

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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The Community Calendar is prepared by the *Way Progress* to inform residents of local community activities and governmental meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to *Way Progress*, P.O. Box 1109, Union, 07083.

Saturday
• Trinity United Methodist Church of Rahway, in cooperation with The First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville and The New York Concert, will present "Jesus Christ, The Light of the World," a Christmas cantata, at 3 p.m. at the church, 1428 Main St., Rahway.

Sunday
• A.P.A.L. Sports Card/Memorabilia Show and '98 P.A.L. Baseball/Softball registration will be held at the Rahway Senior Citizen Center, 1306 Eastbrook Ave., Rahway, on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1 for adults. Children younger than 6 years old will be admitted free. Dealers should call (908) 827-2094.
• First Presbyterian Church in Rahway, corner of West Grand Avenue at Church Street, is inviting the community to its annual Family Christmas Concert at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary. For more information, call 827-0603.

Monday
• The Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Eastbrook Ave., will hold registration for its winter programs beginning today. Registration forms are on a first-come first-served basis to Rahway residents only. No mail or phone-in registrations are allowed. All programs will be held at the center, unless otherwise noted. Any person registered for fall must re-register for the winter programs. Programs will include line dancing, senior exercise, and arts and crafts, singing, drawing and painting, home and garden club and a new sat chi group class. For more information, call the center at 827-2016.

Tuesday
• The Board of Trustees of the Rahway Center Management Corporation TIRA Rahway Center Partnership will meet at 7 p.m. in the El Bodegon Restaurant, 69 W. Main St., Rahway. For further information, call (908) 396-3545.

Coming events
Dec. 19

• The Rahway Senior Center will host its annual Happy Holidays Celebration from 1 to 3 p.m. at the center on Eastbrook Avenue. The party will include music by the Old Guard band, singing by the Madison Grange School Children's Chorus, the combined Rahway/Cranford singing groups led by Sally Beckwith, and a visit from Santa Claus. Rahway senior citizens are invited to attend. For more information, call the center at 827-2016.

Dec. 28
• Twenty of the tri-state area's premier postcard dealers will be on hand from 5:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Rahway Senior Citizen Center — restored Post Office Building — 1306 Eastbrook Ave., Rahway, with a large selection of turn-of-the-century postcards and ephemera for sale. Postcard collecting has become a popular hobby with young and old alike. Early scenes of local towns fascinate the collectors as well as topicals, holidays, social history, sports, and U.S. and foreign countries. The show will feature an exhibit of postcards. A \$1 admission fee will be charged. Food will be available through the senior organization. The center can be easily reached by car from the Garden State Parkway, or Routes 1&2-N.J. Transit train, Bus 62 stop two blocks from the show. The center is handicapped accessible.

Dec. 31
• An exciting New Year's Eve festivity will take place at the Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark, at 9 p.m. The theme is an "Evening of Elegance and Excellence." Entertainment will be provided by native New Yorker "The 12000th Street" of Fats Domino.

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Residents welcome holidays at border

(Continued from Page 1)
What did she want painted on her face?
"A cat!" she said.
Kudin was there with her aunt, Jackie Flanagan, also from Colonia. This was her first year there; she had heard about the festival at a gym in Rahway.
"It's really good," she said. "It's nice to have a little thing to do outside — anything outside. Everyone's been cooped up."
Kudin was enjoying the festival, said Flanagan.
"She's having fun," she said. "She's seen Barry and his friends — I don't know their names — and the carter. She was singing along."
"We had a lot of fun tonight," said the owner, Debbie Galla-Moneda.
When asked what he thought, Arnold said, "I just figured it'd be a Christmas tree and Santa Claus, that's it."
His niece was riding on one of the rides.
"She's loving it," said Arnold's sister, Sharon.
Arnold, who was with his girlfriend, found out about the festival from Sharon. She was there with her fiancée, Anthony Grobowski of Rahway.
"It's nice. It's good for kids. It brings them out of the house," said Grobowski. This was his first time there, but he said he would probably be coming back.
Sunday's festival was supposed to be held Nov. 30, but had to be rescheduled because of rain.

Downtown just needs sprucing up

(Continued from Page 1)
Hilda Rodriguez, who was at the Beverly Sweet Shop, said the sidewalks "themselves" could stand improving.
"The sidewalks are not too good because the trees have lifted them up," she said. She said the sidewalks were safe for older folks and she has fallen on the sidewalks herself.
George Blackwell, a minister at Holy Mountain Church of God in Clark, said more recreational facilities are needed for the city's youth "because they're the future of Rahway, because if you had something for them, it would keep them going."
As part of the overall plan for the downtown area, the city government plans to build recreational facilities on 11 acres of land behind City Hall, including space for private recreational development and a large city-owned recreational center.
But Blackwell said something besides athletic facilities like this and the YMCA are needed. What is needed is a place for kids to hang out, he said, like a video arcade.
Ronnie Minardi, who was at the bus shelter on Irving Street with two other young people, agreed.
"Just like they said," he said. "There ain't nothing here but drugs and violence."
"I really don't chill here," said one of the girls in the shelter. "I live here, but I don't hang here. I hang in Linden."

Council OKs bonds for downtown rehab

(Continued from Page 1)
can be done over a 12-month period." Bill Furtman, executive director of the Rahway Business Center Partnership, called the bonds a "bold stroke."
"What I am suggesting is that the action the mayor has taken to support the mayor's initiatives will affect Rahway, not for the three years, not for the next five years, not for the next 10 years, but for the next 100 years," he said.
The votes for the bond resolutions were not unanimous.
Councilman Frank Janusz abstained from voting or voted against four of the five bond resolutions; the outcome for the Dombroski property, the Moore Lodge, gas station and diner, and both parcels on Main and Monroe streets.

Openings available for winter programs
Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation announced that there are still openings for its winter pre-school, youth and adult programs.
The programs are open to Rahway residents only, and registration in person is required as well as proof of residency. Children younger than the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian to register. Pre-school children must have a birth certificate.
Registration can be made by calling 827-2045 or by coming to the center at 1306 Eastbrook Ave. For more information, call 827-2045.

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Payne holds community meeting with Rahway residents, officials

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer
Rahway had a visit from its representative in Washington on Dec. 1.
Rep. Donald Payne, D-N.J., held a community meeting at Rahway's City Hall in front of about 100 residents and city officials, including Mayor James Kennedy, Council President Nancy Salga, Councilmen Dave Brown and Robert Rachlin, Superintendent of Schools William Petrucci and Union County Freeholder-elect Chester Holmes.
Payne discussed the recent defeat of President Bill Clinton's "fast track" authority on international trade contracts to health care and education.
According to Kennedy, this is not the first time Payne has been to Rahway.
"We've seen more of Donald Payne in off-election years than local politicians," he said.
Most of the meeting consisted of Payne talking to the public during the meeting. Much of this was about proposed and existing federal programs to help families pay for education and health care.
According to Payne, there is to be a \$122 billion cut from the federal budget in the next five years; this is in order to meet Clinton's deadline of balancing the budget by 2002. The largest portion of these cuts are in Medicare and Medicaid. But Payne said Congress is trying to put \$24 billion back into the budget to give all American children under the age of 14 medical coverage.
Payne also discussed different educational aid programs, including federal income tax credits for college students and health care.

Payne said that the federal government has a lot of support for the education of inner-city children. He said that charter schools don't have to take handicapped people.
He said he supported a controversial science and technology "magnet school" created by the Union County Vocational-Technical School in Scotch Plains.
"I'm supportive of a magnet school. They're good because they accept people who are qualified," he said, adding that charter schools don't have to take handicapped people.
At least one resident was disappointed with Payne's answers on a related subject — helping inner-city children with police records to get jobs. After much bemoaning and hawking, Payne said, "It really is an area that has to be addressed."

Ellenport seeking support for student involvement with veterans

By Liann Stone Ingalls
Staff Writer
When Monday's Town Council meeting arrives, Clark Mayor Robert Ellenport intends to present a resolution that will help to inform Clark's students about America's veterans.
Ellenport wants to implement a resolution that allows students to take part in Veterans' Day activities and ceremonies, but doesn't require a full day off from school.
"We want to allow Clark students the opportunity to take an active part in Veterans' Day ceremonies. But, most of all, we want young people to gain a better understanding of the sacrifice that America's veterans have made," Ellenport believes that the resolution will receive the total support of the council. He just wants as many people as possible to come to the meeting to lend support to the cause.

Resident arrested for drugs

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer
Rahway police trying to serve an out-of-town arrest warrant wound up arresting a local woman last Wednesday.
According to Det. Lt. Robert DiStasio, Rahway police received a report at about 10:59 p.m. that an individual wanted by both the Ocean and Monmouth County Sheriff's Departments was at a residence on the 200 block of Monroe Street.
Officers Herbert Glass and James Cornwell were both sent to the home. The resident, Debra Lehotaky, 38, let the officers into her home after they knocked on the door.
DiStasio said the officers did not find the person they were looking for. But while they were in the apartment, they saw a pipe, aluminum foil, baking soda and cash in plain sight on a coffee table, they said. They asked about the items, at which Lehotaky allegedly gave the officers 19 aluminum foil packets containing a white powdery substance. The substance is suspected to be cocaine and has an estimated street value of between \$400 and \$500. Lehotaky also had 30 small clear plastic pills, according to police.

Lehotaky was charged with distribution of a controlled dangerous substance. Since her home is near Grover Cleveland School, she was also charged with possession with intent to distribute within 1,000 feet of a school. She is being held on \$7,800 bail at Union County Jail.

According to DiStasio, Rahway police did not catch the person they were originally looking for, and are still looking. No description was available, said DiStasio, because he had not been caught yet.

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Making a ghoulish visit



On Halloween, third-graders from Grover Cleveland School in Rahway walked to the Rahway Geriatric Center as part of their community outreach program. At the center, they were greeted by their pan pals and given holiday treats. The third-graders brought more than 50 pumpkins, which were donated by the school PTA and shared with their pals. Pictured are some of the school's 'ghoulish' figures celebrating the spirit with residents of the center. Seniors are Claire Jerolaman, left, and Mary Boyle.

Ellenport seeking support for student involvement with veterans

"It's amazing. I've participated as a judge in the American Legion essay contest for a number of years. It's a disappointing for me to see a lot of the misinformation about the U.S. role in wars and battles. In large measure, the youth are fortunate that we haven't had a full blown military conflict, but they need to be educated about war and the sacrifices that go along with it."
Ellenport really wants to see Veterans' Day ceremonies target teenage involvement. He believes officials and veterans need to reach out to them. He said he hopes the veterans groups in town come out on Monday and support the resolution.
Ellenport said, "For the Board of Education to agree to this kind of setup is tremendous because it won't jeopardize their funding in any way. These events are important on a civic and local level. Students can come understand what they read by meeting and exploring the experiences of others."

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Reprimand needed for dance club

It saddens us to think that at least 35 people could have access to a condemned, vacant store front on Irving Street and turn the site into a dance club.

That's what happened two weeks ago in Rahway, and although police call this an isolated incident and city officials brush it off by saying they don't foresee it happening in the future because of downtown revitalization plans, someone should be reprimanded for allowing it to happen in the first place.

Consider the following:

- It had to have taken at least several hours to decorate the vacant store front so it looked like a dance club. We find it difficult to believe that no one saw lighting, a sound system and a makeshift bar being brought into an empty store, one that was condemned by the city.

- The building inspector determined that the lighting and sound system were connected to bare electrical wires hanging from walls, and one particular light fixture was found to be smoking. The inspector said that because of the age and condition of the structure, any fire started by the equipment would have quickly consumed the lower levels of the building and extended to the occupied apartments on the upper floors. A tragedy could have occurred if a fire indeed started and the tenants upstairs could not have reached safety in time. The city also could have been faced with a multimillion dollar lawsuit if, in fact, a tragedy had occurred as a result of people using this structure without any authorization from the city.

