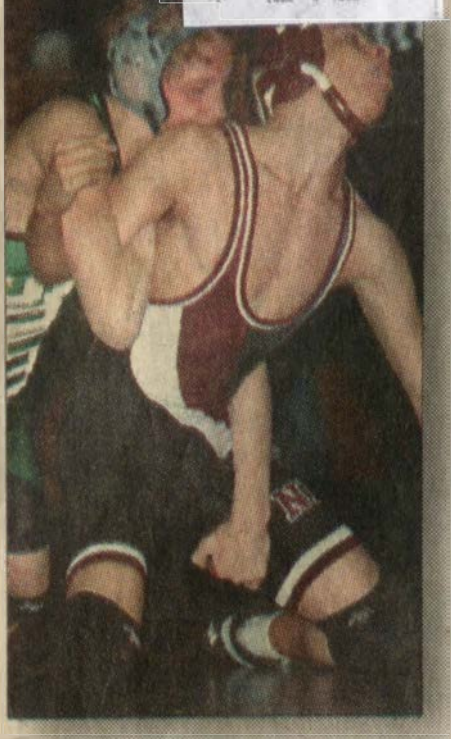


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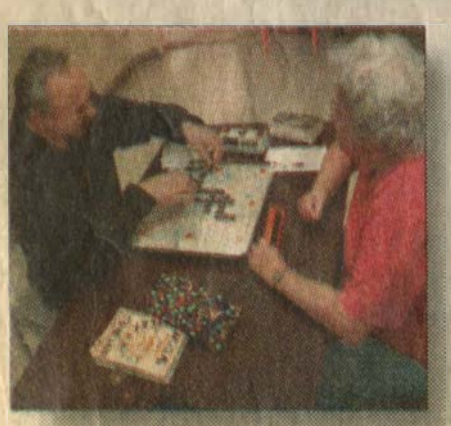
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Best ever for a frosh

Jimmy Conroy of South Plainfield High School works against an opponent during the District 12 Tournament. Conroy placed third in the state tournament last weekend for the best finish ever by a South Plainfield freshman. For story see Page C-1.



Fair game

Walt Sudnikovich of Sayreville and Lois Tagliaboschi of Edison maneuver to outscore and block each other during a game of Scrabble at a recent meeting of the Scrabble Club. See story on Page B-1.



Art appreciation

Sisters Saleema (left) and Devina Subedar check out the student artwork on display at the Piscataway Municipal Building. The displays will be up throughout the month after Mayor Brian Wahler and the Township Council proclaimed March Youth Arts Month. More pictures are on Page B-1.

REMINDER

Lenten project

Ukrainian Easter eggs. Melanie Pollack shows how to make pysanky from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. tomorrow, March 29 and April 5, at Boychuk's, 411 Main St., Metuchen. Eggs and supplies are available for purchase.

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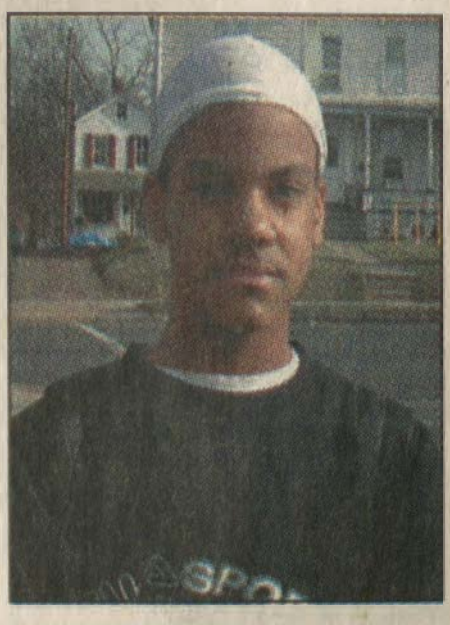
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With war imminent, are you afraid?



STEVE McDONALD
Edison

"I'm not afraid. It doesn't really affect me. Except for my wallet — gas prices."



JACOB CUFFIE
Somerville

"Yes. What if they send chemical weapons to the U.S.? And it seems that too many countries aren't in favor of the war."



ANNA JULIAR
Highland Park

"It doesn't make me feel scared. It makes me feel sad for the people in Iraq, how this war will affect them."

Residents struggling with emotions over war

By NJN STAFF REPORTS

With a war against Iraq imminent, emotions in Central Jersey run the gamut.

Some residents are angry, some fearful, some prayerful, all appear to be anxious.

Among the most anxious are those with sons in harm's way.

Donna Wiegiers of Edison says she is "hanging in there."

Her son Richard, 22, is a corporal in the Marines and is stationed in the Persian Gulf. Actually, he is stationed in Kuwait, but the only reason she knows that is because her daughter saw on the news that his ship had landed in Kuwait Feb. 12.

The last she heard from her son was on her birthday March 11 when he sent her an email wishing her well and telling her it would be the last email he would be able to send. "Our emails are cut as of tonight," Richard wrote.

Mrs. Wiegiers speaks with a tremble in her voice, not knowing exactly where her son is, not knowing if he will be among the first called into combat, not knowing when she will hear from him again. "I wonder what he's thinking, what he's doing."

"I pray every day. And I cry every day," Mrs. Wiegiers said.

"I'm not afraid. This is my job. I'm doing what I'm well-trained to do. I'm not alone.



TYLER CUFFIE
Somerville

"Yes. I'm afraid there are too many troops over there and no one is here to protect us from terrorist attacks."

The Marines are with me," wrote Richard in an email.

Wiegiers was already in Kuwait when the first of the international peace protests occurred Feb. 15.

Mrs. Wiegiers, the wife of a Vietnam veteran, said she couldn't bring herself to talk to him about the protests. "I know people don't support war, but I pray they support our troops," she said.

"War is not good. ... If you think I want my son fighting ... If you think I want my son in harm's way — absolutely not. But he's doing what he's being



CURTIS KOLUPANOWICH
Somerville

"No. I think we have a strong army and I feel safe with them protecting us."

asked to do," she said.

Another man with local roots is also serving in the Mideast. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher M. Guenther, 23, a sailor for four years, was deployed in January. He is stationed in the Arabian Gulf on the guided missile destroyer USS Donald Cook. Guenther, who grew up in Linden and graduated from Roselle Catholic High School in 1997, is the son of John Guenther of Linden and Maureen, a former Kenilworth

(Continued on page A-2)

2 schools in Edison to redistrict

Some parents are unhappy

By KATHLEEN G. SUTCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — Some students who live in Waterford Village, Durham Woods and Talmadge Village will attend different schools in the fall.

For the most part, students in these neighborhoods attend Woodrow Wilson Middle School and John P. Stevens High School, but, beginning in September, they will now be required to attend Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Edison High School.

Superintendent Vincent Capraro has named redistricting as a priority to address overcrowding in schools. Director of Enrollment John Russell described both Stevens and Wilson schools as "bursting" with 2,185 and 827 enrolled students, respectively. In comparison, Edison High School has 1,855 students and Thomas Jefferson

has 736 students enrolled as of Feb. 28.

The redistricting will affect sixth- and eighth-graders in selected neighborhoods who are making the transition to middle and high school next year. The redistricting plan will not require students who have already begun at Wilson or Stevens to transfer.

Carol Toth, assistant to the superintendent, says that in certain instances the change will cause less disruption for those neighborhood students who have been entering Edison High from Woodrow Wilson rather than from Thomas Jefferson, Edison High's primary feeder school.

Parents were notified in February, prior to middle and high school orientations and some have expressed dissatisfaction with the change. District officials have attempted to way-lay any parental concern about a

(Continued on page A-2)

Blaze is blamed on faulty wiring

By CHERYL ORSON
CORRESPONDENT

PISCATAWAY — Investigators blame faulty wiring for the Saturday afternoon fire in the Princeton Gardens Apartment complex that temporarily displaced 60 residents and made one township firefighter ill from smoke inhalation.

Capt. Rick Ivone said the fire probably started in the basement of apartment 106. The fire destroyed four units and left eight others severely damaged in one building of the complex. Two other buildings were also affected and temporarily evacuated as a boiler providing heat and hot water to them was damaged. One of the buildings is still without gas because PSE&G has to run a new gas line under the street.

Twelve families were displaced from the most severely damaged building. Seven of them have been relocated to vacant units in the complex. The other five families have found temporary housing elsewhere and will be given preference as other apartments in the complex are vacated.

More than 70 firefighters from 13 departments, including all of the township's departments and seven others from surrounding municipalities, responded with 24 pieces of apparatus to fight the fire. The county Office of Emergency Management and the Red Cross also responded to the site.

The displaced residents were bused to the Senior Center where they were assisted by Red Cross personnel. This was the first time

(Continued on page A-2)

Edison considers tougher towing law

By KATHLEEN G. SUTCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — Residents of Edison won't be the only ones who are grateful if the council adopts an ordinance to legislate police-dispatched tow trucks.

When Fords resident Kristyn Dushanek was involved in a two-car accident in the township, police officers called a tow company. But after the dust from the accident had settled and Dushanek's father Gary Engelbrecht was towing a \$285 bill from the towing company he knew something wasn't right.

Engelbrecht contacted Councilman Parag Patel and was invited to speak at a council meeting at which there would be a discussion of a new towing regulation ordinance proposed by Patel. Engelbrecht told the council he was charged a "yard fee" in addition to a storage charge. Engelbrecht also claimed that the company had withheld his car from him in an effort to rack up three day's worth of storage charges.

Unfair practices are exactly what the council hopes to eliminate with the proposed ordinance which would impose regulated

fees for towing companies called by the Edison Police Department. Standard towing charges, as set by the proposed ordinance, are \$70 and \$87.50 for peak and off-peak hours, respectively. In addition, tow companies would be able to charge no more than \$30 per day for storage.

In addition to regulating fees, the ordinance would require tow companies to inform customers of all applicable charges before towing the car, preventing surprise surcharges. The ordinance would also require that tow companies accept various forms of payments, including credit cards, so motorists wouldn't be stranded simply because they were not carrying cash.

The township currently has an approved towing list and calls tow trucks on a rotating basis. If companies do not abide by the proposed ordinance, they could be removed from the list. Engelbrecht's testimony inspired Councilman Robert Diehl to propose an amendment which would impose stiff fines on tow companies who defied the law.

Engelbrecht agreed, saying that the ordinance needs "some bite" in order to be respected by tow companies.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Musical event

Senior Amy Greco plays Fantine and junior T.J. McNeill is Javert, during a dress rehearsal of "Les Miserables" at Metuchen High School. The spring musical will be presented at the school March 27-29. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Admission for children under 12 and senior citizens is \$8.

Residents struggling with emotions over war

(Continued from page A-1) resident who now lives in Georgia.

"We're all proud of him for being over there," said John Guenther. "We're very concerned for him, but we trust what he's doing."

Guenther said that the family has been following the war news very closely since Chris' deployment. His father said that Chris joined the Navy because it offered him the best of what he was looking for. Chris works in the electronics division on his ship.

U.S. Army recruiter Sgt. James V. Mangini of the recruiting station in Somerville said there has been an increase in the number of people calling for information.

But he notes that there has been a change in the qualifications of the candidates. Mangini said he is getting fewer calls from young people in high school and more from graduates including some with college credits.

Recruits at the Somerville station tend to be older than traditional teenagers and their motivation is more influenced by the world's events and the impending war.

"I think some people come in because they would have anyway, but more are asking for information because they feel an obligation to their country," Mangini said.

World War II veteran, Martin Sabo, supports the war with Iraq.

"They should have sent the troops over a long time ago," Sabo said.

Sabo, a member of VFW Post 2290, spent time in Germany during World War II. He was one of six children who joined the military and still supports his country's actions.

"I think the president's doing a good thing after the World Trade Center tragedy,"

Sabo said. He, like many of his fellow veterans, are disappointed France and Germany are not supporting the United States.

"We're the ones that helped them out in previous years, especially France," Sabo said.

"I wish the U.N. would be in more agreement with us," said Tom Gregor, officer and trustee of American Legion Post 304.

"Unfortunately, they're not under the gun like we are."

Though Saddam Hussein did not cause the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Gregor believes Iraq helped train the terrorists.

Gregor is a Vietnam veteran and regularly watches televised reports, but when protesters are televised he shakes his head in disbelief.

"The people who are protesting are the same people complaining we aren't doing anything," Gregor said. "If people thing it's between Democrats and Republicans — it's not. It's about security. When other countries try to take our freedom away from us we have to stop it from happening."

Gregor believes the war will be over in a short time with few American casualties.

"Personally, I'm pro-war," said the president and vice commander of the American Legion. "The way it looks, they should do something."

At Kings supermarket on South Avenue in Garwood, some folks were stocking up on the essentials.

"I'll probably get peanut butter, water, duct tape and plastic, canned goods and fish, just in case something hap-

pens," said Sue Caufield of Cranford.

"It doesn't hurt," said Jennifer Dengel, also of Cranford. "I take the advice and I try to think in terms of three days. I think it's prudent and there's no downside to having it, even though I have a small house."

Susan Susskind of Mountainside said she was "moderately worried" with the war imminent, but would not be stocking up.

"I still have all that water in my house from the last terror alert," she said.

One Garwood boy had a unique reaction to the long build-up, both in the media and in the military.

Chuck Betz, 9, of Myrtle Street, decided to write a message for passersby and possibly even planes in the sky. Chuck, took some colored chalk and wrote, "I love USA" on his aunt's driveway.

"I did it so people can enjoy it," he said, adding that he drew a heart in place of the word love and colored "USA" in red, white and blue letters.

Chuck said it took him about 20 minutes to do "because it's so good."

His aunt, Lorraine Bender, said neighbors have been stopping and admiring the young boy's work.

"All the neighbors were out there looking. It brought tears to my eyes," she said.

When asked their reaction to the impending war, a heated discussion ensued among those gathered in Antonio's Brick Oven Pizza on Main Street in Metuchen.

Scott Gleason of Westfield wonders if the U.S. wins, does it really win? He worries about what happens when Saddam is ousted and sentiment in the post-war world is against the U.S. "Is it desirable to be the most feared nation in the world?" he asked.

A Rockaway resident who works in Metuchen but declined to give his name said simply "I'd like it to come and go." When pressed, he said he was confident that a war would have a positive outcome and would result in a stabilization of Iraq's government. He added that he is somewhat worried about retribution.

A Korean War veteran and his wife who asked that their names not be used both expressed disappointment at the looming war.

Having witnessed the war in Korea, he did not think the current situation warranted an invasion in Iraq. When asked he replied bluntly, "Stupid. I think it's stupid." He then added "I think peace should be given a chance."

His wife agreed, saying she was afraid a war would trigger retribution. "I think this country will have a rude awakening," she said.

Two anonymous Metuchen residents felt that the war would mark a turning point in U.S. history, saying that they didn't think the nation would be the same after a war.

"I'm very anxious ... about repercussions," one said, and her companion agreed, "Absolutely, there will be repercussions."

Charlie Santos of Santos Deli in Edison said simply "I'm not afraid," adding that he did not see the immediate impact of the war on his life.

Giselle Neustein, of Edison was visibly upset about the war with Iraq. "I am nervous, my anxiety level has been pretty

high." She said she was worried that the war would create a situation similar to the one the area experienced during the Presidents Day blizzard. This time it would be a man-made, not a natural calamity, that keeps people shut away in their homes.

Prayer and peace vigils have been scheduled to provide solace to those troubled by the war.

The Students of Faith in Action (SOFIA) Network are sponsoring a candlelight vigil from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday night. The event's theme is "Christians United in Prayer for Peace" and will be hosted by the Immaculata High School Campus Ministry. Participants will unite in prayer, reflection and song.

Students and adult participants will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Immaculata High School parking lot on Mountain Avenue, Somerville, and then walk from the high school to Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Church, then to United Reformed Church, ending at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The Somerville Area Ministerial Association is sponsoring the event. For more information, call Helen Sanford at Immaculata High School, 908-722-0200, extension 123.

For those who want more private reflection, Trinity United Church, 118 King George Road, Warren, will be open for prayer from noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Saturday until further notice.

Vigils organized by the Somerset Voices For Peace and Justice will be held from 6-7 p.m. every Thursday outside the Historic Somerset County Courthouse.

Its first vigil was last Sunday and nearly 80 protesters attended.

The organization does not believe that this war is the answer. "Our purpose is to allow the people in our country to have a voice," said Susan Johannesen, an organizer.

"War is not a solution to the problem peace and diplomacy is the answer and we need to work toward that," said Johannesen.

"We feel that there isn't enough justification for the United States to go to war," said Johannesen.

The group also believes that Iraq does not pose an immediate threat to any nation, there isn't sufficient evidence that links Iraq to Al Qaeda and going to war will not bring any more safety or security to any country. "We will fuel anti-American sentiments," Johannesen said.

"A lot feel strongly that we should not be doing this against the United Nations," said Johannesen.

In the long run this would be considered a crime against humanity, said Johannesen, "They are going to drop a huge

amount of bombs. It is going to kill a lot of civilians. They say they are not killing innocent civilians, but they will."

"We would like to let the world know that all Americans are not supportive of this," said Johannesen.

"I think some people come in because they would have anyway, but more are asking for information because they feel an obligation to their country."

-Sgt. James Mangini
U.S. Army recruiter

"I'll probably get peanut butter, water, duct tape and plastic, canned goods and fish, just in case something happens."

-Sue Caufield
Cranford

2 schools in Edison to redistrict

(Continued from page A-1) perceived difference between schools, particularly between Stevens and Edison High. At a recent meeting at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Superintendent Capraro cited a negligible difference in median SAT scores between Edison High and Stevens as evidence that the schools are essentially equal.

"In a redistricted area there will be no exemptions," Russell said, adding that parents who

move to avoid being impacted by redistricting will not necessarily be successful.

"The unfortunate thing is that many people move into the area expecting to go to a certain school." But persistent housing development, particularly in North Edison, results in a constant growth in enrollment and Roberts predicts that this will not be the last parents hear of redistricting.

Toth points to an 88-home development in Menlo Park that

is certain to place additional pressure on already overcrowded schools. She added that Edison High is quickly approaching capacity, however no plan for an addition on either of the high school has been discussed, nor has there been discussion regarding construction of an additional high school.

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Faulty wiring

(Continued from page A-1)

the center was activated for an emergency purpose and Mayor Brian Wahler, who was at the scene Saturday, said he was pleased with the way it worked out.

The managers of the complex have not yet decided whether to raze or repair the damaged building. Debris must first be removed and a structural engineer called in.

Many of the fire victims are recent Asian-Indian immigrants. Wahler said the new links that were forged between the township and the Asian-Indian community are invaluable.

Because of their immigration status the victims need documents, including green cards, passports, working permits and IDs. All of their personal papers were recovered.

"The incident raised awareness of different issues the township needs to be aware of and sensitive to," said Wahler. "The government did what it was supposed to do, take care of people in times of crisis."

Catholic church is scheduling a Lenten mission


SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Our Lady of Czestochowa Roman Catholic Church on Hamilton Boulevard is holding a parish mission to coincide with Lent.

Mission Masses are 5:30 p.m. Saturday, March 29; 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday, March 30; and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, March 31-April 2.

Rev. David W. Bialkowski from the Diocese of Buffalo celebrates the mission Masses. Confessions will be heard after each Mass.

For more information, phone (908) 756-1333.

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<http://co.middlesex.nj.us/extensionservices/index.asp>

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<http://ifplantscouldtalk.rutgers.edu>

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Piscataway teen chosen envoy for ill children

A Piscataway teenager with cystic fibrosis has been honored with a going-away party as he prepares to serve as New Jersey's ambassador for hospitalized children.

Michael Licciardi, 14, was selected as the state's representative by the 2003 Foresters Champions Across America program of the Children's Miracle Network.

As the representative, Michael will travel this week to Washington, D.C., for an event at the White House, and then on to Walt Disney World with the representatives from other states, to raise awareness about how the Children's Miracle Network helps hospitals and young patients.

Doctors and staff at The Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, where Michael received treatment for his illness, presented him with a suitcase as a gift to take on his travels.

"Use it to carry all the souvenirs and great memories you'll acquire as our state's Children's Miracle Network ambassador," said Barbara Gursky, director of the hospital's Child Life Program.

Michael was joined by some of his doctors as well as by current patients at the children's hospital, where he expressed thanks to the staff.

"Being chosen as the Children's Miracle Network New Jersey ambassador is a



Barbara Gursky, director of the Child Life Program at Bristol-Myers Squibb Children's Hospital at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, presents Michael Licciardi, New Jersey's ambassador for hospitalized children, with a suitcase at his going-away party.

huge honor," said Michael. "I am so happy to be able to spread the word about the ways the network helps kids like me."

Cystic fibrosis is a congenital metabolic disorder affecting 30,000 people in the United States. According to Toni Licciardi, Michael's mother, Michael does not let his illness run his life. He manages to achieve excellent grades, despite multiple hospital stays. Even when he's in the hospital Michael is always thinking of others, said his mother, by playing his guitar for the hospital's patients and staff.

In addition, Michael speaks

to premedical students at Princeton University about his experience growing up with a chronic illness. Dr. Daniel Notterman, chief of pediatrics at the hospital, who teaches the class at Princeton, helped Michael get involved with the university.

"Michael is a great kid. He openly talks about his illness to educate others, not to get sympathy. He wants the students to understand his feelings for when they are treating kids with chronic illnesses," said Notterman, who is also professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics, UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Vandals damage several vehicles

PISCATAWAY

Piscataway police are investigating a rash of criminal mischief complaints. The vandalism, which was reported to both buildings and vehicles, was reported on Monday.

— The rear window of a Ford Explorer on Middlesex Avenue was smashed.

— Two windows in the office area of the Exxon station on Stelton Road were smashed.

— The rear window of a Jeep Liberty was smashed in the driveway of a home on Harvard Street.

— The glass of the rear door of Knollwood School on Willow Avenue was punctured, causing the glass to spider web.

— The driver's side window of a Mitsubishi 3000 GT was smashed and small dents on the side of the vehicle appeared to be made by BBs.

— Someone smashed the rear window of a Jeep Liberty on Princeton Road.

— The right rear window of a Ford Taurus was smashed on Nelson Place and thieves took two old DVDs were taken from the floor of the vehicle.

— The rear window of a Lexus was broken, perhaps with a BB. The car was parked on Ninth Street.

A worshipper at Our Lady of Fatima Church reported her wallet was taken from her purse while she was praying the Stations of Cross on March 7. The victim, who left her purse in the first pew, saw a white woman,

Police Log

about 5-foot, 3-inches, 130 pounds with brown hair, enter the chapel and walk to the first pew. She saw the woman put something in her pocket, but didn't realize until later that it was her wallet.

Scrap copper piping weighing 220 pounds was stolen from a back yard on Vail Avenue March 7. A similar theft was reported on March 17.

The windshield of a vehicle parked on Hamilton Boulevard was smashed March 4.

EDISON

Workers at the McDonald's on Route 27 got a cold shoulder from robbers March 14 and again on Saturday.

According to Edison Police Department officials, the first robbery occurred at 5:15 a.m. March 14 when four unidentified males armed with a handgun and wearing ski masks ordered two employees into the store's freezer and then demanded the contents of the cash registers. The thieves ran off with \$500.

The second robbery occurred at 11:15 p.m. Saturday and involved two males, again wearing ski masks. The robbers who brandished a semi-automatic handgun again ordered employees into the freezer. They then made off with \$1,800.

The computer module of a 1994 Honda Civic was stolen from the vehicle while it was parked at the Menlo Park Mall March 10. No sign of forced entry or damage to the vehicle occurred.

Three cars were burglarized near Hana Road either March 12 or 13. A 1999 Nissan Sentra was burglarized on Hana Road and a stereo and speaker were stolen. The passenger side window of a

2001 Honda Civic parked on Victoria Court was smashed and thieves stole a car stereo, seat covers and CDs. The driver's side window of a 1990 Honda Accord parked on Hana Road was smashed but nothing was reported stolen.

A burglar entered an apartment on Fox Road March 13 and stole a laptop from beside the bed while the victim was sleeping. The front door showed signs of forced entry.

Thieves damaged three late-model Nissan Maximas while they were parked at the Menlo Park Mall March 15.

The rear window of a 1994 Honda Accord was smashed while it was parked on Safran Avenue March 15.

A 1994 Lexus GX400 was burglarized while it was parked on Waterford Drive March 15. Nothing was reported stolen.

A 1996 Honda Accord was reported stolen from Fox Road March 16.

METUCHEN

Donald C. Vizthun, Jr., 54, of Piscataway, was arrested March 6 and charged with DWI after he was pulled over by police on School Street and failed several field sobriety tests.

An Eggert Avenue home was burglarized on March 9. It is believed the thief entered through the dining room window and stole \$1,600 worth of items, including a laptop computer and cell phone. The thief also took car keys and drove off in the victim's 1997 Mazda. The residents were sleeping at the time of the incident.

'Bizmania' seeks more participants

EDISON — "Bizmania" is a business expo and food feast 3-8 p.m. Monday, April 28, at the New Jersey Exposition Center in Raritan Center.

The Edison Chamber of Commerce and Metuchen Area Chamber of Commerce are among those participating in "Bizmania." They are looking for area businesses, restaurants and food vendors to participate.

Seminars on marketing and generating sales are also planned.

For exhibitor information, visit www.woodbridgechamber.org or phone (732) 636-4040. Spaces are first-come, first-served.

Admission to the public is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. For tickets, phone (732) 738-9482 or (732) 548-2964.

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Commentary

Auto insurance reform is welcome

At a time when the nation is on the brink of war, it may seem inappropriate to focus on an issue such as auto insurance reform.

Yet the state Legislature is moving forward on a plan that will reform the auto insurance industry in New Jersey. It is a proposal that will please both drivers and auto insurers; lawyers may be unhappy with the package, but that's a small price to pay to make auto insurance more affordable.

The New Jersey Competition and Choice Act, which reforms New Jersey's auto insurance laws to attract more insurers to New Jersey and offer the state's drivers more choices, is being sponsored by Assemblymen Lou Greenwald and Christopher Bateman in the General Assembly and Senators Anthony R. Bucco and Andrew R. Ciesla in the State Senate.

"New Jersey drivers need relief from oppressive state regulations that stifle auto insurance choice and competition," said John Friedman, chairman of the Coalition for Auto Insurance Competition, a bi-partisan organization advocating reform. The Coalition argues the state's excessive regulation of auto insurance as the primary reason behind the lack of sufficient auto insurance choice and competition.

The latest figures show New Jersey has 47 percent fewer companies selling auto insurance than Illinois and more than a third fewer than neighboring New York and Pennsylvania. Five out of the six largest insurers in America do not do business in New Jersey. More than 20 auto insurance companies in all have left New Jersey in the past ten years, and four have left in the last year.

"Having to operate under the state's restrictive and difficult regulatory regime where insurers are told what products to sell, to whom they must sell to and how much to change, companies will lack an incentive to remain and invest in New Jersey," contends Friedman. "We need a regulatory system that promotes competition, encourages companies to sell auto insurance in New Jersey, and creates a stable market that offers more choices for consumers."

With insurance companies saying it's either too much hassle or not economically worthwhile to do business in New Jersey, the consumer suffers from a lack of choice. The legislature should ultimately result in more competition among insurance companies and, theoretically, that should lead to stabilized, if not lower, premiums.

New Jersey is always going to have high auto insurance premiums. Because it's the most congested state of the union, there's simply more traffic and, subsequently more accidents. As many motorists unfortunately know, even a minor fender bender can cost more than a thousand dollars. The bill is a first step toward untangling the state's auto insurance mess by freeing some of the bureaucratic tangle that stifles insurance companies in New Jersey.

Send us your news

Correction policy

The newspaper will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Executive Editor Michael Deak at (908) 575-6685.

Announcements

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If you would like to request a photographer at a community event, call at least 48 hours prior to the event and we will do our best to schedule a photographer.

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Letters to the editor

Americans, in the dark, are afraid

To The Editor:

They say ignorance is bliss. I find ignorance promotes fear. Many Americans today are living in fear. Some of us feel that we are part of a movie with no known ending. We wish we could read the script. Our elected officials tell us to be afraid one day and then tell us to go on living our lives as if nothing is happening.

Many of us remember how willing we were to let our children jump off the Vietnam bridge. The politicians spoke of the fear of Communism and our country rallied around them. We sent our children off to die and our country did nothing at the end of that war but try to shame them.

How willing should we be to send our grandchildren off to a similar fate? They haven't given us any better reason than they did in Vietnam. Everything I have read so far has been based on fear, not fact. My children cannot die again without good reason. We can be trusted with the truth, but we are being treated like children who are better off not knowing. Our children are dying from terrorists within

this country. Almost anyone can tell you where drug dealers are in our cities. They are killing American children daily and we do nothing about it. I would be willing to send out an army to rid our country of these terrorists. They are real. The terrorist who bombed the World Trade Center were real. We need to look for them. I am not sure they are in Iraq. I know oil is in Iraq. I know that there are American companies already set up to help Iraq after we have bombed them. But again, I am ignorant of all the politics of this new war we are planning and so I am very afraid.

