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The Progress provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 5 p.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

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Neighbor risks life to help fire victims

(Continued from Page 1)
The fire that burned at 1001 Shuyesant Avenue, where he talked to reporters in the afternoon. "I'm not a hero," he said. "I just did what I hoped anyone would do for their family."
"I just did what I thought I should do," he added. "I just... couldn't get in."
Wilson said that the Lands had lived in the house for two years. He called them "just real nice people" and said they were "very helpful." Wilson said that the Lands had been in the house for two years. He called them "just real nice people" and said they were "very helpful." Wilson said that the Lands had been in the house for two years. He called them "just real nice people" and said they were "very helpful."

Residents dispute need for new waste incinerator

(Continued from Page 1)
Department of Transportation, including regulations on shipping papers, packaging waste, driver's education and spill contingency plans.
In addition, haulers cannot accept medical waste from anyone except registered generators and that both the generator and hauler must keep shipping manifests and other paperwork from the DOT. The DOT paperwork, at least, must be kept on file for several years.
"If there is a problem, then the agency will very happily fine both parties," he said.
According to state regulations, medical waste must be placed in rigid, leak-resistant containers impervious to moisture and which are sufficiently strong to resist bursting under normal conditions. They also must be sealed to prevent leaks during transport.
In addition, "sharps" must be placed in puncture-resistant containers and fluids in tightly-lidded, break-resistant containers.
DOT regulations include special regulations for cultures and stocks, such as petri dishes. The containers for these must be stackable to a certain height, leak-resistant and able to withstand a fall of four feet.
There are no set types of vehicles that can transport this waste. Theoretically, a private car can be used to transport waste, and it has even been used to transport it. But this is not recommended.
But Rubenstein said that, in her experience, large hauling companies rarely use anything smaller than a pickup truck and can use vans and even tractor trailers.

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2008 The Rehearsal Dinner

2009 Kinds Of Registries

2010 Divorce Parents

2011 Traditional Bride's Guide

2012 The Wedding Tips

2013 Parent's Involvement

2014 What is a Wedding Announcement?

2015 The Rehearsal Dinner

2016 Kinds Of Registries

2017 Divorce Parents

2018 Traditional Bride's Guide

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Rahway Progress to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to Rahway Progress, Attention: Chris Suswal, managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

April 3
• The Rahway Democratic Club will hold their annual Board of Education Candidate's Night at 8 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall at the corner of Inman Avenue and Jacques Avenue. The forum is open to everyone and refreshments will be served following the presentations. The forum will consist of candidate's opening statements, answering questions from the audience, and concluding remarks. For information call 388-7077 or 388-6619.

April 4
• The Rahway Women's Club will be entertained by a slide lecture at their general membership meeting at 8 p.m. in the Second Presbyterian Church hall on New Brunswick Avenue. The slide lecture will review the club's recent trip to Greece and Israel by Lorraine Suresch, the club's treasurer.

April 8
• City Council will hold its pre-conference meeting at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall.

April 11
• The New Jersey Golden Gloves Finals will be held at the Rahway High School Gymnasium. At last year's semi-finals, the World Champion boxers were in attendance, as well as New Jersey State Boxing Commissioner, Larry Hazard. This year's event promises to be filled with exciting boxing action and will be attended by nationally-known celebrities. The guest of honor will be General Alfred M. Gray, USMC. Ticket prices are \$60 Golden Ringside Seat which includes prime rib reserved seating, and \$10 general admission. For information on time and tickets call the Rahway PAL at 827-2136.

April 14
• The New Jersey Native and Plant Society will hold several events in the month of April. There will be a Spring Lecture Series at the Holly House at Rutgers and Cook College from 7:30 to 9 p.m. on April 11 and April 25. Ted Gordon will lecture on New Jersey Pine Barrens on the first date and Nancy Slowick will lecture on Native Plants of the Pine Barrens on the second date. There will be a Spring Walk and Planting at the Watchung Reservation on April 20 at 10 a.m. For information on any of these events contact Karen Carrough at (908) 352-1734 or Jeanne Overly at (908) 247-0079.

Arts center houses festival

(Continued from Page 1)
cycles, the only changes being in color, texture and pattern.
To offset all of the heavy film school stuff, the festival ended on Saturday with "Edgar, Monsieur," by Didier Fennel, also of Paris. An almost-silent comedy, the film depicts a traffic accident that ends with the two sides duking it out. Errol Flynn-style, with sprints through the streets and homes of a French city.
Saturday's festival was only one of about 70 festivals shown throughout the country, according to Knevez, with films varying according to where each festival takes place. Festivals in Hoboken and New York are generally very experimental, she said.
When asked where Saturday's festival placed, Knevez said "right in the middle" between experimental and "mainstream" films.
Saturday's festival was only one of several Dinec Mera festivals that took place throughout Union County this month with the assistance of the Union County Motion Picture and Television Advisory Board. Festivals have been shown at the Union County College campuses in Elizabeth and Cranford and at Kean College in Union as well. Saturday was the first time that the festival has been at the arts center.
"We thought this in because it's established," said board member Bill Carney. "But we hope, if we're still on the board, to make our own New Jersey Film Festival and bring in fresh and exciting filmmakers."
"Even the biggest festivals, even Sundance started like this and now it's the biggest," Carney added.
We want your news
Your organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we offer between the Rahway Recreation Board and the Rahway YMCA.
"Turned out to be a nice day," said Ralph Dymally of the Recreation Department. "I was kind of worried when I woke up and saw the drizzle. About 75 children came to the event, which featured, not only an Easter Egg hunt, but face painting and poster contests with spring, Easter and Passover themes. The names of the winners were not available."
"They were fine," said Carol Kaminski of the Recreation Department. "There were few that were... we had fun."
The Easter Egg hunt was exactly that — a hunt in the park's grass for bright plastic eggs.
The children were divided up into age groups to hunt for the eggs. May be not surprisingly, the group of 3 to 4 year-olds was the biggest group.
All of the eggs were hollow and held something to warm the cookies of any kid's heart — maybe a cache of jellybeans or, even more valuable, a slip of paper that would entitle them to an Easter basket, check, full of goodies.
The Easter Egg hunt also featured Bugs Bunny, actually Andrea Eliaher in a costume.
"They were good," she said. "They were very — hugging and kissing and loving Bugs."
Saturday's hunt was only the second time that the hunt has been held outside.
Originally, the hunt was held inside at the Rahway YMCA on Irving Street "just for a spring kind of bringing together kind of community kind of thing," said Kaminski.
But the YMCA could not guarantee the use of the facility, so last year it was brought outside.
This year's attempt was down from last year's attendance of about 100 kids. That attendance was down from the year before that, one of the "high years" ever with over 200 kids.
Dan Dymally said, "I inherited the program. As you probably know, it's the eighth annual and we thought it was worth continuing."

Violence said to be key health risk in area

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According to Holteran, the results yielded that five percent of individuals in the study area have been physically abused by another household member.
"Reports of domestic violence are higher in Union County than the state average," she said. "Professionals who participated in a follow up focus group told us that physical and mental domestic violence affects one in four relationships in the county."

Holteran went on to say that 18 percent of those who reside in the area surveyed report they have been victims of crime. She said that 13 percent do not feel safe in their neighborhoods. Respondents revealed that 2.1 percent use street drugs.

Howard Spivak, a national leader in community violence, was the keynote speaker. Spivak said that if current trends are allowed to continue, by the year 2003 murder will be the leading cause of death among the ages 15 to 24.

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Officials announce area code changes to take effect in June

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer
Dial that 908 area code while you can.
According to Tim Ireland, spokesman for Bell Atlantic, a new area code is coming to parts of Union County. The new area code, 732, takes effect in early June, though callers will be able to use the 908 area code until December.
The area code change will split a number of towns in half or even in thirds. These include Clark, Linden and Westfield.
A number of towns already split between the 908 and 201 area codes will be further split between the 908 and new 732 area code. These steady-split towns include Elizabeth, Hillside, Springfield and Scotch Plains.
Rahway is the only Union County municipality that will change over completely to the 732 area code.
The new 732 area code is one of two new area codes in the state; the other is 973. Bell Atlantic, the region's phone carrier, says that it needs the new area codes because the old only to wireless communications such as pagers and mobile phones. This has been done in New York City. But Ireland said that our has been outlived by the Federal Communications Commission because it is anti-competitive and does not offer "dialing parity." In other words, a caller would have to dial 10 digits — 1 plus the area code, plus the number — to call a cellular phone instead of seven for a local call over phone wires.
State legislators have advocated an "overlay" plan, a plan originally rejected by Bell Atlantic. This would assign the new area codes only to newly assigned phone numbers and leaving old phone numbers with the old area code.
But Ireland said that some towns would be split up no matter what plan was implemented.
He added that it is "theoretically possible" to have the area code boundaries follow town lines; this has been done in the past.

City gives kids a chance to celebrate

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer
The day was cold and windy when the kids invaded Hart Street Park on Saturday.
They were there for the eighth annual City Easter Egg Hunt, a joint effort between the Rahway Recreation Board and the Rahway YMCA.
"Turned out to be a nice day," said Ralph Dymally of the Recreation Department. "I was kind of worried when I woke up and saw the drizzle. About 75 children came to the event, which featured, not only an Easter Egg hunt, but face painting and poster contests with spring, Easter and Passover themes. The names of the winners were not available."
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General news — Monday 5 p.m.
Letters to the editor — Monday 9 a.m.
Sports — Monday noon.
Church, club and social — Friday noon.

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Honored society



New inductees of the National German Honor Society gather for an induction ceremony at ALJ. Front row from left: Thomas Chung, Melissa Sockell, Karen Yelavinsky, Beth Tworally, Tara Theille, Sarah Tweedle, Kathleen Dowling, German Teacher and Club Advisor, Kathryn Zigmont. Back row from left: Mark Moglia, Ron Weslosky, Ed O'Brien, Gunter Kryszon, Jason Wollenberg and Donald Strunk. Other inductees were Kimberly Kryszon, Kelly Dunn and Christian Zawosky.

HEALTH

Violence said to be key health risk in area

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Support a worthy cause

New Jersey Golden Gloves Finals, a premiere boxing event sponsored by the Rahway Police Athletic League, will be held in the Rahway High School gymnasium on April 11. Former heavyweight contender Gerry Cooney is among the nationally known celebrities who have confirmed an appearance for the 12-hour boxing contest.

As expressed in a promotional conference last week, last year's semi-finals in Rahway included five World Champion boxers in attendance, as well as New Jersey State Boxing Commissioner Larry Hazzard. Hazzard was among those who talked about how youth and education programs would benefit from the event. To many, this seems to be a thrilling and worthy event to attend. But some people simply view boxing as a barbaric and morally harmful form of entertainment.

Some of the speakers downplayed the issue of violence and instead concentrated on how boxing teaches discipline and respect for one's adversary. Boxing should not be singled out because its object is to have the victor knock down his opponent. This is not a random act of violence like a mugging or attack. It is a competition and should be viewed within the context of sportsmanship. Those who think otherwise will most likely not attend the event and rightfully so. But there is no reason why boxing cannot be used as a means to drum up excitement and fund a worthy cause.

People should focus on what this event will do for helping the city's youth. For example, some of the money raised will benefit the Alternative Center for Education, which is a high school level program that aids students who are having academic difficulty. According to Paul DiGiano, an ACE program instructor, the tutoring program meets in the mornings and afternoons and "gives kids a chance to succeed." We commend the volunteers who dedicate their time to these types of programs. We support the PAL and other social institutions that make valiant efforts to help young students, especially those who are struggling with academics. The youth need help to grow because no matter how you look at it, they are the future.