- Eighteen juveniles were among the 35 people arrested at the scene. There was beer and alcohol on the premises. Had any of these juveniles consumed too much alcohol and were struck by a vehicle upon leaving the premises, the city could have been held responsible.

- If a person leaves a house party having had too much to drink and is involved in an accident, the host of the party can be held liable for that person's actions. Because this was a city-condemned and vacant building, Rahway could have been held responsible if anything tragic occurred as a result of the party.

- What about neighboring property damage if a fire had started and spread? Wouldn't Rahway also be held accountable for damages there as well?

It took a police officer to notice an increase in pedestrian traffic in the area of the store before anyone knew something illegal had been going on in the store. Perhaps this should serve as a wake-up call to the city and, especially, the code enforcement office to be more diligent with code enforcement. Perhaps they need to make routine visits to vacant store fronts to be sure nothing like this occurs again. If it does, it could cost the city, its businesses and its residents a great deal of money — and lives.

In the meantime, the Police Department should continue an investigation to determine how an incident like this was allowed to happen, and somebody should be held responsible.

Someone in town who really cares

So many news stories lately have been informing us of the problem of children, mostly newborns, who are stuffed in plastic bags, tossed in trash containers, left in alleys, or dropped off on church steps — all because the mothers just didn't want their babies.

It's tragic.

That's why we were thrilled to report the story in last week's *Progress* of Trudy Jackson, a Rahway resident who is willing to open her doors to children who need temporary care.

Jackson, who has been a foster parent since 1994, was honored by Gov. Christine Whitman recently because she has provided temporary care to six children during that period of time.

Not only does it make us wonder what would have happened to those children, it also makes us feel good that there's someone so close to home who cares that much about children that she would be willing to assume the expense of caring for them.

Jackson's story should serve as an inspiration to other people who are interested in, yet apprehensive about, taking in foster children or trying to adopt children. She obviously derives a certain joy in giving these children a home. That same joy can be gotten by others who want to make needy children happy.

"Freedom is fragile and must be protected. To sacrifice it, even as a temporary measure, is to betray it."
—Germaine Greer
Austrian author
c. 1980

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SHOWING TALENT — Gregory Pannullo, proprietor of Pannullo Enterprises, which performs ice skating, shows off his talent and skills during the Rahway-Clark annual holiday festival on Sunday.

PA's only plans are to increase auto traffic

Holding a "public informational meeting" as far away from the public as physically possible, the Port Authority displayed its continued process of covering up its planned oceanfront expansion on Elizabeth, Linden, and Rahway.

At 10 a.m. on Dec. 1 on the 82nd floor of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, the Authority displayed maps and pictures and dream scenarios which will in time result in progressive disease and disability for thousands of New Jersey and New York residents as the effort begins again to double the size of the Goethals Bridge across the Arthur Kill.

The current idea says experienced anyone traveling on Elmore Avenue in Elizabeth is largely due to the Goethals traffic trying to reach Westfield Avenue and the Garden State Parkway. No plans were displayed or contemplated to relieve the current congestion in Elizabeth or on Routes 1 and 9.

No studies were done to show how many Long Island and Brooklyn residents really need to come to Union County, but surely less than 5 percent.

We're raising children without conscience

The other night, my 3-year-old son told me he wanted a gun so he could kill someone.

Once I regained my composure, I wanted to cry out, "What have I done wrong?" I mean, as if there isn't enough guilt heaped upon working mothers as it is, I have the esteemed privilege to let the right wing know that my toddler wants an Uzi.

I couldn't figure out why or, better yet, where he had gotten the idea that he would need, let alone want a gun. My husband and I aren't violent people. We don't associate with violent people. We're a church-going family that believes in God, and believes in helping our fellow man or woman, not shooting them.

So, I sat him down on my lap and asked him who told him that or where he had heard that he needed a gun. He proceeded to jump up and scurry over to the television and point to the screen. He said he saw a little boy on the television who was with a lady. Some bad people came in and killed the lady and the little boy was crying.

He then told me he wanted a gun to kill the bad people who made the little boy cry.

Somebody reading this column will say that I should have been home with my children monitoring their television watching. Somebody else might even go so far as to say that I'm not a good mother. Well, my cry.

Thanks for your attention
To the Editor:
It is time to express appreciation to you and your staff for the kind placement of submitted publicity for the Rahway Woman's Club. As an affiliate of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, in turn a member of the International General Federation of Women's Clubs with headquarters in Washington, D.C., we participate in a variety of volunteer work, promoting cultural, educational, social and charitable activities. Thank you for your treasured support.

From Rasmussen, President
Rahway Woman's Club

Rahway blessed with young people

On Thanksgiving Day, the people of St. Mary's were delighted to have members of Rahway High School's Marine ROTC serve as the color guard during

such a planned roadway expansion would occur in our midst.

Apparently the slowest of the Port Authority to get the Staten Island Railroad back into service has resulted in a back-up of truck traffic coming from the newly re-opened marine terminal on Staten Island. This rail re-opening has been approved by the Union County Board of Supervisors as well as by New York, but it is running nearly a year behind the planned schedule — typical of unrealistic Port Authority planning.

Indeed, the Authority planning group said, without plans to back them up, that there would be a Summer Street flyover to allow the newly generated Goethals traffic to enter Routes 1 and 9 directly. Has anyone asked the Summer Street residents if they would want a huge arching overpass to engulf them? And to add to the already overcrowded Routes 1 and 9 traffic, why on some days is six lanes deep in trucks, is surely folly.

The one concession in the new revised bridge scheme is a single rail track across the Arthur Kill and a bicycle/pedestrian lane. The lane on

the current bridge has been closed for several years due to bridge repairs. This expansion of rail traffic is a drop in the bucket of what is really needed. A recent Authority presentation at the New York Yacht Club, also excluding most of the public, pointed out the need for a new rail freight tunnel from Brooklyn to Staten Island or New Jersey which would accommodate shipments into the needed deep water port in Brooklyn.

Without this new port, the ocean traffic into Port Elizabeth and Newark will decrease by 40 to 60 percent in two years if the new 50 foot deep ships begin to divert to Nova Scotia and Virginia. The new lower shipping costs there will heavily impact the shallow ports of Elizabeth and Newark, drawing away their recently gained ship traffic. Many of the smaller ships will follow the larger ones.

Send the Port Authority back to the drawing board, and stop this bridge expansion madness!

Joseph Parrish is the rector of St. John's Church in Elizabeth.

neither situation is accurate so those people can think whatever they want to think.

I do believe that we are all responsible for the condition of society. Why does violence exist? Why do we enjoy seeing people hurt or maimed or killed? Why? What's wrong with us?

And better yet, why are we exposing our children to these things? And suppose one thinks that kids aren't aware of the violence in our society is false.

I am glad to know that my son has empathy for the pain of others. That reassures me of my example of empathy. But this gun thing is a bit much to handle. I wasn't expecting this at 3 years old.

But, I'm glad my husband and I will have the opportunity to instill our views on guns and violence at an early age. We'll start now instead of waiting until maybe he has a gun in his belt. We know how what to avoid instead of having to deal with it after the fact.

This is an extreme example of the effect that violence has on our children. There are people who say violence on television, in songs or in the movies doesn't influence the behavior in our children. These people say children are too smart to emulate that barbaric and lewd suggestions that these music artists make on their CDs. Our children are too sophisticated to act on impulses that a song or movie might demonstrate.

But, how can they be when they're bombarded with these images a dozen times a day for most of their lives? They even see violence on commercials, not to mention alcohol in abundance.

If we, the adults, who are supposed to have common sense, expose them to all of this mess, how can they be smart, sophisticated or savvy enough to make educated decisions in times of crisis?

We're raising a society full of children without conscience, empathy, compassion, or courage to stand. And for those who say things are just fine, and it's all the fault of the parents, I beg to differ. Society at large is to blame, and we are unwitting accessories to the crime against our children. And in the end, we will do the time, one way or another.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

our annual Thanksgiving celebration. JROTC Marines Israel Joseph and Mike Shigda distinguished themselves as the very best that Rahway has to offer. The JROTC Marines remind us that Rahway is blessed with many fine young people! We thank the JROTC Marines for their continued acts of community service.

Thomas Mitallo, Director of Religious Education
St. Mary's Religious Education Center
Rahway

Letter writers

Readers are encouraged to write letters to the editor expressing views on topics of interest. Letters should be typed, double spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than 2½ pages. The deadline for letters is 9 a.m. Monday. For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be published.

Address letters for consideration to: Letters to the editor, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

VIEW POINT

QUESTION OF THE WEEK
Are you finding the new area code changes difficult to handle?

CALL (908) 686-9898 and enter #7570 - YES
#7571 - NO

Responses will be published next week.
Polls close Monday at noon.
Calls are free. Touch-tone phones only.

Police investigating thefts in autos

POLICE BLOTTER

On Dec. 8, a motor vehicle was reported stolen. A gray 1988 Dodge Caravan was stolen from the driveway of a house on E. Starnes Street.

The suspect broke into a 1996 Hyundai Accent, parked it out of the driveway, took the van and then pushed the Hyundai back in, police said. There are no suspects at this time.

On Dec. 1, a Main Street resident stated that he was alerted to his car horn sounding. When he went outside to check the vehicle, which was parked in his driveway, he discovered the driver's door ajar. He also noticed damage to the steering column. The officer, who responded to the scene observed extensive damage to the steering column because someone had attempted to start the car. The resident did not observe any suspects in the area.

On Dec. 7, an individual who told police that he frequently stays at the Dumas Motor Inn for extended periods of time reported that on several occasions things have been taken from his room. These items include clothing and toiletries. The victim spoke with the owner in an attempt to remedy the situation but it was to no avail. The victim was advised of the proper complaint procedure.

On Dec. 6, a resident of Basking Ridge reported the theft of \$1,000 in

POLICE BLOTTER

cash from the vehicle glove compartment. There are no suspects.

On Dec. 5, a burglary was reported at a Pierce Street business. The security company reported an activated alarm. The suspects gained entry by throwing a rock through the front glass door window and unlocking the door. A Samsung VCR was stolen. The item was valued at \$200.

On Dec. 4, a burglary at a New Brunswick Avenue residence was reported. Between 8 and 8:04 p.m. on this date, entry to a second floor apartment was gained by forcing an exterior door open. The suspects took cash and a money order totaling \$235. There are no suspects.

On Dec. 4, police responded to a call reporting a theft at a home on Westfield Avenue. Upon arrival, the officer spoke with the victim, who stated that sometime during the night, an unknown suspect broke into his vehicle and removed numerous items.

On Dec. 3, a related report was taken of a theft of tools from a work van parked at a Villa Place residence. The items stolen were a circular saw valued at \$90, a reciprocating saw valued at \$170, and a jig saw valued at \$150. The total value of items stolen is \$380.

On Dec. 3, a report of a theft of tools from a vehicle waiting for service. Entry was gained through the driver's side window.

On Dec. 2, a 244-p.m. police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Broadway and Valley Road.

On Dec. 1 at 5:13 p.m., a report was taken of a theft of items from a residence on Rose Terrace.

On Dec. 1 at 8:18 p.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Westfield Avenue.

On Nov. 30 at 9:07 a.m., a report was taken of a theft from a motor vehicle on Mountain View Road.

On Nov. 30 at 7:52 p.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Central Avenue.

On Nov. 28 at 7:53 p.m., a report

POLICE BLOTTER

was taken of criminal mischief to a property on Mildred Terrace.