I have a president who makes me afraid because he is constantly speaking in the I. He needs to preface his speeches with "We the People." He needs to care that many Americans do not endorse what he says because we have been kept ignorant of the facts.

Our children are more important than someone's ego.

LORETTA LORD
Edison

Education system must be changed

To The Editor:

Residents are increasingly being asked to absorb astronomical increases in school district spending.

If I were a cynic, I might suspect that many districts have pulled the plug on any effort to control spending this year. After all, with all of the push by grassroots groups to pressure legislators to support the convening of a constitutional convention to address property tax reform, what could arouse more emotion than record high spending by local school districts?

Recent editorials cry out for property tax reform. No question but that property taxes are out of control. Leaning more heavily on the state to shoulder a larger share of the funding doesn't get at the real issue. It doesn't reduce the total tax burden; it merely shifts it to a different level of government. What do we gain? It really doesn't make much difference which pocket you take it from. It's still the same pair of pants.

To be sure something has to change soon. New Jersey has more than 600 school districts with a total administrative cost of over \$1 billion, many districts with fewer than 500 students. It also has the highest total per-pupil cost of education in the nation — \$10,340.

New Jersey teachers are the highest paid in the nation — \$50,147 average base pay plus a benefits package factor of about 18 percent, much of it medical insurance premiums fully funded by the taxpayers.

There are several things that could, and should, be explored to bring about change. Some suggestions might include support for bill S-410, sponsored by Sen. Bob Smith (D-17th Dist.), which calls for a major consolidation of New Jersey's over 600 districts to 21 county districts over a three-year period with elected county boards of education.

The state needs to institute a policy of a 12-month school year with all advanced placement and honors programs considered discretionary spending that are not mandated by the state, moved to tuition-funded sessions conducted in the summer months funded outside the traditional school budget.

All classroom teachers in the middle and high school levels should have a daily schedule of no less than the equivalent of six 40-minute classroom sessions per day.

All school boards develop a practice of zero-based budgeting. All budget line-item reports should be made available to the community highlighting all those lines considered discretionary, requiring districts to justify each line item to the voting public prior to the vote that usually is reduced to one number — take it or leave it.

Term limits for all school board members. Currently, many local school boards consist of the local club members who have occupied their seats for far too long, resulting in a very cozy relationship with the local chapter of the teachers' union.

The 10-month, 180-day school year has to yield to a more sensible 12-month, 220-day school year, more closely aligned with the private sector. Qualified teachers should be compensated based on performance (merit pay) and in parity with employment in the private sector.

Until the more than 600 local political school board organizations can come to grips with the real need for reform of the education system itself, all the talk about property tax reform is just a bit of flapping wings and blowing smoke. This time next year, I suspect, we will be having the same debate.

JAMES F. GERNER
Monroe Township

Women's tribute honors, educates

To The Editor:

Many opportunities were not readily available to women growing up in rural Scotland, Ill., during the 1930s and 1940s. Wilma L. Vaught, however, defied that perception. Her never say "can't" attitude helped her persevere and earned her the distinction of being one of only three women in U.S. history to earn the status of brigadier general in the U.S. Air Force. Vaught's military accomplishments highlight one of the many significant achievements made by women in the last century.

In an effort to recognize the achievements of women like Wilma L. Vaught, the Education Task force of the Sonoma County Commission in California created Women's History Week in 1978. March 8, now known as International Women's Day, was the focal point of the week and was created to ensure that the weeklong celebration would commemorate the important role that women played in the paid workforce. Expanded in 1987 as National Women's History Month, the month of March is a

time to educate the public about the numerous contributions that women have made to American culture.

National Women's History Month, therefore, serves two purposes. First, it honors women who have made valuable contributions. Secondly, it is an attempt to educate the public about the tremendous impact that women have had to our culture. Consequently, standing at the gateway to the Arlington National Cemetery is the Women in Military Service for America Memorial, which was designed to honor the 1.8 million women who have served in the U.S. military.

The establishment of the memorial and the inspirational story of Wilma Vaught, who is one of the most highly decorated military women in United States history, serve to remind us of the indelible mark that women have made.

Assemblyman Peter J. Barnes, Jr.
Edison

Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

The Age of Aquarius is finally over

In spring a young man's fancy should turn to thoughts of love.

Instead, today, thoughts are turning to war.

Between the time this is being written (Tuesday, 8:12 a.m.) and the time you read this (you supply that), something will probably have happened that will change all of our lives.

We're getting accustomed to momentous events in our nation's life. In the past five years we've endured a Presidential impeachment, the most controversial Presidential election in our history, the worst terrorist attack in our history, a war in a country on the other side of the globe and now another war. These were all traumatic events that will provide enough material for a generation of historians to earn their tenure at universities throughout the land. Each trauma was like another concussion that disrupted our equilibrium and made us all dazed and confused without the help of drugs.

The post-Cold War era was supposed to be free of the nail-biting anxiety that trembled the world in the four decades after the end of World War II. After all, we had triumphed over the evils of communism; to use a phrase from the late 1960s, it really was the dawn of the Age of Aquarius. We lived the 1990s as if it was a never-ending fraternity party, a self-indulgent time when the good times rolled on and on.

And now it's over.

Who, at the possible beginning of a war, can seriously think about the Oscars, the NCAA basketball tournament and whether there should be women admitted as members to Augusta National (no self-respecting woman would want to belong to that collection of fossils anyway). All that seems trivial as we now confront the new and dangerous variation of March Madness.

And whose fancy can turn to thoughts of love?

I don't know if we've become a stronger country for having endured the tribulations of the last five years. It's difficult to think of another time in our nation's history — save for wartimes — when we've been rocked by such momentous events. I probably won't live long enough to read the histories that will provide the insight and perspective into our perilous times; we won't understand for decades the consequences of what is most likely happening today on the other side of the globe. But we do know we are living in scary times; the Cold War's nail-biting anxiety has been replaced by a genuine, reasonable and rational fear that something terrible may happen. Ever since Sept. 11, the unimaginable is a sobering possibility.

This is serious stuff. A younger generation who did not live through the horrors of World War II, Korea or Vietnam may not have a true conception of war. They were weaned on the carefully-crafted and edited images provided the Pentagon to demonstrate that war could be no more dangerous than a video game. And when those images were not available, we generally saw nothing, because of the strict restrictions the military has placed on the press. Can you remember any compelling images from last year's war in Afghanistan?

Whether you support or oppose this war, now is the time when as a united nation we hope for the best. We hope the Iraqi military will surrender its arms and the madmen in Baghdad see the futility of staying in power. The strategy is the contemporary derivative of the daring brinkmanship that was fashionable during the Cold War. It worked then; let's hope it has worked now.

It's springtime. A harsh winter is over and the Earth is stirring with new life. It's natural for our thoughts to turn to love, but we have to think about war. And when this war is over, we may have to start thinking about the next war. This is not what the post-Cold War era was supposed to be. Instead, we were supposed to have golden living dreams of visions, mystic crystal revelations and the mind's true liberation. The Age of Aquarius is over.

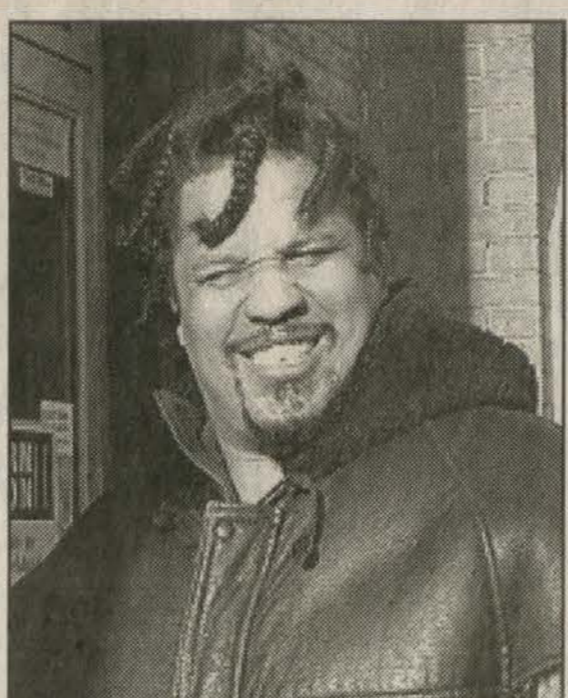
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Metuchen
"It used to cost \$10, now it costs \$13."



YADIRA CADENA
New Brunswick
"Maybe \$20. It's too much."



CHARLES JOHNSON
Pine Hill
"\$27, I drive an SUV."



MARCY BERGER
Metuchen
"About \$21. It's very high."



RITA BRODY
Metuchen
"About \$15. I drive a Honda Accord."

School districts, communities must tighten their belts

By **JAMES E. MCGREEVEY**
GOVERNOR OF NEW JERSEY

Guest commentary

When I delivered my budget address to the state Legislature in February, I delivered straight talk about some serious fiscal problems facing our state. These difficult times necessitate a lean and austere spending plan, and that is what I presented in the \$23.7 billion budget for fiscal year 2004.

In order to balance the budget, we had to tighten our belts like never before. We eliminated more than 100 programs, slashed \$3.6 billion in state spending, and plan to reduce the state payroll by 1,000 workers. We made many difficult and painful choices, just like any family must make when bills pile up and money gets tight. These cuts could have been avoided if we decided to take the easy way out of our fiscal dilemma. We could have raised the sales or income tax. We could have taken our hands off the wheel and allowed automatic spending increases to inflate the budget by another \$5 billion. We also could have considered more drastic actions taken by other states around the country that are wedged in the most severe fiscal crisis since World War II. We rejected, however, such extreme steps like Kansas' plan to totally eliminate aid to local governments, and New York's proposal

to cut local education aid by \$1.2 billion. We decided instead to live within our means and set priorities in spending, such as investing in our children by providing an additional \$200 million for school aid. Now we must challenge all stakeholders in the state budget process to do the same.

This is not a challenge to be taken lightly. This is a challenge that requires a radical and long overdue change in the culture of every level of government.

Many mayors and school officials have responded to this challenge with fundamental changes in their spending and budgeting practices. They've tightened their belts, held the line on spending and shielded residents from property tax increases. Yet despite signs that some local governments are living within their means, the austerity message is clearly not getting through to many others. While proposed spending under my first two budgets has been well below the rate of inflation, the same cannot be said for total spending at the local level. Total spending by school districts, for example, soared by roughly triple the rate of inflation from 2001 to 2002. These

spending increases largely explain why the statewide property tax levy rose by 7 percent last year despite \$10 billion in level funding of state aid to municipalities and school districts.

In 2002, the sputtering economy took its toll on New Jersey's revenue stream. For the fiscal year ending June 30, we collected \$1.2 billion less in the Gross Income Tax than we collected the previous fiscal year. Our sales tax collections were flat, and our Corporate Business Tax fell hundreds of millions of dollars short of expectations. In addition, capital gains tax revenue has dropped 65 percent over the last three years.

When I became aware of the depth of our fiscal problems, I made it clear to school boards and municipalities that they should be prepared to receive the same level of state aid that they received the previous year, and not a penny more.

This year, we are able to increase school aid by \$200 million and provide \$8 million in extra municipal aid through the energy receipts program. These are modest increases, but painful cuts and huge sacrifices were required to make them

possible.

In order for every additional state dollar to count and to reach children in the classroom as well as the property taxpayer, we need local governments to make sacrifices, too.

As a former mayor, I know that local officials have the ability to sharpen their pencils, find efficiencies, defer new hires and employ other means to shield property taxpayers from higher costs for government.

As someone who worked closely with local school boards, I know that huge administrative costs are a primary reason why New Jersey spends more money on a per-pupil basis than any state in the nation. We need

to restrain those overhead costs so that state aid and property tax dollars can go farther and have a greater impact in the classroom and on individual student achievement.

There are some in local government who would blame a property tax increase on a decision to freeze the level of state aid. To those critics, I say: Don't pass the buck — try saving a buck. Rather than point fingers, think hard about how the next decision on hiring personnel, approving a new subdivision, or negotiating a new contract will affect your budget this year and for many years to come. Those choices factor much more significantly in the overall

property tax levy than does a decision by the State to hold school and municipal aid steady at about \$10 billion per year.

The fiscal realities of today's economic times have changed the spending culture in Trenton. Our success in weathering these tough times, however, rests largely on whether the change in culture is accepted and practiced outside of the Statehouse. My administration remains committed to working with local governments through today's economic adversity. Our partnerships will be productive, but only if all stakeholders accept the challenge of making sacrifices.

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Frances Zelinski; chemist, PHS educator

PISCATAWAY — Frances Zelinski, 91, the first chairman of the science department at Piscataway High School, died Feb. 9, 2003 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

She joined the Piscataway school system in 1956 as a teacher at the former Holmes Marshall School on the advice of Superintendent John Behmer. Mrs. Zelinski transferred to PHS when it opened the following year; she taught biology classes at first, then chemistry and physics as the first graduating class progressed. She retired from the PHS faculty in 1980.

Mrs. Zelinski earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry, with highest honors, from the Virginia Polytechnic Institute in 1932. She began her teaching career that year in a one-room school in Spotsylvania, Va. She earned a master's degree in physical chemistry with honors from Cornell University in 1936 and was a research chemist with General Foods Corp. in Hoboken until 1942.

After leaving General Foods she helped her first husband, James E. Birdsall, raise chickens and pigs on a Piscataway farm opened in 1950. She used her chemistry background and Southern taste to develop a recipe for country sausage sold on her retail egg routes. He died in 1970 after 38 years of marriage.

A gardener and antiques collector, Mrs. Zelinski participated in a

women's circle that sewed and patched clothes during World War II. She traveled the United States in a recreational vehicle she purchased with her second husband, William C. He died in 2000 after 28 years of marriage.

She played on the women's basketball team at Virginia Tech and participated with the college's rifle team. She was a member of the Rahway-Plainfield Meeting of Friends.

Born in Spotsylvania, she was a daughter of the late John S. and Elva Cannon Alrich. Mrs. Zelinski lived in New York state before moving to Piscataway in 1938. She had resided in Somerset since 1964.

A brother, John Alrich, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Anne of Stamford, Conn.; a son, Jim Birdsall and wife Karen of Middlesex; two sisters, Audrey and Jane, both of Virginia; two granddaughters, Carrie M. Weikert and husband Matt of Grove City, Ohio, and Stacy A. Birdsall of Oregon; and her granddaughters' mother, M. Gay Birdsall of Las Vegas.

A national service will be 2 p.m. Sunday at the Friends Meeting House, 225 Watchung Ave., Plainfield.

Arrangements are by Taggart-Chamberlain Funeral Home in Bound Brook. Memorial donations may be sent to American Friends Service Committee, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Stephen Totin

EDISON — Stephen Totin, 78, died March 13, 2003 at his home.

He was born in Perth Amboy and lived in Metuchen before moving to Edison in 1960.

Mr. Totin retired in 1982 after 40 years as an equipment specialist on the civilian payroll of Fort Monmouth. He served in the Army in England, France and Germany during World War II.

A bowler, Mr. Totin was a member of the 700 Club of Middlesex County and the National Association of Retired Federal Employees. He was a trustee and a member of the Holy Name Society at St. Nicholas Byzantine Catholic

Church, first in Perth Amboy and later in Edison.

A sister, Irene Petren, died in 1965.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Mildred Sikes Totin; a son, Walter Stephen Totin and wife Donna of Fords; a daughter, Rosemary Suto of Edison; a brother, Richard Hornak of Lexington, Ky.; and a grandson, Brian of Bristol, Conn.

Services were held Monday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home, Fords, followed by a Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas Church in Edison. Burial was in St. Nicholas Cemetery, Perth Amboy.

Joseph Guarraci Sr.

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Joseph A. Guarraci Sr., 64, died March 15, 2003 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

He was born in Plainfield and lived in South Plainfield all his life.

Mr. Guarraci was a senior maintenance worker at the Green Brook Regional Center. He also was for the past seven years a security guard at Hall's Warehouse in South Plainfield.

Before working in Green Brook he worked at the state children's rehabilitation center in Avenel. Mr. Guarraci was a member of the

Italian-American Club in South Plainfield.

Surviving are his wife, Judith A. Guarraci; two daughters, Ann Marie Pacheco and Cindy; two sons, Joseph Jr. and Richard; a stepdaughter, Lisa Monks, all of South Plainfield; a stepson, Michael of South Plainfield; three brothers, John and Thomas, both of South Plainfield, and Salvatore of Rahway; 11 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Wednesday at McCriskin Home for Funerals. Burial was in Hillside Cemetery, Scotch Plains.

Maureen Pavon

EDISON — Maureen Siwenciak Pavon, 58, died March 9, 2003 at her home.

She was born Feb. 8, 1945 in Newark and lived in Fords before moving to Edison in 1976.

Mrs. Pavon was an amateur radio operator and a manager with Avon Cosmetics.

Her second husband, Jose, died in 2000. Her mother, Mary Reilly Pavon, and a sister, Jo-Ann Utzig, are deceased.

Surviving are her former husband, Humberto Rovira of

Holmdel; her father, Joan Siwenciak of Bath, Pa.; four daughters, Tracy Rovira of Blue Bell, Pa., Maria Hernandez, Mary Vargo and Lourdes Ramirez, all of Edison; a son, Jesus of Toms River; a sister, Carol Beidleman of Bath; six grandchildren, two nieces, a nephew, a great-niece and a great-nephew.

Services were held March 13 at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Entombment was in Woodbridge Memorial Gardens mausoleum.

Obituaries

Joseph Kormondy

HIGHLAND PARK — Joseph Kormondy, 85, died March 14, 2003 at his home in Manville.

He was born in Nevil Island, Pa., a son of the late John and Julia Kormondy, and lived in Highland Park before moving to Manville in 1947.

Mr. Kormondy retired in 1980 after 44 years as a forklift operator with Johnson & Johnson in North Brunswick. He enjoyed bowling, gardening and watching birds.

He was a life member of Edison's Lodge 46, Free & Accepted Masons, in Somerville; So-Ra-Bo Forest 48, Tall Cedars of Lebanon, in Somerville; the Stroke Club in Bridgewater; and the SWIM Club in Bridgewater. Mr. Kormondy was a former elder of Manville Reformed Church and

served in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

His wife, Helen Kotyuk Koteles Kormondy, died in 1997. A brother, John, and two sisters, Julia and Elizabeth, are deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Sandra H. Bardar of Piscataway and Susan A. Whitenight of Manville; three sisters, Sophie Mozgai of New Brunswick, Ester Kormondi and Kathleen Remlinger, both of Manville; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Tuesday at Manville Reformed Church with the Rev. Steven Strickler, the former pastor, officiating. Burial was in New Cemetery, Somerville.

Arrangements were by Fucillo & Warren Funeral Home in Manville.

Richard Courtney

EDISON — Richard M. Courtney, 41, died March 13, 2003 in the Mary Anne Hale Pavilion of the Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center.

A native of Perth Amboy, he lived in Fords before moving to Edison in 1993.

Mr. Courtney spent a year as director of environmental services and maintenance at Whispering Knoll in Edison. For the past year he worked in the maintenance department of JFK Medical Center.

He served in the Army National Guard and was a former volunteer fireman with Fords Fire Company. Mr. Courtney was a member of Mount Zion Lodge 135, Free & Accepted Masons, in Metuchen.

Surviving are his wife of 10 years, Stephanie Zagles Courtney; and a sister, Louise Zagleski and husband Stanley of Carteret.

Services were held Saturday at Flynn & Son Funeral Home in Fords. Donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society or National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Carl Finlayson

PISCATAWAY — Carl Finlayson, 56, died March 11, 2003 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mr. Finlayson was born in Steele City, Neb. He lived in Hanover, Kan., and Groton, Conn., before moving to Piscataway in 1994.

He spent 21 years in the Navy before becoming a systems developer with AT&T Corp. and IBM Corp. Mr. Finlayson received a

bachelor's degree in computer science from the University of New Haven.

Surviving are his wife of 33 years, Barbara; his mother, Carol; three sons, Sean, Eric and Brian Lee; a brother, Keith; two sisters, Vivian Nutsch and Vicki Philebaum; and three grandchildren.

Private arrangements were by Piscataway Funeral Home.

James D. Landante

EDISON — James D. Landante, 82, died March 8, 2003 at Bon Secours Venice Hospital in Venice, Fla.

A native of Acerra, Italy, he lived in Edison for 45 years before moving to Venice in 2000.

Mr. Landante retired in 1986 after 30 years as a sheet metal worker with Local 28 and 137 in Newark. He served in the Army during World War II and was a parishioner of St. Matthew's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Elizabeth Lardiere Landante; a son, James and wife Bernadine of Medford Lakes; a daughter, Della of Mahwah; two brothers, Maurice of Jersey City and Ernest of Highland Park; a sister, Mary Esposito of Venice; and two grandchildren.

Mass was offered Friday at St. Matthew's Church, following services at Boylan Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Craig Limbach

PISCATAWAY — Craig D. Limbach, 37, died March 7, 2003 at University Hospital in Newark.

He was born in Plainfield, a son of the late Hal and Evelyn Schulster of California, Billy Schulster of Butler, Paul of Allentown, Pa., Robert of Oceanport and Richard of Spotswood; and 10

cousins, Sister Joan Walters of Union City, James Walters, Thomas Walters and Donald Walters, all of Florida, Martin Walters of East Brunswick, Shirley Anne Gavitt of California, Sue of Stewartville, Donald of Texas, James of Lopatcong and Patrick Scott Limbach of Hillsborough.

Mass was offered March 13 at Our Lady of Fatima Roman Catholic Church, of which Mr. Limbach was a parishioner. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park.

Arrangements were by Conroy Funeral Home in Bound Brook. Memorial donations may be sent to American Legion Post 261, 840 Washington Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854.

Chhotabhai Patel

EDISON — Chhotabhai Patel, 96, died March 11, 2003 at JFK Medical Center.

A native of India, Mr. Patel settled in Edison when he came to the United States in 1992.

Surviving are four sons, a

daughter, 10 grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Friday at Franklin Memorial Park in North Brunswick. Arrangements were by Corey & Corey Funeral Home in Rahway.

Ruth Lang Caruso

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Ruth L. Lang Caruso, 77, died March 10, 2003 at Meridian Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Brick.

A native of New Market, she lived in South Plainfield for 25 years before moving to Howell 18 months ago.

Mrs. Caruso was a beautician in Dunellen and Plainfield during the 1940s and 1950s.

Her husband, John, died in 1998. A daughter, Diane, died in 2001.

Surviving are a son, James D.

and wife Margaret of Howell; four sisters, Mildred Passariello of Bridgewater, Amelia Van Allen of Piscataway, Grace Maiorano of Edison and Maryanne Giordano of Martinsville; three grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Services were held March 13 at McCriskin Home for Funerals. Burial was in Bound Brook Cemetery.

Donations may be sent to Meridian Hospice in Brick or the Crippled Children's Committee of Elks Lodge 2534 in Manasquan.

Doris M. Busch

EDISON — Doris M. Busch died March 12, 2003 at her home.

She was born in Baltimore and had lived in Edison since 1965.

Mrs. Busch was a world traveler and a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen.

A son, James P., died in 1989.

Surviving are her husband, Joseph B.; a son, Joseph B. Jr. of

Edison; two daughters, Dianne Hartshorn and husband Leonard of Basking Ridge, and Elaine Megariotis and husband Nick of Delran; and five grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, Metuchen, followed by a Mass at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral. Burial was in St. Peter and Paul Cemetery, Springfield, Pa.

Sidney Levine

EDISON — Sidney Levine, 75, died March 12, 2003 at Community Medical Center in Toms River.

He was born in New York City, a son of the late Benjamin and Rose Levine, and lived in Edison before moving to Toms River.

Mr. Levine retired in 2001 after 20 years as a salesman with the Johnston & Murphy Shoe Co. He served in the Navy during

World War II and was a member of Congregation Beth-El.

His wife, Harriet, died in 1996.

Surviving are two sons, Ronald and wife Alice of Edison, and Louis and wife Naomi of Toms River; nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday at Crabel Parkwest Funeral Chapel in New Brunswick.

Eleanor Langan

EDISON — Eleanor Langan, 89, died March 12, 2003 at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

A native of Rocky Hill, she lived in Griggstown before moving to Edison.

Mrs. Langan was a saleswoman with Bamberger's in Menlo Park for 25 years and retired in the early 1980s.

Her husband, Thomas, died in 1988. A son, Gerald, died in 1994.

Surviving are a daughter, Judith Grzybek and husband Gregory of Franklin Park; a grandchild and a great-grandchild.

Services were held Monday at Boylan Funeral Home. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park, Piscataway.

Saree Eichbaum

METUCHEN — Saree Eichbaum, 83, died March 14, 2003 at her home.

A native of Poland, she came to the United States in 1939 and had lived in Metuchen since 1963.

Mrs. Eichbaum operated June Chevrolet in Metuchen

with her husband, Ulyrk.

Also surviving are a daughter, June Wirfel of Westport, Conn.; and two grandchildren.

Services were held Sunday at Goldstein Funeral Chapel in Edison. Burial was in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Patricia Matusik

PISCATAWAY — Patricia Vance Matusik, 63, died March 15, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Matusik was born in New Brunswick and had lived in Piscataway since 1965.

Surviving are her husband, Frank Sr.; a daughter, Janice Stampo of Pittsburgh; two sons, Frank Jr. of Bayville and Robert of Branchburg; and two grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at Selover Funeral Home in North Brunswick.

Henry Constantine

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Henry J. Constantine, 87, died March 15, 2003 at the home of a daughter, Theresa Barkkume of Dacula, Ga.

He was born in Trenton and lived in Harrison before moving to South Plainfield in 1951.

Mr. Constantine was a food service worker for 37 years, retiring in 1982 from ARA Services of Philadelphia. He was an Army staff sergeant in World War II.

For many years Mr. Constantine was an usher for Masses at Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church. He was active in the parish's Holy Name Society, St. Vincent de Paul Society and Funstival

Committee. He also was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6763 and Knights of Columbus Council 6203.

His wife, Sadie Spinello Constantine, died in 2002.

Also surviving are another daughter, Andrea Ostrofsky of Veazie, Maine; a sister, Louise Manhefka of Iselin; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mass was offered Wednesday at Sacred Heart Church, following services at James W. Conroy Funeral Home. Burial was in the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Arnytown.

Christopher Chapwick

PISCATAWAY — Christopher Sean Chapwick, 32, died March 14, 2003 at Jersey Shore Medical Center in Neptune.

He was born on Staten Island and lived in Vernon before moving to Piscataway in 2000.

Mr. Chapwick was a newspaper deliveryman for 10 years with the Publishers,

Newspaper and Mail Deliverers Union in Long Island City, Queens. He graduated from the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University.

Surviving are his fiancée, Cindy Samad; his mother, Phyllis; his father, Stephen; his stepmother, Diane; a brother, Jeffrey; a sister, Stephanie Blithe; three nieces and nephews; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mass was offered Wednesday at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church, Vernon, following services at Ferguson-Vernon Funeral Home in Vernon. Donations may be sent to your favorite charity.

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on A-7

Christina Del Vecchio

PISCATAWAY — Christina L. Del Vecchio, 74, died March 15, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

She was born in Newark and lived in that city before moving to Piscataway in 1986.

Mrs. Del Vecchio retired in 1990 after 30 years as a Spanish teacher in the Newark school system. She received a bachelor's degree from Seton Hall University.

A sister, Adelaide, and two brothers, Michael and Daniel, are deceased.

Surviving are her husband of

50 years, Nicola; a son, Victor and wife Lisa Lopez of Massachusetts; a daughter, MaryJo Masucci and husband James of Piscataway; two brothers, Patrick Pacillo of Florida and Gerardo Pacillo Jr. of New Jersey; two sisters, Rose Zeltser of Livingston and Angela Marie Blair of Ohio; and five grandchildren.

Mass was offered Wednesday at Our Lady of Mount Virgin Roman Catholic Church in Middlesex. Burial was in Resurrection Burial Park.

Arrangements were by Piscataway Funeral Home.

Douglas E. Linden

PISCATAWAY — Douglas E. Linden, 77, died March 15, 2003 at Pocono Medical Center in East Stroudsburg, Pa.

A native of South Amboy, he lived in Parlin and Piscataway before moving to Blakeslee, Pa.

Mr. Linden was a chemist with Ortho Diagnostics in Raritan prior to his 1983 retirement. He served in the Army during World War II and received a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University.

He was a founding member and past-president of the Wynnewood Swim Club. Mr.

Linden also was a captain with the River Road Rescue Squad and the secretary of the Piscataway Kiwanis Club.

Surviving are three sons, Douglas Jr. of Milford, David of Allentown, Pa., and Donald and wife Joanne of Millburn; a daughter, Marjorie Burns and husband Sean of Princeton; a sister, Edith Bowen of Woodbridge; eight grandchildren and a nephew.

Services were held Wednesday at Piscataway Funeral Home. Burial was in Christ Church Cemetery, Sayreville.

Ethel West

METUCHEN — Ethel West, 89, died March 16, 2003 at Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged in Somerset.

A native of San Francisco, she lived in Morris Plains before moving to Metuchen in 1985.

Mrs. West retired in 1994 after 30 years as a jeweler with Adler Jewelers in Morristown and Linden.

