

Welcome to the THE OBSERVER

How to reach us:

The Observer is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed below:

Voice Mail:

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated receptionist.

To subscribe:

The Observer is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00, two year subscriptions for \$47.00. College and out-of-state subscriptions are available. You may subscribe by phone by calling 908-686-7700 and asking for the circulation department. Allow at least two weeks for processing your order. You may use Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover.

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If your Observer did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

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To purchase back issues of The Observer please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

News items:

News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures should be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial.

Story reprints:

For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

Letters to the Editor:

The Observer provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and daytime phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

e-mail:

The Observer accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editorial@thelocalsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guidelines at ads@thelocalsource.com

To place a display ad:

Display advertising for placement in the general news section of The Observer must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

To place a classified ad:

The Observer has a large, well read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 908-686-7850, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Facsimile transmission:

The Observer is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day please dial 908-686-4169.

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Visit our Web Site on the internet at <http://www.localsource.com>. Our newspapers are available in their entirety with a subscription to our E-Edition a great choice for those who like to keep their community news at their fingertips.

Postmaster Please Note:

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by The Observer to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to The Observer, Attn: Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union 07083.

Saturday

• The Congregation Israel of Springfield will present an art auction at 7 p.m. The evening will include a delectable dessert, wine and cheese reception. For more information or to register, contact Leah at 973-210-4140 or springfieldevent@gmail.com.

Monday

• The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School, 139 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m.
• The Donald B. Palmer Museum, part of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., is hosting an exhibit called "New Jersey Images" by photographer Robert A. Parker until Feb. 16.

Tuesday

• The Summit Old Guard will present a lecture titled "Importance of Water in Health," by John Bullock, a retired professor at New Jersey Medical School, at the New Providence Borough Hall, 360 Elkwood Ave. A coffee hour starts at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. short business meeting. For more information, call Earl Gilkey at 908-464-2480 or access the Old Guard's Web site at www.summitoldguard.homestead.com.

Wednesday

• The Springfield Free Public Library's (Really Good) Book Discussion Group will discuss "White Teeth," by Zadie Smith, at 7 p.m. Discussions take place in the Palmer Museum at the library, 66 Mountain Ave. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book, call 973-376-4930, ext. 228.

Upcoming

Jan. 13

• Learn how to make your own greeting cards at the Greeting Card Stamp Camp. Classes will meet from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Community Room in the Mountainside Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east. For more information, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Jan. 14

• The Handcrafter Group of the Women's Association of the Community Presbyterian Church, 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, will meet the second Saturday of every month in the church's Memorial Room at 10 a.m. For information about the group, call the church office at 908-232-9490 and leave a name and telephone number with Janet.

• The Springfield Recreation Department will host a Kids Night Out from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chisholm Community Center, 100 South Springfield Ave. This event is for children from prekindergarten, if toilet trained, through grade five.

For more information, call 973-467-3790, ext. 10.

Jan. 17

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will continue its Lunchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," at noon. In this fifth entry of the Nick and Nora Charles series, the high-class amateur sleuths, Myrna Loy and William Powell, become entwined in a peril-filled adventure involving a spy ring, stolen paintings and a few dead bodies. For more information, call 973-376-4930.

• The Springfield School District's Special Education Parents and Professional Organization will offer a free workshop titled "IDEA/NCLB" from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cranford High School Library at 201 West End Place, Cranford.

Parents, caregivers, and community members will gain a clear understanding of the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the No Child Left Behind Act.

To register for the workshop, call the Office of Special Services at 973-376-1025, ext. 1229, by Jan. 13.

Jan. 18

• The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will sponsor a knitting group called the Knits of the Round Table for boys and girls ages 12 and older. The group will meet on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m. for six weeks. To register or for more information, call 973-376-4930, ext. 233.

Jan. 19

• The Great Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will meet at 10 a.m. to investigate various aspects of the short story by Henry James.

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

Jan. 21

• The Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave., will sponsor a family night at the movies from 7 to 9 p.m. This event is free and open to the community. For more information, call 973-467-0838.

Jan. 23

• The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School, 139 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m.
• The Summit Planning Board will meet in Council Chambers of City Hall, 512 Springfield Ave., at 8 p.m.
• The Summit AARP will resume its regular monthly meeting schedule at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit. Coffee and a social will precede the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Edward Lyon of SAGE will speak on "Prescription Drugs."

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Mountainside honors police officers

(Continued from Page 1)
elderly female. On their arrival, they discovered the woman in cardiac arrest and began CPR while attaching an Automatic Defibrillation Unit to the victim. Because of the quick action of the officers, the victim's heart resumed beating.

A Certificate of Recognition was given to Detective Donald Amberg, a member of the Union County Emergency Response team, who was requested by the state of New Jersey to assist the New Orleans Police Department following Hurricane Katrina. His duties included conducting search-and-rescue operations while combating looting.

Amberg received a commendation for his service during an incident in which he helped track down an identity thief who was using a victim's driver's license to incur summonses around the state, resulting in the victim losing his job. Amberg wrote a letter on behalf of the victim assuring his future employers that the charges against him were false.

Sgt. Allan Attanasio, Cpl. Kenneth Capobianco, Officer Michael Pasquale and Officer James Urban were all

given commendations for their service in an incident in which a carjacked vehicle speeding down Route 22 was intercepted and the suspect hunted down after abandoning the vehicle and fleeing into the woods.

Cpl. Richard Latargia, Officer John Philippakos and Officer Jeffrey Stinner were all given commendations for their service in an incident in which two suspects with loaded guns were wrestled down and arrested after a car chase in which they had rammed police cars and attempted to run over a Fanwood officer.

Urban also received the Excellent Police Service Award, and commendations were given to Cpl. Kenneth Capobianco, Officer Michael Pasquale and Communication Officer Walter Kutsop for their service in capturing a suspect who had held up the Echo Queen Diner at gunpoint. The suspect rammed police cars and eventually fled on foot before being arrested with the assistance of Springfield officers.

It was also announced that former Mountainside residents Blanche and George Watts had established a foundation to benefit Mountainside organizations rendering services to residents.

For more than 50 years, George and Blanche Watts lived at 375 Short Drive.

Blanche is a retired teacher of stenography and business courses in the Newark public school system and George retired from a career at Western Electric, the manufacturing arm of the old Bell Telephone System. Although they enjoy travelling, for the most part, the couple led frugal lives and in doing so became the "millionaires next door."

In keeping with the pattern of a community foundation, the organization will not only solicit grant requests but also entertain funding initiatives to meet community needs. To be funded with approximately \$3.5 million dollars, the Watts Foundation anticipates making grants each year in excess of \$140,000.

This foundation presented Mountainside with a generous donation, which Vigilanti proudly accepted on behalf of the borough. The funds will be used to purchase a new bus for the community.

Staff writer Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or summitobserver@yahoo.com.

New Springfield mayor outlines plans

(Continued from Page 1)
service and went on to briefly outline some of his interests and plans for the coming year, indicating he would like the police chief to attend all committee meetings.

Grau is now one of two Republicans on the committee. The other, Harold Poltrok, was elected last year.

Grau said his recent election, in which an incumbent mayor and long-time committeeman in a Democratic town was defeated by a Republican, indicated a change in voting trends in Springfield.

He elaborated after the meeting, saying, "People became comfortable

in their positions and needed fresh ideas. The people of the town are looking for a change."

Grau also expressed his beliefs that the Democrats were making political appointments and the Republicans on the committee were not being given opportunities to recommend their own candidates for board positions.

Though Harelik welcomed Grau to the committee, she disagreed with his statements regarding the significance of a Republican victory, saying she felt Grau's victory over Mullman does not represent an across-the-board change in Springfield's voting pattern. She also stated that the Republican

members of the committee had every opportunity to make their own suggestions for appointments, but had neglected to do so.

However, both Grau and Harelik admitted their ability to discuss these issues with the needed scrutiny was limited by Grau having only recently begun his post and Harelik having been absent from recent meetings due to family emergencies. Poltrok also missed a recent meeting due to family obligations. Their thoughts concerning these issues can be expected to appear again in the future.

Staff writer Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117.

Boyfriend charged with first-degree murder

(Continued from Page 1)
issues," O'Leary said in a message sent by e-mail.

Louie said Touris, Pessolano and the daughters "pretty much kept to themselves" and he only spoke to the couple when they moved in several months ago. He said there were "several occasions" when the police were summoned to the house.

"That's a shame and maybe a failure of the authorities," Louie said of

the reports of the denied restraining order.

Though he expressed revulsion — "violence against women is heinous," Louie said — and sympathy for the daughters left motherless as a result of Touris' death, Louie said he wasn't shocked by the incident.

"It's a terrible thing, but am I shocked?" Louie said. "No. It's disturbing that it happened so close and when I was at home and that I didn't

hear anything and couldn't do anything about it."

The New York City native noted that the incident hadn't changed his outlook on his quiet neighborhood.

"This can happen in any locality and any economic strata, and it does," Louie said. "It's not shocking to me... It's part of life."

Staff writer Robert Zullo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 121, or summitobserver@yahoo.com.

A NEW LOOK FOR YOUR LOCAL NEWS

Worrall Community Newspapers has introduced four redesigned publications to Union County. The new designs combine several of our newspapers into bigger, more encompassing publications.

Readers continue to receive all their local news plus coverage of adjoining towns. Each newspaper continues to deliver news of county government and important regional issues.

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An evening of vehicle burglaries in Mountainside

Mountainside

On Dec. 29, there was a report of the theft of a vehicle registration and insurance cards from a vehicle parked at Loew's Theatre on Route 22.

That same day, there was also a report of the theft of two business checkbooks from a vehicle parked at Loew's Theatre on Route 22.

There was also a report of the theft of various items from a vehicle parked at Loew's Theatre on Route 22 that same day. There was also damage to the driver side door. Missing from the vehicle were a black leather briefcase, a digital camera, a pair of Ray Ban sunglasses, a black jacket that contained \$250 in cash and an insurance card. The approximate value of the lost and damaged property is \$1,950.

All these thefts at Loew's occurred in the afternoon and evening hours during a period of light rain.

• On Saturday, Heather Novorro, 18, of Scotch Plains, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol after a motor vehicle accident on Route 22.

• On Dec. 28, there was a report of the theft of a purse from a vehicle parked at a borough restaurant. The purse contained a checkbook, two credit cards, a medical card, a AAA card, and an Illinois driver's license.

• On Dec. 28, there was a report of the slashing of an inflatable Christmas decoration at a residence on Old Tote Road.

• On Dec. 10, there was a report of an unauthorized entry to a 1999 Infiniti on Grouse Lane. Nothing was reported missing.

• On Dec. 10, Marlon C. Rojas, 21, of Plainfield, was arrested in Plainfield for an outstanding warrant out of Mountainside.

• On Dec. 9, David M. Brown, 37,

POLICE BLOTTER

of Fanwood, was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Newark.

• On Dec. 8, there was a report of the theft of various items from three unlocked vehicles — a Honda Civic, Mercedes and GMC — on Summit Road. Items stolen include insurance and registration cards, \$10 in quarters and several compact discs.

Springfield

On Monday, Luis Arrua, 38, of Trenton, was arrested on Route 22 for criminal mischief and harassment.

• On Monday, there was a report of the theft of various items from a locker at Bally's on Route 22. Missing was \$100 in cash and a number of credit cards, including an American Express card, a Citibank Card, and a Bank of America Card.

• On Sunday, Daniel Brando III, 18, of Union, was arrested on Laurel Drive for assault, interfering with police, and underage consumption of alcohol.

• On Saturday, there was a report of an attempted entry into a home on Tree Top Drive. A glass window and its screen were broken, but police determined no entry was gained.

• On Saturday, there was a report of the theft of a purse at a ShopRite on Morris Avenue. Inside the purse was a wallet with credit cards, an iPod, a New Jersey driver's license, a workplace identification, a Metro card, a train ticket from Short Hills to New York and a Coach pocketbook containing \$300 in cash. The approximate value of the lost property is \$1,000.

• On Dec. 30, Kareem Cunningham, 25, of East Orange, was arrested on Milltown Road for an outstanding warrant out of Sparta. He was also

charged with speeding and driving with a suspended license.

• On Dec. 30, Jean Jean-Louis, 24, of Hillside was arrested on Route 22 for an outstanding warrant out of Maplewood.

• On Dec. 29, there was a report of a burglary of a vehicle parked at a location on Route 22. A list of missing items was not yet available.

• On Dec. 29, there was a report of the theft of various items from a vehicle parked at a location on Route 22. Missing were 12 compact discs, a credit card and a Nextel phone case.

• On Dec. 28, Kevin Jackson, 51, of Newark, was arrested in Essex County for an outstanding warrant out of Springfield.

Summit

On Monday, Janet C. McCoy, 51, of Summit, was arrested at Broad Street for driving while suspended, maintenance of lamps, expired registration and failure to inspect vehicle.

• On Sunday, Maureen A. Kane-Sara, 49, of Morristown, was arrested at the Chatham Township Police Department for an outstanding warrant out of Summit.

• On Saturday, Domingo Cano, 19, of Summit, was arrested at police headquarters for sexual assault in the second degree.

• On Dec. 30, there was a report of the theft of a Samsung cell phone from a YMCA locker on Dec. 27 sometime between 4:15 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

• On Dec. 30, Kim M. Hughes, 27, of Port Jervis, N.Y., was arrested at police headquarters for credit card theft, fraudulent use of credit card and theft by deception.

• On Dec. 29, Walter G. Mora, 34, of Elizabeth, was arrested at Broad Street for driving while suspended and headlights required with wipers on.

CLUBS IN THE NEWS

Youth group schedules winter retreat

The Winter Retreat of the St. Teresa of Avila youth group will be Jan. 13-15 at the Vincentian Retreat Center, Princeton. Any high school student, regardless of their faith, is welcome to attend.

Teens will leave St. Teresa's in Summit on Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. and return Jan. 15 at 3 p.m. The cost of the weekend, which includes all meals, lodging, materials and transportation, is \$125.

The weekend is designed to help teens grow in their own personal faith and to create or deepen bonds of friendship with members of the youth group.

For more information, contact Youth Minister Kevin Canessa Jr. at 201-681-6307 or send a message by e-mail to kcanessa@stteresasyouthgroup.org.

Junior League looking for a few good women

The Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills is hosting three informational meetings in January for prospective new members. All women living in East Orange, Livingston,

Maplewood, Millburn, Orange, Short Hills, South Orange, Springfield and West Orange are invited to attend one of the following meetings to learn about the Junior League's tradition of volunteering in our communities: Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Junior League building, 105 Main St., Millburn; Jan. 24 at 10:15 a.m. at the Maplewood Memorial Free Library, 51 Baker St., Maplewood; or Jan. 26 at 9:30 a.m. at the Junior League building, 105 Main St., Millburn.

New members will participate in weekly training meetings from February to May, to learn about the Junior League, build effective volunteer skills and develop a community service project.

To reserve a spot at one of the informational meetings, call Sara D'Andrea at 973-379-9655 or send a message by e-mail to jlosh1913@gmail.com. Information regarding the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills is available at jlosh.org.

