

COMMUNITY FORUM

Take the pledge

Another election season is under way, with candidates in the hunt for a Board of Education seat. Voters must also decide whether to approve the school district budget.

This election promises to be a heated affair given the sharp divisions that exist. But we hope the candidates resist the temptation to resort to low-brow campaigning. Personal attacks and nasty campaigning only serve to lower the level of dialogue and debate and denigrate the candidates as well as the political process.

We want to see a fair, decent campaign.

To prevent damage to the political process, the West Orange League of Women Voters years ago introduced a fair campaign pledge and code of ethics for candidates to follow in their political bids. The code has helped candidates focus their campaigns on the issues without resorting to sensational hype or back-stabbing of foes.

For the information of voters and candidates, the West Orange Ethics Code states:

"I pledge to conduct my campaign for public office openly and fairly. I will discuss the issues and participate in fair public debate with respect to my views and qualifications. I will not engage in, nor permit, defamatory attacks upon the character of my opponents, nor shall I engage in unwarranted invasions of personal privacy unrelated to campaign issues. I shall not appeal to, and I shall condemn, appeals to prejudice based upon race, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or political affiliation. I will not use, nor permit the use of, any campaign material or advertisement which misrepresents, distorts or otherwise falsifies the facts regarding my record or that of any other candidate."

Candidates who sign the code also pledge to "repudiate support from any individual or group whose activities violate this campaign pledge."

We suggest the candidates vow to take the high road by signing this editorial and sending it to us. There is no reason why candidates for the board cannot take five minutes to sign this editorial and send it to our main office at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

We will alert the public about all signed pledges we receive from candidates so they can know where their candidates stand, and they can evaluate which candidates have the courage to live up to that pledge.

A related issue is seen in the school budget debate. Citizens and politicians should pledge to be fair and level-headed in these budget discussions. Hyperbole and grandstanding have done nothing to lower budgets in the past. Only reason and honesty will produce the best results.

Is there room for two parties?

In their quest to enforce one-party rule in government, the Democrats on the Board of Chosen Freeholders are expected to fire the Union County Utilities Authority's Board of Commissioners tonight. There are no legal grounds to stop them, but we ask the freeholders to avoid this political massacre.

We have no problem with the freeholders' intent to reduce the size of the board, but we are fearful of their plans for its membership.

Freeholder Dan Sullivan said a seven-member board would be "more manageable," and that the current board has not demonstrated a willingness to reduce tipping fees.

As we have pointed out repeatedly, these freeholders have no plan to accomplish that either. Furthermore, a recently completed audit shows that such a goal is easier discussed than accomplished. In addition, another, soon to be finished, audit will show that the authority in fact is working toward fiscal efficiency.

Based on what we know about the party leadership, we suspect the Democrats' intent is nothing more than a political power grab. By putting their own people on the Board of Commissioners, the party will control who the UCUA hires and where it spends its money.

It is no secret that this freeholder board has not made an effort to work with the current UCUA commissioners. In social circles, and stays with kind, but in public service, all officials should work together to serve the public.

Years ago, when the state decreed that counties must provide a means of waste disposal, it was these Democrats who pushed for what would become the UCUA. And the way is bonded debt is structured.

Last month, this same group of Democrats hired the attorney

"Freedom of speech is vital, but it is not free; it has a high price. It compels us to go against our natures, to hear unpleasant and even hateful things, to tolerate unpleasant and even hateful people."

—Donald Kagan
history professor

Rahway Progress

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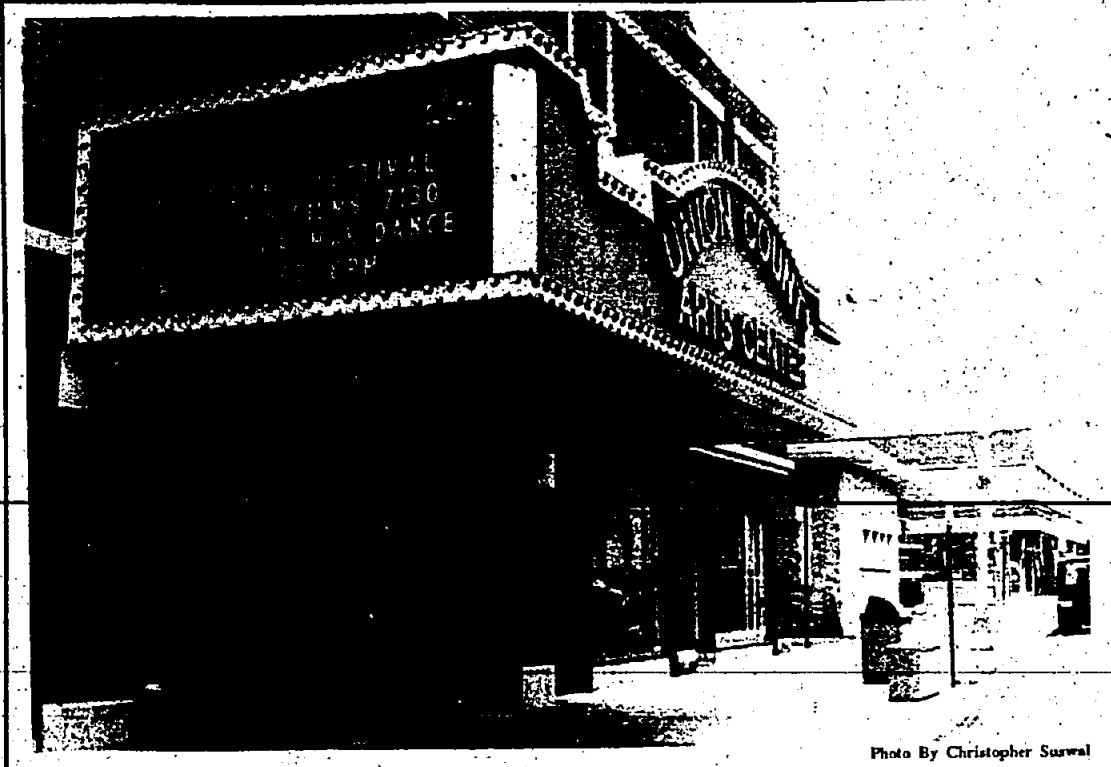
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SEASON OF THE ARTS — The marquis of the Union County Arts Center located on Irving Street in downtown Rahway displays some of the events it showcases this season. On Saturday, Carolyn Dorfman Dance will perform at 8 p.m. See Calendar, Page 4.

Photo By Christopher Suswal

Fairy tales appear within promises, secrets

Kathleen was 11 years old, and when she spotted the Tiny Woman beneath the blooming azalea bush she knew what to do. She snatched up the Tiny Woman and held her upside-down.

"I gotcha!" Kathleen shouted.

"How rude, how undignified," yelled the Tiny Woman. "But if you set me right side up, I'll tell you the first of the Four Promises."

"Not until you give me the Four Promises of Deirdre like my grandma said you must do. I held you upside-down."

"Oh, her. If she's so smart, why not stand her on her head then?" said the squirming Tiny Woman. "But if you set me right side up, I'll tell you the first of the Four Promises." So Kathleen did.