Find what is best

Mayor James Kennedy announced that ground will be broken on the 14-acre parcel of land behind City Hall by May. After many years of debate, the development of this land is finally coming to fruition.

Residents should be excited for this development because of what is being proposed. It will be the start of an 18,000-square foot recreation center that, ultimately, will house the Recreation Department and the Rahway Police Department's Juvenile Bureau.

But the plans to fill all of the vacant lot have not been finalized. It is possible that a large, separate portion of the site will be turned into a retail center. Kennedy, who has continued to research the project, said this will include one large client. Interestingly enough, such an endeavor would take up 80,000 to 100,000 square feet, or a number of smaller offices, with an anchor office of 25,000 square feet and offices ranging to as little as 1,000 to 2,500 square feet. In weighing these options, the mayor should strive to find a scenario that best satisfies the people of Rahway.

Kennedy's effort to begin the construction of the retail center to start around mid-summer is momentous because if construction does start, it would mark the end of a 25-year effort to develop the site.

But the construction of the retail center has a catch — the wetlands need to be remediated and the construction materials left on the site need to be cleaned up. Right now, there are 0.86 acres of wetlands on the site, wetlands that must be filled and graded before construction can begin. The city will have to pay a price for this remediation. Thankfully, about \$140,000 in federal Housing and Urban Development money had been given to Rahway for this purpose. Kennedy said this week that the money had been released to the developer of the site, SDI Industries, to remediate or to hire a contractor for remediation.

Building a recreation and business center in this area of the city would be extremely beneficial. The downtown needs to undergo a transformation to truly be revitalized, as many people have suggested. Residents should search for a satisfactory development plan and should settle for nothing less than what they think will help Rahway thrive.

What's your opinion about this subject? Call us at (908) 686-9898 and enter Selection 4000. Use our InfoSource hotline to express your opinions about this and other local issues. Responses will be published next week.

"The problem, if there is a problem in this country, is because we have a free press, people have no idea what it's like to live in a country that doesn't."

—Art Buchwald
Columnist

Rahway Progress

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SERVICING SCOUT
Justin Lewis, a junior at Union Catholic High School, is honored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders for his acts of volunteerism. Lewis initiated a coat drive program which was successful, with the help of troops in many towns. These include Clark, Cranford, Hillside, Elizabeth, Rahway and Egg Harbor. The coats and jackets were brought to the St. Joseph Social Service Center in Elizabeth.

Elected officials leave you hungry for more

Free Form

By Bob Rixon

Except for the growing list of President Clinton's strange campaign contributors, the only amusing political story of the new year has been Bob Torricelli's "no" vote on the Balanced Budget Amendment. That vote had the right wings scratching "they say," as if they had actually voted for the guy on the mistaken impression that the word "Democrat" bore his name on last November's ballot was a misprint. Or dumb enough to believe campaign promises.

Perhaps they are indignant because Torricelli is the first senator we've had to reach for the spotlight since Harrison Williams did a turn with a plucky sheik a few years ago.

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Right To The Point

By Joe Origlio

I'm proud of what I've done, but I won't ever do it again.

As these words of a former federal legislator "No, these are the words spoken by a squaring Vice President Al Gore at a press conference answering questions about his alleged involvement in the illegal raising of campaign funds on federal property.

Not since the infamous "Checkers" speech by Vice President Richard Nixon in the '50s, have I seen a high elected official dig himself in a hole deeper by the minute. Experts claim laws were broken and Gore, if not removed from office may not be a show for the Democratic President.

Did not in the year 2000. Gore and his boss, President Clinton, and "team" players claim that they had to work hard to raise campaign funds because the GOP raised more money from the Dems. Not true.

Have these bunker mentality people selectively forgotten that the Republicans went through an expensive primary season? Remember when you heard many times that 180,000 campaign was broke?

There is also talk about an investigation into Gore and his staff to push the Immigration and Naturalization Service to speed up the process to produce a million new voters by Election Day. It has been reported that 180,000 immigrants, many with criminal records, breezed through the processing without background checks. In fact, at last count 71,567 had criminal records but were granted citizenship anyway. And Clinton and Gore trying to do President Carter when he let Fast Food empty Cab's jails open.

American soil. Is Gore proud of this?

Hypocrisy is no stranger to Gore, who brought tears to many eyes at the Democratic National Convention when he spoke of his sister's death from lung cancer due to what started as cigarette smoking.

But Gore failed to follow up the line with the fact that he accepted campaign contributions from tobacco industry political action committees for six years after the passing of his sister.

Remember how the Democrats used the race card against President Bush with the Willie Horton ads? Who was the first to bring the issue to the forefront? You guessed it. Al Gore.

Like the president, the very best solution is to let him find his legal defense account.

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Alicia Clarke
Second in class
Ronald J. Ferrara
Also athletics coach

Johnson announces student of the month

Arthur L. Johnson Regional High School in Clark named Alicia Clarke Student of the Month for March.

Ranked second in her class, Clarke is president of the student council, vice president of the National Honor Society, editor of the *Lancer*, and president of the Sound Studio. She is a member of the Spanish Honor Society, Foreign Language Honor Society, KEY Club, Spanish Club, and works on the *Cruiser* staff. Additionally she serves as a Peer Tutor on the principal's Advisory Board and Committee on School Issues, and as an Interlock Council delegate and as a Peer Leader. She has done collaborative learning with the elementary schools as a member of the Science League and participated in ALL's Career Shadowing program. At home in the athletic field, Clarke is a member of the Varsity Field Hockey Team and is a member of Varsity Winter and Spring Track teams. She received recognition in the Mountain Valley Conference for placing first in the 400 meter hurdles and won the Presidential Academic Fitness Award.

She is the daughter of Joan and Philip Clarke. Clarke was selected to attend the Governor's School on the Environment and the Douglas College Science Weekend Academy. Named an alternate to the New Jersey Girl's State, she was nominated to attend the National Senate Youth program and the National Young Leaders Conference and Presidential Classroom. She is an Edward J. Bloustein Distinguished Scholar and a National Honor Society Sylvan scholar, and is a semi-finalist in the Coca-Cola Scholars program. She was the chairperson for the Leadership Training Conference of the Archdiocese of Newark Youth Council, a delegate for the Youth in County Government Day and a Homecoming Queen finalist.

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SPORTS

LOCAL SPORTS HIGHLIGHTS

There are a number of New Jersey Scholastic Coaches Association Clinics upcoming. Here's a look at a few:

Soccer: Saturday, April 12 at Tom's River North High School from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wrestling: Friday, May 9 at the College of New Jersey from 8 a.m. to 3 a.m.

These clinics are designed to meet the needs of varsity coaches, assistant coaches, recreational coaches and ASA coaches. The fees include clinic packets, all sessions and lunch.

More information may be obtained by writing or calling the NJSAA at P.O. Box 487, Route 130 Robbinsville, N.J. 08691, Attn: Ernie Fincio 609-559-2776.

The Central Jersey Basketball Camp, co-directed by Neil Horne, Wayne Everly and Kathy Matthews, will be held for two six-day sessions in July.

The camp, located on the campus of the Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, is in its 24th year of operation and has proven to be one of the most successful resident basketball camps in the area, with over 400 boys and girls attending the camp last summer.

The camp staff is composed primarily of high school coaches and college players from Union, Somerset, Haddonfield, Monmouth, Middletown and Mercer counties.

Again this year, the Central Jersey Camp will offer a camp session for girls during the week of July 13-18 along with the boys. Matthews, the highly successful girls' basketball coach at Union Catholic, will direct the girls' program.

The camp has featured many outstanding college coaches as guest lecturers in the past, including Herb Magee of Philadelphia Textile, Rolfe Massimino of UNLV, Rich Adubato of U.S. Postal, Pete Carril of Princeton and Kevin Harlan of Rider College to name just a few.

Other features of the camp include top college and high school players as counselors and two-hour drill sessions each day where each camper is taught and then practices basketball fundamentals in small groups.

The camp is divided into three different age and skill level groups for both drill sessions and games — elementary, junior and senior high school age groups.

The first week of the camp for boys and girls ages 9-17 will be held from Sunday, July 13 to Friday, July 18. The second week will run from Sunday, July 20 to Friday, July 25.

A boy may attend camp for either or both sessions, while girls may attend the first week only.

More information may be obtained by calling Horne at 908-654-5691 or Everly at 908-654-5424.

The ninth John Somogyi Shooting Camp, co-directed by Neil Horne and John Somogyi, will take place June 21-22 at St. Peter's High School in New Brunswick.

The camp, which is open to all boys and girls ages 9-17, will include two three-hour sessions that will enable players to improve on their shooting technique and give them individual and partner drills for further practice.

More information may be obtained by calling Somogyi at 908-846-8928.

First Team All-State?

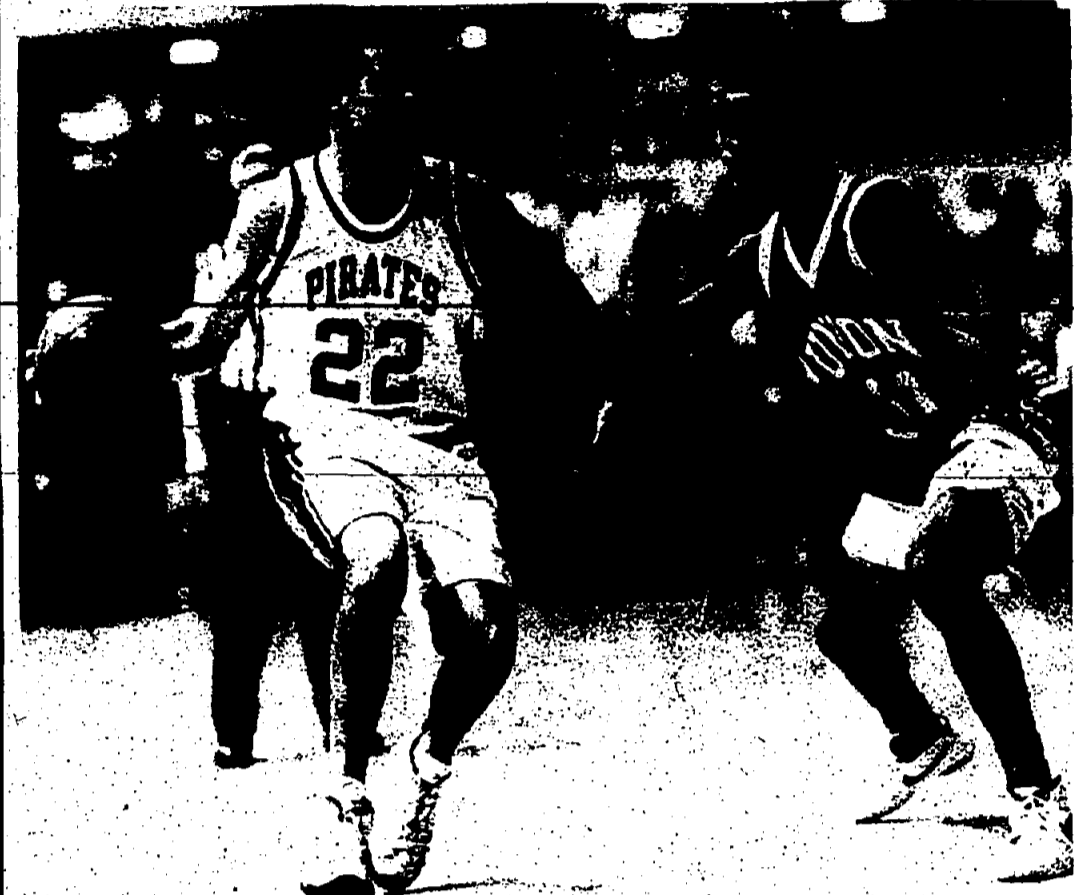


Photo by George Perdikis

Seton Hall Prep senior Ryan Peterson of Clark, No. 22, tries to get past Union defender LaForest Knox during last Thursday's Tournament of Champions semifinal contest at the Rutgers Athletic Center in Piscataway. Peterson averaged a team-leading 11 assists and three steals per game and was regarded by many as the top point guard in the state this year. His play lifted the Pirates to a 29-2 record as Seton Hall Prep was defeated by St. Anthony of Jersey City 69-63 in Monday night's TOC championship game.