Since 1913, the Junior League of the Oranges and Short Hills has been committed to promoting volunteerism, developing the potential of women, and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is

exclusively educational and charitable. The Junior League reaches out to women of all races, religions, and national origins who demonstrate an interest in and commitment to volunteerism.

MOMS Club welcomes new members

The newly-formed MOMS Club of Springfield and Mountainside is seeking new members.

The club was formed to provide networking opportunities for stay-at-home and part-time working moms.

Meetings are once a month and, should you decide to join, dues are \$25 per year. For more information, call Susan Zaremba at 973-218-9043.

Widowed Persons group seeks members

The Widowed Persons Association of Our Lady of Lourdes, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside, is looking for new members.

Meetings are the second Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a program, followed by refreshments, consisting of wine and cheese, followed by coffee and cake. A fee of \$3 is charged.



Caitlin Thomas, Tamara Bondy, Meredith Carbone, Jessie Mark and Sarah Haines, members of the Summit High School Hilltop String Quartet, and their director, Barbara Vierschilling, take a bow following their performance at the opening of the National Staff Development Council convention in Philadelphia on Dec. 2.

SHS Quartet receives resolution of merit

At its December meeting, the Summit Board of Education honored the members of the Summit High School Hilltop String Quartet with resolutions of merit for their many musical achievements.

"The members of the Hilltop String Quartet are the finest musicians at Summit High School," said Eleanor Doyle, chairperson of the board's Communications Committee that presented the resolutions.

This year, the Hilltop String Quartet won the American String Teacher's Competition. They also performed at the N.J. String Symposium, the Women's College Club Scholarship presentation at the Arboretum, and the grand opening of the new SAGE center in Summit. Each year,

the group performs at the high school's Awards of Excellence Dinner and Back to School Night. They performed last year at former superintendent of schools Michael Knowlton's retirement reception and have performed at other district retirement receptions as well.

Last spring, the quartet won the Young Musician's Competition sponsored by the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and, as a result, had the honor of performing at Alice Tully Hall.

A few months ago, the quartet won a national competition conducted by the National Staff Development Council and, as the winner, performed at the Opening Ceremony of its National Convention in Philadelphia three

weeks ago. The quartet members are Julian Cartwright, Caitlin Thomas, Meredith Carbone and Jessie Mark. Also receiving resolutions were Tamara Bondy and Sarah Haines, adjunct members of the quartet.

Bondy and Haines, first violinists, joined the quartet for the performance at the national convention gala. Cartwright was not able to perform with the group for that event because he was auditioning for the prestigious Oberlin Conservatory.

The quartet is under the direction of high school music teacher Barbara Vierschilling.

It rehearses one night each week, with an accelerated rehearsal schedule when preparing for major performances.

HEALTH

Free immunizations offered to children

The Westfield Regional Health Department, which serves Springfield and Mountainside, offers free immunizations and physicals to all children from birth to 18 years.

This is done through the department's child health clinic. This clinic is conducted twice a month by appointment only.

The department's pediatrician performs the immunizations and physicals.

The child health clinic is for children who do not have insurance or whose insurance does not cover well visits.

It only provides care for children who are well, not those who are suffering from any illness.

For information or to make an

appointment, call Anne Travasano, public health nurse, at 908-789-4070, ext. 4073.

Support groups meet at Overlook Hospital

Overlook Hospital, 99 Beauvoir Ave., Summit, will offer the following support groups.

• "Children's Support Group: Creative Caring" is an ongoing expressive therapy group for children ages 6 to 12 who have a parent with cancer.

• A substance abuse family support group meets Tuesdays, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at Overlook Hospital Behavioral Health Outpatient Center, 46-48 Beauvoir Ave.

Participants learn ways to cope with substance abusing family members.

• A brain tumor support group

meets the third Thursday of each month, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Overlook Hospital Cancer Center, fifth floor, 99 Beauvoir Ave. For more information, call 908-522-5255.

YMCA offers college student memberships

The Summit Area YMCA is offering special holiday college memberships at a greatly reduced rate. Memberships run through Jan. 21 for \$70. There is also a special two-week membership available for \$35.

A current college ID must be presented upon joining. The Summit Area YMCA is a full service Y, open seven days a week. The Summit Area YMCA is located at 67 Maple St., Summit. For more information, call 908-273-3330, or visit www.summitareaymca.org.

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EDITORIALS

A step in the right direction

Redevelopment Agency commissioners in Rahway took a step in the right direction Dec. 20 when they approved a resolution to negotiate with Trinity United Methodist Church. The amended resolution will give its executive director and attorney the power to work with church officials toward reaching a possible agreement regarding property sought, without authorizing the power to fall back on the use of eminent domain.

Community concern for the congregation at Trinity United has abounded since August, when developer The Silcon Group first laid out plans for The Carriage City Hotel and Tower. To create an access road to the hotel, Silcon is seeking to acquire a portion of the church's property, including a part of an administration building.

Residents spoke against the plans at the Redevelopment Agency's meeting last month. Many, including the church's pastor, feared the property — which houses Sunday school classes and a thrift shop — would eventually be snatched through eminent domain.

Commissioners looking to move forward with the project listened to these concerns, often breaking traditional meeting protocol to allow for an open discussion between the public and the board. The sensible compromise will create the best conditions for moving forward, allowing negotiations to begin without instilling unnecessary fear in a local congregation.

Pick up the spare

A fund-raiser for a new varsity bowling program at Roselle Park High School has become the subject of controversy, due largely to a misunderstanding. Instead of being recognized as a successful boon, one mother is complaining her daughter and daughter's friend thought it was guaranteed they'd make the varsity team if they participated in the program, which proved untrue.

The funds were to be raised through private donations, corporate sponsors or fund-raisers. One fund-raiser, which yielded a total of \$1,000, involved 12 students raising \$100 each, although some raised more than the minimum while others raised less. The problem began when a parent whose daughter participated in the fund-raiser but did not make the team complained to school board President Kenneth Iachio and asked for a refund.

The purpose of a fund-raiser is to raise money for a cause or event, not for a child to buy his or her way onto a team. If parents thought the team was a recreational bowling club, not a varsity team, then that's the result of miscommunication, not an attempt to disappoint two of the girls who didn't make the team. A total of 25 students participated in the tryouts, and the bowling coach selected 12 on the basis of their performance, so these two girls weren't the only students not to make the team.

Instead of dwelling on this misunderstanding, the school and interested parents should use this incident as an inspiration to create a recreational bowling club where everyone who is interested could participate.

Debate on these editorial pages

If all goes according to plan for Bill Caruso, president of Clark's Senior Housing Corporation, bulldozers will be at work on Terminal Avenue in the township in the spring, and, two years from now, seniors will be moving into a 300-unit age-restricted complex.

Debate about the project, which will be in the middle of an industrial zone in Clark near the Westfield border, has been played out in the pages of our newspaper for months, most recently with a series of columns written by an opponent of the project, William Fidurski.

Caruso has questioned us giving Fidurski carte blanche to state his opinion in these pages. But, when offered the same space, Caruso said he did not want to engage in a letter-writing battle.

Let us take this opportunity to deliver a few reminders: Neither Fidurski's columns nor any other columns on these pages represent an official position of this newspaper.

These pages — which, beginning with this issue, will include topics from throughout Union County — serve as a forum for people on all sides of a debate, ideally, to educate each other on projects and events that will shape the lives of local residents for years to come.

Letters and columns can be sent to editorial@thelocal-source.com.



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

LIBERTY HOUSE — The formal gardens of this historic Elizabeth home once stretched to the Elizabeth River. Read more about the Liberty House on Page 17.

What's in a name? History, heroes and tradition

What's in a name? Quite a lot, actually. And in the case of a public institution, such as a school, the choice of a name is significant on many levels.

The formal origin of Elizabeth's public school system may be traced back to its incorporation as a city in 1855. From that time until the turn of the century, nine schools were established, serving various sections of the downtown area. The names these schools acquired were chosen largely to honor notable Americans, both on the national and local level.

School 1, originally located on Third Street, was named in honor of our nation's first president, George Washington. The third School 1 still proudly bears this name. School 2, originally located on Morrell Street, came to be named for Winfield Scott, a great military hero of the 19th century, who lived in Elizabeth for many years. School 3 was originally named Continental School, honoring the American force that fought for independence.

The list goes on with names such as James Caldwell, Elizabethtown's "fighting parson" of Revolutionary War fame; Elias Boudinot, patriot, friend of Washington and president of Congress, whose Elizabeth home, Boxwood Hall, still stands on East Jersey Street; and Joseph Battin, a nationally renowned engineer and local philanthropist, who donated his South Broad Street mansion to the city in 1889 for use as a high school.

As the 20th century began and the tide of immigration steadily increased, a basic mission of the public school system became more relevant than ever. In addition to the traditional "Three-R's," the public schools, from the beginning, were charged with the task of instilling in the children of the various immigrant groups an appreci-

Point Of View

By Charles Shallcross

ation of and respect for American traditions, history and institutions so that, as adults, they might participate and benefit fully as American citizens — a concept no less valid today. Old traditions, customs and heroes were left behind as the young students learned of Washington and Lincoln while their parents proudly attended night school to learn the language of their new country as quickly as possible.

Schools built during the early years of the 20th century continued to reflect the important role of a school's name as both instructional and inspirational in educating new Americans. Students in the former William Livingston School no doubt learned about the vital part he played as the state's first governor and trusted associate of General Washington.

Youngsters at Benjamin Franklin School, for instance, could not fail to be amazed by the many and varied achievements of this famous American and the crucial role he played in establishing the new nation. Those students attending the new School 14 surely were proud of the role their school's namesake played in saving a divided nation and ending the institution of slavery.

Students at the Madison-Monroe schools learned of the role these early presidents played in both the writing of the Constitution and the growth of the new nation, in addition to learning exactly where the school was located.

The boys and girls of Woodrow

Wilson School could also be inspired by the story of this scholar, who also served as New Jersey's governor and, as president, guided the nation through the First World War.

Students entering the new Alexander Hamilton Junior High School in the 1920s might have been surprised, and maybe even proud, to learn that this most brilliant of our nation's founders actually attended school in Elizabethtown as a young man.

Thomas Jefferson, president, statesman, philosopher, musician, theologian, architect, horticulturist, inventor and author of the Declaration of Independence, was the name chosen for the new boys high school, which served generations of Elizabeth's young men. The remarkable achievements of our third president in the several fields he mastered served as fine examples to the men of "Jeff."

As the century progressed, and new immigrants continued to arrive from countries such as Italy, Germany, Poland and Lithuania, new schools were built to serve the growing population. They were not named Geribaldi, Bismarck, Pilsudski or Baranaukas. Those heroes rightly remained behind as those arriving learned the great names of their new country.

There were also opportunities for students not only to be inspired, but to learn American history as well, through the lives of some of Elizabeth's native sons who went on to national renown, and whose names now grace our schools.

Nicholas Murray Butler, born into an old Elizabeth family, became a noted scholar, educator, writer, adviser to presidents, and served as president of Columbia University for 40 years. Students in the school bearing his name have the opportunity to learn about this remarkable individual from

their own city, while learning some interesting local history as well.

On completion of the new high school in the late 1970s, one of its houses was named for another Elizabeth native son who achieved greatness. William F. Halsey, born and educated in Elizabeth, served his country as a naval officer and attained legendary status during his service in World War II as admiral of the Third Fleet in the Pacific. Students studying U.S. history in Halsey House might very well find his name in their textbooks.

During the second half of the century, responsible boards of education continued this tradition and began to recognize and honor outstanding educators who, in their lifetimes, contributed significantly to public education in Elizabeth.

Schools bearing the names of Mabel Holmes, John Dwyer, Sam Aboff and Donald Stewart not only honor the achievements of these worthy individuals, but can also serve to inspire future generations to follow in their footsteps. Realistically, few can aspire to become presidents, statesmen or even a genius physicist, whose work is still not fully understood by most. Instead, it is an entirely realistic and laudable goal for any young person to plan for a career in education, following the example of these outstanding individuals, who served their community so well.

The question, then, of what is in a name can have many different answers. When it comes to the name of a school, however, it serves us best as a means of remembering and celebrating our own heroes, history and traditions in educating and inspiring future generations of new Americans.

Charles Shallcross, a retired educator, lives in Elizabeth.

Clark seniors and weapons of mass destruction

Despite continual references to proposed high-density housing projects on Terminal Avenue as "senior housing," all of the high-density apartments proposed for Schwarz Farm and the predominant number of units proposed for the old Tyco site on Terminal Avenue are not proposed to be senior housing.

More and more, sticking some seniors in low-income, moderate-income and market rate apartments along the railroad tracks seems to be an excuse to build high-density, luxury, age 55+ apartments in an effort to copycat high-density development in Cranford and Rahway.

In those communities, high-density development is being pushed to facilitate residential access to the Cranford and Rahway commuter rail stations. In case nobody noticed, Clark does not have a commuter rail station. Clark seems to be pushing for high-density development to create more traffic, satisfy the mayor's campaign contributors, and help the state extract its "pound of flesh" by creating a device to put as much low-income housing in Clark as possible. In Clark's case, pushing high-density development along access roads to the Parkway is only going to make it more difficult

Point Of View

By William Fidurski

for residents of the town's new, upscale, single-family McMansions.

It is hardly reasonable to expect people to buy million-dollar homes and then expect that they don't have to get anywhere. Although there has been some talk about the bus service on Terminal Avenue, the bus does not provide express service to Manhattan.

The 112 bus is a local bus that stops all over Roselle and Elizabeth before crossing over into New York. It mostly serves factory workers on Terminal Avenue and students at the Union County College and vocational schools in Scotch Plains. Unfortunately, it is not as upscale as the Midtown Direct commuter train.

Ultimately, Clark is a bedroom community that has to rely on desirable single-family homes and a suburban quality of life to keep property values high. Without any significant access to mass transit, Clark residents

cannot make do without automobiles. By the same token, Clark cannot keep creating more traffic and accepting more and more through traffic from neighboring communities.

Unfortunately, the current mayor has not demonstrated any inclination to do anything constructive or confrontational enough to generate any real effort to open Parkway access at Inman Avenue. Writing another letter just won't do it.

In addition to encouraging more traffic, the mayor has done a banner job of antagonizing the business taxpayers in town. You know, those companies that pay hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes and make little demand on community services. Aside from completely disregarding the concerns of industrial property owners and tenants, the mayor has promised them an audience of round-the-clock critics and engaged major consumer products companies in a public relations nightmare by creating a confrontation between the industrialists and senior citizens. In case the mayor hasn't noticed, there are municipalities out there offering tax abatements in office parks that don't come with complaining neighbors in the middle of the complex. Unfortunately,

the mayor wasn't happy with industrial property owners paying taxes as full assessment.

In other words, the mayor's confrontational attitude toward industrial users should not push jobs and desirable tax rates out of Clark or out of New Jersey. Clark does not need to be faced with industrial vacancies, tax appeals, a net loss of tax rates and a loss of the employees on Terminal Avenue. It should not be necessary to point out that the employees on Terminal Avenue, many with significant disposable income, support the local economy by regularly shopping, dining and obtaining personal services during the day. Losing those employees would significantly impact the weekday profitability of the local retail and restaurant trade.

