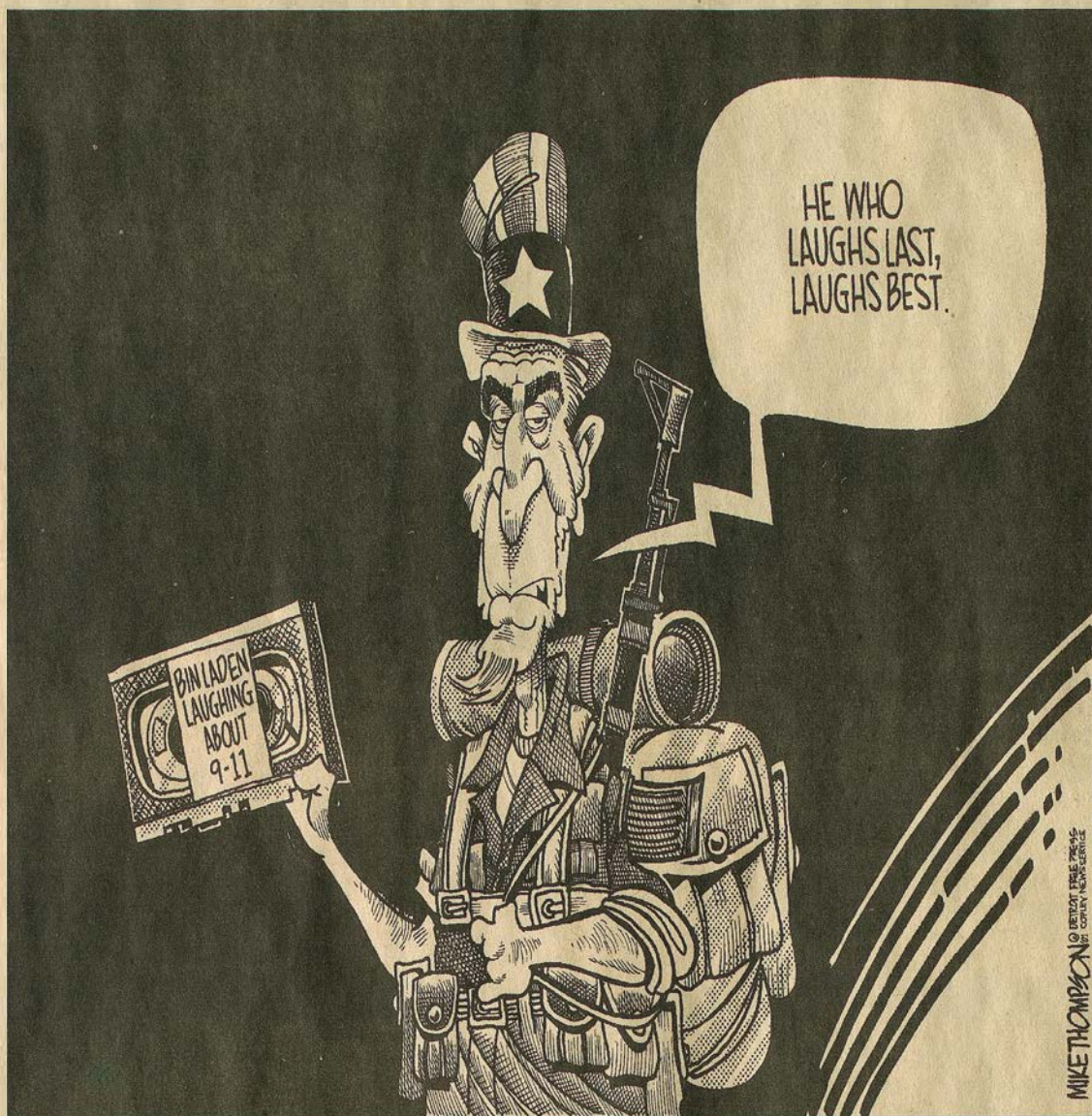
Property tax reform. This has been on our wish list for years and chances are it will be for many more years. What is needed is a radical overhaul of the way public education is funded in the state, not a patchwork of rebates and deductions that no one understands. The property tax burden falls unfairly on the shoulders of the middle-class and senior citizens on fixed incomes. Unfortunately, because it is an election year, reform is not likely to be even considered this again. We will hear talk of more gimmicks, such as rebates but the inequitable system will remain in place.

More teeth for the state master plan. Development in New Jersey needs to be regulated on a larger scale than just municipalities and counties. A large scale commercial development in one county, for example, often affects life in other counties. That's why we need some regional or state process to oversee the impact of development. A good way to start is to put more teeth into the state's master plan which defines a sensible approach to future growth in the state. Of course, if property tax reform was enacted, individual municipalities would not have an incentive to bend over backwards to attract large-scale development.

Reform of state and local government and schools. The talk of regionalization that sprung up in the last recession of the early 1990s disappeared with the economic good times as land values increased and revenue rolled into the state treasury. Now, with the state's economy feeling a bit sick and the state facing a budget gap, talk of regionalization is again bound to be heard. Do we really need more than 600 school superintendents in New Jersey? It's time for a fresh look at an old problem.

Auto insurance reform. This is another issue a new administration and Legislature should tackle in 2002. New Jersey residents are unfortunately accustomed to being gouged by auto insurance companies. Premiums keep on rising while the number of options available to drivers keeps on diminishing. What's going to happen to all those motorists who now have policies with State Farm? It's another chance for Jim McGreevey to create a legacy while he's governor.

Higher voter turnout. A democracy is only as strong as the people who participate in it. Turnout has continued to decline in both the school and general elections. Let's hope the renewed sense of patriotism and service created in the wake of Sept. 11 results in better participation in the democratic process.



Letters to the editor

About time on smoke-free restaurants

To The Editor:

A new trend is emerging among restaurants and bars — going smoke-free. This move is due to increased customer and employee demands for smoke-free dining and workplaces, new information on the health hazards from secondhand smoke, and ultimately, because it is good for business.

In addition to the 400,000 Americans who die each year due to tobacco-related illnesses, 53,000 Americans die each year as a result of secondhand smoke. Secondhand smoke is the third leading cause of preventable death in the United States, behind only active smoking and alcohol, and ahead of major motor vehicle accidents, AIDS, homicide, and illicit drugs. Tobacco smoke is one of eight substances classified as a group A carcinogen. All seven of the others (including asbestos, benzene, arsenic and radon) are illegal in the workplace. Secondhand smoke also causes asthma. Workers exposed to secondhand smoke on the job are 34 percent more likely to get lung cancer. Ventilation and filtration of secondhand smoke are ineffective.

A recent survey by the Eagleton Institute found that two out of three New Jerseyans (67 percent) say that there should be no smoking in restaurants. A sizable minority of cigarette smokers (36 percent) agrees with this statement. These statements are confirmed by other studies

(National Restaurant Association, Gallup Poll, and Zagat Surveys) that also found that customers want smoke-free dining.

Some express concern that going smoke-free will mean losing out on business. Economic studies, however, have repeatedly found that this is not the case. Indeed, more than 85 percent of New Jerseyans are nonsmokers, and many of them would eat out more often if more restaurants were smoke-free. Going smoke-free can offer an economic boost to bars and restaurants due to free publicity and improved reputations. Additionally, it cuts costs for cleaning, repainting, and replacement of damaged items from cigarette burns, and possibly lowers fire, life, and health insurance premiums.

In addition to the benefits listed above, smoke-free restaurants and bars protect public health, decrease the incidence of smoking (which also supports smokers trying to quit), and decrease smoking initiation by changing social norms that model smoking as an acceptable behavior.

The Highland Park Board of Health applauds the restaurants and bars in town that have voluntarily agreed to ban smoking in all areas of their businesses. Please find a way to show them your support for this important action.

LEWIS FISHBERG
Highland Park Board of Health Chairman

Skateboarding is not a crime. Is it?

To The Editor:

When people think of skateboarders they think of kids who are getting into trouble. That couldn't be further from the truth. I am a good kid and obey the law. I have never been in trouble and I don't have any plans of getting into trouble. I am a 16-year-old sophomore at St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen. I skateboard all the time around my neighborhood. Every time I find a good place to skate and start having a good time, someone has to come out and yell at my friends and I and tell us to move on. We do move on, and the pattern begins again.

Edison needs a skate park that could be used by kids of all ages. I asked my father, who is an attorney, if waxing a curb was illegal. He answered, "Yes, that would be considered 'destruction of property'." So now, if I put wax on a curb so that I can skate on it I am committing a crime. I don't want to get in trouble for doing something that I love. What are my options?

If Edison created a skate park, my friends and I would have a safe and fun place to hang out. We would not be causing any trouble for the local

residents. The park could have set hours and even employ local residents. If it were well located the local merchants might even benefit. While the cost of putting in a skate park is not cheap, it will be worth the money and give the kids something to do.

Every Friday night my two best friends and I have to bug our parents to drive us out of the community to go to a skate park. The cost for this park is \$14 per person. If Edison had a skate park, my friends and I would be able to get there without inconveniencing our parents. This would also encourage more kids to try a new sport and have a safe place to keep out of trouble.

Skateboarding is a sport that needs certain types of ramps and rails to ride on. Kids like me make do with curbs instead. We don't want to get into trouble but we really don't have many choices. I hope the people of Edison see the need for this park and ask the local politicians to consider putting one in town very soon.

BRIAN MCCUTCHEON
Edison

Tolerance, respect a two way street

To The Editor:

Sympathizers say in order to understand the mindset of foreigners who despise us we must reach out and learn everything we can about their culture and religion and make a genuine effort to accept them for who they are.

After serving in the U.S. Army, I returned to college and started dating a woman three years my senior. She was a beautiful Hindu woman from London; I was a 25-year-old American man from New Jersey. Initially I didn't want to go out with her because of our obvious cultural differences, but my friends chided me for being so close-minded, so I decided to give it a try and asked her to lunch. To my surprise she said "yes" and we immediately hit it off.

We dated for six months. I familiarized myself with her culture, ate her food, learned to speak a little Hindustani and I fell in love with her. I

wanted to make a commitment, but when I spoke to her about marriage and our future together she balked. She said she couldn't have a serious relationship with me because I was not from India, and her parents and family would only approve of a Hindu to be her husband. Despite my objections she broke off our relationship and several months later flew to India, selected a man from the group her father had arranged for her to interview and married him.

Sometimes the differences between people of different cultures are so vast there is little hope in ever bridging the gap. The only thing we can do is try to accept them for who they are, and hope they understand that tolerance is a two-way street and that respect and acceptance are gifts in life that have to be earned.

LAWRENCE J. IMBODEN
Piscataway

The Latest Development



By Vincent A. De Muro Jr.

New clothes pitfalls

It happens every year, dear reader. I get new clothes for the holidays and they are just chock-full of hazards waiting to happen, such as the hidden pins missed in the folded dress shirt, the remaining plastic staple used to affix brand labels, or the adhesive price tag stickers on the inside pant leg of new slacks, which do a number on the hair of your inner thigh. And there are always four of them, two on each side, so as not to miss a leg.

Is it my obligation to examine every square-inch of a new clothing item to make sure that there is nothing attached to it which will cause me, at the least, irritation, or at the worst, a pin prick in my throat? And if I take on this burden, is it not my obligation to pass along whatever safeguards I may to the rest of society? I guess it is.

So dear reader, if you care to save yourself the "unpleasantness" of new gift clothing, follow these few examples:

— Upon receiving any new article of clothing, it is advised that one check for any tags, labels, stickers or patches on both the exterior and interior of the item before wearing. For those who insist on trying on items in front of the gift giver, such as sweaters or over shirts, it is not improper protocol to turn the garment inside out before doing so. Other unmentionables should be checked in the privacy of one's bedroom, unless so expressed by the gift giver themselves. Then it's a whole new ball game.

— A common mistake made by certain individuals who writes this column is overlooking the long adhesive sticker displaying the size of a garment, often found on denim jeans and cotton crew-neck shirts. Unless you have a spouse that pays attention to such things, overlooking this item could lead to your walking around in public completely clueless of your oversight.

— For those individuals who choose to leave the tags on the clothing items which display their brand name and/or price tag and wear them as a status statement, the advisory is offered that you look just plain silly. Kind of like Minnie Pearl from "Hee Haw."

— Search all pockets, even the elusive fifth pocket of Levi's jeans, for the notorious "Inspector 12" tag. These paper tags resemble fortune cookie notes and bear only the work identification number of the employee who examined the clothing before it left the factory. Innocuous enough left unattended, these little pieces of paper will cause endless grief if they are left in the pockets when the item is washed the first time and will grind themselves into the corner of the pocket material, creating the beginnings of that lint ball which seems to grow and grow with each use.

Aside: it is imperative that these slips of paper be removed from undergarments before wearing, especially men's briefs, otherwise known as "tighty-whities."

— While removing tags, labels, plastic staples and the like, be sure of the structural integrity of the clothing item. Using brute force to remove a tag may result in damaging the material, especially if the label is placed at a seam. This is usually the case with clothing items purchased from "Karget" or "T-mart," as their clothing lines are allegedly made in third-world country sweat shops by underpaid, malnourished children. Remember to look for the "Made in the USA" label to ensure quality. (shameless plug)

Following these simple steps can save individuals from needless pain and fashion embarrassment while sampling their new wardrobe of holiday gift items.

Your hometown newspapers

We invite 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.

The deadline for news releases is noon Friday. You can mail them to either P.O. Box 693, Piscataway, N.J. 08855 or P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876, fax to (908) 575-6683, or you can use our new e-mail address, Middlesex@NJNPublishing.com. E-mail attachments may only be sent as a Word document or a JPG photograph.

Any other questions or concerns can be directed to Vincent A. De Muro Jr., editor, at (908) 575-6687.

Corrections

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

In a recent issue of the *South Plainfield Reporter*, it was incorrectly reported that Ptl. Michael Piro of the South Plainfield Police Department had left the department. Piro is on sick leave from his position which he continues to hold.

In a recent issue of the *Piscataway Review* on a holiday house decoration, the home owner's name should have been published as Carl Pinal. We apologize for the inconvenience.

METUCHEN · EDISON THE REVIEW and the HIGHLAND PARK HERALD

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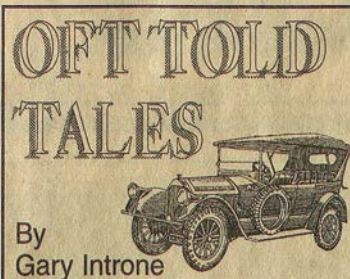
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Children learning to navigate in Smalltown, USA

It sometimes amazes me to think of the changes witnessed in the course of a lifetime spent pretty much in the same place. I can recall great blocks of meadow and woods, streams and fields, now gone. Growing up here, leaving, and then returning in the mid-'70s at least allowed my wife and I to selectively determine the type of town in which we wished to live. Repeating the same doings, over and over locally, forced us to notice both the changes and the differences in the places we lived. We were happy to select this borough, with a 'sense of place,' a local identity.

I've seen, like many of you, the Woodbridge/Edison area grow by leaps and bounds over the years. I always keep a small, compartmentalized picture of this area in my mind — even as I go about, with much more interest, my "urban" life of Manhattan and all its street scenes and history. The distant locales, all-right as they may be, seem pale by comparison. Berlin being done over for the 2000's is but a distant flame,



Les Halles in Paris has disappeared, and the recurring yet fumbling internationalization of London has drained it of its eccentricities as a place. The big picture has changed. I often hope (and wish) the little picture had not.

In the current issue of "Riverbank Review," there is a wonderful article by Jennifer Armstrong, entitled "Navigating the Neighborhood." It's about how only the "fictional" storybook children seem to be able to get around by themselves these days. I was totally taken with the concept of the article in light of our current urban and suburban predicaments,

here on the cusp of 2002. How we approach and solve some of these issues will go a long way towards directing our common futures.

Some of us can easily walk from home to office, bank, post office, arts center, food store, town hall, parks, etc. Many of us, especially those in newer homes strung out along highways and new cuttings in "virgin" areas, cannot. Oddly enough, since the 1940s, many of these small-town communities, those with a sense of place, have pretty much been bypassed or overlooked, except as quaint locales for, maybe, antique stores and nice restaurants. These sorts of places are, however, still the locale for many children's books.

A child's mobility and independence, in these stories, is essential to development of plot and character. Kids ride around on bicycles, walk, or take local buses to get to their adventures and/or solve their mysteries. In today's reality, "this cannot happen convincingly in the suburban sprawl that now covers so much of our country, where single-use zoning and

gated communities have segregated children from most civic functions; where transportation to and from almost everything depends on Mom's willingness and availability to be the family chauffeur, and where walking along the side of a six-lane commercial highway strip can be a life-threatening excursion."

It wasn't always this way, of course. The 1950s offered me bicycle freedom, unencumbered! I can recall well and easy traveling north to Elizabeth, Linden, and the surrounding areas, thanks to St. George Ave. The same went for the southerly direction; Fords, the Victory Bridge, Perth Amboy. All free places and other towns to which we all went, long Saturdays of riding and frolic. That was, of course, before the cementing of the alliance between thruway, superhighway, mall and suburban sprawl. "Unencumbered by parents, mobile kids learn how to comport themselves as citizens, not as aliens beamed in from the housing subdivisions. They are able to develop naturally: they are not

stunted or confined. A traditional, navigable community serves as a training ground for adult life."

Today's weird world of electronic access and greatly staged entertainment media have carried kids so far afield of the older, more traditional knowledges that a semblance of geography, place and access is often lost and never even established. It's really too bad that we have supplanted town and farm, borders and wooded lanes, with keystroke enlightenment and at-home computer training. Most kids would gain a lot simply by traipsing through the woods and digging holes. The numbing tedium of car and highway and home has stolen precious moments

of learning and knowledge from our kids — things they can only now find in storybooks depicting ideal places. I will close with this further quote:

"Children's literature is telling us that young people — and adults too, for that matter — need real communities. Not the supposedly safe enclaves of suburban developments, but communities where kids can walk from school to the public library, to the movies, to their friends' houses, or to shops where they can spend their allowance on comic books without maternal surveillance."

We all should work to reclaim the cities and towns that allow this.

What does citizenship mean to you?

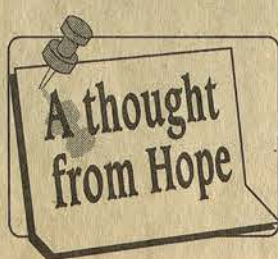
By HOPE BLECHER-SASS
CORRESPONDENT

Happy 2002 to all of you! Now that we know who the Person of the Year is we can tackle other issues such as a new governor for our state, a new mayor for our neighboring metropolis and various other new items such as resolutions, getting ready for tax filings and what to do with the kids when school is closed to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday.

What do many of the issues have in common? Just to relieve you of any test anxiety, I'll provide an answer — citizenship in America. Take a few minutes to think about what America means to you and what does citizenship mean to you. Even those who are not U.S. citizens can have a sense of citizenship. After all, we must accept that many of the world's residents are not U.S. citizens and that is a-okay.

When a class of kindergartners was asked the question, "What is citizenship?" the responses varied from shrugs, to blank looks, to furrowed eyebrows reflecting some thoughts. One brave lad raised his hand and was chosen to respond. This five-year-old said, "Citizenship is a boat you take to a nice island." Do you get it? How simple, yet how deep the meaning could be.

During the recent winter recess I visited Liberty State Park. Yes, I could see the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island and Lower Manhattan. Yes, I could see the sculpture of the Armed Personnel carrying a Holocaust survivor and I could see



one American flag waving in the breeze alone on a flag pole. How many of us have family members who arrived at the USA on a boat

that stopped at an island? How many of us have friends or family members who have taken the oath of citizenship?

As we prepare to become part of the events of 2002, we will be making decisions. Between the celebration of Dr. King's birthday and President's Day, take a few moments to reflect upon your tolerance and respect of other people. Take a few moments to think about and to talk about citizenship, a boat you take to a nice island. That child spoke some profound words, food

for thought.

I look forward to meeting you, the readers of this column. During January and February, I will be involved with storytimes at Barnes and Noble Booksellers in Clark, NJ. You are welcome to attend these evening events. Teachers, you might be eligible for professional development credit towards the 100 hours requirement. Check the store's monthly calendar for details.