Johnson should be strong again in '97

By Andrew McGann

Staff Writer

The Johnson Regional High School football team, the powerhouse in the Mountain Division of the Mountain Valley Conference, will look this year to take the Group 2 crown that has eluded the Crusaders the past two seasons.

Johnson has won the last two North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 titles en route to falling in the Group 2 state championship game the last two years.

In last year's Group 2 championship game the Crusaders lost a heart-breaker to West Deptford 5-4 in 10 innings.

High School Softball

"We've been good to enough to take Group 2 the last couple of years," Johnson head coach Steve Petruzzelli said. "A couple of things just didn't go right."

Johnson, MVC Mountain champs the past two seasons, fashioned a 23-3 record last year, falling in the UCT final to Union 4-3 in the seventh inning. The Crusaders were 22-3 in 1995 and have won 45 of 51 games the past two seasons.

"We're capable of winning and getting back to the title game," added Petruzzelli, who is entering his fourth season as head coach at Johnson. Much of the hopes for the Crusaders rely on the arm of junior pitcher Karen Kolmos, last season's Home News and Tribune Player of the Year.

The third-year starter has a bit of a scare recently when she was involved in an automobile accident, but her seatbelt saved her from being seriously injured. She will be ready for the start of the season.

The rest of the lineup is as follows: senior Nicki Langgan at catcher, sophomore Chris Brazzini at first base, senior Jen Aleffi at second, senior Erica Russo at third, junior April Unlik and freshman Chris Azola at shortstop, senior Erin Duffy at left field, senior Jen Evans in center and senior Ashley Heller in right.

Langgan, Russo and Evans who batted 4-5-6 in the order last year, will be hitting 3-4-5 in the order this season.

Freshman Katie Burns will also be looked upon to log some innings on the mound.

Six of last year's starters are gone due to graduation, but Petruzzelli isn't worried. The previous year, the Crusaders lost five starters to graduation and still made it all the way back to the Group 2 finals.

"Our win/loss play best as seniors," Petruzzelli said. Johnson will be facing a tougher schedule this season, one that includes two Mountain Division contests against Governor Livingston's team that is returning all of its starters from last year.

Johnson and Governor Livingston shared the conference title last year, although the Clark school has won six of the last seven meetings between the two schools.

Clark hoopsters triumph

The Clark 6th grade traveling basketball team finished the regular season in the Garden State Basketball League with a 59-35 victory over the Cranford United. Clark's third consecutive triumph.

They finished in second place with a solid 8-2 record, one game behind first-place Warren, who won the regular season crown with a 9-1 mark. Warren's only defeat came at the hands of Clark earlier this year.

Clark, after leading 23-20 at the half, raced to a 40-25 lead after the third quarter. Jon Meli was high man for Clark with 17 points. Kevin Closs and Shaun Griffin also made significant contributions in the victory, setting nine apiece.

"The 'Bash Brothers' — Robbie Husick, Chris Canero and Bobby Juzelyk — combined for another 15 points and grabbed 23 rebounds.

Clark is the second seed for the league's upcoming playoff tournament and will open up at home against North Plainfield.

Golf Tournament in May
The Union County College Foundation will conduct its fifth annual Golf Tournament, an excellent opportunity for businesspersons and educators to network in an atmosphere of friendly rivalry.

The journey is scheduled for Monday, May 5 at the Shackamoon Private Country Club held in Scotch Plains.

Proceeds will benefit UCC students and programs.

More information about the tourney may be obtained by calling Nadine Brodner, the school's executive director, at 908-709-7505.

Rahway baseball home Tuesday

The following are the spring sports schedules for Rahway High School:

Baseball

April 1 Union Catholic, 4:00
April 3 at Scotch Plains, 4:00
April 6 at Shabazz, 4:00
April 9 Westfield, 4:00
April 11 at Cranford, 4:00
April 14 at Union Catholic, 4:00
April 16 Scotch Plains, 4:00
April 18 Shabazz, 4:00
April 21 at Westfield, 4:00
April 23 Cranford, 4:00
April 25 Somerville, 3:45
April 28 Clark, 4:00
April 30 at Perth Amboy, 4:00
May 3 at Roselle Park, 11:00
May 5 Irvington, 4:00
May 7 at Elizabeth, 4:00
May 9 Kearney, 4:00
May 12 at Linden, 4:00
May 14 Plainfield, 4:00
May 16 at Union, 4:00
May 17 Henry Hudson, 11:00
May 19 East Side, 4:00

Softball

April 1 at Union Catholic, 4:00
April 3 Scotch Plains, 4:00
April 7 Roselle Park, 4:00
April 9 at Westfield, 4:00
April 11 Cranford, 4:00
April 14 Union Catholic, 4:00
April 16 at Scotch Plains, 4:00
April 17 Plainfield, 4:00
April 18 at Henry Hudson, 4:00
April 21 Westfield, 4:00
April 23 at Cranford, 4:00
April 25 at Monmouth Regional, 3:45
April 28 at Clark, 4:00
May 1 Dayton, 4:00
May 3 at Irvington, 4:00
May 5 Elizabeth, 4:00
May 9 at Kearney, 4:00
May 12 Linden, 4:00
May 14 at Plainfield, 4:00
May 16 Union, 4:00
May 19 at East Side, 4:00

Boys' Tennis

April 3 Union Catholic, 3:45
April 7 Shabazz, 3:45
April 9 at Westfield, 3:45
April 11 at Cranford, 3:45
April 14 at Scotch Plains, 3:45
April 18 at Union Catholic, 3:45
April 21 at Shabazz, 3:45
April 23 Westfield, 3:45
April 28 Cranford, 3:45
April 30 Scotch Plains, 3:45
May 1-2 UCTAC TOURS, TBA
May 4 at Kearney, 3:45
May 7 Plainfield, 3:45
May 9 Oratory, 3:45
May 12 at Linden, 3:45
May 14 Elizabeth, 3:45
May 16 at Irvington, 3:45
May 19 East Side, 3:45
May 21 at Union, 3:45

Track

April 1 at Scotch Plains, 4:00
April 8 at Cranford, 4:00
April 15 at Shabazz, 4:00
April 29 at Westfield, 4:00
May 7 at Kearney, 4:00
May 13 at Union Catholic, 4:00

JOHNSON REGIONAL SPRING SCHEDULES

The following are the spring sports schedules for Johnson Regional High School:

Baseball

April 1 Roselle Park, 4:00
April 3 at Roselle Catholic, 4:00
April 8 at Gov. Livingston, 4:00
April 10 North Plainfield, 4:00
April 11 Central, 4:00
April 15 at Roselle, 4:00
April 17 Hillside, 4:00

April 18 Immaculata, 4:00
April 22 at Ridge, 4:00
April 24 at Roselle Park, 4:00
April 28 at Rahway, 4:00
April 29 Roselle Catholic, 4:00
May 1 Gov. Livingston, 4:00
May 6 at North Plainfield, 4:00
May 8 at Central, 4:00
May 13 Roselle, 4:00
May 15 at Hillside, 4:00
May 20 at Immaculata, 4:00
May 22 Ridge, 4:00

Softball

April 3 Roselle Catholic, 4:00
April 4 New Providence, 4:00
April 8 Gov. Livingston, 4:00
April 10 at North Plainfield, 4:00
April 11 at Central, 4:00
April 12 at Edison Tournament, 4:00
April 15 Roselle, 4:00
April 16 Bound Brook, 4:00
April 17 at Hillside, 4:00
April 18 at Immaculata, 4:00
April 22 Ridge, 4:00
April 24 Cranford, 4:00
April 25 Roselle Park, 4:00
April 28 Rahway, 4:00
April 29 at Roselle Catholic, 4:00
May 1 at Gov. Livingston, 4:00
May 2 at Elizabeth, 4:00
May 6 North Plainfield, 4:00
May 8 Central, 4:00
May 13 at Roselle, 4:00
May 14 Bishop Jhr, 4:00
May 15 Hillside, 4:00
May 20 Immaculata, 4:00
May 22 at Ridge, 4:00
May 23 Dayton, 4:00

Boys' Lacrosse

April 3 Hopewell Valley, 4:00
April 8 at Morristown-Beard, 4:00
April 10 at Monmouth, 4:00
April 11 Millburn, 4:00
April 15 Bayley-Ellard, 4:00
April 17 at Edison, 4:00
April 18 at Hopewell Valley, 4:00
April 21 Immaculata (JV), 4:00
April 22 Millburn, 4:00
April 24 Old Bridge, 4:00
April 28 Livingston, 4:00
May 1 at St. Joseph's Menchen, 4:00
May 3 at Don Bosco, 11:00
May 5 Madison, 4:00
May 8 Chatham, 4:00
May 9 East Brunswick, 4:00
May 12 at Morris Catholic, 4:00
May 13 at Immaculata (JV), 4:00
May 16 Clifton, 4:00
May 21 at Westfield, 4:00

Boys' Tennis

April 1 at Dayton, 4:00
April 2 at Plainfield, 11:00
April 3 at Roselle Catholic, 11:00
April 8 Gov. Livingston, 4:00
April 10 North Plainfield, 4:00
April 15 New Providence, 4:00
April 17 at Middlesex, 4:00
April 18 Immaculata, 4:00
April 22 Ridge, 4:00
April 24 at Roselle Park, 4:00
April 29 Roselle Catholic, 4:00
May 1 Countryside (Away), 4:00
May 5 Bound Brook, 4:00
May 6 at North Plainfield, 4:00
May 9 at Gov. Livingston, 4:00
May 15 Oratory, 4:00
May 20 at Immaculata, 4:00
May 22 at Ridge, 4:00
May 23 at Bound Brook, 4:00

Boys' Track

April 15 at Gov. Livingston, 4:00
April 17 at Roselle Catholic, 4:00
April 22 Central, 4:00
April 24 Roselle, 4:00
April 29 Hillside, 4:00
May 1 at Dayton, 4:00
May 6 at Ridge, 4:00

Let's Talk

LINDEN

The Guide For What's Happening In Linden

ANNIVERSARY ISSUE



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Our community is built around our Downtown Center, its business and professional services and industry.
We are on track for completion and we invite you to see the work being done. We are a proud City with a great tradition. Be part of it.
Thank You,
Mayor John T. Gregorio



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LET'S TALK LINDEN

After six decades, Simone Bros. is still hot

By Chris Sykes
Staff Writer

1996 was a landmark year for the Simone family, which operates Simone Brothers Fuel Oil Company on Harding Avenue, and 1997 is shaping up to be special as well. They recently finished celebrating their 60th year in business and now, in their 61st year of operation, they are set to continue the family tradition of quality service at an affordable price that has allowed them to stay in business and be so successful for so long.