Why do all this for "senior housing" that is predominantly "not senior housing" and where Clark seniors may be as hard to find as weapons of mass destruction in Iraq?

A former chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission, Fidurski has also served on the Zoning Board, the Reservoir Committee and the Citizens Master Plan Advisory Committee.

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Leaving Iraq means victory for the insurgents

Nowadays, there is only one debate that is being echoed and that is, "Bring the troops home."

Democrats who gave their approvals to send the troops to Iraq are now putting pressure on the president to bring the troops home. I am humbly requesting that both the Democrats and Republicans understand that this is not the time to bicker — leaving Iraq at this point means victory for the insurgents.

Let me reiterate, these insurgents are cruel and brutal people. They do not believe or care about freedom. Their sole and foremost mission is to kill innocent civilians, Americans and Iraqi forces. These cold-blooded villains do not have any particular religion, nor do they have any concern or respect for human lives. Their mission is to kill, even if it means committing suicide, and they are doing all this in the name of Islam.

Living in fear is worse than death itself. I honestly believe that none should have to live in fear. Those who are involved in these callous attacks should be captured and brought to justice and liberate the world from living in fear.

President Bush did a lot of good things for the American people and millions of Muslims after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The president handled those unforeseen circumstances in a positive and adequate manner that will be embedded in our minds for a very long time. He had also made it a top priority to bring the Taliban, who are the worst, cruel leaders in the Muslim history, to justice.

If the Taliban were in power, this world would have been an atrocious place to live. They have been toppled

Point Of View

Mohammed Abbasi

and now America is much safer than before. However, we must keep our guards up and be alert at all times.

The removal of Saddam Hussein from power was absolutely necessary because he was nothing but a tyrant and a dictator. The president should be commended for doing such a magnificent job that was supported by the American people, both houses and the help of God.

The time has come when we should support the president, now more than ever. Good citizens from different parts of the world are now getting the taste of freedom. Eradicating the Taliban and overthrowing Saddam Hussein was a dream come true for a lot of peace-loving people. Now they could voice their opinion for their rights. After kicking the Taliban out from Afghanistan, the people are now free and can see the world from another perspective.

The people from Iraq were once under the regime of the dictator Saddam Hussein, but are now freed. This is all due to the Americans and the outstanding guidance of the president, supporters and allies. To the contrary, even though the Iraqis are free, they are still demonstrating against the United States and condemning for no apparent reason. These demonstrators do not realize that, in the past, women had no place in society. Now women

will have the opportunity to be seen and heard.

When soldiers join the military of any nation, they are fully aware of what their purpose and duties are. Sometimes sacrifices have to be made in order to accomplish a rewarding and fruitful outcome. Those soldiers who lost their lives for the sake of peace and democracy will be remembered now and always. I implore the parents, wives, husbands, brothers, sisters, relatives and friends to preserve their memories and keep in mind their love and patriotism.

I beseeched everyone that is not in favor of having the troops in Iraq to reconsider their decisions. It is imperative that we continue what we commenced. There are no other options. Bringing home the soldiers will be an insult to our nation and we will be laugh at around the world.

We need to support those heroes that are fighting these difficult missions and help them to keep their sanity for the sake of peace. I urge those demonstrators to the highest degree to stop their demonstrations because it is sending out a negative message to other nations. Supporting the president, troops and allies means a better Iraq, a safer Iraq and a new Iraq.

Not long ago, if we could remember, Russia invaded Afghanistan and they were defeated by the Americans. Well, everyone left and there was no sense of a real government. Afghanistan wanted a government but everyone wanted power, which resulted in many groups fighting for power. Henceforth, there were the Taliban, Al Qaeda, bin Laden Terror Camp and suicide bombers. All these elements compounded as a result of Sept. 11. Do we want this identical scenario to

transpire? Definitely not. Should we withdraw the troops from Iraq at this juncture, we will be allowing the Iraqi negative forces to position themselves for a takeover. Needless to say, this will be a colossal mistake and will be etched on the stone of history forever. Contemplating such a plan will only allow the insurgents to be free to murder innocent civilians and peace-loving citizens.

Everyone can see the revolutionized Afghanistan. It is better off today than it was before. Prior to the liberation of Afghanistan, ladies were not allowed to go to school, teach or work in hospitals.

Now they are free and can make decisions for themselves. Everyone is free now and the coming generation will be very thankful to the United States for their freedom. We pray and hope that Iraq will rise soon as a democratic free country in that region, just as Afghanistan did.

In conjunction, the Iraqis are having a national election to put into power a government that will bring the country into a fruitful future. This is an immeasurable victory for the people of Iraq and the Sunnis are also actively involved in this historical moment. All this was achieved by President Bush and everyone sincerely involved.

Once again, I plead to both parties and specifically to those who are demanding that we withdraw our troops immediately to terminate that proposition. We should be encouraging our leaders to visit and support our troops more often which, in turn, will boost their moral.

Mohammad Javed Abbasi is a resident of Roselle Park.

Kwanzaa in Rahway

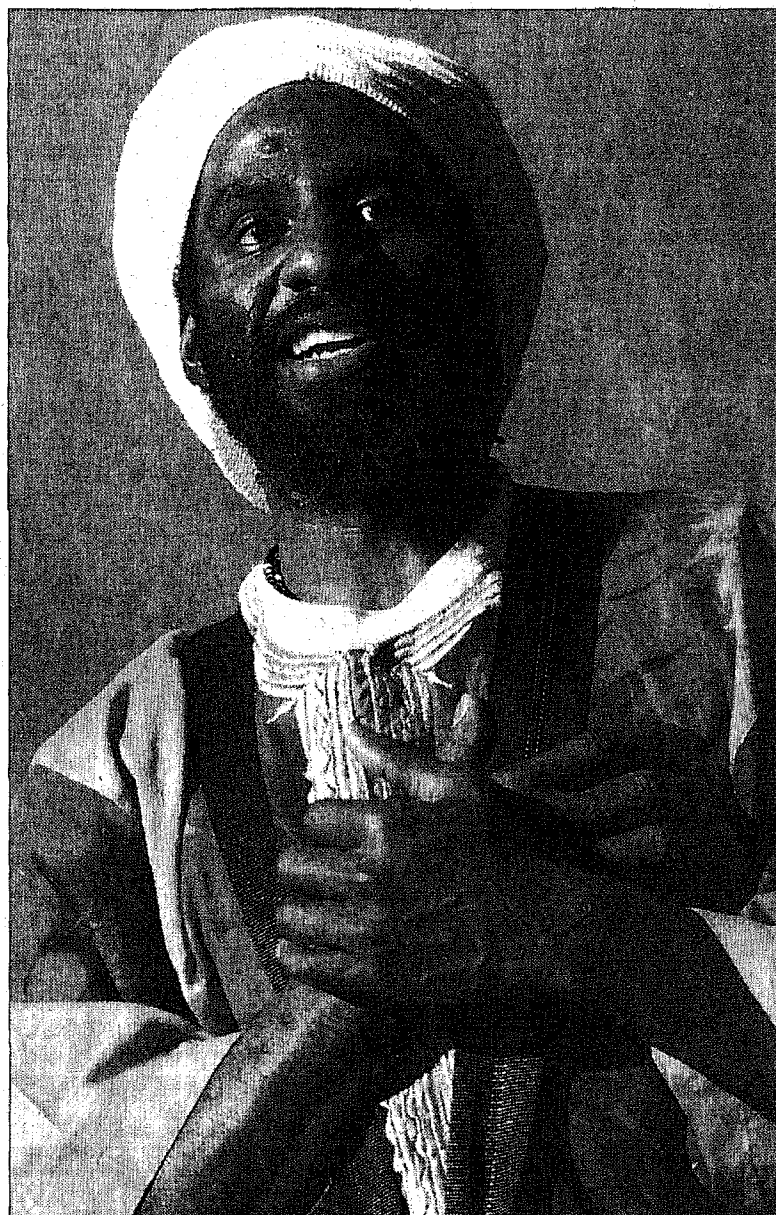


Photo By Sean Havery

Performer Kojo Ben Reuben-Bay speaks to the audience in attendance at the JFK Center in Rahway following a performance with his group, 'Sounds of Afrika.'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Administrator's contract is excessive

To the Editor:

At the swearing in ceremony on Jan. 1, Mayor Clara Harelik announced that she is "the first woman mayor to gain a third term in Springfield's 211-year history." Perhaps a more notable accomplishment would be if she were the first mayor in our 211-year history to cut taxes. Being elected to office is not about personal achievement records; it's about leadership. Reducing and cutting our taxes should have been her loud and clear message for 2006.

The voters sent a message to the Springfield Township Committee that outrageous spending will no longer be tolerated in our community. Without question, one of the biggest election issues was, and will continue to be, the hiring of the new administrator. The legacy of Harelik and Deputy Mayor Ken Feigenbaum, who jammed this appointment through, will not be forgotten by the voters. The new three-year administrator's employment contract, which took effect Oct. 31, states, "From the date of appointment for the first calendar year, at the yearly rate of \$85,000; for each of the successive calendar years, an increase of a minimum of 5 percent per year from the prior year reserving to the Township Committee, in its sole discretion, an additional increase of up to 5 percent per year based on performance."

Let's do the math on those contract amounts. The first-year base salary of \$85,000, plus an automatic, built-in 5 percent raise the first year — new total of \$89,250 — plus an additional salary increase based on performance, \$93,713, plus full benefits — family health, dental, vision insurance, life insurance up to 3½ times his salary, and full pension coverage and contributions effective immediately from the first day of employment — calculated at an additional 35 percent or approximately \$33,000, could bring the new administrator's employment package to approximately \$126,713.

In the second year, the base salary of \$93,713, plus a 5 percent automatic raise — \$98,399 — plus a 5 percent performance increase — \$103,319 — and, adding some 35 percent in benefits of approximately \$36,162, could bring the administrator's employment package to approximately \$139,481.

In the third year, the base salary of \$103,319, plus a 5 percent automatic raise — \$108,485 — plus a 5 percent performance increase amount — \$113,909 — and, adding some 35 percent in additional benefits of approximately \$39,868, could bring the administrator's employment package to approximately \$153,777. This represents a three-year package of approximately \$419,971, plus 16 vacation days in the first year, sick days, cellular telephone, unlimited professional dues, convention expenses and subscriptions to whatever publications he wishes, as outlined in his contract. And the Township Committee had to lower the standards for him to even qualify for the position.

Recently, Garwood, who never had an administrator, added \$9,000 to the salary of its current municipal clerk to assume the duties of administrator. Total salary for its administrator: \$55,538.

The voters soundly rejected the leadership of former Mayor Sy Mullman in the last election. Only in Springfield, located on the third planet from the sun, would the crew in charge place Mullman in another leadership position as a four-year member of the Springfield Planning Board. The Bubba system is alive and well in Springfield.

Harry Pappas
Springfield

Roselle ward right in council recall

To the Editor:

The *Spectator Leader's* Dec. 8 editorial, "Petitioning for an unworthy cause," criticized Roselle's 5th Ward residents for initiating a movement to recall their councilman, Richard Buska. The editorial claimed that Buska "hasn't proven himself an unworthy representative." What planet does the author of this misinformation piece cover for your paper?

Buska's loyalty to the 5th Ward and the borough of Roselle has been publicly questioned. The 5th Ward in Roselle is where the Morristown Erie Freight Railway will be running directly adjacent to residential properties in Buska's ward, as well as a Girl Scout camp, and three schools — Roselle Catholic High School, which has two grade level crossings; L.V. Moore Middle School, which has one grade crossing, and Washington Elementary School.

Buska did not join the fight of his 5th Ward constituents against reactivating the M&E freight because he is beholden to Union County officials. Union County Manager George Devaney and the Freeholders signed a no-bid contract with the Morristown Erie Freight Railway. The contract, which you can access at www.stopthetrain.org, gives M&E the right of way through eight Union County towns for 17 cents a month. M&E can haul unspecified cargo right through Buska's 5th Ward. Despite the current attention to freight derailments, fatal accidents at grade crossings, toxic waste leaks and terrorists sabotaging rail lines, Buska ignored the plight of his constituents. Whose side is Buska on here? Why? How else could he secure and hold on to his more than \$51,000 Union County job?

Was Buska afraid to show up at a meeting of citizens and M&E officials, which was arranged by Mayor Smith in September? Your reporter was there. He never mentioned in the article which followed that the councilman of the 5th Ward, which has the most grade crossings and the longest stretch of the freight line, was absent. I think Buska has "proven himself an unworthy representative." Your editorial berates the citizens of the 5th Ward for wasting their time instead of trying to improve their borough. The biggest improvement they can make is getting rid of a major problem in the 5th Ward — Councilman Buska.

Even Union County Freeholders are having a hard time placing Buska in a

job they give loyal yes-men. They move him from one county job to another and still haven't found a suitable placement. Why haven't we seen an editorial about county officials wasting taxpayers money on this cronyism?

Congratulations to the 5th Ward residents of the neglected flood zone neighborhood who are spearheading this worthy cause! Please do some research before making grossly misinformed statements.

Richard Lenihan
Roselle

Wetlands 'bore the brunt' of oil spill

To the Editor:

The ConocoPhillips Refinery oil spill of Dec. 16 despoiled one of the last stretches of tidal wetlands of the Rahway River Watershed, adjacent to the Linden Landfill.

As the oil burst from an elevated pipe, 82,000 gallons spewed out with such force as to create a sheet flow through a wide swath of woods, marshland and into a number of ditches and rivulets that ultimately dumped into the Rahway River. While a few common Mallard Ducks and Canada Geese were oiled and eventually cleaned, the damage to the aquatic life and dormant crustaceans are currently unknown, but could be extensive, since the wetlands bore the brunt of the spill before it could dissipate in open water.

The Rahway River Association calls on the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to ensure that the vigorous assessment the Natural Resources Damages not be concluded until springtime of 2006.

The NJDEP must conduct comprehensive field surveys during the warm weather months to assess the maximum impact to the local ecology and natural resource values. I am extremely worried about the extent of the pollution that affected these tidal wetlands and whether the habitat can recover from such a large spill despite the best efforts to "clean" it up.

The affected tidal wetlands are recognized as priority wetlands by the NJDEP due to the occurrence of New Jersey endangered species such black crowned and yellow crowned night herons and the extremely rare raptor, the northern harrier.

The city of Linden envisions this area to be part of a municipal nature preserve. RRA would like to acknowledge the ConocoPhillips Refinery personnel for leading a tour of RRA officials of the affected area shortly after the spill.

Dennis Miranda, executive director
Rahway River Association

Knights' uniforms a poor reflection

To the Editor:

I was born and raised in New Jersey. In June of 1948, I graduated from the Old Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth. I earned varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. In September of 1948, I attended St. Benedict's Prep in Newark, as a high school post-graduate student. I earned a varsity letter in football and baseball. Now I live just outside of Richmond, Va. However, New Jersey will always be "home" for me.