Her husband, Harry, died in 1988.

Surviving are a daughter, Judith Steinhardt and husband Ralph of Metuchen; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday at Costello-Runyon Funeral Home. Burial was in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Donations may be sent to Central New Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged, 350 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08873.

Louis Yoson Sr.

PISCATAWAY — Louis Yoson Sr., 88, died March 16, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

A native of Edwardsville, Pa., he lived in Newark before moving to Piscataway in 1953.

Mr. Yoson was a mechanic with A&P supermarkets. He had a lifelong passion for boating and fishing.

Surviving are his wife of 65 years, Eleanor; two daughters, Hope Butz and husband Carl of Somerset and Joyce of Piscataway; a son, Louis and wife Janet of Morristown; a sister, Margaret Stenecki of Wisconsin; 13 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at Piscataway Funeral Home.

Vivien McManmon

METUCHEN — Vivien Hazel McManmon, 87, died March 13, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

She was born in Chicago, where she lived before moving to Metuchen in 1949.

Mrs. McManmon was a past-president of the PTA at St. Francis Cathedral School. She was a former Brownie leader in Metuchen and a member of the White Sisters of Metuchen.

She was a parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral.

Her husband, Robert Patrick McManmon, died in 1993. Two sons are deceased, Billy in 1944 and Robert B. in 1968. A daughter, Vivien McManmon Crownfield, died in 2001.

Surviving are three sons,

John and wife Betty of Metuchen, James and wife Nancy of Las Vegas, and Michael of Lee, Mass.; three daughters, Mary Jo of Venice, Fla., Barbara Madison and husband Jim of Needham, Mass., and Lynda Wonski and husband John, with whom Mrs. McManmon lived; 23 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Services will be 9:45 a.m. tomorrow at Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, 568 Middlesex Ave. Mass will follow at 10:15 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral on Main Street.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. today at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be sent to Brothers of the Sacred Heart, 165 Plainfield Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Obituaries

Alfred Hellriegel

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Alfred H. Hellriegel, 80, died March 17, 2003 at the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Healthcare System, East Orange Campus.

A native of Newark, he lived in Bayville and Rahway before moving to South Plainfield in 1975.

Mr. Hellriegel retired in the early 1970s after more than 25 years as a letter carrier with the Bayville post office. As an Army paratrooper with the 101st Airborne Division in World War II he participated in the invasion of Normandy on D-Day. He was awarded the Distinguished Unit Award and five Purple Hearts.

He was a life member of

Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2319 in North Brunswick and the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Mr. Hellriegel also was a member of the New York Chapter, 101st Airborne Association; Disabled American Veterans Chapter 52; and American Legion Post 261.

Surviving are his wife of 22 years, Helen Pyatt Hellriegel; a daughter, Doreen Karns, and a son-in-law, Bruce Karns, both of Stillwater, Pa.

Services will be 11 a.m. today at McCriscin Home for Funerals, 2425 Plainfield Ave. Burial will be in Franklin Memorial Park, North Brunswick.

Charles Jaroszewski

EDISON — Charles Jaroszewski, 86, died March 17, 2003 at Raritan Bay Medical Center, Old Bridge Division.

He was born in Elizabeth and lived in that city before moving to Edison in 2001.

Mr. Jaroszewski retired in 1979 after 42 years as a press riveter with Simmons Manufacturing Co. in Elizabeth. He served in the Army during World War II and was a member of the AARP.

He also was a member of the senior citizens club and Holy Name Society at St. Hedwig

Roman Catholic Church in Elizabeth.

His wife, Evelyn J. Piegdon Jaroszewski, is deceased.

Surviving are a daughter, Eleanor Kellert and husband Alan of Edison; and three granddaughters, Michelle Kellert of Mine Hill, Andrea Kellert of Elizabeth and Charlene Kellert of Edison.

Services were held yesterday at Krowicki McCracken Funeral Home, Linden, followed by a Mass at St. Hedwig Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Harry J. Hadu

EDISON — Harry J. Hadu, 71, died March 16, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

He was born in Brooklyn and had lived most recently in Edison.

Mr. Hadu retired in 1989 after 38 years as an acid mixer with the Delco-Remy Division of General Motors Corp. in New Brunswick. He frequently visited the Edison boat dock along the Raritan River.

A sister, Louise A. Romaine, died in 1994.

Surviving are his wife, Helen Haase Hadu; his mother, Marion Wolf Hadu Romaine of Somerset; three sons, Harry and fiancée Patricia Monroe of Somerset, Richie Wahler Hadu and wife Cindy of Edison, and Andrew and fiancée Melissa of Piscataway; four daughters, Dolores Garcia and husband Willie of Perth Amboy, Cheryl Bennett and hus-

band Donnie of Tennessee, Cathy Ferguson and husband Cliff of Bradley Beach, and Valerie and fiancé Joey Barrese of Edison; two sisters, Rosie Phillips of Edison and Marie Harris of Florida; and 12 grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at Crabel Home for Funerals, in Milltown. Burial was in Van Liew cemetery, North Brunswick.

Donations may be sent to American Heart Association, P.O. Box 5160, Kendall Park, NJ 08824 or American Diabetes Association-NJ Memorial, P.O. Box 31160, Hartford, CT 06150-1160.

More obituaries on page A-6

Angela 'Dee' Leonard

EDISON — Angela Margaret "Dee" Leonard, 70, died March 14, 2003 at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Mrs. Leonard was born in Astoria, Queens. She lived in Iselin; Riverside, Calif.; and Louisville, Ky., before moving to Edison in 1970.

She graduated from the Mary Louise Academy in Jamaica, Queens, and attended Middlesex County College. Mrs. Leonard loved shopping, bingo and slot machines. She enjoyed her many trips to

Atlantic City and Las Vegas.

Surviving are her husband of 44 years, Robert E.; a daughter, Stephanie Matthews and husband Woodrow of Howell; a son, Robert S. and wife Donna Leonard of Howell; a sister, Phyllis Allingham of Shirley, N.Y.; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held yesterday at Gosselin Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Cancer Institute of New Jersey for leukemia research, 195 Little Albany St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901.

Lillian Valia

EDISON — Lillian Elizabeth Valia, 70, died March 16, 2003 at JFK Medical Center.

She was born in Queens and lived in Newark before moving to Edison.

Mrs. Valia was a homemaker and a parishioner of St. Helena's Roman Catholic Church.

A brother, Edward Smith, and two sisters, Catherine

Stifler and Eileen Fries, are deceased.

Surviving are her husband, Robert; two sons, Robert and Thomas, and a daughter, Catherine, all of Edison; and four grandchildren.

Services were held Wednesday at Gosselin Funeral Home. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Young singers win prizes at opera fest

By LIBBY BARSKY
CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Two young singers from South Plainfield High School have won prizes in the New Jersey All-State Opera Festival.

Joseph Rodriguez and Adam Tamzoke received the Marian Paunova Ensemble Award for their duet of "Ah Mimi, tu plu non torni" from "La Boheme" by Giacomo Puccini. That award was presented for the first time in the March 1 competition at Ridgewood High School.

"We both knew about the ensemble contest," Adam said, "so I asked Joe if he wanted to do this duet and he agreed."

"Originally we thought we would do it as a regular ensemble piece," Joseph said.

"Since it starts a minute or two after the act begins, we took it from the beginning of the act in Italian and in costume," the tenor said.

Joseph also received the Governor's Award in Arts Education as the top male vocalist for "Una furtive lagrima," an aria from "L'elisir d'amore" by Gaetano Donizetti. That award is the first in that category in six years for SPHS, according to vocal music teacher Tracey Murray.

Adam and Joseph will sing their solos for the Little Opera Company of New Jersey in an upcoming competition. In addition, Murray has plans for the two singers to perform their scene for teachers in an in-service workshop in September.

Other SPHS singers who competed in the All-State Opera Festival were Cassandra Krajcick, Jamie Morris, Katie Mott, Wajdi Kanj and Natalie Tamzoke.

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FISH DINNER — at Sacred Heart School, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, 5-7 p.m. March 21, 28, April 4, 11. Adults \$8, seniors \$7, children \$4; takeout available. (908) 756-0633, Ext. 10.

ANNIVERSARY — of Rev. Ronald Owens as pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton St., Metuchen, 7 p.m. March 21, 4 p.m. March 23. (732) 549-8941.

JITTERBUG — dance lessons. VFW hall, 1970 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 7 p.m. March 21, 28. \$8; couples, singles welcome. (732) 388-4605.

LENT RITUAL — Stations of the Cross. Sacred Heart Church, 149 South Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, 7 p.m. March 21, 28, April 4, 11. (908) 756-0633, Ext. 10.

'UNDER THE SEA' — benefit dinner for Home School Association of St. Francis Cathedral School (Metuchen). Pines Manor, Route 27, Edison, 7:30 p.m. \$30. Reservations: (732) 494-3499 or (732) 603-7303.

COFFEEHOUSE — with Libby & Co., 3/4-female jazz band. Municipal Complex, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, 8 p.m. Free. (732) 563-4117 or (732)

562-2301.

DANCE PARTY — ballroom, Latin and swing music. VFW hall, 1970 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 9 p.m. March 21, 28. \$12; couples, singles welcome. (732) 388-4605.

SATURDAY
MARCH 22

PYSANKY — Easter eggs the Ukrainian way. Boyt Drug Store, 411 Main St., Metuchen, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 22, 29, April 5. (732) 548-2125.

RELIGIOUS PLAY — "Growing in Grace," written and directed by Shirley Woods. First Presbyterian Church, 270 Woodbridge Ave., Metuchen, 5 p.m. Free. (732) 549-8941.

FOREIGN FLICK — "Salah Shabbati" (Israel, 1964). Conservative Temple and Center, 201 S. Third Ave., Highland Park, 8 p.m. Free. (732) 819-9850 or www.hpctc.net.

SUNDAY
MARCH 23

STATE HISTORY — Arthur Lefkowitz on "New Jersey in the American Revolution." South Plainfield Public Library, 2480 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, 2 p.m. (908) 754-7885.

MONDAY
MARCH 24

LATIN DANCE

rumba/salsa lessons. VFW hall, 1970 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 7 p.m. March 24, 31. \$10; couples, singles welcome. (732) 388-4605.

TUESDAY
MARCH 25

DOCUMENTARIES — from New Jersey Jewish artists. Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison, 1:30 p.m. March 25, April 1, 8. \$12/series. (732) 494-3232.

SEMINAR — "Protecting Your Assets from Catastrophic Nursing Home Costs." Main branch, Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 1 and 7 p.m. Free. Registration: (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1.

WEDNESDAY
MARCH 26

THEATER TRIP — "Aida" on Broadway. Bus leaves Municipal Complex, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, 10 a.m. \$84. Reservations: (732) 572-4688.

KIDS BOOK GROUP — on "Regarding the Fountain." Westergard Library, Stelton Rd., Piscataway, 4 p.m. (732) 752-1166.

STOP SMOKING — by way of hypnosis. Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Ave., Metuchen, 6:30 p.m. \$45. Registration: (732) 494-0455.

LOSE WEIGHT — by way of hypnosis. Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Ave., Metuchen, 7:30 p.m. \$45. Registration: (732) 494-0455.

THURSDAY
MARCH 27

SUPERMARKET TOUR — for National Nutrition Month. Super Stop & Shop, Route 1 South, Edison, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. \$5. Registration: (732) 494-1149.

LUNCH & LEARN — "Making Decisions and Effecting Change" for women. Cornerstone Restaurant, 25 New St., Metuchen, noon. \$45. Registration: (732) 549-6000.

CARD PARTY — for Borough Improvement League, 491 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 1 p.m. \$15. Registration: (732) 985-3914 or (732) 548-1391.

'LES MISERABLES' — spring musical of Metuchen High School, 400 Grove Ave.,

Metuchen, 8 p.m. March 27-29. Adults \$8/advance, \$10/door; under 12, over 65 \$8. (732) 321-8743.

SATURDAY
MARCH 29

SPRITUAL COLLAGE — brunch for Woman's Day Ministry of Zion Hill Missionary Baptist Church (Piscataway). Holmes Marshall firehouse, 5300 Deborah Drive, Piscataway, 10:30 a.m. Adults \$10; 12-under \$5; table of 8 \$65. Tickets: (732) 463-7776.

PARISH MISSION — of Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 807 Hamilton Blvd., South Plainfield, 5:30 p.m. March 29; 8 and 11 a.m. March 30; 7 p.m. March 31-April 2. (908) 756-1333.

'ROSIE' CONCERT — Seven for Christ, Exodus 4:12, New Jersey Polyphonic Ensemble. North Stelton A.M.E. Church, 123 Craig Ave., Piscataway, 7 p.m. Adults \$15; seniors, students \$10. Tickets: (732) 287-5184.

SUNDAY
MARCH 30

CPR RALLY — CPR instruction for adults. Jewish Community Center, 1775 Oak Tree Rd., Edison, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m. \$15. Registration: (908) 756-6414, Ext. 10 or 27.

DIG IT UP — "Salvaging the Past" with Mark Nonestied. East Jersey Olde Towne Village, 1050 River Rd., Piscataway, 1:30 p.m. Free. Registration required: (732) 745-4489 or (732) 745-4177.

POET'S HISTORY — "Walt Whitman: New Jersey's Good Gray Poet." South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Ave., South Plainfield, 2 p.m. Free. (908) 754-7885.

GIRL POWER — "Girls in Real Life Situations," aimed at Grades 6-8. YMCA, 65 High St., Metuchen, 3 p.m. (732) 548-2044.

COMING UP

FOOD FEAST — "A Taste of Middlesex." Akbar Restaurant, 21 Cortlandt St., Edison, 5:30 p.m. March 31. \$30/advance, \$50/door. Tickets: (732) 738-9482.

FOREIGN FLICK — "With a Friend Like Harry" (France, 2000). Main branch, Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 7 p.m. April 2. Free. Registration: (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1.

OPEN HOUSE — of Metuchen-Edison Women's Club. St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Route 27, Metuchen, 7-9 p.m. April 2. (732) 603-0683 or (732) 381-1171.

ADJUNCT FACULTY — Recruitment Fair, first of its type. Middlesex County College, Route 514, Edison, 4-8 p.m. April 3. (732) 906-4661 or www.middlesexcc.edu/hr.

Golden Nuggets
SENIORS

Highland Park

Senior/Youth Center
The Senior/Youth Center is located at 220 S. Sixth Ave. Breakfast is served 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday through Friday. Free transportation to and from the center is available; call (732) 819-0052 the day before. Activities:

Monday — Bingo, 12:30 p.m.
Monday — Body Recall, 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Sewing and knitting, 9 a.m. Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m.

Tuesday — English, 9:30 a.m. Woodcarving, 9:30 a.m. Chorus, 10 a.m. Bridge, cards and mahjongg, 1 p.m.

Wednesday — Body Recall, 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m. Bereavement and loss group, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday — Healthy Bones (new class), 9:30 a.m. Arthritis and pain group, 11 a.m. Rockettes rehearsal, 1 p.m. Current events group, 1:30 p.m.

Friday — Body Recall, 8:30 and 9:30 a.m. Painting, 9 a.m. Exercise with Irene, 11 a.m. Pizza lunch, noon. Bingo, 1:15 p.m.

Wednesday, March 26 — Shopping at Wal-Mart, 12:30 p.m. Movie, "The Master of Disguise," 1:15 p.m.

Friday, March 28 — ARA board meeting, 10 a.m.

Thursday, April 10 — "Say Goodnight Gracie" (show). Cost of \$51.25 includes lunch. The bus leaves the Senior/Youth Center 11 a.m. Registration is required at the Senior/Youth Center. The public is invited.

Edison

JCC Senior Adults
Activities for senior adults at the Jewish Community Center of Middlesex County, 1775 Oak Tree Road:

Monday, March 24 and April 28 — "Telling and Writing Stories from Our Lifetimes," 10 a.m. Cost is \$2 per session.

Tuesday, March 25 — "More Matters Operatic," first in four-part series with Richard Ferris, 10:30 a.m. Cost for the series is \$16.

Thursday, March 27 — Senior Lounge Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost of \$2 includes games and snacks. Registration is required.

Tuesday, April 1 — Readers on the Go, 10 a.m. The book to be discussed is "The Avengers" by Rich Cohen. Cost is free; registration is recommended.

Thursday, April 3 — Senior model Seder, 11:45 a.m. Cost is \$6; registration is required by March 25.

JCC membership is required for these activities. For more information, phone (732) 494-3232.

AARP Chapter 3446
The AARP chapter is sponsoring an Atlantic City trip May 13. Phone Margaret at (732) 549-3323.

Piscataway

Women's Senior Golf League
Senior women are invited to play golf Wednesday mornings at Raritan Landing beginning April 9.

Fee is \$11 for Middlesex County residents and \$13 for non-residents. A Middlesex County golf course card is required; it can be purchased for \$30. Lessons from a golf professional are available.

For registration, phone Fran Solomon at (732) 885-5708.

Senior Center
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance is available through April 15.

Help is provided with basic returns for those whose income is \$50,000 or less. The program is available at the Senior Center, off Hoes Lane behind Kennedy Library, and at Westergard Library, off Stelton Road in New Market.

Appointments are required; phone (732) 562-1133 for the Senior Center at (732) 562-1166 for Westergard Library.

The Senior Center golf league runs Thursday mornings at Raritan Landing beginning April 3. New golfers are welcome. For full information, phone (732) 562-1133.

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Community Life

Briefs

Scholarship offered to women

EDISON — Applications are being accepted for the annual college scholarship sponsored by the Mid-Jersey Branch, American Association of University Women.

The \$1,000 grant goes to a woman over 25 who is studying for a bachelor's degree. For an application, e-mail singerlac@aol.com or write Mid-Jersey AAUW Scholarship Committee, 21 O'Hara St., Edison, NJ 08837.

Requests must be received by Monday. Applications must be filled out and returned by Tuesday, April 1.

Baseball club offers scholarship

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — Applications are being accepted for the college scholarship sponsored by the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club.

Grants are awarded to South Plainfield students who have been in the Junior Baseball Club at least five years and will graduate from high school in June.

For an application, phone (908) 754-2090 or visit the guidance department at South Plainfield High School. Applications must be received by Tuesday, April 1.

Edison High seeks sponsors for scholars

EDISON — Edison High School is seeking sponsors for scholarships awarded to graduating seniors.

If you are interested, phone Principal Frank Cangelosi at (732) 650-5201.

Mental health focus of program

EDISON — The second annual Disability Awareness Day will be Monday, March 31, at Middlesex County College. This year's event focuses on mental health.

Lizzie Simon, author of "Detour," will make the keynote speech at 11 a.m. Her book chronicles her struggles with manic depression and her ultimate triumph.

The goal of Disability Awareness Day is to broaden understanding of individuals with mental and physical disabilities and to foster and encouraging and tolerant environment for all.

WalkAmerica set April 27

PISCATAWAY — The March of Dimes WalkAmerica 2003 will be held at Rutgers University's Louis Brown Athletic Center Sunday, April 27.

Goal for the Middlesex County event is \$440,000. Almost 3,500 walkers are expected to participate.

The money will be used to fund research to fight infant prematurity, a leading cause of newborn death.

Realtors helping Elijah's Promise

METUCHEN — The Metuchen/Edison office of Coldwell Banker is asking for help with its effort to support Elijah's Promise, a soup kitchen in New Brunswick.

"We ran a food drive for them before the holidays and had such a warm response from our associates and the community that we decided to pursue this charitable work as a year-round endeavor," said manager Jeffrey D. Halpern.

"We're asking for donations of food and money from individuals and businesses in the community," said Diane Brozoski, who is coordinating the drive.

Donations, including non-perishable goods and paper and cleaning products, may be dropped off at the office on Middlesex Avenue. The deadline for this quarter's drive is March 30.

Businesses donate 7 police vests

EDISON — Federal Business Centers and Summit Associates have donated seven police vests to the police. Each of the body armor packs is worth \$4,000.

It is estimated that police vests have saved the lives of 20,000 police officers nationally.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Sisters Saleema (left) and Devina Subedar check out the student artwork on display at the Piscataway Municipal Building.

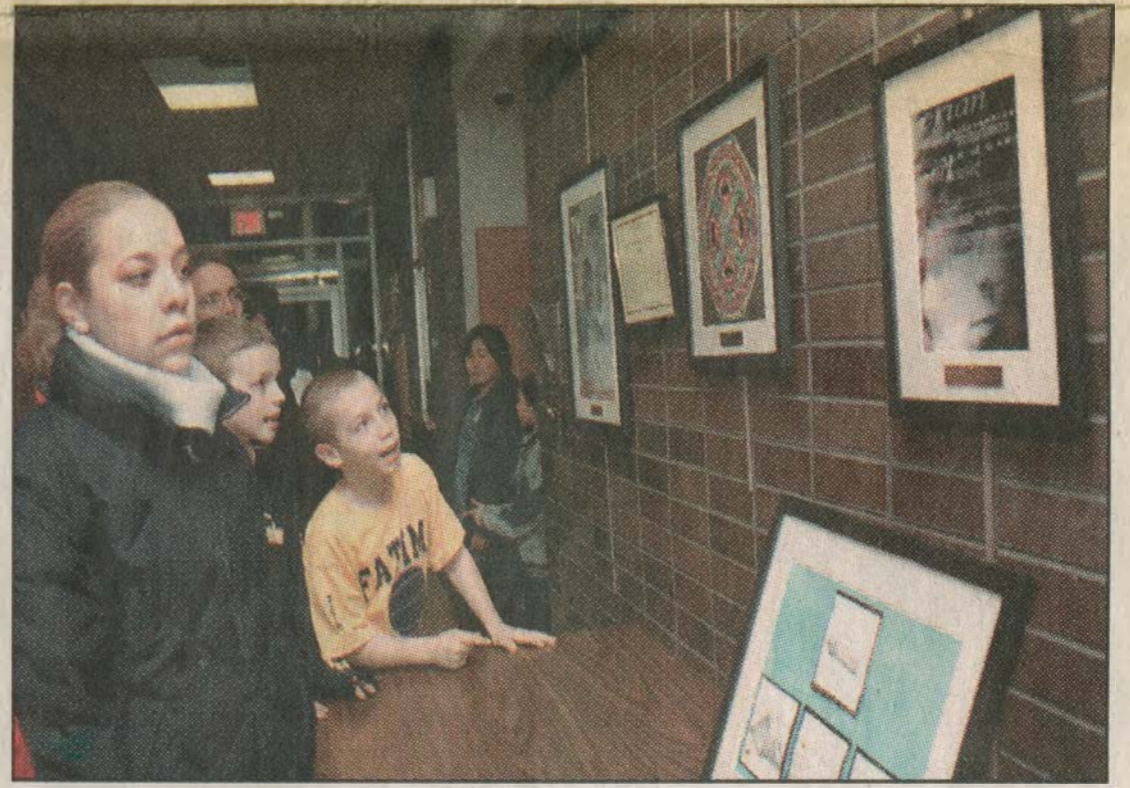
Students' art in the limelight



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Mayor Brian Wahler presents a proclamation to Joan Conway, director of Visual, Performing and Practical Arts for Piscataway schools. The proclamation declared March as Youth Arts Month.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Asian folding screen designs by fourth-graders are on display this month at the Piscataway Municipal Building for Youth Art Month.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Students and parents look at artwork on display this month at the Municipal Building in Piscataway for Youth Art Month.

Edison wordsmiths use guile to score big

By KATHLEEN G. SUTCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — It's a Tuesday night and the members of the Edison Scrabble club sit hunched in concentration. Unlike the enthusiastically loud ping pong players occupying the neighboring room at the Minnie E. Veal Community Center, the Scrabble players are nearly silent.

But the silence is broken when club members excitedly offer up strategy to a novice player. And to the uninitiated ears of this novice, Scrabble is bearing a striking resemblance to high-stakes poker.

First of all, you've got to learn to keep a poker, oops, Scrabble, face.

According to official Scrabble rules, and those are the rules that the Edison Scrabble club plays by, inventing words is perfectly acceptable. The trick is, convincing your opponent not to risk a missed turn by challenging a legitimate word. Club founder, Walter Sudnikovich swears by this method and claims to have relied on bluffing to seal more than one Scrabble victory.

Bluffing is a viable technique for advanced-level Scrabble because esoteric words are the norm. The club even publishes



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER Walt Sudnikovich of Sayreville and Lois Tagliaboschi of Edison maneuver to outscore and block each other during a game of Scrabble at a recent meeting of the Scrabble Club at the Minnie E. Veal Center in Edison.

a list of obscure score-building words. But to get your hands on the list, along with the official list of the 96 approved two-letter words, you've got to join the club.

Even though he's not giving out free word lists, Sudnikovich is generous with tips. His second pointer sounds suspiciously like the advice passed along by Kenny Rogers in "The

Gambler." "You've got to know when to pass," he says referring to the rule that allow a player to trade in tiles in exchange for giving up a turn. This tip goes hand in

hand with Sudnikovich's third mantra which is "rack balance." That is, always leaving a balance of vowels and consonants after a turn to help you with your next move.

The members of the Edison Scrabble Club dutifully record their scores after their meetings held on Tuesday evenings (7-9:45) and Saturday afternoons (noon-2:45) including the number of "Scrabbles" they get. A "Scrabble," or "Bingo!" as Sudnikovich likes to call it, is when a player uses all seven tiles on their rack. The score of the word is boosted by 50 points.

But there are no points for style.

Paul Finkel, a fairly new member of the club, sounds almost rueful about this fact, because it means graceful, multi-syllabic words are only noticed if they net you a high score.

But despite any minor complaints about the game, these devotees congregate twice weekly, armed with their playing boards, official Scrabble dictionaries, and assorted Scrabble paraphernalia hoping for a chance to place a high-scoring word on the coveted triple word score squares, scattered along the perimeter of the Scrabble board.

BEST BETS THIS WEEK

Choir festival

The 33rd annual Plainfield Area Children's Choir Festival is 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, Plainfield.

Nearly 125 boys and girls present "The Church Year in Song" with the nine choirs scheduled to perform. Choirs are from All Saints Episcopal Church, Millington; the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church; the Garwood Presbyterian Church; Our Lady of the Mount Roman Catholic Church, Warren; St. Bartholomew Roman Catholic Church, East Brunswick; St. Joseph's School, North Plainfield; St. Matthias Roman Catholic Church, Somerset; the Presbyterian Church, Westfield; and the Watchung Avenue Presbyterian Church, North Plainfield.

Choirs are directed by Barbara Sanderman from Our Lady of the Mount parish. Accompaniment is by Joan Best Seamon from St. Matthias parish, piano, and Ronald Thayer from the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, organ.

A free-will offering will be taken. For more information, phone (908) 756-2468. The Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church is at 716 Watchung Ave., just south of East Seventh Street.



GEORGE PACCIELLO/WEKEND PLUS

The greatest show on four legs

Feats of daring are featured in every performance of The Big Apple Circus, now in residence at the Commerce Bank Ballpark until March 30. Tickets are available by calling Ticketmaster, the box office at the circus and at the Somerset Hills YMCA.

Jazz quartet will visit Dillon Library for April 6 concert

BEDMINSTER — The Jon Eshelman Quartet visits the Clarence Dillon Public Library in Bedminster for a free concert 2 p.m. Sunday, April 6.

Three members — Eshelman, Jerome Jennings and Sean Jones — are from Ohio. The fourth, Tom DiCarlo, is from New Jersey. Their program includes pieces by Duke Ellington, Harold Allen, Johnny Mercer, Chick Corea, Thelonious Monk, Bobby Timmons, Wayne Shorter, Bud Powell and Antonio Carlos Jobim.

Eshelman began studying jazz organ and piano in his high school years in Columbus, Ohio. He received a bachelor of music degree in jazz performance from Ohio State University in 1999, then spent the following three years in jazz piano and organ combos around the Ohio capital. Eshelman enrolled last year at the Mason Gross School of Arts at Rutgers University to study for a master's degree.

Jennings was born in Cleveland, Ohio, and enrolled at Ohio State in 1999. He transferred last year to the Mason Gross School of the Arts to complete requirements for a bachelor's degree in jazz studies.

Jones is from Warren, Ohio, and studying for a master of music degree in jazz trumpet performance from the Mason Gross School of the Arts. He has played with two symphony orchestras and is scheduled to record an album in May.

DiCarlo is an instructor at the Pingry School in Bernards Township and has played at The Cornerstone in Metuchen.

Registration is recommended; phone (908) 234-2325; Ext. 2. The Clarence Dillon Public Library is on Lamington Road (County Road 523) at the stop light with Route 206, about 1 mile north of Interstate 287.

Symphony presents world premiere

MORRISTOWN — Koren Cowgill has two special occasions booked for Saturday, March 29.

The mezzo-soprano has written "Surprised by Joy," which has its world premiere 8:30 p.m. at the Community Theatre in Morristown under the auspices of the Colonial Symphony. She also is scheduled to get married earlier in the day, according to a Colonial Symphony press release announcing the concert.

Cowgill is a South Jersey native with degrees from the Eastman School of Music and Yale University.

The concert by the Basking Ridge-based sym-

phony also includes the Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor by Ludwig von Beethoven and the Symphony in C major by Georges Bizet. Soloist for the Beethoven concerto is Vladimir Feltsman, piano.