"Well," said the Tiny Woman, straightening her tiny green dress, "here are the rules. I give you one promise now, and you may ask for another on this same day in any future year. The first is the Promise of Knowledge. You are too young, but so be it." And with that, the Tiny

Free Form

By Bob Rixon

Woman jumped into the bush and vanished.

Kathleen told no one except her cat, who was soaking up a sunbeam. The cat opened one eye, raised its head, said, "I know now," and went back to sleep.

That year Kathleen got straight A's in school, much to everyone's amazement. So the next year, when she was 12, she went back to the azalea bush on the same day and called out, "Give me the second of the Four Promises of Deirdre."

A tiny voice said, "The second promise is the Promise of Pleasure. You're too young, but so be it."

"That year Kathleen's parents took her to Disneyworld and to Wildwood for a week each, and to Great Adventure five times.

The next year Kathleen was 13, she returned to the azalea bush on the same day and called out, "Give me the third of the Four Promises of Deirdre."

A tiny voice said, "The third promise is the Promise of Beauty. You're too young, but so be it."

Soon after, Kathleen looked in a mirror and realized how pretty she was. She had a crush for wearing the coolest clothes and doing her hair just right. Boys at school followed her everywhere. Her girlfriends became jealous, but Kathleen didn't care.

So the next year, when Kathleen was 14, she went back to the azalea bush on the same day and called out, "I want the fourth of the Four Promises of Deirdre."

"Are you absolutely sure?" a tiny voice asked.

"Yes, I'm sure, and be quick about it," said Kathleen impatiently.

"It wouldn't hurt to wait while," advised the Tiny Woman from beneath the bush.

But Kathleen couldn't wait, she wouldn't wait. "Just give me the

fourth Promise," she commanded.

"The fourth of the Four Promises of Deirdre is the Promise of Forgetfulness. You're too young, but so be it."

Instantly, Kathleen forgot all the promises, and even forgot about the Tiny Woman beneath the azalea bush.

But, forever after, whenever she petted the cat, she said to it, "You know, I always feel like there's something I can't quite remember. It's so annoying."

Her cat would lift its head, open one eye, and reply, "I know now."

Cats only pretend to keep secrets, Kathleen's cat told this story to my cat, who mentioned it to me. It's fun to hear cats see them hanging out together by the azalea bush.

Bob Rixon is a resident of Rahway and a columnist of this publication. Rixon's e-mail address is rixon@msn.com.

Freeholders are right to fire UCUA bosses

The key to lower taxes in our municipalities is the cost of garbage disposal in Union County, and the freeholders have taken the necessary step of firing the UCUA commissioners.

I asked Freeholder Dan Sullivan who he took this move, and he answered, "because they weren't doing a job."

That sums up the problem with the UCUA commissioners. The freeholders are right to fire them.

The freeholders made a smart move in ousting the utilities authority commissioners while we have time to act. All kinds of economic plans have been implemented to reduce the cost of operating the facility in Rahway.

While a new contract is drawn that all parties can live with. If the new commissioners have an open mind and follow good business practices, a new contract can be drawn that is beneficial to all parties concerned.

People will judge our Board of Chosen Freeholders by the way they solve this problem, which is not far right now to the people of Elizabeth.

Part of the problem is management of the authority and part is the need to negotiate the original contract.

Speaking Frankly

By Howard Freund

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Howard Freund is a writer and former interviewer for the cable television show "Elizabeth Newsmakers."

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan is at it again with words of wisdom for those bold enough to play the stock market. When he coined the

phrase "irrational exuberance," the stock market dropped 100 points as a warning. Since the first of the year, the stock market has continued to rise as though it would never end. The fed chairman is doing his best to warn the people this correction is coming and a lot of money can be lost.

Many of our senior citizens have made a lot of money on the current bull market and I wouldn't want to see them give it back in the correction that is coming. If you play the game, buy wisely and only what you can afford.

A steady investment program is a good way to accumulate stock. One good example of a stock I have bought is the NUI Co., which owns the Elizabeth Gas Co. and has dividends to the users of their service for a lot of years and is right here in Union County. The company is well run and pays a good dividend for those in for the long haul. Public Service Gas & Electric is another company similar to NUI Co.

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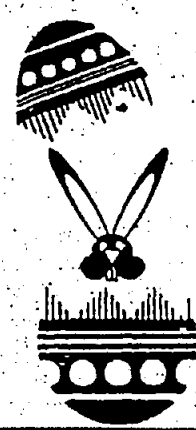
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Tracking memorabilia



Sue Cimilluca looks at model trains as her 5-year-old son, Billy, looks on at a train show sponsored by the Jersey Central Chapter of the National Railroad Historical Society. The show was a fundraiser for the Jersey Central Division of the Railroad Historical Society. The show was held at Mother Seton High School in Clark, its annual home for the past 16 years. Money from the show will go in part to the restoration of a GP-7 engine, No. 1525, that originally ran for the Jersey Central Railroad and for the Santa Claus train ride in Westfield.

NEWS CLIPS

Help wanted

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County, RSVP, a program of Catholic Community Services, is accepting applications for volunteers who wish to serve with Travelers Aid of New Jersey. Travelers Aid has been operating at the International Terminal B of Newark Airport since 1992. New volunteers will be assigned to Terminal C, handling domestic flights. Training and parking are provided by Newark Airport and Travelers Aid. For more information, call Jo Ann Croteau, RSVP director, at (908) 709-2150 or 709-2150.

Position open

Like working with artists, teachers and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival has a volunteer position open for volunteer recruitment coordinator. The part-time position is from November to April. Duties include community outreach, communication with interested volunteers, scheduling and volunteer management at the festival. The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks and Recreation, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at Union County College in Cranford. The event, scheduled for March 26 and 27, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in the county.

At the festival, 3000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in visual arts, music, creative writing, theater and dance.

Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites, and staff information stations. Anyone interested may call (908) 558-2550.

Court needs volunteers

The Domestic Violence Volunteer Advocate Program is designed to use trained volunteers as advocates in assisting the Domestic Violence Unit of Union County Family Court. Volunteers are needed to support victims of domestic violence by assisting with paperwork and helping them through the court system. The Domestic Violence Volunteer Advocate Program's goal is to provide attention to victims. Anyone interested in joining may contact Kimberly Maria Switzer, Crisis Intervention Counselor, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at (908) 527-4327.

Scholarships available

The Harold and Dorothy Snyder Foundation has announced the availability of scholarships to aid Union County students in college or 1997 high school seniors, pursuing careers in nursing or construction. Applicants are judged on achievement, need, extracurricular activities

including community service, and evidence of character. Applications may be obtained by calling (609) 273-9745. The deadline for submission of applications and all supporting materials is tomorrow.

Horseplay for all

The Watchung Stable, Mountainside, offers two programs, in addition to its fall and spring series of lessons, which are designed to introduce the sport of horsebackriding to all.

For Girl Scouts, there is a program designed to allow them to earn a Horse Lover Badge. This one-time session is appropriate for Junior Level Scouts and addresses the requirements as set forth in the badge handbook.