More heat, for less money has been the focus of Simone Brothers since the beginning, and today brothers Frank and Joseph have kept that success in the family by expanding their operations throughout Union County and into Middlesex County. They supply fuel to Linden, Elizabeth, Rahway, Roselle Park, Union Kenilworth, Cranford, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Edison, Clark, Carteret, and a number of other municipalities.

"Our business, which was started by my dad and his brother, was built on providing the best product for the best possible price," said Frank, the company vice president. "We don't cut corners in the type of oil or equipment we install in a person's home or place of business. We handle the best products and equipment, but we try to keep the price as low as possible which makes it affordable to the consumer."

Frank and Joseph, the president, run a full-service oil company that provides automatic delivery, budget planning, service contracts, 24-hour service throughout the year, complete tank installation, and tank

Simone Brothers is a full-service company that provides automatic delivery, budgeting, service contracts, 24-hour service, installation, and tank protection — an insurance option that helps pay for repairs.

protection, among other things. Tank protection is an insurance option that some oil companies offer, which gives homeowners added insurance to help pay for repairs to their fuel tanks.

"We give the services people are getting now, possibly even more, for less money," Frank said. "We offer a full line of services that any other full-service oil company can, but we provide very good service and will save our customers some money."

Simone Brothers is headquartered in its offices at 1405 Harding Ave. which recently was remodeled to provide more comfort for potential customers. Current and potential clients are welcome to come in anytime and learn more about the company's clean and efficient operations.

The company also offers potential cus-

tomers the option of having a representative of the company come to their home or business to explain their services and contracts.

"We'll send somebody out to explain whatever it is you have to know in order to

I like the ability to provide people with a service and it gives me peace of mind to know that we are giving them the best service for a good price."

Frank said that one of the advantages of doing business in and out of Linden is the fact that it is strategically situated and offers access to important commercial transportation routes and destinations like the Elizabeth Seaport area, Route 1&9, the Garden State Parkway, the New Jersey Turnpike, and Newark Airport is also nearby.

"Linden has always been an industrial community and our business base has always been in Linden and the surrounding area," Frank said. "Linden is a nice community and it allows us to service people in a good fashion because the people of Linden work with us and allow us to run a nice business."

keep your heating unit working properly," Frank said. "We are a family-oriented business which allows us to be hands-on with everything and to give people good service."

Kiwanis Club marks its 50th

The Kiwanis Club of Linden will celebrate its 50th anniversary of service to the community at a golden gala dinner, dance on April 12, at The Manor in West Orange.

All proceeds of the event, which is being chaired by Chester Lobrow, will go to support the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund.

Linden Kiwanis each year provides scholarships to deserving Linden residents who are planning to further their education beyond high school.

Kiwanis also provides financial and personal support to civic and religious organizations as well as the needy individuals in the community.

The club also sponsors youth activities, including the Builders' Club at Soehl Middle School and the Key Club at Linden High School. For ticket information or to place an ad in the souvenir journal, contact Lobrow at 925-3797.

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LET'S TALK LINDEN

Father and Son serves classic American fare

'Best hot dog anywhere,' says one dad

By R.J. Lehmann
Staff Writer

Father and Son Luncheonette is celebrating a birthday.

For 56 years, die-hard patrons of this East Blueck Street landmark have been downing its extra-large size portions of traditional fast-food fare. Although ownership changed hands several years ago from the Abas family that founded the place in 1941 to the Mehrik family, the cozy little "grassy spot" still maintains the warm, friendly atmosphere that has kept it in business all these years.

Owens Manuch Mehrik credits the quality of his restaurant's food and the loyalty of their most ardent customers as the reason for his continued success.

"We've been in business for many years and people who like our food keep coming back," Mehrik said. "We are faithful to them in doing a good job, so they are faithful to us."

Although founded by Turkish immigrants, Mehrik considers the luncheonette's specialty to be American fare. Father and son is noted for its chili dogs and hamburger,

gers, but also provides such traditional Middle Eastern cuisine as falafel and gyros.

City resident Arville Jaworsky — a longtime Father and Son devotee — cited the chili dog as the best item on the menu.

"It's the best hot dog you will find anywhere, but not," Jaworsky said. "I lived in Florida for about 10 years, and every time I would come to visit my family in Elizabeth, the first thing we would have to do is come here to get a chili dog."

Jaworsky's son Miroslav, 12, preferred french fries to hot dogs, but admitted that he had never tried the chili dog.

"It looks gross, with all that stuff on top," the younger Jaworsky said. "It smells good, but I don't think I could eat it. I like the fries better."

In addition to its take-out and eat-in options, the restaurant is opening a new take-out window next week.

"I think that will help business so that people who want to pick up lunch don't have to come inside," Mehrik said.

Father and Son is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and is closed on Sundays.

The restaurant is located at 10 East Blauvelt St. The phone number is 486-9596.

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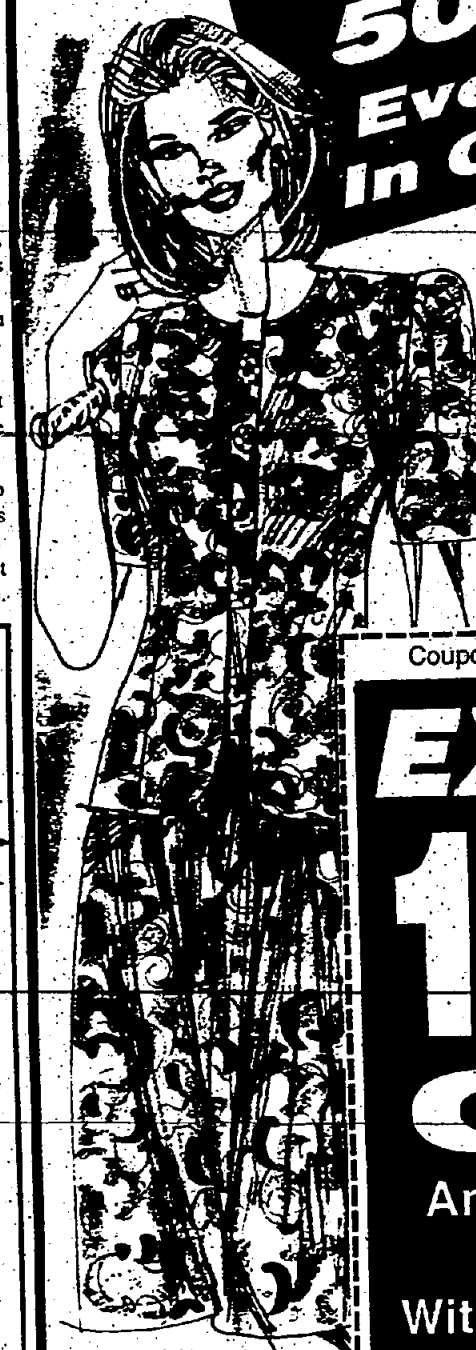
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LET'S TALK LINDEN

'One-stop' shop offers gifts, collectibles

By Sam De Palma
Staff Writer

Trying to find the perfect gift for that special occasion can be a cumbersome task. When in the Linden area, one has to look no further than Carousel Cards and Gifts located at 1025 W. St. George Ave. in the Blockbuster Plaza.

"We like to think of the store as a one-stop shop for our customers," said owner Henry Patel.

As one walks by the store, Ebony Vision Collectibles, a figurine series geared toward African-American culture, along side a revolving showcase of miniature gold clocks by Flammar Miniature Collectibles are among many collector series displayed in the large showcase window.

On the door, a sign indicating to shoppers the store is a licensed and top dealer for Mikasa, Precious Moments and is a Cherished Teddies Adoption Center.

Patel said he is very proud of the store's accomplishments and lets customers know he and his staff are ready and anxious to serve anyone who walks through the door.

"It makes us proud," said Patel of his store being a Distinguished Service Retailer of Precious Moments and an authorized Boyd's Bear Dealer. The store was honored with those two titles, as well as many others, from different dealers.

In order to qualify for the distinguished

honors, Patel said the store must keep a complete stock of items from the dealers as well as having a reputable rapport with customers. "Customer service plays a large role," he said. "You have to service the customers."

With having a large selection of gifts and cards to choose from, Patel said the store is suited to meet customers' needs.

By keeping customers satisfied and having a large stock, Patel said it enables his store to achieve higher levels with dealers and offer more to his customers.

"It makes the customer feel like it's a one-stop shop so they don't have to go out of their way for several different items," said Patel.

In addition, the store also hosts events to promote special items which dealers issue. "We can serve the community better by having all of these items and events available to them," Patel said.

On April 26, the store will host a Precious Moments showcase in which a new item will be made available to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

One year later marks the beginning of the Boyd's Bear Collectors Club. With the store being an authorized dealer, it will host one of the first events the company will showcase.

At both the Precious Moments and the Boyd's Bear events, special items will be

available to the general public which are normally exclusives to club members. In addition, retired pieces will be raffled to customers attending the event those days.

Also, special collectors figures will be raffled at the event.

Some companies are also affiliated with philanthropies in which all or most of proceeds go to benefit non-profit organizations.

According to Patel, Cherished Teddies and its club, Jersey Teddies are affiliated with St. Jude's Hospital for children and Precious Moments who works with Easter Seals.

Coinciding with special holiday events, Carousel Cards and Gifts holds a Christmas coloring contest in which small prizes are given to the winners.

The contest, said Patel, boosts the spirits of young citizens.

"We display all the children's works throughout the store and when they come in with their parents, their eyes light up and say 'Mommy, look, that one's mine.' It makes the kids very proud that they've accomplished something," he said.

Local manufacturer opens plant

Inland Paperboard and Packaging, Inc. opened a 118,000 square foot plant to manufacture laminate earlier this month in the city.

Robert E. Stone, senior vice president of operations for the Inland's group, said the facility could employ about 30 people.

TruTech is the name of both the line of laminates the company will produce at the plant, and the proprietary manufacturing process for which Inland holds exclusive rights. The patented TruTech process results in high strength, puncture and tear resistant laminates with paper skins that can be converted on existing equipment, primed in a conventional manner and glued with standard paper glues.

Laminated construction can be used for numerous, resin, polyester and glass fiber. A myriad of combinations and applications are within the realm of the technology we're using in Linden," Stone said. "Baxford anticipates that the TruTech process will be a viable means of building a series of commercially profitable products with significant growth potential."

Inland Paperboard and Packaging is an international manufacturer of paperboard packaging products.

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Our hearts go out to the family and to ourselves for our loss, and to whom we dedicate our season to, BOBBY HEMPEL. For those of you who knew him understand the loss. Those of you who didn't, will, because the "Linden League" will never be the same.