On Nov. 28 at 4:17 p.m., a report was taken of a theft from a Central Avenue business.

On Nov. 28 at 12:56 p.m., a report was taken of criminal mischief to a motor vehicle on Brant Avenue.

On Nov. 26 at 10:19 a.m., a report was taken of a theft from a Central Avenue business.

On Nov. 25 at 10:08 a.m., a report was taken of criminal mischief to a residence on Lincoln Boulevard.

On Nov. 26 at 9:01 a.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Central Avenue and Terminal Avenue.

On Nov. 23 at 8:04 p.m., a report was taken of criminal mischief to a motor vehicle at a Westfield Avenue business.

On Nov. 23 at 11:51 a.m., a report was taken of a theft from a Central Avenue business.

On Nov. 22 at 9:58 a.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Joseph Street and Westfield Avenue. There were no injuries.

On Nov. 22 at 7:34 a.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident on Central Avenue.

On Nov. 21 at 7:11 p.m., police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Madison Hill Road and Washington Street.

On Nov. 21 at 6:56 p.m., a report was taken of a theft of items from a motor vehicle on Elm Street.

Firefighters respond to fire at incinerator

FIRE BLOTTER

Firefighters responded to a fire at the UCIA Incinerator on Routes 1&9 on Dec. 3.

According to Battalion Chief Gerald Dodman, the fire was in a large concrete pit, about 30 feet deep, that garbage trucks entering the facility dump their garbage into.

The fire was called in at 9:24 a.m. But the fire was brought under control by incinerator workers before the Rahway Fire Department could get there. There was no damage to the fire.

Dodman was unsure how the fire may have started.

He speculated that the garbage trucks may have unknowingly picked up some smoldering garbage. This garbage could then have flared up.

UCUA seeking old batteries

Union County Utilities Authority Chairman John G. Kullin announced that the Authority has implemented a program that will reward any Union County resident, school or organization that turns in rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries.

"In an effort to recover a significant amount of rechargeable nickel-cadmium batteries in the solid waste stream, the Authority is offering a reward of fifty cents a pop for all N-Cd batteries turned in to the Authority," said Kullin.

According to Chairman Kullin, the collection and consolidation of rechargeable Nickel-Cadmium batteries is scheduled at the Union County Resource Recovery Facility in Rahway on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

A voucher for the exact weight of batteries dropped-off will be given to the participant on the collection date and will be mailed at the end of each quarter. Payment will be made by check on a quarterly basis.

Certificate winners

Clark Mayor Robert Ellenport puts the winning card at Valley National Bank's Clark ShopRite grand opening. Witnessing the winning sweepstakes entry are Valley National Bank Branch Manager Lisa Sample and, from left, ShopRite President Kevin Mannix and Frank Juba, store director. Winners of gift certificates from Clark were Mary Bulvid, Stanley Kurpinski, Erida Posnock, M. Wnek and Rachel Salvato.

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KINGS PLAZA MALL, NY
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Upper Level / Next to the Gap
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Ask Dr. Posner
ROBERT POSNER, DDS
THE MODERN ROLE OF DENTISTRY

Q. How has the role of the dentist changed with new medical research?
A. Not long ago, the role of the dentist was principally to repair and control bacterial damage-filling cavities and extracting decayed teeth. However, in the 1950s and 1960s, research revealed the interrelationship between diet and gum disease, and the role that fluoridation played in significantly reducing cavities amongst children.

With more knowledge about risks to teeth and gums, there is more preventive dentistry-sealing out decay, preserving healthy gums and stopping gum disease early in its destructive path.

Cosmetic techniques are also an integral part of modern dentistry. Using new techniques and existing new materials such as porcelain laminates, the dentist provides a new look to teeth that are misshapen, crooked, chipped, discolored or otherwise imperfect.

Are you missing out on preventive dentistry and a better smile?
We would be happy to discuss the above subject matter or any dental concern you may have.

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- Reduced curvature CRT with IC coating
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- Universal remote with DSS control
- Dimensions: 26-1/2" x 19-1/2" x 21-25/32" (HWD) (CS3209)

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- 21.7 Cu. Ft. Capacity Dispenser Refrigerator
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21.5 Cu. Ft. Capacity Dispenser Refrigerator

- 21.5 Cu. Ft. Capacity Dispenser Refrigerator
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PERSONAL CHECKS ACCEPTED

Railway minister honored as Man of Valor

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

"If you have a weak or sick church, you have a weak or sick community," said Lawrence Powell, senior pastor of Agape Family Worship Center, in his address to the congregation.

His address was a sign of strength, then the Agape Family Worship Center is strong.

Since it was founded in 1990, with Powell as its founding pastor, the church has sought "to develop faith in the community, not just for the individual, but for the soul, the intellect and the body."

Now his efforts have been rewarded, or at least recognized. Powell, along with 12 other New Jersey ministers, received the "Men of Valor" award from Project Re-Direct/Youth and Family Services. This is the first year the Newark-based group has given this award.

"I'm very honored for receiving it and I'm honored for being a part of this historic event," said Powell, who was raised in Rahway but now lives in Piscataway.

Project Re-Direct is a non-profit, community-based organization for the prevention of child abuse and developing family support initiatives. Executive Director Sharon Berry is a member of Powell's church.

Berry said Powell was receiving the award "because he is a man of impeccable character and integrity. He works diligently within his church community and beyond to strengthen men, improve marriages and restore the family. He has a tremendous vision for the Agape Family Worship Center."

A Tuesday telephone interview with Powell was interrupted twice by other calls coming in.

"It gets a little hectic here," said Powell.

Agape Family Worship Center changed — on, according to Powell, "line-time" — its name this January. It had originally been called Love Church. "Agape" is Greek for "love."

Second Presbyterian leading the way for needy

By Liane Stone Ingalls
Staff Writer

The Second Presbyterian Church in Rahway is leading the way by providing everyday people with an opportunity to do something great for the less fortunate. Through their "Catalog of Needs," the church is helping to change the lives of others.

The catalyst behind this catalog idea is the opportunity to do something for someone less fortunate. The catalog philosophy is that during these hectic times, it's easy to forget the real reason behind this season.

Rev. Helen Beglin, interim pastor for the church, said, "The church has been doing this catalog for about seven years. And I must say that I was quite impressed with the high level of outreach that I see here. This is the first church that I've been in or even know about that took the time to put down on paper what most of us just talk about. I think this is a terrific demonstration of what several people thought would be a good idea."

Second Presbyterian would like to celebrate not only the birth of the King of Peace, but would like to celebrate the good in all humanity. With this catalog, they would like to provide a different kind of shopping experience with a different gift result. They are offering an opportunity to change lives with a gift.

Beglin said, "The idea originated with a former church member, Ethel Dunbar, who has since moved to Florida. She got together with some other church members and decided to put together this catalog. They wanted to highlight missions and causes that the church was already involved with."

AT THE LIBRARY

Divorce is topic

The Clark Public Library will hold a workshop titled "Legal Aspects of Divorce" at 7 p.m. on Monday in the Ayers Community Room at the library. This workshop will be conducted by Rosalind Mink of Divorce Mediators. Mink specializes in marital issues in her practice. This seminar will include topics such as child support, alimony, custody, discovery, post-judgment issues and grounds and costs for divorce.

For further information or to register for the program, call (732) 388-5999.

Holiday shop at library

If you don't find tracking space at the Woodbridge Mall during the next few weeks, you may want to visit the Rahway Public Library instead to do your holiday shopping.

The library has a few things which will please your gift-givers. It doesn't hurt that your purchases help support reading at the library, too.

Of course, the library has new books for children and parents. "Froggie" is the story of a witch who has a craving for a certain delicacy; the book is written by Margie Palatini and illustrated by Howard Fine, both residents of Union County. Kathy Peck's "The Family Manager's Guide for Working Moms" will help over-taxed parents cope with the demands of raising children today. You may want to get a copy for yourself to read while waiting in line at Macy's.

For the literature lovers on your list, the library has books by the poets discussed in its recent poetry series. Rita Dove, Allen Ginsberg, Gary Soto, A.R. Ammons, Adrienne Rich and Owen Brown are represented by their latest titles.

These books, as well as the two mentioned above, are offered at a discount from list price, but quantities are limited.

The library also has available the new "Old Churches of Rahway" booklet, featuring pictures of the oldest religious buildings in town. Several of the churches depicted are no longer in existence, making it a warm look at times past. History buffs will want to add this to the "Historic Sites" booklet offered last year. The booklet is on sale for \$50.

The Rahway Public Library opens at 9 a.m. Monday through Saturday, 30 minutes before the stores open. There is parking in the lot at the corner of St. Georges and Central avenues, and no other stores nearby to compete with. Swing by and pick up a couple of presents for the people on your list.

Christmas Services

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Moravian Christmas Candlelight Service

Services are Open to Visitors and the Public

Community Candlelight Service
Sunday, December 14 - 7:30 pm

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wednesday, December 24 - 7:30 pm

Battle Hill Community Moravian Church
777 Liberty Avenue - Union
CALL (908) 586-1245

The Linden Presbyterian Church
Princeton Road and Orchard Terrace, Linden
908-486-3073

December 14th, 10 A.M.
SUNDAY CHURCH SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

December 21st, 10 A.M.
FAMILY CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

December 24th, 8 P.M.
CHRISTMAS EVE
CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION

Rev. Dr. William C. Weaver, Pastor

RELIGION

Christmas concert

The church family of First Presbyterian Church in Rahway is inviting members of the community to join the church for its annual Christmas Concert on Sunday.

The program will be held at 4 p.m. in the sanctuary of "Old First." Featured performers include members of the Westchester Choir, Adult Handbell Choir, Prase Singers, Tower Singers, Children's Choir, and the Children's Choir. The choir will be performing a variety of Christmas music, including selections by John Rutter. A free will offering will be taken to support the music ministry.

For further details, call the church office at 382-0803. The First Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of West Grand Avenue at Church Street. Services are Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m.

Statue on display

The Newark Archdiocese has announced the date that the statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, which will be on display for visitors, first at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Newark, and then at the parish of St. Mary's in Rahway.

The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes, which was found in 1917 on the occasion of the centennial of the apparition of the Virgin Mary, is a beautiful work of art. It is a statue of the Virgin Mary, which was found in 1917 on the occasion of the centennial of the apparition of the Virgin Mary, is a beautiful work of art. It is a statue of the Virgin Mary, which was found in 1917 on the occasion of the centennial of the apparition of the Virgin Mary, is a beautiful work of art.

Afternoon of music

Trinity United Methodist Church, in cooperation with the First Presbyterian Church of Sayreville and the New York Concert, invite everyone to an afternoon of Christmas Music and Meditation.

"Jesus Christ — The Light of the World" will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church on Saturday at 3 p.m. There is no fee for this concert. An offering will be taken.

Trinity United is located at 1428 Main St., Rahway.

Call Donna in the church office at 388-1328 for more information.

Scout leaders recognized by council

The Watchung Area Council of the Boy Scouts has been in existence since 1923. The backbone of the organization is its 3,200 volunteer leaders. Last month the council held its annual Recognition Dinner to honor some of those leaders.

The highest recognition that a Scout leader can receive is a Silver Beaver Award. This recognition is given for exceptional service to the organization. Last month the council held its annual Recognition Dinner to honor some of those leaders.

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Worship Calendar

LUTHERAN

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH (Catholic, 1000 N. Main St., Rahway, NJ 07065) will hold its Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

St. John the Baptist Orthodox Church, 211 West Grand Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065, will hold its Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church.

ROMAN CATHOLIC

ST. LOUIS CATHOLIC CHURCH, 272-1222, will hold its Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 22. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church. The service will be held in the sanctuary of the church.