Pre-schoolers, youth and scout groups, senior citizen clubs and organizations for people with disabilities will enjoy the stable's one-hour tour of the barn and its facilities.

Both programs can be arranged at date and time convenient for any group. There is a \$20 fee per hour; horsebackriding is available at an additional cost.

Contact Jean Jacobus at (908) 789-3665 for further information. The Watchung Stable is a facility of the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation and is located at 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

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Spring concert tickets go on sale

Youth and Family Counseling Services will hold its annual spring concert of the Orchestra of St. Peter by the Sea under the direction of Father Alphonse Stephenson on April 19 at 8 p.m. As in the past the concert will be hosted at the Church of St. Helen, 1600 Railway Ave., Westfield.

This benefit concert provides a main source for raising funds for the agency.

Youth and Family Counseling Services has been operating for more than 75 years serving Union County. It is an independent family counseling and mental health resource which is non-profit and non-sectarian.

The agency provides affordable

professional counseling on a sliding fee scale to troubled individuals and families. This allows them to utilize their strengths and abilities to live more comfortable and productive lives.

For further information about the concert, contact Youth and Family Counseling Services at 233-2042.

Crafty classrooms



Students and instructors gather for classes at the Claude Reed Center in Rahway. Above: An elementary cooking class, taught by Debbie Nihlsen happens on Thursdays. Below: The Youth Fun Time program, under the direction of Sharon Young and Sandy Giersten, includes games, arts and crafts for 3 to 5 year-olds in Rahway. For information call the Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation at 827-2045.



PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

JOHN L. MALONE, his heirs, devisees and assigns, hereby gives notice to all persons claiming an interest in the real estate described in the foregoing, that he has filed a Petition for Summary Judgment in the Superior Court of New Jersey, County of Essex, to determine the validity of the mortgage and to determine the amount of the debt due on the mortgage. The Petition was filed on March 10, 1997, and the Court has set the matter for trial on March 27, 1997. All persons claiming an interest in the real estate described in the foregoing are hereby notified that they must appear at the trial on March 27, 1997, to contest the Petition. If they fail to appear, the Court may grant the Petition and enter judgment in favor of the plaintiff. The real estate described in the foregoing is located at 1234 Main Street, Newark, New Jersey. The mortgage was made by John L. Malone to the plaintiff on January 1, 1995, for the sum of \$100,000.00. The mortgage is secured by a deed of trust in favor of the plaintiff. The debt due on the mortgage is \$100,000.00 plus interest at the rate of 12% per annum. The plaintiff is requesting summary judgment because the defendant has failed to appear at the trial and because the plaintiff has established that the mortgage is valid and that the debt due on the mortgage is \$100,000.00 plus interest at the rate of 12% per annum. The plaintiff is requesting summary judgment because the defendant has failed to appear at the trial and because the plaintiff has established that the mortgage is valid and that the debt due on the mortgage is \$100,000.00 plus interest at the rate of 12% per annum.

Professional Directory

Accountants	Mental Health
Couto, De Franco & Magone, CPA's Individual Income Tax Preparation Tax planning and consulting Non-Profit Assistance Personal financial planning Mutual funds, insurance & tax preparation Free consultation by appointment 16 Village Plaza, South Orange—201-379-3300	Mountainside Hospital Mental Health and Alcohol/Chemical Dependency Services Comprehensive emergency/urgent intervention and outpatient services 201-429-4112
Attorneys	Psychotherapy
Christopher Luongo, Esq. General Practice Personal Injury, auto accidents, slip & falls, workers' compensation & food poisoning cases Municipal Court, DWI, traffic, delinquent, juvenile & criminal cases Consumer & Commercial Litigation Free Consultation — Summit — (908) 522-1898	Phyllis A. Karan, M.S.W. Specializing in: • Individual, Family, & Group Psychotherapy • Counseling Adults & Adolescents 908-277-1009 or 277-0591 Summit, NJ 07901 By Appointment
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UNION COUNTY NEWS

WORLD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1997

SECTION B

From The Editor's Notebook

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

Two weeks ago, this column described some of the actions taken by teachers in school districts in Union County where contract negotiations had reached an impasse. Covering students' work on bulletin boards, refusing to give homework, and unannounced sick days were some of the things teachers in Union, Hillside and Rahway had been doing to get even with the Board of Education. I use the words "get even" because of the responses I received from the column. I asked readers to comment on the column as well as the negotiations themselves.

The most thoughtful response came from a retired member of the education community, who said, in part, "We need teachers who are dedicated to teaching our children, who can actually teach and relate to them because they like teaching and want to teach, and not because the money is so great and they are protected by the powerful union to earn huge salaries. The children suffer in classes taught by incompetent teachers and it affects them during their entire life."

The reason I feel this is profound and expect more from teachers is because when I interview people for jobs and have them write a trial story, I find that many of them can't even write a complete sentence. I remember one teacher who wrote the education system because the classroom from kindergarten to senior in high school, is where basic skills are expected to be taught.

I attended Catholic school for 12 years and basic skills were drilled into our heads, whether it was English, reading, math or any other subject. Having teachers who enjoyed teaching their classes and I doubt the lay teacher in the early to mid '70s were paid high salaries — prepared us for a future in the real world.

The writer continued: "More than 75 percent of money allocated for education is for salaries and maintaining buildings, and not toward educating the children. Remove the union as strong as it is, make it all effective for employees, or just take unions out of education entirely. They are choking the educational system with their strength and politics. Politics should never be part of a school system. Today, it is. The unions are killing education, making it unaffordable."

Here are other responses to the column:

"I read Mr. Canavan's column today, regarding homework in Union High School. The one thing I don't understand after reading his article is that when public employees like police and firemen in unions reach an impasse they go on strike, but when teachers reach a contract dispute with the town, what teachers have to look forward to is the Board of Education proposing a contract. That's the difference and that's the reason we are forced to take the action we did not want to take."

"The actions they are taking are absolutely deplorable, childish and stupid and should not be tolerated. Whether they have a contract or not, they are still getting a paycheck and that paycheck requires them to work. And if they're not doing out homework assignments, and if they're not maintaining bulletin boards and doing the other little things they have to do, they are not working. I believe their pay should be docked. That's speaking as a parent."

"Speaking as a taxpayer, some body should point out to these teachers that they should be dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st century. I don't know who they're trying to kid, but whatever health care they get, since they are not paying for it, they should be thankful. The rest of the world who works for industry has been forced to give cutbacks in medical care, take managed care, up their contributions, and these teachers are still so afraid that nothing has ever changed and they're still living in 1953. Their salaries are absolutely outrageous."

See NOTEBOOK, Page B2

By the book



County Police Detective Tracy Diaz and Officer Danny Tate join AAA Automobile Club Assistant Manager Jennifer Schneider following the completion of the club's Basic At-Scene Traffic Accident Investigation course. The course is sponsored by the club's Foundation for Safety and Education.

Freeholders give clerk \$18K raise

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi recently received a raise; the reasons for the raise appear to be "politics."

The Board of Chosen Freeholders voted to give Rajoppi a raise at its meeting on Feb. 27. She is being paid \$77,154, but will have her salary raised to \$94,919.