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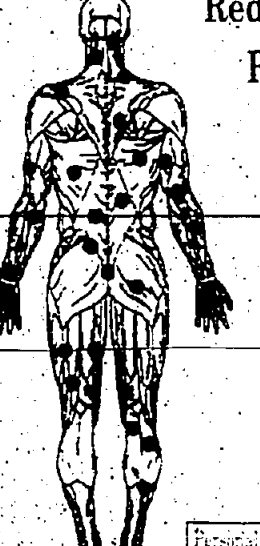
He Lived As He Died
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I Look To The Sky And I Wonder Why
God Had To Take This Wonderful Guy
Then I Laugh And Wipe My Eye
And Then I Promise Not To Cry

For Now I Wonder Why Did The Lord
Send God His Telling His Ball
And What I'd Give To Hand Him To Pass
And Bid Him His Last Farewell

But now I Deny My Tears And Lift My Face
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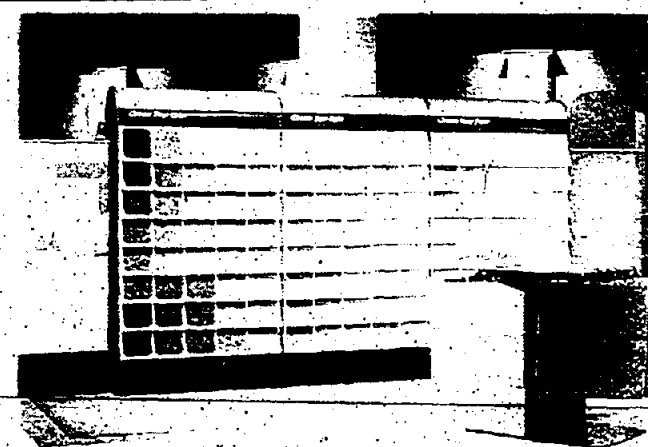
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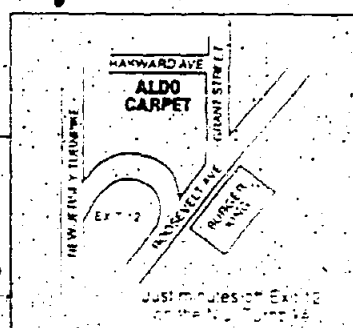
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LET'S TALK LINDEN

Re-opened for business



Following the ribbon-cutting ceremony marking the re-opening of the Sovereign Bank Linden branch, bank officials celebrate their new facility. Now located on West St. George Avenue, the branch features a drive-up window, an automated teller machine, safe deposit boxes and an on-site bank officer, among other services. From left: Regional Manager Barbara Suppa, Division President Jerry Fiker, Branch Manager Betsy Gomez and Customer Service Manager Ernest Rodgers.

Plaza offers 'crossroads' for the city

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Elwood Plaza is such a part of Linden's downtown crossroads that it could be renamed Chamblin Center. "Pioneering Elwood Plaza's 13 retail stores, located on the southeast corner of Wood and Elizabeth avenues, is almost sacred nature. Residents of Linden Towers are across the street from financial consulting, clothes laundering, or grocery shopping. NJ Transit commuters can grab a cup of coffee and a paper at the convenience store on the way to the station, and a dinner or a video on their return. The commercial diversity wasn't always like this. Landlord and building contractor Gail Clarke recalls the corner consisting of a service station and a row of stores 30 years ago. "I had an office and workshop on the corner," he said. "I was a carpenter and I put the corner up for auction in his will," Clarke said. "This corner has been part of the city's downtown since the roads were laid." Clarke won the land bid and drafted a

See CITY'S, Page 15.

LET'S TALK LINDEN

From a size small, a boutique grows in Linden

By Toniann Antonelli
Staff Writer

What began as a small boutique many years ago has expanded to become one of the largest women's clothing stores in the state. BZ Fashion, located on North Wood Avenue, will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in Linden this year. The store first opened in Elizabeth more than 75 years ago. When owners George and Harold Boerer moved the store to Linden in 1947, they operated out of a small building located next to the movie theater. "When we first opened in Linden, we worked out of a 15 by 100-foot space," said George Boerer, now the store's sole owner. The store, originally owned by Boerer's father when it was still in Elizabeth, was then relocated to another building less than a block away. Currently, Boerer explained, BZ consists of two adjoining buildings, one of which also has an upper level used as a boutique for formal wear. In the coming months, Boerer expects this level to be the busiest area in the store as young women actively search for the perfect prom dress. "We probably do the largest prom business in the state," Boerer said. The store carries a full range of clothing in petite, misses, and queen sizes, in styles ranging from contemporary to casual. In the adjacent building, the store also carries a complete line of lingerie and accessories to

accompany all of the clothing they sell. "We are a full service store. Every department you go into has both hosiery and jewelry to go along with the different styles," said Boerer, 72, who lives in Westfield with his wife Rosalyn. Since its opening, the store has catered specifically to women, since they seem to be the people who buy clothing most often. "A man will buy one suit a year, maybe, but a woman always needs something," said Boerer, explaining his father's reasoning for specializing in this particular type of clothing when he started the business. BZ, which now has over 65 employees, maintains the philosophy that each customer should receive personal attention. They also have four seamstresses on the premises at all times to do alterations on purchases. "We have people who are always on hand to help people," said Boerer. "It isn't like the large department stores where you have to wait around for a long time before you can find someone to help you." Boerer explained that over the years, he has seen women's outlook and taste in clothing change a great deal. "Our job is to cater to that taste," Boerer said. The styles, he added, are continually changing as well. "I think the industry is in a state of flux as far as fashions are concerned," said Boerer. However, the need for different types of

clothing has remained the same. Women still purchase both casual and formal clothing. Many women today, the owner said, are looking to buy outfits, such as business-type suits, that can be worn to work during the day, and then again during the evening for more formal affairs. In all types of clothing, practicality seems to be the main concern when buying clothing. "Most women aren't going to buy something that they'll wear once and then put in their closet and never put on again," said Boerer. In addition to overseeing the sales, and

overall operation of BZ, Boerer also makes sure that there is always someone on hand to check the inventory as it is received and displayed, just as he has done since the store's opening. They also have one of the largest buying offices in the area. The designers they feature range from the well-known, to those who may just be starting out in the industry. Due to the full range of fashions that BZ carries, their customers range in age from teenagers to senior citizens. In addition, many of their patrons have been shopping in the specialty store for a number of years.

Lee Myles to turn 50 in May

Roselle-Linden Lee Myles Transmissions, a landmark at 115 St. George Ave. for the past 35 years, will celebrate another milestone in May: the 50th anniversary of Lee Myles Transmissions nationwide. That is as old as the automatic transmission itself, because as soon as the automatic transmission was invented, the aftermarket followed with the ability to repair them when they broke. The first and best among them was a man named Lee Myles. Lee Myles Transmissions in Roselle has been owned for the last 10 years by Jeffrey and Ellen Czarnetzki. Paul Leone, who has been with the Lee Myles organization since 1982 is the manager. They specialize in service to the community. Innumerable local small businesses and local municipal entities, including the first aid squads, police and fire departments can testify to the efficient, reliable and quality work Lee Myles of Roselle-Linden has been providing for the last 35 years. They have steadily kept pace with the electronics revolution in automobiles and are prepared with the latest testing equipment and education to repair even the newest models. For 50 years, the most trusted name in transmissions is Lee Myles.

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LET'S TALK LINDEN

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Mayor John Gregorio joins the proprietors of Carousel Cards and Gifts, located at 1025 W. St. George Ave. in the Blockbuster Plaza. In addition to selling greeting cards, the store is a licensed dealer of Mikasa, Precious Moments and is a Cherished Teddies Adoption Center.

Rather than fight crowds, shoppers try army-navy store

By Bill Van Sant
Staff Writer

When one hears the term "army and navy store," images of battle gear and sailor caps come to mind. However, the merchandise on the shelves and racks of Julien's Army & Navy Store on North Wood Avenue would quickly put an end to that understandable misconception.

Originally, army and navy stores were established as commissaries where enlisted men could outfit themselves in civilian clothes, or "civvies," while not exhausting their limited income. Alain Julien, owner of Julien's Army & Navy Store, said the traditional inventory of such retail establishments is "quality merchandise at a reasonable price," and the wares to be found in the downtown Linden shop uphold that tradition.

Julien, who has owned the business for almost 14 years, also said among the more popular items in the store are BDU — or battle dress uniform — pants, known in the vernacular as fatigues or camouflage pants. "That's what all the kids are wearing," the shop owner stated. Despite the popularity of such items as BDUs, the majority of the business Julien does is in casual wear and work clothes, most of which sport respected labels such as Levi's, Woolrich and Calvin Klein, to name only a few.

"We have a large selection of work clothes, and work and casual outerwear," he added. "We stick to name-brand quality clothing."

In addition to outerwear, Julien's also boasts a wide assortment of footwear, both work and casual, in over 150 styles, as well as undergarments and accessories such as belts. Besides the camouflage pants, Julien's clientele is a cross-section of Linden-area residents. "We have a wide range, anywhere from 12 and 13 on up to customers in their 60s and 70s," he adds, "but most of them are kids."

The unique fashion trends of recent years have given rise to an increase in the number of women patronizing the store, customers "wearing to keep it real and, he has begun stocking an inventory of young women's wear to meet the casual-wear needs of the women who come for fatigues.

Julien's is approaching its 14th anniversary in Linden, however area shoppers may remember its predecessor, Jay's Army & Navy, which Julien purchased when it was going out of business in the early '80s.

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LET'S TALK LINDEN

Linden's ladies know where their 'specialty store' is

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

Nason's Ladies Wear, a "ladies specialty store," has been a downtown institution for almost 50 years, with many of its earliest customers still buying their clothes there. The original owners are gone; they sold Nason's to Joseph Dorin in 1978. In that time, he said, the downtown area in Linden has changed "a lot."

"It has changed," he said. "It's still going through changes."

But, throughout all of the different stores and all the changes in the downtown area, people still come to Nason's.

Dorin agreed that his store was a something of a fixture in the downtown area, "something of an institution, yes. It's certainly something of an institution."

Nason's, according to Dorin, is an "all-purpose specialty store," if there is such a thing, with petite, missy and plus sizes for women, not for teenagers.

"Fashion, value, quality and service," said Dorin. "We offer a lot."

The 3,000 square foot store on Wood Avenue is crowded with clothes, almost everything in women's clothing that you can think of — or, according to Dorin, "moderately priced fashions for the everyday person, for the everyday woman."

"It's a miniature department store," he said.

These include blouses, dresses, lingerie and casual sports wear from such manufacturers as Alfred Dunner, Teddi of California and Sag Harbor, and outerwear from London Fog, Forecast and Missy Harbor, all in an increasing number of contemporary styles. They also sell accessories such as hand bags.

And not much is happening at the store in the way of an anniversary celebration. Dorin declined to say when he bought the store. There is a spring sale going on now but otherwise it is business as usual.

"We have a rapport with our customers," said Dorin from behind the checkout counter. "We know them. They're like regulars."

Nason's Ladies Wear is across the street from City Hall, in the heart of downtown, at 316 Wood Ave. The store has parking and an entrance in the rear. Nason's is open Monday through Thursday, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. All major credit cards are honored and there is a lay-away plan. The phone number is 486-8342.

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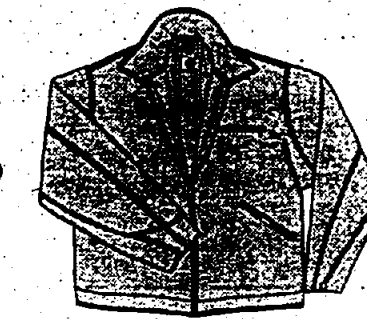
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LET'S TALK LINDEN

Benedict and Swan motels continue history of comfort

By Chris Suswal
Staff Writer

For many people who live in the Linden area, the Benedict and Swan motels are known for quality accommodations. These two motels, both located on Route 1, offer a rich heritage as the Swan celebrates its 44th year and the Benedict celebrates its 30th. They are in their third generation of family ownership.