Admission is \$38-\$16 for adults; \$5 for high school and college students; free for kindergarten-Grade 8 students accompanied by a paying adult. A lecture by Martin Bookspan 7:30 p.m. precedes the program.

For tickets, visit www.colonialsymphony.org or phone (908) 766-7555. For theater directions, visit www.communitytheatre.nj.com or phone (973) 539-8008.

Somerset Valley Players looking for members

HILLSBOROUGH — The Somerset Valley Players, a long-running community theater company in Central New Jersey, are looking for new members.

Meetings are 7:30 p.m. the first Monday of every month at the Somerset Valley Playhouse in Hillsborough. Volunteers build sets, work backstage

and serve as ushers. They may even get a chance to appear in a show.

For more information, visit www.svptheatre.org or phone (908) 369-SHOW. The Somerset Valley Playhouse is on Amwell Road (Route 514), about 3 miles west of the Hillsborough Municipal Complex.

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The cast of "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" — Linda Konopka, Jane Roche, Heather Rich, Alison Quairolli, Lori D'Elia and Paul Carver.

Somerset Valley Players are presenting 'Five Women Wearing the Same Dress'

HILLSBOROUGH — Somerset Valley Players will be presenting "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," a comedy written by Alan Ball, the creator of HBO's hit series "Six Feet Under" Friday, March 21 through Sunday, April 6. Performances will be Friday and Saturday evenings at 8 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Tickets prices are \$13 Fridays and Sundays \$13 with senior citizens and students \$11; on Saturdays all seats are \$13. The theatre is handicap accessible.

The playhouse is located on Anwell Road., Route 514 West in Hillsborough. For reservations and directions call (908) 369-7469 or log on to www.svptheatre.org. "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" takes place during an ostentatious wedding reception at a Knoxville, Tennessee estate. Five reluctant, identically clad bridesmaids hide out in an upstairs bedroom, each with her own reason to avoid the proceedings below. "Five Women Wearing the Same Dress" is directed by Tina

Lee with Paul Carver as stage manager. Linda and Joe Giordano are producing.

Philharmonic raffling Porsche

WARREN — The Philharmonic Orchestra of New Jersey is raffling off a 2003 Porsche Boxster. Only 1,000 tickets will be sold at \$100 each for the high-end sports car provided by Jack Daniels Motors in Paramus. Proceeds benefit education programs and concerts of the Warren-based symphony. You can see the Porsche Boxster at the Kings Super Markets in

Bedminster on Saturday, March 29 and April 12; in Warren on Saturday, April 19; and in Bernardsville on April 3 and 17. The winning ticket will be drawn May 31 when the Philharmonic Orchestra plays at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. Winner need not be present. To purchase tickets for the raffle, visit www.ponj.org or phone (908) 226-7300.

'Third Thursday Poetry Series' begins at Somerville Public Library

SOMERVILLE — The Somerville Public Library has begun the "Third Thursday Poetry Series" with readings every month except August and December. This month's program 8 p.m. today features Marilyn Mohr of South Orange and Nancy Shakir of Montclair. An open reading follows the program. Mohr published "Running the Track" in 1981 and "Satchel" in 1992. For the past 17 years she has been the author of the monthly Poets Forum at the Jewish Community Center of Metrowest.

Shakir is a director of Cave Canem, the National Organization of African American Writers, and a former poetry teacher in the New York Public Library. She is a contributor to the all-woman anthology "Time Capsule" and the supervisor of social studies in the Orange school system. Two years ago Mohr and Shakir formed Mixed Roots, which the library calls "a poetry partnership presenting the African-American and Jewish American experience through their work."

Admission is free. For more information, visit www.lmxac.org/somervillelib or phone (908) 725-1336. The library is at 35 West End Ave., along Route 28 adjacent to Borough Hall. Funding is provided in part by a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission. Additional funding is provided by the Friends of Somerville Public Library.

Lecture is set on 'Salvaging the Past'

PISCATAWAY — Mark Nonestied is "Salvaging the Past" in the final lecture of the "UnCommon Clay: Terra Cotta" series. His lecture is 1:30 p.m. Sunday, March 30 at East Jersey Olde Towne Village in Piscataway. Nonestied will present the archeological recovery efforts undertaken by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission in preparations for the "UnCommon Clay" exhibit. He also will bring up the methods and importance of properly documenting and excavating sites that have

disappeared or been disturbed. Admission is free and registration is required; phone (732) 745-4489. East Jersey Olde Towne Village is on River Road at the stop light with Hoes Lane West. The lecture series ties in with "UnCommon Clay: Terra Cotta," an exhibition at the Cornelius Low House/Middlesex County

Museum in Piscataway through May 30. The museum is about 1 mile south of East Jersey Olde Towne near the John A. Lynch Bridge. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. Admission is free. Group tours are available by appointment; phone (732) 745-4177.

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Theater

NOW PLAYING

BLACK RIVER PLAYHOUSE

Grove St., Chester (908) 879-7304;

www.chestertheatregroup.org

"Time Flies," seven one-act comedies by David Ives. 8 p.m. March 21, 22, 28, 29, April 4, 5; 2 p.m. March 30. Adults \$15; seniors, students \$12 (no discount on Saturday).

BROOK ARTS CENTER

10 Hamilton St. Bound Brook (732) 469-7700;

www.brookarts.org

"Company," local production of Broadway musical. 8 p.m. March 21, 22, 28, 29; 2 p.m. March 23. Admission \$20.

CIRCLE PLAYHOUSE

416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway (732) 968-7555

"The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds."

8 p.m. March 21, 22. Admission \$12 evenings, \$11 matinee; discounts available.

FORUM THEATRE

314 Main St., Metuchen (732) 548-0582; www.forumtheatrecompany.com

"James and the Giant Peach," original musical version of Roald Dahl story. March 22-May 3. Admission \$12; group rates available. Call for show schedule.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343;

www.papermill.org

"Romeo and Bernadette," world premiere of comedy/satire by Mark Saltzman. To March 23. Admission \$63-\$31; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

SOMERSET VALLEY PLAYERS

Route 514, Hillsborough (908) 369-SHOW;

www.svptheatre.org

"Five Women Wearing the Same Dress," comedy by Alan Ball. 8 p.m. March 21, 22, 28, 29, April 4, 5; 3 p.m. March 23, 30, April 6. Admission \$13; discounts available.

VILLAGERS THEATRE

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710;

www.villagerstheatre.com

"Collected Stories" in drama format. 8 p.m. March 21, 22. Admission \$12.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS

1000 North Ave. West Westfield (908) 232-1221

"Dr. Cook's Garden," murder mystery by Ira Levin. 8 p.m. March 21, 22. Admission \$12.

COMING UP

GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE

9 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick (732) 246-7717; www.georgestplayhouse.org

"The Last Bridge," world premiere of drama by Wendy Kesselman. March 25-April 20. Admission \$50-\$26; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

THE NEW THEATER

Rutgers University

George St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu

"Arms and the Man," an "anti-romance" by George Bernard Shaw. 8 p.m. March 28, 29, April 2-5, 9-12; 2 p.m. March 30, April 6. Adults \$19; seniors, Rutgers alumni, faculty and staff \$17; students \$9.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER

1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

"On Golden Pond," touring production of movie turned stage play. 7 p.m. March 30. Admission \$32-\$20.

VILLAGERS THEATRE

475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710;

www.villagerstheatre.com

"A View from the Bridge," comedy straight out of Brooklyn U.S.A. 8 p.m. March 28, 29, April 4, 5, 11, 12; 2 p.m. March 30, April 6, 13. Adults \$14; seniors, students \$12.

Sky Shows

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Route 28, Branchburg (908) 231-8805;

www.raritanval.edu/planetarium

"Winter Wonders," 2 and 7 p.m. March 22. Admission \$4.50.

"Laser 80's," 3 and 8 p.m. March 22. Admission \$5.

"The Spring Skies," 2 and 7 p.m. March 29, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 31. Admission \$4.50.

"Laser Legends," 3 and 8 p.m. March 29, April 5, 12, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 31. Admission \$5.

For Kids

HARRIET TUBMAN

3 p.m. Sunday, March 23

Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

The life of the "Underground Railroad" conductor in musical form. Admission \$10.

THE NIGHTINGALE

1 and 4 p.m. March 23

State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org

A lesser-known fairy tale by Hans Christian Andersen. Admission \$14, \$12.

PETER AND THE WOLF/ BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

1 and 3:30 p.m. March 30

Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College

Route 28, Branchburg (908) 725-3420;

www.raritanval.edu/theatre

Double feature with the New Jersey Ballet Company. Admission \$9.

Events

BIG APPLE CIRCUS

Commerce Bank Ballpark East Main St., Bridgewater (800) 922-3772;

bigapplecircus.org

"Dreams of a City" in their new show, to March 30. Admission \$44-\$12; discounts available. Call for show schedule.

COMPUTER SHOW & SALE

Garden State Convention Center

I-287 Exit 10, Somerset (800) 53-COMPUTER;

www.marketpro.com

Hardware, software, peripherals and such. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. March 22, 23. Admission \$7.

GREATER NEW JERSEY RECORD SHOW

Holiday Inn, Route 22 Springfield (908) 925-9667, (908) 486-3303

CDs, LPs and 45s (but no 8-

tracks), 10 a.m.-4 p.m. March 30. Adults \$5; seniors \$3; under 12 free.

Concerts

BORIS GUDONOV

8 p.m. Saturday, March 29

State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org

Rimsky-Korsakov opera, sung in Russian (with English supertitles) by the Teatro Lirico d'Europa. Admission \$45-\$25. Related lecture 7 p.m.; admission \$6.

EMPOWERING WOMEN

8 p.m. Friday, March 28

Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190;

www.watchungarts.org

Concert and silent auction benefiting sexual assault hotline RAINN. Admission \$10.

JOHN HAMMOND

8 p.m. Saturday, March 29

Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190;

www.watchungarts.org

Folksinger in a rare New Jersey show. Admission \$25.

SIR JAMES GALWAY

8 p.m. Wednesday, March 26

State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org

Flutist performs works of Schubert and other composers. Admission \$50-\$25. Related lecture 7 p.m.; admission \$6.

THE GYPSY SPIRIT

8 p.m. Saturday, March 22

Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Works of Chen Yi, Anton Dvorak and Johannes Brahms with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$60-\$25.

HABANA SAX

8 p.m. Saturday, March 29

Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Saxophone trio from Havana, capital of Cuba. Admission \$27-\$17.

NEW FOLK FAVORITES

8 p.m. Saturday, March 22

Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190;

www.watchungarts.org

Sloan Wainwright, Carl

(Continued on next page)

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Sun. March 23, 30 12-4pm
March 24, 26, 28 12-2pm
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(Continued from previous page)

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NEIL SEDAKA
8 p.m. Friday, March 28
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
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Pre-Beatles pop singer who had a comeback in the 70's. Admission \$50-\$25.

WOMEN IN FOLK
8 p.m. Friday, March 21
Union County Arts Center
1601 Irving St., Rahway
(732) 499-8226; www.uccac.org

Lucy Kaplansky, Susan Werner and Toshi Reagon. Admission \$25-\$18.

YOUNG ARTISTS AUDITIONS
GALA AWARDS CONCERT
3 p.m. Sunday, March 30
State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
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www.njsymphony.org

28th annual program of musical prodigies. Admission \$10.

Dance

PILOBOLUS
DANCE THEATRE
8 p.m. Saturday, March 22
State Theatre, 15 Livingston

Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.nj.org
"The Brass Ring"; "Ben's Admonition"; "The Four Humours"; and "Tsu Ku Tsu." Admission \$38-\$20. Related lecture 7 p.m.; admission \$6.

SLEEPING BEAUTY
7 p.m. Saturday, March 29
Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College
Route 28, Branchburg
(908) 725-3420;
www.raritanval.edu/theatre

Ballet company with the New Jersey Ballet Company. Admission \$25, \$20.

Museums

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300 Somerset St.
New Brunswick
(732) 846-5777

Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$5.

Recent additions "From the Old World to the New World," to April 20.

CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE Middlesex County Museum
1225 River Rd., Piscataway
(732) 745-4177

Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.

"UnCommon Clay: New Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta Industry, to May 30. Related lecture by Mark Nonestied 1:30 p.m. March 30; registration required.

EAST JERSEY OLDE TOWN VILLAGE
1050 River Rd., Piscataway
(732) 745-3030
Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-

4:15 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Guided tours 1:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. Group tours by appointment.

"300 Years of Clothing Style in Middlesex County: 1650-1950," March 23-Oct. 31. Reception 2 p.m. March 23.

MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM
614 Mountain Ave., Westfield
(908) 232-1776

Open 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free.

"The Starving Time: Waiting for the Spring Thaw," March 23. "Hands-On Lap Weaving and Drop Spindle," March 30.

NEW JERSEY MUSEUM OF AGRICULTURE
Route 1, North Brunswick
(732) 249-2077; www.agriculturemuseum.org

Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. Free admission for members. Non-member admission: adults \$4, seniors \$3, ages 4-12 \$2, ages 3-under free.

Dairy Day, noon-4 p.m. March 22.

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM
(609) 258-3788; www.princetonartmuseum.org

Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission.

"Seeing the Unseen: Abstract Photography, 1900-40," to March 23.

Photographs by Edward

Ranney, to June 7. "The Art of Structural Design: A Swiss Legacy," to June 15.

"The Arts of Asia," to June 29.

JANE VOORHEES ZIMMERLI ART MUSEUM Rutgers University, 21 Hamilton St., New Brunswick
(732) 932-7237; www.zimmerlimuseum.rutgers.edu

Open 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, noon-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Tours of the collection 2 and 3 p.m. Sunday. Free admission for members, Rutgers students, faculty and staff. Non-member admission: adults \$3, children under 18 free. Admission for the month free the first Sunday of the month.

"The Music of Greek Poetry," 1 p.m. March 30.

Matthew R. Donovan and Elizabeth Savage (poets), 3 p.m. March 30.

"Oh! Those Mice!" in children's book illustrations, to April 20.

"The Graphic Face of the Post-Revolutionary and Stalinist Periods," to April 27.

Sculpture, paintings and drawings of George Segal, to May 25.

"June Wayne: Selected Graphics, 1950-2000," to June 29.

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"Body of Work: Portraits, Poses and Figures," March 28-April 30. Reception 6-8 p.m. March 28.

"Lens of an Artist's Eye" (photographs) by James Lahey, March 28-April 30. Reception 6-8 p.m. March 28.

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"MFA II: Thesis Exhibition," March 24-April 14. Reception 6-9 p.m. March 27.

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Students' exhibit (Part 1), March 28-April 17. Reception 6-8 p.m. March 28.

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Foreign films featured at Metuchen Library

METUCHEN — The Metuchen Public Library has announced its "Spring International Film Festival." All shows begin 2 and 7:30 p.m. on the dates indicated. Admission is free; tickets are required and distributed a half-hour before each show. The schedule:

Monday, April 7 — "With a Friend Like Harry" (France, 2000), an arthouse hit that played New Jersey theaters in summer 2001. Michel is a harried husband and father suffering from too much family togetherness on a long trip in a beat-up car. He stops at a service plaza on an autoroute (expressway) outside Paris. A mysterious stranger approaches Michel and begins to recite a poem the motorist wrote as a schoolboy. Harry remembers Michel even if Michel does not remember Harry. Before long Harry insinuates himself into Michel's life, showers Michel with expensive gifts and anoints himself as Michel's savior with an unsolicited answer to every problem.

Monday, May 12 — "The Road Home" (China, 1999). The beauty of the northern Chinese countryside takes center stage in this simple love story set in a small rural village. Flashbacks tell the story of the fairytale courtship between the beautiful 18-year-old Di and a nearly arrived 20-year-old schoolmaster who dare to wed for love rather than in an arranged marriage. When her young groom is ordered back to the city, Di dutifully waits for his return on the long, lonely road that goes into the village.

For more information, phone (732) 632-8526. The Metuchen Public Library is at 480 Middlesex Ave., adjacent to the police station. Parking is available in the library lot on Elm Avenue.

Country Stage holding interviews for acting class

CALIFON — Country Stage is currently holding interviews for its Drama Program.

Through individual exercises, and monologue and scene study, each person's unique talent is nurtured and developed. Private coaching is also available for auditions — professional and college.

The Young Adult Classes (13-17) are held on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. In addition to providing a solid acting foundation, the classes enable the students to develop self-confidence and self-esteem. Whether or not a young person goes on to pursue a professional acting career, the training proves to be invaluable by teaching presentation and communication skills.

Individual support is also available for those who do choose to go on to an acting career.

The Adult/Professional Classes are held on Wednesday evenings from 7 to 10 p.m. The Acting Studio exists to provide a space for local actors to hone their skills and to work on audition material — be it Broadway, film, or community theatre. Support and direction are given to both working professionals and beginners — looking at how you can

create and further your acting career. Beginners are welcome here. This is the opportunity to explore yourself — your creativity. Each person is worked with individually, so that they can manifest their own specific goals.

Perhach, the artistic director of Country Stage, is a member of Actors' Equity Association, Screen Actors Guild, the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and The American Guild of Variety Artists. In addition to her role at Country Stage, she continues to conduct workshops, and private coaching in Manhattan, Los Angeles and wherever the work takes her clients.

For more information, visit the website www.countrystage.biz or call Perhach at (908) 638-6382.

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John Adams School taps 2nd period honor students

EDISON — John Adams Middle School has issued its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2002-03 school year.

Named to the "All A" honor roll:

Grade 8 — Jared Doodnauth, Rashmi Godugu, Jeffrey Jan, Stephanie Kan, Shuparna Kareem, Luming Li, Akash Maitra, Michelle Mayer, Hasti Mehta, Mohammad Nawaz, Kristen Rayner, Galina Ryvin, Reema Shah, Julia Tsang, Lucy Wang, Jennifer Wittich and Robert J. Won.

Grade 7 — Huma Ali, Arun S. Avva, Trisha Bakshi, Santosh Balachandar, Maria A. Bromberg, Kanika Chandra, Emily Chao, Andrew Y. Chen, Angel Chen, Felicia Chen, Jaclyn D. Cohen, Samantha Creange, Adrienne Dzema, Gregory Gerold, Ritam Ghosh, Sammy Gulrajani, Liangjie Guo, Ankit Gupta, Shirley Huang, Mustafa Jafri, Shan Jiang, Amanda Kahriman, Amy Kao, Sarah Kass, Rebecca K. Keiser, Mark D. Khanin, Min Jung (April) Kim, William Kuan, Kieu-Nhi N. Le, Stephanie N. Lo, Ashley Y. Park, Ji Yoon Park, Ameer H. Patel, Milan R. Patel, Shinal Patel, Ronald Radu, Anokhi Shah, Ishani Sharma, Apoorva Sinha, Luba Smolensky, Nancy H. Song, Jessica Tiu, Sara Tofighbakhsh, Yu Chen Wang, Kristin E. Woo, Julie Xie, Edward Z. Yang and Michael Zhang.

Grade 6 — Jasper R. Abarquez, Dennis Q. Ai, Douglas Atmatzidis, Christopher Brown, Michelle Chang, Sarah Cochrane, Jacqueline Dai, Beth Dempsey, Kunal Deodhar, Jillian Earley, Gina Egidio, Stephani Faust, Siddhartha A. Gandhi, Dylan Ganguzza, Erin Johnson, Faraz A. Khan, Phoebe Y. Kim, Kathleen Liu, John C. Lu, Zyra

Malick, Ling (Elena) Miao, Subiksha Natarajan, Karen D. Pal, Cassie Park, Avani Patel, Nisha R. Patel, Kenneth Pu, Yi Ren, Allison Richman, Aditya P. Sai, Dana E. Schleifstein, Suneri A. Shah, Zachary Shery, Brian Siwek, Julian F. Sy, Nora Tofighbakhsh, Marina S. Tropeano, Lillian Tso, Yuan-Chun Wang, Kapil Wattamwar, Wesley Wey, Amy Winograd, Jonathan D. Wong and Hans S. Zhou.

Named to the "A/B" honor roll:

Grade 8 — Ankita Agarwal, Joseph Alonso, Elyssa Alters, Richard Amara, Samantha Aster, Sharath Babu, Nisha Balwani, Ruhee Bhalwani, Ameya Bhende, Ryan Brady, Scott Brody, Michael Brown, Christopher D. Buchok, William Buchok, Anusha Bupathi, Anna P. Calinawan, Jessica Chia, Tracey F. Chuka, Elena Constantinou, Nicole Coughlin, Natalie Cunningham, LaTaya S. Dixon, Brian Doherty, Jason S. Fruhschien, Gregory Gartenfeld, Laura Glassman, Eliecer Gomez Jr., Usha Guttapalle, Jennifer Han, Geoffrey Heideberger, Andrew Hsu, Eric Hsu, Aliya Jafri, Melissa Jeyaganesh, Kristine Ann Juan, Todd Kalmanson, David Kaplan, Ekaterina Khranova, Casey Kirsch, Anuradha Korada, Gerriann LaGuardia, Andrea Lamparello, Philip Landicho, David J. Lee, Dillon Lee, Vida Lee, Vinay Limbachia, Mingzhou Lin, Linda M. Linford, Eric Liu, Mofei M. Lu, Somair Malik, Jyothi Manohar, Kimberly Manuel, Jaclyn Mayer, Melissa McKenna, Thomas McLaughlin, Peter M. McNamara, Jeffrey Morshed, Brittany C. Mullings, Tam-Khanh Nguyen, Taras Pantchenko, Chan Young Park, Gargy M. Patel, Jigar S. Patel, Jigitsa Patel, Kaushil D. Patel, Mitesh Patel, Neal S. Patel,

Sagar Patel, Vaidehi N. Patel, Alyssa Peltzer, Nicholas Phelan, Ashwini Poola, Alexandria Prontnicki, Manu Reddy, Jared Rubin, Neha Saggay, Michael Samaroo, Jay Sangani, Anish Shah, Jason Shah, Meet L. Shah, Mingzi Shao, Gregory Sica, Scott Silverman, Varun Sodhia, Prathiba Srivatsava, Jessica Suh, Marissa L. Sutherland, Christopher Taylor, Benjamin M. Tenenbaum, Jennifer Terkowitz, Rachel Thomas, Frederick Tsai, Divya Vanam, Rozena Varghese, Pennson Wang, Weicheng Wang, Zheng (William) Wang, Carmen Yau and Matthew Young.

Grade 7 — Rehman B. Ahmad, Azariah Ali, Zainab Ali, Brenda R. Alshowarbi, Arslan Ashraf, Mukund R. Bangalore, Nicholas A. Basuino, Dana K. Bishara, Gina Chang, Albert Chao, Esther Chen, Tiffany Chen, Sheung Y. Chua, Sean Coughlin, Margaret L. Craig, Walt D. Craig, Adrianna Crouse, Kristen Cuzzolina, Hiten K. Desai, Vincent DeSario, Kristen R. Ebbrecht, Anjun N. Gandhi, Sorit Ganguly, Marisa Ganguzza, Meeta Gidwani, Sunny

Gulrajani, Aphrodite Hadjiloucas, Riyaz T. Haslani, Julianne M. Herron, Jessica R. Hladky, Brandon B. Jacobs, Evan Jay, Avani K. Kapur, Matt I. Kass, Joshua M. Katz, Joo-Young K. Kim, Suzy Kim, Kristin E. Klacik, Karan Kornberg, Alex Kornberg, David Kornberg, Ashley Krasucki, Kathy Kulbida, Patricia Lee, Patricia Lin, Rachel Loeffler, Lance J. Lyons, Zheng D. Ma, Spruha Magodia, Samantha Mancuso, Matthew Margon, Julie E. Matthew, Philip I. Mayer, Kevin Miranda, Varun Mohan, Reena Nadpara, Justin B. Nicholls, Thomas Nichols, Lindsay M. Lona, Alexander J. Pamintuan, James J. Paragallo, Ashma B. Patel, Bhumi S. Patel, Jay S. Patel, Roopa Patel, Sagar R. Patel, Soham J. Patel, Anthony Quagliari, Caroline L. Quan, Jay Racanelli, Jill Rann, Leah F. Santangelo, Thomas A. Sastre, Jesse E. Sattler, Boskie Shah, Meghal J. Shah, Kimberley Shjarback, Keren Shpigel, Usama Siddique, Nayha Srivastava, Timur Suhail-Sindhu, Cheng Sun, Andrew Szé, Pei-Chun M. Tang, Hiram Taylor Jr., Suhavi Tucker, Corinne Tweddel,

Shayna Ull, Thomas Urbanowicz, Michail Volski, Carol M. Wang, Brian J. Williams, Lauren Wink, Michele L. Wolkun, Ho Tsan Wu, Christina Yeh and Kenny Yu.

Grade 6 — Sapna Advani, Haemi Ahn, Bandana Ahuja, Saeeda Aziz, Anisha Bapna, Neel Belani, Jordan Birnbaum, Harini Bupathi, Steven Burke, Nicole M. Cantor, Sonia S. Chandi, K. Chandrasekaran, Jamie Chang, Christopher Chen, Valerie Chen, David Chessen, Andrew Chien, Kanika Chopra, Sonia Chugh, Meredith T. Chupka, Gabrielle Clarke, Julie Cochrane, Samir Dalal, Adarsh Doshi, Gabrielle Dubkin, Lara Friedman, Jason Gelb, Jennifer E. Giardina, Michelle Gonzalez, Alexander R. Grajewski, Sarah S. Grossman, Bhavik Gupta, Brittany A. Harris, Nicole Hautz, Jennifer L. Hayes, Matthew Hoops, Priya Jaisinghani, Kristi A. Jopling, Dhruithi S. Kalangi, Ramya K. Kanumuri, Wilson Kao, Harsh B. Khamar, Deepak Khanna, Yuriy Khondo, Jin Seon (Esther) Kim, Neil Kumar, Joo Woo Lee, Raymond Lee,

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8 alumni elected to Eagle Hall of Honor

EDISON — Eight distinguished Edison High School alumni have been elected to its Eagle Hall of Honor.

They will be inducted at a gala dinner May 14 at the Pines Manor. The new Eagle Hall of Honor members, with the year they graduated from EHS and their accomplishments:

Stanley Bonis '66, medical director of the largest pediatric intensive care unit in Louisiana. He helped develop the first artificial lung program

for children.

Maj. Marc Koblentz '89, a prosecutor in the Judge Advocate General office of the Air Force. He has been the prosecutor in a number of courts-martial.

Karen B. Kwitter '68, chairman of the astronomy department at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass. A lecturer and author, she was on a panel reviewing operations of the Hubble Space Telescope.

Michael Lucas '88, a pediatrician and director of medical

student education at St. Peter's University Hospital in New Brunswick.

Bruce Polkowitz '75, a former Board of Education member and a lieutenant in the Edison Police Department.

He also was the founder and chairman of the Legal Protection Plan for the New Jersey Police Benevolent Association.

Nicholas Romanetz '61, assistant principal of John P. Stevens High School. He spent 30 years in the Marine Corps

Reserve before leaving the military with the rank of colonel.

Sharon Hawkins Vargo '75, author and illustrator of children's books. She received a children's book award in 2002.

Peg Godwin Worthington '62, a volleyball coach on all-deaf teams at Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. She has coached many teams in world championship events.

Cost of the gala dinner is \$35. For reservations, phone (732) 650-5200 by Friday, April 11.

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Advice for parents considering adoption

(ARA) — Today, nearly 1 million children in the United States call their adoptive parents "Mom" and "Dad," and this year 120,000 more children will be added to that growing family.

The decision to open your home to a child will certainly change your life in every way imaginable — and a few ways that you probably can't imagine. But if you're considering

adoption, know that your unique decision will put you in good company, in more ways than one.

In fact, according to the National Adoption Information Clearinghouse, a majority of Americans have been personally affected by adoption: Six out of 10 people have either adopted a child themselves, placed a child for adoption, or know a family member or close friend who has done so.

Many prospective adoptive parents have heard myths about the need to hire an attorney before even considering adoption, or rumors about the thousands of dollars in legal and administrative fees. In reality, the cost to adopt a child in foster care can range from nothing at all to a very minimal expense — for a relationship that's often priceless.

A 2002 study conducted found that most adoptive parents believe that adoption agency personnel prepared them quite well for the challenges they faced, and they agreed that adoption has affected their family very positively. Most adoptive parents find the experience of raising their children a rewarding one that has helped them forge a close bond to their adopted children. Like most mothers and fathers, when asked about parenting, they'll tell you the experience can be delightful and joyful,

yet sometimes challenging. Of course, adoptive parents need to be realistic and open to asking for post-adoption services and supports if they anticipate potential problems.

The Child Welfare League of America offers the following tips for adoptive parents:

Start the process by doing your homework. Learn all you can about how adoption works in your state. Seek the advice and services of the state or county child welfare agency or an established, licensed adoption organization in your community.

Ask for all the information that can legally be provided about your child and his or her birth family; this information will be invaluable to them later in life.

Be open and honest about everything from the very beginning. Tell your child he is adopted; tell the child what you know of his birth family. It's much easier to tell the truth than to try to work through lack of trust later.