The raise is retroactive to April 1, 1996, when the offices of the Register and County Clerk were merged and Rajoppi started doing the jobs of both.

According to Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan, a Democrat, the raise was approved to bring Rajoppi into "parity" with the two other constitutional officers in the county government, the sheriff and the surrogate. Both of these people receive \$94,919.

But Rajoppi's raise was not unanimously approved. The vote for her raise was along party lines on the Democrat-controlled board.

Freeholder Edwin Force said the raise was "total political patronage" and was a "pay-off" for favors.

Rajoppi, a prominent Democrat who was a New Jersey delegate to the 1996 Democratic National Convention, was elected in 1995 to her five-year term.

According to Force, Rajoppi has donated \$17,000 to the Democratic Party in Union County, the same party whose members on the freeholder board approved her raise.

In response, Sullivan said, "I don't know how much, but I'm sure that's not any different with Republican clerks or Democratic clerks. I find that statement rather amusing."

Force also contended that the raise was unnecessary and made Rajoppi, if anything, overpaid.

Force said that the raise would make Rajoppi the most highly paid county clerk in the state and one of the best paid constitutional officers. The average salary for county clerks in New Jersey is \$69,500, he said.

As for party, Force said, "you can argue party all you want, if the jobs are in party, I happen to think that the sheriff has more responsibilities than the clerk."

"I personally think we are overpaying our other constitutional officers," he added.

The salary has been the same for the county clerk since the term of Paul O'Keefe.

O'Keefe was acting county clerk and was filling in the last year of the term of Walter Halpin, a Republican clerk, for 20 years.

In 1995, Rajoppi's Register's Office was eliminated and its duties merged with the Clerk's Office. O'Keefe and Rajoppi continued for election as clerk, and she won. According to Force, her salary was to continue at the existing rate.

"She knew exactly what the salary would be prior to running for County Clerk," he said.

But Sullivan said "it's my understanding that there were commitments by the Republicans to the constitutional officers' salaries in party and that some people reneged on that deal."

Force denied this, saying "there's no basis for any charges that we took that position."

This is the second attempt to raise Rajoppi's salary. The first was made by Chairman Linda Stender at the freeholders' reorganization meeting on Jan. 5, when the Democrats took control of the Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The issue of her salary was used by the Republicans during their campaign last year, alleging their rivals were going to give the clerk a raise to repay \$17,000 in campaign contributions. Rajoppi had made to the party.

Rajoppi explained the money by saying her contributions were added to a party fund that she would use herself.

Bank eyes Collective

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Summit Bancorp.'s appetite for smaller banks was fed March 3, when it announced it is acquiring Collective Bancorp.

While the former Summit & Elizabeth Bank boosts its branch total by 82 offices in 350, Collective customers won't notice the changes for another six months.

"We acquired Collective so we can have a stronger market presence in southern New Jersey," said Summit spokesperson Barbara Horn. "Summit will have 17 percent of all deposits in that part of the state and 10 percent in north Jersey. Collective customers will benefit by having available mutual funds and other expanded services."

Summit Bancorp., formed when United Jersey Bank merged with Summit & Elizabeth two years ago, is New Jersey's largest bank. Summit has 28 branches throughout Union County.

"We won't be making any changes in bank locations for a while," Horn said. "We have a criteria which considers such factors as proximity and volume."

Horn said there are other milestones to make before they decide on what branches to keep.

Freeholders, Legislature vie over UCUA control

Legal question of counties' power over utilities is posed

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

Forces are aligning in the battle over the UCUA Board of Commissioners, and the battle itself could come to a head tonight.

On one side is the Democrat-controlled Board of Chosen Freeholders. The freeholders will vote tonight to reorganize the structure of the UCUA's board, reducing the number of members while dismissing the current members, most of whom are Republican.

According to Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender, the move is warranted because the commissioners have not been "proactive" in making the UCUA's incinerator in Rahway competitive with other garbage disposal methods.

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According to Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender, the move is warranted

NEWS CLIPS

My County contest

A poster contest titled "My County" to promote County Government Week, April 13-19, is being sponsored by the County Officers Association of New Jersey.

The contest is open to all fourth-grade children throughout the state said County Clerk Joseph Raloppi, who is serving as coordinator for the project in Union County. Sheriff Ralph Froehlich and Sergeant Ann Conti are the Union County Constitutional Officers, with Raloppi sponsoring the contest.

Details, information and guidelines on the contest have been sent to public, private and parochial schools throughout Union County. The guidelines require students to create a poster that depicts all that is special and unique about Union County and how this relates to county government.

The deadline to submit posters is March 24. A winner will be selected by the judges and first, second and third runners-up, as well as a selection of three honorable mentions, will be awarded. The winners will receive certificates and be invited to meet the county clerk, sheriff and surrogate at the courthouse in Elizabethtown.

Teachers, school administrators or parents who would like further information on the contest can call (908) 527-4998. Posters submitted by the students will be exhibited in the county courthouse during County Government Week.

Mini-camp sign-ups

The Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County is taking registration for its spring Mini Camp, which will be held March 24 and March 31 through April 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Children will participate in a full day of activities including arts and crafts, group games, physical education activities, swimming and more. Registration will take place at the Boys and Girls Club, 1050 Jeanette Ave. in Union.

Camp fees for a one-day session is \$15, and for the week of March 31 through April 4, fees will be \$75 for the first child, and \$65 for the second child, and \$55 for every child thereafter.

For more information on club programs, call (908) 690-1858, (908) 687-2697, or visit our web site at <http://www.bgcunio.org>.

Classes offered

Reigns Cooperative Extension of Union County's Healthy Indoor Air for America's Homes Initiative.

Take a Deep Breath

The Division of Parks and Recreation will have training on Monday and March 31 and April 7, 14 with graduation on May 6 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. or from 9 to 11:30 a.m. today and March 20 and April 3, 10, 17 with graduation on May 1. All classes will be held at 300 North Ave., East, in Westfield.

Classes are free but those interested must register. Volunteers that receive training will be asked to give 15 hours of time to their community. If interested, call (908) 654-9854 between 8:30 and noon or 1 to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Green dance planned

The Division of Parks and Recreation, with Summit YMCA, invite all people with disabilities to its first annual "green dance." Monday, the program will be held at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple Ave. Summit, 3:30-5:30 p.m. The afternoon will feature music by a professional disc jockey, lots of food and more.

Admission is \$5 with registration, required by March 10. For more information, contact the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation at (908) 527-4990.

Mothers meeting

Formerly Employed Mothers at the Leading Edge is a national support group for all women who have decided to temporarily leave the workforce to stay at home with their young children.

Discussion groups are held on the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cranford Library, Walnut Avenue in Cranford. Prospective members are encouraged to meet the group at this informal meeting. For any additional information contact FEMALE, call (908) 381-7912.

County-wide cookies

It's Girl Scout cookie time again. Through Sunday, Girl Scouts from the Washington Rock Girl Scout Council will be taking orders for their annual cookie sale. Girls will be holding displays, book orders, and taking order door-to-door in Clark, Elizabeth, Hillsdale, Kenilworth, Linden, Montclair, Roselle, Roselle Park, Springfield and Union.