I have always looked at Rutgers University as a first-class and dignified university. That is not what the nation saw during the recent Insight Bowl. A perfect example was some Rutgers' football players, like those wearing numbers 6, 9, 11, 12, 23, 60, 75, 76, 77, 85, 94 and 95.

They and a few others on that team degraded their Rutgers' uniform by wearing their jerseys outside their pants — some jerseys were totally outside their pants. They looked like meaningless T-shirts that are worn on some beaches. It also looked like a East Los Angeles gang prowling the streets. It is sloppy and reflects on their coach, the university administration, the alumni, former Rutgers' football players and the game of football.

That uniform represents thousands of former athletes who worked hard and sacrificed a great deal to help make football what it is today. On Dec. 27, Rutgers' football players were thumbing their noses at all those former athletes.

The great Grambling University football coach Eddie Robinson always said, "If you do not have pride in your football uniform, you will not represent me on the football field." Vince Lombardi demanded his players wear uniforms "with pride and dignity." The student athletes who played for the former Georgetown University basketball coach John Thompson always walked onto the court with "class." Ask Penn State's football coach Joe Paterno how he feels about football uniforms and what they mean. Do you see major league baseball players wearing their shirts outside their pants? Why does coach Greg Schiano allow his players to negatively influence our youth to have no respect for the way they dress? Those sloppy athletic habits are carried over into everyday life.

Let's put a stop to that now. Let's do our part and help teach our youth at least four things: a respect for history, self-respect, respect for others and the meaning of the word "dignity."

Let's not let a football team destroy the dignity and prestige of a great university. Don't forget, Greg, teams reflect their coaches. First-class high school athletes see that picture very clearly, as do their families and coaches.

Don Newbery
Richmond, Va.

Poinsettias a waste of county dollars

To the Editor:

Over the years, I have frequently heard tell of the purchase by our county government of live holiday plants used to decorate the freeholder meeting room. Rumor has had the cost vary from \$700 to \$7,000, even as high as \$17,000 or more. So I was not surprised last week, when attending the last freeholder meeting of the year, to have my senses besieged by 3-foot-tall, fire-engine red

poinsettia plants, in baskets, decking the halls. There were 16 plants in all ringing the room. I was half tempted to jokingly inquire, when at the podium to speak about the freeholder pay raises, if I should make the selection of my lovely parting gift at that time or after the meeting. After all, I reasoned to myself: my tax dollars had paid for them, so I guess I could take one home. Obviously someone would be taking them home for the long three day holiday weekend, as they were much to beautiful to be tossed in the dumpster.

It is my understanding the annual floral display comes to the county by way of House of Flowers in Linden. I also understand the florist shop is owned by none other than Mrs. John Gregorio. Gregorio, you will recall, is the last name of the Democratic mayor of the city of Linden. Isn't this a cozy little setup? Poinsettias of this quality in decorative baskets the size of large waste bins are currently going for as high as \$89 each on the Internet and these certainly were not the \$19.99 variety available at the local home store.

A visit to the Web site of the flower shop in question, www.houseofflowers.com, has confirmed the price range for plants of this dimension and presentation is in the neighborhood of \$1,400, just for the flowers in the freeholders' meeting room. Truth be told, since my eyes were trained on the plants, I did not give any real thought to the evergreen wreaths adorning the walls. We can only hope that they were artificial retreats from years past.

What struck me as peculiar was that among the red plants was one lone white poinsettia plant, much smaller in size and in a different color basket. Sticking out like a sore thumb, it looked like a special order. One can only speculate that perhaps a perspective recipient had voiced a preference for white over red, as it would blend in better with the decor at home or in the office, or perhaps this odd ball was just thrown in by the florist for good measure. Not having seen any other plants on my trek to the sixth floor, I wondered just how many more plants were hanging around the building and out of the public eye.

The weather that evening was particularly bad, freezing rain and snow, so when I left the building, I was glad I was plantless, as the poor thing would have been frozen before having a chance to adorn my Garwood living room. But I did look at the bare public reception area and thought perhaps that the \$1,400 would have been better spent if the freeholders' plants had been put on public display in what has been referred to as the "Million Dollar Atrium" so everyone who passed by could enjoy their tax dollars hard at work, rather than just us four spectators and 20 or so employees in attendance at the meeting that evening.

Call me Serooge if you like, but what a waste.

Patricia Quattrocchi
Garwood

Honor and privilege to serve

To the Editor:

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Summit Common Council for the past nine years, and we would like to thank the residents of Summit for giving us this opportunity. We have enjoyed working with our colleagues, city staff and members of the community to keep Summit a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Although, we will no longer be seated at the council dais, we will continue to be involved in community activities and look forward to new projects. We wish our colleagues, new and old, on council all the best.

Happy New Year!

Cynthia Martin and P. Kelly Hatfield
Summit

Will we cut and run from highways, too?

To the Editor:

A while back, *The Cranford Eagle* had a story in which your reporter discussed the attack on Pearl Harbor and how it related to the attack on Sept. 11. A closer look shows that, except for the fact that we were suddenly attacked and had thousands killed on each day, what followed is vastly different.

After Pearl Harbor, thousands went to see recruiters and joined up. After Sept. 11, thousands called recruiters and then most stayed home.

After Pearl Harbor, we united as a country and fought all our enemies until we had won. After Sept. 11, we were told flying an American flag was an attack, and that we could only fight in Afghanistan. Then we were told we could only fight countries that helped Al Qaeda, then only if the country took part in planning or organizing the attack on Sept. 11. I am not sure where that standard came from. I can't believe President Roosevelt used that standard in attacking the Germans, Italians or even the Vichy French during World War II. There were only Japanese flying planes at Pearl Harbor.

After Pearl Harbor, we had more than 500,000 killed. Now we a little more than 2,000, but almost half our politicians want us to cut and run. Since more than 42,000 Americans die on the U.S. highways each year, I wonder if the Democrats will ask us to withdraw from the highways next?

As a member of the 117th Cavalry Association, I have access to newspapers from the World War II era. I do not see stories like the ones on the front pages of the papers today. Maybe it's because a Democrat was president then, or we were allies with a Communist country, so the liberals went along with the war, but now it's the complete opposite. The negative stories hurt our war effort and would not have been tolerated by FDR, who had a special press board to stop those stories. After you scratch the surface, there are many more differences than similarities.

Chris Sands
Cranford

What's in a name?



Third-graders at Kent Place School pose with their 'names' after participating in the school's annual Native American Naming Ceremony on Dec. 13. Each girl chose a name for herself that reflected her personality or interests. As a group, the girls decided on names for their teachers. The students wore special shirts and moccasins that they made in art class.

SENIOR NEWS

AARP to resume monthly meetings

The Summit AARP will resume its regular monthly meeting schedule on Jan. 23 at 10 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 587 Springfield Ave., Summit. Coffee and a social will precede the meeting at 9:45 a.m.

Edward Lyon of SAGE will speak on "Prescription Drugs."

Bookings are now being accepted for the following trips: March 15-16 to Mohegan Sun/Foxwood Hotel Casino with an Irish Cabaret Show, and June 4-9 to Myrtle Beach, S.C., plus Charleston and shows.

For more information, call 908-273-2239.

Eldercare Workshop repairs furniture

Since 1961, the SAGE Eldercare Workshop has offered the public fine-quality furniture repair. The workshop volunteers will consider repairing any piece of furniture that can be carried into the workshop.

The workshop has especially earned a reputation for expertise in reweaving cane chairs.

Prices are reasonable and depend on the condition of the chair or furniture item and the materials required in the restoration process.

All funds received for workshop services benefit the programs and services of SAGE Eldercare.

New volunteers with basic skills and a love of craftsmanship are cur-

rently needed. None of the current volunteer woodcrafters is a carpenter or furniture restorer by vocation — they have gained their skills through years of experience in woodworking and furniture repair as a hobby.

The workshop is located in the basement of the SAGE building, 290 Broad St., Summit, and is easily accessible.

Shop hours are Mondays through Fridays, from 9 a.m. to noon.

For more information about the service or to schedule an appointment to bring in furniture, call Al Kessler at 908-598-5531.

See 'Jersey Boys' on Broadway

The Springfield Recreation Department will sponsor a trip to see "Jersey Boys," the Broadway show about the Four Seasons musical group, on March 1.

The cost of \$135 includes an orchestra seat, dinner and transportation. Make checks payable to Springfield Seniors. Payment is due by Feb. 3.

Limited space is available. Sign up in the Sarah Bailey Civic Center Office, 30 Church Mall.

Senior Van provides free transportation

The Mountainside Senior Van provides free transportation for borough seniors ages 60 and older.

It is available for trips to doctors,

dentists, shopping, hairdresser appointments, etc.

To make a reservation, call 908-232-2400, ext. 5, weekday mornings.

Old Guard to present lecture on water

The Summit Old Guard will present a lecture titled "Importance of Water in Health" by John Bullock, a retired professor at New Jersey Medical School, on Tuesday at the New Providence Borough Hall, 360 Elkwood Ave. A coffee hour starts at 9:15 a.m., followed by a 10 a.m. short business meeting.

The Jan. 17 meeting will feature Anthony Bianculli, a railroad scholar who will discuss impractical and absolutely crazy railroad inventions.

Christine C. Hodde, executive director of the Summit Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, will speak about the "American Red Cross and Emergency Situations" at the Jan. 24 meeting. The Jan. 31 meeting will feature Dennis Lysaght, the general manager of Memorial Properties in Millburn.

He will discuss pre-planning memorials. Retired men are invited to attend meetings of the Summit Old Guard on Tuesday mornings. Old Guard members participate in sports, bridge, hikes, trips, plays, concerts and other events.

For more information, call Earl Gilkey at 908-464-2480 or access the Old Guard's Web site at www.summitoldguard.homestead.com.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST

EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH - "SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY" - 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield, Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Seniors; Spanish Sunday School 9:30 am and 5:30 pm; 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care - 5:30-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service & Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study; Junior/Senior High Ministry. Active Youth Ministry; Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Chair Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information contact church office (973) 379-4351. Mondays - 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE

TEMPLE BETH AIM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, 973-376-0539. Mark Mallach, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Marilyn Garden, President. Beth Aim is an egalitarian, Conservative temple, with programming for all ages. Weekday services Mon-Fri: 7:00 AM Sun-Thurs. 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset, Sundays, 8:30 AM. Festival & Holiday mornings 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-School Women's League, Men's Club, youth groups for sixth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

JEWISH-ORTHODOX

CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 973-467-9666. Chaim Marcus, Rabbi; Alan J. Yuter, Rabbi Emeritus; Solomon Greenfield, President. Congregation Israel is a Modern Orthodox synagogue. There are two daily weekday morning Minyan at 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Daily weekday Mincha/Ma'ariv services are also held. Call the shul office for times. There are two Shabbat morning services at 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. as well as Junior Congregation at 9:30 a.m. the Nursery School conducts classes for children aged 2 1/2 to 4. A summer camp is also available to children of this age. Adult classes are held three nights a week

with two weekly Teen classes. We have an active Senior Set and very active Jr. NCSY and Sr. NCSY chapters for pre-teens. Our Sisterhood, Adult Education and Youth groups provide a wide array of communal programming. For further information call the synagogue office at 973-467-9666.

JEWISH - REFORM

TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor; Education Director; Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Mindy Schreff, Family Life Educator; Edward Fink and Hank Rottenberg, Co-Presidents. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM, with monthly Family and Alternative Worship. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-3; on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7; and Tuesday evenings for post barbat mitzvah students. Pre-school, classes are available for children ages 2 1/2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Renaissance Group and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Senior Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Socials. For more information, call the Temple office, (973) 379-5387.

LUTHERAN

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-4525, Fax 973-379-8887. Remo Madsen, Pastor. Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 a.m. For information about our midweek children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-4:00 p.m.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 229 Cowperthwaite Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Krusch, Pastor. (908) 232-1517. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Times are as follows: Sunday Worship Services, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery available. Wednesday Evening Worship Service, 7:30 p.m. Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

METHODIST

SPRINGFIELD EMANUEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SEUMC) -

welcomes all of God's children. Be renewed and strengthened through upbeat Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM. Express God's love through outreach ministries. Praise God through music with our professional music ministers, Ginny Johnston and Dan Crisci. Grow in your faith through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Improve relationships through an affordable Counseling Center (CCHD). SEUMC is located at the far BACK end of Church Mall, #40, near Morris and Mt. Aves in Springfield. 973-376-1695, seumc1@verizon.net

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 a.m.; the emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good for those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The sermons are uplifting, Biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery care, after worship refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call the church office or Pastors Gina or Rich Hendrickson. Senior Co-Pastors for more information at 908 277-7000.

PRESBYTERIAN

COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, New Jersey 07092. You are invited to join us in Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 am. This is a place for you to enjoy uplifting music and relevant messages that will energize and inspire you. We offer a warm and friendly environment with Bible study, Sunday school and active adult and youth groups. For further information, please contact Dr. Christopher Belden, Pastor at 908-232-9490.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, 973-379-4330. Sunday School Classes for ages 3yrs. - Senior High 9:00 a.m. in our Parish House. Sunday morning worship service 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service; Nursery care and facilities are provided. Opportunities for personal growth through

Prekindergarten registration scheduled

Registration for children eligible for the 2006-2007 prekindergarten program in Springfield public schools, as well as for those children eligible for kindergarten, first and second grades in September 2006 who are not currently enrolled in the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center pre-kindergarten program, will be on the following days:

On Thursday, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with last names beginning with the letters A-E.

On Jan. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with last names beginning with the letters F-K.

On Jan. 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with last names beginning with the letters L-Q.

On Jan. 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. or from 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with last names beginning with the letters R-Z.

Registration will take place at the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center, 601 Mountain Ave.

To be eligible for prekindergarten, a child must be a Springfield resident and be 4 years old on or before Dec. 1, 2006.

Children entering kindergarten must reach their fifth birthday on or before Dec. 1, 2006.

Parents are requested to bring the following materials to registration: child's birth certificate, child's current immunization records and four proofs of residency, e.g., N.J. driver's license, utility bill, lease, contract, etc.

Your child's registration will only be processed if both age appropriate vaccines and all four proofs of residency are submitted at the time of registration.

If an alternate registration date is required, call 973-376-1304.

EDUCATION

IDEA/NCLB workshop on calendar this month

The Springfield School District's Special Education Parents and Professional Organization will offer a free workshop titled "IDEA/NCLB," with speaker Penny Dragonetti of the Statewide Parent Advocacy Network. The workshop will take place on Jan. 17 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cranford High School Library at 201 West End Place, Cranford.

Parents, caregivers and community members will gain a clear understanding of current special education legislation and insight into how recent changes affect their children. Dragonetti will explain the Individuals with Disabilities Act—IDEA — and its groundbreaking conception, implementation and evolution over the years.

Participants will also examine the current debate concerning the No Child Left Behind Act, i.e., NCLB. The discussion will focus on its benefits and challenges, highlighting key issues such as standardized testing, funding, assessment and accountability.

SPAN is the state's leading parent advocacy agency whose mission is to, empower families and to inform and involve professionals and other individuals interested in the healthy development and educational rights of children. For more about SPAN, visit its Web site at www.spannj.org.