Peace on Earth

CHARISMATIC MASS
10 am Sunday

CHRISTMAS EVE
8 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY ST. ANTONINUS R.C. CHURCH
10 AM
337 S. Orange Ave., Newark, NJ
973-629-0258

Saint Teresa of Avila Church
306 Morris Avenue, Summit, New Jersey

ADVENT MISSION
DECEMBER 14, 15, 16, 1997
7:30 PM REV. FRANK MONULTY
CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT AND CHOIR CONCERT
DECEMBER 21, 1997 5:00 PM

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE
4:00 PM CHILDREN'S (FAMILY) LITURGY
8:30 PM

12:00 AM (CHOIR WILL BEGIN TO SING CAROLS AT 11:30 PM)

CHRISTMAS DAY
7:30 AM, 9:00 AM, 12:00 PM, 1:15 PM (SPANISH)
Please note - WE WILL NOT HAVE A 9:30 AM OR A 9:00 PM MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY.

DECEMBER 28, 1997 - FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

DECEMBER 31, 1997 5:00 PM MASS

JANUARY 1, 1998 6:00 AM, 10:30 AM, 12:00 PM (MASSES)

Area code changes are finally here

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

It's finally happened. The area code changes for northern New Jersey, which were born more than a year ago, finally came to pass on Saturday.

New Jersey now has two more area codes — 732 and 908 — carved out of the old 908 and 201 area codes. Bell Atlantic, which runs New Jersey's phone service, said this was a "natural" change because the state was running out of telephone numbers.

There are only a finite number — about a very large finite number — of telephone numbers in any one area code. Bell Atlantic spokesman Tim Ireland said the 201 and 908 area codes have run out because of the explosion of modern, faxes and wireless communications such as pagers and cellular phones.

The problem is that the new area codes do not follow town lines. That means that several towns — Clark in particular — have been cut into two or even three pieces, each piece with its own area code.

For a while there, you could dial the old area code or the new area code. If you wanted to reach someone in Clark, for example, you could dial the old 908 area code or the new 732 area code. It didn't matter which.

The new area codes affect local towns in the following way:

- Clark has been split into three pieces. Most of the town, including the Municipal Building, are in the 732 area code. But two parts — north of Walnut off of Valley Road and the Westfield side of the Central Avenue bridge — are still in the 908 area code.
- Rahway is almost exclusively in the 732 area code.

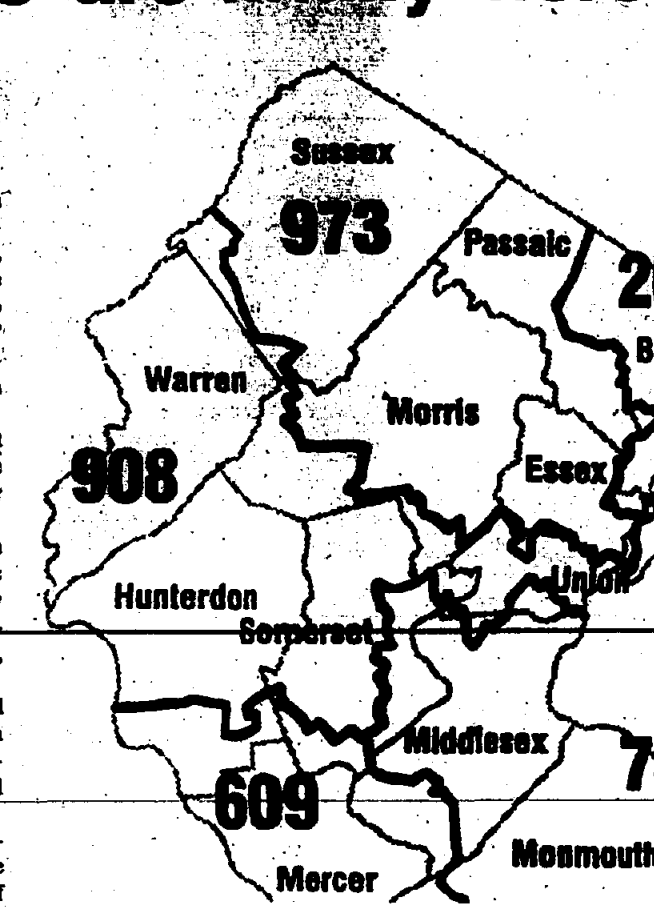
Clark Mayor Robert Ellertson, a vocal opponent of the geographic split, said in a telephone interview that he was not opposed to the change, adding, "It only happened this weekend."

The change has already affected Ellertson. He had difficulty placing a call to the Warren Community Newspapers office in Union, which is still in the 908 area code.

He said he opposed it "for the reason why I rejected this when the phone company and the Board of Public Utilities approved this. It's expensive. It's inconvenient and it could have been avoided by less cumbersome means."

According to Ellertson, the township still has stationery with the old 908 area code on the letterhead — stationery that is now wasted.

"If we had an overlay, that wouldn't have happened," said Ellertson. "Bell Atlantic pushed hard for an overlay, but the BPU didn't want it."



Newspaper group still collecting toys for tots

By Genie Fern
Correspondent

The offices of World Community Newspapers will turn into a drop-off point for readers interested in donating toys for children who are less fortunate this holiday season.

The newspaper company, which publishes 18 weekly newspapers in Union and Essex counties, will be working with the Salvation Army and its efforts to brighten the holidays of children.

In keeping with their longstanding tradition of brightening the holidays for the less fortunate, the Salvation Army is accepting donations of new unwrapped toys, food and clothing at the Community center in Essex and Union counties.

"Several thousand families benefit from our program in Newark alone," said David Bishop, the organization's Essex County resource manager. Last year, the Army collected and distributed approximately 50,000 toys in Essex County. The donations make their way into "Toy Army," the Salvation Army's play area for parents to come in and choose a gift that they would otherwise not be able to afford for their kids. The children's age group goes up to 12 years old, and the toys are for boys and girls.

Slide show targets forest

A slide show on New Jersey's remaining forest will be presented by the Linden League of Women Voters at a meeting in the Wilcox Park Recreation Center on Summit Terrace Jan. 6.

The program, "Saving New Jersey's Forest Biodiversity: Challenge to Our Communities," will begin at 8 p.m., following a 7 p.m. business meeting. Prepared for the New Jersey League of Women Voters, "Saving New Jersey's Forest Biodiversity" was created by Enle DeVito, director of conservation biology for the New Jersey Conservation Foundation at Bamboo Brook, Fair Hills.

It deals with such issues as the importance of large contiguous tracts of forest, how trees affect air quality, loss of habitat and land use planning. It describes the forests of the New Jersey Highlands, which protect more than 50 percent of the state's drinking water, and the still-pure agricultural lands under the Pine Barrens. It also touches on what the average citizen can do to help preserve a healthy ecosystem.

Sylvia Wisniewski, natural resources chairwoman for the Linden League, will present the prepared script that accompanies the 35-minute show and conduct a question and answer session after the program.

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David Nubey, left, and Brian Fogarty were among the many kids who took part in a karate demonstration provided by USA Karate and Fitness during the annual Rahway-Clark tree- and menorah-lighting ceremonies Sunday on the border of both towns.



Gregory Pannullo, proprietor of Pannullo Enterprises, carves a figure out of ice during the annual festivities.

Students' artwork on display

By Liann Stone Ingalls
Staff Writer

Several students from across Union County are participating in the 1997 Union County TEEN ARTS Exhibit sponsored in part by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs. The exhibit is touring the county. It is available for observation at the Elizabeth Public Library at 11 South Broad St. The library will host the exhibit through Dec. 30. The exhibit consists of 25 pieces of art selected from the 513 visual art works shown at the 1997 Union County TEEN ARTS festival in March at Union County College. Students from 47 schools throughout the county participate in this annual event, which is coordinated by the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Twenty-eight students from Union County took part in this exhibit. Students from Berkeley Heights, Clark, Cranford, Elizabeth, Hillsdale, Linden, Mountaintop, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Summit, Union and Westfield are represented.

Linda Slender, chairman of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board, said the county is pleased to recognize these student artists and to give the community an opportunity to experience the excellence of the work being done in the schools.

The Teen Arts program is coordinated by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, hosted by Union County College, and sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Additional support is provided by several other area programs and businesses. The art work covers a range of different classifications. There are oil paintings that display angels, while there are photographs highlighting environmental issues. Charcoal sketches were also displayed in the exhibit.

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H.S. and local sports news can be faxed to Sports Editor J.R. Parachini at 606-686-4169

SPORTS

Rahway not ready to let go

Indians out to record another stellar season

By Andrew McGinn

The Rahway High School wrestling team, one of the top programs perennially in Union County, is set to embark on what head coach Fred Stueber expects to be another standout season for the Indians.

Despite losing five players to graduation who had 15 or more pins, Stueber doesn't expect his squad to miss a beat.

"I don't see any holes up and down my roster," Stueber said. "We have three top seniors and we have kids who will win with points and experience."

High School Wrestling

The Indians put together an impressive 13-2 record last season. Their only two defeats came against state Group 1 co-champion Roselle Park in the regular season and eventual state Group 3 champion Warren Hills in the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 playoffs.

Rahway will once again be headed by senior Antonio Garay, one of the top heavyweights in the state. Garay compiled a gaudy 31-2 record last season and made it all the way to the NJSSAA Tournament at Atlantic City, where he finished in the 5th place.

Among his many accomplishments on the mat last season were first-place finishes in the Hanover Park Tournament, the Rahway Tournament, the Union County Tournament, District 11 and the Region 3. The only thing left for Garay to do in his wrestling career is win a state championship and Stueber feels confident that that is in the cards for him this year.

"There's only one spot for him this season and that's at the top," Stueber said. "He's worked very hard and I think he's ready to take the next step. It's going to take someone very, very good to beat him."

If Garay is to win the state championship, it would be Rahway's first individual title since Daniel Halsey turned the trick in 1966. Halsey's son, Daniel Jr., took home a fourth-place finish in 1993.

Big things can also be expected from Shawn Stueber (130) and Jason Crutchfield (160), both of whom turned in stellar campaigns in 1997.

Stueber, the coach's son, grappled his way to a 25-4 record and advanced to the preliminary round in the state. Like Garay, Stueber took top honors in the Hanover Park, Rahway and Union County Tournaments, as well as Region 3. Stueber finished second in District 11.

Crutchfield, on the other hand, won 26-7 and finished first in the Hanover Park Tournament as well. He finished third in the UCT, third in District 11 and second in Region 3 before being ousted in the preliminaries at the state.

Other starters this season will include: Tom O'Reilly (189), junior Andy Rosch (171), junior Sam Shipley (145), sophomore Dan Fraser (135), junior Luis (125), sophomore AJ's truck Fraser (119) and sophomore Doug Corso (103).

O'Reilly (17-11) and Fraser (13-12) both finished with winning records last season. O'Reilly took fourth place in the Hanover Park Tournament, second in the Rahway Tournament, fourth in the UCT and third in District 11.

Frazier, who wrestled at 112, moves to 119 this year. He finished fifth in the Rahway Tournament, sixth in the UCT and fourth in District 11.

"There are currently battles being waged for the starting spot in four weight classes, including 215, 152, 140 and 112."

Antonio's younger brother Dan and cousin John are battling it out at 215. Dan is a freshman and John is a junior.

Senior Carlo Perez and junior Luis Leiva are vying for 152, as are junior Jason Lee and sophomore Dave Costello at 140. There is a three-way battle for 112 between sophomore Robbie Burnett, freshman Jesse Campiello and sophomore Jami Frazier.

The Indians open at home Friday, Dec. 19 at 3:30 p.m. against Watchung Conference rival Elizabeth, one day before the start of the Hanover Park Tournament.