The child's desire to know his or her birth parents is natural and has nothing to do with their relationship with you. Remember a child cannot be loved by too many people — the birth parent is not your enemy.

Treat the adopted child the same as you would a birth child by providing the same expectations, the same nurturing and support.

Assure the child that that you will always be there for him.

Adolescence is difficult for most children and their parents, but can be especially troubling for some adopted families. Find other adoptive parents to spend time with, at least until your child is grown. They will be a source of strength, support and wisdom.

Continue to attend training related to adoption issues. You may find some answers, or you may be able to help other adoptive parents with your insight and solutions.

Spend special time with your spouse, significant other, or best friends. Give the kids and yourself a break!

Remember to keep an open mind and heart — your child is depending on you.

Adoption can bring all kinds of rewards, not just to the new parents, but to the extended family as well. Right now, there are hundreds of children in your community just waiting to become part of a family. For more information about adoption, visit the Child Welfare League of America's Web site at www.cwla.org.

CWLA is the nation's largest and oldest membership-based child welfare organization. We are committed to engaging people everywhere in promoting the well-being of children, youth and their families and protecting every child from harm.

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Education experts agree that a solid foundation and comfort with math is fundamental for academic success and throughout life. By experiencing math in fun and creative ways, children can learn to love and appreciate math as a part of their daily routine.

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Sylvan Learning Center's online Math Activity Booklet provides 30 days of math writing topics, trivia, questions and puzzles. Children can log on to www.educate.com/activities and download or print the day's activities and play the game of math.

Also available online, Sylvan Learning Center offers tips on writing, reading, making math learning fun and much more. For tips and information, visit www.educate.com/tips.

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Sports

Zannetti, Conroy earn third-place honors

By **DAVE ALLENA**
STAFF WRITER

ATLANTIC CITY — Gene Zannetti and Jimmy Conroy, each in his own way, blazed their way into unchartered territory last weekend.

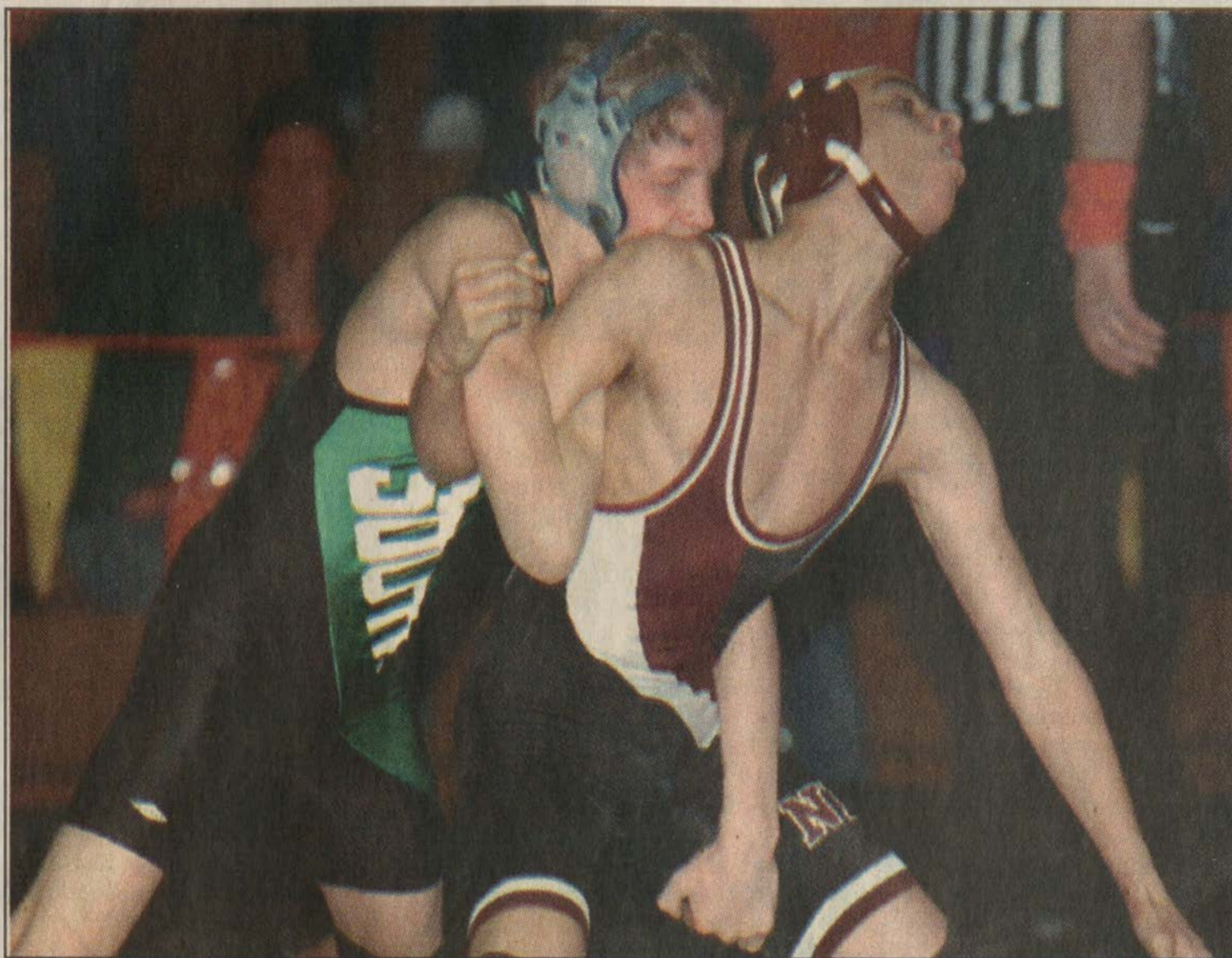
With both claiming third-place medals at the NJSIAA State Wrestling Tournament in Convention Hall Sunday, Zannetti, a junior, turned in his best finish ever for J.P. Stevens High School, while Conroy went further than freshman from South Plainfield had gone.

Piscataway senior Brian Butler, meanwhile, finished in eighth place at heavyweight for the third area performer to gain a top eight finish from among the 10 that began the state tournament last Friday night.

In battling back from losses in the quarter-finals Saturday, Zannetti and Conroy both showed mental toughness by winning four bouts in the wrestlebacks to earn their bronze medals.

Zannetti, who won his opening bout 13-1, bounced back from his only loss of the season, an 8-0 decision to eventual runnerup Bryan Nunziato of Bergen Catholic, to finish 37-1. After a 13-1 major, a 10-8 victory in overtime and a 1-0 verdict to reach the consolation final, Zannetti trimmed David Greenwald of St. Mary's 6-3 for third place.

"It feels pretty good to finish third," Zannetti said. "I was there to win, but after I lost in the quarters I didn't want to lose again. I hate losing, so I took out my frustration in the next couple of matches and used that as



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
Jimmy Conroy of South Plainfield High School works against an opponent during the District 12 Tournament. Conroy placed third in the state tournament last weekend for the best finish ever by a South Plainfield freshman.

motivation the rest of the tournament.

"I thought I wrestled my hardest. I was down 5-0 early against Nunziato and couldn't come back. The kid is tough, but I'll see him again next year probably. I was down by two points in second round of wrestlebacks with 16 seconds left and got a reversal with six seconds left to get it to

overtime. I was real happy after that match.

"I learned I've got to finish my shots quicker and I've got to get off the bottom faster. (Nunziato) was the first guy to put me on my back this year, and it happened again (against Greenwald), but that time those were the only points I gave up (against Greenwald)."

After sustaining just his second loss of the year in the Region 3 final — to the eventual state champion Mike Grey of Delbarton — Conroy began the tournament in the preliminary round.

Conroy posted 4-2 and 8-0 decisions before falling to Bellville's Nick Mattia 4-2 in overtime. Mattia went on to fin-

ish second behind Grey with a 5-1 loss in the final, while Conroy dropped into the wrestlebacks, where he won 7-3, pinned in 7:29 (double overtime) and grabbed a 5-2 decision.

In the match for third place in the state, Conroy faced Darrion Caldwell of Rahway and came away with a 3-1 triumph. It gave him a final mark of 35-3, while the pin in the wrestlebacks was his 23rd for a new school standard.

"Jimmy just had an outstanding tournament," South Plainfield Head Coach Kevin McCann said. "It didn't surprise me because I knew he had the potential to get this far. Each match he just seemed to get better and better."

"Everyone is comparing him to Matt Anderson (one state title and two runnerup titles). Matt also took second in the region as a freshman, but he got beat in the super region that year."

"Jimmy got pinned by Grey in the first period, but he was a little nervous in that one. If they wrestle again I don't think it's as bad. Grey is also a freshman, but he's a big 103-pounder. He was running on the boardwalk to make weight. I don't think Jimmy will have to contend with every year."

After dropping only one bout entering the state tournament, Piscataway's Butler opened with a ride-out victory in the pre-quarters before getting pinned in three of his final four bouts, including one in 2:36 against Ricky Amos of Hammonton in the consolation match for seventh/eighth place. He also posted

a 9-2 decision.

Four area seniors — Piscataway's Kyle Poulsen and Devraun Thompson, Glenn Gross of South Plainfield and Edison's Tyler Solley were eliminated in the second round of wrestlebacks, all on decisions and one round shy of a top eight finish.

Poulsen, sixth at 130 a year ago, started with falls in 3:55 and 1:43 to reach the quarters, but then lost a 2-1 overtime decision to fourth-place finisher Matt Stoppay of Sparta and a 9-3 verdict to fifth-place finisher Bobby Flegal of Absegami.

Thompson reached the quarters as he earned an 8-2 in the prelims and a pin in 3:21 in the pre-quarters, and like Poulsen dropped a hard-fourth 4-3 verdict to fourth-place finisher John Loff of Jackson and then fell 5-3 to eighth-place finisher Bill Biermeister of Boonton.

Gross also advanced to the quarters as he opened with a 6-3 decision and followed with a 5-2 victory, but he ran into eventual champion Vin Salek of Toms River East and was pinned in 4:49 before being eliminated with an 8-7 setback in overtime to Southern's Joe Schmid, who took seventh.

Solley began the tournament by pinning his prelim opponent in 5:21, but then lost a 7-2 overtime verdict to St. Joseph's Rory O'Donnell, who went on to finish fourth. Solley bounced back to earn a 12-2 major, but then got knocked out with a 13-8 loss to Rumson-Fair Haven's s Bryan Heller, who went on to place seventh.

METUCHEN SWIMMING

Bulldogs produce best year

By **DAVE ALLENA**
STAFF WRITER

METUCHEN — Despite the size of their squad, the Bulldogs once again put together an impressive performance this winter.

While it fell short of its goal of qualifying for the state sectional tournament, the Metuchen High swim team accomplished just about everything else it could as the Bulldogs posted a 12-3 record to set a school standard for victories, finished second in the GMC Meet and had some nice performances at the Meet of Champions.

"I was pleased with the season we had," Head Coach Jim Thomas said. "For the size of our school we did pretty well. That's the most wins we've had in the 10 years we've had a team."

"One highlight might be our meet early in the season against North Brunswick. We only lost by 10 points and it was a good gut-check time for us. Coming off the winter break and beating Bishop Ahr was big for us, and finishing second in the GMC meet was good. It was the first time we've beaten Bishop Ahr."

"We didn't make the states and that was a little disappointing. We had more power points that last year, but a couple of teams entered who weren't in it last year. The bad thing was Montgomery got in and we beat Montgomery. They had more depth than us, so they had more power points."

Metuchen turned a strong showing at the Meet of Champions, especially in the 100-yard breaststroke, where sophomore Kelly Morris finished second and junior Catherine Hetzel placed fourth.

Morris received All-American time status with her effort, while Hetzel received considered time for All-American honors, which qualified her for All-American status depending on the number of girls who post better times. Hetzel also took 13th in the 200 individual medley.

"I think we did a good job at the Meet of Champions," Thomas said. "Catherine and Kelly both

(Continued on page C-2)

Hawks deliver banner year

With starting lineup returning next season looks bright

By **DAVE ALLENA**
STAFF WRITER

EDISON — With their starting lineup set to return next year, the only thing standing in the way of an even better performance will probably be the Hawks themselves.

Coming of age just before the midway point of the season, the J.P. Stevens High School girls basketball proved difficult to beat down the stretch as the Hawks won 13 of their final 15 games, including the GMCT championship, en route to a 18-6 campaign.

Considering the Hawks were coming off a 10-12 finish in 2001-02 and they still weren't going to receive a major contribution from a senior, this year's effort was quite impressive for Head Coach Andy Eng's club.

"The season was a success," he said. "The kids reached their goals and then went beyond them. They matured as a team. They realized what they can do and what they need to do to be an even better team next year."

"Looking back at the start of the season maybe we over-achieved, but once they began to learn how to win games they started to develop and learn a lot faster. I did expect us to be very competitive, but I can't say I expected everything we accomplished."

"Honestly, if someone had told me we'd do all this before the season started I would have probably said 'that's nice, but let's be realistic'. But kids can surprise some-

Inconsistent shooting cost Chiefs

By **DAVE ALLENA**
STAFF WRITER

PISCATAWAY — During a season that saw the Chiefs defeat one sectional champion and a runnerup in another section, they certainly flashed some potential at times.

Unfortunately, that promise fluctuated from game to game depending on how the ball dropped for the Piscataway High boys basketball squad this winter, but such is life for teams that rely on a perimeter game for the most part.

With victories over state Group III champion Franklin and Central Jersey Group IV runnerup Old Bridge on its resume this winter, Piscataway showed considerable ability at times, but

J.P. STEVENS GIRLS BASKETBALL

times, and the hard work they put in paid off."

Things might have turned out a bit differently for Stevens this had a game against Perth Amboy — the Hawks' 10th game of the year — turned out differently.

"We were 5-4 when we played Perth Amboy," Eng said. "We had the lead in the fourth quarter when things started to unravel. We called a timeout and calmed down."

"We pulled that game out and came back a couple days later and beat South Brunswick 72-40. After that we beat East Brunswick. (The Perth Amboy) game gave them the confidence that when the roof starts to fall in they can still come together and win. Things started to snowball from there."

From there Stevens got a roll and lost only to Old Bridge by a single point and to Middletown North in the state tournament when it could not overcome a bad start. Along the way the Hawks defeated Old Bridge in the GMCT final and East Brunswick for the second time in three tries.

Unlike a lot of strong teams, JPS relied on its starting five for just about everything. The Hawks' three-guard set of juniors Stephanie Marciano and Ayana Way and sophomore Tania Kennedy did most the scoring, averaging more than 40 points a game.

PISCATAWAY BOYS BASKETBALL

then there were times when an undisciplined approach led to too many long-range shots and not enough looks inside.

What it all added up to this winter for the Chiefs were some big highlight games as well as some lowlight performances in a 12-11 campaign.

"Somebody asked me if I thought our goals were too high, if they were too lofty for our talent, but I'll never not set lofty goals," Head Coach Charles Brown said. "Sometimes when you don't set your goals high enough you under-achieve because you don't expect too much."

Marciano, who earned the MVP award for the GMCT, led the team with 16.7 points a game, while adding five assists and four steals. Kennedy netted 15.8 points to go with four assists and four steals a game. Marciano was named to the All-GMC team, while Marciano and Kennedy were all-Red Division.

Way averaged 10.2 points, while junior Lindsay James topped the team with eight rebounds an outing while scoring 5.7 points a game, and sophomore Amy Bonk averaged 7.4 points and 7.5 boards.

With only Ellena Pol, who saw limited action, set to graduate, the Hawks have their starting lineup set for next year. Eng, however, realizes the Hawks can't be satisfied with where they're at at this point.

"You never know what's going to happen," he said. "There's always the fear of injury, and also the fear of becoming complacent. Part of my job is to see that they don't get a fat cat attitude."

"We're going to be the hunted instead of the hunter next year, so they have to realize they'll have to be ready to play every night. They have to bring their A game because if not, another team will beat us and make their season."

"We have some weaknesses that I have to address. Size is a big problem. Middletown North took advantage of us because of our size. We have some kids coming up from eighth grade that I think can help. I basically played with five kids, so we have to develop some depth."

"Of course I was disappointed with the season we had, but I told them I knew the answer for what happened. I'm not going to say what the answer is, but they can figure it out. Everyone has to get better and it has to happen between now and next season."

Shooting problems were the major problems for the Chiefs in their losses, but even more important factor was their failure to run Brown's offense to completion on a consistent basis.

"The offense is designed to get jump shots, but it's also designed to get even more going to the basket if you want to use it," he said. "Too many times we'd make one pass or two and settle for a jump shot instead of trying to get

(Continued on page C-2)



GEORGE PACCIOLELO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
South Plainfield High's Danielle Arndt played a key role in the Tigers' success this season with her offensive production.

Close late losses left Tigers wanting more

By **DAVE ALLENA**
STAFF WRITER

SO. PLAINFIELD — Other than a mid-season slump, which happened following a key injury, the Tigers put together an impressive performance this season.

After getting off to an 8-2 start, the South Plainfield High girls basketball went into a slide when senior center Kristina Cwiekalo sustained a severe ankle injury, but by the close of the campaign the Tigers were within a basket or two of posting some major victories.

In the end it all added up to a 13-9 season and a share of the GMC-White Division title. While thrilled with the overall finish, Head Coach Bill Schulte can't shake that feeling of have left some things unfinished.

"It was a great season. It was a season with a lot of could-have-beens," he said. "At the end we were playing as well as anyone, I think our kids could have beaten anyone. I'm really satisfied with how we played this year."

"It was extremely disappointing losing to Holmdel (in the Central Jersey Group III Tournament) and seeing them go on to win it all. The most disappointing was the way it ended. It was a carbon copy in the way the

SOUTH PLAINFIELD GIRLS BASKETBALL

East Brunswick (GMCT quarter-final) game ended."

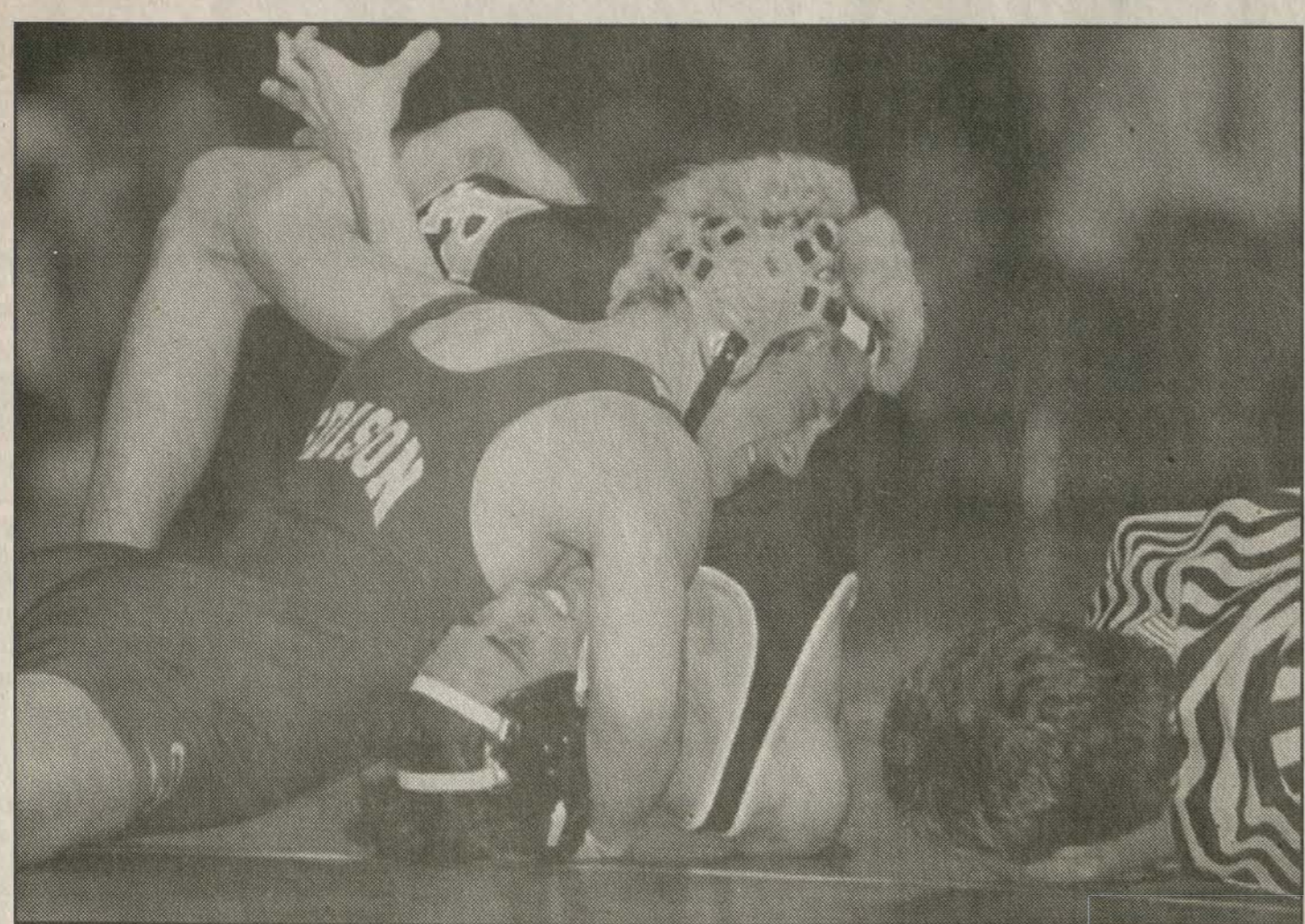
The big factor all season was Cwiekalo, who provided the Tigers with an inside game they didn't have without her. With her in the lineup South Plainfield got off to a 6-0 start in the White Division.

When Cwiekalo went down against Sayreville, the Tigers struggled — and lost — against teams it had defeated earlier. When Cwiekalo returned it took her some time to get back in her best condition, and when she did the Tigers won their final division game to gain a share of the crown, won its first two GMCT games before carrying both East Brunswick and Holmdel to the final buzzer.

"Kristina is just a strong inside player, and you don't know how much you're going to miss someone like that until she's not there," Schulte said. "She was our only inside player, and when she got hurt no one was there to pick up the slack."

"After starting out 6-0 in the division the girls were really upset about having to share the

(Continued on page C-2)



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Finishing up

Edison High's Tyler Solley looks for a fall against a District 19 opponent. Solley reached the second round of the wrestlebacks in the state tournament last weekend before being eliminated as the senior split his four bouts.

Bulldogs

(Continued from page C-1)

had very good meets. I think they were both shocked by what they did in the breaststroke.

"I think they both thought they could get top six, but after the qualifying round when Kelly was second and Catherine was sixth, it was a nice surprise. They weren't really at their best because they weren't tapered. I'm proud of them, and they're proud of what they accomplished."

The only letdown was not having senior Carolyn Gusick available. With big meets coming up for her Scarlet Aquatic Club, Gusick, who was fourth in the

state last year in the 500 freestyle, by-passed the MOC.

"Carolyn wanted to come to states, but her coach at SAC didn't want her to. That's happened to other kids before," Thomas said. "She was disappointed, but we sat down and talked for a while. I didn't want to hurt her for her next meet."

"Carolyn probably would have gotten second or third in the 500, and we would have done a little better in a couple of the relays but I don't think it would have been enough to get us into the top six. It worked out for the best if you look at the whole picture. Katie Templeton got to swim in the medley relay."

Metuchen, which recorded a

pair of top 17 finishes in the relays at the MOC, has only two seniors on the roster — Gusick and Hannah Thomas, who swam legs on two relays at the MOC — so the Bulldogs should be strong once again next season.

Sophomore Meghan Wallace figures to move into the slots vacated by Gusick in the 200 and 500, while Templeton, a freshman, should pick up a lot of the points lost by Thomas in the sprints.

"We have a great nucleus coming back," Thomas said. "Losing Carolyn and Hannah hurt, but we have some girls coming in who should help and with the girls coming back improving we can keep this going."

Inconsistent shooting cost Chiefs

(Continued from page C-1) something going to the basket."

Hopefully, that will change next year but that will depend of how much 6-6 sophomore center Andre Davis continues to develop and mature. Davis really came on late in the season before foul problems in the team's state tournament game against Middletown North led to an off night.

"Andre can be the most dominant big man in the county next year, but it's up to him," Brown said. "If he takes what I've taught and works on those things he can be very good and give us the inside game we need."

Also returning for Piscataway will be junior point guard Manny Perrotte, another player who showed brief flashes of brilliance but who was beset by injuries throughout the season. Classmates Scott Miller and Robert Doyle will also be back after starting this year.

The big concern will be replacing the offense that will be lost by the graduation of Bryan Keller, who averaged better than 20 points a game. Other seniors who will be lost are Eddie Johnson, Brandon Renkart, Donovan Walton and Andre Price.

Brown also expects to get some help from the younger

players as the junior varsity squad went 17-4 and reached the GMC Tournament final, while the freshmen posted a 16-3 mark and claimed the GMCT title.

"I'm proud of what the younger kids accomplished this year, but it's really difficult to say how much of an impact they'll have next year," Brown said. "I don't want to send a false message because they didn't play any varsity this year, and it's a different game than JV or freshmen basketball."

"But next year we've got to get something from the younger kids. Everyone has to get better. We'll play in a couple of leagues and work out during the day."

Tigers left wanting more

(Continued from page C-1) title. Teams got better and we didn't play to our potential. The losing streak also coincided also with Kristina getting hurt. We had no inside force and that made it very difficult.

"Even when she came back it took Kristina a few games to return to full strength. Once she did we started to play very well, and I thought we were playing as well as anyone around at the end."

South Plainfield will lose four players to graduation, including three of the top seven in the rotation, but Cwiekalo was the only one starting at the end. Kelly Eustice, a starter earlier, was the first player off the bench. Melissa Scotto saw a lot of time off the bench, while Judy Ringel also saw action as a reserve.

The Tigers will return its top scorer in sophomore Danielle Arndt along with juniors Johanna Hedler, Jessa Jones and Ngozi Okparaekwe. Schulte will look for junior Eileen Miltarek to take over in the post and sopho-

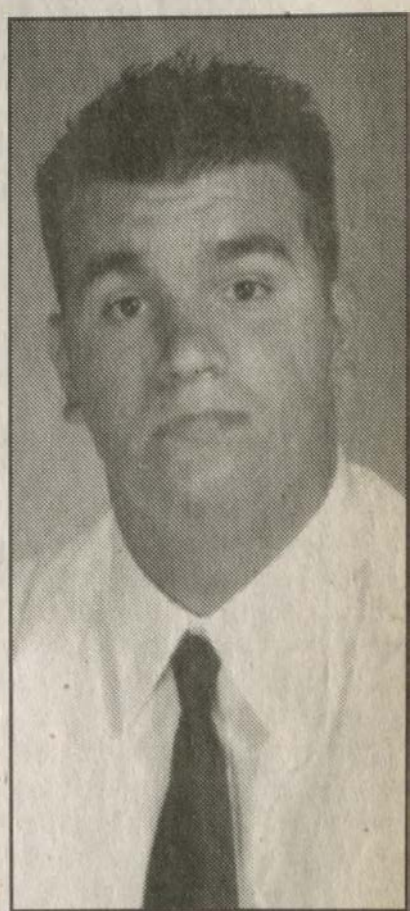
more Erica Blaszkak to move to point guard, freeing Hedler to play forward.

South Plainfield will again compete in the Middlesex County summer league and attend a weekend team camp, possibly at Seton Hall, while Schulte is looking for a sponsor to get into a spring league.

What happens next year might depend on how well the Tigers compensate for the loss of Cwiekalo.

"It's going to be interesting to see what happens," Schulte said. "We're not going to have the inside player to go to, so without that type of post player we're going to have to shoot better from the outside."

"Obviously you expect to have a good year with all these players returning. The girls are anxious to get into the weight room and get stronger. I'm cautiously optimistic. If we're going to play the type of game we have to play (up-tempo) we'll need 9-10 players to do it, and I think we'll have that."



Honored lineman
Anthony Lagrasso of Edison High School was one of the six honorees at the Metuchen Rotary Club's annual Linemen Dinner last night.

YOUTH SPORTS

WRESTLING

PISCATAWAY RECREATION A Team

The A Team put together an 8-2 season while competing in the Red Division of the Mid New Jersey Midget Wrestling League, while the squad finished second at the league's tournament March 2 when Tyler Adams was chosen as the outstanding wrestler.

Adams, Brandon Mora and Wesley Endal all earned championships at the league's tournament, while David Powell and Doug Walton added runner-up finishes. Michael Mora, Matt Horican and David Walton took third places, while Devohn Cook and Kevin Buck were fourth.

B Team

Finishing 7-4 in dual meets in the White Division, the B Team placed third in the division tournament Feb. 23. Trevor Carrion earned the division's award as the top wrestler.

Evan Freeman, Anthony Sokalski and Antoine Beverly claimed gold medals in the tournament, while Tyler Duzick, Ken Blair, Paul Muniz and Zachary Lander finished second. Devon Coates, Mitch Nadalski and Eric Eccles all took thirds.