This year's cookie line-up includes three new varieties: Reduced Fat Lead Ginger Delites, Five World Cinnamon, and Reduced Fat Lemon Party Creams. The famed other cookie selections include: Thin Mints, Shortbread, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, and Caramel Delites.

Remember that your \$3-per box order not only buys a cookie competitive with national brands, but it has a life-long impact in changing a girl's first annual "green dance." What is an "announced sick day?" Do we have a public intervention in police negotiations? You say 75 percent of a budget is salary and benefits. It's the same in any industry. When you get your car repaired, what is the "announced sick day?"

It's ridiculous that you want to get more of the public involved. What is the Board of Education that elected public officials? Who is going to pick them? We have a Board of Education and that's what they're there for. The only way to get someone's attention is to irritate them. The Board of Education has constantly made promises and doesn't keep them. The Board of Education isn't being fair and the teachers have to react."

Notebook

(Continued from Page B1)

outstanding for the amount of time they put in, which is six hours a day, with an hour for lunch and an hour free period, which translates into a four-hour day for 180 days per year. The most dangerous thing in the world is dodging the teachers' cars at 3:15 p.m. as they're rushing home from work.

"This is a good example of bias in writing. It has loaded words, emotionally charged words. The 'ultimate crime.' What is an 'announced sick day?' What is an 'announced sick day?' Do we have a public intervention in police negotiations? You say 75 percent of a budget is salary and benefits. It's the same in any industry. When you get your car repaired, what is the 'announced sick day?'"

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Ballet rides high in 'Rodeo'

By Bea Smith

Highlighting the spring season of the New Jersey Ballet Saturday night at the Wilkins Theater at Kean College of New Jersey, Union, was the exciting and entertaining Agnes de Mille American classic "Rodeo," featuring Russian dancers, and Gershwin music that brings back fond memories along with music by Tchaikovsky.

When "Rodeo" was premiered back in 1942, it reportedly changed ballet by translating movements of cowboys into dance. "Rodeo," as presented Saturday night after intermission, was an absolutely marvelous, exceptionally entertaining piece of work.

During the first part of the evening, the audience was enthralled with a brief ballet by the New Jersey Ballet principal dancer Eliza Lazar called "Rodeo, Part Three." The many talented Lazar performed the original work and the gifted dancers, Rhonda Murray, Christina Thayering and Wil Turner, displayed their talents to the music of Gioacchino Rossini's opera, "Siege of Corinth."

The beautiful costumes were by Paul McRae, another dancing member of the ballet.

In "Sleeping Beauty Pas de Deux," a purely classical work of art, the elegant Lori Christmas, as Princess Aurora, is awakened by a kiss by her prince, Andrei Jourovlev, for the four, muscular dancer, who has strong turns



Robert Johanson, left, directs Tom Hewitt as Rochester in a rehearsal for "Jane Eyre," a world premiere production, written and directed by Johanson, which will run at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Milburn, through March 29.

Director brings classic into the present

By Bea Smith

Whether he is performing the title role in "Jesus Christ Superstar," flying across the Paper Mill Playhouse stage as "Peter Pan," portraying an old man in "The Secret Garden," singing his heart out in numerous Mill musicals and in his fantastic concert, "Life on Earth" or directing countless productions, the versatile Robert Johanson is — without a doubt — unique.

In the third of his interpretations of classical novels for the stage, "Jane Eyre," a fabulously huge production currently at the Paper Mill, the tireless Johanson also served as director.

"I was director-manager-to-do-it-all such perfection?"

"Well, the way I did it," Johanson explained during a chat the other afternoon, "was that I re-read the book and wound up working with the book for six months. Actually, it only took six weeks to do the writing. And I was easier-directing it because when I was writing it I was directing it in my head. Directing someone else's play is much more difficult."

The play's director, singer and actor smiled his special smile.

"This one was really a labor of love. I can't believe it was written in 1847. I had studied the book for a long time. And when I wrote it, I wrote double parts for some of the principals — and sometimes triple parts."

"For example," Johanson said, "Clory Clamont, our star of 'Gigi' which we recently did at the Paper Mill, has three roles in 'Jane Eyre.' She played Miss Maria Temple, Rochester's fiancée, and Bertha, Rochester's first wife in that wild fight scene. It was really fabulous! Johanson said that "I wanted to try different things. I wanted it to be an interesting mystery, and so I asked for a lot of shadow on the stage to keep it mysterious. I was always exploring new ways to present this story. Directing all those scenes and all those adult actors was no problem for Johanson. He had to work harder with the children, however, even though Johanson was along very well with youngsters; he has lots of nephews and nieces, all favorites."

"A lot of the children have to learn about a classical novel, and it was hard work, but they learned, especially Blayne Auffarth and Amanda White, who played two roles, the featured role of Adele Vares. Rochester's ward, Augusta Brocklehurst, one of the youngsters at the Lowood School. You know, of course, that she is the daughter of our own veteran actor and singer, Richard White and our choreographer, Sharon Halley."

"As Adele Vares," said Johanson, "She speaks only French on the stage. She learned French in school; that is why she speaks it so well. She really is a natural."

"What's so wonderful," he exclaimed, "is that it's great to have done both children in my head first. I wrote it with all of that in my mind, and they both go hand-in-hand."

Another classical novel?

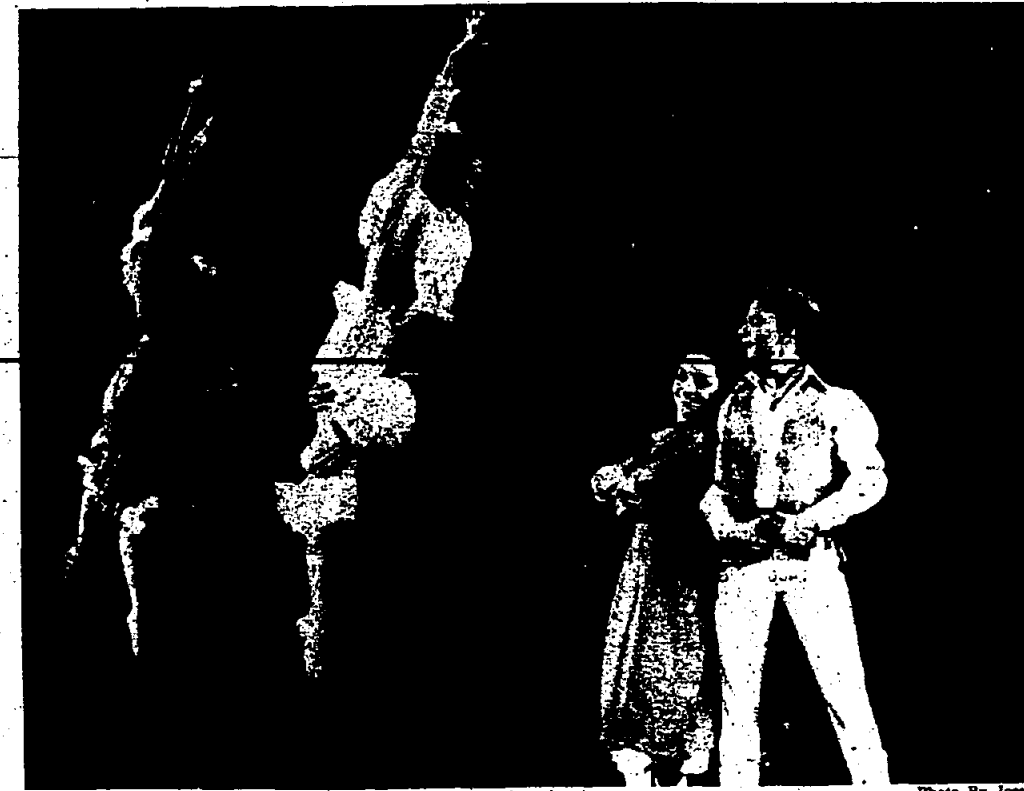
Johanson mused, "I am, already thinking about 'Waterbury Heights.' It's the only one left of that period. And it does give audiences a special interest in re-reading the classics. I read them all the time. They are my favorites."