Learning experience for Johnson this year

By Joe Ragunzio

Staff Writer

Rich Donofrio is not going to let you. No, it may not be a very successful season for the Johnson High School boys' basketball team, with only one starter back from last year's 6-14 team.

But the third-year coach still holds some optimism, at least for a bright future. "We're going to take our lumps," Donofrio said. "I think it's going to be a long season, but a learning experience for the kids, which is going to help in the long run."

High School Boys' Basketball

The returning player is senior John Mulligan. The 6-5 forward has shown tremendous improvement from last season and could develop into a deadly force in the tough Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division.

"He's taken over as a leader and has developed a nice little jump shot," Donofrio said of Mulligan. "He's aggressive. He's going to dominate the boards for us."

Although the Crusaders are inexperienced, they feature a strong group of guards and small forwards, consisting of senior point guard Donnie Sego, senior small forward Paul Serson, junior forward Darren Dances (6-3), junior shooting guard Michael Lucadello (6-2) and junior guard Dan Testa.

Sophomores Mark Mumford (forward), John Polizzi (guard), and Bruno Pimentor (forward) are also expected to see some significant varsity playing time.

"We're very young and we're just going to let it go," Donofrio said. "One bright star is Dances, who has shown excellent athleticism. Donofrio said, 'He's a player,' the coach said. 'He gives you 100 percent. If we press for 24 minutes, he won't give up.'"

Serson is recuperating from an injury that occurred during the football season and will join the team in the next few weeks.

"What the Crusaders lack in talent and experience, they make up for in heart and desire."

"You have to look at the positives," Donofrio said. "The kids have a great attitude and that will make the season."

Many points during last season came at the Saddle Brook Holiday Tournament, which the Crusaders won. Of the Crusaders' six victories, three occurred at that tournament. The Crusaders will defend their title Dec. 29-30.

But if Johnson is going to have any level of success, patience must be practiced.

"We have to be patient and not throw the ball away," Donofrio said. And the program's supporters have to be patient as well. That patience, Donofrio believes, will ultimately be paid off, judging by the excellent feeder programs in the community.

Donofrio has expressed high hopes for the freshman squad and athletes at the fine recreation program.

"The feeder program is going to make (the high school) program better," Donofrio said. "It's very encouraged by the future."

Sure, the conference may be difficult, but Donofrio has confidence in his team's ability to pull off a major upset during the course of the campaign.

"I honestly think we're going to upset somebody," said Donofrio, who lists Roselle Catholic and Immaculate as two of the favorites to win the Mountain Division. "I always tell my team to not give up."

Johnson grid standouts selected All-Conference

Gerstner, Jurick, Zambuto, Derillo, Drake first-team

There were many outstanding varsity high school football players who competed for teams in the Mountain Division of the Mountain Valley Conference this year.

The top teams were champion Immaculate and second-place Johnson.

Immaculate finished 7-2 overall and handed Johnson its only regular-season loss.

Johnson finished 8-2 overall and qualified for the fourth consecutive season.

Johnson, which had 11 of its players earn All-Conference honors, qualified for the North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 playoffs for the fourth consecutive season.

Earning first-team honors were senior running back Eric Gerstner, senior kicker Keith Jurick, senior end Adam Zambuto, senior nose guard Jerry Derillo and senior line-backer Brian Drake.

Earning Honorable Mention selection were junior Ryan Garner, junior Bob Sepko, senior Jim DeTrotto, senior Nikos Nicholas, junior Jon Wojcik and senior Nick Spagnuolo.

Johnson got off to a 6-0 start for the third consecutive season before losing to Immaculate 29-22 at home. The Crusaders were bested by Mendham 42-29 at home in the first round of the playoffs.

The Crusaders finished 5-0 on the road and posted one shutout, a 14-0 win at Newark Central.

The following are the Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division selections for the just completed 1997 season:

OFFENSE
Wide Receiver: Amze Garner, Newark Central, senior. Casey Ransone, Immaculate, senior.

Tackle: Marcus Williams, Roselle, senior. Mike Turk, Johnson, junior. Krystof Kaczorowski, Hillsdale, junior.

Guard: Spencer Durkin, North Plainfield, senior. Michael Pung, Immaculate, senior. Terrik Meggett, Newark Central, senior.

Center: Phil Brorer, Newark Central, senior. Quarterback: Dennis Bowden, Johnson, senior. Sal Moore, Newark Central, senior.

HONORABLE MENTION
Chris Eichkoff, Immaculate, senior. Ryan Garner, Johnson, junior. Tray Barnard, Newark Central, senior.

Klaron Alimworth, Newark Central, senior. Poquan Wilson, Newark Central, senior. Howard Jones, Roselle, junior. Jason Jean Baptiste, Roselle, junior. Dan Guyton, Governor Livingston, senior. Anthony Clemente, Governor Livingston, senior. Ryan Dischi, North Plainfield, sophomore.

Chris Grudman, North Plainfield, senior. Philip Ramey, Hillsdale, senior. Dujan Weems, Hillsdale, junior. Brian Seigler, Immaculate, senior. Ben Lyons, Immaculate, junior. Bob Sepko, Johnson, senior. Jim DeTrotto, Johnson, senior. Vincent Billicci, Governor Livingston, senior. James Gabriel, Immaculate, junior.

Nikos Nicholas, Johnson, senior. Jeff Stumberger, Immaculate, senior. Jon Wojcik, Johnson, junior. Corey DeGaines, Hillsdale, senior. Nick Spagnuolo, Johnson, senior. Roy Bechtold, Immaculate, senior. Joe Leone, Governor Livingston, senior. Chris Johnson, Roselle, senior.

Mark Gulka, North Plainfield, junior. Curtis Golpin, Hillsdale, senior. Kris Lecomte, Governor Livingston, junior.

CLUB G's at top of Rahway volleyball
The following are the Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation women's volleyball standings as of Dec. 2:

1-Club G's (24-3), 2-Gallagher's (21-6), 3-General Locksmith (20-7), 4-Scoreboard (16-11), 5-Butch Kovals Tavern (14-13), 6-Petit Davis (14-13), 7-Power Play (14-13), 8-Rahway YMCA #3 (12-15), 9-Miller O'Donnell Architect (11-16), 10-Columbia Manufacturing (10-17), 11-Rathskeller (4-23), 12-Merchants of Venice (2-25).

Second-Team
First Singles: Lisa Borromeo, Mount St. Mary's. Second Singles: Tracy Salafino, Dayton and Kristina Maudsley, Mount St. Mary's. Third Singles: Liz Januzzi, Bound Brook and Amy Kilmy, Mount St. Mary's.

First Doubles: Melissa Ash and Jessica Gabriele, New Providence. Second Doubles: Alana Goszewski and Alime Lombard, Mount St. Mary's.

Honorable Mention
Singles: Julie Seales, Middletown and Cynthia Kern, New Providence.

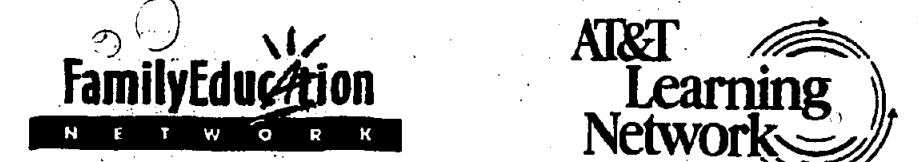
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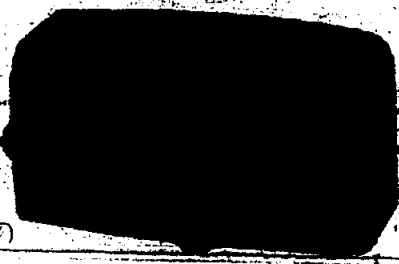
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Can real reform be coming?

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

Residents of Union County soon may hear more jet noise over their heads.

As of Jan. 1, the Federal Aviation Administration will implement a new routing scheme for jets leaving Newark International Airport's Runway 22. This routing, according to aircraft noise control advocates, will take planes from over the less populated Arthur Kill and fly them over the more populated areas of Rahway and Linden.

The big idea in school funding this year, the state Supreme Court thought it found the magic answer when it decreed that the state must equalize the levels of spending in school districts across New Jersey. It's not enough to provide the same academic standards throughout the state, say the court; the state also must provide aid to level the per-pupil spending.

The big idea in school funding this year involves local property taxes. Statewide, school districts derive 60 percent of their funds from local property owners; the remaining 40 percent comes from state aid.

Today there is a lot of talk about making that split 50-50, but is that fair?

Common Sense

By Jay Hochberg
Regional Editor

The concern is said to be for the overburdened taxpayer, but what could be more fair than having local taxpayers — the voters — pay for the local schools? From where would this added state aid come? From the income taxes New Jersey levies on New Yorkers employed here? Or cigarette taxes?

Another lottery game? The school funding law passed this year includes a mandate to limit annual spending increases to 3 percent. It is obvious that controlled spending is the answer to many of districts' financial problems, but what comes is how that money is spent. When a school district relies on money from Trenton or Washington, it also must listen to the bureaucrats' directions on how to spend it.

That's how your money winds up being spent on multicultural curricula that undermine everything that once united our country — not in your child's school, of course, just everybody else's.

A 50-50 funding formula might benefit some taxpayers, but it probably won't improve anyone's school. Local control promises accountability; surrendering autonomy guarantees lower standards.

On school safety, Gov. Christine Whitman is pushing for legislation that would end the granting of six-month probational work periods to employees of school districts, while checks into their pasts for criminal histories are conducted. The administration wants the background checks completed before the prospective employee starts working.

Schools don't knowingly hire criminals, but the delay in processing background checks can create a situation where children might be exposed to them," said Beulah Womack, a member of the Plainfield Board of Education. "We need a more effective, time-sensitive way of screening people."

In the past decade, more than 3,400 applicants have been denied employment in school districts in this state, according to the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Today there is a bill in the state Senate that would shorten that period to three months and would increase the number of offenses that would disqualify a prospective employee. A similar bill in the General Assembly addresses the disqualification matter, and also calls for faster background checks, rather than just shortening the probationary period.

See SAFETY, Page B2

Freeholders oppose FAA's intended flight plans

New route will have jets over county as of Jan. 1

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

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See SAFETY, Page B2

Right now, planes leaving Runway 22 follow a heading of 190 degrees — almost due south. 2.3 miles out from Runway 22, the planes turn 30 degrees west to a heading of 220 degrees.

This route is part of the Solberg Mitigation Plan for Newark International Airport, which was instituted as part of the FAA's Expanded East Coast Plan, begun in 1990.

About six miles out from Newark, planes leaving from Runway 22 are directed by air traffic controllers to take a more westerly heading toward the navigational aid at Solberg Airport.

The Solberg Mitigation Plan was supposed to lessen aircraft noise over a small area of Union County.

But aircraft noise control advocates say that the planes are not following this routing. They are also straying out of the route's relatively narrow corridor, which spreads the noise over

a larger area of Union County. Now, instead of turning to a heading of 220 degrees, planes will make a sharper turn to 260 degrees — a short-cut in the Solberg navigational aid.

According to Peter, the 260 degree routing plan, which was publicly announced on Sept. 23, is intended to reduce the workload of air traffic controllers. It will reduce noise because the planes will be ascending faster, he said — "the higher they are, the less noise is heard on the ground."

The plan is to be evaluated during its implementation by the FAA.

But aircraft noise control advocates, particularly the New Jersey Coalition Against Aircraft Noise and the county's Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board, are saying the routing will increase noise in Union County and decrease the workload of air traffic controllers at the expense of Union County residents.