Good luck sticking to your resolutions!

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ON-LINE COURSE: 005:300:483 Resources for Individuals With Disabilities (3) Zucker

MORRISTOWN HIGH SCHOOL, MORRISTOWN

- ◆ 15:310:500 Curriculum and Instruction (3)
M 6:00-8:40pm Fanelli
- ◆ 05:300:316 Assessment for Instructional Planning (3)
Th 6:00-8:40pm Barudin
- 15:297:505 Group Psychology: Theory and Practice (3)
Th 6:00-8:40pm Katz

MORRIS HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, ROCKAWAY

- ◆ □ 05:300:483 Resources for Individuals With Disabilities (3)
Th 5:00-7:40pm Brennan
- ◆ 15:230:521 Supervision of Instruction (3)
Th 6:00-8:40pm Hannum

WAYNE HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, WAYNE

- ◆ 15:251:572 Curriculum Development in the Middle & 2ndary Schools (3)
M 4:30-7:10pm Bozza
- ◆ 15:230:500 Foundations of Educational Administration & Supervision (3)
T 4:50-7:30pm Montesano

HASBROUCK HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL, HASBROUCK HEIGHTS

- ◆ 15:230:521 Supervision of Instruction (3)
Th 4:30-7:10pm Khoury
- ◆ 15:310:505 Curriculum Development in the Middle & 2ndary Schools (3)
Th 5:00-7:40pm Weiss

WATCHUNG HILLS HIGH SCHOOL, WATCHUNG

- ◆ 15:230:500 Foundations of Educational Administration & Supervision (3)
W 5:00-7:40pm Rock

EDISON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL, WESTFIELD

- 15:254:547 Seminar in Elementary School Mathematics Education (3)
T 4:30-7:10pm O'Brien

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN HIGH SCHOOL, BRIDGEWATER

- ◆ 15:230:608 Case Studies in Educational Administration & Supervision (3)
M 5:00-7:40pm Rock
- ◆ 05:300:480 Materials & Methods in Special Education (3)
Th 4:50-7:30pm Frawley
- ◆ 15:310:500 Curriculum and Instruction (3)
Th 6:00-8:40pm O'Neill
- 15:293:525 Psychology of the Exceptional Child (3)
T 5:30-8:10pm Regan

◆ satisfies requirements for New Jersey supervisor's certificate
◆ satisfies requirements for endorsement in special education
◆ undergraduate course for special education endorsement. Carries no graduate credit.
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WE STRIVE TO SERVE ALL NEW JERSEY EDUCATORS

Community Life

Schor 1st period honor roll

PISCATAWAY — Schor Middle School has issued its honor roll for the first marking period of the 2001-02 school year.

Named to the principal's honor roll:

Grade 8 — Alan Howard Chen, Jaclyn Elise Dagnall, Lilian "Khaing" Lwin, Samantha L. Mathews, Bhavita Patel, Puja Amrish Patel, Roshini C. Patel, Hang Thuy Pham, Nicole M. Robinson, Laura J. Scoda, Felicia Tan, Sharon A. Vaz, Ashley M. White and Maggie Yau.

Grade 7 — Gina Ferretti, Lauren Fisher, Jinell Harris, Therese Parker, Meshva Patel, Sahil Patel and Victoria Polito.

Grade 6 — Larry Cheng, Shreya Atul Fadia, Danielle Gray, Michael Harris, Keith Hopkins, Colin Hu, Chrissa Martin, Anvi Patel, Dipen J. Patel, Ronald Ivanbriz Rosario, Jillian L. Roth, Jennifer Sanchez and Brian Yu.

Named to the honor roll:

Grade 8 — Megan Alyssa Arico, Victoria Rose Barletta, Ashley Nicole Bozzo, Thomas John Cavanagh, Samaria Mone Cooper, Belinda Parveen Durgana, Jonathan Francois, Tara Granger, Kristie Marie Grimm, Kieran Richard Hunt, Hau Van Le, Chen Lin Lian,

Ginaya Shadai Littlejohn, Susan Elaine Maisack, Rushayne Mitchell, Ace Ochoa, Chinyere Kelechi Ojini, Bryan Orjuela, Leonilo P. Pablo, Kiory L. Parker, Charmi Ashok Patel, Nischal Rameshbhal Patel, Roshni S. Patel, Vanessa Lynn Petite, Alison L. Reeve, Caitlin Reiss, Mark J. Riccardi, Sara Rivas, Eric Scherlachner, Krizzia Sera Josef, Olivia Anna Sokolowska, Janae J. Solomon, Megan L. Tomei, Anthony A. Toth, Jessica Venturella, Kanaba Yedua Wallace, Pamela N. Wiley, Latisha M. Williams and Amy Lynn Zimmerman.

Grade 7 — Aelen Arbiol, Sara Baba, Shannon E. Brown, Natasha Sandid Chokshi, Dottie Kris David-Wilson, Nicole Delmar, Jennifer Alicia Gerald, Brandon Harris, Tiffany D. Harris, Andrew King, Albert Thein Lwin (Htoo), Tanya Marie Manifold, Dana Leigh Nehez, Colleen O'Brien, Hua Pan, Hiral R. Patel, Mrugesh G. Patel, Jill Portaro, Katie Roussey, Margaret Siegrist, Melissa Sumallo, Christopher Robin Valent, Sai Yashaswy Veruva, Tierra D. White and Kevin Wong.

Grade 6 — Rebecca Adam, Teresa Alberto, Kayla Alexander,

Samir Bahouali, Rayshad Rahim Baksh, Kanydah Bellamy, Harsh Virendra Bhavsar, Ariel Biondo, Jessica L. Brown, Cole Bucholz, Anthony Buncome, Kathleen Anne Campana, Jasmine Monae Campbell, Stephanie Choi, Richard Coburger, Ashley Victoria Cooke, Frank Richard Coye, Tiffany Rose Cummins, Katherine Fay, Jessica Galdamez, Brittney Amanda Gerald, Jazmine N. Green, Carin Lee Hardish, Charles Lee Jones, Erik Matthew Jusinski, Andrea King, Ashley N. Lemire, Matthew Masters, Thomas R. Mathews, Robert Meyer, Robert Joseph Miller, Anthony Cesar Mujica, Bryan J. Murfitt, Michelle Neunert, Lauren Parascondola, Ateer Patel, Deval Suryakant Patel, Parth Patel, Poonam D. Patel, Lana Pine, Christian A. Pineda, Brian T. Przybylski, Nicole Richardson, Thomas Ring, Nicole Santonastaso, Nickolas Walter Sarlo, Serguei Savrassov, Nimisha Shukla, Henry Smith, Daniel Solomon, Owen Stallworth, Christopher J. Terelle, Kim T. Tran, Anthony Vastano, Alexis Vitello, Eurakua Wallace, Adam Weiner, Jocelyn Werner, Devin Amman White and Bernard A. Wyllie.



Accepting the Distinguished Service award for her husband Alphonse J. Pisaniello is his wife Connie, seen here with Gen. Robert Paeshon and Hela Young, a former Miss NJ who attends all veterans affairs in the state. For more information, see last brief below.

Military notes

Metuchen, Edison and Highland Park

Army National Guard Pfc. **Ryan J. Jimenez** has graduated from basic training at Fort Knox, Ky. The son of Neida Jimenez of 53 Homer Place, Metuchen, graduated from Metuchen High School in June.

Marine Corps Reserve Pfc. **Adolfo A. Aiello** has completed the basic metal worker course at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md. A 1998 graduate of St. Joseph's High School in Metuchen, he is the son of Gregorio and Elba N. Aiello of Colonia.

Marine Corps Maj. **Joseph T. Allena Jr.** has reported for duty with the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, N.C. He graduated from John P. Stevens High School in 1987.

Army Reserve Pvt. **Kevin C. Thyne** has graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. The son of Charles and Heather Thyne of 89 Overbrook Ave., Edison, graduated in June from the Timothy Christian School in Piscataway.

Piscataway and South Plainfield

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Faiza N. Agha** has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The 2000 alumna of

Piscataway High School is the daughter of Najma and Naveed Agha of 533 Shirley Parkway, Piscataway.

Marine Corps Pvt. **George F. Kimball III** has graduated from basic training at Parris Island, S.C. He is the son of Joyce M. Drew of 283 Adams St., Piscataway, and George F. Kimball Jr. of Carteret.

Air Force Airman **Randy A. Hall** has graduated from basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. The son of Tonya Hall-Stevenson of 217 Central Ave., Piscataway, graduated from Piscataway High School in June.

Army Reserve Pvt. **Kevin C. Thyne** has graduated from basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C. A June graduate of the Timothy Christian School in Piscataway, he is the son of Charles and Heather Thyne of Edison.

On Nov. 27, the state gave out 252 Distinguished Service Medals. Receiving a medal posthumously was **Alphonse J. Pisaniello** of South Plainfield, for distinguished meritorious service in ground combat during World War II in Europe. Pisaniello was a combat medic, with many service awards. Accepting the award from Gen. Robert Paeshon was Pisaniello's wife, Connie Pisaniello.

This prominent award served as a reminder that freedom sometimes rests in the hands of those who have placed themselves in harm's way for the sake of their country.

St. Francis 1st period honors

METUCHEN — St. Francis Cathedral School has issued its honor roll for the first marking period of the 2001-02 school year.

Earning first honors with A's in all subjects:

Grade 8A — Kyle DePew and Alexandra Slomko.

Grade 8B — Kimberly Ciocon, Anthony Corrente and Catherine Lagrada.

Grade 7A — Michele Burlak, Marie Sharlow, Matthew Shatynski, Shane Ulbrich and Eva Wash.

Grade 7B — Katherine Bernet, James Brand, Kaitlin Butler, Nicholas Ciardiello, Mary Moczula, Regina Nicoll and Michalina Zemel.

Grade 6A — Stephen Brandenburg, Ian Brooks, Kerry Dougan, Jonathan Hernandez and Agata Rybalkiewicz.

Grade 6B — Rae Celline Felismino, Gabrielle Geller, Isabel Kierencew, Sarah Ludwig, Edward Rossiter, Elisabeth Scherer and Maureen Shalow.

Grade 5B — Ryan Carr,

Mairead Lawyer, Jenna Meoni, John Szilagyi and Christopher Wolff.

Earning second honors with A's and B's in all subjects:

Grade 8A — Amanda Arciero, Anna Cushing, Martine LaPorta, Mary Megan McGuire, Ramon Negron, Victor Otero, Phillip Pleva, Keri Schrader, Matthew Scott, Christina Torres, Francis Varrichio and Sarah Woodhouse.

Grade 8B — Michael Bennett, Paul Brandenburg, Keith Hernandez, Angela Homs, Elizabeth Lombardi, Katie Medaglia, Christina Pena, Sterling Reese and Logan Stagnitto.

Grade 7A — Veronica Alfonso, Anthony Cassell, Gavin Dizon-Roosa, Amanda Huggins, Jason Pasierski, Christina Pateman, Jack Pepkowski, Kelly Rossiter, Stephen Vitabile and Kristina Russo.

Grade 7B — Nicole Bruder, Brijetta Buquiran, Gina Capriglione, Joseph Costello, Daniel Fitzpatrick, Roxanne

Guarino, Brian Major, Laura Pittman, Emily Poandl, Caitlin Seamster, Nicholas Stoms and Joelle Vitale.

Grade 6A — Amanda Bonaventure, Leslie Cardello, Sara Jane Davidson, Olivia Do, Theresa Hoang, Margaret Lowenberg, Megan Nashed and Christine Wooding.

Grade 6B — Paul Dellanno, Timothy Lange, Brandon Reese and Emily Zaniewski.

Grade 5A — Daniel Baran, Peter Birri, Kathleen De La Cruz, Kevin Freis, Sean Freis, Rebecca Ghilino, Salvatore Guzzardi, Donald LaPorta, Christopher Lewandowski, Jenna McDonald, Bridget McManus, Jenna McMenamin, Daniel Misdea, Angela Nittoli and Caitlin Scherer.

Grade 5B — Robert Bruder, Spencer Davis, Alyssa D'Errico, Connor Dick, Richard Fuchs, Giang Hoang, Lucia Hoang, Patrick Hunter, Gabriella Mozo, Joseph Roberts, Dani Scarmozzino, Laura Sharlow and Kevin Van Buskirk.

Area library news and releases

Edison's new year library line up

EDISON — A Creative Writing Club meets 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 5 at the main branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave.

Those who enjoy writing and want to share their writings with others are welcome. For more information, phone Roberta Schechter at (732) 287-2298, Ext. 227.

Can kids "Say It with Signs"? They can if they come to the North Edison branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 777 Grove Ave.

Classes runs 4:30 p.m.

Thursday for four weeks beginning Jan. 10. Any child in kindergarten-Grade 6 can learn the basics of American Sign Language with supervising children's librarian Carolyn Cullum. Parents are also welcome; brothers and sisters are not.

Registration begins Wednesday; visit the North Edison branch or phone (732) 548-4759, Ext. 228.

Falun Dafa is a meditation system that relieves stress while improving the body and mind.

The Edison Free Public

Library is offering this system in two courses. At the main branch on Plainfield Avenue, instruction is 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12. At the North Edison branch on Grove Avenue, instruction is 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 5.

Registration is required; phone (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1 for the main branch or (732) 548-3045, Ext. 1 for North Edison.

"Gardens Change Lives" of those who come to the Edison Free Public Library.

Any Edison child in kindergarten-Grade 6 can put together a special bulb garden of his

own to take home. Program times are 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the North Edison branch, 777 Grove Ave., and 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24 at the Clara Barton branch, 141 Hoover Ave.

Registration begins Monday, Jan. 14; visit the appropriate library or phone (732) 548-4759, Ext. 228 for North Edison or (732) 738-0748 for Clara Barton.

John J. Keane of Metuchen displays his oil and acrylic abstract paintings throughout January at the main branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave.

"Nursery Rhyme Time," 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23 at Kennedy Library. Rhymes are featured for toddlers 18-36 months old, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. No registration is necessary.

For more information, phone (732) 463-1633, Ext. 1 for Kennedy Library and (732) 752-1166 for Westergard Library.

A new year for Piscataway Library

PISCATAWAY — The Piscataway Public Library has scheduled these programs open to children from the township:

"Book Babies," 10:30 a.m. Thursday at Kennedy Library on Hoes Lane. Rhymes, finger-plays, peek-a-book games and a story are designed for babies 6-17 months old, accompanied by a parent or caregiver. No registration is necessary. Arrive

early to play in the children's room.

"Friday Filmstrip Festival," 10:30 a.m. Jan. 11 at Kennedy Library. This half-hour program has filmstrips specially chosen for those ages 3-5 years old.

No registration is necessary except for school groups.

"Twilight Tales," 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14-Feb. 11 at

Westergard Library off Stelton Road. Stories and activities are covered after dark for boys and girls 3-5 years old, accompanied by a parent. No registration is necessary.

"Once Upon a Story," 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15-Feb. 19 at Kennedy Library. Stories and songs are selected for those ages 3-5 years old. No registration is necessary.

Electronics recycling at Raritan Center

Did you get a cell phone, computer, TV or compact disc player for the holidays?

If you did, don't throw the old one in the garbage. Most electronics contain toxic materials and should be recycled.

The Middlesex County Improvement

Authority sponsors an electronics recycling program open to all in the county. Drop off your old consumer electronics 9 a.m.-1 p.m. tomorrow at Hesstech in Raritan Center in Edison.

CPU's, monitors, keyboards, scanners,

modems, printers and cables are accepted. Irons, fluorescent lamps, thermostats and thermometers containing mercury also are welcome.

For directions, visit www.mciauth.com or phone (732) 745-4170.

Happy New Year from SP Library

By KENNETH MORGAN
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Belated Happy New Year! Let's get started with the premiere Library column for 2002:

We'll be back to our usual schedule of children's Storytime programs next week. The programs are held on Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. They're for children age 3 and over; no pre-registration is required. There's also this month's Kidcraft program on Friday, Dec. 18, at 4 p.m. It's for children age 6 and over; we ask that you sign up your kids in advance for this program. If you have any questions, please call us at (908) 754-7885 and ask for Miss Linda.

Also on Tuesday morning, we'll be holding another computer class, this time on "Internet Basics." The class is set for 10:30 a.m.; space is limited, so you must pre-register. For further details about this class or upcoming computer classes, please call.

As if Tuesday wasn't busy enough, two meetings are scheduled. At 1 p.m., the Friends of the Library will meet; members and non-members are welcome to attend. Then, at 7:30 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Library Board of Trustees. The public is invited to attend what promises to be an informative meeting.

The latest class from our job information center, "Job Searching 101" is set for Thursday morning at 10:30 a.m. Space is limited for the class, so you must reserve a spot. Our job information program is made possible by the Special Populations Grant from the NJ State Library.

The new group of Circuit videos is now available. This month's titles include "The 6th Day," "187," "The Next Best Thing," "Honey, I Blew Up the Kid," "The Secret Garden" and, on DVD, "Unbreakable." Videos and DVDs may be borrowed, four at a time, for two days. We also have a new group of books from the Large Print Circuit. Those titles include "The Smoke Jumper" by Nicholas Evans, "The 1st to Die" by James Patterson, "The Crossroad" by Beverly Lewis and "The Bonesetter's Daughter" by Amy Tan. Circuit Large Print books may be borrowed for two weeks. Meanwhile, we're between groups on the Audiobook Circuit. A new batch of titles will be available later in the month.

The New Year just wouldn't be complete without one thing: tax forms. Yes, we've just received a new bunch of Federal tax forms and booklets. The NJ State forms should be here very soon. Try to contain your enthusiasm.

Finally, as noted in previous columns, we don't allow people to bring food and drink into the Library. There is an exception to that rule, though. Throughout the Holiday season, many people brought in a variety of goodies for the Library staff. We'd like to thank those generous patrons; we really appreciate it.

That's about all for now. See you next week.

Mary Coldenhoff

HIGHLAND PARK — Mary Coldenhoff, 43, died Dec. 18, 2001 at her home. A native of Newark, she lived in Cliffwood Beach and Laurence Harbor before moving to Highland Park three months ago.

Miss Coldenhoff is survived by her parents, Michael and Vilma of Laurence Harbor; and a brother, Tim of Peoria, Ariz. Private arrangements were by the Whiteley Funeral Home in South Amboy.

Michael Kislan

EDISON — Michael J. Kislan, 84, died Dec. 23, 2001 at the JFK Hartwyck at Edison Estates Nursing, Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center. He had been a factory worker with General Cable Corp. in Perth Amboy for 25 years prior to his retirement.

Mr. Kislan was born in Perth Amboy and had lived in Edison since 1948. He served in the Army during World War II.

His first wife, Ethel

Gastgaber Kislan, died in 1944. His second wife, Josephine, died in 1990. Two brothers, John and Paul, and a sister, Ann Makely, also are deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Monica of Edison; a stepdaughter, Margaret Mone of Bridgewater; four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and five nephews.

Private arrangements were by the Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords.

Robert W. Noll; chemical engineer

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Robert W. Noll, 81, a chemical engineer who spent most of his career with Foster Wheeler Energy Corp., died Dec. 27 at Reading Hospital and Medical Center in West Reading, Pa.

He joined Foster Wheeler in 1946 as a project engineer in its contract engineering department. Mr. Noll transferred to the project management department as a project manager in 1965; he became a systems analyst in 1966, manager of engineering administration in 1977 and manager of divisional procedures in 1978.

He retired in 1983 as a staff consultant for contract engi-

neering, a post he held four years. Mr. Noll worked for the former Tidewater Associated Oil Co. joining Foster Wheeler.

A licensed professional engineer in New York, Mr. Noll earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from Pennsylvania State University in 1942. He was a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.

His hobbies included golf, bowling, gardening, photography, Bible reading, tape recording, singing and Penn State football. An assistant scoutmaster with a Boy Scout troop in South Plainfield, Mr. Noll was a former secretary-treasurer of St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church and sang in its choir.

More recently he was a member of Kissinging Lutheran Church in Wyomissing, Pa.