C Team

After a 7-2 mark in the Blue Division, the C Team placed fourth in the division tournament Feb. 16 as Brandon Stout and Maxwell Taylor captured titles. Ryan Robshaw, Jesse Ziegler and John Carroll came home with seconds, while Tyrrell Judson, Doug Perez and Preston Soobkirsing were third.

Coaching the three teams were Michael Blair, Pat Morgan, Ken Poulsen, Mike VanNess, Dave Powell and Jim Racine.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

METUCHEN YMCA PROGRAMS

The Metuchen YMCA will start a running program for beginners sometime this month. The 10-week programs is coached by veteran runners and coaches. Class size is limited.

A track & field program for children 6-14 years old has started taking registration. Call Skip Fuller at 732-548-2044 for more information.

3-ON-3 TOURNEY

The seventh annual "March Sanity 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament" will be held March 22 at Timothy Christian School in Piscataway. There is no entry fee. There will be three divisions — Junior High (grades 6-8), High School (grades 9-12) and College (freshmen to age 24). For further information call (908) 754-6211 or contact the website at www.calvarynyp.com.

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John P. Stevens names its high-achieving students

EDISON — John P. Stevens High School has issued its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2002-03 school year.

Named to the "All A" honor roll:

Grade 12 — Parul Agarwala, William Antone, Ashley Benham, Rafal Bielecki, Christopher R. Binetti, Allison Chang, Emily Chang, Terence Choy, Secrea M. Cox, Stacey Erskine, Rachna Ganatra, Jenny W. Ji, Anicham Kumarasamy, Jesse Lee, Randy Lo, Nicole Molloy, Parth Patel, Catherine Pontoriero, Michael Prince, Aparna Rao, Nisha Shah, Sapna Shah, Stephen Ting, Charlene Turi, Blase Ur, Edward N. Wei, Marc Wilken, Irene Yang and Srihitha Yerabaka.

Grade 11 — Manish Anandpara, Preethi S. Bapna, Swetha Basani, Arjun Chandrasekaran, Emily Chang, Crystal Chao, Sunil Chatlani, Moulou Chokshi, Stephen E. Curto, Mark C. Ferrari, Adam Finkelstein, Sean Fry, Roman Goldburt, Lauren Hering, Mariya M. Kuznetsova, Larry Liang, Xi A. (Annie) Lu, Roshni Mehta, Benjamin W. Milder, Jason Mintz, Shailesh Mittal, Mary Najem, Jordan Onulak, Praveen Pamidimukkala, Rona Peltzer, Jiten Rana, Shaun Salzberg, Richard Weingarten, Jessica Wolkun, Pin-I K. Wu and Yin Zhou.

Grade 10 — Samantha Alessio, Debra Bodofsky, Priya D. Bolikal, Megan Choy, Kathleen Doherty, Anushree Doshi, Jennifer Huang, Jennifer L. Kaswin, Rikhil Kochhar, Fiona Lee, Michelle J. Lee, Yifan Lee, Jia (Jenny) Liu, Kevin Lu, Neena Makam, Ricky Shah, Vitaliy Shtabnoy, Rutva K. Shukla, Yintao Sun, Raluca Tavaluc, Ruslan Tovbulatov, Marissa Ur, Meredith Wallner, Conan Wang, Xue (Anna) Xie, Du Xu and Benjamin Yospe.

Grade 9 — Manali N. Adani, Ankur Bakshi, Nika Brodsky, Anupam Chakravarty, Jo-Ming Chiang, Elizabeth Chou, Nidhi Desai, Xiao S. Fang, Evan Griffiths, Alexander Halper, Brenda H. Jin, Cheryl E. Kawash, Kimberly S. Kim, Jessie Lo, Julia Lui, Justine Matlosz, Arjun Misra, Andrew Moberly, Michelle Moskal, Ekta Motiani, Michelle Oh, Jennifer Palestine, Meara G. Pamintuan, Yogesh A. Patel, Tahir Raza, Kaitlin Rucinski, John Shjarback, Shari Silver, Aishwarya Sridharan, Peter Sunaryo, Sameer Trivedi, Prakash Venkatraman, Yangfei (Rebecca) Wang, Anran (Annie) Wei, Mun Yee Wong, Scott Yang and Xuhan Zhang.

Named to the "A/B" honor roll:

Grade 12 — Alan Abel, Stephen J. Addeo, Gayathri S. Agaram, Bilal Ahmed, Jessica Alessio, Jasmina Almeda, Jimena Almeida, Heather Alters, Kunal Arya, Gina Asprocolas, Christina A. Athas, Qi-Hong Bao, Robert Bartus, Arvin Batra, Adam Baumgarten, Arthur Biller, Amanda Bisheit, Jami M. Bjornstad, Sapna Bolikal, Kaitlin Bonanni, Joon Young (Edward) Bong, Christina Buonauro, Jessica Cerasani, Nitin Chadda, David Chait, Aditi Chakravarty, Natasha Chander, Danielle Y. Chao, Stephanie Chao, Byron Chen, Chia-Hwei A. Chen, Jane Chen, Katherine Chen, Nina Chen, Ting-Fang (Tina) Chen, Jason Chester, Lillian Cheung, Jennifer Chia, Sheng-Yu J. Chiang, Stacy Cho, Viren Choksi, Jason Cohen, Kristen Colarell, Brian Cordero, Thomas Cordero, Matthew Creange, David Cruz, Melanie Cuffe, Hali Cuttler, Thomas Deamus, Avani Desai, Pooja Dharina, Minal Dhebaria, Amanda M. Diamond, Rikin Diwan, Alexander Dorin, Jake Douglas, Danielle Duggan, Eden Esters, Claudine A. Fanous, Keith Fox, Gursimran Gandhi, Jennifer Garsh, Piotr M. Gawronski, Rakiat T. Gbadamosi, Rachel Gelfand, Jaime Geller, Scott Goldsten, Jennifer Z. Gong, Angela Gorczyca, Rachel Griffiths, Anuj Gupta, Deepika Gupta, Hansika Hegde, Shelly E. Helfgott, Shveta Holani, Willie Huang, Kareem Ibrahim, Shubha Jaishankar, Ortal Joseph, Payal Joshi, Ronak Kachhy, Kapil V. Kale, Jared Kalmanson, Vishnu R. Kamath, Jeremy Kanar, Timothy Karmazsin, Gye Hyun (Elaina) Kim, David Kitchell, Dhara Kothari, Nirosha Kottahachchi, Joseph Kuram, Di Lai, Rinku Lakhani, Catherine Landicho, Christina Le, James Lee, Michael D. Lee, Susan Lee, Won S. Lee, Seth M. Lemerman, Rebecca Levine, Jamie Lewis, Bo Li, David Lin, Angela Linn, Alan Liu, Edward Liu, Jun Liu, Liu (Susan) Liu, Wilson Liu, Scott Lobell, Barbara Loblance, Wayne Loux, Ravi Makhija, Harleen K. Manko, Christine Manuel, Radhika Marya, Franco J. Mastrapasqua, Carolyn Mattus, Eric McCormick, Melissa McGuigan, Jeanette Montrey, Kristin Moskal, Tenzin Negi, Daniel Ng, Cynthia Ni, Xing Nie, Laura J. Novello, Melanie Nunziata, Steven J. Ondishin, Erin Ortner, Sae Paliwal, Harshil S. Parikh, Hyun Y. Park, Abhishek Patel, Aditi Patel, Ami Patel, Amit Patel, Ankit D. Patel, Bhervi Patel, Binal Patel, Binal A. Patel, Chhayal Patel, Chitali Patel, Dharati S. Patel, Ekta Patel, Jay P. Patel, Jigin P. Patel, Mita Patel, Natasha Patel, Reshma K. Patel, Saurabh Patel, Vrunda Patel, Nicole Perez, Dinh Pham, Monica J. Podgurski, Christina Quan, Kathy Ramirez, Christopher Ridpath, Patrick Riolo, Sara M. Rosta, Shumona Roy, Jana Ryan, Joseph Sabbia, Zohaib Saeed, Melissa Sandler, Erica Santiago, Eric Seidman, Khushboo U. Shah, Kunal M. Shah, Rupali Sharma, Kush Sheth, William Shipley, Jennifer Simbol, Chi-Hua (Reggie) Soang, Simon M. Sominsky, Prasanna Sridharan, Rashmi Srinivas, Edwin Stabert, Christopher Stalowski, Peter Stivers,

Laura C. Sullivan, Aravind Talasila, Jennifer Thompson, Linsey Tilbor, Christine L. Todd, Stephanie Tsao, John Tso, Dipti Vaid, Ariel Viray, Ryan Walsh, Jessica Wang, Aviva Westheim, Danielle White, Joshua Wolberg, David Wu, Cindy Yang, Jyotsna Yedem, Sam Yospe, Maksim Yuster, Tony C. Zhang, Yi Zhang and Benjamin Zisman.

Grade 11 — Prem P. Abichandani, Keith Ahn, A. Akinola, Benazir Ali, Christina L. Alvarez, Payal J. Amin, Katie Atmatzidis, Sneha Babu, Nisha Baliga, Maria J. Barcelona, Jennifer L. Baum, Aman Bhatia, Brandon Blank, Jeremy Blumstein, Lauren Book, James Brady III, Justin Braverman, Jeffrey Brazier, Christopher Bressaw, Nicole Brotspies, Wen Cai, Jennifer L. Camp, Christopher Campisi, Brett Canaval, Christopher Castellano, Virgil Chan, William D. Chang, Grace Chen, Edward R. Cho, Adam Cholminsky, Wai-Yan (Janice) Chua, Devon E. Clarke, Joseph Concodora, April N. Cooke, Michael Curtin, Scott Curtis, Kefei Dai, Kevin D'Arco, Maria B. Del Rosario, Kajal Dhebaria, Wendy Dong, Mary G. Elfante, Fan Fan, Jennifer Ferreira, Ronald Fialk, Vanessa Figueiredo, Lisa Frey, Amanda Friedman, Andrew Fruhschien, Wayne Fu, Alexander Gartenfeld, Philip Ginzburg, Marissa Girawong, Michael Goldberg, Saeed Golpoor, Brandon Gulya, Melissa Hayes, Eileen Healey, Katherine Heisler, Cristina M. Hernandez, Dori J. Herskovitz, Richard L. Hong, Joyce Huang, Abbas Husain, Kristen Inaugurato, Mollie A. Innocent, Ajit Jairaj, Lindsay James, Alekh Jha, Kirti Joseph, Raghavendra Kandala, Dawn D. Kang, Hie Won Kang, Ruihan Kang, Viktoriya Karshenboym, Joseph K. Kawash, Ameer Khamar, Andrew Kim, Daniel Kim, James Kim, Yeji Kim, Umesh Kishnani, Jeffrey Kornberg, Devin A. Kothari, Stephanie Krug, Kimberly Kung, Karen Kuo, Nancy Kuo, Ashley Kurien, Vincent Lai, Robert Landicho, Christine Lane, Oleg (Alex) Lavrynenko, King Law, Ann H. Le, Jae Lee, Joon-Woo Lee, Priscilla Lee, Jason Lei, Greg Lewis, Dan Liang, Brian Lin, Christina Ling, Yuzhu (Daniel) Liu, Ajay Madduri, Vanessa Madlangbayan, Nimrah Malik, Stephanie Marciano, Lester M. Martin, Steven Martini, Jasmin Matos, Erika Maurice, Shanelle Q. Meade, Christopher Medvecky, Johanna L. Miede, Lauren Mordecai, Thomas Mulligan, Zolile Muwalo, Ommead Nejad, Elena Nerobeeva, Ngoc B. Nguyen, Thomas J. Nunziata, Adedayo Y. Ogunfowora, Sudeep Pal, Brian Park, Hyon (Christina) Park, Ambrish A. Patel, Amitkumar K. Patel, Anisha D. Patel, Ankit P. Patel, Ankit K. Patel, Arpita K. Patel, Bhakti Patel, Dharmesh G. Patel, Hiral M. Patel, Jalpaben Patel, Pinal Patel, Prina Patel, Purvi Patel, Ronak H. Patel, Sapan R. Patel, Sima Patel, Truptesh Patel, Tanya T. Patwa, Patrick David Poblete, Neel Popat, Tara Post, Vinay Prasannakumar, Ashley Rake, Keith A. Redler, Gabriel D. Rocha, Yuri M. Roh, Kimberly Rokosz, Michael Ruhno, Courtney Ryan, Priya Sachdeva, Daniel Sagalovich, Anand Sainathan, Saurin Sanghvi, Esha Sathiyamoorthy, Jared Schaber, Rachel A. Seaton, Michael A. Segala, Asha Shah, Gunjan Shah, Kunal N. Shah, Shalin Shah, Amy Shatten, Karen Shaughnessy, Vivian Shen, Bijal S. Sheth, Ilya Sobol, Qian Q. Song, Tavi D. Sookhoo, Jeremy Sperling, Dawn Styner, Elizabeth D. Sukovich, Aimee Sunaryo, Vikas Sundrani, Amala Talasila, Neel Tevar, Sakshi Tewary, Joshua Treppel, Tejas Trivedi, Mariya Tsekalo, Krishna G. Vanam, Srushti Vanjari, Nicole Vita, David Wang, I-Ching (Jesse) Wang, Shi Wang, Yue J. Wang, Samuel Wilken, Beth Wislinski, Danielle K. Wong, Xiao-Lan Wong, Katie Yau, Eric Yeh, Jeffrey Zannetti and Grayson Zhang.

Grade 10 — Natalie A. Adler, Palak Amin, Brittany Baier, Samantha Baime, Udit Banerjee, Alicia M. Basilici, Yelena Berger, Jason Bonnel, Susan Boychick, Emily Brennan, Michael R. Brislin, Allyson B. Bunin, Steven Burg, Melissa C. Burro, Jason Callender, Jennifer Chang, Annie Cheng, Lauren Chiarulli, Ginger Chien, Monica Chugh, Ana Cordeiro, Daniel Cordero, Collin Creange, Salaam S. Davis, Iris Delgado, Ekta S. Desai, Nicky R. Dharina, Eleanor Doong, Paul D'Orio, Lauren Dragona, Richard Dziomba, Denise Echevarria, Andrew P. Ehrenfeld, Jeremy Engel, Tse-En S. Fan, Kristina Feltz, Raquel M. Freitas, Naveen Gavini, Szymon Gawronski, Franklin Geeng, Allison Giardina, Emily Gietter, Shelley L. Gipson, Arielle Goldstein, Jamie Lee Gonzales, Anuja Gopalan, Nitin Goyal, Jennifer M. Grabler, Anna Grishkevich, Ryung Ha, Colleen Hammer, Jessica L. Hardie, Nazneen A. Himani, Sean P. Hladky, John N. Hobaika, Michael E. Hook, Chih-Yi (Joye) Hou, Robert Hsu, Arif Huda, Cynthia Hung, Rami Ibrahim, Salima Jiawani, Stefanie Kamin, Hie Min Kang, Ramya S. Kanukollu, Anugna Kasireddy, Tania Kennedy, Nicole S. Kesselman, Fatima L. Khalid, Badaro P. (Peter) Kim, Robin Kim, Tricia P. Kim, Stephanie Kitchell, Stephen Kung, Katherine Lafata, Katie Lane, Connie Lau, Kaitlyn Lavin, Crystal S. Law, Joo Won (Jeff) Lee, Kenneth Lee, Andrea Liem, Christian Liguori, Kweyo Liou, Matthew L. Listo, Saffiyah Madraswala, Karan A. Malhotra, Jason Marcou, Michelle Miedowicz, Yekaterina K. Mikheeva, Lauren N. Miller, Alok Mody, Pooja Mody, Allie Muhlgeier, Dhinna

Munshi, Neil Nadkarni, Swathi Narahari, Swetha Narahari, Rohit Narasimhan, Sobia Naveed, Samin F. Nawaz, Lan T. (Tanya) Nguyen, Xianxi Ning, Melissa H. Novello, Michael Offin, Amar Parikh, Vishal P. Parikh, Daniel J. Park, Ji Hyun (Anna) Park, Joon Ho Park, Yeeun Park, Amit M. Patel, Ankit P. Patel, Dipa Patel, Nandita Patel, Nehal Patel, Nimisha A. Patel, Nisha S. Patel, Priya P. Patel, Rahool Patel, Reshma Patel, Satvik Patel, Sharon P. Patel, Karishma T. Patwa, Toni A. Perez, Bartholomew Piegdon, Deborah Plesnarski, Sara Portnoy, Raghuram Posham, Katarzyna Pucilowska, Natasha Punwani, Cheryl Quan, Adam Radwan, Ritesh Ramchandani, Sophia Ranade, Marissa Rann, Rounak B. Rawal, Michelle L. Romano, Alexandra J. Rondon, Shawn Rubin, Carly Rubino, Nicole M. Ryan, Imran Saeed, Krishna Sangani, Eric Sarafconn, Sindhura Sarikonda, Kristine L. Scotto, Christine M. Sendelsky, Ami Shah, Arjun Shah, Ishita Shah, Krina Shah, Mihir P. Shah, Carolyn Shea, Kathleen Sheehan, Prapti Shingala, Olga Shor, Aaron Silbert, Jessica Singh, Jennifer N. Smith, Monica Sood, Alessandra Soracchi, Katherine Spadoro, Sara Stalowski, Grace Subervi-Reyes, Jeffrey T. Sze, Jasmine Tam, Moses Tam, Meng-Yin (Wendy) Tang, Erin Tinkel, Shilpi Tiwari, Alyssa Tornberg, Peter Traisak, Kin Keung Tsang, Jamie Urbanowicz, Vanessa Vieira, Meera Vijayendrarao, Michael Wang, Wesley Wang, Scott Weinberg, Rachel Winograd, Joseph Wirkowski, Chi (Laura) Wong, Jui Ling Wu, Yuelan (Laura) Wu, Xixi Yang, Ying-He (Allison) Yang, Adam Young, Sarah E. Yurch, Andrew Zakim and Douglas Zemeckis.

Grade 9 — Sumeet P. Abichandani, Rudolph J. Adametz, Swati Agarwal, Jasmine Ahmed, Amanda Amanullah, Harinath Amarnath, Ratna Amin, Kathleen E. Anderson, Zahra Aslam, Yuriy A. Babayants, Meixuan M. Bai, Kayshuv Bangalore, Jeremy Baumgarten, Ashley Beller, Anthony Bencivenga, Deepthi Borugadda, Alison Bressaw, Jason Cantor, Vasudha Celly, Elizabeth Chambers, Melissa Chan, Jennifer Chang, Jennifer Chang, Amit Chaudhari, Jasmeet S. Chawla, Chen J. Chen, Daniel Chen, Elizabeth Chen, Lawrence Chen, Michael Cho, Robert H. Cho, Michael Chupka, Lisa Conversano, Marie Conway, Natasha Cuiuffo, Alyssa Cuttler, Kate Dempsey,

Melissa N. Devera, Tina Dhebaria, Garrett DiMarco, Kevin Dong, Kaitlin Drew, Alison Eichert, Jenna Fialk, Eric Finkelstein, Niki Gaglani, Youran Gao, Amena Gardner, Sergey Gekker, Blair Gerold, Yeveniy Glukhovskiy, Stuart Grady, Deborah R. Grossman, Kyle M. Gunsser, Heran Haile, Saeed Halim, Sana Hashim, Alicia Hebert, Kartheek Hegde, Jessica Hoffman, Megha Holani, You Lee Hong, Marla Horenbein, Rachel Horwitz, Andrew (Xiao D.) Huang, Eunice Hung, Sumra Husain, Yang Jiang, Theresa Juliano, Aparna Kachalia, Trishla R. Kanthala, Vivek V. Kanumuri, Yasmin Kassam, Manveen Kaur, Mansoor Khan, Sayuri Khandavilli, Andrew Kim, Dongha (Brian) Kim, Samuel Kim, Adam Kramen, Michael Kula, Diane Kulbida, Shray Kumar, Akil Kumarasamy, Mallory Kwitter, Jun Soo Kwon, Namrata D. Lakhani, Alexander Lang, Albert Lee, Donghyun Lee, Namee Lee, Sharon Lee, Susan Lei, Milton Leibowitz, Valerie Levin, Jonathan Li, Mengyun

Li, Yi L. (Steven) Li, Christine Liang, Patrick Liang, Eric Lieu, Jacquelyn Lithgow, Kevin Little, Kevin Liu, Yen-Hui (Sophia) Liu, Kristin Loux, Geetha Makam, Mary McGuire, Faris Meer, Neil Mehta, Jeremy Meisinger, Rosanna Melgar, Rosella Melgar, Jaclyn Might, Tristan Milder, Esther Min, Jeremy Missuk, Insiyah Mithani, Neelesh Mittal, Stephanie Ng, Phi-Khanh Nguyen, Caitlin Nichols, Joshua Offsie, Brittany Orlando, Mamta Parikh, Sharon Park, Yejoon Park, Joann Parrone, Ankit D. Patel, Anup Patel, Dipa Patel, Harsh A. Patel, Hetal N. Patel, Khusbu P. Patel, Kirtan Patel, Kunti Patel, Kush A. Patel, Meha P. Patel, Prashant Patel, Prashant D. Patel, Purvi Patel, Risita S. Patel, Shweta K. Patel, Brijvihari Pathak, Laura Perillo, William Plastine, Christopher P. Poon, Brian Pozas, Laith Qumei, Semia Radwan, Mark A. Ramdular, Anagha Ramekar, Achhana C. Ranasinghe, Sai Rapole, Ridhima S. Reddy, Christa Ruggiero, Hira

Sabui, Joshua Safran, Carlo Salvarani, Aameya Sambari, James Sant'Angelo, Anurag Saraf, Christian Scarlett, Nico Scerbo, Ritika A. Seal, Lauren Seidman, Amit Shah, Mansi Shah, Neel P. Shah, Samar Shah, Whitney Sharp, Gail Shaughnessy, Brian J. Shea, Neha A. Shende, Andy Sheu, Jasdeep Singh, Barbara Skurzynski, Adonis N. Smith, Bethany Spiegel, Christopher Stanislawczyk, Rachel Steigerwald, Lauren Such, Christine Sun, Janet Y. Sze, Frederick Tobin, Nicholas Triano, Tulsi D. Tripathi, Marina Tsipenyuk, Andrew Tuchfeld, Young-John Tung, Ankita S. Udwadia, Aditya Upadahaulya, Alekhya Uppala, Diana Vargas, Anzy Varghese, Avneesh Vig, Ashish R. Vora, Chun-Ying Wang, Sherry Wang, Stephanie Wang, Kristen White, Lindsay Williams, Tara S. Williams, Alana Wolberg, Irene Wu, Wilson Yen, Jason Yu, Sarah Yuro, Seif Yusuf, Stephanie Zelonis, Andrew Zhang, Luxi Zhang and Hanshuo (Olivia) Zhao.




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MEMBER FDIC

South Plainfield High names its honor students

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — South Plainfield High School has issued its honor roll for the second marking period of the 2002-03 school year:

Grade 12 — Christopher M. Addvensky, Joseph Adorna, Alain Amazan, Christopher J. Basile, Heather A. Barrett, Jason A. Basile, Quien T. Bove, Eric S. Brandes, Milton Bravo, Michael J. Butrico, Jenny Y. Cai, Jody L. Chepuris, Michael Chrysanthopoulos, Meredith R. Cooper, Gary C. Curcio, James V. Curcio, Ariel C. Curtis, Kristina M. Cwiekalo, Nadia Deba, Kristina M. DeLillo, Christina Dematos, Jenna M. DeSimone, Brian E. DeStefano, Martin J. Diamant, Denise M. DiMeglio, Andrea R. Doell, Shante R. Edelen, Abbalonia A. Falato, Cathleen A. Fodor, Kristen R. Fredericks, Christina L. Frick, Christina L. Furka, Jennifer L. GaNun, Janara Krista A. Garcia, Hollie E. Gaster, Amanda L. George, Jamie Glowacki, Dale Goberdham, Steven Gopal, Shelly Graziano, Nicholas F. Green, Francisco J. Guevara, Kelly M. Harty, Thomas C. Haus, James A. Hearne, Amanda K. Hermann, Nadisha Hosein, Alexander Huynh, Kim Huong Huynh, David W. Jacobs, Tiffany K. Johnson, Lauren C. Kaczka, Meredith R. Kalman, Michael J. Kasmer, Michelle L. Kravetsky, Keli-Andrea Lee, Nicole D. Little, Nathalie Londono, Ashley T. Madalone, Sejal D. Mehta, Daniel J. Melick, Meghan K. Mercurio, David Micabalo, Alexis N. Montanaro, Jamie E. Morris, Harry J. Mowrey, Richard M. Muglia, Sherin Navasca, Kristin Neltzer, Daniel M. Occhipinti, Elyer N. Pagala, Terry L.

Paschal, Chirag B. Patel, Dipika Patel, Herry H. Patel, Kamlesh D. Patel, Rujel C. Patel, Jonathan Pereira, Jennifer Perez, Gabriela N. Pineda, Jennifer A. Piwowar, Kristin L. Pozarycki, Cynthia A. Prybella, Megan A. Pulomena, Priscilla A. Quevedo, John M. Rayho, Eva L. Rodriguez, Cynthia Ross, Elayne M. Russell, Rachel A. Shah, Wei Lin Shang, Jennifer L. Silhanek, Danielle M. Skoba, Lance T. Smith, Frank Stahlin, Allison L. Stoloff, Stephanie L. Swierc, Justin Toth, Janine M. Turrise, Ryan A. Vroom, Craig W. Warren, Matthew R. Wells, Michael P. Wieczorek, Jeffrey A. Williams, Nicole A. Woo and Victoria Zappi.

Grade 11 — Elaine N. Alexander, David J. Allars, Jamaal E. Allen, Arti J. Amin, Almasa Amini, David P. Amini, Jacqueline Arango, Danielle S. Aronowitz, Robert J. Barone, Karolina E. Blazejowski, Victoria L. Boley, Shannon M. Boyles, Jonathan M. Buggey, Kaitlin K. Bundy, Kristie A. Butrico, Tarryn L. Carlton, Michael A. Carmon, Jeanine M. Christopher, Jason M. Cosma, Christopher Czaplinski, Ryan M. Decker, Siobhan M. Delaney, Kevin F. Demarest, Brittany L. DeNitizio, Jason DeSantis, Elvis J. Diaz, Christopher T. Dickerson, Frank E. Dietzold, Shannon L. Dillon, Brian R. Edwards, Chelsea D. Falato, Nicholas W. Figler, Catherine E. Flannery, Martina Ganiaris, Gregory R. Garbowski, Miguel A. Garcia, Sarah B. Green, Robert J. Hoffman, Christopher E. Horn, Tara R. Israel, Katherine L. Kaczka, Wajdi W. Kanj, Kyle D. Kazimir, Wendy M. Kollarik, Daniel J. Lammi, Kristina J. Latonio,

Daniel R. Laverne, Brittany E. Lee, Pauline M. Lee, Heather N. Loenser, Jordan R. Lynch, Charlyn Magat, Amy L. Magner, Michael R. Maher, Darleen Marin, Jennifer E. Martinez, Ashley A. Mazellan, David T. Muzlis, Danielle A. Nobile, John R. Okuski, Ankit P. Patel, Anuj N. Patel, Julie R. Patel, Ravi A. Patel, Natalie A. Picciottoli, Gregory L. Publik, Yorka A. Ralwini, Amanda L. Rastelli, Ashley K. Ritchey, Jessica L. Rodger, Josef R. Rodriguez, Michael J. Salerno, Shari-Liane Sangster, Matthew C. Santone, Andre D. Scott, Daniel W. Szerzga, Susan E. Smela, Lauren M. Smithline, Carly E. Stoekel, Rachel M. Tambone, Adam T. Tamzoke, Alexander T. Tierney, Charles A. Tinana, Chiara R. Tomei, Adam R. Toth, Stephen Turrise, Gerber R. Vasquez, Jeremy D. Vesper, Meagan L. Wilson, Mina S. Youssef, Chrisann J. Zushma and Robin L. Zushma.

Grade 10 — Shakellah Amini, Peter J. Aquino, Felicia Bacchus, Christopher A. Bakazan, Michael D. Benak, Dawn N. Besser, Shakeria Beverley, Christopher A. Bojarski, Matthew D. Boley, Jennifer L. Braco, Justin R. Buendia, Gerry W. Butrico, Nina E. Byard, Pasquale A. Cantarella, Trisha M. Capparelli, Candiana D. Carigma, Fabian F. Castebalanco, Timothy Cheng, Mallory L. Christ, Lauren M. Ciandella, Janine N. Clemente, Kristin A. Coffey, Paul C. Corrado, Rachel A. Cupido, Nicholas J. Curcio, Louana De Los Santos, Peter J. DeAndrea, Aimee T. Demegillo, John Louine B. Demegillo, Stacey M. Diana, Christina DiFinnaco, Allison C. DiMeglio, Kaitlynn A.