Jerome Feder, chairman of the

Advisory Board, presented road maps at the Dec. 4 Board of Chosen Freeholders meeting with what he said were the routes of planes along the 220 degree heading and the proposed 260 degree heading.

According to Feder, the 220 degree heading "leads almost exclusively along the narrow Arthur Kill, which is highly populated."

The 260-degree heading, on the other hand, puts the planes over the industrial areas in east Linden and over the heart of Rahway. This routing is actually a mile-wide corridor and, since the "noise shadow" of the planes is a mile wide as well, the noise will reach into Clark, Feder said.

"They're actually saying that this route is moving planes over the Arthur Kill and somebody should tell them where the Arthur Kill is!" he said.

Furthermore, he said, the planes will not be higher with the 260 degree routing, he said.

Feder assumed that the planes would gain about 500 feet over every mile. The 220 degree route is about six miles long, he said, which would put the planes up 3,000 to 4,000 feet in the air.

The 260 degree route is two miles longer, which means that the planes will be 1,000 feet closer, and much noisier, to people on the ground, he said.

Feder also added that the FAA had not done an Environmental Impact Study on the 260 degree route, making it illegal. Peter said that it was not necessary for the FAA to do this study for the route.

Because of Feder's presentation, the freeholders voted to approve a NICAAN resolution, dated Dec. 1, that opposed the 260 degree route. Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender said the freeholders approved the resolution "because it's part of our ongoing battle with the residents of Union County, against the deleterious effects of airline noise."

Culinary courtesy



Students of the Union County Vocational-Technical School's culinary arts program prepare turkey dinners for Plainfield senior citizens. The students, led by chefs Dean Yack and Paul Finn, cooked 15 birds for the Thanksgiving dinner. From left: James Heller; Yack; Kevin Bulfinch; Erin Willis; of Rahway; Kelsa Bennett, of Roselle; Finn; and Tahmeer Lowe, of Rahway.

Towns seek consensus on UCUA

By Walter Elliott
Staff Writer

Summit City Hall's fax machines, telephones and conference rooms have been busy since that city's Municipal Utilities Authority started drafting a letter to other municipalities seeking a consensus on the UCUA's future.

The Summit MUA held a special meeting Dec. 4. City Clerk David Hughes and MUA members are producing a query letter to other municipalities considering garbage contracts with the Union County Utilities Authority.

"We're on the third draft," Hughes said Tuesday. "The letter will be sent as soon as the final edition is approved."

The letter, drafted with representatives of Hillsdale and New Providence, outlines concerns regarding the UCUA's proposed long-term contracts. The utility has offered a 25-year contract with a \$50 per ton transfer fee to use its incinerator at Rahway.

"We have some real concerns about this voluntary contract the UCUA is putting before us," said MUA Chairman William Rosen. "The utility has gone from town to town explaining the contract. We want to know if other towns have the same questions as we do."

Although the special session brought up seven questions, they were distilled to four categories. The first concerned the 25-year contract length, which is five times longer than what governing bodies are used to. The second asked how severe will the \$50 tipping rate and the commodity price index increase mechanism, which would be in cases of new technology and outside transfer contracts.

"We may have the most efficient means of disposing household waste now with recycling and the incinerator," said MUA president Eric Monroe, "but how locked in would we be if a better method came up? If operator Ogden Martin sets a tipping contract with an outside source for, say, \$18 a ton, wouldn't we be entitled to the same rate?"

The UCUA is negotiating with Ogden Martin over operating the Rahway facility. Ogden Martin, according to the proposed terms, would run the incinerator for 25 years. As operator, it would pay \$175 million in construction bond debt over that time and can attract other garbage sources on its own with market rates.

Third on the letter's concern list is liability should the UCUA plan fails and defaults. Ogden Martin has created a subsidiary by the same name in Union Township to directly operate the incinerator. The final point asks the UCUA to improve their communications by furnishing more documents and holding a joint meeting with municipalities.

While Hughes called colleagues in 12 other towns since Thanksgiving Day, only Hillsdale and New Providence showed. He attributed the low turnout to timing. UCUA Executive Director Joseph Spatola and attorney Jonathan Williams "swamped" the towns.

"We just came from a meeting in Fairwood," Williams said. "Joe and I have been out every night explaining the contract. We don't like the Dec. 31 timeframe any more than you do."

Williams and Spatola stayed an hour more to field questions.

"We asked for a 25 year agreement because we wanted to offer a contract which Ogden Martin would be comfortable operating with," said Williams. "Ogden Martin has some money behind it. The county freeholders are responsible for \$35 million of the bond."

Of Union's 21 municipalities, six have signed non-binding letters of intent. Only Springfield has signed the contract.

"The Township Committee had its attorney review the contract, which they later signed," said Commissioner and UCUA Commissioner William Ruocco. "Even if the index went up 3 percent over 18 years, the tipping rate is better than the old \$83 a ton rate. Keep in mind that Springfield can opt out of the contract at any time, especially if its attorney finds any additions to the document it didn't consent to."

"We signed the letter but stressed the non-binding part," said Hillsdale Councilwoman Martie Holloway. "Hillsdale didn't want to enter a contract it hadn't thoroughly examined. This meeting answered some questions."

"The council brought up the contract question last month," said New Providence Councilman Jim Curran. "Our household garbage and wastewater are tied into Summit's system."

Environmental group opposes UCUA lease terms

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

A proposed amendment to the county's garbage disposal plan is being opposed by an anti-incinerator group.

The Union County Concerned Citizens oppose the plan, which was brought up at the Nov. 25 meeting of the UCUA Board of Commissioners because "we think it's an unwarranted subsidy of a private corporation," according to member Bob Canon.

The amendment is necessary because New Jersey's waste flow control laws were overturned by a federal court.

These laws had given the Rahway-based UCUA incinerator a virtual monopoly over garbage disposal in the county; until recently, all of Union County's towns had to send their garbage to the UCUA for disposal.

But these laws have been struck down as unconstitutional. The UCUA must now compete in an open market with other garbage disposal facilities. The county's garbage disposal plan must be amended to reflect this.

The amendment proposed by the UCUA relies heavily on a proposed lease with Ogden Martin Systems, the company that both built and operates the incinerator.

For \$175 million of the UCUA's \$292 million in bonded debt, Ogden Martin will lease the incinerator for 25 years. \$42.3 million of the remaining \$117 million is to be paid off with reserve funds at the UCUA; a remaining \$46 million will be paid off with a portion of the per-ton garbage fees or "tipping fees" at the incinerator. As part of the lease, this tipping fee will be dropped from \$83.05 to a more

competitive \$50 the first year of the lease.

According to Canon, the facility is worth \$100 million to \$130 million. The fact that Ogden Martin wants at least half of the trash in Union County increases this worth to \$175 million, he said.

Canon also doubted that the UCUA would be able to use at least part of its reserve funds. These funds are state loans intended for purposes other than debt service, such as construction.

The real worry was that the UCUA would have to float another approximately \$120 million in bonds. This, on top of Ogden Martin's \$175 million, would leave \$300 million in bonds, right back where the UCUA was.

Then, he said, Union County will be "forced" to 21 municipalities to send

its trash to the UCUA. Part of the lease includes a "pay or pay" clause of 250,000 tons — if Union County doesn't send the incinerator 250,000 tons of garbage, it has to make up for the difference in cash.

According to the garbage disposal plan amendment, those towns that do not sign a waste disposal contract with the UCUA will have to pay a \$15.53 per ton rate, no matter where the trash ends up.

Canon said that the amount of garbage will not remain the same in Union County over the next 25 years. But that doesn't matter, he said; the lease agreement and the amendment to the county government's garbage disposal plan will guarantee that Ogden Martin will turn a profit. Without all this regulation, he added, the incinerator would not make any profit.

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its trash to the UCUA. Part of the lease includes a "pay or pay" clause of 250,000 tons — if Union County doesn't send the incinerator 250,000 tons of garbage, it has to make up for the difference in cash.

According to Canon, a verbal communication to the Warren County Board of Chosen Freeholders stated that the counties are not responsible for the county utilities authorities' bonds. It is the utilities authorities that are responsible; if they default, "it's the bond purchasers' tough luck."

Officials criticize Port Authority's bridge expansion

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

Union County officials joined Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollweag in criticizing the Port Authority for moving ahead with the expansion of the Goethals Bridge without offering a solution to their concerns for safety and traffic.

Over the past two years, issues such as air and noise pollution, traffic congestion and safety regarding the reconstruction of the bridge have been brought up to the Port Authority — only to have gone unheeded.

"The negative impact facing our community as a result of the Goethals Bridge expansion must be addressed and a plan to mitigate has to be in place," said Freeholder Donald Goncalves. "Freeholder Vice Chairman Daniel Sullivan and I plan to sponsor a resolution from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders asking the Port Authority to directly address our concerns on the Goethals Bridge project."

"We've been working long and

hard to establish an open dialogue with the Port Authority," said Freeholder Chairman Linda Stender. "One would think as officials from a community directly impacted by the expansion of the Goethals Bridge, we would be consulted — if not given advance notice — of the results of the environmental impact study or any possible project construction. It is frustrating that we have to read of their plans in the newspapers without the benefit of a briefing."

The officials said their concerns are:

- Plans for an access ramp leading to Routes 1 and 9. Currently, vehicles are routed through local streets.
- Standard highway maintenance is said to be difficult. What will be the impact if traffic flow is increased?
- Compensation for residents who will be displaced as a result of the construction.
- The need to elevate additional traffic from our extremely congested

roadways is a major concern we all share. We understand all too well the importance of upgrading an aging bridge, but our first responsibility is to our constituents. Unless the Port Authority makes a concerted effort to address the concerns that the City of Elizabeth and the County of Union have raised — including a commitment to pay for these repairs in full — we have no choice but to oppose the bridge expansion as now planned," Goncalves said.

Safety and tenure must be addressed

(Continued from Page B1)
It doesn't happen often, but on this one Whitman is ahead of the Legislature.
Also crucial is tenure reform. Another bill in the Senate is intended to expedite tenure hearings. The system now involves a long, tedious and very expensive petitioning process in the Department of Education that extends all the way to Commissioner Leo Klagholz's office.
If signed into law, which almost would be too good to believe, this bill would transfer the hearing process to the Office of Administrative Law. What now is often an 18-month process would be reduced to a few months, and eliminating such a suspended teacher is paid, his substitute is paid and, naturally, legal fees are incurred, should become a quick review by a judge.
In an ideal scenario — I can't believe I'm writing this — an apologetic judge uninterested in legislating from the bench would quickly settle a case, saving a school district tens of thousands of dollars.
Despite all of their recent talk about rooting out useless teachers, I suspect the NIEA and other teachers' unions will fight this legislation ferociously. That is especially worth watching because you'll see again how committed these unions are to destabilizing school districts and eliminating the quality of education.

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Bridge work planned along Sierra Trail

Improvements soon will be made to the Berkeley Heights section of the Sierra Trail, an 11-mile trail that traverses Union County's largest park, the Watchung Reservation.
Three bridges will be installed along wooded portions of trail to aid users in crossing streams and to prevent further erosion of the stream banks. The project is funded in part by a \$6,000 grant received from the Federal Highway Administration's National Recreation Trails Act.
The bridges will be installed in stages and trail workers are being sought to begin the process on or after Saturday.
No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. Trail work takes place regularly, once a month, usually the first Saturday, from March through December from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Other projects include removal of exotic plant species which compete with native plants; installation of erosion control measures, including steps and water bars; pruning; litter pickup; trail blazing and more.
Registration is required and space is limited.
Call Trailblaze Nature and Science Center for details and to register at (908) 709-3670. Trailblaze is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountaineer.