To register for the workshop, call the Office of Special Services at 973-376-1025 ext. 1229 by Jan. 13.

Summit to provide preschool program

The Summit Board of Education will provide a preschool program beginning in September 2006 for the 2006-2007 school year. The preschool serves the needs of special education children as well as regular education preschoolers.

Classes will be four afternoons a week, Monday through Thursday. There will be no charge for tuition.

Enrollment in the program is limited and will be determined by a lottery. To be eligible for the lottery, a child must be 4 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2006. A birth certificate and three proofs of Summit residency will be required at time of registration.

The lottery will be Feb. 16 at 3 p.m. at the Office of Special Education Services located in Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd. Children who are not selected in the lottery will be placed on a waiting list.

The lottery application in PDF format is available online on the Summit Public Schools Web site at www.summit.k12.nj.us. Click on "Recent Communications," which is on the front page of the Web site. The application is a link in the article "Applications available for Summit preschool," which can be found posted under the "January 2006" heading.

Applications may also be picked up at the Office of Special Education Services, which is located in Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd., Room 219.

The deadline for submitting lottery applications is Feb. 13.

For more information, call the Office of Special Education Services at 908-273-6658.

Computer lab open

Summit public schools are sponsoring an open computer lab for the public in Room 107 at the high school, 125 Kent Place Blvd., Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The open lab will run until the end of the school year, but will not be open on days that school is not in session.

Computer or software instruction will not be offered, but a lab monitor will be available to assist with problems. Internet access is controlled by the district's firewall.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Benjamin White Jr.

Dr. Benjamin V. White Jr., 97, of Bedford, Mass., formerly of Summit, whose family had lived in Summit for many years, died Dec. 19 at Carlton Willard Village, Bedford.

Dr. White's father, Benjamin V. Sr., an architect, designed the Summit Trust Co. building in downtown Summit, and the family's home on Oxbow Lane, Summit.

Dr. White attended Summit Academy and Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Conn., before entering Princeton University, from which he graduated in 1930.

Following Princeton, Dr. White attended Harvard Medical School and completed post graduate work at the Massachusetts General Hospital. He practiced at the Hartford Hospital in Connecticut until he joined the Navy during World War II. Dr.

Surviving are his wife, Marjorie; a daughter, Dr. Charlotte Conover Cowan; four sons, Thomas Conover White, Professor James Boyd White, Benjamin Vroom White III and

Richard Conover White; two stepsons, Professor Stanley Cobb Solomon and John Cobb Solomon; a sister, Margaret Campbell; 15 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Alieze Burchardt

Alieze Burchardt, 86, of Summit died Dec. 26 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Born in Bull Swamp, S.C., Mrs. Burchardt lived in Summit for 27 years. She was a self-employed appraiser of antiques before retiring.

Surviving are a daughter, Lorna Gordon; a son, Edward Craft Kozina; a brother, Alden Craft; a sister, Elma Hector, and two grandchildren.

Matthew Huckman

Matthew Jay Huckman, 68, of Springfield died Dec. 29 at home.

Born in Newark, Mr. Huckman lived in Maplewood for many years before moving to Springfield 15 years ago. He was an executive housing manager for the New York City Housing Authority for 25 years before retiring in 1992. Mr. Huckman graduated from Columbia University in New York City in 1959, where he received

a bachelor of arts degree in history. He was a member of the Teamsters Local 237 Retirees Union, New York City.

Surviving is a sister, Muriel Walter.

Peter Danilo

Peter W. Danilo, 82, of Clark, a retired Springfield educator, died Jan. 1 in the Clark Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Clark.

Born in Mayfield, Pa., Mr. Danilo moved to Clark 53 years ago. He was a science teacher at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School, Springfield, for 35 years before retiring in 1985. Before that, Mr. Danilo taught agriculture for the Paterson school system.

He was a graduate of Pennsylvania State University at State College, where he received a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. Mr. Danilo also received a master's degree in education from Rutgers University, New Brunswick. He was a member of the New Jersey Education Association and the American Federation of Teachers.

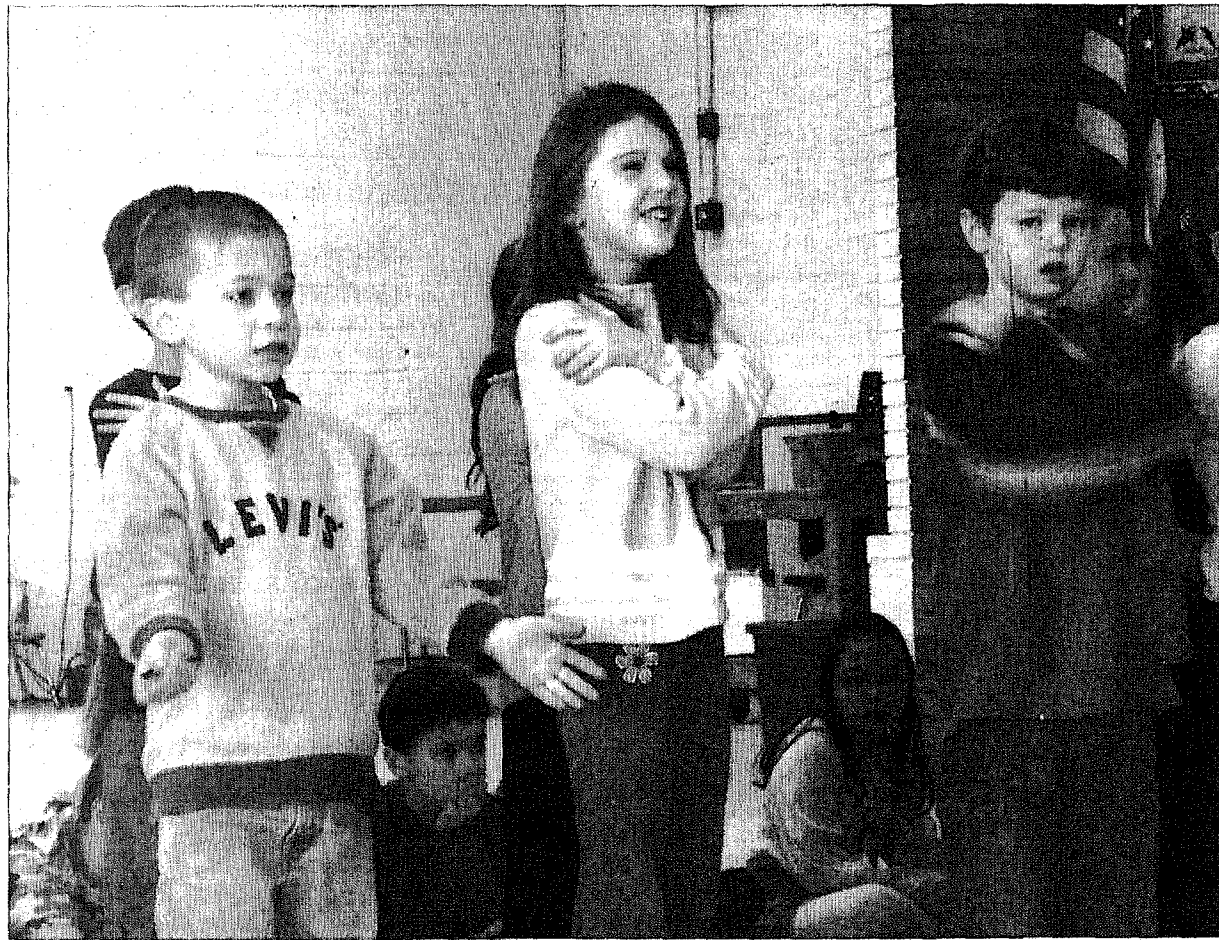
Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Elizabeth; two daughters, Carol Durante and Susan Witkowski; a son, Peter; a brother, Dr. William Kwochka, and 10 grandchildren.

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Walton School students perform at Holiday Sing Along shows



Edward Walton School students Connor Mahoney, Molly Barnett and Peter Burns enter the audience at Amy Kahn's class' Holiday Sing Along Show on Dec. 21 at the Springfield school.



Carly Mersky, Julia Mersky and Christopher Demers perform during their class's Holiday Sing Along Show on Dec. 23. The children are students in Gail Lazarus' class at the Edward Walton School in Springfield.

RECREATION

Kick box this winter

Take it up a notch this winter with energetic kick boxing classes sponsored by the Mountainside Recreation Department.

World champion Vizzio will instruct these anaerobic and aerobic classes that tone muscles, improve coordination and balance, and promote self-confidence.

The winter session, beginning this month, will feature classes Monday and Wednesday mornings from 9:15 to 10 a.m. at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east.

The registration fee for residents is \$66 for Mondays only, \$88 for Wednesdays only, or \$154 for both. Register at Borough Hall.

For more information, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Make your own greeting cards at stamp camp

Learn how to make your own greeting cards at the Greeting Card Stamp Camp. Create cards for occasions such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Valentine's Day, birthdays, anniversaries and many more.

Classes will meet on Jan. 13 and Feb. 3 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. at the Community Room in the Mountainside Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east.

Join instructor Joan Buckley for these creative sessions. The registration fee for each class is \$14 per person, and classes are for adults only. Register in advance at Borough Hall.

For more information, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Kids Night Out

The Springfield Recreation Department will host a Kids Night Out on Jan. 14 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Chisholm Community Center, 100 South Springfield Ave.

This event is for children from pre-kindergarten — if toilet trained — through grade five. The cost is \$7 per child. Register at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.

For more information, call 973-467-3790, ext. 10.

'Y' Youth basketball

The Summit YMCA is now offering basketball league programs for fourth- and fifth-grade boys and girls, and sixth- and seventh-grade boys and girls. This is an in-house/non-traveling league where children can learn the basics of basketball, and play weekly scrimmage games under the guidance of YMCA staff.

The league season runs from Jan. 22 through March 19 and will meet Sundays at the Summit Y, 67 Maple Street. Games and practices are scheduled from noon to 6 p.m.

The fee for this program is \$120. Registration is ongoing either in person or online, for members only, at www.summitymcasports.org. An annual YMCA youth membership is required to participate.

For more information, call Nina Johnson, Summit Y league director, at 908-273-3330, ext. 161, or send a message by e-mail to ninaweyer@summitymca.org.

Body sculpting classes offered in mountainside

The Mountainside Recreation Department will offer its winter session of Body Sculpting classes, beginning this month.

The winter session features classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m., as well as Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m., at Borough Hall, 1385 Route 22 east.

Join professional fitness athlete Laura Bass for these challenging and rewarding exercise sessions. Develop muscle endurance with light, 3- to 5-pound hand weights in this total body workout.

The registration fee for residents is \$62 for Mondays only, \$62 for Wednesdays only, or \$124 for both, and \$62 for Thursdays. Register at Borough Hall.

For more information, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Soccer program

Springfield Recreation Spring Soccer Programs U-10, U12, U14 and U-17 Co-ed are now accepting registrations.

Register or mail in form with payments to: Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.

The program participates in the Inter-County Youth Soccer League.

Two fees are due by March 1. A non-refundable registration fee, payable to Township of Springfield, of \$25 is due for each player. Another check, payable to Springfield Soccer Parent Organization, of \$65 is owed for new players, which includes full uniforms and NJYA membership, or \$25 for returning players, which includes NJYA membership.

After March 1, a late fee of \$25 may be payable to Springfield Stars Organization. No registration forms will be accepted after March 17. No exceptions.

For more information, call 973-912-2228.

Summit YMCA announces classes

Registration for Spring I programs at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St., will begin on Jan. 23 at 6:30 a.m. for family members.

Registration for youth, adult and teen members will begin on Jan. 24 at 6:30 a.m. Online registration is available for members at www.summitareaymca.org.

The Spring I session will run from Feb. 6 to April 16.

The Summit YMCA offers classes and programs for every age and fitness level, including aquatic classes for preschoolers, youth and adults; sports classes and leagues for preschoolers, youth, teens and adults; yoga; pilates and climbing wall classes.

A variety of family programs, including Healthy Kids Day, Family Nights, and Family Gym and Swim, continue this winter.

For a full listing of fall programs and classes, visit www.summitareaymca.org.

Basketball Cheerleading

The Springfield Recreation Department is now accepting registrations for Basketball Cheerleading 2005 for grades three through eight.

Cheerleaders must be committed to attending weekly practices and Minutemen basketball games.

The registration fee of \$25 is payable to the Township of Springfield.

Register at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.

For more information, call 973-912-2227.

Register for Springfield YMCA spring programs

Registration for Spring I programs at the Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Avenue., will begin on Jan. 23 for family members and Jan. 24 for adult and youth members.

The Spring I session will run from Feb. 6 to April 16.

Members can register online, in person or by phone. Non-members may only register in person.

Preschool enrichment classes include a Preschool Readiness program, Espanol for Kids, Music for Two activity class, Game Time and preschool basketball. Youth sports classes offered include cheerleading skills, floor hockey, fencing for beginners and intermediate students, karate and basketball.

Adult and teen programs include Yoga, Fencing, Cardio Dance, Ballet, Tap, Line Dancing, Hip Hop Fitness and Teen Dance. New this spring will be Adult Noon Basketball, an open gym time for adults to play pick up basketball, Monday through Friday, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

For a full listing of fall programs and classes, visit www.summitareaymca.org, or call membership services at 973-467-0838.

Men's 40-40 basketball scheduled

The Mountainside Recreation Department will offer a 40-40 basket-

ball program this winter for men whose waist size or age is more than 40.

The group will meet in the Deerfield School Gym at 302 Central Avenue on Monday evenings for those who wish to play.

The gym will be closed if any school programs are scheduled. Weekly times vary due to the recreation youth basketball league.

For more information and to verify times, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

Women's basketball to be offered

Join other women for weekly volleyball games this winter.

The Deerfield School Gym, located at 302 Central Ave. in Mountainside, will be open on Wednesday evenings for those who wish to play.

The gym will be closed if any school programs are scheduled. Weekly times vary due to the recreation youth basketball league.

For more information and to verify

times, call the Recreation Office at 908-232-0015.

YMCA to host camp open house

The Summit YMCA will offer a summer camp informational open house on Jan. 29 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Summit YMCA camps provide something for everyone, ages 3 through 17, including camps for preschoolers, middle school and high school students; traditional day camp; sports camps; performing arts camps; counselor training camps and teen leadership camps.

Camp registration will begin on Feb. 1 at 6:30 a.m. for family members. Youth and general registration begins on Feb. 3 at 6:30 a.m.

A special financial assistance orientation for summer camp will be on Jan. 14 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.

For more information, call the camp registrar at 908-273-3330, ext. 140 or access www.summitareaymca.org.

Deer reduction program now in effect

The city of Summit is conducting its annual deer reduction program, which will run through April 15, after obtaining a permit from the New Jersey State Division of Fish and Wildlife.

To perform the program, Summit has contracted with Deer Management Systems, with its skilled agents licensed by the state for this program.

The agents will cull deer from several open sites. The deer reduction program locations are the Passaic River Park, Hidden Valley Park, the city's transfer station property and the Union County Glenside Avenue property, formerly the New Jersey American Water Co.