Disch, Jonathan B. Donahue, Michael S. Downes, Michael D. Duquette, Jeffrey A. Eng, Caitlin R. English, Karen V. Estonactoc, Shawn P. Ferguson, Melanie B. Foscolo, Kimberly A. Gaub, Allia J. Ghanim, Carolina D. Gomez, Kendall N. Green, Sara A. Grillo, Jeffrey S. Grubesch, Emily S. Harkins, Lauren M. Haus, Joseph J. Helgesen, Phu D. Huynh, Jamie L. Jakubik, Latoya D. Johnson, Colleen L. Kamen, Peter M. Kelly, Craig A. Kulick, Kevin C. Lahey, Linda M. Lee, Johnathan Lopez, Kurtis C. Maglaque, Aimee J. Maiorino, Alyssa Maiorino, Krista Malecki, Jessica H. Manning, Christina A. Martin, Allan P. Mazurak, Kayleigh E. McGovern, Christopher R. McKnight, William J. Merkler, Jayne H. Merlo, Stefanie M. Miller, James A. Milliron, William J. Moates, Rosanna G. Mootoo, Kathleen Morgan, Katie Mott, Brian J. Murtagh, Huan K. Nguyen, Jesse R. Nietzer, William J. Padula, Valerie J. Pasquarella, Deep B. Patel, Dhruvi S. Patel, Krutarth N. Pathak, Daniel T. Piwowar, Lisa M. Primavera, Amanda J. Prybella, Patrick M. Pryor, Dwight V. Quichua, Justin S. Reid, Eric M. Rhode, Astin C. Santiago, Jessica L. Senz, Jaret Shelton, Justin Shelton, Erin R. Sikanowicz, Trevor A. Smith, Melissa A. Sticco, Sara G. Sukenik, Darshan M. Suthar, Joseph A. Teller, Kelly M. Thomas, Melissa A. Tinana, Kari J. Trembley, Jennifer M. Vasquez, Coral L. Willis, Philip M. Zazzara and Brian P. Zielinski.

Grade 9 — Hamed Ahmed, Nicole M. Aiello, Brandon Alpert, Gaelle Amazar, Alyssa M. Babinetz, Jamar T. Beverly, Ashley E. Bodner,

Ashley N. Britton, Andrew R. Brown, Terrence J. Brown, Eileen M. Cameron, Jenny Cheng, Dana M. Chemulis, Shaunique V. Cisson, James W. Conroy, Jeffrey R. Cupo, Kristen N. Dabrio, Kazuki R. Daimo, William M. Daly, Cesar A. De La Rosa, Amanda Deba, Samantha A. Deffler, Keith R. Dezmin, Patrick R. Driscoll, Sandia Dundo, Breanne Fore, Gabrielle D. Franco, Brittany Gray, Dunia A. Galarza, Zachary E. Frazer, Kristen M. Gualano, David T. Hackett, Julianne Hudak, Padminie (Amanda) Jaikaran, Beverly Jamieson, Ramit K. Kalia, Guiliana M. Kay, Kaitlyn A. Koury, Cassandra A. Krajcik, Nikit Kumar, Binh T. Lam, Jonathon J. Lazar, Kristi L. Lombardi, Bryan D. Milicia, Samuel J. Mootoo, Alexander F. Nau, Tony Nguyen, Joshua D. O'Neal, Kelly M. Orlandino, Heather Palitto, Bhavesh J. Patel, Dipal G. Patel, Harshel Patel, Satyam S. Patel, Kaitlyn Pollock, Alishah A. Rahemtulla, Eric W. Reiner, Andrew J. Roibal, Anthony J. Romano, Diane L. Romano, Angelique J. Rualo, Nicole M. Sacci, Courtney M. Sacco, Lauren E. Santillo, Denise Scavone, Michael C. Schuetz, Brian R. Schulte, Jessica C. Schwartz, Gina M. Severini, Kevin R. Siedenburg, Ryan M. Smith, Laurie S. Sobel, Melissa A. Szeliga, Allante S. Talbert, Natalia T. Tamzoke, Lee R. Treault, Heather M. Thompson, Huong K. Tran, Stephanie M. Troia, Amanda L. Veinott, Jesse Ventura, Rebecca A. Watts, Christopher R. Weakley, Krystal Williams, Megan J. Wilson, Keith W. Winsmann, Nadine E. Yon, Carla Zappi and Matthew T. Zebrowski.

Legal Notices

SCHOOL DISTRICT BUDGET STATEMENT FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 2003-2004

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters of the school district of South Plainfield, County of Middlesex, State of New Jersey, of a special meeting to be held in the Grant School Gymnasium, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, New Jersey at 7:00 P.M. on Tuesday, March 25, 2003. The Board will hold a public hearing on the following proposed budget for the 2003-2004 school year:

Noticia de Reunion para Presentar el Presupuesto Escolar 2003-2004 Tenemos una reunion especial para los votantes legales de South Plainfield, Middlesex County, New Jersey, en la gymnasium de Grant School, 305 Cromwell Place, South Plainfield, New Jersey, el 25 de marzo 2003 a las 7:00 de la noche. La reunion publico es para presentar el presupuesto escolar para 2003-2004.

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO Advised Enrollments

ENROLLMENT CATEGORY	October 15, 2001 Actual	October 15, 2002 Actual	October 15, 2003 Estimated
Pupils on Roll Regular Full-Time	3358	3379	3401
Pupils on Roll Regular Shared-Time	7	7	10
Pupils on Roll Reg Accr. Adult High Sch	72	85	87
Pupils on Roll - Special Full-Time	413	432	432
Pupils on Roll - Special Shared-Time	7	3	3
Private School Placements	23	35	35
Pupils Sent to Other Districts-Reg Prog	2	2	2
Pupils Sent to Other Dist-Spec Ed Prog	16	13	13
Pupils Received	7	6	6
Pupils in State Facilities	2	2	2
Resident Enroll. Per State Aid Calc.-Infor. Only		3808	3944

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO Advised Revenues

Budget Category	Account	2001-02 Actual	2002-03 Revised	2003-04 Anticipated
GENERAL FUND			2,618,804	1,311,680
Budgeted Fund Balance - General Fund	10-300			504,873
Transfers from Other Funds	10-320			
Revenues from Local Sources:				
Local Tax Levy	10-1210	27,866,871	28,810,587	30,802,735
Tuition	10-1300	71,077	25,000	50,000
Unrestricted Miscellaneous Revenues	10-1XXX	403,343	586,797	300,000
SUBTOTAL		28,341,091	29,222,384	31,152,735
Revenues from State Sources:				
Core Curriculum Standards Aid	10-3111	4,585,704	4,585,704	4,585,704
Transportation Aid	10-3120	584,735	584,735	584,735
Special Education Aid	10-3130	1,919,045	1,961,944	1,961,944
Bilingual Education	10-3140	79,424	79,424	90,924
Aid for Adult and Post-Graduate Programs	10-3150	163,058	163,058	179,389
Other State Aids	10-3XXX	83,304	83,304	
SUBTOTAL		7,415,271	7,402,696	7,656,043
Adjustment for Prior Year Encumbrances			809	
Act (Excess) Deficiency of Rev (Over)/Under Expend		-203,059		
TOTAL GENERAL FUND		35,586,538	39,244,693	40,625,331
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS				
Revenues from Local Sources	20-1XXX	3,192		
Revenues from State Sources:				
Demonstrably Effective Program Aid	20-3212	45,891	154,389	154,389
Distance Learning Network Aid	20-3213	145,906	167,294	167,294
Instructional Supplement Aid	20-3214	97,863	97,863	97,863
Other Restricted Entitlements	20-32XX	282,425	182,879	182,879
TOTAL REVENUES FROM STATE SOURCES		542,066	602,425	435,131
Revenues from Federal Sources:				
P.L. 107-110 Title I	20-4411-4418	125,934	121,724	121,724
P.L. 107-110 Title VI	20-4417-4418	54,795	54,795	54,795
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-4420	407,677	413,795	413,795
P.L. 91-230 (Adult Basic Education)	20-4440	6,000	48,779	48,779
Other	20-4XXX	58,392		
TOTAL REVENUES FROM FEDERAL SOURCES		680,133	639,093	639,093
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		1,205,861	1,241,518	1,074,224
DEBT SERVICE				
Revenues from Local Sources:				
Local Tax Levy	40-1210	503,896	1,431,963	1,037,237
Miscellaneous	40-1XXX	274,344		
TOTAL REVENUES FROM LOCAL SOURCES		778,240	1,431,963	1,037,237
Revenues from State Sources:				
Debt Service Aid Type II	40-3160	118,593	113,247	35,005
TOTAL LOCAL DEBT SERVICE		896,833	1,545,210	1,072,242
Act (Excess) Deficiency of Rev (Over)/Under Expend		-230,384		
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUND		666,469	1,545,210	1,072,242
TOTAL REVENUES/SOURCES		37,458,868	42,031,421	42,771,797

MIDDLESEX - SOUTH PLAINFIELD BORO Advised Appropriations

Budget Category	Account	2001-02 Expenditures	2002-03 Rev. Approp.	2003-04 Appropriations
GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE			14,892,143	14,794,703
Regular Programs - Instruction	11-1XX-100-XXX	14,569,756	14,892,143	14,794,703
Special Education - Instruction	11-2XX-100-XXX	2,413,056	2,621,335	2,422,649
Basic Skills/Remedial - Instruction	11-230-100-XXX	247,232	197,029	282,619
Bilingual Education - Instruction	11-240-100-XXX	189,246	225,095	243,128
School Spon. Co-curricular Activities-Instruction	11-401-100-XXX	73,056	119,179	139,050
School Spon. Athletics - Instruction	11-402-100-XXX	473,071	385,507	543,654
Other Instructional Programs - Instruction	11-4XX-100-XXX		1,000	
Undistributed Expenditures:				
Instruction	11-000-100-XXX	1,225,241	1,635,592	2,077,736
Attendance and Social Work Services	11-000-211-XXX	100,138	120,210	105,875
Health Services	11-000-213-XXX	490,086	455,804	483,957
Other Supp Serv - Related & Extraordinary	11-000-216-217	600,484	595,220	557,078
Other Support Services - Students - Regular	11-000-218-XXX	1,012,029	1,068,969	1,098,614
Other Support Services - Students - Special	11-000-219-XXX	514,451	469,419	612,267
Improvement of Instructional Services	11-000-221-XXX	381,869	223,059	305,372
Educational Media Services - School Library	11-000-222-XXX	493,734	607,592	544,304
Instructional Staff Training Services	11-000-223-XXX	95,534	88,730	95,620
Support Services - General Administration	11-000-230-XXX	695,320	790,821	1,108,590
Support Services - School Administration	11-000-240-XXX	1,940,143	2,077,666	1,901,124
Operation and Maintenance of Plant Services	11-000-26X-XXX	1,884,301	4,345,836	3,719,883
Student Transportation Services	11-000-270-XXX	1,194,237	1,495,477	1,456,996
Business and Other Support Services	11-000-290-XXX	825,904	1,084,393	743,348
Personal Services - Employee Benefits	11-XXX-XXX-2XX	3,633,547	3,954,000	5,559,793
Total Undistributed Expenditures		17,077,118	19,012,588	20,370,657
TOTAL GENERAL CURRENT EXPENSE		35,042,535	37,653,875	38,796,460
CAPITAL OUTLAY				
Equipment	12-XXX-XXX-7XX	60,406	463,071	377,727
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services	12-000-42X-XXX	107,497	675,280	1,075,063
TOTAL CAPITAL OUTLAY		167,903	1,138,351	1,452,790
SPECIAL SCHOOLS				
Summer School:				
Instruction	13-422-100-XXX	74,196	87,750	74,196
Total Summer School		74,196	87,750	74,196
Accredited Evening/Adult High School/Post-Graduate:				
Instruction	13-601-100-XXX	99,486	91,500	99,486
Support Services	13-601-200-XXX	42,780	94,577	42,780
Total Accredited Evening/Adult HS/Post-Grad.		142,266	186,077	142,266
Adult Education - Local:				
Instruction	13-602-100-XXX	64,659	72,000	64,640
Support Services	13-602-200-XXX	72,101	86,140	72,101
Total Adult Education - Local		136,760	158,140	136,741
Vocational Evening - Local:				
Instruction	13-629-100-XXX	15,727	13,500	5,921
Support Services	13-629-200-XXX	7,157	7,000	16,957
Total Vocational Evening - Local		22,884	20,500	22,878
TOTAL SPECIAL SCHOOLS		376,100	452,467	378,081
GENERAL FUND GRAND TOTAL		35,586,538	39,244,693	40,625,331

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	3,192		
Local Projects				
Demonstrably Effective Program Aid:				
Instruction	20-212-100-XXX	45,891	154,389	154,389
TOTAL DEMONSTRABLY EFFECTIVE PROGRAM AID		45,891	154,389	154,389
Distance Learning Network Aid:				
Support Services	20-213-200-XXX	75,630	96,454	96,454
Facilities Acquisition and Construction Services	20-213-400-XXX	70,276	70,840	70,840
TOTAL DISTANCE LEARNING NETWORK AID		145,906	167,294	167,294
Instructional Supplement Aid:				
Instruction	20-214-100-XXX	97,863	97,863	97,863
TOTAL INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLEMENT AID		97,863	97,863	97,863
Other State Projects:				
Nonpublic Textbooks	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	21,677	17,342	17,342
Nonpublic Auxiliary Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	125,624	106,515	106,515
Nonpublic Handicapped Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	82,968	38,106	38,106
Nonpublic Nursing Services	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	26,145	20,916	20,916
Other Special Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	15,994		
Total State Projects		542,066	602,425	435,131
Federal Projects:				
P.L. 107-110 Title I	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	135,934	121,724	121,724
P.L. 107-110 Title VI	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	52,600	54,795	54,795
I.D.E.A. Part B (Handicapped)	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	407,677	413,795	413,795
P.L. 91-230 (Adult Basic Education)	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	6,000	48,779	48,779
Other Federal Projects	20-XXX-XXX-XXX	58,392		
Total Federal Projects		660,603	639,093	639,093
TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS		1,205,861	1,241,518	1,074,224

DEBT SERVICE FUNDS	40-701-510-XXX	666,469	1,545,210	1,072,242
Debt Service - Regular		666,469	1,545,210	1,072,242
TOTAL DEBT SERVICE FUNDS		666,469	1,545,210	1,072,242
Total Expenditures				

Real Estate

More and more young people attracted to real estate careers

BY JAMES M. WOODARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The real estate sales market in recent times has attracted many more people into the field—people representing a wider range of ages and backgrounds.

About 15 percent of people seeking a real estate broker or salesperson license today are between the ages of 18 and 24. That's nearly three times the proportion representing that age group just five years ago, according to a survey conducted by Kalan Real Estate School.

On the other side of the spectrum, there is a noticeable increase in older agents entering

the field. About 17 percent of new agents are age 55 and older. Also, new people entering the real estate brokerage field come from higher income backgrounds than ever before, the survey noted.

Another interesting finding: About 82 percent of current agents consider themselves to be Caucasian. This designation applies to only 57 percent of new agents entering the field. In fact, the proportion of new agents representing the three key minority groups, Hispanic, black and Asian-American, is more than double that of established agents.

About 16 percent of people now entering the world of real estate sales come from the technology field, an industry that has rarely been represented before among new real estate professionals.

Q: When purchasing a home, what are the advantages of selecting a mortgage with a term shorter than the traditional 30 years?

A: I presented that question to an expert in the field—Michael W. Levy, president and chief executive officer of Home Savings Mortgage and a noted financial adviser. "Sometimes the best long-term financial plan involves a short-term commitment," Levy said. "In the case of selecting a mortgage loan, many people opt for a conventional 30-year fixed-rate mortgage, primarily due to the security factor. They feel comfortable in knowing they have a mortgage

with a consistent interest rate for a very long term.

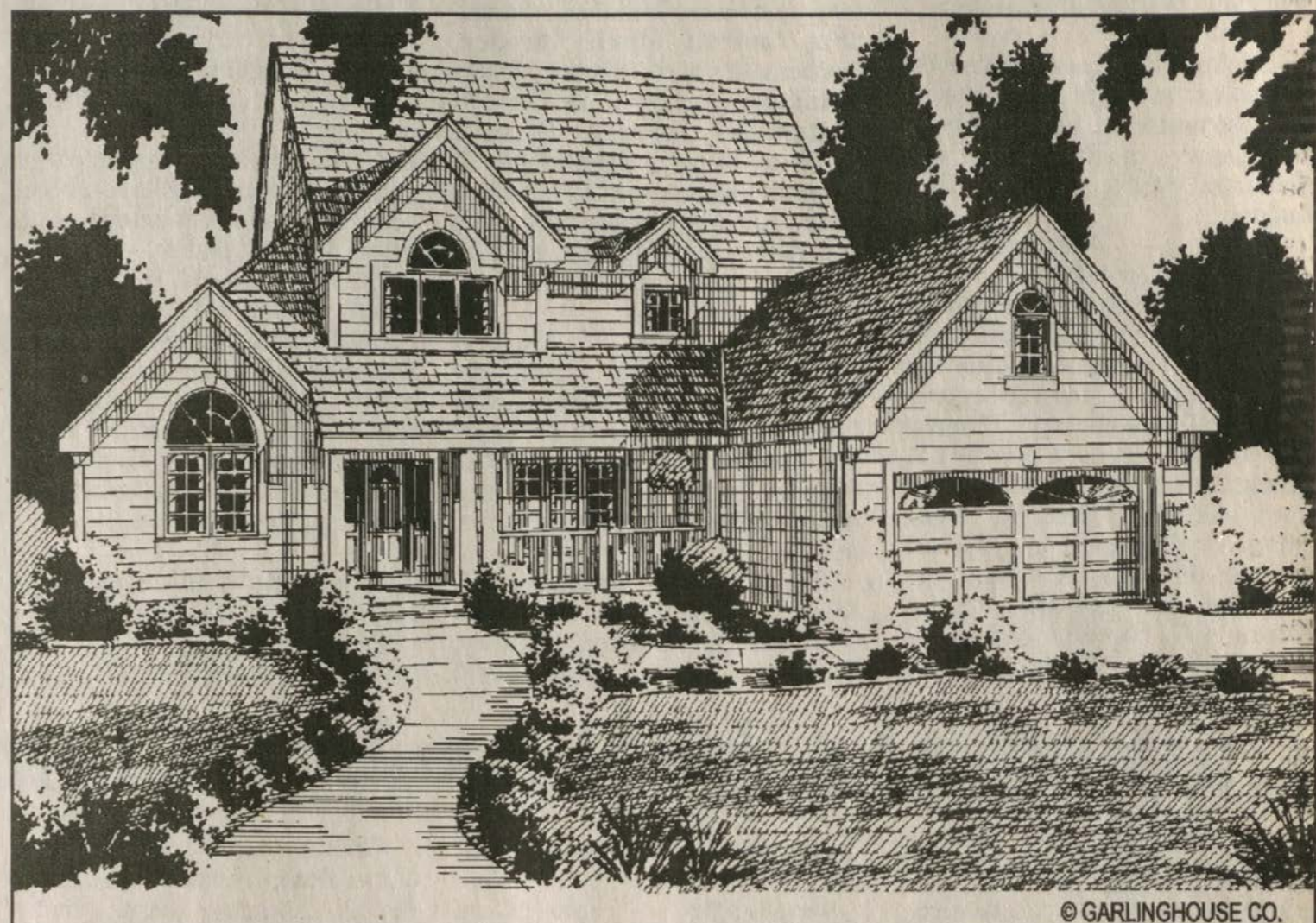
"However, that plan may not be in their best financial interests. The feeling of security is indeed important. But from a personal financial perspective, it may not be the most prudent plan."

"Consider this: The average homeowner retains ownership of a home for about four to six years, depending on its location. Then the house is sold and usually refinanced. If the original owner had obtained a 30-year mortgage, due in five to seven years, he would have enjoyed a substantially lower interest rate, thus saving money every month that could be invested in stocks, bonds or other yield-producing entities.

"In this type of mortgage loan, the low interest remains the same for the short term (five or seven years). If the homeowner still owns the property at the end of that period, the loan would rollover into an annually adjustable-rate mortgage for the remainder of the 30-year term.

"If the owner has sold the home by that time, he would have benefited from the lower interest rate in the form of lower monthly payments. If he has not sold it, he will continue to have an (adjustable-rate mortgage) loan for as long as he needs it, up to the end of the 30-year term.

"Such a plan also helps the buyer, particularly first-time home buyers, in qualifying for a needed mortgage loan. It's one of many special mortgage plans available in today's market—one that's often recommended by financial advisers, but not generally known about by consumers. Mortgage loan officers can tailor a plan that meets the specific needs of a loan applicant.



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The facade of the Countryshire has the look of a cottage with its covered porch, small pillars and half-moon windows. However, once inside this special home, 2,257 square feet of living space makes for more than a small house in the woods.

Real Estate Directory

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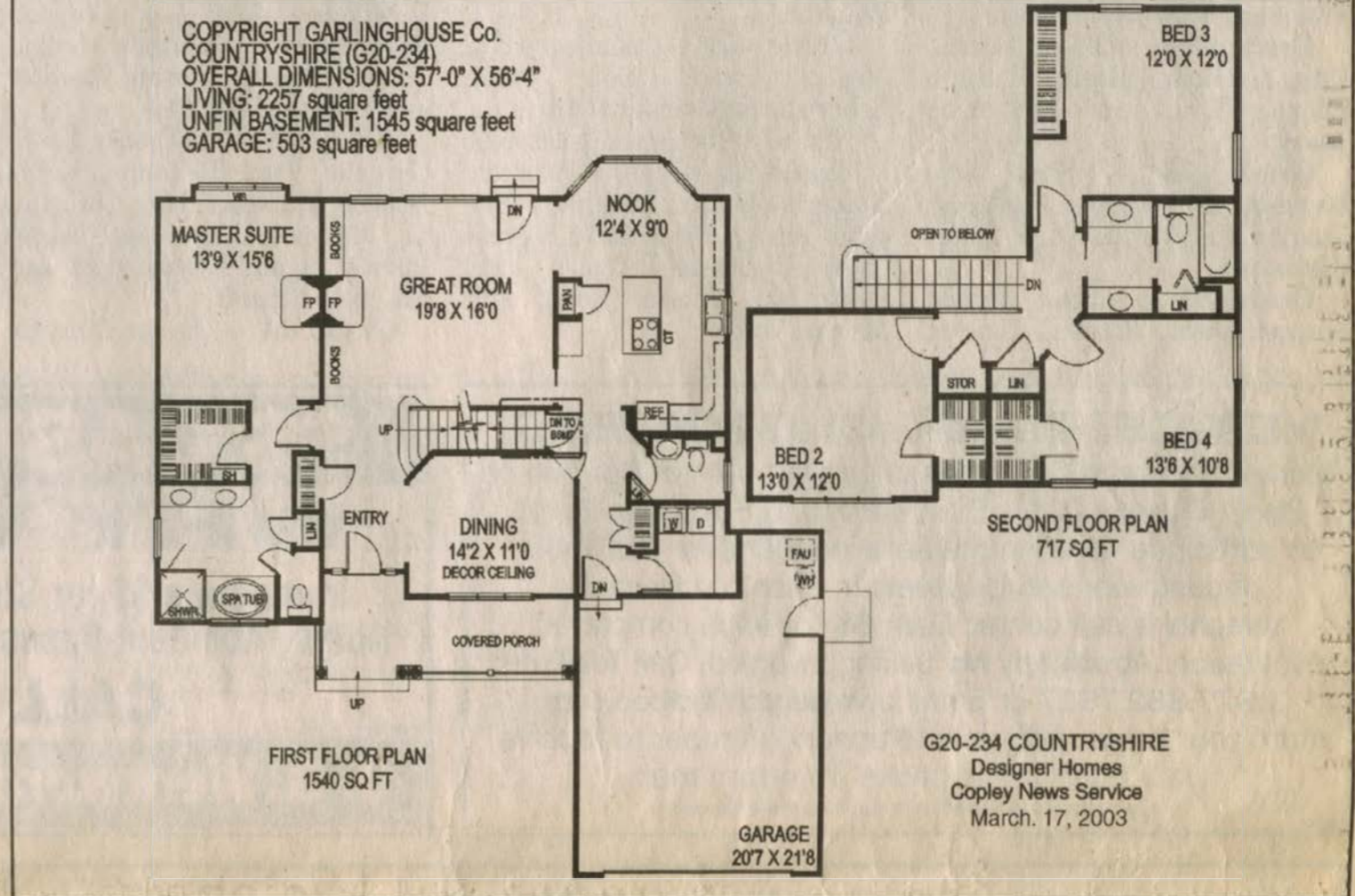
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Is the Countryshire a cottage, farmhouse or something else?

By SCOTT MCALEXANDER
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Is it a cottage, or a farmhouse or something in between?

The facade of the Countryshire (G20-234) has the look of a cottage with its covered porch, small pillars and half-moon windows. However, once inside this special home, 2,257 square feet of living space makes for more than a small house in the woods.

The dining room, completely open with a beautiful decor ceiling, has a door opening into the L-shaped kitchen. One kitchen wall is dedicated to cabinets and counter space. The center island has a cook top, while on the opposite wall there is a pantry. The nook is nestled in a set of bay windows, which makes it a great place for a morning coffee break.

Between the kitchen and the two-car garage is a half-bath and the utility. A large folding counter is included to make doing the laundry easier.

A storage closet is outside the laundry room in the hall. To separate the kitchen from the great

room, a pocket door has been added next to the stairs. The great room has a fireplace surrounded by bookshelves on the wall by the master suite, which also has a fireplace backed up to the great room's fireplace. The great room's back wall is lined with windows and a door that opens to the back yard.

The master suite is on the left side of the Countryshire and has a window seat along the length of the rear wall. A large walk-in closet faces the door, while the master bathroom is in the front of the suite. Dual sinks, a corner shower, spa tub and private toilet area are all incorporated into this spacious bathroom.

Up the sweeping stairs to the second floor are three more bedrooms, a linen closet and a full bath with two sinks and a tub. Bedrooms Nos. 2 and 4 each have corner walk-in closets. Linen and storage areas are nearby in the hall. Bedroom No. 3 has a wall closet. Each bedroom has many windows that admit natural light to brighten the rooms.

Downstairs is an optional unfinished basement of 1,545 square feet. This could be used for more bedrooms, recreation room or for storage.

For a study plan of the design mentioned in this article, send \$24.95 to Landmark Designs, 33127 Saginaw Road E., Cottage Grove, OR 97424. (Specify name and number for study plan.) A catalog featuring hundreds of home plans is available for \$12.95, or save by ordering both for \$29.95. For faster processing, call (800) 562-1151 or visit www.landmarkdesigns.com.