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Snuggle up to the 'Fireside' with the Starlite Chorale

"Do You Hear What I Hear?" echoed softly in the Oceola Presbyterian Church in Clark on Dec. 5. The church was aglow with lights, decorations and holiday spirit. I cannot think of a finer way to spend a chilly evening to start of the holiday season. This was the first of three performances of "Fireside Favorites" for the Starlite Chorale, a small chorus of dedicated men and women under the direction of Tony Godofski, who also sings tenor for the chorus.
The evening's program was a bundle of holiday favorites with some surprises, a must see for young and old. Highlights of the program included "Lord of the Dance," where the audience is invited to join hands and learn with the chorus and dance to a circle of unity. A selection of carols of different ethnic backgrounds and a selection of "Rockin'" carols included "Little Saint Nick" by The Beach Boys.
My favorite selection was "The Sleigh," a Russian carol which I have not heard performed since I was in high school. The only thing missing from the evening was a blazing fire in the fireplace. The evening was reminiscent of Christmas Eve in my childhood. I can recall curling up on the couch to take a nap before it was time to get ready to go to Midnight Mass. I used to fall asleep to the comforting sounds of carols playing on my mother and father's stereo and the

joyful noise.
By Hope A. Kondrick
scents of holiday baking in the kitchen. If you need a break from the holiday hustle or if you just love to celebrate the holidays, I urge you to see the Starlite Chorale. There is one more performance of "Fireside Favorites" on Dec. 14 at Christ United Methodist Church in Piscataway. For further information, call (732) 885-1120.
The Starlite Chorale was started by Godofski in 1995. The group is small and varies in age, quite a few members have performed with Godofski for as many as 18 years. This is truly a dedicated and close knit group of people. The chorus's focus and primary goal according to Godofski, is to bring live, quality vocal music to all people. Godofski, the musical director, has a doctorate in church music from Westminster Choir College, Princeton. He also has trained with Robert Shaw and others. Godofski is an energetic and passionate director; this is clearly apparent in his musical direction and our brief conversation after the concert.
Hope A. Kondrick is a resident of Rahway.

'Ghosts' captivate audience at Dickens' holiday classic

Paper Mill Playhouse's Children's Theatre production of "A Christmas Carol" held hundreds of children spellbound for more than an hour. A packed house of children who for the first time were to see the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future sat in almost complete silence mesmerized by the sheer "aliveness" of the characters. No matter how many special effects Hollywood and Disney can conjure up, no one can compete with live theater. Ask the kids in the audience on Saturday and Sunday.
Children's theater is not an easy task. Roles have to be doubled, sets have to be moved by hand and actors must be ready to sing, dance and tumble! The company tailored this production to the expected audience: children. Imagine if you can the excitement you felt when you first heard or read this classic. Now imagine that it has come alive!
The early scenes of this Scrooge softened a character that may have otherwise been too harsh for young children, without losing the essence of the play. Indeed, if we were to follow Poe's advice that all the action of a story should point to one effect, this production was a complete success. There didn't seem to be a child in the audience who didn't get the message that the spirit of Christmas is more than money and gifts.
This production involved the children in the show by having them tell Scrooge what day it is when he wakes from his nightmare with the three ghosts and can't remember the audience this weekend are any measure, it doesn't seem to make a difference to them.
The Paper Mill has six plays scheduled for their Children's Theatre's Spring 1998 schedule. "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," March 14 and 15, 1998; "Swiss Family Robinson," March 28 and 29; "Peter Rabbit," April 4 and 5; "Charlotte's Web," April 25 and 26; "Cinderella's Travels," May 2 and 3; and "The Princess and the Pea," May 9 and 10. At only \$8 for an orchestra seat and \$7 for mezzanine, these are just slightly more than a movie ticket. Yes, this "Children's Theatre" is not as glibly and sleek as Disney's "Beauty and the Beast." But if the kids in the audience this weekend are any measure, it doesn't seem to make a difference to them.

By Anthony Giordano
ing cry of hundreds of children yelling, "It's Christmas!" and "Merry Christmas!" at the appropriate time.
The company that brought this production to the Paper Mill's Children's Theatre was a quick pace, fine acting and singing and an energy level that could sustain the interest of 5-year-olds.
Anyone who has seen the ads for "Beauty and the Beast" and wished she could take her children should check out the Paper Mill's Children's Theatre Spring 1998 schedule. For the price of one orchestra ticket to "Beauty and the Beast," you could see the entire season.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Riches can be found at 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

Holiday time is typically family time, with most events designed to be festive. Well, Cranford Dramatic Club's "Jack and the Beanstalk" doesn't boast any sleigh bells or snowmen, but if you are interested in having an enjoyable evening with the kids, this traditional tale is a must-see.
Or, without the kids! Without exaggeration, children of all ages had a grand time at the opening of this wonderful production, a musical version of a young man who pursues riches, battles a giant, and learns about what is really important — the true holiday message.
And that message is delivered by a musically and dramatically talented cast. Or, special note, a very talented young man, Joseph Zasko, was the imaginative Jack. Sprague, Melissa Loderich, last seen on the CDC stage in this season's opener, "Lost in Yonkers," lent her lovely voice to the role of Mrs. Sprague. Nicole Caprio was endeavoring as Betty, the cow; as were Joanne Gochick and Cheryl Federico as Golden Hare and Golden Goose, respectively. Richard Sibello, simply roared as the giant, and as the Baron. His mocking, Vincent Price laugh will be remembered.
And you won't be able to ignore the music. Played with comic synchrony by Carl Barber-Steele, Barber-Steele steals the show as the silly and heartwarming Giant, whose attempts to

Israeli Festival presents another successful event

By Ben Smith
Staff Writer
It is inconceivable that Max Feldman, chairman of the Israeli Festival of Union, is retiring, and that, as was suggested Sunday afternoon at the 15th annual Hanukkah Concert, there may no longer be an Israeli Festival in Union. Feldman, who has been instrumental in bringing the Jewish community together by way of music in summer and winter concerts, announced at the unforgettable concert starting Cantor Sol Zim a Bar Mitzvah School in Union that he will no longer be chairman. Throughout the afternoon, Zim, himself, and others on stage, attempted to persuade Feldman to stay — at least for another year.
The 15th annual event, which Feldman called "The Bar Mitzvah Year," had the operatic, powerfully voiced Zim, known as "America's Supremacy of Jewish Music," entertaining an appreciative audience that filled the auditorium. His repertoire consisted of old-time Yiddish and new Hebrew favorites, songs that he had written and a Broadway melody that was so popular, it brought the audience to its feet with rousing applause.
Also on the bill was Temple Israel's sensational choir to sing with Zim and with each other, music to prayers that the performer had written, a solo by Lauren Slonick, and some sweet, well-known Hanukkah melodies.
The four-piece orchestra featured a local drummer, Ella Berger of Union. The other three travel with Zim.
The always hard-working Feldman offered a welcome and introduced the former Union mayor Anthony Russo, who complimented Feldman and offered a special prayer for all the Jewish people. Mayor Greg Miller, who had attended every Hanukkah Festival but one, was unable to attend because of a family emergency. Feldman thanked all those who have made the annual Israeli Festival what it is today, including its contributors and particularly Union County National Bank. Cantor Larry Tiger, Feldman's son-in-law, guided the audience in "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "Hallelujah." Rabbi Meyer Korman, religious adviser and spiritual leader of Temple Israel of Union, offered the

prayer. The evening of Dec. 23, when there is a candlelighting ceremony of the public Hanukkah Menorah at the Union Public Library, next to the Union Municipal Building, perhaps the crowd will be able to persuade the somewhat reticent, beloved chairman to stay on another year. It would be a terrible loss to the Jewish community of Union if there no longer is a Jewish Festival. And without Feldman, there may very well be.

On the evening of Dec. 23, when there is a candlelighting ceremony of the public Hanukkah Menorah at the Union Public Library, next to the Union Municipal Building, perhaps the crowd will be able to persuade the somewhat reticent, beloved chairman to stay on another year. It would be a terrible loss to the Jewish community of Union if there no longer is a Jewish Festival. And without Feldman, there may very well be.

Theater View

By Jacqueline McCarthy
Associate Editor
to stir fear in the hearts of mortal men had the audience in stitches. This is a cute musical to start, accented by the inspired direction of Ken Rosenblum. Actors play successfully to the crowd, taking the action and the catchy tunes into the aisles, generating excitement from the audience, which lasts all the way to the end with the post-show, when actors and audience meet face-to-face.
The set is really delightful, including some huge Dahlia-cane flowers. The Giant's laboratory is a wonder indeed, full of bells and whistles and colorful "wines and puddings" galore. Costume Cathy Cohen is to be commended, especially for the Golden Hare's gorgeous gilded gown and Betty's cute and efficient cow costume.
So if the story of Jack rings a bell, give yourself and your kids a nice holiday gift. "Jack and the Beanstalk" will finish its run tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-7611.

Calvary Chorale tackles both the traditional and eclectic

By Nathaniel Yaffet
Correspondent
It hardly seems possible, but Christmas concerts are here again. Last Sunday afternoon the Calvary Church Chorale in Summit contributed their "Anthems of Advent & Christmas" as well as the seldom heard "Psalms: Gloria."
Utilizing the medieval ambience of Calvary Episcopal Church with its polished wooden choir stalls, stained glass and gloomy interior, the program began well with "Queen Victoria's Coronation" by 16th century composer Jacob Handl. The double choir technique, with solo quartet singing from the vestibule and full choir from the altar, was very effective.
"Behold that Star," a pleasant but repetitive pseudo-spiritual with a Peruvian undertone followed. At this point, it was obvious that the choir director, James S. Link, was observing the long-standing though questionable tradition in which adults mimic the colorless "white" sound of a boys' choir. Because of this approach, the soaring soprano lines of this piece were pinched and dry, lacking the necessary vibrato for warmth and interest.
A children's choir was next, singing with varied success. The children were grouped straight across the front, the lone girl perched on the Communion rail — arguably not the ideal acoustic arrangement for young voices. A semi-circle would have worked better. It was also puzzling that Little chose to accompany the children himself on piano with minimal attempts at conducting them. As a result, the group, for the most part,

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College addresses serious issues through good theater

By Faith Agnew
Correspondent

The 90s have been the "issue decade." A play addressing those issues must be incisive, relevant and provocative without being preachy or morose. "The Waiting Room," by Lisa Loomer, staged remarkably at UCC Theatre Project, is just such a play.

We see three women from various eras, each suffering from what could be argued to be her struggle to fit the societal ideal of womanhood. Forgiveness, Victoria and Wanda meet in a doctor's waiting room. Forgiveness, a young woman from ancient China, has bound feet. Her toes are gnarled and she may lose an entire foot. Victoria, a Victorian-era wife, is suffering not only from dislocated internal organs because of her corset, but may undergo a forced hysterectomy to "control" her disagreeable personality. Wanda, a 90s single girl, has had extensive plastic surgery, which may have caused her cancer. The doctor they are waiting to see must treat each ailment as his profession dictates, using proven methods and eschewing even a suggestion of alternative approaches.

The play is woman-centered, but addresses universal issues which cross not only gender boundaries, but the boundaries of time. A primary focus is the historical reluctance of the medical establishment to embrace new "improved" procedures, and the effect this has on the quality-of-life and even of patients' lives. With diseases that standard medical procedures can do little to cure, Victoria's doctor husband is reluctant to examine Fred's analytical approach to hysteria, when humbling the uterus and ovaries have "proven" to work remarkably well to cure the "overeducated" woman. Wanda is searching for an alternative to surgery for her breast cancer, but cannot get even an opinion on experimental drugs and treatments. Her frustrated response: "I bet mold didn't look too good until it was proven" to be penicillin.