Mr. Noll was born in Bowmanstown, Pa., and lived in South Plainfield before moving to Wyomissing in 1990.

His parents, Roy A. Noll and Dora E. Brobst Noll, are deceased.

Surviving are his wife, Eunice M. Bush Noll; a daughter, Sandra S. Noll Kavka and husband Michael of South Plainfield; three sons, Robert W. Jr. of Lyndhurst, Roger M. and wife Laura of Carmel, Ind., and Ronald D. and wife Janice of Monmouth Junction; a brother, Willard J. of Bowmanstown; eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by the Henninger Funeral Home in Reading, Pa. Donations may be sent to The Highlands Endowment Fund, 2000 Cambridge Ave., Wyomissing, PA 19610.

More
obituaries
on page A-9

Obituaries

Mary DeSantis

PISCATAWAY — Mary A. DeSantis, 100, died Dec. 27, 2001 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. A homemaker and seamstress, she loved horses and playing the piano.

Mrs. DeSantis was born Feb. 4, 1901 in Raritan and had lived in Piscataway since 1951. She was a parishioner of Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church.

Her husband, Alfred, died in 1982. Her parents, Ralph Curcio and Sadie Gaita Curcio, and a son, Rudolph Sansone, also are deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Gloria Browner of Tuckerton and Ann Hamrah of Troutman, N.C.; two granddaughters, Isabelle "Bunnie" Camporeale, with whom Mrs. DeSantis lived, and Laura Sansone of Green Brook; a grandson, Greg Browner of Bridgewater; seven other grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Sheenan Funeral Home, Dunellen, followed by a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Fatima Church. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park.

Mary Bori Leiss

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Mary Bori Leiss, 92, died Dec. 24, 2001 at the JFK Hartwyck at Oak Tree Nursing, Convalescent and Rehabilitation Center in Edison. She retired in 1967 after 40 years as a clerk with the former New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

Mrs. Leiss was born in South Plainfield and lived in the borough before moving to Scotch Plains in 1976. She was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

Her husband, Bernard, died in 1973.

Surviving are a niece, Joanne Zelek and husband Anthony of South Plainfield; other nieces and nephews; a great-niece and a great-nephew.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, of which Mrs. Leiss was a parishioner. Burial was in Holy Redeemer Cemetery. Arrangements were by the Higgins Home for Funerals, in Plainfield.

Rose Michaelson

EDISON — Rose Field Michaelson, 96, died Dec. 27, 2001 at Aventura Hospital and Medical Center in Aventura, Fla. She retired in 1988 after 20 years as a clerk with the former Franklin State Bank in Somerset.

Mrs. Michaelson was born in London, England. She lived in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, before coming to the United States in 1928. She also lived in Highland Park, North Brunswick and Edison before moving in 2001 to Boca Raton, Fla.

A member of Hadassah, Mrs.

Michaelson was a former member of the Highland Park Conservative Temple and Center.

Her husband, David S., died in 1990.

Surviving are a son, Stanley T. and wife Lorna of Aventura; a daughter, Bunny Gordon and husband Robert P. of Boca Raton; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and her granddaughter's pets, Jazz and Lexie.

Services were held Sunday at the Crabiell Parkwest Funeral Chapel in New Brunswick. Burial was in Mount Lebanon Cemetery, Iselin.

Charles Redding Jr.

PISCATAWAY — Charles "Chuck" Redding Jr., 54, died Dec. 25, 2001 at his home in Flemington. He had been with the Middlesex Borough Parks Department for 18 years, most recently as a supervisor.

Mr. Redding was born in Newark and lived in Piscataway before moving to Flemington in 1985. He graduated from Piscataway High School in 1966.

A sister, Candice, died in 1987.

Surviving are his wife, Joanne; a brother-in-law, Bruce Arner and wife Suzan of Flemington; and his maternal grandmother, Rose Mulcahey of Bradley Beach.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday at St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church, Dunellen, following services at the Piscataway Funeral Home.

Margaret Simko; dietitian, professor

EDISON — Margaret D. Simko, 80, a registered dietitian and university professor who served on the township Board of Education, died Dec. 26 at her home.

She was the editor of Topics in Clinical Nutrition, a professional journal, and a clinical professor in family medicine at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Dr. Simko also was chairwoman of the Home Economics and Nutrition Department at New York University, where she was a professor emeritus of nutrition and dietetics. She held a master's degree and doctorate from NYU.

After earning her bachelor's degree and teaching certificate from North Dakota State University she held an internship at Good Samaritan Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. North Dakota State honored her in 1990 with its University Alumni Achievement Award and the Outstanding Home Economics Alumni Centennial Award.

Dr. Simko once was a nutrition consultant to UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. The former U.S. Public Health Service officer

received the ADA Medallion from the American Dietetic Association in 1986 and was listed in "Who's Who in American Women."

She was a member of the New Jersey Dietetic Association; the Mid-Jersey Branch, American Association of University Women; Omicron Nu, Kappa Delta Pi and Pi Lambda Theta honor societies.

Dr. Simko was born in St. Paul, Minn., and had lived in Edison since 1953. She was a parishioner of Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church for 48 years.

Surviving are her husband of 55 years, Michael; three daughters, Kathleen A. Babich and husband Charles of Edison, Maureen S. Hreha and husband Michael of Edison and Eileen S. Minte and husband Geoffrey of Yarmouth, Maine; and eight grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Flynn & Son Funeral Home, Fords, followed by a funeral Mass at Our Lady of Peace Church. Burial was in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Perth Amboy. Donations may be sent to Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, 45 Springfield Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

Beauty

Hillside Cemetery's gentle slopes are dotted with stately trees and evergreens. Flowering trees and bushes accent the grounds. All lots, graves, cremorial graves and bronze cremorial niches are in fully developed areas and include perpetual care. Located on Woodland Avenue in Scotch Plains, a non-profit, non-sectarian organization.

908.756.1729

Hillside Cemetery

Established 1886

www.hillsidecemetery.com

Samuel E. Goff

EDISON — Samuel E. Goff, 90, died Dec. 23, 2001 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. He served in the Army during World War II and for 40 years was a butcher at the Falls Market in Plainfield.

Mr. Goff, who was born in Bound Brook, lived in North Plainfield and Dunellen before moving to Edison in 1996.

His wife, Myrtle Lynn Goff, died in 1993. A brother, John J., died in 1997.

Surviving are a sister, Audrey

Downey Schorn and husband John of Edison; two nieces, Linda Torino of Readington and Tracey Blazovic of Glen Gardner; a great-niece and four great-nephews.

Services were held Dec. 27 at the Higgins Home for Funerals, in North Plainfield. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Donations may be sent to Children's Specialized Hospital, Attn: Janet Weston, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, NJ 07092.

John J. Kostecki

PISCATAWAY — John J. "Bulldozer Jack" Kostecki, 57, died Dec. 24, 2001 at Somerset Medical Center in Somerville. A heavy equipment operator and volunteer fireman, he served in the Army during the Vietnam War.

He was born in Seattle, Wash., and lived in Jersey City before moving to Piscataway in 1966.

Mr. Kostecki was associated for 31 years with International Union of Operating Engineers Local 825 in Springfield. He also was a fireman with the Possumtown Volunteer Fire Company.

He was a member of two Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, Tri-Boro Memorial Post 5479 in

Dunellen and Piscataway Post 7504 on Sidney Road. Mr. Kostecki also was a member of the Board of Advisory Commissioners and American Legion Post 261 in the township.

Surviving are his wife, MaryLou; his mother, Helen of Toms River; two daughters, Kimberly M. of Somerset and Tammy Gubbage and husband Michael of Highlands; a stepson, Nicholas Russo, and two stepdaughters, Lisa Russo and Melissa Russo, all of Piscataway; and a brother, Willard and wife Amelia of Florida.

Services were held Saturday at the Piscataway Funeral Home. Burial was in Lake Nelson Memorial Park.

M. Patricia Peters

PISCATAWAY — M. Patricia Peters, 64, died Dec. 22, 2001 at her home. She once was a service representative with the former New Jersey Bell Telephone Co.

She was born in Brooklyn and had lived in Piscataway since 1960.

Mrs. Peters worked for New Jersey Bell for 40 years before retiring in 1994 from its New Brunswick offices. She was a member of the Mothers Club at the former St. Pius X Regional High School in Piscataway.

In addition, Mrs. Peters was a Right to Life volunteer at St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church in Edison.

Surviving are her mother, Margaret Owens of Somerset; two sons, Gene and wife Ofir of Tinton Falls and Sean and wife Lisa of Tinton Falls; a daughter, Colleen of Santa Clara, Calif.; a brother, James Owens and wife Jan of North Carolina; two sisters, Margie Moran and husband Jack of Toms River and Ann Marie of Hammonton; two grandchildren and five nieces.

Another son, Robbie, died in 1990.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Friday at St. Matthew's Church, following services at the Piscataway Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park.

Elizabeth Schwickrath

PISCATAWAY — Elizabeth "Betty" Schwickrath, 74, died suddenly Dec. 24, 2001 at her home. She was born in Waynesboro, Va., and had lived in Piscataway since 1962.

Mrs. Schwickrath is survived by three sons, Ronald Benson and Robert Benson, both of Waynesboro, and Peter of Piscataway; two daughters, Mary Buscema of Tempe, Ariz., and Patricia Rivera of South

Plainfield; two sisters, Frances Bayne of Waynesboro and Lula Belle Sprouse of Crozet, Va.; 19 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Her husband, Anthony, died in 1996. Two other sisters, Anna Skinner and Nellie Floyd, and a brother, Floyd Carter Jr., also are deceased.

Private arrangements were by the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home in Metuchen.

Helen Takacs

EDISON — Helen Grega Takacs, 78, died Dec. 26, 2001 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She retired in 1989 as an administrative assistant with MAN-Roland Inc. in Piscataway.

Mrs. Takacs was born in Fords and had lived in Edison since 1966.

Her husband, Nicholas P., died in 1992.

Surviving are two daughters, Dorothy A. of Summit and Elizabeth A. Simpson of San Diego, Calif.; two sons, William S.

of Phoenix, Ariz., and James M. of Lincoln, Neb.; two sisters, Angie Hayko of Port Reading and Anna Behr of Edison; a brother, Michael Grega of Fords; and nine grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home in Metuchen. Burial was in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Brunswick.

Donations may be sent to Clara Barton First Aid Squad, 1079 Amboy Ave., Edison, NJ 08837 or your favorite charity.

Charles Tannenbaum

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Charles Maurice "Charlie" Tannenbaum, 89, died Dec. 21, 2001 at the Cedar Oaks Care Center. An electrical engineer, he also owned Speed Electronics in Newark for 30 years prior to his retirement.

Mr. Tannenbaum, who was born in New York City, lived in Hillside and Edison before moving to South Plainfield in 1997.

He earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Florida and a master's degree in chemistry from Harvard

University. Mr. Tannenbaum was a past master of Lodge 251, Free & Accepted Masons, in Irvington.

His wife, Ethel Sirkin Tannenbaum, died in 1997.

Surviving are a daughter, Elayne T. Davidson and husband Alvin of Flemington; a grandchild and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Dec. 26 at the Higgins Home for Funerals, Watchung, with Rabbi Moshe Samber officiating. Burial was in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Hazel Watson

EDISON — Hazel M. Watson, 54, died Dec. 25, 2001 at her home. She had been with Oxford Healthcare for five years, most recently as a senior administra-

tive assistant.

Mrs. Watson was born in Rahway and lived in Woodbridge before moving to Edison in 1997.

Surviving are a son, Christopher of Littleton, Colo.; a daughter, Darlene Gutman and husband Neil of Austin, Texas; and a grandchild.

Private arrangements were by the Zylka Funeral Home in Perth Amboy. Donations may be sent to the American Diabetes Association.

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Religion

Edison

Family Friends holds two "Baby Drop-In" programs for parents with young children.

Both programs are at Congregation Beth-El, 91 Jefferson Blvd. Toddlers up to 2 years old are welcome 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday. Children up to 6 years old are welcome 9:45-11:45 a.m. Wednesday. Siblings are welcome.

For more information, visit www.familyfriendsinc.org or phone (732) 828-6600.

Highland Park Conservative Temple at 201 South 3rd Ave., two new classes have been added to the American Jerusalem Academy Roster. Rabbi Mordecai Schwartz has started teaching a Talmud Class on Sundays at 7:45 p.m.

Jeffrey Korbman is teaching a Parsha Class on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. All are welcome to attend. There is no fee for Temple members, and the cost for non-members is \$10 per semester. For more information

about these classes, or any other classes offered at the Highland Park Conservative Temple, please contact the Temple office (545-6482) or check out our web site at www.hpctc.org.

Piscataway Community Worship Center is relocating its Sunday Worship Service to the 7th Day Adventist School of Piscataway. The school can be found off Route 287 at exit 7 following South Randolphville Road across Centennial Avenue and continuing on South Randolphville Road at the next left for Mettler's Lane, turning onto South Randolphville Road. All are welcome. The Piscataway Community

Worship Center is a multi-ethnic and multi-generational family church desiring to see every person come into all that God has for them. The worship service will start at 11 a.m. For any further information or directions, call Pastor Jim or Kathy Hibbard at (732) 752-2346.

South Plainfield Pilgrim Covenant Learning Center is accepting registration for the 2001-02 school year.

The learning center is located adjacent to the Pilgrim Covenant Church at 3121 Park Ave.

A full-time and part-time preschool is offered for ages 3-5. Full-time classes run 7 a.m.-6 p.m. year-round. Part-time preschool classes are held two, three or five days a week in the morning and afternoon. Full-day kindergarten is open to those of kindergarten age.

In addition, child care is provided before and after school in the preschool and kindergarten. For more information and a tour, visit the learning center or phone Chris Sienkiewicz at (908) 756-4879.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Highland Park Alliance for Retired Senior/Youth Center

Activities are in the Senior/Youth Center at 220 S. Sixth Ave. unless otherwise indicated. For registration where it is required, phone (732) 819-0052. The schedule:

Sunday — Bingo, 12:30 p.m.
Monday — Beginners English, 9:15 a.m.
Sewing/quitting, 10 a.m.
Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m.
Beginners bridge, 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Video exercise, 9 a.m. English, 9:30 a.m. Chorus, 10 a.m. Woodcarving, 10 a.m. Bridge, cards and mahjongg, 1 p.m. Crafts with Irene, 1 p.m.

Wednesday — Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m.

Thursday — Video exercise, 9 a.m. Healthy Bones, 9:30 a.m. Rockettes rehearsal, 1 p.m. Knitting/crocheting, 1:30 p.m.
Friday — Painting, 9 a.m.

Beginners English, 9:15 a.m. Basic English for Chinese speakers, 9:30 a.m. Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m. Pizza lunch, noon. Bingo, 1:15 p.m.

Metuchen AARP Chapter 3208

The AARP chapter holds its monthly general meeting 1:15 p.m. Monday, Jan. 14 at Cryan's Restaurant, 660 Middlesex Ave. A board meeting at noon precedes the general meeting. Guests are welcome. For membership information, phone Ruth Hancock at (732) 548-2332.

Orders are being booked for the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse trip on Feb. 14. Cost of \$49 includes the play "Butterflies Are Free" plus a choice of entree (Yankee pot roast, catch of the day, fried shrimp and scallops, roast leg of lamb, stuffed breast of chicken). The bus leaves the Reformed

Church of Metuchen 10 a.m. Tickets must be purchased by Jan. 1. For more information, phone Miriam Dingle at (732) 548-9395.

Edison AARP Chapter 3446
Trips sponsored by the AARP chapter:

Feb. 21 — Anne Murray at State Theatre. Phone Margaret at (732) 549-3323.

March 13 — "Butterflies Are Free" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Phone Angie at (732) 738-0759. All trips leave from Our Lady of Peace Church.

Piscataway Senior Center

The Senior Center is at 700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library. Activities are at the Senior Center except where indicated. For registration where it is required, visit the reception desk. For additional information, phone (732) 562-1133. The schedule:

Thursday, Jan. 17 — Photo ID card. Cost is \$3 and appointments are required.
Jan. 21 and Feb. 21 — Atlantic City. Cost is \$13.50.

Obituaries

(Continued from page A-8)

Gertrude Zalinsky

EDISON — Gertrude Jackson Zalinsky, 73, died Dec. 27, 2001 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick. A homemaker, she was born in Highland Park and lived in that borough before moving to Edison in 1952.

Mrs. Zalinsky was a member of the Ladies Auxiliary to Father & Son Post 435, American Legion.

Her husband, Joseph T., died in 1992.

Surviving are three sons, Thomas and wife Sandi of Waretown, Joseph Jr. of Lawrenceville and James and wife Renee of Mount Laurel; two daughters, Carole of South Plainfield and Karin Russell; a brother, Oliver Jackson of Cranbury; four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at the Boylan Funeral Home. Burial

was in St. Peter's Cemetery, New Brunswick.

Donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, Middlesex Unit, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08863.

Legal Notices

LEGAL NOTICE
EDISON TOWNSHIP
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Health Advisory Committee of the Township of Edison will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Complex, 100 Municipal Boulevard, Edison, NJ.

Any person planning to attend the above meetings and who because of a disability, requires special accommodations, must notify the Health Department's Office at (732) 249-7275.

Susan Donnenwerth, Secretary
ML 17, 14552

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF METUCHEN
MIDDLESEX COUNTY
TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned shall expose for sale, in accordance with R.S. 39:14(a-1), at public auction on January 15, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. at Metuchen Senior Center, the below described motor vehicles which came into possession of the Metuchen Police Department through abandonment or failure of owners to claim same.

The motor vehicles may be examined at 26 Vineyard Road, Edison, NJ.
(1) 1990 Chevy 1Y1K3K1611Z08953
Metuchen Police Department
Cpl. Edward J. Musko
ML 17, 1452

LEGAL NOTICE
PISCATAWAY TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT #2
PDR BUDGET
Please take notice that the Piscataway Township Fire District No. 2 has approved the District's proposed 2002 budget. A public hearing will be held on January 15, 2002 at the Piscataway Fire District #2 Building, 101 Northwood Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. Copies of the approved budget will be available at the commissioner's building or from Chester V. Trachock, 325 Bound Brook Avenue, Piscataway after January 7, 2002.

ML 17, 1452

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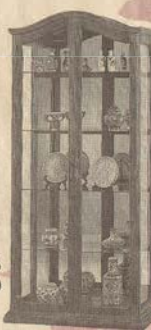
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Sports

Happy holidays for Tigers' hoops squads

SPHS girls win close final in tournament

By ALEX LOWE
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BOUND BROOK — South Plainfield High's girls basketball team showed it had the winning touch at just the right time.

"We made the most of our free throws down the stretch," said Tigers Head Coach Bill Schulte following Saturday night's 50-48 triumph over Somerville in the championship game of the Crusader Classic Holiday Tournament. "I think that was important in holding them off."