But before Johanson can get to that part of his life, he has become actively involved with directing the Paper Mill Playhouse's stage version of "The Wizard of Oz." This spring he will direct the musical at The Theatre in Madison Square Garden, with Roseanne as the Wicked Witch of the West, and the Paper Mill's wonderful Judy McAuliffe as the Good Witch.

"In fact," he said excitedly, "I'm flying out to Los Angeles tomorrow to meet with Roseanne. We want to shoot the sequence in the Crystal Ball. And all day tomorrow she will do her witch's stuff, you know, put on that green makeup."

"It's all very exciting. It will open on May 7 in Madison Square Garden and run for four weeks, and then we'll probably do it in Los Angeles with it. There are 5,000 seats in the New York theater. And we plan to do it every year in the spring in Madison Square Garden. I'm just thrilled about it. It's been in the talking stage for four years."

And now, tomorrow.



The Cowgirl and the Champion Roper enact the Saturday Night Dance in the New Jersey Ballet's production of the American classic, Agnes de Mille's "Rodeo," which was presented Saturday night at the Wilkins Theater at Kean College of New Jersey, Union.

Travel images featured at Mountainside exhibit

An art exhibit featuring black-and-white photographs of his work can be seen at the Mountainside Art Center. The exhibit, titled "Travel Images," features a collection of black-and-white photographs of his work in several countries, including the United States, Canada, and Europe. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Admission is free.

Comedian takes a break from pulling teeth

Dr. Gary Schneider of Union County, N.J., is taking a break from his medical career to perform as a comedian. Schneider, who is also a stand-up comic, is performing at the Paper Mill Playhouse. He is known for his humor and his ability to make even the most mundane topics funny. Schneider is performing on March 14 and 15 at the Paper Mill Playhouse. Tickets are available at the box office.

Artists are invited to join association

Westfield Art Association President Barbara Schwinn extends an invitation to artists and members of the community interested in fine art to join the group and enter their exhibitions. General meetings are held the second Thursday of the month at the Westfield Community Room, 425 East Broad St., Westfield at 8 p.m. Program focus on artist's demonstrations, speakers and workshops. A wide range of topics and media, including photography, are covered. One need not be an artist to participate.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paper Mill announces Gilman partnership

In its continuing effort to bring the best theatrical entertainment to the stage, the Paper Mill Playhouse, Williamstown, has announced its partnership with the Howard Gilman Foundation in presenting the world premiere production of "Jane Eyre."

The foundation is a privately owned endeavor representing the interests of Howard Gilman, chairman of the board of the Gilman-Paper Co. Founded in 1884, the Gilman-Paper Co. is the largest, solely-owned paper company in the United States. The foundation is dedicated to the preservation of

Coppola's 'Jack' is innocently amusing

The Video Detective

By Tracey DeAngelis

In the '70s Frances Ford Coppola brought us such classics as "The Godfather," "The Godfather Part II," "Apocalypse Now" and "The Conversation." Well, it's the '90s and Coppola has a new film for us, "Jack." While I am confident that "Jack" won't be remembered as one of Coppola's masterpieces, and may not be remembered as all by many, it does have a few poignant moments and may be the answer for an upcoming snow day rental for you 10-14-year-olds.

In his sly way, Coppola tries to tell us that time is precious. In a closing scene, Jack receives his award for valiant action and delivers the speech of an enlightened 17-year-old from a 68-year-old body. He tells his classmates that life is short and they should make their "spectacular." As Jack, played by Bill Cobbs, confronts his parents and challenges them to give Jack a normal life filled with friends and school.

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Jack wins things around when he steps onto the basketball court. In an ending scene, Jack has his classmates cheering for him and dancing around the playground as he wins the game for his teammates. Looking forward when you're only ten his other

Exhibition winners announced

The Westfield Art Association announces the award winners from their recent 22nd Annual Oil, Pastel and Sculpture Member Exhibition.

Awards of Excellence were presented to Helene Brant, Marilyn Ostich Nelson, Hella Balin, S. Allyn Schaeffer.

Awards of Merit were received by Teri Marsala, Gladys Reimers, Edmund Sprung and Violet Brenner.

Honorable Mentions were given to: Ralphetta Johnston, Burton Longenecker, Richard Groszow, Steve Tomczyk, Alice Regan, Fran Azzara, Gloria Wallace and Robert Lee.

The show was judged by artist and educator Edith Anderson Feiner.

Attention: male singers

The Westfield Glee Club invites male singers to come and sing at rehearsals on Mondays at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church Parish Building Assembly Hall, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield.

Interested male singers are invited to call Dale Juntilla at (908) 232-0673.



Dr. Gerard and Kristin confer on the content of an unusualy demise in Stony Hill Players' "Appointment With Death," running for two more weekends at Oakes Memorial Outreach Center in Summit.

Make sure to schedule 'Appointment With Death'

By Jacqui McCarthy

Associate Editor

What scares you? For some, the response would be a massacre massacre film; for others, thunderstorms, and still others might mention the 6 o'clock news. Hold onto your comfort zone, however, when you take a seat at Oakes Memorial Outreach Center to see Stony Hill Players' "Appointment With Death." This psychological thriller takes a close look at humanity's dark side, forcing analysis of just how far someone might go to get what they really want.

In the lounge of the King Solomon Hotel in Jerusalem the audience is introduced to an interesting mix of characters, travelers from many places and nations in life all looking for a unique and enriching experience. Of primary interest is a wealthy American family, the Boytons, consisting of teenage Ginevra, eligible bachelor Raymond, and reserved Lennox and his wife Nadine. Playwright Agatha Christie immediately brings the family's idiosyncrasies into focus — Ginevra's psyche seems a bit frail.

Raymond inexplicably self-doubting, and Lennox and Nadine's relationship somewhat strained.

The source of the tension becomes readily apparent — Mrs. Boyton, the family matriarch, who expertly manipulates the purse strings, causing her children to jerk around like so many puppets. It doesn't take a master

stunt to deduce which one of these people you might want to kill.