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SOMERSET-MIDDLESEX MORTGAGE RATES

PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK	PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	% DOWN	LOCK
Black River Mortgage Co. 908-879-6800						Investors Savings Bank 800-252-8119						Pan Am Mortgage 201-587-0003					
30 YR FIXED	5.625	0.00	5.690	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.750	0.00	5.820	5%	90 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.750	1.00	5.980	5%	30 DAY
15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.230	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.240	5%	90 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.875	2.00	5.120	5%	30 DAY
5/25 BALLOON	4.625	0.00	5.290	10%	60 DAY	5/1-30 YR	4.750	0.00	4.180	5%	90 DAY	OPTION ARM	2.450	0.00	4.170	10%	60 DAY
Credit problem solutions; Purchase Pre-approvals						Loans to \$1.5 million dollars. Percentage down varies on jumbos						Any Income-Any Credit-Fast Approval-Purchase or Refi					
Columbia Bank 800-522-4167						Kentwood Financial 800-353-6896						Partners Mortgage 732-634-8050					
30 YR FIXED	5.875	0.00	5.886	20%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.625	0.00	5.750	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.375	0.00	5.390	5%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.040	20%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.130	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.750	0.00	4.790	5%	60 DAY
1 YR ARM	3.875	0.00	3.551	20%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	6.000	0.00	6.130	10%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.625	0.00	5.670	5%	60 DAY
Call for jumbo mortgage rates						20 Year Fixed: 5.50%; 0 points; 5.65 APR						E-mail address partnersm@aol.com					
Comnet/Fmr Commonwealth Bk 800-924-9091						Lighthouse Mortgage 800-784-1331						Penn Federal Savings Bank 908-719-2468					
30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.540	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.520	5%	45 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.770	10%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	4.890	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	4.877	5%	45 DAY	15 YR JUMBO	5.000	0.00	5.030	10%	60 DAY
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.790	5%	60 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.625	0.00	5.677	10%	45 DAY	20 YR JUMBO	5.500	0.00	5.530	10%	60 DAY
No Application, commitment or broker fees!						Consistently lower than the rest! Open 7 days a week 9-9						Jumbo rates apply up to loan amounts of \$750,000					
First Savings Bank 732-726-5450						Loan Search 800-591-3279						Turnstone Mortgage Co. 800-757-7514					
30 YR FIXED	5.250	3.00	5.526	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.750	0.00	5.790	5%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.750	0.00	5.810	5%	45 DAY
15 YR FIXED	4.500	3.00	5.012	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.080	5%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.125	0.00	5.231	5%	45 DAY
5/1-30 YR	4.625	0.00	4.229	5%	75 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.800	5%	90 DAY	1 YR ADJ.	3.125	0.00	4.269	5%	45 DAY
15 year fixed is biweekly						www.loansearch.com						Great Rates and Excellent Service! Call today					
Hamilton National Mortgage Co 800-220-7334						National Future Mortgage 800-291-7900						UnitedTrust Bank 908-429-8265					
30 YR FIXED	5.375	0.00	N/P	N/P	40 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.500	0.00	5.620	0%	60 DAY	30 YR FIXED	5.625	0.00	5.643	5%	60 DAY
15 YR FIXED	4.875	0.00	N/P	N/P	40 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.375	0.00	5.480	0%	60 DAY	15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.030	5%	60 DAY
30 YR JUMBO	5.875	0.00	N/P	N/P	40 DAY	30 YR JUMBO	5.625	0.00	5.780	0%	60 DAY	20 YR FIXED	5.375	0.00	5.399	5%	60 DAY
Consistently the lowest rates. Real rates. Real people. Real fast						Low rates & lower fees! 12 yrs in business. Exp Prof L.O's											
Hudson City Savings Bank 201-967-1900																	
30 YR FIXED	5.625	0.00	5.637	N/P	N/P DAY												
15 YR FIXED	5.000	0.00	5.021	N/P	N/P DAY												
30 YR JUMBO	5.750	0.00	5.759	N/P	N/P DAY												
www.HudsonCitySavingsBank.com																	

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Classic Homes



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EDISON

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 60 Buchanan Road from Francine Everson to Paul F. & Holly B. DiStefano for \$437,000.
 27 Carmello Drive from Anna Mizrahi to Paul X. Zhang et.al. for \$228,000.
 1 Darrell Court from William J. & Tammy M. Bandola to Frank & Sara Simon for \$230,000.
 1610 Edison Glen Terrace from Ajit Kumar to Sudhir S. Pattail for \$130,000.
 1 Heathcote Ave. from Hannah Epstein to Chong Y. Kang for \$185,000.
 14 Jones Place from Margaret A. Curcio to Oscar C. & Sora M. Avenida for \$207,500.
 27 Livingston Ave. from Salvatore J. Catarella to Mingxi & Jing W. Mao for \$290,000.
 7 Lyons Place from Keung J. & Kisoo Shin to Bing & Jinghua S. Wen for \$464,800.
 201 Maplecrest Road from Chunmin & Houyichian Huang to Mitchell & Dana Brenner for \$220,000.
 23 Melbourne St. from Paul & Marilyn Jenney to Paul Jr. & Cynthia Jenney for \$40,000.
 29 Netherwood Circle from Rajiv Kochhar et.al. to Xiaoping & Wei Y. Hou for \$344,000.
 88 Oakland Ave. from Maria R. & Jesus Carandang to Henry P. Dengah for \$297,500.
 1707 Raspberry Court from

Jung I. Kim to Abdul Q. & Niloufar N. Sarker for \$107,000.
 117 Rolling Brook Drive from JSM at Beaver Brook L.L.C. to Anil K. & Savita Akula for \$535,082.
 207 Tingley Lane from Needle Point Homes L.L.C. to Ravi S. & Ann T. Budhan for \$500,000.
 414 Waterford Drive from Dolores Marontoli et.al. to Deborah Fuchs et.al. for \$44,000.
 1723 Waterford Drive from Grace Kim to Li-Chun H. Kao for \$170,000.
 87 Brookhill Ave. from Sem & Maribel DiMaano to David & Rachel G. Callen for \$259,900.
 2405 Deerfield Drive from Secretary of HUD to Sobhagchandra Patel for \$155,000.
 8 Hull Drive from John A. Casale III to Ronald Snyder for \$106,500.
 85 Jefferson Blvd. from Inderjit & Sarjit Singh to Angelo & Teresa Promutico for \$290,000.
 3 Lyons Lane from Francisco G. & Clarita Franco to Kwok W. & Sau W. Eng for \$400,000.
 156 Maplewood Court from Sung B. & Hyun J. Kim to Radhakrishna Cheruvu for \$300,000.
 8 Marshall Drive from Thelma Sherman to Jason Jurkevich et.al. for \$335,000.
 91 Orange St. from Veronica R. Streeter to William Hansen for \$160,000.
 39 Prestwick Way from Edison Village Pointe Inc. to Rajiv Parkash

for \$201,990.
 17 Ridge Road from Kevin Peersen to Emanuel Miliotis for \$290,000.
 6 Sanders Road from Federal National Mortgage Association to Jurand Dunajewski for \$149,910.
 217 Waterford Drive from Sue Kim to Firoz Buhariwala for \$163,000.
 9 West Drive from George J. & Jennifer L. Cohen to Lakshman & S. Jayawardana for \$347,500.
HIGHLAND PARK
 67 Cleveland Ave. from Linda L. Dubreuil to Jose D. & Mary E.C. Moreno for \$160,000.
 22 S. Seventh Ave. from Vincent Arisi to Angela Squeo for \$145,000.

METUCHEN

3 Division St. from Timothy Diebold to Joseph G. & Cathleen Diebold for \$275,000.
 25 Franklin Place from Franklin Square Developers to James Deans for \$83,648.
 31 Franklin Place from Franklin Square Developers to Xiangdong Liu for \$259,976.
 162 Newman St. from Ataur Rahman to Dana Roseberry for \$127,000.
 22 Irongate from Sanford T. & Rita K. Gottlieb to Sharon C. Rawling for \$262,500.
 147 Maple Ave. from Paul F. & Holly B. DiStefano to Lester J. & Reiko K. Gesteland for \$280,000.
 596 Middlesex Ave. from Franklin Square Developers to

Inaganti S. Rao for \$300,000.
PISCATAWAY
 55 E. Burgess Drive from Birchview Properties L.L.C. to Nimoy Thakkar for \$252,273.
 506 Runyon Ave. from Catherine M. Clugston et.al. to Ann M. Mitchell for \$225,000.
 54 Vogel Ave. from Timothy P. Jr. & Linda Mason to Donna Ware for \$239,000.
 370 S. Washington Ave. from Kamau Kenyatta to Jose & Gilma Cruz for \$175,000.
 94 Academy St. from Linda Slaughter to Wilson & Sharon Morales for \$135,900.
 3 Arlington Place from Chetan & Shainaz Indap to George & Sharon Hoferer for \$240,000.
 420 Baldwin St. from Tong & Jeong H. Yu to Nelson & Rita Almeida for \$224,000.
 1516 Division Ave. from Grace Doll et.al. to Guillermo & Julieta Giraldo for \$165,000.
 32 Dupont Ave. from Scott & Lisa Muller to Michael & Priscilla Negron for \$184,900.
 120 Dupont Ave. from Gerard Fragetti to Vladimir Mischutin Jr. et.al. for \$175,000.
 1730 Elk St. from Secretary of HUD to Sheri Ulman for \$139,000.
 15 Ewing Drive from Reynaldo M. & Imelda Protacio to Ahmad & Iman Mur for \$315,000.
 1517 Glenwood

Drive from Condon Associates L.L.C. to James R. & Benedicta Thaxton for \$284,900.
 176 Hamilton Blvd. from Richard Stolp et.al. to Huy T. Thai et.al. for \$197,000.
 2402 Jesse Way from Luis Mendez et.al. to Shyam & Dishita Bhojani for \$168,000.
 2909 Jesse Way from Harnawab & Rajwinder Sandhu to Uzma Sohail for \$160,000.
 2 Joyce Drive from Ramesh M. & Chandrika R. Patel to Nilam Patel for \$255,440.
 1019 River Road from Benjamin R. & Leah K. Barber to Warren & Wendy Zimmerman for \$501,000.
 390 Rushmore Ave. from Secretary of HUD to Charles X. Yan for \$166,000.
 1 Seward Ave. from Charles J. Maury to Muhammad & Maleka Mizan for \$283,900.
SOUTH PLAINFIELD
 318 Coppola Drive from JSM at New Durham L.L.C. to Jayson O. & Marivic Bautista for \$145,900.
 436 Elsie Ave. from Hortense Scott et.al. to Joseph III & Denise

A. Penyak for \$240,000.
 738 Lucy Court from JSM at New Durham L.L.C. to Karl S. Barros for \$172,490.
 810 Margaret Court from JSM at New Durham L.L.C. to Gemma Noel for \$233,990.
 16 McCarthy Court from Ryan Cole to Donald C. & Georgia N. Gibson for \$246,100.
 300 Redding Ave. from Charles T. & Carolyn M. Morgan to Victor & Zinovia Stellakis for \$231,000.
 1442 Cherry St. from Julia Dzheryc to Nicholas Conzo for \$189,000.
 1115 Clinton Ave. from Bernardo Arbelaez to Marlene Chaverri for \$184,500.
 835 Dominick Court from Jeffrey & Suzanne B. Newman to Mari F. Sacro for \$177,000.
 117 Kenwood Ave. from Renee Zimmerman to Richard & Angelina Kenvin for \$172,000.
 124 Lee Place from Ernest Seiz Jr. to Steven T. Seiz for \$160,000.
 2813 Park Ave. from Anthony J. & Deborah Guerriero to Cesar Martinez for \$202,000.

ERA has reference book on home-buying

BRIDGEWATER — Home ownership is a huge decision in most people's lives. That's because a home is not just a shelter or even another investment. It's the place we bring our dreams to life, in flower gardens and family rooms, backyard barbecues and home-cooked Sunday dinners. It's the place we raise our children, the nest we nudge them out of, and welcome them back to again and again. And for many of us, it's even our place of business.
 So it's no wonder why buying or selling a home is often an emotionally charged and potentially overwhelming process.
 "That's why ERA created a special online version of The Answers, our pop-

ular real estate reference book," commented Robert Menditto, the manager of ERA Van Syckel, Weaver & Lyte. "It's the result of extensive research to find out what today's consumers expect from us, and what kind of help they really want and need."
 Because of this, ERA has enhanced the information both on the ERA.com Internet site and the popular book, which is available to the public.
 "Information is a key part of the real estate decision," mentioned Menditto, "and at ERA, we realize that we have to prove our value by providing the most up-to-date information needed for educated decision-making. Our friends and clients, as well as the general public, are

welcome to visit us and find out more about this helpful information source."
 ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with nearly 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA Real Estate network includes more than 2,500 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 24 other countries and territories.
 Additional information can be found by stopping at the Route 22 West, Bridgewater location of ERA Van Syckel, Weaver & Lyte. Phone (800) 834-1343.

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Associates earn sales honors at Weichert

METUCHEN — William Hanley, manager of Weichert, Realtors Metuchen Office, announced that several associates qualified for the 2002 New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence Sales Club.
 Associates who qualified at the bronze level are Michael Guidetti, Ann Marie Howley, Tina Kheyfets, Miriam Matir, Rick McElhiney, Robin Rankin and Linda Shaffer-Ciardello.
 Pablo Estrada qualified at the silver level.
 Debra Kerr qualified at the gold level.
 Invite these top producing real estate professionals to learn about all of the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. They can be reached at Weichert's Metuchen Office (732) 906-8200 centrally located at 640 Middlesex Avenue.

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Automotive/Classified

Open Road BMW is tops in pre-owned sales

EDISON — Open Road BMW's Certified Pre-Owned (CPO) Dealership finished 2002 as the Number One BMW CPO Dealer in the country, according to Rod Ryan, owner and president of Ryan Automotive.

The CPO Dealership was number one in monthly sales numerous times since it opened at the end of August 2001, setting regional and national records.

"Open Road BMW CPO had a first year that took our breath away," Ryan said. "Under the direction of general manager Robert Forcini, general sales manager Bill Craig and CPO sales manager Frank Costa, Open Road BMW CPO has exceeded all our expectations. And because the U.S. is the largest BMW market in the world, Open Road BMW's CPO dealership is also number one in the world!"

Ryan Automotive recently marked the extraordinary success of the dealership with a celebratory dinner at Stage Left in New Brunswick. Forcini traced the short but spectacular

history of the showroom with well-deserved pride in a speech congratulating the employees on the national win, and emphasizing the team effort that produced the win.

Capturing the number one spot in the nation is impressive for any BMW dealer. But it is a particularly singular accomplishment for a northeast dealership, Forcini pointed out, given the intense competition from the South Florida and California CPO dealerships,

which don't have to deal with winter weather.

As he recounted the history of the Open Road BMW dealership, Forcini recalled how he brought the concept to owner Ryan.

"I told him that if we had an indoor showroom, we could probably sell a few more CPO BMW's, and this led to the opening of the 30-car dealership on Route 1 North in Edison," Forcini said. "Right out of the gate, we surpassed every projection we had made, and came out as the best dealership in the country at the end of our first full month in business."

In fact, the 10,200-square-foot showroom was specifically designed to give customers a pleasant, new car buying experience in any season, displaying the cars as if they were new. But Forcini's idea didn't end there.

"I told Ryan that if we had an indoor storage facility close by, where a much larger number of cars

could be cleaned and prepped - and then viewed by customers, we could probably sell even more CPO BMW's," he said.

And that led to the acquisition in February of the Ryan Automotive Corporate Headquarters in Carter Drive in Edison, which included a storage-PDI (Pre-Delivery Inspection) center. Sales not only increased, but went beyond everyone's wildest dreams.

In addition to 6,000 square feet of state-of-the-art office space, the Carter Drive facility



Celebrating Open Road BMW CPO's number one national ranking are sales manager Frank Costa; general sales manager Bill Craig; general manager Robert Forcini; owner and president Rod Ryan and CPO sales manager, BMW North America, Eastern Division, Kevin Harvey.

devotes 50,000 square feet of warehouse space to more than 100 cars, gleaming and ready for customers to choose. The cars present an impressive selection, sitting in precise formation row after row, all perfectly prepped and looking like new.

Forcini credits Ryan's vision and the efforts of every member of the Open Road BMW CPO team for the success of the operation.

"The team is made up of a lot of people who volunteered to go to the dealership and the storage - PDI center when they were unproven concepts," Forcini said. "The commitment, enthusiasm and incredible hard work of these pioneers made the concept extremely successful."

The Open Road BMW factory authorized CPO dealership sells select, pre-driven BMW

automobiles from model years 1996 to 2003. Every car has passed BMW's rigorous inspection and has undergone a specific, extensive mechanical reconditioning process. Once the cars are certified by BMW, they're covered by the best pre-owned protection plan in the industry, which adds up to 50,000 miles and two years to the vehicle's original new-car warranty, and included 24 hour BMW roadside assistance.

One of 10 locations in the Ryan Automotive family of dealerships, Open Road BMW CPO dealership is located at 540 Route 1 North, Edison. The showroom is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, and can be reached by phone toll free at 866-BMW-Road (866-269-7623).

Douglas Ford earns 4th President's Award

SUMMIT — Ford Motor Company recently named Douglas Ford a recipient of its coveted President's Award for 2002.

This is the fourth consecutive year Douglas Ford has been honored with Ford's most prestigious and highest dealer award. It goes only to those Ford dealerships that exceed customer expectations in sales and customer satisfaction. Nationwide, only 340 out of more than 5,000 dealers receive the President's Award.

"We thank all the customers whom we served in 2002," said Jonathan Liebman, executive vice president of Douglas Auto Group. "They're the ones who gave us high marks for sales and service. The award validates their extreme satisfaction with the overall Ford ownership experience at Douglas. The dedication and discipline of our entire staff has paid off."

Douglas Ford is located at 430 Morris Ave. and is part of the Douglas Auto Group also comprised of Douglas Volkswagen, Douglas Buick and Douglas Infiniti.

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'01 325iBlack22,331 mi.
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<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'00 GMC Jimmy SLE V6, auto O/D trans, pwr str/ABS/wind/cks/wind, AIR, rads, cruise, int wip, b's mldgs, sec sys, running brds, AM/FM stereo, CD, alloys, tilt, t/gls, dual air bags, 21,383 mi, Stk. #351P, VIN #Y2385610 WAS \$16,595 \$15,995</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'01 Dodge Durango SLT 8 cyl, auto O/D trans, pwr str/cks/seat/bks/wind, AIR, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, infinity stereo sys, cruise, heated seat, leather bckts, b's mldgs, sec sys, alloys, tilt, t/gls, lugg rack, keyless entry, 28,781 mi, Stk. #344U, VIN #1F152153 WAS \$19,995 \$19,195</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'99 Chevrolet Suburban 1500 LS 4x4 V8, auto O/D trans, pwr str/cks/wind/ABS/seats, AIR, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, cruise, cloth bckts, b's mldgs, tilt, alloys, t/gls, lugg rack, sec sys, 46,899 mi, Stk. #355P, VIN #N1J506521 \$19,995</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'01 Nissan Pathfinder LE 6 cyl, auto O/D trans, pwr str/ABS/wind/cks/wind, sunr, AIR, AM/FM stereo-cass, CD, cruise, dual air bags, keyless entry, running brds, Bose stereo, tilt, t/gls, b's mldgs, 21,161 mi, Stk. #352U, VIN #1W598996 \$24,995</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'02 Chevrolet Cavalier Sedan 4 cyl, auto trans, FWD, pwr str/ABS, AIR, tilt, AM/FM stereo, CD, dual air bags, r/del, t/gls, dual air bags, 26,765 mi, Stk. #365P, VIN #27131729 \$9995</p>		<p style="font-size: 0.8em; margin: 0;">'02 Chevrolet Trailblazer LTZ Vortec 4200 V6, auto O/D trans, 4WD, AIR, pwr str/ABS, sunr, heated front seats, all sn off rd tires, two-tone appearance, running brds, 4761 demo mi, VIN #22336576 \$28,840</p>	

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CHEVROLET MALIBU '00- LS, 4 dr., all power, dk. blue, very sharp, runs great, 44K, \$6900, Call days 908-534-0327

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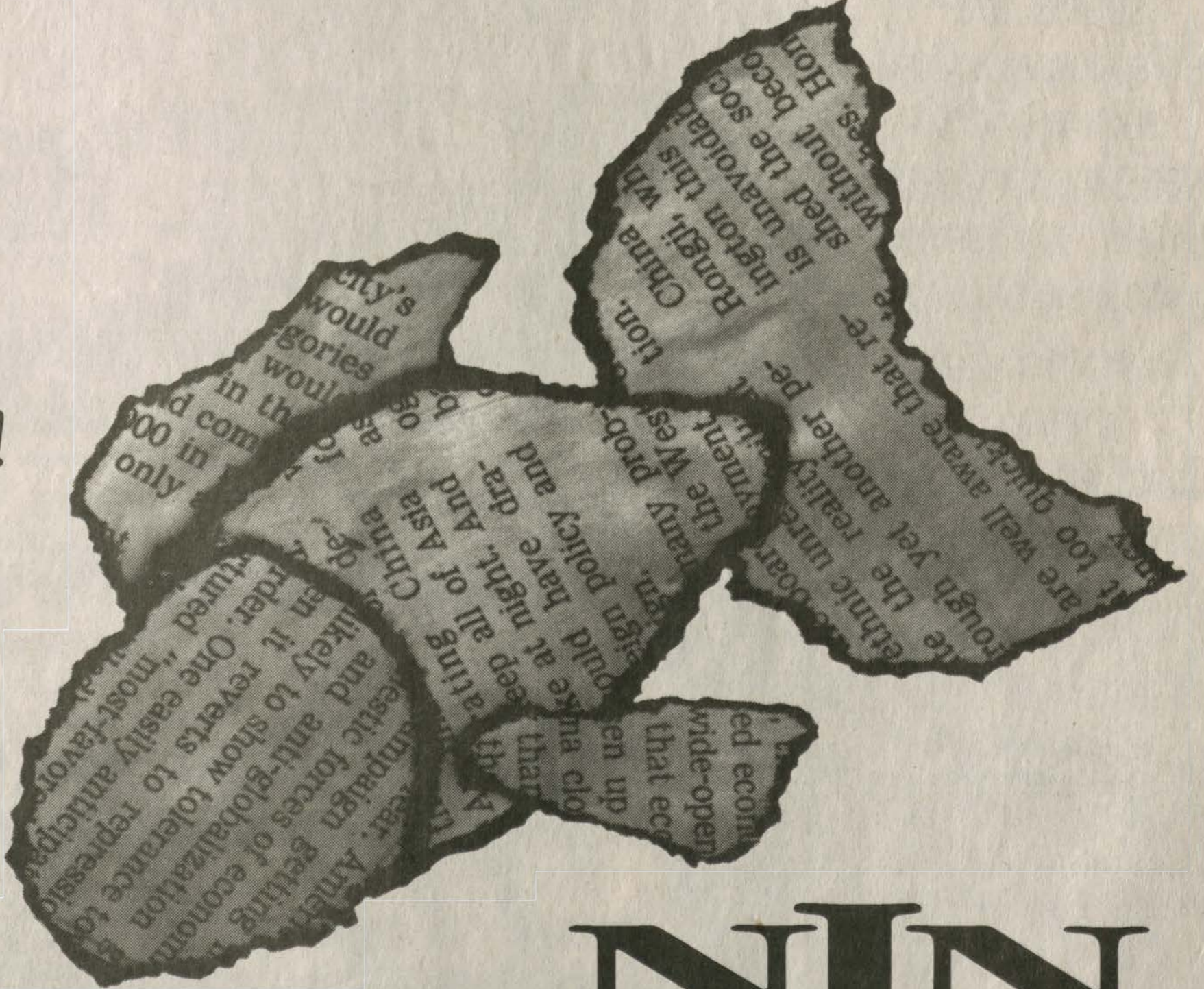
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USED CAR SALE SPECIALS

2001 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 26,000 miles. VIN# 1C387517	2000 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 31,000 miles. VIN#YV434639	2000 NISSAN MAXIMA GLE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, 31,000 miles. VIN#YT208058	2000 INFINITI QX-4 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, moonroof, 31,000 miles. VIN#YW080912	2000 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels. VIN#YW415756
\$11,995	\$19,995	\$17,995	\$22,595	\$18,995
2002 GMC ENVOY SLT 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, heated seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, base polished wheels, only 18,000 miles. VIN#Z222201	2000 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER monterey, 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, moonroof, alloy wheels, only 27,000 miles. VIN#YU21015	1999 MERCURY COUGAR v-6, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, only 37,000 miles. VIN#X5654548	2000 GMC JIMMY SLE 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, 33,000 miles. VIN#YT304236	2000 SAAB 9-5 auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, leather, heated seats, moonroof, 38,000 miles. VIN#Y3009366
\$26,995	\$17,995	\$10,995	\$14,995	\$18,995
1999 CHEVY PRIZM 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, only 35,000 miles. VIN#XZ433548	2003 BUICK CENTURY 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 18,000 miles. VIN#3B158662	2003 BUICK REGAL 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, only 13,000 miles. VIN#31580092	2003 BUICK LESABRE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, leather, premium package, 12,000 miles. VIN#L19311	2000 FORD EXPEDITION ELT 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, 3 seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd changer, alloy wheels, only 19,000 miles. VIN#YF081162
\$7,595	\$14,495	\$16,995	\$19,495	\$22,595

GREAT SPECIALS FOR SPRING!!!!

2000 JEEP CHEROKEE SPORT 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, cd changer, alloy wheels, 35,000 miles. VIN#Y882310	2000 FORD EXPLORER XLS 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, only 21,000 miles. VIN#YF096752	2002 FORD WINDSTAR 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 3 seats, 21,000 miles. VIN#2P000113	2001 FORD WINDSTAR 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, 3 seats, only 2,000 miles!!!! VIN#1P081632	1998 CADILLAC SEDAN DEVILLE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, only 29,000 miles. VIN#WV752802
\$12,995	\$14,995	\$14,995	\$13,995	\$14,995
2000 VW JETTA GLS 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cass, alloy wheels, moonroof, only 27,000 miles. VIN#YV675309	2002 DODGE DAKOTA QUAD CAB 4 dr, 4x4, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, tilt, cruise, cd, alloy wheels, 24,000 miles. VIN#2D030512	2002 LAND ROVER DISCOVERY SE 4 dr, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, dual moonroofs, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, alloy wheels, only 8,900 miles. VIN#20305162	2000 CHEVY 1500 TRUCK 2 dr, auto, v-6, p/s, p/b, air, tilt, cruise, cass, bed liner, alloy wheels, 38,000 miles. VIN#Y3051178	2001 JAGUAR S-TYPE 4 dr, 3.0, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, heated seats, moonroof, only 21,000 miles. VIN#1J058332
\$13,995	\$20,995	THIS WEEK \$28,975	\$12,895	\$29,995

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 4 dr, 3.0, auto, air, p/s, p/b, p/w, p/locks, p/seats, leather, tilt, cruise, cass, cd, heated seats, moonroof, only 21,000 miles. VIN#1J058332
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\$11,822
BUY FOR

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NEW 2003 CHEVROLET S10



\$12,539
BUY FOR

2 door, automatic transmission, 4 cylinder engine, power steering, power brakes, air conditioning, 24 hr rsdse assist, tint, CD player. MSRP: \$16,392. Vin#38184677. Price includes: \$3000 factory rebate, \$453 Dealer Discount, \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$1000 Lease Loyalty Rebate††.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET Malibu



\$174
LEASE FOR PER MO. FOR 48 MOS.

\$1169 DUE AT INCEPTION
 4 door, 6 cyl, auto, p/s, p/b, air, airbags, buckets, 24hr rsdse asst, cruise, tilt, p/windows, p/door locks, p/antenna, cass & cd. Vin# 3M651104. Stk#4085. MSRP: \$19,570. Price incl \$400 Coll Grad Rebate (if qual)† & \$1000 Chevy Lease Loyalty Rebate (if qual)††, \$967 Dealer discount.

NEW 2002 CHEVROLET TRACKER



\$17,255
BUY FOR

4x4, 4 door, auto, 6 cyl, p/steering, ABS, air, airbags, roof rack, buckets, 24 hr rsdse asst, cc, tilt, tint, p/windows, keyless ent, pdl, p/mirrs, r. defr, AM/FM Stereo, CD player. MSRP: \$22,560. Vin#26948698. Stk#3295. Price includes: \$1000 Lease loyalty reb(if qual)††, \$3925 Dealer Discount and \$400 College Grad Reb (if qual)†.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET Impala



\$197
LEASE FOR PER MO. 48 MOS.

\$1792 DUE AT INCEPTION
 2 door 6 cylinder, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, dual airbags, buckets, 24 hr rsdse asst, cc, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/door locks, cassette w/CD, rear defrost. MSRP: \$23,695. Vin#39269959. Stk#4014. Price includes: \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$1000 Lease Loyalty Reb (if qual)††.

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET VENTURE LS



\$22,668
BUY FOR

4 door, 6 cyl, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, rear heat & air conditioning, dual airbags, power drivers seat, 24 hr rsdse asst, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, CD, rear defrost. MSRP: \$28,080. Vin#3D157254. Stk#3802. Price includes: \$3000 Factory Rebate, \$2012 Dealer Disc, \$400 college graduate (if qual)† & \$1000 Lease Loyalty Reb (if qual)††.

1999 CHEVROLET Malibu LS



\$7425

Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder p/steering, p/brakes, air, p/windows, p/door locks, p/trunk, rear defrost, dual airbags, bucket seats, cd player, tint, tilt, 29,064 mi. Vin #X6251956.
WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2000 CHEVROLET Cavalier



\$8973

Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, airbags, rear defrost, bucket seats, tinted glass, 23,937 miles. Vin#Y712659.
WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

1999 CHEVROLET VENTURE LS



\$13,485

7 Pass, auto, 6 cyl, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, p/mirrors, p/locks, rr defr, dual airbags, cassette, tint, cc, tilt, 34,213 mi. Vin#XD239555.
WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2001 CHEVROLET Impala



\$14,956

Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder engine, p/s/b, air cond, p/w, rear defrost, airbags, tint, cruise control, tilt, 24,245 mi. Vin #19339254.
WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2000 CHEVROLET BLAZER 4x4



\$15,400

Auto transmission, 6 cylinder, p/steering, ABS, air, p/mirrs, p/windows, pdl, r. defr, airbags, buckets, cassette. Vin#Y2170317. 27,707 miles.
WARRANTY AVAILABLE!

2002 CHEVROLET 2500 CARGO VAN



\$16,985

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LEASE FOR: \$179 48 Mo. **\$0** Due at Lease Signing!

NEW 2003 MITSUBISHI LANCER ES

Automatic, 4 cyl, p/s/b, air, dual airbags, bucket seats, tinted glass, pw, pdl, p/mirrors, rear defrost, CD, Vin#JL050488, Stk#C407, Msrp: \$15,387, Price includes \$300 College Grad Rebate, \$2000 Factory Rebate, \$500 Diamond Preferred Customer Rebate (if qual)

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BUY FOR: \$23,989



NEW 2003 CHEVY TAHOE LS
BUY FOR: \$30,989



NEW 2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT DE
BUY FOR: \$11,989



NEW 2003 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER LS
LEASE FOR: \$259 48 Mo. **\$0** Due at Lease Signing!



NEW 2003 MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPORT ES 4WD
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NEW 2004 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LAREDO 4x4

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NEW 2003 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT
BUY FOR: \$15,985



NEW 2003 JEEP LIBERTY SPORT 4X4
LEASE FOR: \$209 39 Mo. **Total Due @Inception: \$1799**



NEW 2004 JEEP GR. CHEROKEE LAREDO 4X4
BUY FOR: \$24,485

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