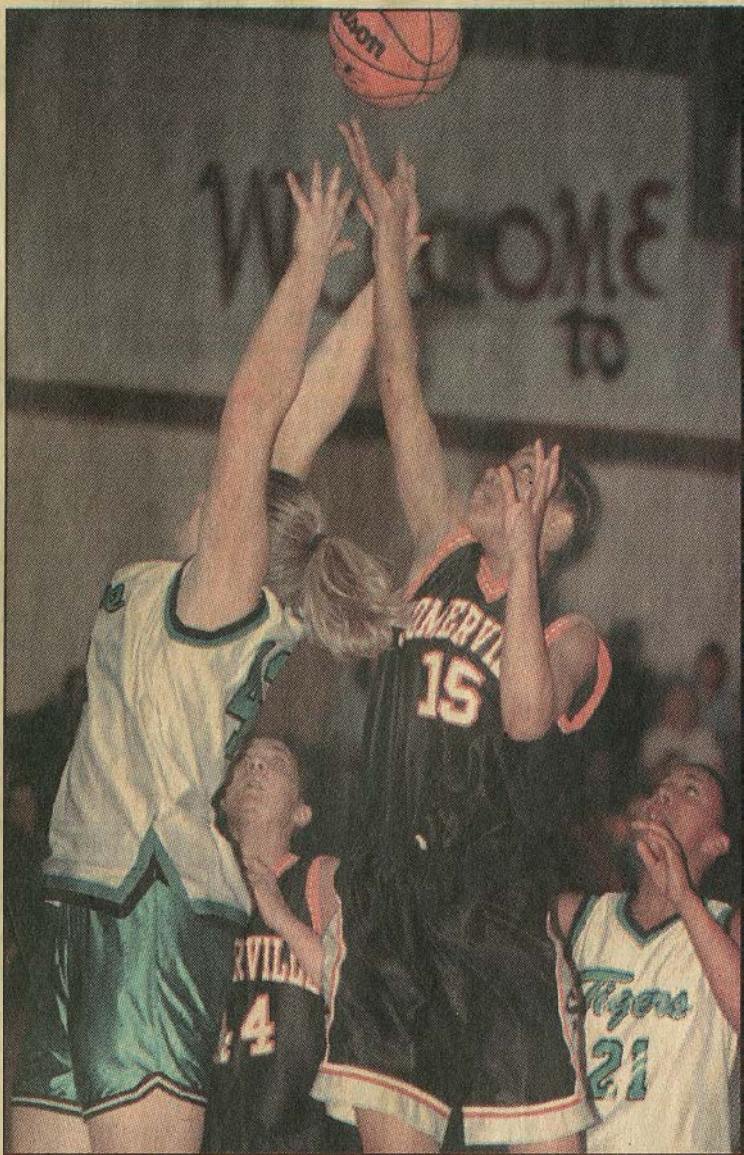
South Plainfield broke open a tight battle by outscoring Somerville 17-7 in the second quarter. The Tigers (4-1) were paced by Ngozi Okparaekwe, who scored 13 of her team's points during that session.

Okparaekwe seemed to be everywhere in the second period, converting a trio of three-point plays inside, blocking shots, stealing in-bounds passes and hitting fast-break shots. The 5-foot-8 sophomore's efforts helped SPHS build a 31-20 advantage by halftime.

"We were pressing them a lot in the first half and being very effective at it," said Okparaekwe, who finished the night with 19 points. "Our defense set me up for scoring opportunities and I was able to take advantage of them."

Somerville (2-2) didn't go down without a fight, however. The Pioneers made halftime adjustments that had South Plainfield on the run for the rest of the contest.

"We changed our defensive approach at halftime and put more pressure on the ball," said Pioneers Head Coach Jessica Beck. "We didn't allow ourselves to get beat down the court in the second half and our confidence as



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
South Plainfield High's Kristina Cwiekalo, left, and Somerville's Toni Darby battle for a rebound during Saturday's finale of the Crusader Holiday Classic, which the Tigers won 50-48.

a team began to rise."

The Pioneers, way out of sync offensively in the second quarter, began to find success down low with 5-9 sophomore Courtney Hilts, who scored 17 points for the game. Hilts hit a pair of free throws and followed them up with a putback moments later to pull SHS within 40-36 with 5:55 to go in the game. The stage was

set for a fantastic final five minutes.

Without Okparaekwe, who missed much of the third period because of a cut lip, and struggling against the Pioneers' defensive pressure, South Plainfield was forced to depend on its poise and guile to get through the closing minutes.

(Continued on page B-2)

Parks, Francis lead boys to Crusader tourney title

By ALEX LOWE
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BOUND BROOK — The South Plainfield High boys basketball team completed a sweep of the Crusader Classic Holiday Tournament with a convincing 52-42 decision over Somerville Saturday night. The SPHS girls earlier toppled Somerville in their tourney final.

The Tiger boys (3-2) gained an early lead and were in control throughout as they handed Somerville its first loss in four outings.

"We're a young team, so this is a big win for us just because Somerville is a quality opponent," said South Plainfield Head Coach Jeff Lubreski, whose team knocked off host Bound Brook the previous night. "We've been struggling a bit with our consistency so maybe this will make us a little more consistent the rest of the year."

It was a workmanlike performance from South Plainfield, which had an edge in almost every aspect of play during the game and never let Somerville establish a rhythm on offense.

"Defense and patience on offense, those were the keys tonight," said South Plainfield sophomore guard Gary Houston. "We held the ball and played smart."

Somerville struggled considerably on offense during the first half and faced a 25-13 deficit at the break. Foul trouble to key Pioneers Isaiah Davenport and Kerry Foderingham did nothing to help their cause.

"Thirteen points at the half and you know you're in trouble," said Somerville center Doug Beck. "We were shooting very poorly as a team and the guys who usually bail us out — Kerry and Isaiah — just couldn't get out of the blocks, either."

It was an opinion echoed by Pioneers Head Coach Joe D'Alessandro.

"We got off to a very slow start offensively," he said. "Too much freelancing. We're not very big, so it's very important that we execute well and tonight we didn't. But give South Plainfield all the credit. They were the better team tonight."

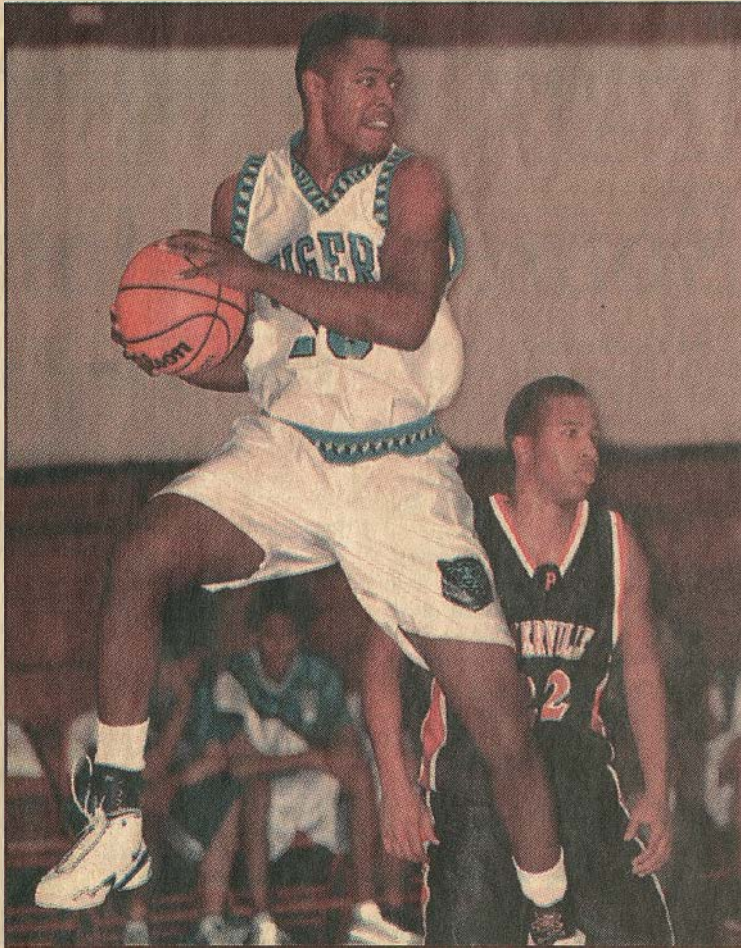
While Somerville's offense was having problems, the Tigers were getting big efforts from David Francis and Aaron Parks. Francis scored 14 points while Parks, named the tourney's Most Valuable Player, added 15.

"Aaron's got a nice jump shot and when it's on, we ride him," said

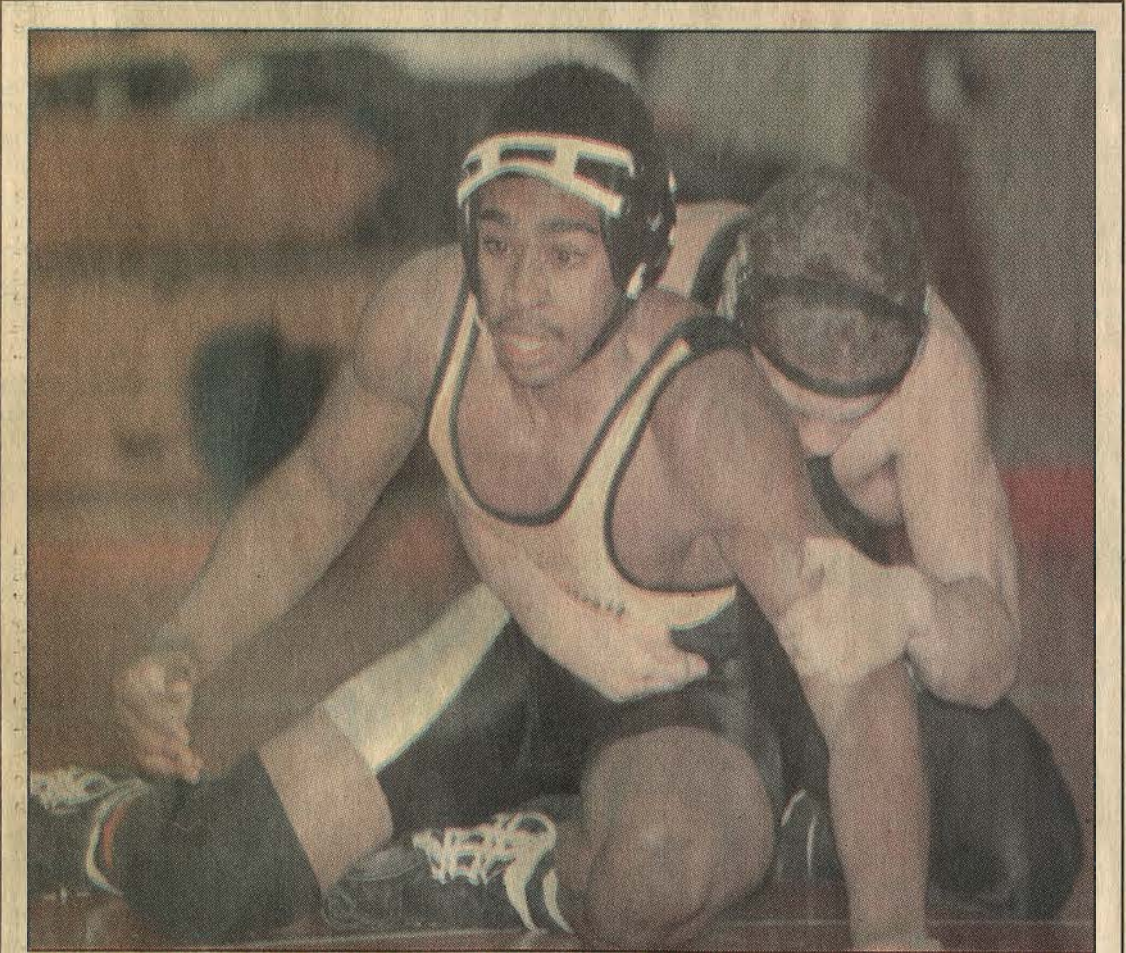
Lubreski. "Tonight it was, and we did."

Somerville pulled within eight points a couple of times in the third period but SPHS responded each time. So complete was the Tigers' control that Somerville never got closer than 11 in the final quarter.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD (52)
Francis 3-2-2-14, Parks 6-3-15, Gilmore 3-2-8, Russell 0-3-3, Robinson 1-1-3, Jones 2-2-6, Veinott 0-1-0-3. Totals 15-3-13-52.
SOMERVILLE (42)
Foderingham 4-5-13, Beck 3-5-11, Davenport 2-0-4, C. Barton 2-1-5, K. Barton 2-0-4, Porcario 0-1-0-3, Calvo 1-0-2. Totals 14-1-11-42.
South Plainfield 9 16 12 15 — 52
Somerville 5 8 14 15 — 42



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Travis Hollis snags a rebound for South Plainfield High during the Tigers' 52-42 triumph over Somerville in the Crusader Holiday Classic championship game in Bound Brook.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The next move?

Piscataway High senior Quesly Mitchell, left, and Chris Gillen duel at 189 pounds Friday during the Blue Devil Tournament in Westfield. Neither wrestler was a top-four finisher. Piscataway roundup, page B-3.

Zannetti helps Stevens claim wrestling honors

By AL WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

There was no surprise party at the Rahway Tournament — not as far as the J.P. Stevens High wrestling team was concerned, at least.

"There were no surprises tonight — no surprises at all," said Hawks Head Coach Steve Giordano after his grapplers captured top honors during the Dec. 27 competition.

Stevens came out of nowhere to win with 139 points, 20 better than the host team, which had been generally regarded as the favorite. But Rahway fell far behind in the early going, while New Providence finished third with 110 points.

"Everyone did well," said Giordano. "We pulled together as a team and focused on our main goal in winning this tournament and doing well in our individual classes. We put together a great winning effort for this win and for this program. Our hard work paid off."

Stevens 140-pounder Gene Zannetti, one of three Hawks who won in their weight classes, was named the tourney's Outstanding Wrestler. He secured a 20-4 technical fall over Colonia's Kendrick Randall in the finals.

"It was a great win for us," said Zannetti. "This should go far for us this season."

All except two JPS wrestlers qualified for the semifinals or better.

"Placing those 12 in the top four really helped us," said Giordano. "That's something we really

J.P. Stevens
High School
Roundup

worked on coming into this tournament."

Giordano won his first tournament since taking over the Stevens program last year.

"Coach helped us all," said Zannetti. "He's going to turn around this program, and this win is the first huge step in going in

that direction for all of us.

"Coach Giordano is the reason I'm at the point where I am today," he added. "I wrestled in this tournament all four years in my career. It's a nice feeling to win both my class and the OW. Plus, I hope the OW award is my first step in becoming a state champ this year."

Not only did Giordano help Zannetti win, he helped his brother, Jeff, win at 103 and Tim Karmazsin win at 215 for the Hawks.

"Jeff is coming along great — he's a great competitor like his brother," said Giordano. "And Tim gave a huge boost to his confidence in coming back from last year's performance."

The Hawks' Matt Stanzione (145) and Adam Rosen (152) both finished second. Stanzione dropped a 5-3 overtime battle to Colonia's Roberto Cerbone.

"Matt's match was very close," said Giordano. "He almost had (Cerbone) but just fell short. Matt's a great competitor. He's tough and strong. In close matches, though, he must learn to open up more offensively against his man."

Rosen lost his match by major decision, 10-0.

(Continued on page B-2)

Torrid young Hawks continue on winning pace

By AL WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

NORTH ARLINGTON — History tells us people, places, and teams come back from the abyss and return to glory — even in high school sports.

However, J.P. Stevens girls basketball Head Coach Andy Eng and his troops probably didn't quite expect this fast of a comeback. The Hawks trounced Ridgefield 67-38 Sunday in the Queen of Peace Holiday Tournament championship game for their fifth consecutive victory.

"It was a total dominating team effort," said Eng. "It's a great victory for us against a tough team like Ridgefield, and a

great tournament. We're happy."

The Hawks' 5-2 start to the season is a huge contrast to last year, when they finished with a 3-18 record.

"It's a great start — a five-game winning streak," said Eng. "It's unexpected but as long as we don't get ahead of ourselves we'll be OK. We just need to maintain our focus and prove we can beat our GMC division rivals without losing our confidence in our abilities."

The Hawks — comprised largely of freshmen and sophomores — dominated the Royals from the opening tip-off in cruising to a 20-5 first-period lead behind tournament Most Valuable Player Stephanie

J.P. STEVENS GIRLS BASKETBALL

Marciano's 11 points (three treys and a baseline jumper). She finished with a game-high 24 points.

"That start built up our confidence and our confidence in our talent," Eng said. "It was a real confidence-builder for our players."

Marciano, a sophomore guard, agreed.

"It's a great honor in winning both the title and MVP trophy," she said. "The tournament was a great experience for me. In fact, it was great for all of us. When we won the first two games, I knew we had a chance of winning the

title. This will go a long way in building our confidence."

"Everyone contributed something. Tania Kennedy, Anaya Way, and the rest all contributed, whether it was a key rebound or steal. All but one or two girls scored. It would've been nice if everyone had a point in the championship."

Among the JPS standouts was sophomore guard Way, who triggered the Hawks' opening 13-0 run by hitting her first points en route to a seven-point first period. She totaled 16 points in the final.

"Everyone chipped in tonight

— it's a credit to themselves," said Eng. "However, we couldn't do it without Way's quick start."

"We needed that opening (run) to help us generate an outstanding offensive performance," said Eng. "It was the best way for us to take control of the tempo and play our style especially since we're a young team."

In the second period, Marciano continued the Hawks' attack by adding a pair of treys and knocking down a pair of foul shots in opening a 20-5 lead into a 36-15 halftime lead. That surge included a three-pointer by Kennedy, a freshman who was in foul trouble most of the night and finished with 10 points.

"We used the clock in that

period as they (the Royals) tried to climb back," said Eng. "Our defense stopped them in key moments especially in the last three minutes when we put a full-court pressure on them and started to use our delay offense. It was a great one-two punch."

Way again started the next Hawk spurt in the third period by hitting a pair of jumpers while playing solid defense, coming up with two steals.

"Way just had one of those types of games every coach wants to see in his players," said Eng. "She was just awesome, as was Marciano."

The Hawks outscored Ridgefield 14-8 in the third quarter.

(Continued on page B-2)

Bulldog girls nab tourney title

By AL WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

Metuchen High's young girls basketball team took a major step forward last week.

The Bulldogs knocked off host Brearley 36-32 Saturday to claim the championship in the Brearley Bears Holiday Tournament in Kenilworth.

"This win is a huge confidence-booster for us," said Metuchen Head Coach Tom Vahalla. "Our team is filled with youth since we don't have any seniors. It's a nice win for us."

Metuchen, filled with a talented mixture of juniors, sophomores and freshmen, used a 14-8 run in the closing quarter in taking the championship and improving its record to 2-3.

With Metuchen trailing 26-24 after three periods, freshman point guard Kristen Edmonds went to work in the final eight minutes, scoring 12 of her game-high 17 points. She also totaled four assists, two steals and two blocks.

"Kristen had a great game," said Vahalla. "She's very quick and athletic. We put her on their best player (Nicole DeMaio)," said Vahalla. "She's going to be special in the coming years. We expect big things

Metuchen

High School
Roundup



in the future from her.

"Plus, Chris Mulligan had two key blocks in that last period which triggered our offense. Mulligan is also going to be a good player in the future."

In their 33-24 tourney-opening victory over Henry Hudson of Monmouth County, the Bulldogs were led by the balanced scoring of Edmonds (seven points), Alison Konick (10) and Katie Matieka (eight) along with Brittany Herits' nine rebounds.

"The Hudson game helped us go into the finals," Vahalla said. "It made us understand what it takes to win."

"All I want to see is progress each time we go onto the floor. By mid-season, who knows where we could be? As long as we play hard and build our confidence heading into the mid-season and beyond."

METUCHEN SCORING:

Edmonds 3 (3)-2-17, Ruddy 3-0-6, Matieka 0-1-1, O'Neil 2-0-4, Mulligan 1-0-2, Herits 1-0-2, Konick 2-0-4, Totals 12 (3)-36
Metuchen (2-3) 7 7 8 14 — 36
Brearley (3-2) 6 9 9 8 — 32

WRESTLING

The Bulldogs finished fifth in the North Brunswick Tournament Dec. 27, with Matt McManmon and Charles Bowles coming away with individual titles.

McManmon, at 130 pounds, defeated Rodney Thomas of South River 5-4 in the final and at 215, Bowles took an 11-1 major decision from Randy Donatien of West Windsor-Donatien South. Finishing second at 152 was Dan Lourenco, who lost to Greg Mongello of South River, 5-2.

"I'm pleased with our results," said Metuchen Head Coach Bob Ulmer. "If things developed differently in a couple of different weights, we could've placed more of our guys in the semis or better. We just have to work hard and improve."

McManmon's performance throughout the tourney earned him co-Outstanding Wrestler honors with Spotwood's Jason Mar (160). McManmon was named the top wrestler in the lower classes.

"McManmon looked awesome," said Ulmer. "He defeated the top two seeds with pins in the opening rounds. He's focused and driven for his goals — it's a great attribute he has."

"Bowles did a good job, too. He

didn't make many mistakes, but one thing he must improve on is his pinning. He has to work on that as the season moves forward."

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Bulldogs notched their first success of the season Saturday in the consolation game of the Brearley Bears Holiday Tournament, knocking off the winless host school 62-53 in Kenilworth.