Cleverly disguised as a typical Christie whodunit, this play provides an abundance of opportunities to emote, and the cast takes advantage of them. Character development is very strong and focused in the first act, clearly establishing relationships which in turn lead to possible motives. Lisa Silverman is sweet as troubled Ginevra, whose intense yearnings voice what what her feelings are afraid to say. Philip J. Dolan III is endearing as socially inept Raymond. Steven Yafet's Lennox turns submission into an art form. Effective performances are in store from Audrey Ann Monaco as Dr. King, who falls for the bumbling Raymond, and Bob Gagliardi as Dr. Gerard, passionately researching a cure for young Ginevra.

Expect an excellent performance from Nathalie Yafet, whose facial expressions alone tell more about Nadine's feelings than words ever could. Without exception, however, Wendy Weinberger gives a commanding performance as the infamous Mrs. Boyton. Living or dead, you won't be able to take your eyes off her.

Dispersed throughout the seriousness are some truly comical characters. Darlene Lloyd as the hotel clerk plays off of Jeffrey Michalowski's campy Abdullah, bellboy/waiter, with

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DINING REVIEW

MARCH 13, 1997

By Kevin Singer

Staff Writer

For those who want to get away from America for a short time, but don't have the time to spend, Summit offers an opportunity to escape to an intimate restaurant in France for a couple of hours without leaving the country.

For the past few years, Souffle has specialized in serving authentic French cuisine to diners without excuses. The low cost yet rich atmosphere of the health conscious for food without guilt. And along with a "no excuse" menu, the care and preparation evident in the menu and the food signifies that Owner/Chef Jimmy Shady spares no expense in his creations.

The atmosphere is one of Old World charm, from the cozy arrangement of tables and mood lighting to the Impressionist paintings adorning the walls. One is quickly transported to a French provincial restaurant. The menu items are boldly featured in French, but luckily for those with an extremely limited knowledge of the language, English translations are provided. The fare, served in ample portions, is somewhat exotic compared

to typical American food, but unfamiliarity is no excuse to avoid sampling the diverse specialties. Although not a standard menu item at this time, the Grilled Eggplant was a definite surprise. Garnished with garlic cream and fried onions, the soup was thick and creamy, with a subtle spicy taste that was by no means overpowering. A description that can be used to describe much of the eatery's fare. The soup is proving so popular that the recipe will soon be featured in an upcoming edition of Ladies Home Journal.

For those who crave seafood, the crab cakes, which can be ordered as either an appetizer or as an entree, are light and fluffy, with a garlic-flavored Dijon mustard sauce that complements the dish perfectly. The salmon entree, encrusted with a paste of bread crumbs and served on a ragout of mushrooms, fennel, and tarragon, was cooked to perfection and the ragout and puree enhanced the flavor of the fish without overpowering it.

The Seared Foie Gras was served on pears poached in wine, along with a vanilla and raspberry sauce, and the fruit flavors combined to

Souffle
A taste of France within driving distance
Souffle is located at 7 Union Place in Summit.
For more information, call (908) 598-0717.

nothing, the servers are attentive, helpful, knowledgeable, and most importantly, easily accessible. Lunch is served Tuesday to Friday from noon to 2:30 p.m., and dinner is served Tuesday to Friday from 5 to 10 p.m., Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m. For more information, call (908) 598-0717. Souffle is located at 7 Union Place in Summit.

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HEALTH/FITNESS & MEDICINE

Keep an eye on your sight

Men and women over age 50, at an increased risk of going blind from glaucoma, can always avoid this danger with a simple test from an eye doctor, according to Jordan Burke, M.D., F.A.C.S., ophthalmologist at Summit Eye Group.

"Everyone knows someone with glaucoma," says Dr. Burke, who notes that the disorder causes damage to the cells comprising the optic nerve, which is responsible for transmitting visual information from the eye to the brain. "As the baby boomers join the 69 million Americans already over the age of 50, the incidence of glaucoma will reach unprecedented levels."

With more than 17 million baby boomers moving into the blindness danger zone by the year 2000, the need for this simple test becomes more critically important than ever, notes the ophthalmologist.

Recent worldwide research has developed new treatments, and current studies in the U.S. and overseas are focusing on optic nerve protection and regeneration.

"Because glaucoma leads to blindness, yet has no symptoms, a simple eye exam is the only way to protect vision from this insidious disease," says John W. Corwin, executive director of the Glaucoma Foundation.

In addition to aging, other risk factors for glaucoma include nearsightedness, family history, diabetes and race. African Americans are six times more likely to have glaucoma than Caucasians.

"Anyone can get glaucoma, from babies to senior citizens," says Dr. Burke. "There are virtually no signs or symptoms. That is why regular eye check-ups are the key to preserving sight."

The Glaucoma Foundation's free worldwide services include literature, information, and medical referrals, all available by calling (800) GLAUCOMA.

Walk together in all kinds of weather

Do not discriminate your walking routine just because it is cold outside. Everyone is invited to join Senior Health members for a one-mile walk in the indoor comfort of Menlo Park Mall on the upper level in the food court. After the morning walk, participants enjoy a health talk and light breakfast provided compliments of the mall management.

Mall walking programs will be cancelled if the roads become too icy or snow-covered for safe travel. For inclement weather cancellations, contact Menlo Park Mall at (908) 494-4441.

SeniorHealth, a free membership program for people age 50 and older, is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health-Care System. The program currently has over 47,000 members who enjoy a variety of programs, lectures, trips, discounts and services throughout the year at both the Saint Barnabas and Union Hospital locations. For more information, call (201) 325-6503 or (908) 964-0442.

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Commitment to the cause



Richard P. Ohs, president/chief executive officer of Atlantic Health System, was honored at the American Diabetes Association Third Annual Ball for his steadfast commitment to prevent and cure diabetes and improve the lives of all affected by the disease. From left: Louis B. Lombardi, chairman of the event; Keith S. Usiskin, M.D., president, Northwest Regional Chapter, ADA; and Ohs.

Fertility specialists offer hope to prospective parents

Eric K. Seaman, M.D., a board-certified urologist specializing in microsurgery and male infertility, reverses vasectomies for men who have renewed interest in fathering children. Dr. Seaman is affiliated with Associates in Urology, a West Orange, specialty group diagnosing and treating male and female genital-urinary conditions.

"An average of 2,000 men who have had vasectomies seek reversal," says Dr. Seaman, who completed a fellowship in male infertility at Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas. "Most often, they are successful professionals in their mid-forties or fifties. Many already have 'fathered' children; now, grown, in a first marriage," Dr. Seaman adds that "There also are younger men in intact families who through their families were complete when they decided not to change their minds. Perhaps they have lost a child, or they simply want to enlarge their families because their financial situation or personal outlook has improved."

Vasectomies prevent sperm from reaching the egg, preventing fertilization from conceiving. During reversal, a microsurgical procedure with the patient under general anesthesia, Dr. Seaman reconstructs the vasculature system. Sperm can then travel from the testes through the epididymis, where it matures, and on through the vas deferens, muscular tubing, to the penis's ejaculatory ducts and urethra. To accomplish this, Dr. Seaman notes that, in

the urologic surgeon cuts through the vas, which has been previously sutured or clamped. Using microsurgical sutures, each smaller than the width of a human hair, Dr. Seaman reattaches the vas segments. The surgery can take from two to four hours.