The Swan was built by Joseph Fine who left the supermarket business to pursue another career. Fine delved into the real estate industry and went into a business venture in what was Highway's Green Shuttles apartment complex. He gave that up to start his own business and in 1953 built the first 31 rooms of the Swan.

In 1957, the business was taken over by current owner David Nason's father Stanley and Nason's uncle Lawrence. Ten years later the two bought the Benedict and continued to build a family oriented business.

Today, the Swan has 170 rooms and the Benedict has 85 rooms, many of them suites. According to Nason, the Swan and the Benedict cater to thousands of repeat customers per year.

"We provide something that larger hotels simply can't, that's why they stay with us," he said. "People like to go where they see familiar faces and much of our staff has been with us more than a decade, some of them for 20 years. It gives guests a warm feeling."

A constant influx of guests keep the motels busy year-round. Nason said groups reserve blocks of rooms for a variety of occasions including extended business executive stays, conventions, family reunions, sports tournaments, etc.

Some of the suites offer a full kitchen, living room, dining room and private bedroom.

"It's really for people who are looking for an apartment style place with all of the amenities of a hotel," Nason said. "We are by far the best for the budget."

Both motels have expanded their facilities to not only keep up with the modern demands of the guests, but to stay ahead of the game, he said.

"Hotel chains with this type of suite set-up didn't become popular until the late '80s, but we had ours open in 1962," he said.

Nason also pointed out the Benedict's draw of VCRs in every room, rooms for anniversaries and different style rooms for other special occasions.

At Raiffe's, your children's fashion isn't just kid stuff

By Maddy Vitale
Staff Writer

If you're looking for service with a smile and an array of children's clothes to choose from, then Raiffe's Youth Center is your store. An icon in the community, Raiffe's, located at 200 North Wood Ave., has been in operation for 41 years.

"Thanks to the wonderful people in our community we are still here. We are service-oriented. If you can't find something at another store, you can be sure you'll find it here," said owner Morris Raiffe.

He said his success is a result of quality children's merchandise, with a dedicated staff of five employees. The prices are moderate and the variety immense. There are boys and girls clothing for all sizes with the clothes ranging from casual to dressy.

Raiffe also assesses the customers. "Including me there are six people always willing to help the customers anyway we can."

"We have a large store with a great selection, especially suits for boys and young men. I help them find the right suits and help fit them," he added.

There are also many accessories available at great prices to complete an outfit, such as hats, gloves, and socks.

Raiffe also prides himself on the vast selection of Christening outfits. "We have the biggest selection of beautiful Christening outfits in the county."

Customers travel from all over to get the best prices found at Raiffe's, he said. "We have customers from Staten Island all the way down to south Jersey."

Katie Cunningham is proud of customer satisfaction. She has been shopping at Raiffe's since the store first opened its doors. She once shopped at the store, while a resident of London, for her son who is now 40 years old and daughter who is 37.

Now a resident of Rahway, Cunningham shops there for her 3-year-old grandchild. "I have been coming here since my son was born."

She said there are two reasons why she has shopped at the store for so many years. "The service is great and the employees help with the fittings and the clothes are wonderful."

Raiffe also had a store from 1960 to 1990 at the Menlo Park Mall in Edison, until the mall closed for renovations in 1990.



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LET'S TALK LINDEN

City's 'crossroads' houses shopping convenience

(Continued from Page 10)

plan. He leveled the plot and built two structures around the corner parking lot.

"I moved the Clarke Engineering Heating & Air Conditioning office to the second floor," said Clarke. "Second story space is hard to sell because everyone wants to be on the first floor. Our first tenants were the Carvel Ice Cream Bakery, Rite-Aid Pharmacy and a Sears Catalog Store."

Success of the Sears outlet and the Rite-Aid prompted Clarke to expand space.

Indeed, Clarke's ability to accommodate his tenants' needs continues to the present. "Balko Video used to be on the Wood Avenue side only," said store manager John Balko. "Clarke allowed us to knock down a wall and expand the store about eight years ago. Our customers don't have to walk around the corner after parking."

Other Elwood tenants are Avco Financial Services, Big Blue Sub Shop, Crazy Time, Linden Laundromat, Linden Produce, Quick Check, Shotokan Karate, and a beauty salon.

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From The
Editor's
Notebook

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

The first article I had ever written was about the unearthing of a time capsule that had been placed under the cornerstone of the Irvington Police Athletic League building when it had been built.

Some of Irvington's history was in that time capsule, but unless I research the article, I can't remember any of the contents in the capsule.

That was 10 years ago this week, and as I mark my 10th anniversary with Worrall Newspapers and my 10th year in the newspaper industry, I can't help but tap into the time capsule in my head and remark on some of the changes and happenings I have seen during the last decade, whether it's involving the communities I have reported about or the business itself.

I've been witness to a Supreme Court ruling, known as the Quality Education Act, mandating that the state make education equitable for all students, regardless if the community is urban or suburban. I've also seen the OEA undergo a number of revisions, and none of them has satisfied everyone in the state.

I've been witness to at least 30 election seasons, considering there are at least three elections per year, and have met hundreds of people during that time who ran for public office. Some were elected and some were not.

I have had residents who've rolled up copies of newspapers in my face during public meetings because they were upset with an editorial the newspaper had published or a story I had written, and I have had cards and letters sent to me commending me for my objectivity.

I witnessed one of the worst teachers' strikes in the state when the South Orange-Maplewood Education Association went on strike in 1991. Talk about a district torn in half.

I also saw the towns divided during the longest trial in the history of Essex County when Margaret Kelly Michaels faced a jury on charges that she sexually abused 14 preschool children at a day care center in Maplewood.

The company also has embarked on the latest in technology to communicate news more quickly to our readers. Audiotext, which is information by telephone, and the Internet have drawn a new kind of reader to our market.

I have a lot of faith in the future of newspapers, especially if the media in general return to a more objective philosophy toward reporting the news. I have more faith in the future of the weekly community newspaper because there's no other media that will focus on the people in the communities the newspapers serve. When I was a kid in the Irvington Little League, my mother clipped every article that carried my name. I hear the same thing from mothers and fathers today who call asking when their news release will appear in the newspaper.

I'm happy to have been around for the last 10 years. I think I've found my niche.

Prosecutors seek 10 most wanted criminals

Citizens asked to phone
Crimestoppers with info

The County Prosecutor's Office, through its Crimestoppers Program, released its list of its "10 Most Wanted" suspects last week. Crimestoppers Program Chairman Ron Posson said anyone who recognizes any of these suspects should call the 24-hour hotline number at (908) 654-TIPS. "The whole idea is to help get citizens involved and to help law enforcement solve crimes where someone has been seriously victimized."

Shogun robbery
The first case occurred March 6, when two men carrying a sawed-off shogun robbed the Revco Drug Store in Summit. Police are looking for both robbers, who fled in a late model four-door burgundy colored Buick Regal with Maryland license plates. The gunman was described as a black man in his mid 30s, standing about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with a medium build and a thin mustache with dark clothing and a dark ski cap. His accomplice, Uebelin said, is a black male in his mid 20s, medium build with a dark jacket and pants and a light colored knit cap.

Gas station stick-up
The next case is a robbery shooting from Jan. 4 at the Gulf gas station on East Edgar Road in Linden, where an employee turned over some cash and then was shot in the leg. The gunman was described as a thin-built male, about 25, with a medium complexion and a thin mustache, wearing blue jeans and a black three-quarter length jacket with red, black, and white checkers.

The driver, who drove an older black or dark four-door Dodge, was also in his mid 20s, with about the same description, wearing a hooded blue sweatshirt that covered his face. The sketch released by authorities is of the shooter, authorities said. "The robbers had a small black handgun and should not be approached by citizens."

"Beauty store bandit"
The fifth defendant sought is the "Beauty Store Bandit." Baggert wanted for robbery, so-called beauty salons in Union and Essex counties. Described as medium-built black male, 30 years old, about 5 feet, 10 inches tall, with short hair and a medium complexion, he generally wears grey pants and a blue shirt and is known to pull out a large knife and steal money from the proprietress and any patrons present during the early months of the year.

Whitman signs law thwarting UCUA firings
By Sean Daily
Staff Writer
A Republican bill that was rushed through the Legislature to put an end to voters' Democrats' plans to reorganize the UCUA's Board of Commissioners was signed into law Monday.

Gov. Christine Whitman signed the law, which was made retroactive to March 5, to prevent what the law's sponsor said was a potential for political abuse.

The bill received bipartisan support in the state Senate on Monday, receiving a 31-6 vote. The bill was sponsored in the Senate by John Ewing, R-Vernon, Somerset.

An identical Assembly bill, put to a vote on the same day did not receive the same support.

The vote for this bill, sponsored by Richard Baggert and Alan Augustine, R-Trenton, was along party lines. The vote was 47-25, with Republicans voting for and Democrats voting against the bill.

According to Baggert, the bill will prevent the Union County freeholders from sacking the UCUA.

"The municipal and county authorities have sufficient procedures for dissolving an authority or removing authority members for inefficiency, neglect of duty or misconduct in office that a freeholder board should not need to resort to a vague 'reorganization' power that has a great potential for political abuse," he added.

Since the law was made retroactive, it precludes an ordinance recently



Suspect No. 1
Robbed a Revco



Suspect No. 2
Robbed a Revco



Suspect No. 3
Shot gas station attendant



Suspect No. 4
Was armed with knife



Suspect No. 5
Stole diamond rings



Suspect No. 6
Kidnap, rape and robbery



Suspect No. 7
Bank robbery



Suspect No. 8
Murder six years ago



Suspect No. 9
Shooter in murder case

The ninth and tenth suspects on the list are wanted for the killing of a 30-year-old gas station attendant in Hillside in June of 1991.

Police want to catch the two robbers, who fatally shot Alex Cologua of Green Brook at the Amoco service station on Route 22 East.

The gunman, who police said was armed with a silver shogun, robbed

the victim of cash before shooting him at close range and fleeing the scene in a late model, four-door sedan driven by an accomplice.

Detectives described the gunman as

a black man in his early 20s, about 5 feet, 10 inches tall with a muscular build, medium complexion and short hair. He was wearing dark pants, a shirt and sunglasses at the time of the shooting, police said.

The driver is described as being a tall, thin white male with a medium build and complexion wearing a dark shirt and black shorts.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a little odd," said Democratic Commissioner and Railway Mayor James Kennedy. "In my experience, I've never seen legislation passed retroactively."

No Republican member of the UCUA board could be reached for comment.

Kennedy, with two other Democrats, would have been reappointed to the board after the reorganization.

The bill also complicates litigation brought by the UCUA against the freeholders to block the reorganization.

"A freeholder board should not need to resort to a vague 'reorganization' power that has a great potential for political abuse."

— Assemblyman Richard Baggert

Cohen, D-Union, voted against the bill.

Dan Sullivan, the Democratic vice chairman of the freeholders, said, saying that the bill had been "rammed through."

"I think the idea that the Legislature could hold perfunctory hearings and have the governor sign it two weeks after being in committee is offensive," he said. "And the fact that it's retroactive takes away our ability to legislate and should be offensive to any Union County citizen."