Chris Carr led the way for Metuchen with 22 points and six assists, Mike Sellers had 15 points and 14 rebounds and Mike Muldoon added 10 points.

After falling behind in the opening period, Metuchen gained a 28-22 halftime lead.

METUCHEN SCORING:

O'Connell 1-0-2, Kinney 2-0-4, M. Sellers 7-0-15, O'Brien 4-0-8, Carr 6 (2)-5-23, Muldoon 2-6-10, Totals: 22 (2)-62
Metuchen (1-4) 8 20 17 17 — 62
Brearley (0-4) 14 8 18 13 — 53

Pingry 53, Metuchen 36

The Pingry School of Bernards Township defeated Metuchen in the Brearley tourney opener Friday. Mike Sellers had 16 points and Carr 12.

METUCHEN SCORING:

O'Brien 1-0-2, Muldoon 0-0-0, M. Sellers 8-0-16, Carr 1 (2)-4-12, Kinney 1-2-4, O'Connell 0-0-0, J. Sellers 1-0-2, Ruddy 0-0-0, Moten 0-0-0, Totals: 12 (2)-36

team rallied in the fourth.

BISHOP AHR SCORING:

Pellichero 3 (2)-0-12, O'Brien 1 (1)-0-5, Thurlow 3-0-6, Rzewuski (1)-4-7, Cuozzo 1-0-2, Joyce 1-0-2, Johnson 1-1-3, Totals: 10 (4)-5-37
No. Bergen (5-2) 13 6 5 13 — 37

River Dell 42, Bishop Ahr 38 (OT) — In Friday's tourney semifinal between unbeaten teams, host River Dell emerged with the triumph after the Trojans' Deana Cuozzo hit a three-point bomb with 25 seconds left in regulation to force overtime. But River Dell outscored Ahr 7-3 in the extra session to win its fifth straight game.

BISHOP AHR SCORING:

Pellichero 2-0-4, Figueroa 4-0-8, Thurlow 2-6, Rzewuski 1-0-2, Cuozzo 3 (1)-6-15, Joyce (1)-0-3 Totals: 16-4-13-57
Bishop Ahr (4-1) 4 15 8 8 — 38
River Dell (5-0) 6 9 9 11 — 42

Bishop Ahr 57, St. Patrick's 48 — In first-round action Dec. 26, Bishop Ahr used a 22-point explosion in the fourth period to

pull away from St. Patrick's (Elizabeth) behind Cuozzo's 13 points during the crucial period. Cuozzo finished with 27 points.

BISHOP AHR SCORING:

Pellichero 3-3-0-15, O'Brien 1-0-0-2, Figueroa 1-0-0-2, Thurlow 4-0-0-8, Rzewuski 1-0-2, Cuozzo 6-1-12-27, Joyce 0-0-1-1 Totals: 16-4-13-57
Bishop Ahr 12 12 11 22 — 57
St. Patrick's 6 13 12 17 — 48

WRESTLING

Kody Hamrah was the lone Trojan champion during the annual North Brunswick Tournament Dec. 27. Hamrah, Ahr's 145-pounder, defeated Elizabeth's Christian Patino 8-1 in the final.

Bishop Ahr placed sixth in the team standings with 93 points and had two others in the finals, with Anthony Cavico (160) and heavyweight Morgan Lobello finishing second. Cavico lost 9-5 to Jason Mar of Spotwood and Lobello lost 3-1 to Brendan Morfe of West Windsor-Plainsboro South.

Some consolation for Trojans

Joe Cerami knocked down all four of his free-throw attempts in the final 21 seconds Saturday to help the Bishop Ahr High boys basketball team come away with a 34-31 triumph over Marist in the consolation game of the Roselle Catholic Tournament.

Trailing 24-22 after three periods, the Trojans used a 12-7 run in the fourth and knocked down 10 free throws compared to Marist's two in securing their second victory of the season. The loss was the fourth in five outings for Marist.

BISHOP AHR SCORING:

Austin 0-0-0, Cerami 3 (1)-8-17, Gozzi 3-0-6, Lillis (1)-2-5, Beards 2-0-4, Crehan 0-0-0, Mulvey 0-0-0, Roserio 1-0-2, D'Agostino 0-0-0, Totals: 9 (2)-10-34
Marist (1-4) 10 7 7 7 — 31
Bishop Ahr (2-3) 6 9 7 12 — 34

Roselle Catholic 72, Bishop Ahr 58 — Roselle Catholic exploded to a 37-23 halftime lead behind Jamaal Hilliard and Keith David in Friday's first-round game of the RC tourney.

Bishop Ahr

High School
Roundup



BISHOP AHR SCORING:

F. Austin 0-0-0, Cerami 0 (2)-0-6, Gozzi 0-0-0, Lillis 2 (3)-1-14, Beards 3-2-8, Crehan 1-0-2, Mulvey 1 (1)-0-8, Roserio 3 (2)-2-14, D'Agostino 1-1-3, Knehr 0-1-1, J. Austin 1-0-2 Totals: 12 (9)-7-55
Bishop Ahr 13 10 13 12 — 58
Roselle Cath. 24 13 26 9 — 72

GIRLS BASKETBALL

North Bergen trimmed Bishop Ahr 41-37 Sunday in the consolation game of the River Dell Tournament in Oradell, Bergen County.

The Trojans fell short in the fourth period despite sophomore Michelle Pellichero's team-high 12 points. After gaining a two-point half-time lead, North Bergen outscored Ahr 10-5 in the third period before the Edison

McIntyre, Paras lead Owls to crown

Paced by sophomores Corrie McIntyre and Chris Paras, the Highland Park High girls basketball team captured top honors in its own Highland Park Holiday Tournament by walloping New Egypt 58-22 in Saturday's final.

McIntyre, a 5-foot-4 guard who dished out six assists, and Paras, a 5-7 forward who grabbed 10 rebounds, scored 13 points apiece for the Owls (3-3). Highland Park raced to a 26-9 halftime advantage over New Egypt (1-5).

HIGHLAND PARK SCORING:

McIntyre 3 (2)-2-13, Walker 4-1-9, Stevenson 2-0-4, Lyons 2-0-4, Feinberg 3-2-8, Paras 6-1-13, Cooley 1-1-3, Totals: 23 (6)-6-58
New Egypt (1-5) 8 11 2 — 22
Highland Park (3-3) 18 8 17 15 — 58

HPHS 61, Mother Seton 45 — In their tourney opener the Owls built a 37-21 halftime cushion and knocked off the visitors from Clark. McIntyre totaled 14

Highland Park

High School
Roundup



points and six assists.

HIGHLAND PARK SCORING:

McIntyre 5 (1)-1-14, Walker 4-0-8, Stevenson 2 (1)-0-7, Lyons 3-0-6, Feinberg 0-0-0, Paras 6-2-14, Cooley 4-2-10, Perletti 0-0-0, Thompson 1-0-2, Totals: 25 (2)-5-61
Mother Seton 12 9 17 7 — 45
Highland Park 19 18 12 12 — 61

BOYS BASKETBALL

The Owls took third-place laurels in the Hunterdon Central Tournament in Flemington by toppling Ewing 59-44 Saturday in the consolation contest.

Amir White paced HPHS (4-1) with 21 points and 10 rebounds and Tim Stark, who was shut out in the tourney opener against

eventual champion Hunterdon Central, dropped in 16, including three shots from three-point territory.

HIGHLAND PARK SCORING:

White 3 (4)-3-21, VanLiew 0-4-4, Hunt 3-0-6, Stark 2 (3)-3-16, Citton 3-2-8, Bay 2-0-4, Abdul-Ghani 0-0-0, Turb 0-0-0, Totals: 13 (7)-12-59
Highland Park (4-1) 11 14 20 14 — 59
Ewing (1-4) 10 15 9 10 — 44

Hunterdon Central 52, HPHS 43 — The Owls suffered their first loss of the season in

Edison girls earn tourney honors

Senior point guard Keri Shutz paced a trio of double-figure scorers Friday in leading the host Edison High girls basketball team to a 54-32 triumph over Carteret in the championship game of the Gene Haley Memorial Holiday Tournament.

Shutz, who canned three shots from past the three-point line, tallied 13 points, Katie Eskin added 11 and Nicole Brownlie 10.

EDISON SCORING:

Gerhardt 1-0-2, Shutz 1 (3)-2-13, Eskin 4-3-11, Papa 2-0-4, Brownlie 4-2-10, Kuntz 0 (3)-0-9, Moyle 1-3-5, Totals: 13 (6)-10-54
Carteret (3-2) 3 11 8 10 — 32
Edison (5-1) 15 14 18 7 — 54

Edison 61, New Brunswick 41 — In the Haley tourney opener Dec. 27, Edison roared out to a 31-16 halftime lead before putting it in cruise for the second half. Shutz scored 14 points, while Jackie Papa had 12 and Stephanie Papa and Eskin net-

Edison

High School
Roundup



ted 10 apiece.

EDISON SCORING:

Gerhardt 0-0-0, Shutz 4 (2)-0-14, Drost 1-0-2, Martinez 0-0-0, Eskin 5-0-10, Papa 5-0-10, Brownlie 3-0-6, Kuntz 3-6-12, Eckert 1-0-2, Moyle 1-1-3, Zavisotky 1-0-2, Lanza 0-0-0 Totals: 24 (2)-61
New Brunswick 8 8 10 15 — 41
Edison 14 17 19 11 — 61

WRESTLING

Tyler Solley — the lone Eagle to advance to the final round — fell to Newton's John Braxton 10-8 at 119 pounds Friday during the John Goles Tournament at Warren Hills High in Washington, Warren County. Edison finished last in the team standings with 41.5 points, behind the host school (64).

YOUTH WRESTLING

PISCATAWAY RECREATION

In the recent Fords Invitational Tournament recently, Piscataway won both divisional championships and had a total of 18 first-place wrestlers in the A and B divisions.

Division A

Brandon Mora (50 pounds)- 1st Place; Calvin Daly (56)- 1st Place; Michael Mora (60)- 1st Place; Devohn Cook (63)- 2nd Place; David Powell (67)- 3rd Place; Kevin Buck (70)- 4th Place; Pete Lauria (73)- 3rd Place; Doug Walton (76)- 1st Place; Chaz Downing (80)- 1st Place
Timothy Burkhard (85)- 4th Place; Jordan Hall (90)- 3rd Place; Tyler Adams (95)- 1st Place; Bryan Waluk (120)- 3rd Place; Shane Miller (HWT)- 2nd Place

Division B

Joshua Holmes (50)- 2nd Place; John Lapzanski (56)- 1st Place; Tyler Duzick (60)- 1st Place; Kenny Blair (63)- 2nd Place; Joshua Parker (67)- 2nd Place; Devon Coates (67)- 1st

Place; Robert Miller (70)- 2nd place; Trevor Caron (73)- 1st Place

Matthew Racine (76) 1st place; Paul Muniz (85)- 1st Place; Daquan Doyle (90)- 1st Place; Neal Bucholtz (95)- 2nd Place; Anthony Sokalski (95)- 1st Place; David Walton (100)- 1st Place; Todd Smith (110)- 1st Place; Wesley Enad (120)- 1st Place; Zack Lane (HWT)- 3rd Place; Frank Sokalski (HWT)- 2nd Place

EDISON RECREATION

Edison placed 10 wrestlers during the recent Toms River Tournament. In the Novice Division, Justin Vaccaro (80) and Anthony Caello (90) took first place while George Hunter (65) finished second.

In the Bantam Division, Dallas Winstor (60) placed third, Dylan Shine (45) took second and his brother Jarrett Shine (55) was fourth. In the Junior Division, Scott Winstor (95) and J.G. Bandier (105) finished first while Mike Bandiero (65) and Mike Winters (125) took thirds.

SPHS wins close one

(Continued from page B-1)
"I think we came out in the second half with a lot more fire," said Somerville's Andrea Fowler. "Our mix of pressure and trapping helped us get back into the game. It was working very well in the second half. We just ran out of time."

Indeed, the Tigers didn't score a basket the rest of the way, yet still never lost the lead. That's because they took full advantage of some key free throws, hitting 10 of 11 attempts in the final minutes. Even so, it almost wasn't enough.

With 20 seconds remaining, Fowler converted an inside bucket and a free throw to bring the Pioneers within 49-46. After forcing a quick turnover, Toni Darby hit a pair of foul shots to pull SHS within 49-48 with :09 to go.

South Plainfield's Kelly Eustice connected on one of two free throws, giving the Tigers a 50-48 cushion with :03 showing on the clock. The game ended with the Pioneers' Amanda Biuso heaving a half-court shot which fell short.

"It's hard to get down by 14 points and climb all the way back," said Beck. "Give South Plainfield credit. They shifted the focus of their offense away from

Torrid Hawks win again

(Continued from page B-1)
ter to open up a 50-23 cushion.

"Our defense was key in that period," Marciano said. "Way helped us with those steals because it created a bigger lead. One area where we can improve on is our defense."

"Our defense was critical in giving us that type of lead," said Eng. "It's a much easier game for us when our defense plays up to its capabilities."

Eng generally was pleased with his team's effort in the final.

"We needed patience and precision tonight — we cashed in our opportunities against a quality opponent," he said. "Ridgefield did well in this tournament; they should have nothing to hang their heads about. We're happy about what we accomplished — very happy."

Marciano added: "Since the Piscataway game, I feel we're turning over this program. Last year we were 3-18, now we're 5-2. The school is behind us, the town is behind us, and we have a growing number of fans pulling for us. It just feels so good winning, with a great future ahead of us. I expected to sneak out a win or two more this season but not

this."

JPS SCORING:

Kennedy 2 (1)-3-10, James 2-2-6, McCormick 3-1-7, Marciano 3 (5)-5-24, Way 6-4-16, Song 1-0-2, Goss 0-2-2, Bryant 0-0-0, Riggi 0-0-0; Totals: 17 (6)-15-67

JP Stevens (5-2) 20 16 14 17 — 67
Ridgefield (4-2) 5 10 8 15 — 38

JPS 59, St. Dominic's 52

In the tourney semifinals Friday, Stevens used a 22-10 fourth-period rally to overturn St. Dominic's of Jersey City. Kennedy had seven of her game-high 16 points in the final stanza while Marciano chipped in 10 during the rally. Way produced 15 points.

JPS SCORING:

Kennedy 4 (1)-5-16, James 0-0-2, McCormick 0-0-0, Marciano 3-6-12, Way 5 (1)-2-15, Bonk 4-2-10, Goss 1-0-2, Riggi 1-0-2 Totals: 18 (2)-17-59
St. Dominic's (3-3) 16 10 16 10 — 52
J.P. Stevens 12 13 12 22 — 59

JPS 80, Bergen Tech 57

After being held to a halftime tie, Stevens outscored the Paramus team 43-20 the rest of the way in the tourney opener. Kennedy poured in 25 points, Way had 24 and Marciano 21.

JPS SCORING:

Kennedy 5-15-25, James 0-4-6, Marciano 3 (3)-0-21, Way 8 (2)-2-24, Bonk 1-0-2, Goss 2-0-4, Pepe 0-0-0 Totals: 22 (5)-21-80
J.P. Stevens 15 22 23 20 — 80
Bergen Tech 16 21 13 7 — 57

Zannetti helps Stevens

(Continued from page B-1)
against Governor Livingston's John Regenye.

"Rosen gives up too much weight," said Giordano. "He's really 140 or 145 at most. He's the type of kid any coach wants on his side. He's all heart and drive — he's just great to have around in the wrestling room."

Looking ahead to the GMC Red Division schedule, Giordano said, "This win will give us confidence heading into the rest of the season. We have tough teams ahead. If we work hard, this will be a great season for us."

JPS FRIST-PLACE WINNERS:

103- Jeff Zannetti d. Ross Baldwin (New Providence), 7-1

140- Gene Zannetti tech fall Kendrick Randall (Colonial), 20-4

215-Tim Karmazsin d. Shawn Caughlin (Governor Livingston), 9-5

JPS SECOND-PLACE FINISHERS:

145- Roberto Cerbone (Colonial) d. Matt Stanzione, 5-3 (OT)
152- John Regenye (Gov. Livingston) maj dec. Adam Rosen, 10-0

BOYS BASKETBALL

Westfield defeated JPS 63-37 in the semifinal round of the Tri-County Tournament in Rahway last week. Westfield's defense limited the Hawks to just 23 points through the first three quarters. Greg Raiford topped Stevens (2-3) with 17 points.

JPS SCORING:

Raiford 3 (3)-2-17, Bonk 1-0-2, James 2 (1)-0-7, Johnson 2-0-4, Zow 1-0-2, Gaidanavicius (1)-0-3, Khalamayzer 0-0-2 Totals: 9 (5)-4-37
Westfield (3-2) 12 9 14 22 — 37
JP Stevens (2-3) 6 6 8 14 — 37

JP Stevens 63, St. Peter's 37

In their Tri-County tourney opener, the Hawks ripped St. Peter's of Jersey City after building a 27-12 halftime lead. Darren Zow and Victor Chia led the way for the Hawks scoring 12 and 10 points, respectively.

JPS SCORING:

Griffith 2-0-4, Raiford 1 (1)-2-7, Chia 4-2-10, Bonk 3-2-8, James 2-0-4, Johnson 0-0-0, Viera 3-3-9, Zow 6-1-13, Gaidanavicius 0 (2)-0-6, Khalamayzer 1-1-3 Totals: 22 (3)-10-63
St. Peter's 6 6 6 9 — 37
JP Stevens 9 18 21 15 — 63

Piscataway softball signup begins

PISCATAWAY — Registration is now under way for the Piscataway Recreation men's and women's slow-pitch softball leagues, which are open to individuals ages 18 and over. The signup deadline is Feb. 22.

Men's league competition will be held weekday nights — Monday through Friday — while the women will have league play

on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Games are played on various township fields, with the season beginning in early April and concluding in August. The regular season consists of 14 games, with playoffs to follow end of the regular season.

For team registration and fee information, call the recreation department at (732) 562-2382.

MINOR PLUMBING PROBLEMS FIXED FOR \$19.⁹⁵*

Four Tigers tame the field in tough tourney

By AL WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

South Plainfield High's wrestlers headed into the Red Devils' den Friday, competing in the Hunterdon Central Tournament in Flemington.

With schools like Old Bridge, Toms River East, Manalapan and Lenape Valley involved in the event, the Tigers faced some intense competition among some of New Jersey's best programs.

"I'm very satisfied of our results," said Tigers Head Coach Bill Pavlak. "The Hunterdon Central Tournament always has great competition and gives us some real, quality experience."

The Tigers placed six wrestlers in the HCT finals, with 112-pounder Ricky Ringel, Matt Anderson (135), Scott Doerr (145) and Mike Buteas (160) bringing

home championship medals.

Danny DeAndrea (119) and Glenn Gross (152) earned second-place honors.

"Our qualifiers did a great job in getting to the finals, especially facing great wrestlers," said Pavlak.

Ringel defeated Manalapan's Dan Hilt 4-3 in the 112 final while Buteas had a 5-1 decision over Sal Burbato of Moorestown at 160 to notch his first-ever tourney title.

"Rick did a great job since he was only a fill-in starter last season," said Pavlak. "Now as a full-time starter, he's improving with every match. Simply put, he faced a previous HCT winner and defeated him in a well-fought match."

"Mike's performance was great in that he kept (Burbato) under control. It was an emotional win for him."

In their matches, both of last year's state qualifiers performed as

expected.

Anderson posted a 13-2 major decision over Mike Gaeta of Manalapan and Doerr came through with a technical fall over Moorestown's Bill Pounds, 19-0.

"Both Anderson and Doerr performed well — it was as if you expected it from them," said Pavlak. "They're our team leaders."

Anderson, a state champion two seasons ago, was second at 119 last winter while Doerr finished second in the state last year.

DeAndrea and Gross also had a strong tourney, according to Pavlak. DeAndrea fell 4-1 to Matt Heberlig of Lenape Valley and Toms River East's Devon Messanko pinned Gross at the 3:01

mark.

"DeAndrea lost in a tough match," said Pavlak. "Dan tried his best but it just wasn't supposed to be for him today."