The culling will take place only between dawn and 10:30 a.m. and again from 2:30 p.m. until dusk, except in the rare instance when it might be necessary for the police or agents to dispatch a wounded deer.

Anyone hearing gunshots outside of the hours of program operation should notify the Summit Police Department at 908-273-0051.

The New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife recommended that the herd in the Watchung Reservation — a large, forested nature preserve — should be limited to no more than 20 deer per square mile, and Summit currently has approximately 100 deer per square mile.

The culled deer will be studied for data about age, health and reproductive potential.

The carcasses will then be transported to a USDA-approved butcher for processing. The meat will be given to the Community Food Bank of New Jersey.

Questions concerning the deer reduction program can be addressed to Peter Ilaria, deputy chief of police, at 908-273-0051.

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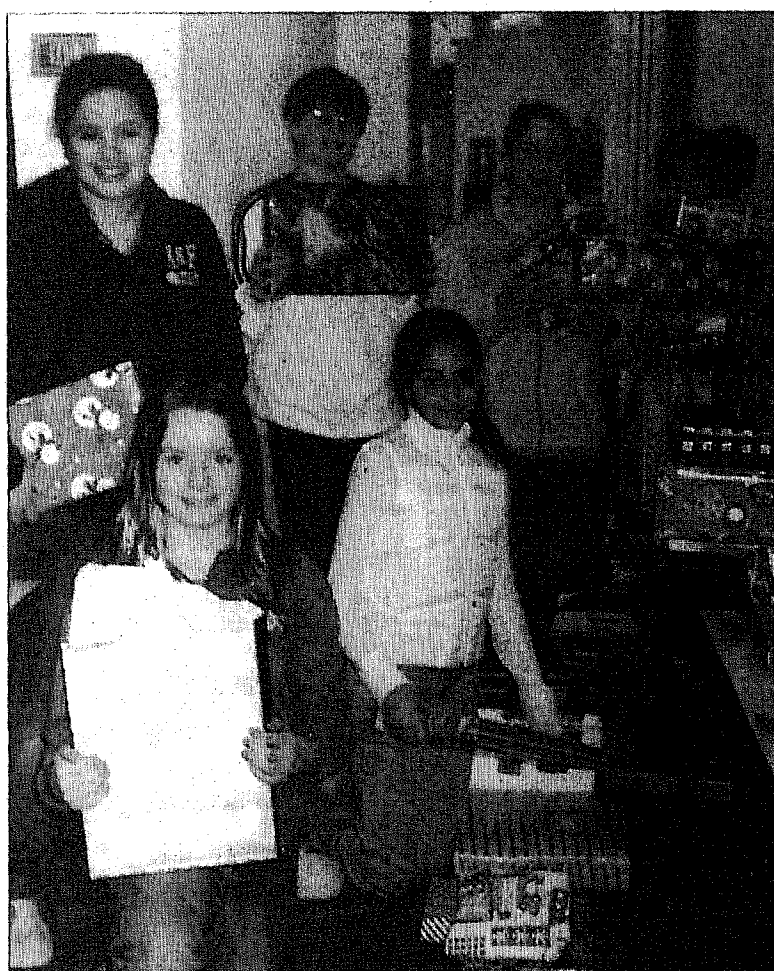


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'Tis better to give...



Isabella Perez-Santalla, Robert Stearns, Stephanie Cataldo, Luke Mirabelli, Andi Hoy and Alexandra Zorian were among the students at Deerfield and Beechwood schools in Mountaintop who participated in a holiday gift-giving program that collected more than 700 gifts to be donated to Union County children.

Kent Place Gallery to showcase art exhibit

The Kent Place Gallery will showcase the work of artist Tim Trelease in an exhibit titled "The Midnight Zone" from Monday through Feb. 2.

This exhibit will feature about 20 works that demonstrate the evolution of his ideas and art over two decades.

Ranging from extravagant and psychologically charged performance art events, to abstracted painterly meditations on the Italian landscape, to beautiful oil and wax-brushed constructions that explore the analogy between oil paint and the human skin, Trelease creates art that spans media and persistently returns to ideas of body and spirit.

In 2005, Deerfield Academy in Massachusetts, where Trelease currently teaches, hosted a solo exhibition of his work.

The ideas that inform Trelease's performances, constructions and paintings frequently touch on the biological and the body. His Mind/Body paintings, for example, exhibited at Squibb, dealt with modern medicine, surgery and the ways that the manipulation of surface and depth, space and structure as carried out in making a picture might relate to the actions of the surgeon working on the human body. With these works, as always for this artist, there is the desire to go through the physical to touch something essential about human experience.

A reception will be Jan. 13 from 6

to 8 p.m. in the gallery. At 7 p.m., Trelease will give a presentation and walking tour of the gallery.

The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public.

The Kent Place Gallery, located in Summit on the campus of Kent Place School, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment with Director Ken Weathersby.

For more information, call 908-273-0900, or visit www.kentplace.org.

GL's annual Super Saturday is coming

The Governor Livingston High School Highlander Booster Club will sponsor its third annual Super Saturday on Jan. 21.

Super Saturday is a family day filled with food, fun, games, athletic match-ups and community spirit.

The day will kick off with the Highlander Café Family Pancake Breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m. The Café continues with a continental breakfast from 10 to 11 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Highlander Arcade, generously sponsored by Palladin Amusements, will feature carnival games and prizes. Tickets are 10 for \$5. The Arcade will be open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Building on the enormous success of last year, the Highlander Market will again feature outstanding merchandise from GL clubs, organizations, teams, and outside vendors. It

EVENTS

will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Athletic match-ups will abound in both GL gymnasiums beginning with boys and girls PAL basketball at 8 a.m. Boys and girls Columbia Middle School versus Deerfield School basketball will be at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., respectively. The boys junior varsity basketball team will take on the squad from New Providence at 11 a.m., with the girls junior varsity basketball game versus Johnson at 1 p.m. The boys varsity basketball team takes on the team from New Providence at 1 p.m. The girls varsity team competes against Johnson at 3 p.m. A wrestling match with Sparta will be at 4:30 p.m. A fencing exhibition is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

Advance reservation fees for the Pancake Breakfast, including free admission to Super Saturday, are \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$2 for children ages 10 and under, and may be mailed to 1 Highpoint Drive, Mountaintop 07092.

At the door, Super Saturday admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children ages 10 and under, and the Pancake Breakfast is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors and \$2 for children ages 10 and under.

All proceeds from the day's activities will support the more than 20 boys and girls athletic programs at Governor Livingston, 175 Watchung Blvd. in Berkeley Heights.

For more information, call Amy Wagner at 908-464-5593 or Liz Busicchio at 908-508-1210.

YMCA to host free family movie night

The Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave., will sponsor a family night at the movies Jan. 21 from 7 to 9 p.m.

A children's "G"-rated movie will be shown. Refreshments, popcorn and drinks will be served.

This event is free and open to the community. For more information, call 973-467-0838.

Music program for kids

Temple Sinai of Summit will host "Music Together of Summit," a nine-week program of singing, movement and instrument play to nurture your child's musical abilities. Temple Sinai is located at 208 Summit Ave.

The sessions are for kids through

the age of 5, along with a parent, grandparent, or other caregiver. Each session lasts 45 minutes.

The winter session, with 16 different classes, begins Monday.

For more information, call 973-509-9787, or register online at www.musicinsummit.com.

'MomSense' to be performed for charity

"MomSense," a popular musical comedy review about motherhood, is coming to the Jonathan Dayton High School Auditorium, 139 Mountain Ave., Springfield, on Jan. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Birthday parties, extra-curricular activities, tuition and baby-sitting woes are just a few of the topics covered in this clever, cabaret-style show. Created by four Manhattan moms to raise money for charity, "MomSense" features original lyrics set to classic pop and show tunes.

Tickets are \$25 when purchased in advance or \$35 at the door. Proceeds will benefit the Edward V. Walton School Playground Fund.

For advance sale tickets, call 908-522-1442 or send an e-mail to tickets@waltonplayground.com.

Temple teens to present concert

Temple Sinai Teens will present "Sermon in Song: Jewish Broadway Composers" on Feb. 3 at 6:30 p.m. at Temple Sinai, 208 Summit Avenue in Summit.

For more information, call 908-273-4921 or access the temple's Web site at templesinainj.org.

Grand Nights of Singing

Summit Choral, now in its 97th season and conducted by its renowned music director, Richard Garin, is preparing an innovative concert series, Grand Nights for Singing, of music appealing to a broad range of tastes.

On March 4 at 8 p.m., the Choral will present "Gloria!" featuring David Conte's "Invocation and Dance" and Pauline's "Gloria." These works by two 20th century masters will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra at a location to be announced.

All concerts will be in the Madison/Summit area.

Summit police chief offers pedestrian safety tips

Most people walk across streets every day and take for granted that they can cross safely. Especially when on a crosswalk, many believe the motorist bears sole responsibility for stopping. This is not the case.

Each year, approximately 5,000 pedestrians die in traffic accidents, with young children and senior citizens at the greatest risk.

Summit Police Chief Robert Lucid recently announced his department will be making a determined effort to increase pedestrian safety within the city.

The Police Department will be using pedestrian safety programs that involve the "3 E's": education, enforcement and engineering.

The education component is getting

the message to all members of the community.

The enforcement component involves police officers patrolling high-risk areas and issuing warnings and summonses to motorists and pedestrians whose actions put pedestrians in harm's way.

The last component, engineering, provides for enhanced safety features, such as crosswalk striping and signage, in heavily trafficked areas.

Lucid noted the most important pedestrian safety message is that pedestrian safety is a shared responsibility, i.e., both pedestrians and motorists must do their part to keep pedestrians safe.

Some specific tips are as follows: for pedestrians, always cross at cor-

ners, within marked crosswalks where available. Look left, right and left again before crossing. Watch for turning cars; continue to check for traffic while crossing. Remain alert.

Do not assume cars are going to stop. Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you. Obey traffic signals, especially "Walk/Don't Walk." Don't jaywalk.

Motorists should yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. Failure to yield carries a fine and two-point license penalty. Watch for pedestrians when turning right on red.

Even if an intersection does not have a traffic light or special signal, you must yield to pedestrians. Obey speed limits. Do not block or park in crosswalks.

Keep your windshield clean for maximum visibility. Don't pass another car that is yielding to a

pedestrian. Be alert for pedestrians at all times.

According to Lt. Robert Weck, commander of the Traffic and Special Services Bureau, pedestrians and drivers will see a continuing increased police presence in the Central Business District and the area of the train station.

Additional pedestrian crossing signs will be utilized and informational pamphlets will be distributed. These pamphlets list the responsibilities that both pedestrians and drivers must share when utilizing the roadways in order to reduce the number of pedestrian accidents.

An increase in police presence also means an increase in enforcement. Summonses will be issued to drivers who fail to yield to pedestrians in crosswalks and to pedestrians who fail to properly cross the roadway.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
The Springfield Environmental Commission meets in the Municipal Annex at 8:00 pm on the following days:
Thursday, January 19, 7:30
Springfield Free Public Library
Monday, February 20, 8:00
Municipal Annex
Monday, March 20, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, April 17, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, May 15, 8:00, Municipal Annex

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice
Monday, June 19, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, July 17, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, August 21, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, September 18, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, October 16, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, November 20, 8:00, Municipal Annex
Monday, December 18, 8:00, Municipal Annex
U133964 OBS Jan. 6, 2006 (\$9.75)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

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TAKE NOTICE, the Municipal Office of the Township of Springfield will be closed on the following holidays in 2006. These holidays are in accordance with the Municipal Employee's Contract.

New Year's Day	Monday	January	2
Martin Luther King Jr.	Monday	January	16
President's Day	Monday	February	20
Washington's Birthday	Wednesday	February	22
Good Friday	Friday	April	14
Memorial Day	Monday	May	29
Independence Day	Tuesday	July	4
Labor Day	Monday	September	4
Columbus Day	Thursday	October	12
Election Day	Tuesday	November	7
Veteran's Day	Friday	November	10
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November	24
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November	25
Christmas	Monday	December	25

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Union boys' net 1st Farmers top Hudson Cath.

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

One for the win column.
The Union boys' basketball team, after a promising off-season, wanted to avoid another slow start this year.

Union opened by playing Kearny, Irvington, Newark East Side, Teaneck and North Bergen very competitively, but had nothing to show for it.

The Farmers were finally able to crack the win column last Friday when they defeated Hudson Catholic 69-54 in a James Kay Tournament contest at Hackensack.

Senior guard-forward Alexander Rislin paced Union with a 17-point effort, while adding nine rebounds and three steals. Senior guard Quadriy Tillis added 16 points and seven assists and Rich Minnici, a senior guard-forward, poured in 10 points.

Union, which fell to 1-6 after falling at home to Plainfield 72-58 Tuesday afternoon, was scheduled to host Dickinson of Jersey City yesterday afternoon. The Farmers are to wrap up this week's play with a Watchung Conference-American Division tilt at home against Elizabeth tomorrow at 1 p.m.

MINUTEMEN WIN THEIR FIRST TWO GAMES

Elizabeth fell to 2-5 on Tuesday after falling at home to Newark East Side 65-43. Elizabeth's first two wins came in last week's Buc Classic at Red Bank. The Minutemen downed Long Branch and then defeated Peddie 73-58.

In the title game loss to Msgr. Donovan by a 59-51 score last Friday, junior forward Michael Eargle paced Elizabeth with a 10-point effort.

LINDEN BOYS', GL GIRLS' CAPTURE TOURNAMENTS

The Linden boys' and Governor Livingston girls' won their holiday tournaments.

Linden, which began the week ranked No. 5 in the state and No. 2 in Union County, defeated Allentown, Pa. 52-41 and William Allen, Pa. by a score of 70-61 to capture the William Allen Invitational.

Senior guard L.J. McGhee, who missed most of last season with a knee injury, did well to earn MVP honors.

Governor Livingston defeated Summit 43-37 Dec. 29 in the final of the Millburn Tournament.

Sarah Glacken paced the Highlanders, who improved to 4-2 with the win, with 15 points. Teammate Aly York, a senior, chipped in with 11.

RC GIRLS' PLACE SECOND IN OWN TOURNAMENT

Roselle Catholic senior forward Letitia Torres did a little bit of everything for the Roselle Catholic girls' basketball team on Dec. 28.

Torres sank nine points, pulled down 11 rebounds and added four steals to help spark the Lions to a victory by a score of 44-21 over North Brunswick in the opening round of the Roselle Catholic Holiday Tournament.

Following the Lions' win, Torres sang the National Anthem. Her performance at the microphone earned a loud round of applause from the crowd inside the Lions' Den, just like her play on the court did earlier in the evening.

Torres, a three-year varsity starter and four-year varsity player, is no stranger to singing at Roselle Catholic, though that was her first rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner. Torres sang in Roselle Catholic's Festival of Lights Chorus for four years. One of the highlights of this year's show was Torres' solo performance in "Christmas in New Orleans."

"It's a wonderful feeling to do something you love to do," Torres said of performing in the holiday show. "It's like having the world stop for those three or four minutes that you're singing."