Director Mark Spina has assembled a fine ensemble cast to bring this work to life. Some standouts include Barbara Glid as Forgiveness and Lisa Allford as Victoria. Both exude an energy on stage which is palpable. Andre de Saadles, a man in the role of the female nurse Brenda, is by turns bittily witty and moving. Brian Kennedy artfully portrays a creepily capitalistic pharmaceutical executive.

Spina's masterful staging combined with the considerable talent of all the actors makes for a stirring theatrical experience.

Paper Mill and paper company join forces on latest production

By Faith Agnew
Correspondent

In its continuing effort to bring the best theatrical productions to the stage, Paper Mill Theatre is pleased to announce its partnership with the Howard Gilman Foundation in presenting "Children of Eden," the annual production of the Foundation's 1997-98 60th anniversary season.

The foundation was established in 1981 by Howard Gilman, chairman of the board of the Gilman Paper Company. Founded in 1884, the Gilman Paper Company is the largest solely-owned paper company in the United States. The foundation is dedicated to the preservation of natural and cultural resources, with a focus on the conservation, the preservation and advancement of artistic and cultural endeavors, and medical research. Over the years, support from the foundation has enabled Paper Mill to breathe new life into classic pieces of musical theater such as "Peter Pan," while also contributing to the American theater experience by sponsoring world premieres like "Comfortable Shoes," "A Tale of Two Cities" and last season's "Jane Eyre."

"We are always pleased to support the wonderful productions at Paper Mill, especially when they allow for new, creative collaborations," Gilman noted. "We are especially enthusiastic about 'Children of Eden' and believe the collaboration between director Robert Johnson and composer Stephen Schwartz will render something very exciting and original."

With music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by John Caird, Tony-winning co-director of "Les Miserables," "Children of Eden" is a spectacular musical retelling of the story of Genesis. From the creation of Adam and Eve, to the tragedy of Cain and Abel, to the wondrous journey of Noah and his family, the musical examines the timeless struggles between parents and children.

Performances of "Children of Eden" are through Dec. 14. For tickets and information, call 376-4343. Paper Mill is barrier-free and completely accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Additional funding has been made possible by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

'Face Off' continues tradition of violent, involved suspense

By Jim Rittel

John Woo directed his first film, "A Better Tomorrow," in 1986. The Chinese picture was a winner in his homeland, but never made it to the U.S. In 1990 Woo made "A Bullet in the Head" and "The Killer," cementing his status as one of the top directors in China. Those two films also brought him to the attention of many American film buffs and Woo soon had a cult following in the U.S. Those pictures were violent and action-packed, staples of many of the Hollywood releases. But critics as well as the public were fans of Woo's talents and Hollywood studios began to take notice.

In 1993 Woo was wooed by Tinseltown and directed the Jean-Claude Van Damme starrer "Hard Target." Woo was forced to cut down many of the violent scenes to secure an "R" rating for U.S. release. The film still took home MTV's 1993's Best Action Sequence. It was a box-office smash and Woo followed it up with 1995's "Broken Arrow," another blockbuster.

This film's star John Travolta, chose to work with Woo again on Woo's 1997 effort, "Face-Off." The inventive, twisting plot and Woo's intense style lift this above the average Hollywood action pic. Travolta is Sean Archer, one of those dogs in a cover police force run by a special

The Video Defective

By Jim Rittel

section of the government with headquarters in L.A.

The film opens with Archer playing with his son in the park. Psycho terrorist and sniper Carter, Nicholas Cage, guns down Sean's little boy. Flash forward six years: Carter is still bombing buildings and Archer is still obsessed with catching him. Sean's got a feeling Carter's nearby and he's right. Carter and his computer whiz brother, Pollux, are planning to blow up L.A. with a bomb loaded with nerve gas and other biologically destructive chemicals.

Sean gets a lucky break and after a harrowing chase with jeep, helicopter and a plane, Sean gets his man. But Carter's still hanging onto his life, laying in a hospital bed in a coma. A special branch of the force makes a suggestion. Through high-tech laser technology and medical splicing they can take Sean's face off and replace it with Carter's. Other problems can cover all other physical alterations. Sean will then be placed in prison and can track the information out of Pollux.

HOROSCOPE

For the week of Dec. 14 to 20

Aries
March 21-April 20
Get the important things out of the way early so you can focus your attention on relaxation and fun. The answer to a crucial question is closer than you think. You'll get the support you need and the encouragement you seek from an unexpected source.

Taurus
April 21-May 21
Think problems through before taking any action. Rushing ahead now could lead to bigger problems in the future. Opportunity is knocking, and people in authority are watching to see how you'll respond. You get a favorable answer to a financial question.

Gemini
May 22-June 21
Other people oppose your plans but you'll be able to sidestep them and get the job done. Be willing to see things as others do. A fresh approach can work wonders. You're closer to

Cancer
June 22-July 22
Be enthusiastic about your plans and move ahead with confidence. Don't be embarrassed. Others share your feelings but look for you to take the lead. Your abilities and approach attract supporters. Don't get so caught up in activities that you neglect friends and family. Be willing to take some quiet time.

Leo
July 23-Aug. 23
Tough problems could force you to go back to the basics. Don't panic—things will work out if you take your time and make sure you've covered everything. A friend or family member wants to help and offers a good suggestion. Be willing to listen. Sprinkle on a small luxury or treat for yourself.

Virgo
Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Remember that no great break-

through comes without a lot of pushing. Be persistent and keep pushing away. Pretty soon it will pay off and you'll understand people and situations clearly. Someone is working behind the scenes on your behalf. You have an ally in an unexpected place.

Libra
Sept. 23-Oct. 23
Want to see the big picture and refuse to get bogged down by unnecessary details. Situations are changing rapidly and you don't want to get left behind. This can lead to conflicts, but try to stay on the sidelines until the smoke clears. You'll come out ahead that way.

Scorpio
Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You like to be in control, but realize you have to step back sometimes or allies and friends will be driven off. Your financial picture may be unclear but things will work out in your favor if you give it time. An exciting out may give you a fresh perspective on people.

(See Horoscopes, Page B7)



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New Jersey News, Traffic & Weather

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Union County Utilities Authority (UCUA) will conduct its

Annual Public Meeting


on
Wednesday, December 17, 1997
7:30 p.m.

at the **Union County Utilities Authority**
1499 US Routes 1&9, 3rd Floor
Rahway

This public meeting is to provide local officials and the general public with an annual forum to provide input and exchange ideas relating to the Union County Resources Recovery Facility.

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Musical Performances at St. John's Church Broad St.
Bally School Band 12:30 • Liberty Baptist Church 2:30 • Christ Fellowship 3:30
Special Holiday Turkey Service
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Union County College 12:30-4:30 • First Presbyterian Church 1:50-5:00

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The Best Of Autumn Dining

Chevy small-block has a long history of improvement

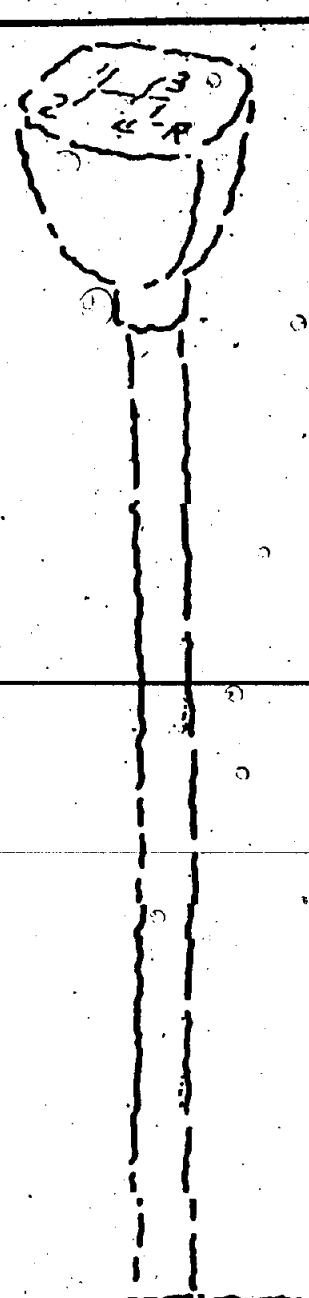
In the beginning, the small-block Chevrolet had a carburetor, a distributor with breaker points and a piece of rope that acted as its main timing belt. The carburetor was a simple device that drew air and fuel into the engine. The distributor was a mechanical device that timed the spark. The rope was a simple piece of rope that was attached to the crankshaft and the camshaft. As the years passed, the small-block Chevrolet evolved. It gained a fuel injection system, a timing chain, and a more complex distributor. It also gained a reputation for being a reliable and economical engine.

Forty years later, advances in technology have transformed the small-block. Its creators would have no difficulty recognizing the venerable V8 — its fundamental design has been unchanged through four decades of development. But literally hundreds of refinements have kept the small-block at the leading edge of engine technology.

In the heady days of the Muscle Car, it was sometimes difficult to distinguish the race cars from the Chevrolet models — 40-horsepower, 4-cylinder, 1960s-era models. The Chevrolet Performance group, the Division's sub racing department headed by Vince Pignatelli, created a line of race cars that were designed to be readily available to the public. Chevrolet offered the race-ready motor in a special Camaro model, the legendary Z28. Within two years, Z28 sales skyrocketed to over 19,000 units.

As the free-wheeling 50s and swinging 60s gave way to the sensible 70s, concerns about emissions and fuel economy impacted the small-block. America's favorite engine continued to evolve through the Digital Decade. The development of sophisticated electronic controls gave Chevrolet engineers the means to make the small-block V8 economical, environmentally responsible and powerful — all at the same time. First they replaced the carburetor with Throttle Body Injection, then in 1983, electronic Fuel Injection — a multi-point fuel injection system that looked as sensational as it performed, debuted on Corvette engines. More powerful on-board computers integrated the engine with the transmission and chassis to provide a seamless driving experience.

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RAHWAY PROGRESS

Serving Rahway and Clark

By Sean Daily Staff Writer

Nine merchants on Irving Street and West Millon Avenue could be losing their building in the near future. But none of them seem to know anything about how or when.

The building is on the corner of West Millon Avenue and Irving Street, in front of the NJ Transit station, the Pipe Shop and B&J Shoes. It has been owned by Rahway resident Frank Dombrowski for 17 years and has been called "the Dombrowski building" by the city government in the past.

The city government wants to buy and demolish the building to improve the visibility of the station, which is undergoing renovations. The building

is a very old building and is in poor condition. The city government wants to buy it and demolish it to make way for a new building.

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Contest winners

By Liam Stone Ingalls Staff Writer

The Rahway Arts Council is still under construction in an effort to help beautify the downtown area. Unfortunately, everyone doesn't seem to be cooperating with the plan. Unusually, graffiti has already ruined its ugly look.

Within the past three or four weeks, graffiti has been spotted on walls, platforms and stairwells. Graffiti has also been found on cream-colored pillars and metal doors.

According to Mayor James Kennedy, this has been a big problem in the past, but he's happy to say that it has improved.

"I'm really happy to see the problem in Rahway, but I'm not happy to see the problem in New Jersey," he said.

"And really, the only place that I've seen any kind of cleanup is on one of the doors that wasn't finished yet. And on the top of one of the roofs. But I don't think we're really in a bad spot when it comes to graffiti. I know that it's a four-year-old issue. The graffiti that was on the walls, Kennedy said he wasn't aware of those types of movements.

"I don't know of any laws in New Jersey doing that. We did talk about that years ago, but nothing ever came of that. And really, I don't know if that's the answer to it either."

When asked if the administration had ever considered bringing in a professional graffiti artist to paint murals on the walls, Kennedy said he wasn't aware of those types of movements.

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