And Messanko is one of the best in the state.

In the opening round, Tigers 171-pounder Steve Johnston fell by a 2-1 margin but came back to finish fifth in the tournament.

"Johnston had a great tourney despite finishing where he did," said Pavlak. "He did a great job and shouldn't let that loss affect his confidence for his upcoming matches."

"This tournament helps us see some different teams and wrestling styles. It truly helps us as individuals to see where you can improve. We're more of a tournament team

than dual-match team, especially when it comes down to our pinning.

"Tournaments like this help us correct our pinning and other wrestling mistakes. In a dual meet, pinning errors kill you but not in a tournament where it's more individual than team. That's why going to tournaments like the HCT helps our program — to improve ourselves, especially our pins."

The Tigers resume their regular-season schedule this weekend, going against East Brunswick tonight and South Brunswick tomorrow in Greater Middlesex Conference action.

"We have our work cut out for us," said Pavlak. "This is the start of a long, tough road ahead of us, and we have to face the challenge. The HCT was our starting point and now, it's for real."

SPHS WINNERS
112- Rick Ringel d. Dan Hilt of Manalapan, 4-

3
135- Matt Anderson m d. Mike Gaeta of Manalapan, 13-2
145- Scott Doerr ff. Bill Pounds of Moorestown, 19-0
160- Mike Buteas d. Sal Burbato of Moorestown, 5-1

SPHS SECOND-PLACES
119- Matt Heberlig of Lenape d. Dan DeAndrea, 4-1
152- Devon Messanko of Toms River East p. Glenn Gross, 3:01

WINTER TRACK
South Plainfield's Tim Morgan won the 3200-meter run in 10:02 during the 24th annual Pearl River Holiday Track and Field Festival at the Rockland County Community College Fieldhouse in Suffern, N.Y. last week. Morgan also was sixth in the 1600 in 4:43.

The Tigers' Jeff Williams placed second in the 600 in 1:17.4 and Chris Grevious finished fourth in the 55 dash. Crystal McCullen was seventh in the shot put at 31 feet, 10 inches.

Piscataway High School Roundup

Teams fall in tourney finals

There were those who thought the Bridgewater-Raritan High boys basketball team's days had passed. Turns out the Panthers may be just getting warmed up.

The young B-R squad proved it could still be a contender this year, winning the Vaughn Stapleton Holiday Tournament for the third straight year. After three close quarters, the unbeaten Panthers broke the final wide-open in the fourth Friday, beating Piscataway 65-56 at the Bridgewater-Raritan Middle School.

Struggling with ball control early on, the Panthers led most of the way but had trouble pulling away from the more experienced Piscataway squad. After committing 11 turnovers in the first half, however, the Panthers committed just five the rest of the way as they outscored the Chiefs 22-16 in the fourth quarter to secure their fourth straight victory.

"Piscataway is a very athletic team," said B-R Head Coach Tim Ortelli, who lost his top six players to graduation from a squad which won the Central Jersey Group 4 playoff title last winter. "I knew they might be a problem. We just tried to do things to slow them down."

B-R sophomore guard T.J. Sfera, named the tourney's Most Valuable Player, dourne in 22 points. Coleman Miller paced Piscataway (4-2) with 19 points and Martin Maxwell and Jarrett Meyers added 12 apiece.

PISCATAWAY (56)
Miller 6-7-19, Maxwell 5-2-12, Meyers 6-0-12, Isola 1-1-0-5, Keller 1-3-5, Davis 0-1-1, Perrotte 1-0-2. Totals 20-11-35-66.

BRIDGEWATER-RARITAN (65)
Sierra 3-4-4-22, Hamby 6-5-17, Goodwin 6-2-14, Katz 4-1-9, DiOrto 0-1-0-3, Totals 19-4-12-65.

Piscataway 11 15 14 16 — 56
Bridgewater-Raritan 14 14 15 22 — 65

PHS 56, Union 42 — Miller scored 21 points and Brian Keller 17 to lead the Chiefs past Union (1-3) in the opening round of the Stapleton tourney Dec. 27. PHS broke open a tight battle in the third period, outscoring Union 16-5 for a 47-31 cushion.

PISCATAWAY SCORING
Miller 8-5-21, Keller 4-2-3-17, Maxwell 4-0-8, Isola 1-0-2, Meyers 1-0-2, Davis 1-0-2, Gordon 0-2-2, Renkart 1-0-2. Totals 20-2-10-66.

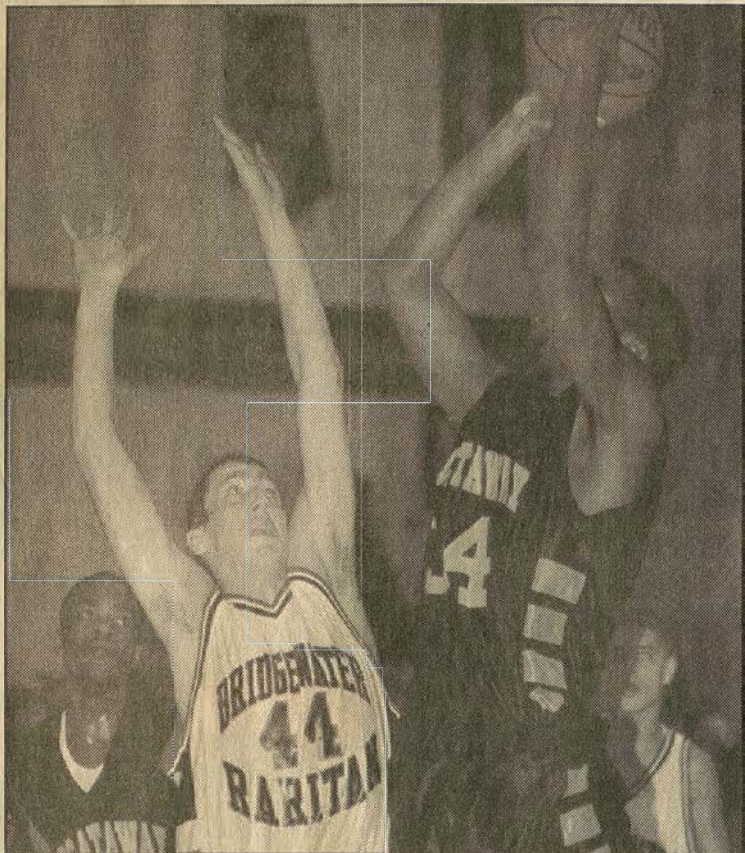
Piscataway 14 17 16 9 — 56
Union 13 13 5 11 — 42

PHS GIRLS FALL
Reeling off the game's first 16 points Friday, the unbeaten Immaculata girls cruised to their fifth straight triumph by a 61-39 margin over Piscataway in the championship game of the Vaughn Stapleton Holiday Tournament.

Forward Liz Geiger, selected as the tourney's Most Valuable Player, scored 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds for Immaculata. Dannisha Winfrey, the Chiefs' senior point guard, totaled 15 points after averaging 22.5 during her team's first four outings.

Piscataway (2-3) played the Spartans even during the second stanza and scored the first five points of the second half (a Danielle Harris baseline shot and Winfrey's three-pointer) to pull within 30-20 with 7:23 left in the third period. But the Chiefs could get no closer.

IMMACULATA (61)
L. Geiger 5-0-10, Piscadio 4-2-10, Zahalan 3-6-12, E. Geiger 3-0-6, DeFalco 3-1-7, Van Doren 1-2-1-9, Sanderson 2-0-4, Clarke 1-1-3. Totals 22-2-



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Piscataway High's Jarrett Meyers launches a jumper over Bridgewater-Raritan's B.J. Hamby during Friday's Stapleton Holiday Tournament final in Bridgewater. B-R posted a 65-56 triumph.

11-61.

PISCATAWAY (39)
Winfrey 5-12-15, Harris 3-1-7, Costabile 1-1-3-8, Walker 0-1-0-3, Greenmeir 0-1-1, Aquila 0-1-0-3, Hackett 1-0-2. Totals 10-4-7-39.

Immaculata 18 12 16 15 — 61
Piscataway 3 12 10 14 — 39

PISCATAWAY SCORING
Winfrey 7-3-7-30, Harris 5-1-11, DeFalco 2-1-8, Costabile 0-1-2-5, Greenmeir 2-4-8, Guarnieri 1-2-0-8, Walker 2-0-4, Aquila 0-2-2. Totals 18-6-16-60.

WRESTLING
The Chiefs had two individual champions — Kyle Paulson and Brian Butler — during Friday's Westfield Blue Devil Tournament.

Paulson took a 5-3 decision over Hanover Park's Greg Politi in the 140-pound final and Butler won by injury default at 215.

The Chiefs, who were fourth in the team standings among 10 squads, also had two grapplers win consolation-round bouts — Derek Tranchina at 160 (a 4-0 decision) and Fabian Thompson at 171.

Eagles feel they're ready for upcoming challenges

By AL WAGNER
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — The Edison High boys basketball team didn't quite accomplish what it wanted, but the Eagles were still satisfied with their third-place showing in their own Gene Haley Holiday Tournament last week.

"I thought we did a great job despite not finishing where we wanted to be (in the finals)," said Edison Head Coach Matt Meagher. "Even though we finished third, it was a great tournament in preparing us for January."

The Eagles fell to J.F. Kennedy-Iselin 51-46 in the opening round before wrapping up third place with Friday's 61-45 victory over Cardinal McCarrick of South Amboy.

"It simply came down to making the right decisions in that Kennedy game," said Meagher. "We had foul trouble, untimely turnovers, and a lot of unforced errors mentally. Kennedy played a great full-court trapping defense and mixed some standard zone and man-to-man defenses. They were simply great and we just couldn't answer their defense."

Despite the trouble offensively for the Eagles (3-2), Damion Normant came through with a team-high 18 points against the aggressive JFK defense. Normant's performance included hitting a three-pointer and playing strong defense against the Mustangs' front line.

However, it was a different story for Edison's Mike Bell, who hit three treys in the first half and finished with 16 points.

"Kennedy did a great job against Mike all night," said Meagher. "He

had early foul trouble and couldn't overcome it despite his offensive performance. Kennedy capitalized off it by putting pressure on our offense for the rest of the game."

"When Bell and Normant have solid performances, we have a good chance of winning. When you throw in an additional player, our chances just improve. Bell and Normant have given us chances, especially in the Kennedy game."

Entering the final stanza, Edison had a chance to sneak out another close victory. Trailing 33-31 after three periods, JFK used a 10-0 run early in the fourth period to take charge.

"Kennedy just had the answers. We didn't because we didn't execute our style of game," said Meagher.

Another crucial portion of the game was the last four minutes of the second period, when JFK held Edison scoreless while forcing critical turnovers and creating early foul trouble.

"It was not the best four minutes I've seen my team play," said Meagher. "Quite simply, Kennedy came in and played excellent defense for the entire game. We just came up on the short side at the end."

Meagher felt much better following the consolation victory over McCarrick.

"We had a great game," he said. "It was a similar balanced attack we had against St. Joe's last week. It was a great way for us to end this tournament."

In the consolation game, Edison extended its one-point second-period lead to a 27-14 half-time lead, helped by a 12-0 tear.

Edison held McCarrick's two main threats to a total of 29 points.

Jose Roserio had 18 points, the game-high, while teammate John Towilson added 11.

"Our defense kept their main guys under control," said Meagher. "Even though Roserio had a great game, we still had a solid game defensively."

When McCarrick answered the Eagles with a third-period rally to pull back into the game, Edison defenders stepped up to produce an 8-0 run, sealing the victory.

Bell had 13 points, including a pair of treys, while Normant had 14 points (two treys).

"They had a great night together," said Meagher. "Bell bounced back from the Kennedy game and Normant just continued his excellent play."

Now it's on to the Greater Middlesex Conference schedule for the Eagles, who took on East Brunswick Wednesday and will be at South Brunswick tomorrow.

"We need to learn from our mistake in this tournament and move on to improve ourselves," said Meagher. "I know our record is 3-2, but all I ask of my players is to improve themselves each week and see what happens. Our record reflects we're in a lot of tough, close games. We need to improve and execute our plays and we'll win. There are no gimmies in the GMC. No one is a push-over."

EDISON SCORING vs. McCARRICK:
Eckert 1-8-10, Bell 3 (2)-1-13, Normant 3 (2)-2-14, Ferrell 2-0-4, Brockington 3-6-11, Ellis 3-3-9, Lithgow 0-0-0, Siegle 0-0-0, Lagrasso 0-0-0, James 0-0-0. Totals 15 (3)-19-61.

Cardinal McCarrick (3-3) 10 4 11 20 — 45
Edison (3-2) 14 13 18 16 — 61

EDISON SCORING vs. JFK:
Eckert 2-1-5, Bell 3 (2)-4-16, Normant 5 (1)-5-16, Ferrell 0-2-2, Brockington 1-3-5, Ellis 0-0-0, Lagrasso 0-0-0. Totals 11 (3)-15-46.

JFK 10 11 10 20 — 51
Edison 13 7 13 13 — 46

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BEST BETS THIS WEEK

Philomusica is holding auditions

EAST BRUNSWICK — Philomusica, the region's premiere chamber choir, is holding auditions for competent singers in all voice parts.

Auditions are Monday, Jan. 7 and 14 by appointment only at the Unitarian Society of New Brunswick, 176 Tices Lane, East Brunswick. Philomusica sings works from the Baroque through the modern eras with an emphasis on authenticity and performance quality.

For an appointment, visit www.philomusic.org or phone Elizabeth Dixon at (732) 545-8434.

'Music of America' at dinner theatre

PERRYVILLE — Hunterdon Hills Playhouse Dinner Theater will present "The Music of America", an original country-western musical revue written and directed by Ken Schwarz, Jan. 9- Feb. 9.

Presented in a fun, lively production, the revue will showcase classic, historic and popular songs by artists from Jimmy Rodgers to Roy Rogers to Kenny Rogers, among many others, in a unique format.

Initially, the production had been announced in June of this year, as a week-long special addition to Hunterdon Hills' regular "mainstage" schedule. However, after apparently underestimating the area's appetite for the country sound, as well as the renewed patriotic fervor created after Sept. 11, the show has been extended three times in order to make room for ticket demand.

Monday through Saturday luncheon matinees at 11:30 a.m., Saturday evening dinner shows at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday afternoon dinner shows at 2:30 p.m., have been scheduled. Prices range from \$39.50-\$50 per person, with group rates available. Reservations are required though, as many dates are already sold out. Prices include a full-course, served meal, an all-you-can-eat dessert buffet, the show and all tips and taxes.

The theater is located at 88 Route 173 W., between Exits 11 and 12, off Interstate 78, in Perryville. For more information and reservations call their toll free number: 1-(800)HHP-7313 or visit them online at: www.hhplayhouse.com

'Jerry's Girls' seeking cast

WESTFIELD — Director Drude Roessler of Westfield Community Players (WCP), is holding open auditions for "Jerry's Girls", a revue featuring the Broadway music and lyrics of Jerry Herman on Sunday, Jan. 6 at 1 p.m. in the WCP theater at 1000 North Avenue West, Westfield, (908)232-9568.

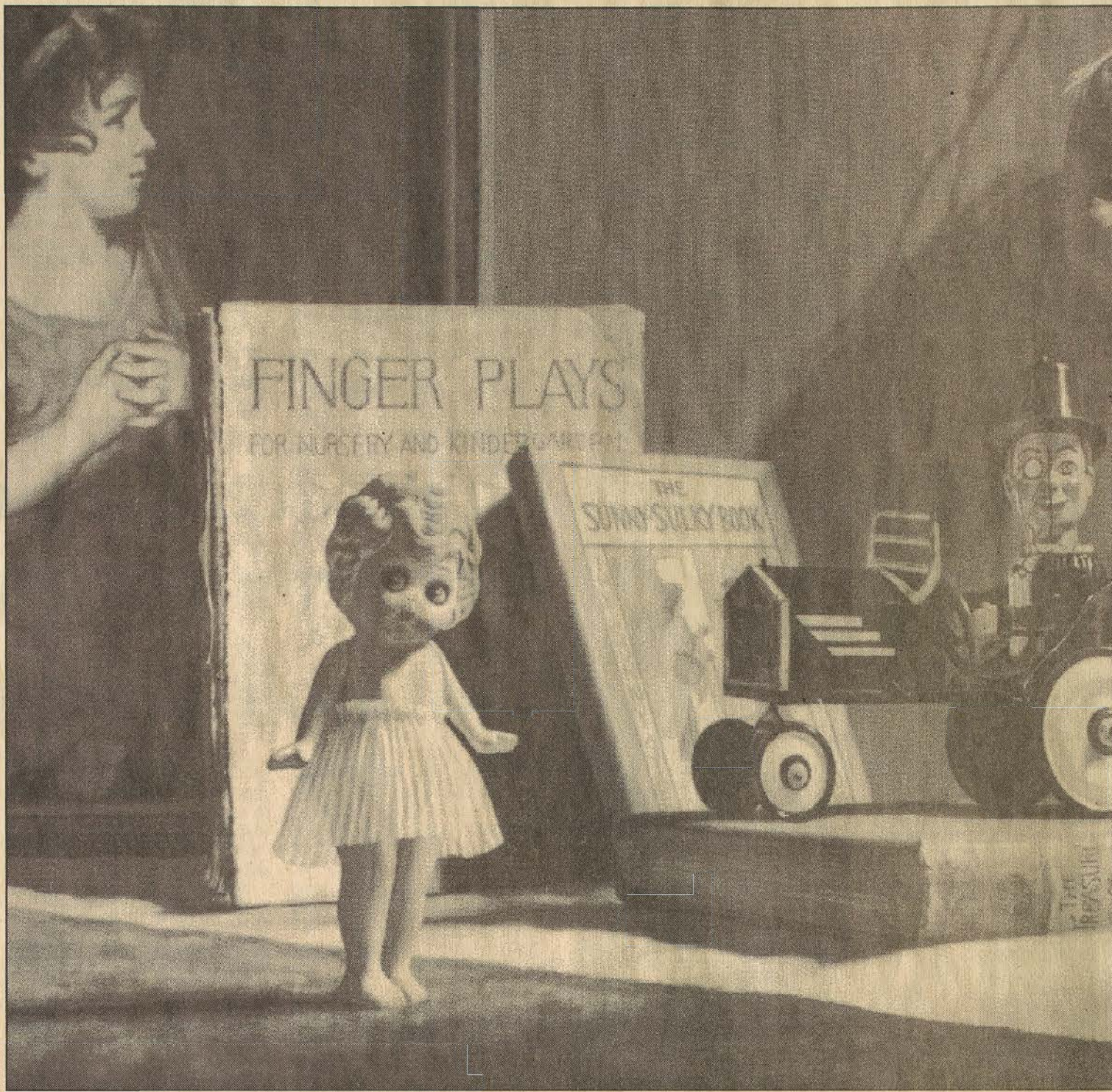
Jerry Herman's Broadway lyrics have become standards on the great white way. His credits feature powerful songs for women from such outstanding musicals as "Hello Dolly!", "Mame", "Mack and Mabel", "La Cage Aux Folles", "Milk and Honey" and others.

Assisted by Musical Director Mark Barron, who has directed the show at Plays in the Park in Middlesex County, the show opens March 2, and continues March 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 and 23 with all tickets \$15.

The cast requirements for the three leading roles call for strong singers, with one having a comedic flair, one being a strong dancer and one having a powerful voice.

For the chorus roles (6 to 8 ladies), strong singers who move well are needed. For the audition, bring music in your own key and dance clothes.

Funding has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.



Charles Nelson's "Finger Plays," will be one of the paintings on display to mark the fifth year of galleryONEmain.

Gallery celebrates with retrospective

HIGH BRIDGE — Taking a look back over the last 20 art exhibitions it has presented, galleryONEmain, High Bridge, has chosen its most popular artists to be featured in "Retro 2002."

Gallery Director Dennis Murphy said the show would bring together 17 artists who are presenting new, original art work for this exhibition.

"We're beginning our fifth cal-

endar year of presenting fine art from very talented artists," he said. "To celebrate we are bringing back our gallery visitors' choices for the most popular artists."