Even some commissioners on the UCUA board found the bill strange



The Democrats' new officers of the UCUA will not govern the utilities authority. A bill signed into law Monday prevents the freeholders from dismissing the Republican commissioners. From left: Richmond Lapolla of Cranford; Railway Mayor James Kennedy; Katharine Fulcomer of Rahway and John Kulish of Hillside.

the current commissioners, has its roots in a ruling by federal judge Joseph Irenas last year.

Irenas ruled that New Jersey's waste flow laws, which in part guarantee the UCUA a monopoly on trash disposal in Union County, are unconstitutional. The laws will be abolished

next June unless his ruling is overturned on appeal.

This could mean the UCUA will have to compete in an open market, which it is ill-equipped to do right now. Its per-ton garbage disposal fee, or "tipping fee" is \$83.05, about \$10 higher than other facilities' fee.

LET'S TALK LINDEN • March 27, 1997 • PAGE 16

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The 'foxes' are in the Playhouse

The Union County Retired Education Association will hold its Spring

Hernault, who is the protégé of the legendary David, Mme. Maria Jeritza. He coached the young soprano in her debut at the Metropolitan Opera House in European career, has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, the New York City Opera and the New Jersey State Opera. She has also performed as a soloist with the Newark Symphony. Among those with whom she has worked are Richard Tucker, Piacentini-Domingo, Magda Olivero, Tito Schipa and Jerome Hines.

She said the dose "lots of opera lovers" in addition to concertgoers love watching people about opera. And she says they're really so hungry for the culture of this music; I also teach privately at my home."

How did she become involved with the Kwan Chai Club?

"An Evening With The Stars?"

The "Kwan Chai Club of U.S.A." was founded by a government township in Taiwan. Her husband recalled: "I was invited to come and sing a few songs. And you know my father, Leslie Hernault, has been a member for over 60 years. So I thought, why not? I went to Union, N.J., I sang two or three songs, and I met some people."

Mama, which of your father's friends were there?

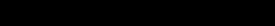
Joe Janetti, the president, said,

State University — will be majoring in theater at either college.

The lovely Martone explained that "Mabel comes in slow, as a very young naive black street kid. She loved Mabel, but he was putting her second to his movies. You know that

Mabel Norman was cited as being the best silent movie star in the era." She mused modestly, "I think I'm a lot like Mabel. Everybody likes her. She's lovable, pretty and cute. And I'm so like her." Martone's fellow actors laughed. "I do a lot of singing

and dancing." This is her fifth performance for Rago. She was musical in NYC and will major in musical theater. "We may all be a little less leaving Union High School and going to college. But Miss Rago has a lot to say." (See Tough, Page 10)



100

Wooden. Women can do anything. Woodworkers are strong. You know, there are heads of opera companies who are women—all the way back to the early centuries."

Heimall, who attended Franklin School, Connecticut Farms and graduated from Union High School, explained that long before her singing teacher, Mrs. Peusa, "recognized that I had a voice and therefore I decided to become an opera singer." It was inspired by Mario Lanza.

Slightly built, then a head-warded petite Heimall smiled, "I had 10, 10, I went to see the film, 'The Great Ca-

"The weird thing," she said, "is when you're singing in Austria and Germany or France, you're singing Italian opera in their language. Wherever I had a concert, I would sing in the language of the country. And I've worked with my husband, Ralph Carbone, who is a composer, arranger and who writes beautiful music. I'm still working with him, in fact. We're putting on 'The Happy Prince,' with Tony Barracatta as a tenor, who will be in the show in Union. 'The Happy Prince' is almost five or six times the length of most operas."

Heimall said she's been involved with "An Evening With the Stars?"

"The Kwanis Club of Union Township was having a governor's meeting at John's in Union," Heimall recalled. "I was invited to come up to sing a few songs. And you know, they're my people—the Old Guard. My father, Leslie Heimall, has been a member for years. He and my mother, Gladys, still live in Union, you know. So, I sang 'Two arria; a Neapolitan song, 'Mama,' which my father loved. And Joe Lantini, the president, said he

successfully with its original stars, Titoli Bankhead, Frank Conroy and Charles Dingle.

The Elizabeth Playhouse, which specializes in the last years of the twentieth century will perform "The Little Floss" Friday and Saturday evenings, at 7:30 p.m. Sunday matinees are at 2 p.m. Prices are \$8 for general admission students and seniors \$6.

The playhouse is located in Highland Mid-Town Elizabeth at 110 East Jersey St. For reservations call (908) 355-0077.

Union theater teacher bids fond farewell to graduates

By Bob Smith
Staff Writer

This season has been especially difficult for Yvonne Rago to end her relationship, professionally and personally, with the members of the cast in her musical selection, "Mack and Mabel." Rago, who teaches vocal music and musical theater at Union High School, who has been selecting and directing mostly Broadway musicals to be enacted by the students, really believes that when these students graduate, they're going to be the widest "pit" in her career.

She admitted the other afternoon, during a visit to his office with five of her principal players, all seniors, that "Mack and Mabel" will be especially significant for her. After this season's performances, April 12 and 13 and April 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and April 15 and 20 at 2 p.m., they all will be graduated, separated and attending colleges far and near.

"And now," Rago exclaimed, "I've been with them so long. Am I going to miss them?"

The seniors expressed similar feelings, given their years of experience. They are Christine Vazquez, who plays Lotie; Marilyn Munoz, who portrays Elita; Mercedes, Burkhardt, "Doc," who plays the title role of Mack; Greg Solomon, as the title role, and Nicole Maroni, also in the title role, of Mabel.

"I like to expose the kids to all kinds of musicals," explained the tough, respected director.

"Yeah," added Solomon, "well, among them, classic, classical, ... all kinds."

"I saw the show at the Paper Mill in 1982," said Rago. "Jerry Herman's music is outstanding. It has everything—drama, tons of comedy, music—it has a lot of dance numbers as well as ballads. It's an extremely difficult show to produce because it's based on the silent movie era, and I thought it would be the ultimate challenge and wanted to face it head-on—and make it work. And it has. We're so excited about the show. We started to cast it in December. It just seems ago, and we've been working out of it ever since."

She mentioned that there are "about 60 people in the cast alone."

The five principals, who visited this office, were one with wonderment and enthusiasm.

The title character, "Rago said, "is a male double cast with Doug Foster, who will play the role of Lotie Ames, on the 11th, 13th and 19th, described her character, "Lotie's personality is pretty big. She looks like Mack, helps him out, and gets into his train. She's a really cool character to play. She's a person I wouldn't mind being." Vazquez, who has appeared in three other "Rago productions," and who is one of the dance captains, will be going to Keen College in Keen, Pa. for her last fall. "I do want to do theater," she said, "but I'm uncertain about the size."

A pretty Marilyn Munoz, who portrays "Elita," a piano player, is, according to Rago, "just like Marilyn. Feisty. She's basically part of the family in the play." Munoz, who is in the musical department of Mack Sennett's production. And it's

fun. She is feisty," she admitted with a smile. Munoz, who has been performing with Rago in three other productions, said she wants "to go to Rutgers in Newark. I want to do musicals in the theater, but I don't think I'll major in it."

"Doc," as Mack Sennett, "is very headstrong," said the handsome young man. "I was in love with Mabel. Norman, but he's also in love with the movies, which are his whole life. He wants to open up and show his feelings for Mabel, but he can't let his guard down. I sing, do a little dancing. It's really a fun part. He's telling the story and at the same time is in the act. You know," said "Doc," "Mack Sennett is a cultured kind of comedy. He does have a soft side."

Yes, agreed Rago, "a soft exterior but a marshmallow heart." This is Burkhardt's fifth show, with Rago, and he plans to "attend Wagner College in Staten Island. I want to major in musical theater."

Solomon, another nice looking lad, who will double cast with Doug Foster, in the role of Frank Wymann, will play it on the 11th, 13th and 20th, "the playing 'Frank' as he is."

One of the coolest characters in the play, he starts off "as a very nice nobody and ends up as a full fledged musical star." Mack Sennett, a writer, and Mack's conscience, and he's also in love with Mabel. This is Solomon's fifth production with Rago, and he's enjoying acceptance at New York University—he has already been accepted by Monclair

Cast members and director of "Mack and Mabel" gather for one of their last photos together. From left, Marilyn Munoz, Christine Vazquez, Greg Solomon, Yvonne Rago, Nicole Maroni and Meridoc Burkhardt.

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State University," will be majoring in theater at either college.

The lovely Maroni explained that "Mabel" seems in slow, as a very young naive back street girl. She loved Mack, but she was putting her second in his movies. You know that

Mabel Nomura was cited as being the best silent movie star in the era "She missed modesty." "I think I'm a lot like Mabel. Everybody likes her. She's lovable, perky and cute. And I'm so like her." Maroni's fellow actors laughed. "I do a lot of singing

and dancing." This is her fifth production for Rago. She was accepted NYC and will major in musical theater. "We may all be a little leaving Union High School and on to college. But Miss Rago of the

(See Tough, Page 10)

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Linden studio nurtures a rising star

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

It is a wonderful thing when a child discovers a talent that can not only make him a star, but also affords him the opportunity to share his gift with others. 13-year-old Daniel Vaniska of Linden is one of these lucky ones. The discovery of Daniel's gift for dancing has not only opened doors to opportunity for him, but also has amazed and touched those who have had the privilege of seeing this young man exhibit his sensitivity and skill.

Daniel has been a student at La Danse Studio of Performance Arts, 423 Wood Avenue in Linden for the past five years. His mother, Julie, said that her son was not originally interested in dance, but had an attitude for acrobatics.

"He was in third grade, and I had a neighbor whose little boy came here for Acro, and Daniel used to cartwheel down the street to call for this little boy."

Julie said that her neighbor insisted that she bring Daniel to La Danse, where he began in third level Acro. After a few months, Julie observed a jazz class while waiting for Daniel to finish a lesson. "I was watching the jazz class, and I said, 'You know, I think Daniel could do that,' so when he came out I asked him if he would want to be a jazz dancer. And he loved it; he just came out flying. Then next year we came back and he just wanted to do everything. He just took off right from there."

The ever-smiling Daniel concurred with his mother's recollection of his growth in dance. "I didn't want to acrobatically dance," he admitted shyly. "I just came here to take Acro, but then I started. I really didn't want to at first, but then I ended up liking it."

Daniel ended up liking dance so much that he is now enrolled in every style taught at La Danse — Ballet, Jazz, Tap, Lyrical, Acro, gymnastics, and hip-hop. The young man said his two favorite classes are Acro and Lyrical, the latter being a mixture of Ballet, Modern dance and jazz.

Instructor Carol Brenza, who

teaches Daniel Tap, Jazz, Lyrical and Hip-hop, has nothing but rave reviews for her student.

"He's probably everything you could want in a student. He takes correction really well; you only need to correct him once. He's very serious about what he does, but at the same time he is a lot of fun. He loves coming here; he never complains. When he's not in class you kind of feel like you're missing something. He just adds so much to a class. He's just such a great kid. And he is a choreographer's dream, because he'll do anything, he won't ever question you about it. He'll just do it, and if he doesn't understand it he'll work with you until he gets it."

Not only is Daniel a choreographer's dream, but he recently made a choreographer's dream come true for Brenza. Her work with Daniel netted Brenza First Place for Best Choreography at a recent dance competition in which the young man performed.

This was just one of the numerous awards Daniel has earned since he began competing two years ago. He has won competitions nationally, in the past three years — said Brenza. "He did a couple of competitions this year in the fall and one last week, and got first place in all of them. He's been placing first and overall in competitions, the past three, that he's done. And last year he got high score solo in more of the national competitions that he's done."