A total of 30 members of the RC basketball program sang in this year's Festival of Lights Chorus, including varsity girls basketball players Amanda Sheehy, Bridget Sweeney, Melissa Baus, Angela Neves, Kerri Hickey and Katie Murphy. Torres finished with seven points and seven rebounds in the RC Holiday Tournament final, which Roselle Catholic lost to Bayonne 41-33. Torres and Sheehy, an Assumption College-bound senior guard, were selected to the All-Tournament team.

Jump ball!

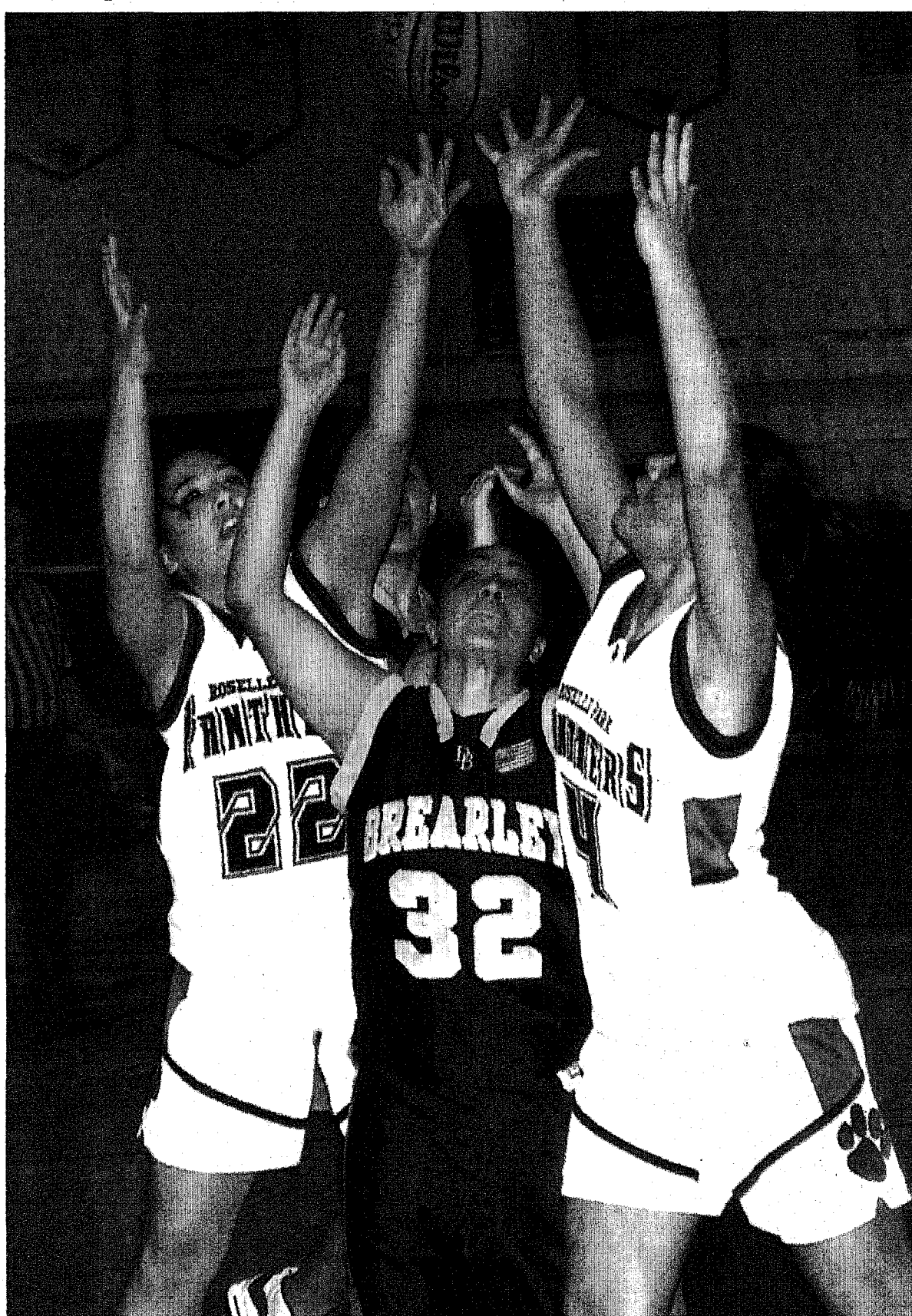


Photo by Barbara Kokkalis

Roselle Park, sparked by Gigi Naser (No. 22 at left) and Brandy Guarnaccio (No. 4 at right) and Brearley, led by Ashley Dotter (No. 32 in the middle), will clash for the second time this season Tuesday night at 7 in Kenilworth. Both Mountain Valley Conference teams began January with 3-2 records, Roselle Park finishing second in its tournament last week and Brearley placing third in its. Roselle Park defeated Brearley 50-43 in Roselle Park on opening night, Dec. 16.

Cranford boys' rebound to reach Patriot Games final

Cougars are in midst of tough stretch

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

WAYNE — After three tough setbacks by a total of 13 points - one of them coming in overtime - the Cranford boys' basketball finally reached the win column after capturing their first Patriot Games Tournament contest.

That put the Cougars in last week's final against Clifton as Cranford was seeking to win a tournament title.

Once again, the Cougars came up just a bit short as they fell to their Passaic County opponent 66-59 at Wayne Hills.

Cranford was scheduled to host non-conference foe Roselle Sunday night before embarking on a tough three-game stretch that began with yesterday afternoon's scheduled Watchung Conference-National Division contest against Linden.

Linden began the week 5-1 and was ranked No. 2 in Union County and No. 5 in the state.

Westfield, tonight's scheduled opponent at home at 7, began the week 3-2 and ranked fifth in the county. The Blue Devils were edged at home by Scotch Plains 64-62 Tuesday night.

Monday's scheduled opponent, non-conference foe Pope John, began the week 5-1 and ranked third in West Jersey. Cranford will travel to Sparta to face the Lions of Sussex County for a 7 p.m. tipoff.

So, prior to Monday's home game against Roselle and yesterday's game at Linden, Cranford stood at 1-4, with four setbacks by a total of just 20 points.

Cranford is coming off a 13-10 season that saw it reach the Central Jersey, Group 2 quarterfinals.

The Cougars are back in North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3, a section that they captured in 2003. The state playoff cutoff date is one month from today, Friday, Feb. 4.

Cranford opened with home losses to Bayonne 75-71 on Dec. 16, Shabazz 75-71 on Dec. 20 and Scotch Plains 52-47 on Dec. 23.

Cranford topped Wayne Hills 67-54 on Dec. 27 in its first Patriot Games contest.

Against Clifton, the Cougars led for most of the game, holding the advantage after the first, second and third quarters. It was in the fourth quarter, however, that things would begin to unravel for Cranford.

The Cougars were outscored 31-21 during the final eight minutes. Cranford did not excel from the foul line, making only six of 15 free throws.

No player had a bigger impact on the outcome of the game than Clifton's Majdi Zaiheh, who made three consecutive 3-pointers in the opening minutes of the fourth quarter to help Clifton build a 49-42 lead.

"He (Zaiheh) is their captain," Cranford head coach Tom Johnstone said. "He stepped up and made three big plays in a row for them. Up to that point, the game was really choppy, but that was enough to swing it in their favor."

Cranford was given opportunities at the foul line, but

could not take advantage. The Cougars made just 12 of 33 free throws for the game for just 36 percent.

"You can't win games shooting free throws like that," Johnstone said. "We are just in one of those funks from the foul line. Hopefully, we will be able to work through it. The problem is that sometimes the more you talk about it the worse it gets."

Although Cranford lost the lead in the fourth, it was within striking distance at the end, needing just a few key shots to break through. However, the Cougars were not able to get them.

"We got in a situation at the end of the game where we had to keep fouling to try to drag the game out," Johnstone said. "We needed someone to step up and make a play for us, but we couldn't get it done."

NOTES: Simon Smith, a sophomore, paced Cranford with a 16-point effort, while junior Chris Snyder was next with 14. Senior Nick Gunning scored eight, senior Greg Van Horn seven, senior Chris Brown six and sophomore Andrew Ciencin six.

In the Bayonne contest, Brown netted 18, Van Horn 16 and Ciencin 14. Brown led all Cranford scorers with 26 points against Shabazz, while Ciencin had 18 and Van Horn 10.

In the win over Wayne Hills, Brown netted 20, Ciencin 17, Smith nine and Van Horn eight.

Grier decides on Rhode Island

Former Cranford standout Terence Grier, a 2005 CHS grad who helped lead the Cougars to the 2003 Group 3 state championship game as a sophomore, has made his college decision.

The rugged 6-0 guard will enroll at Rhode Island after his stop at St. Thomas Moore this season. Grier will team with Marquis Jones of South Plainfield at Rhode Island.

Grier will also be honored this season at Cranford, with his number being retired and hung next to Mike Snyder's. Grier left the Watchung Conference school as its all-time leading scorer in 2005.

Meet the Cougars

Seniors (6): Chris Brown, Nick Gunning, Greg Van Horn, Jack Bender, Rich Gorham, Bogdan Lysikov.

Juniors (2): Chris Snyder, Frank Benimeo.

Sophomores (5): Mike Tubelli, Andrew Ciencin, Chad Faulcon, Sean Scanlon, Simon Smith.

Upcoming: Today: Westfield, 7 p.m.; Monday: at Pope John, 7 p.m.; Thursday: Union, 7 p.m.; Jan. 14 Plainfield, 1 p.m.; Jan. 17 at Newark East Side, 4 p.m.; Jan. 19 at Kearny, 4 p.m.; Jan. 21 Ridge, 7 p.m.; Jan. 24 at Irvington, 4 p.m.; Jan. 26 Elizabeth, 4 p.m.; Jan. 27 Technology, 7 p.m.; Jan. 31 Arts, 4 p.m.; Feb. 2 at Shabazz, 4 p.m.; Feb. 4 Bernoski Games at Rahway Recreation Center, 8 p.m.; Feb. 7 at Scotch Plains, 4 p.m.; Feb. 9 Linden, 7 p.m.; Feb. 17 at Westfield, 7 p.m.

Rahway wrestlers grab own tourney

Four Indians capture crowns

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

RAHWAY - Closing December in style.

The Rahway wrestling team did well enough to capture its own tournament last week, placing 13 grapplers among the 14 weight classes.

Rahway outscored second-place Columbia 210-168 and had champions in junior Ryan Wilson at 130, senior Darrion Caldwell at 152, Carlos Nicasio at 160 and Sheddric Goodridge at 171.

Six Rahway grapplers earned silver medals for finishing second, three bronze medals for placing third and one came in fourth.

Caldwell became the first grappler in Rahway history to take home the gold in the event all four years he competed. Next month at Union, Caldwell will attempt to become only the fifth Union County wrestler to win four UCT titles and the first from Rahway to do so.

As the No. 1 seed at 152, the two-time state champion received a bye in the first round and advanced to the finals with a 21-second pin. He took home the top honor when he pinned Terence Smith of Pinelands in 44 seconds in the final.

Caldwell has been so dominant in lower weight classes his first three years that he decided to challenge himself this winter by moving up in weight.

"I am still looking to dominate," Caldwell said of his move to 152 pounds. "Wrestling bigger opponents should be a good test for me. I believe that if I stay aggressive and continue to wrestle the way I always have I should do fine."

In addition to Caldwell's lofty goal of winning a third straight state title, the also hopes to help lead his team to a long-awaited victory over Roselle Park.

Rahway is scheduled to wrestle at Roselle Park Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., two nights before the UCT commences. Rahway has not beaten Roselle Park since the 1950s.

"We haven't beat Roselle Park in a long time," Caldwell said. "We have a good team this year and it would be great to break that streak. I think we have a chance."

Rahway came close last year, falling 32-28 at home.

Goodridge won his third Rahway Tournament title, pinning Brad Newman of J.P. Stevens in 1:14 at 171, using a move he learned from state champion teammate Ryan Wilson.

"Both Ryan and Darrion are great wrestlers and have won state titles," Goodridge said. "They go over stuff with us all the time. We all try to learn from them."

All that coaching paid off for Goodridge in the finals when he used a reverse front headlock that Wilson taught him. It allowed him to win by pin and earn a gold medal.

With two state champions on the roster, the rest of the team not only gets to benefit from a wealth of knowledge, but also has to live up to some lofty expectations.

"This year is definitely more pressure-packed than any other year," Rahway head coach Anthony Reinoso said. "Having two returning state champs on the same team definitely raises our expectations."

Although Reinoso might be feeling the pressure this winter, his wrestlers are pondering the possibilities that 2006 might bring.

"I think we can win states," Goodridge said. "We beat two tough teams already in Scotch Plains and Brearley. We'll only get better as the season goes on."

Rahway defeated Brearley 39-33 Dec. 21 in Kenilworth, topping a Bears squad that sported a 4-0 record.

The biggest surprise of the day came in the final match of the tournament. Rahway's state-ranked senior heavyweight Andre Neblett was up 2-0 on Columbia's Bradley McLaren before the junior came back to pin Neblett right before the first period buzzer at 1:56, shocking all in attendance.

"Andre just turned the wrong way," Reinoso said. "It happens a lot with heavyweights. He will get a chance to wrestle McLaren again in a dual meet and will hopefully avenge the loss."

Juan Herrera placed third for Rahway at 103, while Lance Thomas did not place at 112. Muath Aljaludi was third for the Indians at 119 and Jonathan Santoni second at 125.

Wilson was first at 130, Oscar Zuniga third at 135 and Joe Andes second at 140. Joel Acevedo was second at 145, Caldwell first at 152, Nicasio first at 160 and Goodridge first at 171.

Juan Lopez was second at 189, Sandile Manzini fourth at 215 and Neblett second at heavyweight.

Rahway Wrestling Tournament

Teams: 1-Rahway 210. 2-Columbia 168. 3-J.P. Stevens 146. 4-Johnson 99.5. 5-Pinelands 75.5. 6-Xavian 61. 7-Carteret 47.5. 8-Xavier 34.5. 9-Plainfield 26.

Champions:

103-Bobby Soha, Carteret	145-Doug Lines, Columbia
112-Dan Keiser, J.P. Stevens	152-Darrion Caldwell, Rahway
119-Greg Zannetti, J.P. Stevens	160-Carlos Nicasio, Rahway
125-Mike Williams, Plainfield	171-Sheddric Goodridge, Rahway
130-Ryan Wilson, Rahway	189-Sean Prince, Columbia
135-Jesse Sattler, J.P. Stevens	215-Robert Rivera, Xavieran
140-Jerry Carless, Columbia	HWT-Bradley McLaren, Columbia

Johnson grapplers do well to place 4th

Priore, Delvecchio are second

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

RAHWAY - Sparked by second-place finishes by junior Anthony Priore at 119 and sophomore Vin Delvecchio at 215, the Johnson wrestling team did well to place fourth in last week's Rahway Tournament.

Although the Crusaders finished over 100 points behind champion Rahway, they had seven wrestlers finish in the top four of their weight classes. Johnson, with 99.5 points, finished ahead of five other teams despite forfeiting three weight classes due to sickness and injury. Rahway won with 210 points.