"Retro 2002" opens with a reception featuring the artists 1-5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6. The show runs through the end of February.

Watercolors will be displayed by Joan McKinney of

Bridgewater, Carl Burger, Elsa Herrmann, Grace Bracegirdle, Walter Bill, Jenny Chiu, Judi Gliden, Kathleen Groom, Francis McIlvain and Joan McKinney.

Oil paintings on canvas will come from Charles Nelson and Sonia Grineva. Animal artist Jerilyn Weber will offer new works on pastel. Special collages by Lorna Farmer will be featured, along with ink drawings

on paper by Renata Szuryga.

"Retro 2002" also includes custom functional ceramics by Maya Bohler, abstract ceramic sculpture of the female form by Mia Fetterman and new pottery by Phil Homes.

galleryONEmain is located at 1 Main St. Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit www.galleryonemain.com or phone (908) 638-3838.

Washington trio will bring harmony to Watchung

WATCHUNG — Hot Soup, the D.C.-area vocal trio whose wholesome, whimsical themes and tight harmonies have been compared to those of the Andrews Sisters and the Roches, will appear at the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Road, (on the Watchung Circle) on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m.

Hot Soup consists of singer/songwriters Sue Trainor, Christina Muir, and Jennifer Agner.

Their stage performance is marked by their lighthearted approach and warm, soaring harmony vocals. Their material is just as warm and lighthearted, including

good-natured novelties, soft-spun harmonies, topical ballads, romantic musings and nostalgic swing tunes. Lou (of Lou and Peter) Berryman sums it up: "What vocals! What harmonies! Youse guys is great."

The three performers come from very different backgrounds. Sue Trainor has been noted as a writer and performer of parodies ("Golfing With Hares"); Jennifer Agner comes from a more pop-music background with the band The Dilettantes; and Christina Muir is the daughter of Ann Mayo Muir (of Bok, Trickett and Muir fame).

Critics have been kind to Hot Soup. Sing Out! said, "This is how a vocal album is supposed to sound." The Washington Post praised their "wholesome songs...to feed the heart and spirit."

Opening for Hot Soup is Dave Goldman of Croton, New York, a true "world musician" who combines jazz and blues themes with influences from around the world. He collects songs from many countries, many of which he performs in their original languages, and is also a skilled songwriter who draws on world music traditions. A 1998 New Jersey Folk Festival showcase winner,

Goldman has lived and studied in Mexico, Japan, India, Portugal, Italy...and now in Croton, N.Y. He will appear with his three-piece ensemble.

The intimacy and remarkable natural acoustics of the Watchung Arts Center's upstairs art gallery will create a perfect setting for these remarkable performers. The 150-seat room should be filled with their many fans.

Reservations are advised, and may be made by calling (908)753-0190. The admission price is \$12, which includes home-baked desserts and coffee at intermission.

'Annie Get Your Gun' will be presented at State Theatre

NEW BRUNSWICK — A barrel full of Wild West fun will come to the State Theatre when a fresh new production of "Annie Get Your Gun," an American musical comedy classic is presented Sunday, Jan. 13 at 3 and 7 p.m.

Songwriter Irving Berlin, along with authors Herbert and Dorothy Fields, fashioned the lively show business life of expert riflewoman Annie Oakley into a romantic comedy for the entire family. The late Irving Berlin, whose prolific hand penned more than a thousand hit songs during his long career, contributes a legendary score of musical favorites including "There's No Business Like Show Business," "Doin' What Comes Natur'ly," "Anything You Can Do I Can Do Better," "The Girl I Marry" and "I Got the Sun in the Morning."

This production offers a revised script by Peter Stone, who won a 1997 Tony Award for Best Book of a Musical for "Titanic: A New Musical". His writing for the musicals "1776" and "The Will Rogers Follies" won both the Tony and New York Drama Critics Circle Awards. Director and choreographer Joey McKneeley will lead Buffalo Bill and the entire cast of "Annie Get Your Gun." McKneeley has appeared in many Broadway venues and productions including "Smokey Joe's Café" and Cy Coleman's "The Life and Wild Party." He most recently directed and choreographed "Radiant Baby", a workshop on the life of visual artist Keith Haring.

The story revolves around the stormy and highly competitive relationship between Annie Oakley and Frank Butler. When the dueling lovers are first introduced, Frank Butler is the champion sharpshooter and star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. In a contest with Frank, conceived as a publicity stunt

for his act, Annie beats him in a sharp shooting competition that leaves Frank humiliated and Annie hopelessly in love. In her quest to win the heart of her fellow marksman, the brazen and brassy, outspoken Annie eventually grows to realize that she "Can't Get a Man With a Gun".

Bonnie Estes will play the part of Annie Oakley that was originated in 1946 by the legendary Ethel Merman. Stephen Valahovic will portray the dashing Frank Butler who will remembered from last year's portrayal of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde in "Jekyll & Hyde".

"Annie Get Your Gun" originally opened on Broadway May 6, 1946 to rave reviews and ran for 1,147 shows.

Tickets for both performances are on sale now for \$50 (Premium Orchestra/Loge), \$45 (Orchestra/Front Balcony), \$38 (Rear Orchestra/Balcony), and \$22 (Gallery). The State Theatre Box Office is located at 15 Livingston Ave. For telephone ticket orders or information call (732)246-7469 or toll free (877)STATE-11 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Wednesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Patrons may order tickets online at www.StateTheatreNJ.org.

The State Theatre is equipped with an assistive listening system for patrons who are hard of hearing and the main floor is wheelchair accessible. Program notes are available in large print or audiotape format for this event.

This program has been made possible in part through a grant by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts.



Bonnie Estes and Stephen Valahovic will bring "Annie Get Your Gun" to the State Theatre this month.

Legendary guitarist is returning on Jan. 11

WATCHUNG — Bucky Pizzarelli has drawn some of the largest audiences ever seen at the Watchung Arts Center. The jazz guitarist is a living legend, and his fans never tire of his creativity with seven strings.

The hardest part of running a Pizzarelli concert is dealing with those who arrive without tickets and find the event sold out. For his return visit on Friday evening, Jan. 11, The Arts Center will reward early buyers with a discount: \$12 for tickets paid for in advance. Whatever tickets remain at the door will be \$15.

There are two sets, starting at 8 p.m., with complimentary snacks served at intermission.

Checks should be mailed to the Watchung Arts Center, 18 Stirling Road, Watchung, NJ 07069. Tickets will be sent by return mail.

On this return visit to the Watchung Arts Center's Jazz Series, Pizzarelli will be joined by bassist Jerry Bruno. Bruno's upright string bass playing was greatly admired at a previous sellout performance at Watchung, as well as appearances in Morristown and Bridgewater. He's paid his dues as a bassist with Big Bands during the latter part of the swing era.

Pizzarelli's enormous appeal stems from his unusual chording, rapid fingering and imaginative solos built around familiar melodies. His fingerwork seems effortless, never failing to bring an admiring audience to its feet.

His range of material spans jazz history, from the blues era through swing to contemporary numbers. Few active jazz performers have developed the name recognition and enthusiasm following that Pizzarelli has.

The much-recorded master guitarist has dozens of albums to his credit, often sharing the limelight with the top names in jazz. He has toured the world with Benny Goodman, Zoot Sims, Benny Carter and others. Bucky has also brought his seven string magic to Carnegie Hall, Town Hall and even the White House.

Theater

NOW PLAYING

WESTFIELD
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1000 North Ave. West
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• "The Unexpected Guest,"
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9 Livingston Ave.
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(732) 246-7717;
www.georgestplayhouse.org
• "Waiting for Tadashi," world
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available. Call for showtimes.

PAPER MILL
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Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.papermill.org
• "The Dinner Party," New
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STATE THEATRE

15 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatrenj.org
• "Annie Get Your Gun," tour-
ing production of post-WWII
musical. 3 and 7 p.m. Jan. 13.
Admission \$50-\$22. Related lec-
ture 2 p.m.; admission \$6.

Concerts

CHICKEN FAT BALL

2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6
Watchung Arts Center
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190
• New Year's jazz septet:
Randy Sanke, Frank Wess, Ken
Popowski, Derek Smith,
Michael Moore, Joe Ascione and
Frank Vignola. Admission \$25
(BYOB).

BUCKY PIZZARELLI

8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 11
Watchung Arts Center
Watchung Circle, Watchung
(908) 753-0190
• New Jersey-based jazz gui-
tarist. Admission \$12 in
advance, \$15 at the door.

Events

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St. John Vianney Church
420 Inman Ave., Colonia
(732) 463-8696

• Annual show of Lionel and
other choo-choo trains, 9:30
a.m.-2 p.m. Jan. 6. Adults \$4;
children under 12 free.

SUMMER CAMP FAIR

Sheraton hotel
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(732) 469-8910;
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• Annual preview of summer
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Museums

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• "Cranford's Prehistoric
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• Exhibit marking "100 Years
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• "A Spot of Tea," Jan. 13.

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• Works of Evgenii Mikhnov-
Voitenko, to Jan. 20.

• "St. Petersburg in 1921," to

March 10.

• "Art of the Baltics," to March
17.

• "Family, Friends and
Neighbors: Picturing
Relationships in Children's
Books," to March 17.

• "In Context: Pattern in
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March 24.

• "Ben Shahn: In Dispute
About Images," to March 24.

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The computer show will be
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www.watchungarts.org

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A BEAUTIFUL MIND PG-13 Starts Friday 1/4
Fri-Thurs: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
IMPOSTER PG-13 Starts Friday 1/4
Fri-Sat: 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:25
Mon-Tues: 12:00, 2:15, 4:45, 9:25
THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS R
Wed-Thurs: 12:20, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50, 10:10
Fri-Sat: 12:20, 2:50, 5:20, 7:50, 10:20
Mon-Tues: 12:20, 2:50, 6:50, 9:20
LORD OF THE RINGS PG-13
Wed-Thurs: 12:00, 1:00, 3:30, 4:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30
Fri-Sat: 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 8:00, 10:30
Mon-Tues: 12:00, 3:30, 8:00, 9:00
JIMMY NEUTRON G
Wed-Thurs: 12:00, 1:00, 2:30, 3:00, 4:00, 5:00, 6:00, 7:00
Fri-Sat: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00 • Mon-Tues: 12:00, 2:00, 4:00
THE MAJESTIC PG
Wed-Thurs: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
Fri-Sat: 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
Mon-Tues: 12:00, 3:00, 6:30, 9:30
JOE SOMEBODY PG
Wed-Sat: 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15, 8:15, 10:15
Mon-Tues: 12:15, 2:15, 7:15, 9:15
ALI R
Wed-Sat: 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
Mon-Tues: 12:10, 3:10, 6:40, 9:40
KATE & LEOPOLD PG-13
Wed-Sat: 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
Mon-Tues: 12:00, 2:30, 6:30, 9:00
VANILLA SKY R
Wed-Sat: 12:00, 2:45, 5:30, 8:00, 10:25
Mon-Tues: 12:00, 2:45, 7:00, 9:25
NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE R
Wed-Sat: 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
No Sat: 7:30PM Show
Mon-Tues: 1:30, 3:30, 7:30, 9:30
OCEAN'S 11 PG-13
Wed-Thurs: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 9:00, 10:15
Fri-Sat: 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15
Mon-Tues: 12:15, 2:45, 6:45, 9:15
BEHIND ENEMY LINES PG-13
Wed-Thurs: 9:50PM
SNOWDOGS PG-13
SNEAK PREVIEW SAT: 7:30PM

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Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
JAN. 22	JAN. 23	JAN. 24	JAN. 25	JAN. 26	JAN. 27
7:30 PM	7:30 PM	10:30 AM	7:30 PM	11:00 AM 3:30 PM	11:00 AM 3:30 PM

Real Estate

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Middlesex County

DUNELLEN

816 Dunellen Ave. from Terrence & Janet McCord to Thomas Ulmer for \$169,000.

EDISON

14 Ashbrook Drive from Jesse Dynak to Anoop & Pravindkumar Kadiwar for \$510,000.

49 Ashley Road from John Y. & Tony P. Yew to Primal & Ajay Patel for \$175,000.

62 Ashley Road from Armando & Michele Pascale to Kirti Vyas for \$173,500.

92 Ashley Road from Ralph G. Robinson to Leticia Abbas for \$169,900.

7 Baldwin Road from William & Linda Wegener to Pansy & Carol Bryan for \$170,000.

2 Bayberry Court from Dolores Moruzzi to Joseph & Janice Cucchiara for \$285,000.

32 Bloomfield Ave. from Eve Wolan to Christopher & M. Blanchard for \$158,000.

34 Bodnarik Road from Edna E. Rooks to John R. & Gloria J. Olenchak for \$287,000.

211 Cabot Ave. from James & Jean Franza to Ashfaq Soomar for \$175,500.

219 Cabot Ave. from Christine Aquino to George Sasso II & Kristine Sasso for \$161,000.

1 Church St. from Adonis & Arsenia Amparo to Reynaldo & Lovella De La Cruz for \$150,000.

8 Crescent Road from Terry Cronin to Randy Alfano for \$170,000.

39 Denise Drive from Juliana Suarez to Jeffrey Weinberg for \$248,000.

22 Eastlick Road from Joann Greca to Joseph Greca for \$100,000.

201 Edison Glen Terrace from Demetrio Wyszaj to Chae Song et.al. for \$122,500.

814 Edison Glen Terrace from Stewart G. Thompson to Zhongqi & Shujua C. Zhang for \$123,000.

14 Glencourt Ave. from Patrick Farley to John & Gina Bonavia for \$179,000.

53 Glenville Road from Robert & Amy Preston to Ernest & Mary D'Ambrosio for \$166,000.

772 Grove Ave. from Anthony & Lauren Trainor to Robert V. & Deborah Stasolla for \$349,000.

8205 Hana Road from Louis & Maria A. Torres to Judy J. Roberts for \$154,000.

8501 Hana Road from Mohammad & Munib Abdeljabec to Arvind & Pooja Upadhyay for \$152,000.

144 Harding Ave. from Matthew Petti to Kathleen McMahon for

\$185,000.

1 Heather Drive from Lee C. & Judy L. Zhang to Zi M. & Judy L. Zhang for \$4,000.

55 Inverness Drive from Hinton Kinsler & F. Randler to Pradeep Nigam for \$211,000.

4 Jennifer Court from Jeffrey & Andrew Gulya to Harry & Lilian Oana for \$358,500.

60 Lake View Blvd. from Oswald R. & Ana C. Fortich to Carmen Cano for \$182,500.

53 Lench Ave. from Robert & Marsha Stein to Rakesh & Indira Patel for \$285,000.

15 S. Locust Ave. from Michael & Anna Prilutsky to Kevin & Mirna Milazzo for \$227,000.

902 Maplecrest Road from Rene & Camille Sanabria to Alyson Jaye for \$177,000.

10 Matthew Court from Da-Zhong & Lu Q. Xu to Michael & Anna Prilutsky for \$45,000.

116 Michael St. from Charles A. Good & S. Mui-Good to Hamid & Queenie Dehghan for \$299,900.

43 Pine Ridge Drive from Robert Sullivan to Niket & Harsha Rele for \$404,000.

252 W. Prescott Ave. from Ronald & Georgine Favor to Rose Vaccaro for \$338,000.

7 Prestwick Way from Edison Village Pointe Inc. to Deepak R. Ingala for \$223,743.

49 Prestwick Way from Edison Village Pointe Inc. to Yong & Ann Hyun for \$189,900.

5102 Stonehedge Road from Heather Materson to Peter K. Messam for \$220,000.

61 Stony Road West from William & Patricia Schultz to David Whight et.al. for \$185,000.

1308 Timber Oaks Road from Steven Regnault to Frank Carison Jr. for \$128,800.

7 Tived Lane from Woodlands at Edison L.L.C. to Yaqub K. & Shaheena N. Malik for \$305,000.

337 Waterford Drive from George DeMaio to Brian Davis for \$149,900.

932 Waterford Drive from Robert & Susan Hurley to Patrick D. Keneally III for \$148,900.

19 Williams Road from Meiling L. Kravarik to Arturo & Sandra Yanez for \$237,000.

HIGHLAND PARK

1611 Cherry St. from Dominic L. Hughes to Soyeon Won for \$112,000.

430 Graham St. from Ann Cromarty to Maureen N. Kuhn et.al. for \$239,000.

236 Grant Ave. from Irwin & Anne Krasna to Jonathan & Merryl Abrahams for \$587,500.

14 Highlander from Robert Font to Frances A. Cameron for \$85,000.

223 Wayne St. from Ching-Lang & Shu-Hua Hou to Joseph & Lisa Ruggeri for \$268,000.

METUCHEN

43 Charles St. from Rena M. Magamol to Richard L. & Jennifer Miller for \$199,900.

59 Home St. from Martin Lowenstein to Michael Volpe et.al. for \$369,000.

160 Mason Drive from Mary Walsh to Philip & Eileen Switzer for \$272,000.

295 Middlesex Ave. from Ronald & Brenda Beacher to Jean-Luc & Erika Peyrot for \$285,000.

40-1 Prospect St. from David & Florence Calico to Peter Glazebrook for \$97,000.

40-6 Prospect St. from Thomas & Darlene Daley to Robert Garland et.al. for \$94,000.

70-6 Prospect St. from Victor Macaro to Vladimir & Faina Tsipenyuk for \$94,500.