"He loves to compete," said his proud mother. "Last year he was really nervous on his first one, but he would go every weekend if we took him. He loves doing solos. I wasn't really ready for him to do solos, because as a mother you can get crazy," she admitted, adding that Daniel handled the pressure well. She added that Daniel is very modest about his accomplishments, and even telling friends from school about the awards he won.

Did the young dancer ever think he would be the good? "Not really, according to Daniel. "I was nervous. I didn't know how

to do anything! But then, toward the third year, I really started to like it more. I learned faster, and I had a better time than the first two years."

Daniel's mother, confirmed her son's comments, stating that La Danse Studio Director Tim Soci has commented favorably upon Daniel's progress.

But Daniel's strengths have definitely attracted attention. His summer plans include participating in an international Cultural Dance workshop and being featured in a music video with other teachers and students from La Danse. According to Brenza, the video producers have formatted the choreography around Daniel.

"He was the main focus. We're basically doing the video around him, because he's the only boy."

The first part of the video will be filmed on the Caribbean island of St. Maarten, the second in New York later in the year. The Vaniska family will be accompanying Daniel to St. Maarten during the filming in August.

Daniel admitted to being excited about being involved in the project. Dan, Daniel's dad, is quite proud that his son was chosen for the video, and attributes much of his son's success to the discipline and focus of his dance training, which is helping Daniel grow into adulthood.

With other La Danse students, Daniel participated in the "Talent Express" dance competition in Kenilworth on March 23. He performed three solos, and received two First Place awards in Acro and Lyrical and one Second Place in the Jazz/Acro category. Instructor Brenza was not surprised.

"Basically he's just caught everybody by storm. Anybody who sees him, they're just overwhelmed by him. He's definitely bound for stardom, in my opinion," she stated. How do Daniel's parents feel about Brenza's prediction?

"He wants to do something with dance. He said he wants to be a dancer, but I just told him he can do anything that he wants to do. We are supportive as parents in whatever he wants to do. He can be whatever he wants to be because he's got a lot of people behind him," said Julie, adding that she and Dan are very grateful to the instructors at La Danse for being so supportive and encouraging of their son.



Daniel Vaniska catapaults himself into the air and potential stardom at a recent dance lesson at La Danse studio in Linden.

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RAHWAY PROGRESS

"Your Best Source For Community Information"

Candidates Corner: Board of Education hopefuls give their thoughts on the direction of the school district. Page 4.

Spring ahead: Push clocks ahead one hour Sunday at 2 a.m. for Daylight Savings.

Running down thieves: County Prosecutor's Office says task force has recovered 2,000th stolen automobile. See Page B1.

City Highlights

Vendors are wanted

Vendors are wanted for the St. Thomas Craft Sale and Flea Market on St. Georges Avenue on April 12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information call 969-2796.

Blanket on sale

Due to popular demand, the Rahway Public Library is re-ordering more of the Historic Sites blanket which has sold out twice since last November. The third weaving of the blanket will be in cream and navy blue. Anyone interested in buying one or more of the blankets should stop by the library at the corner of Central and St. Georges Avenues. The blankets are \$50 and a deposit of \$10 is required. The order will be placed in early April and delivery is expected for mid to late May. For more information call 388-0761.

Tree planting

Mayor James Kennedy and the Department of Public Works announced the second city-sponsored tree planting program to take place this spring. The program is designed to encourage the planting of trees, enhancing the beauty and quality of life in the community. Applications are available for Willow Oaks, Tappan, and Silver Lanes. The DPW is offering trees for half of wholesale price. Applications are available at City Hall near the bulletin board in the lobby.

Tax program

The AARP, with the cooperation of the Division of Parks and Recreation, will conduct a free income tax aid program for Rahway seniors on a limited income. The tax assistance program will be on an appointment basis and will be held in the Rahway Senior Center, 40 E. Main Ave., on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The program will last through April 15. For an appointment, call the Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation at 827-2045.

Stamp services

Several stamp-buying services that help postal customers year-round are particularly handy. Stamp services enable customers to receive their stamps via delivery within a few days by filling out a form that can be obtained from mail carriers. The service is of no extra charge more than the face value of the stamps. Credit cards can also be used for telephone orders by calling (800) STAMP-24 as Visa and Mastercard are accepted.

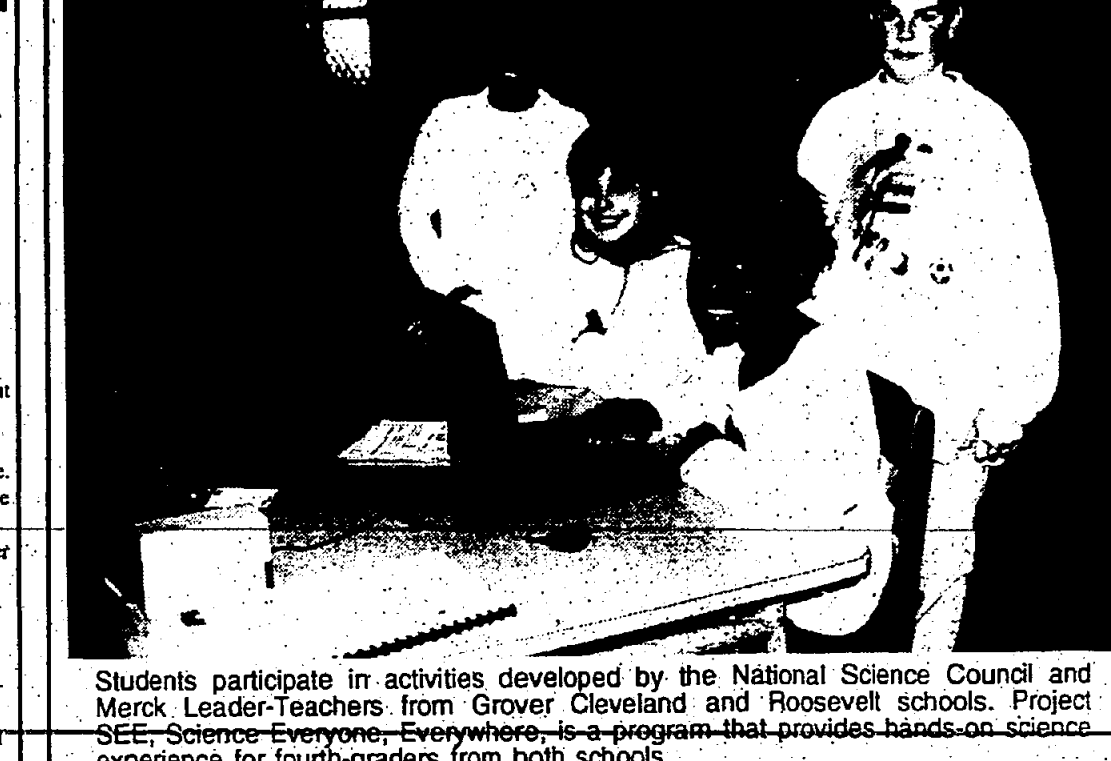
Blood screening

A free blood screening screening will be offered for residents of Rahway at the Rahway Public Library every month. For further information contact the Department of Health, Welfare and Recreation at 827-2085.

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Seeing science



Students participate in activities developed by the National Science Council and Merck Leader-Teachers from Grover Cleveland and Roosevelt schools. Project Science-Everyone, Everywhere-is a program that provides hands-on science experience for fourth-graders from both schools.

Friends, family mourn loss of teenage victims of fire

Friends of Nashika Mitchell, 18, remember her as a hard worker, a religious person, someone who would try to make friends with anyone. Her sister, Tamara, 14, is remembered as sweet and outgoing, an excellent student. Remembered as all they can do now. Both were killed in a fire in their Westfield Avenue home on March 22. Nashika was reportedly home on spring break from Drew University at the time of the fire. Police have charged their 26-year-old cousin Brian Land with setting the fire after a dispute with a family member. Both were buried this week at Rose Hill Cemetery in Linden. According to published reports, hundreds of mourners came to their wake on Sunday at Trinity Temple Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Newark. The death of the two came as a surprise, if not a shock, to everyone who knew both girls. "I was surprised and I was also hurt," said Michelle Jones, a secretary at Trinity Temple Seventh-Day Adventist Academy in Hillsdale, where Tamara went to seventh grade. "She was like a daughter to me. She would say, 'Hi Mommy' and I would say, 'Hi baby' and she'd give me a hug and a kiss."

"I really am surprised because if a such a shock," said Lauren Shipley, a former teammate on Rahway High School's varsity tennis team. "She was here on spring break and she wouldn't have been involved in this if she hadn't been home."

"When asked what she knew about Nashika's cousin Land, Miriam Fernandez, her tennis coach and Spanish teacher for three years at the high school, said, "She never said anything about her family. From what she said, they were a close family."

"I was devastated, really," said Mary Marano of the Blue Triangle service organization at Rahway High School. "Nashika was vice president of the club during her last year. She put together Thanksgiving baskets, went to nursing homes and tutored other students at the school."

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Kennedy withdraws appointments case

By Sean Daily Staff Writer

The City Council and Mayor James Kennedy have been locked in a month-long dispute over the Zoning Board of Adjustment. But Kennedy quietly withdrew his case last Thursday, leading a state appellate panel to dismiss the entire case last Thursday.

The dispute was over whether the mayor or the council would name appointees to a number of city boards. The dispute was brought before Superior Court Judge Edward Beglin by four Republican members and one Democratic member of the council last year.

Beglin's ruling last September transferred this power from the mayor's office to the council. But Kennedy had filed an appeal to get back control of the Zoning Board, saying that there could be some confusion in state statutes and city ordinances over who had this power.

"It's sort of what we expected at this point," said Kennedy.

But although Kennedy's appeal was withdrawn, he got what he wanted in the end.

The now-Democratic-controlled council recently passed a city ordinance giving the power to name Zoning Board candidates back to Kennedy, a Democrat.

"We're looking forward to moving forward," he said. "The board has been disrupted so much the last six months, they haven't been able to get up to speed."

Frank Janusz, one of the councilmen to bring the original dispute against Kennedy and the only remaining Republican on the council, questioned Kennedy's appeal of the decision at all.

"What was the whole purpose of the appeal? Why was it prolonged and, when they went into court, they dropped it?" he asked. "Did he think he would lose?"

But Kennedy replied, "The court date was just last week."

Janusz, a vocal critic of Kennedy, said that before the hearing, the city administration had offered to drop the appeal if Janusz would drop his proceedings to swear in three new Zoning Board members.

These board members were selected by the council after Beglin's September ruling but were unable to be installed because Beglin had placed a stay on the terms of the current board members. In other words, none of the current members, who had been selected by the mayor's office, could be taken off until their terms had expired.

But Janusz accused Kennedy of using his appeal to buy time and keep new members off the board until a friendly council — the "gang of eight," as Janusz called them — could be elected.

The council had elected six Rahway residents, all selected by Kennedy, to the Zoning Board at its reorganization meeting in January, when the Democrats took control.

Janusz said this could not be done under Beglin's stay on appointments to the Zoning Board.

But City Attorney Louis Raimone said this week that the Zoning Board did not have enough people sitting on it, so the mayor agreed to let the council make the six appointments.

Kennedy currently names appointees to both the Planning and Zoning boards. Janusz has said in the past that this violates a balance of power in the city government and that a developer would only have to "corrupt" one person, Kennedy, in order to have a building approved by both boards.

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