Success depends on several variables, according to Dr. Seaman. "Physiologic makeup differs among men," he says. "Some patients may have a longer vas, better allowing what is called vasoviscosity reconnection—the tubing-only—when there is blockage—called blowout—in the epididymis, we need to perform an epididymovasectomy. This creates an additional sperm pathway at the vas-epididymis junction."

The decision to perform EV is made once Dr. Seaman visualizes the operating field and assesses sperm presence—or absence—in the vas deferens near the epididymis. When success rate, measured by the presence of sperm in the ejaculate, reaches 90 percent with VV, EV is successful about 50 percent of the time. "Patients who wait 14 years or more after vasectomy are at a higher risk for blowout, as are men with a shortened vas," says Dr. Seaman. "Another contributing factor to minimum sperm return after EV is the structure of the tubules within the epididymis. More delicate than the vas, these tubules require longer time to connect them to the vas, and often do not result in a viable sperm count in the ejaculate until six months post-operatively," Dr. Seaman notes that, in

rare cases, EV sperm return takes a year or longer. In contrast, within six weeks VV can produce strong sperm counts that continue to improve up to a year after surgery. The surgeon advises that, although the surgery may be successful technically, producing normal sperm count; the major criterion for success is a couple's pregnancy.

If patients desire, Dr. Seaman can perform microsurgical sperm aspiration obtaining viable sperm for use during surgery for freezing. "The wish to become a parent again is what motivates men to undergo the procedure," he says. "and frozen sperm may be necessary for in vitro fertilization or insemination if the count does not appreciate adequately or if there are other couple-related infertility problems."

Dr. Seaman received his medical degree from New York University School of Medicine and completed his urology residency at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, New York. He holds membership in the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Society for the Study of Male Reproduction, and the American Urological and Medical associations. He has researched and published extensively about topics including prostate cancer, genitourinary dysfunction, and male fertility infertility.

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Your doctor can help you put your best foot forward

One of the most frequently asked questions from the local community involves care and recognition of the diabetic foot.

The many different complications that can develop in the foot from diabetes, ten to fifteen percent of the people with diabetes mellitus remain free of diabetic foot problems. But the majority will experience some degree of foot complications as a result of progression of the disorder over time.

Diabetes can contribute to foot problems in two ways:

• One, it can cause decreased circulation to the foot resulting in from patients of numbness and burning in the feet; symptoms that identify nerve damage. Local cuts and scrapes as a result go unnoticed and poorly-fitting shoes will aggravate the problem.

Secondly, diabetes can cause decreased circulation to the foot resulting in reduced ability to fight infection and heal wounds. The interaction of these two processes sets up the individual with an initially simple problem in the foot for more serious and life threatening complications over time. When the injury goes neglected or improperly managed by the patient which, unfortunately as a podiatrist, we see it happening all the time.

It is important for all persons with diabetes to understand the importance of controlling their diabetes. All individuals with diabetes mellitus should be evaluated on a regular basis by their medical doctor. A plan of care should be devised for each patient that helps to guard against serious complications.

The risk of developing foot problems can be greatly reduced if you follow simple principles of foot care and see your podiatrist.

For more information in diabetic foot management and care, call Springfield Podiatry Center, 493 Morris Ave., Springfield at (201) 379-1113, office of Dr. Peter Kelly and Dr. E. Aimee Williams.

Spend quality time at a nursing home

While visits from family and friends are always appreciated by an elderly person living in a nursing home, spending time together can also become stressful for those who frequently visit their loved ones. How can a visitor keep peace of mind and continue to have interesting and enjoyable visits?

Cornell Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, a 170-bed long-term care facility in Union, has published "Make the Most of Your Nursing Home Visit," a free brochure with guidelines for visiting a family member or a friend in a nursing home. The publication provides tips on preparing for a visit with an elderly person and offers useful suggestions on spending quality time together. It also provides guidelines for ending your visit and saying good-bye to your loved one, which can be difficult.

To receive a free copy of "Make the Most of Your Nursing Home Visit," call (908) 686-7442. Cornell Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is an affiliate of the Saint Barnabas Health-Care System.

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City plans to convert wetlands

**By Sean Daily
Staff Writer**

They have decided what they are going to do with the vacant lot behind City Hall.

After years of speculation, Mayor Michael Kennedy announced last week that the city will build a new police station on the site. Kennedy said that he is talking to two "potentials for the site" — large users that would use all or most of the available space at the retail center. He said that he could not give out any names at this point, but did say that

He added that part of the site to be remediated — worth about \$30,000 — would be covered by the retail center. This remediation met with controversy last year.

Mayor James Kennedy announced that the ground will be broken on the 11-acre parcel of land by May. This will be the start of a 18,000 recreation center that, in the end, will house the Recreation Department and the Rahway Police's Juvenile Department.

Further down the road are plans to turn a large, separate chunk of the site into a retail center. Kennedy said that this will include one large user, taking up 80,000 to 100,000 square feet, or a number of smaller offices, with an

anchorage office of 25,000 square feet and offices ranging down to as little as 1,000 to 2,500 square feet.

No site plans have been approved by the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment, though the city

least — the remediation of wetlands and the clean-up of construction materials left on the site.

Right now, there are 0.86 acres of wetlands on the site, wetlands that must be filled in and graded before

There was also controversy over the bidding process itself for remediation.

The first round of bids was rejected because they were too high. The lowest bid was \$101,425, n

is talking to an architect for the recreation center. Talks are also being conducted with the police and Police Athletic League as how to use the recreation center. Kennedy said that he hoped to have everything ready in the next six months.

Teen-ager sentenced to rehab

programs for robbery, attack

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

A 14-year-old city resident was sentenced to a residen-

The incident took place in a backyard near East Avenue and Paterson Street on Dec. 11 last year. The tim was playing basketball and Laurencelle said the

Michael Brown, 14, was sentenced to four years of probation conditioned on the successful completion of a residential fields program, basically a four-to-six month stay in a county-run group home. He then will be transferred to


Brown was charged with robbery in the incident but pled guilty to second degree robbery after the December incident. First degree robbery carries a heavier maximum sentence for each of the robbery factors than non maximum sentences.

A reduced sentence as this has upset the victim's mother, Paula Laurencelle of Rahway, whose son suffered a concussion and other injuries during the robbery. Laurencelle fought to have Michael's name released "for the good of the community."

"My views on the whole thing is that first-degree crimes should not be pleaded down," she said. "I almost lost my son, one more blow...."

Celebrating research

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Michael Forrest, director of pharmacology at Merck and Co., receives a plaque

recognition of Merck's commitment to cardiovascular research. From left are Jayne Mackta, executive director of the New Jersey Association for Biochemical Research; Cindy Flockton, an American Heart Association volunteer; Michael Forrest; and Willie Mae Coran, an American Heart Association board member.

[illegible]