95 Spring St. from Florence Pfriender to Erhan & Deniz Erdem for \$287,500.

201 University Ave. from Richard L. & Jennifer Miller to Paul D. & Terri L. Taggart for \$171,000.

MIDDLESEX

419 D St. from Sabecky Trust to Robert A. Imbriaco Jr. & A. Imbriaco for \$160,000.

49 Louis Ave. from Matthew & Patricia Toto to Laurie Liming for \$155,000.

6 Pauline Place from Thomas & Susan Plank to Nicholas D'Alessio et.al. for \$178,000.

38 Stella Place from Andrew B. & Patricia Williams to Robert W. & Karen W. Willits for \$175,000.

PISCATAWAY

11 Bayberry Close from Jyothish & Maya Babu to Kamal & Mrinalini Syal for \$221,000.

335 Bowler Court from Barbara Luska to Kenneth Hayes for \$160,000.

24 E. Burgess Drive from Birchview Properties L.L.C. to Brian J. & Donna M. Mandeville for \$231,608.

8 Chelsea Drive from Palmer & Melissa Levine to Richard & Aleida Crance for \$159,900.

21 Demarest Place from Jose & Advys Rodriguez to Vijay Chauhan for \$239,000.

256 Dorset Court from Pedro & Midarme Rodriguez to Maria Villaverde for \$182,000.

4 Edna Place from Louis P. Corradi III to Maran Development Inc. for \$95,000.

125 Exeter Court from David & Barbara Kinsky to Gretha Wilkinson for \$149,900.

1603 W. Fourth St. from Harriet Feldman to Peter & Linda Ngoye for \$153,900.

1102 Hanover St. from Arnold & Riza Abraham to Chi Tran for \$200,000.

155 High St. from Daniel T. Kee to Robin M. Chippendale for \$125,000.

6 Independence Court from Hussein Attiyen to Najib & Naureen Khan for \$280,000.

118 Johnson Ave. from Sherwin & Tonia James to Jose Ortiz et.al. for \$165,000.

139 Lackland Ave. from Brian & Donna Mandeville to Nikita Patnak et.al. for \$206,000.

107 Lakeside Drive North from Stewart & Susan Ahern to Florin Lepadatu et.al. for \$252,000.

124 Ninth St. from Florence Wojciechowski to Edward & Merari Negron for \$208,000.

41 Orris Ave. from Charlotte Langer to Kenneth Poray for \$210,000.

8 Rachel Terrace from Sandy A. & Tanya McCray to Daniel & Claire Rodrigues for \$161,000.

45 Redbud Road from M. Abdullah & Halima Khatun to Virangi Patel for \$155,000.

264 Retta Court from Maple Grove at Piscataway L.L.C. to Rao G. & Vasundhara Desu for \$148,900.

275 River Road from Sandra Dunbar to Kilmainham Buildings L.L.C. for \$182,900.

1524 W. Seventh St. from Fred Jinoch Jr. & Helen Jinoch to Bryndan Moore for \$159,000.

9 Surrey Lane from Ronald Dawkins to Louis & Maria Torres for \$259,000.

408 Valmere Ave. from Mark & Donna DeCarlo to Patricia Gardner for \$115,000.

133 Walnut St. from Paul H. & Barbara C. Benedict to Rodwick Solomon for \$167,000.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD

3209 Clark Lane from Eleanor Pearlman to Munib & Elham Abdeljaber for \$233,000.

3047 S. Clinton Ave. from Jimmie L. Cisson to Gursurinder S. Pinghla for \$209,900.

213 Eleanor St. from Richard & Ellen A. Parris to Miguel & Amy Rivera for \$227,000.

201 Hopkinson St. from Pasquale Muglia to Emilia Muglia for \$155,000.

66 Leeds Drive from James & Deborah Barry to Paul & Jeri M. Kennedy for \$189,900.

809 New Market Ave. from Joseph & Peggy Ward to James Walsh for \$160,000.

2213 Orchard Drive from Faten & Karem Salib to Paul Rubinetti for \$170,000.

156 Somerset Ave. from Charles L. Frick III to Bernard K. Choi for \$192,000.

166 Zvolak Court from Ciprian Rodriguez to Reinaldo & Lori Lopez for \$167,000.

Somerset County

BEDMINSTER

136 Autumn Ridge Road from Gary J. & Diane Vialonga to Howard & Dena Astrin for \$427,500.

49 Cambridge Road from Myles Albert & Caryn Becker to Raymond Aquino for \$310,000.

2220 Lamington Road from Kenneth E. & Edna Blankenburg to Eric P. Martens for \$375,000.

28 Spruce Court from Sharon L. Kentchack to Tony & Marie DeCicco for \$188,000.

911 Timberbrooke Drive from Thomas J. & Kori H. Knapp to Agnes L. Wimmer for \$92,036.

BRANCHBURG

35 Arapaho Trail from Carl A. Schonbachler to Nona Schonbachler for \$104,550.

1611 Breckenridge Drive from Ingrid Brokling to James P. Stillman for \$163,000.

963 Concord Way from Chrum Chaynol to Alvin B. & Frances S. Tiger for \$250,000.

25 Fremont St. from Rose M.A. Pietruszewski to James J. Cardamone et.al. for \$50,000.

21 Nassau Court from Bobby J. Leach & M. Sirigotis to Victor Guerra et.al. for \$262,000.

716 Old York Road from Werner S. & Jane M. Horst to George T. & Karen J. Ivanyo for \$360,000.

1107 Route 28 from Judith Szeliga to Jonathan & Melissa Turner for \$264,000.

20 Strawberry Hill Road from Phillip R. & Donna M. Thomas to Patrick D. & Mary E.S. Moran for \$395,000.

14 Tamarack Drive from Mark E. & Lauren Lauber to Susan L. Seares for \$459,900.

BRIDGEWATER

2002 Ackmen Court from John & Holly Crebeck to Guennadi & Galina Medovnik for \$270,000.

6 Alexis Court from Christopher J. & L. Weyrauch to Jie Zhang et.al. for \$399,000.

18 Bertram Drive from Matthew R. & Brenda M. Yates to Michael Va for \$385,000.

801 Brokaw Court from Issam & Carolyn Bahlawan to David S. & Stephanie Armstrong for \$211,000.

1036 Chambers Court from New Century Custom Homes to Robert M. Rebata et.al. for \$583,500.

4003 Crawford Court from Lynette McBride to Joseph Altobelli for \$160,200.

1371 Crim Road from Thomas F.

& Doreen Tansey to Hilton & Jeannette M. Flax for \$420,000.

12 Field St. from Christopher & J. Laurianti to Andrea Rendas for \$185,000.

3617 Holman Court from Jonathan D. & Denise Cioffi to Mark G. Botros for \$163,900.

9 Joanne Court from Jerome V. & Kim Sodano to Keith & Louise Garnett for \$420,000.

5 Killarney St. from Louis & Barbara Campo to Myles Albert et.al. for \$385,000.

201 Milltown Road from Harry E. Drum Jr. & Nancy E. Drum to Timothy Stevens et.al. for \$320,000.

47-2A Morgan Lane from Harlow Haagensen to Stephen Lacroix for \$65,000.

746 Old Farm Road from David S. York to John Bartley et.al. for \$300,000.

603 Porter Way West from Anthony M. Donofrio to John Wiertel for \$184,900.

Prospect Avenue from Ray H. Kunkel & J. Lysoy to David R. & Jennifer Rosander for \$140,000.

452 Rolling Hills Road from Benjamin T. & Karen L. Fought to Donald A. Thoms et.al. for \$305,000.

561 Stangle Road from Anne Dyr to Leighton J. & Kerry Howells for \$375,000.

991 Tullo Farm Road from William L. & Barbara DeVries to Fortunato F. Senatore et.al. for \$755,000.

GREEN BROOK

7 Douglas Road from Evelyn R. Klige to Alan B. & Linda G. Sorchini for \$125,000.

6 Greenway Lane from Mary E. Learish to Stanley & Rachel Brady for \$220,000.

4-8 Park Ave. from Louis Ulrich to Ronald & Anne M. Snyder for \$185,000.

103 Ravine Road from Baker Residential L.P. to Yulong Zhou et.al. for \$451,440.

105 Ravine Road from Baker Residential to Yeung Jijo et.al. for \$441,130.

1048 Shadow Lawn Drive from Baker Residential L.P. to Diana L. DeMatteo for \$249,930.

1050 Shadow Lawn Drive from Baker Residential L.P. to Rajesh & Pinky Shah for \$243,860.

45 Spruce Hollow Road from Kell S. & Kimberly G. Cannon to Steven Mongon et.al. for \$697,000.

245 West End Ave. from Baker Residential L.P. to Fe A. Uy for \$493,580.

HILLSBOROUGH

748 Amwell Road from Leonard & Kathleen A. Serrani to Eric & Katherine Borrass for \$285,000.

5 Biggs Lane from John J. & Marcia Migarz to Christopher & Marie Shea for \$237,900.

42-12 Bloomingdale Drive from Matthew & Heather Weinberg to Warren Feit for \$189,000.

124-1C Bluebird Drive from S. Ajit & Christine Shetty to James A. & Marcella Esposito for \$168,000.

224 Brookside Lane from Stephen R. & Andrea Mazzaresse to Cecilia Perry for \$185,000.

64 Chestnut Court from John W. Yu to Jane Hornig for \$165,000.

50-138 Deanna Drive from William & Kathleen Faust to John S. Goldie for \$95,000.

117 Eastwick Court from Scott A. & Sonja Richardson to Gary & Lisa Friedman for \$250,000.

247-4A Gemini Drive from Frances McCormack to Robert E. Scanlin for \$174,900.

287-1A Gemini Drive from Gregory M. & Alena O. Barry to John D. Kauffman II for \$165,000.

179 Hockenbury Road from John P. & Deborah Micek to Kevin C. & Christine L. Carver for \$420,000.

24 Hughey Lane from Michael J. & Joanne M. Conrad to Jennifer Fisher for \$585,000.

407 New Center Road from Joseph P. & Marilyn C. Pavia to James & Pamela Koncz for \$387,000.

8 Nottingham Way from Edward & Margaret McMahon to Pat & Susan LaMastro for \$175,000.

6 Peterson Road from Linda McAndrew to Michael A. Viscel Jr. & Nicole Viscel for \$394,900.

912-2 Renate Drive from Frank Blahut to Marc A. Phillips for \$142,900.

866 Robin Road from Joseph P. Spano Jr. to Anatoly & Rasima Tchjan for \$150,000.

199 Saxson St. from May E. Duttonhoeffer to Frank A. DeFranco for \$289,000.

30 Surrey Drive from Edward F. & Nancy D. Boylan to Dennis & Christine Haley for \$340,000.

904 Victoria Court from Kenneth E. & Janice A. Dawson to Harold R. & Marian Freeman for \$159,900.

MANVILLE

326 Angle Ave. from Pasek Home Builders Corp. to Jose N. & Lucy M. Jaime for \$229,900.

34 N. Arlington St. from Jason E. & Mary T. Rood to Prudential Residential Services for \$176,000.

34 N. Arlington St. from Prudential Residential Services to Krzysztof J. & Iwona Kwasnik for \$176,000.

208 Huff Ave. from William & Parma M. Giraldi to Borough of Manville for \$191,500.

916 S. Main St. from Bernardo & Nellie Policarpio to Seth & Alison Young for \$167,500.

213 S. Sixth Ave. from Eric H. & Theresa Birk to Lane G. Shelton for \$177,000.

NORTH PLAINFIELD

747 Anna Place from John E. Golden Jr. & Eileen R. Golden to Stacy Flood et.al. for \$194,900.

130-134 Belmont Place from Timothy & Carolyn Turanick to David D. & Chereece L. Sparrow for \$190,900.

159-161 Brook Ave. from Jytte I. Wood to Bertha Mendez for \$200,500.

295 Brook Ave. from Felix & Emilia Anigbo to Scott A. & Allison C. King for \$218,000.

155 Lawrence Ave. from James R. Tomie to Leonard Newsome Sr. & Tonya Newsome for \$245,000.

142 Manning Ave. from Richard E. & Judith Wilhelm to Celeste Benenati for \$219,900.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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0004 Cards of Thanks
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0105 Adoption
0110 Announcements
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0545 Estate & Tag Sales
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0595 Photography & Camera Equipment
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0600 Garage & Yard Sales
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HOME SERVICES

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0855 Alarms & Security
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1105 Roofing
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1120 Sheetrock & Spackling
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1145 Telephones
1150 Topsoil, Gravel & Sand
1155 Tree Services
1160 TV & VCR Repair
1165 Upholstery & Slipcovers
1170 Vacuum Repair
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RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

1200 mopeds & Dirt Bikes
1305 Motorcycles
1310 Motor Homes
1315 Travel Trailers
1317 Snowmobiles
1320 Campers & RVs
1330 Boats & Motors

TRANSPORTATION

1350 Automotive Financing
1355 Auto Parts & Accessories
1360 Automotive Services
1365 Autos for Sale
1394 Antique & Classic Autos
1400 Four Wheel Drive
1405 Trucks & Trailers
1410 Vans & Jeeps
1415 Vehicles Wanted

Announcements

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Physical Therapy Aide

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Automotive/Classified

Stylish Xterra has flair for practicality

BY MARK MAYNARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Sport utility vehicles are the vehicles we love to hate — and love to buy.

In November, consumers drove home 913,000 trucks vs. 814,000 cars, the most vehicles ever sold in a month. And of those sales, 46 percent were SUVs.

Even with pricey gasoline, 56 percent of new-vehicle shoppers say they are considering an SUV, says AutoPacific, an automotive marketing firm.

Nissan has enjoyed a truck-fueled rebound and is ready for more this year with stylish upgrades to Xterra.

Inside, there is a new dashboard treatment of indus-tro-tech design and common-sense function: large dials and knobs, contrasting colors and textures and metallic-looking plastics.

Xterra takes a bigger step forward with 16-inch tires, a new front end with round headlights and a raised hood to cover the 210 hp supercharged V-6 option pack that also adds 17-inch tires and alloy wheels.

Inside, there is a larger glove box, power points in the back seat area, map pockets and a foot-operated parking brake instead of the old pull-style handle. Next step, I hope, will be a brake lever between the seats.

I just finished a week in a two-wheel drive Xterra SE-SC (supercharged) that had a base price of \$25,039. With only one option for an in-cabin microfilter for \$49, the sticker price of \$25,088 isn't outrageous.

Standard equipment on the SE includes remote locking, 6 disc in-dash CD changer with 8 speakers, cruise control, roof rack with cross bars and gear basket, tubular step rails, fog lights, first-aid kit and power windows/locks/mirrors.

Xterra pricing ranges from

\$19,739 for a base non-supercharged, 170 hp V-6 model to \$28,039 for a top-line supercharged V-6 with four-wheel drive. For the sake of advertising, a 143 hp 4-cylinder model is offered for \$18,539. (Prices include the \$540 destination charge.)

For the SUVer who tows or appreciates acceleration more than fuel economy, the 3.3 liter supercharged V-6 isn't likely to disappoint. But horsepower is provided at the expense of fuel mileage — 15 mpg around town and 19 on the highway for the supercharged engine, which isn't that much worse than the non-supercharged engine's ratings of 17/19.

Xterra is a truck and makes no apologies for being one. It's uncomfortable but comfortable and it looks just fine unwashed and gritty.

You can't order it with leather seats or side air bags, but it does come with dual-stage front air bags and pretensioners and force-limiters for front belts.

The driver has open sightlines, it doesn't require physical agility to climb in and out and the turning circle is compact for mall maneuverability.

The steering and brakes are responsive and give a free-wheeling drivability. The ride is soft not sloppy, and the 5-speed is limber not loose.

There were few annoyances with the test truck, but for \$25,000 I expect a vanity mirror for the driver's visor, and that totally tubular roof rack kicks up wind noise at highway speeds.

Nissan was criticized last year for building more \$24,000 Xterras than the more basic trucks for \$21,000 to \$22,000. But, surprise, last month was a record breaker for Xterra — 8,481 sold without the 0 percent financing — and most of the sales were for the higher-end models.



Nissan has given the Xterra many stylish upgrades.

Be safe in winter weather

(NAPSI)-Safety is a number one concern for those traveling to spend time with friends and family in the coming months. As more people are hitting the roadways instead of airways this year, maintaining and winterproofing cars, as well as buying the safest, most reliable cars has become ever more critical.

Drivers, young and old, hitting the road this winter, must take precautions to ensure safe road travel. Inclement weather and slippery roads can make travel tricky, so it is important to learn and practice proper auto maintenance. To prepare for an upcoming trip, drivers should always carefully plan their route in advance to avoid wrong turns and lost hours. It's also wise to check online sources, television reports and the radio to gain information on weather and road conditions. In case of inclement weather, drivers need to make sure to have all the emergency equipment available, such as snow chains, cell phones, flares and flashlights.

Being prepared also requires regular upkeep, on-schedule maintenance and servicing that augment safety and durability. Many automotive Web sites like Yahoo! Autos (<http://autos.yahoo.com>) offer personalized services to help drivers flag and solve mechanical problems. Before packing up the family for a holiday road trip, it is important to conduct the six-step maintenance check: oil change, tire pressure, brakes, windshield wipers, headlights and defrosters. Drivers who may find themselves caught in the snow this winter should be sure to get snow tires put on their car well in advance so they aren't left in a blizzard.

Here's 100 of the best used cars on the planet ...

Some examples

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4-Dr, 4-Cyl, Auto, PS, PB, A/C, More! As Traded!
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S042022A/VIN#U0282532, 750mi.

'97 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$10,995
4-Dr, 4-Cyl, Auto, PS, PB, A/C, More!
S6299MI/VIN#U129460

'99 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$13,995
Auto w/OD, FRWD, 2.2L 4-Cyl, P/ABS, PS, A/C,
S04F1024A/VIN#180784153, 120mi.

'99 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$14,995
4-Dr, Auto, 4-Cyl, P/ABS, PS, A/C, AM/FM Stereo Cass, PW,
PDL & More! S042043A/VIN#U157416027, 105mi.

'00 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$15,495
Auto, 2WD, 4-Cyl, P/ABS, PS, A/C, More! S04P1017,
VIN#F1986703, 15,946mi.

'01 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$15,995
4-Dr, 4-Cyl, Auto, P/ABS Brks, A/C, Dual Air Bag, PW, PDL,
Cruise, CD Player, AM/FM SR & More!
6258MI/VIN#10823942

'01 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$16,995
4-Dr, 4-Cyl, Auto, P/ABS Brks, A/C, Dual Air Bag, PW, PDL,
Cruise, CD Player, AM/FM SR & More!
6258MI/VIN#10823942

'96 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$17,995
Auto, FRWD, V6, P/ABS, PS, A/C, More!
S04P1034, VIN#W06771145, 104mi.

'96 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$17,995

'96 TOYOTA CAMRY LE \$17,995

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4WD, 4-Dr, 6-Cyl, Auto, PS, PB, PDL & More!
20229MI/VIN#1110406

'98 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER \$26,995
V6, Auto, P/ABS, PS, A/C, More!
76383MI/VIN#W002295

'92 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER \$9995
Auto, 4WD, 6-Cyl, PB, PS, A/C & More! S04F1067A,
VIN#H043694218, 705mi.

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Auto, 4WD, V8, P/ABS, PS, A/C, More! S04P1037B,
VIN#F12095322, 805mi.

'01 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER \$44,995
Auto, 4WD, V8, P/ABS, PS, A/C, More! S04P1230B,
VIN#120003437, 787mi. Demo

'99 TOYOTA LAND CRUISER \$44,995

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'95 FORD WINDSTAR LX
Auto w/OD, FRWD, 3.8L V6, P/ABS, PS, A/C & More!
81503MI/VIN#F823859

'98 FORD WINDSTAR GL \$12,995
Auto, V6, PB, PS, A/C, More! S04P10182A,
VIN#W83060631, 587mi.

'99 PONTIAC MONTANA \$14,595
Auto w/OD, V6, P/ABS, PS, A/C & More! S0420143A,
VIN#H043694218, 705mi.

'99 FORD WINDSTAR \$14,595
Auto w/OD, V6, P/ABS, PS, A/C & More! S0420046A,
VIN#H043694218, 705mi.

'99 FORD WINDSTAR LX \$14,595
Auto w/OD, V6, P/ABS, PS, A/C & More! S0420046A,
VIN#H043694218, 705mi.

'99 FORD WINDSTAR LX \$14,595

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4-Dr, V6, Auto, PS, PB, A/C, AM/FM Stereo Cass, Alloy
W/bs & More! S0420257A, S7763MI/VIN#W0220583

'95 TOYOTA AVALON XLS \$11,495
4-Dr, V6, Auto, PS, PB, A/C, Sun Roof, Alloy W/bs & More!
S5994MI/VIN#U036416

'01 TOYOTA AVALON XL \$25,995
4-Dr, V6, Auto, PS, PB, A/C, Alloy W/bs, More!
10599MI/VIN#U1156001

'99 TOYOTA AVALON XLS \$17,995

'99 TOYOTA AVALON XLS \$17,995

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\$11,900	\$11,900	\$13,900
1999 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GL TDI 4 dr, 4 cyl turbo, 5 spd man trans, pwr strng/ABS brks/locks, a/c, AM/FM stereo, tilt, cruise, bal. fact. warr, 36,729 mi, VIN #XMO78853.	2000 VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GTI GLX 2 dr, 6 cyl, 5 sp. manu trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, tilt, cruise, sunr, leath, alloys, 21,904 mi, STK #P0767, VIN #VW682020.	\$18,900
\$14,900	\$18,900	\$18,900
2001 VOLKSWAGEN JETTA GLS VR6 4 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, tilt, cruise, bal. fact. warr, 5757 mi, STK #20014U, VIN #1M227147.	1999 VOLKSWAGEN EUROVAN MV 3 dr, 6 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/brk/wind/locks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, tilt, cruise, sunr, leath, alloys, 21,904 mi, STK #P0767, VIN #XH011460.	2001 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT GLX 4 dr, 2.8L 6 cyl, 5 spd man trans, pwr strng/ABS brks/wind/locks, a/c, AM/FM stereo, tilt, cruise, leath int, moonr, dual air bags, FWD, alloy whls, 18,530 mi, VIN #1P048849.
\$18,900	\$19,900	\$23,900

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Mon-Fri 9am to 9pm • Sat 9am to 6pm

Figure Your Payment based on 5.9% Financing

FINANCE AMOUNT	DOWN PAYMENT	MONTHLY PAYMENT
\$500	NONE	\$9 ⁶⁶
\$1,000	NONE	\$19 ⁷³
\$5,000	NONE	\$96 ⁶⁶
\$10,000	NONE	\$193 ³³

CREDIT OK by Phone

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Call NOW. Drive TONIGHT!

Prices include all costs except tax, license, regis. fees. +Subject to primary lender's approval; or \$1,000 rebate (excludes Toyota Certified.); must have credit score of 725+ to qualify.