While Priore and Delvecchio both took home silver medals, senior Mike DiMaio at 125 and junior Eric Kaminsky at heavyweight both placed third to take home bronze medals.

Senior Matt Rusin took fourth at 130 pounds, as did sophomore Steve McKenna at 140 and freshman Joe Kilberg at 112.

Delvecchio's silver medal finish was a step in the right direction for the sophomore, who moved up from 189 pounds and is undersized at the 215 level.

"I am a little light, but I am working with it," Delvecchio said. "As a sophomore, I have definitely progressed. I think I will be able to achieve even more next season after another year of experience."

Johnson third-year head coach Nick Cilento echoed Delvecchio's sentiments. "Sometimes Vin can get a little overwhelmed because of his age and his size," Cilento said. "He always wrestles his heart out, though, and has been a big surprise so far at 5-2 on the season."

Delvecchio's inexperience is indicative of almost the entire Johnson roster. The Crusaders have just two seniors and six juniors this winter and will be relying on a host of underclassmen to carry them through.

"We are lacking senior leadership this year," Cilento said. "The younger guys are doing a nice job, though. We are just working on being competitive right now and should finish the season around the .500 mark."

NOTES: Freshman Chris Roberts was seventh at 103.

Sophomore Anthony Sansone wrestles at 135, sophomore Frank Coler at 145 and junior Chris Golia at 160.

Johnson wrestlers are next scheduled to participate in tomorrow's annual Minutemen Tournament at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth.

Hillside boys' were on roll until running into Colonia

Comets stopped in Joe Silver title contest

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

HILLSIDE - Time to bounce back.

After winning two straight games to improve to 3-1, the Hillside boys' basketball team ran into a tough Middlesex County opponent last Friday.

Colonia came to Hillside and defeated the Comets by a score of 56-42 in the annual Joe Silver Tournament championship game.

Hillside began January with a 3-2 record and will not see Colonia anymore this season. For the state playoffs, Hillside is in Central Jersey, Group 2 for the first time, while Colonia is situated in North Jersey, Section 2, Group 3 this season.

The cutoff date is one month from today, Friday, Feb. 4. Hillside advanced to the title game after edging another Middlesex County opponent - Cardinal McCarrick of South Amboy - by a score of 59-57 two days earlier.

Against Colonia, the Comets played tough for three quarters, but were unable to keep pace with the visitors in the fourth period as Colonia outscored Hillside 20-11 in the final eight minutes.

Jeff Totin did most of the damage in the final quarter, converting nine of 10 free throws to lead a fourth-quarter Colonia push.

The Comets were stuck in jump-shot mode for most of the game, refusing to penetrate in the first half and drawing only one foul over the first two quarters.

"We didn't do a good job of utilizing our speed," first-year Hillside head coach John Hutchinson said.

"It was one pass and shoot for most of the first half. We need to drive to the basket and put more pressure on the defense."

Hutchinson said that his team has been getting a bit too comfortable with taking 3-point field goals lately. He said that his team needs to do a better job of dictating the pace of the game.

"It took us almost an entire half to start playing our

game," Hutchinson said.

"We need to be able to recognize what a defense is trying to do to us and adjust quicker."

Although the Comets lost in the final, two members of the squad were named to the All-Tournament Team. Those players were senior guard Javonn McCluney and senior center Armond Lucas, a Union transfer.

McCluney scored 19 points in the two tourney contests and was 3-for-6 from the foul line against Colonia.

"Javonn is by far our most valuable player," Hutchinson said.

"He is our leader both on and off the court."

Lucas tallied 29 points in the two games and also played well on defense.

"Armond struggled at times during the tournament, but I think he did some good things out there," Hutchinson said.

"He always plays hard and aggressive and gives us a strong inside presence."

NOTES: Standout senior point guard Kenny Watson made two free throws with 15 seconds left for the winning points against Cardinal McCarrick. Lucas poured in a team-high 22 points, while McCluney and Justin Matthews added 13. Watson had 16 points, Lucas seven and McCluney six against Colonia.

Hillside has upcoming Mountain Valley Conference games against Rahway and Roselle Catholic.

Hillside will next play Rahway Feb. 4 at the Rahway Recreation Center at 7:30 p.m., which is the night before the Super Bowl.

The Comets will host RC Jan. 24 at 4 p.m. and play at RC on Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

Hillside 3-2 in December

Dec. 17: (A) Hillside 74, Roselle 43

Dec. 20: (H) Rahway 61, Hillside 44

Dec. 22: Hillside 66, Ewing 51

Dec. 28: (H) Hillside 59, Cardinal McCarrick 57

Dec. 30: (H) Colonia 56, Hillside 42



Sunday's Ed Chakey Shootout at Roselle Catholic is named after the man at left, a former coach, teacher and administrator at Roselle Catholic. RC will play in the third game against Morris County opponent Morris Catholic, tipoff scheduled for 3 p.m.

Exciting boys' basketball is on tap for Sunday at RC

Ed Chakey Shootout features 4 matchups

If you want to see some exciting high school boys' basketball competition, Roselle Catholic High School is the place to be Sunday.

Roselle Catholic will host a varsity quadrupleheader called Ed Chakey Shootout.

Roselle Catholic played regularly on Sunday afternoons - and attracted large crowds to one of the state's finest gymnasiums - during Chakey's tenure as the parochial school's first basketball coach.

The idea for the inaugural event was hatched when discussion began about renovating The Lions' Den, RC's gymnasium, which has become home of the Union County Tournament girls' basketball final.

In addition to naming the hardwood: "Coach Hagan Court," a tribute to Ed Chakey hangs on the wall near RC's bench and under the scoreboard. Chakey was a 32-year fixture at Roselle Catholic.

A picture of Chakey sporting his familiar coaching jacket - and a replica of the jacket itself, with "Coach Ed Chakey" stitched on the front - will forever hang on the wall.

Roselle Catholic students play soccer, run track and participate in physical education classes on Edward Chakey Memorial Field behind the school. A sparkling new gate was just installed at the entrance of Chakey Field and a patio is being built to house a refreshment stand.

All four games feature a coaching connection to Chakey, including Hagan, who played for and coached under Chakey.

Bob Farrell, head coach of defending Tournament of Champions winner Seton Hall Prep and North Brunswick's Ed Breheny, who has a Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament championship on his resume, are also Roselle Catholic graduates.

Bayonne is where Chakey resided and raised his family.

Ed Chakey's son, Jimmy, traditionally returns to RC for the Winter Athletics Convocation every March to help Hagan present.

The Chakey Award to a senior male basketball player who best exemplified the upstanding qualities his father represented for more than three decades at Roselle Catholic.

INAUGURAL ED CHAKEY SHOOTOUT

Sunday

at Roselle Catholic High School

Noon - North Brunswick vs. J.P. Stevens

1:30 p.m. - Bayonne vs. Newark Academy

3 p.m. - Roselle Catholic vs. Morris Catholic

4:30 p.m. - Seton Hall Prep vs. West Milford

Proceeds from the tripleheader will help RC continue improvements and renovation of "The Lions' Den."

Sal Fusari of Union sparked the Seton Hall Prep boys' soccer team to one of its best records ever and a sectional championship. The senior midfielder netted six goals.

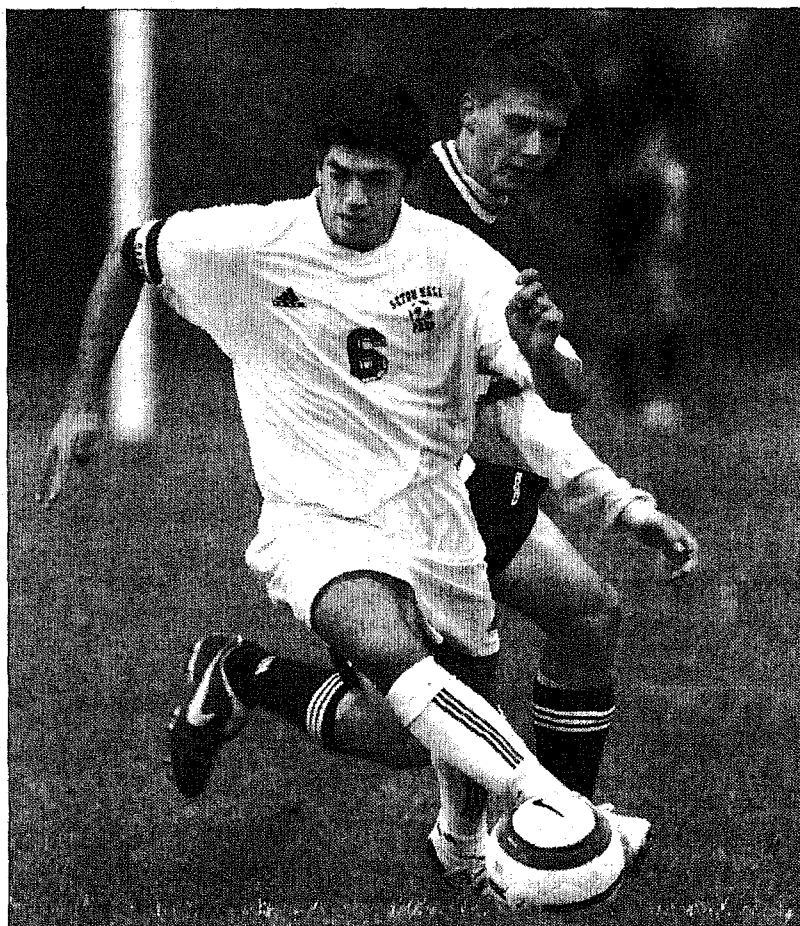


Photo courtesy of Rich Morris of Seton Hall Prep

Union's Fusari sparks SHP boys' soccer squad

Heralded as one of state's top midfielders

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

One of the main reasons why the Seton Hall Prep boys' soccer team enjoyed one of its finest seasons ever was the standout play of Sal Fusari, a 5-8, 160-pound senior midfielder.

When it came to controlling the game on offense and defense, nobody was more prepared than the Union resident.

"Sal is one of the best midfielders in the state," SHP head coach Marty Berman said. "He controls the game probably as well as any midfielder in the state. He's got beautiful feet. He has great decision-making ability; who to pass to and when. When things get chaotic on the field, he can settle a team down, with that key pass that gives you time to breathe. He gets himself and his team out of dangerous predicament."

Fusari was his team's fourth-leading scorer, with six goals and 12 assists.

"No matter how much pressure is on him, he comes through," Berman said. "The numbers don't necessarily tell it, but he gets everything to run right. He runs the show for us."

"He has great moves, great strength and speed. He has a great attitude. He loves the game and is a great leader."

Seton Hall Prep benefitted from Fusari's outstanding performance this year as the midfielder helped the Pirates fashion an impressive 18-4-1 mark that included the school's first sectional title in Berman's 20 years at the helm.

The Pirates defeated Don Bosco Prep 4-0 in the Non-Public, North A final at Ridge for win No. 18, which is the second most in school history.

Fusari gave a verbal commitment to continue his soccer-playing days at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.

Seton Hall Prep had a team record 13 shutouts and also finished second in the Iron Division of the Iron Hills Conference to Columbia, Berman's alma mater.

"It feels great to have a season like this," Berman said. "I knew we had a lot of good players coming back."

Other Union County residents that starred for Seton Hall Prep were senior goalkeeper Jarrod Schlenker of Cranford, senior midfielder Ed Meza of Hillside and sophomore midfielder Brian Maher of Westfield.

"I thought we would have the potential to win the state North Jersey title," Berman said. "We only had four starters returning, but I knew the young kids were very good. I thought we had the pieces in place where, with a little bit of luck and if things came together, we could do it."

After falling at Columbia 1-0 for a 2-1-1 mark, the Pirates won eight straight matches for the first of two times this season before falling at Montclair 1-0 in the Essex County Tournament quarterfinals.

Following a 3-2 home loss to Columbia, the Pirates won eight straight again before falling to St. Augustine of Richland 4-1 in the Non-Public, A final at The College Of New Jersey in Ewing Township.

"The kids in the end definitely performed up to their potential," Berman said. "We had a very explosive team. Coaches and referees in the area told me that we might be the best attacking team around. I think we played very attractive soccer."

"The kids learned how to play together and work together. They came together as a unit. It was a very special season for us."

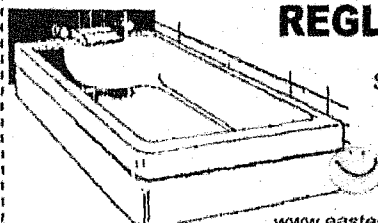
Joe Ragazzino contributed to this story.



Photo courtesy of Jane Vecchione

At their annual Holiday Basketball Tournament, RC alumnus and classmate John Allen, Class of 1971, presented a handmade replica of the newly named "Coach Hagan Court" to 30-year and present varsity boys' basketball coach Pat Hagan. In addition to the coach Hagan tribute, the newly refurbished gym also honors, posthumously, RC's original head boys' basketball coach, Ed Chakey, a former 32-year coach, teacher and administrator.

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Battle at 125



Roselle Park junior Tommy Degnan, right, battles Johnson senior Mike DiMaio. The Panthers finished second at their own invitational last Friday, scoring 133.5 points to first-place Howell's 215.5. Mike Montgomery was Roselle Park's lone champion at 140 pounds, while Craig Montgomery was second at 112 and Anthony Weiland second at 215. Roselle Park was scheduled to wrestle at Hillsborough Wednesday night and tonight is set to host Caldwell at 7. Brearley comes to town next Wednesday night at 7.

Cranford Rocket booters excel

Champions without defeat.

The Cranford Rockets 10-and-under boys' soccer team completed its fall season with a flight championship and went unbeaten with an impressive record of 8-0-2.

Seven different players scored a total of 30 goals for the team, while a stingy defense allowed only eight goals and came up with five shutouts. The core of the team has been together for three seasons now, but was also bolstered by some great new talent from the Cranford Recreation Program.

The Cranford Travel Soccer program hosts tryouts each spring and is excited about adding new players. Look for updates on tryout dates on the website at www.cranford-soccer.net.

Team members include coaches Tom Trotter and Joe McMahon and players Mohamed Monsour, Marc Johnstone, Anthony Cerchio, Luke Lawler, Mike Murphy, Connor McMahon, Tommy Trotter, Nicholas Besnecker, Louis Montegudo, Andrew Gee, Kyle LaFronz and Wills Roman.

Summit swimmers make splash



Summit Seals swimmers excelled at the annual Gator Grid Iron competition held Dec. 6 at the Cranford Municipal Pool.

UCBA will induct four in Union County Baseball Hall

From Rahway, Hillside, Linden and Elizabeth

The Union County Baseball Association will induct four new members into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame during award ceremonies on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12.

The four inductees will be honored for their outstanding contributions to our national pastime on the baseball diamonds of Union County.

Fred Henderson of Rahway, Ed Kovac of Hillside, John Langan of Linden and Lou Sneizak of Elizabeth will be honored at the 70th Annual Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner which begins at 1 p.m. at the L'Affaire Banquet Center, 1099 Route 22 East, Mountainside.

The dinner is sponsored by the Union County Baseball Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities.

The special guest speakers will be Willie Wilson of Summit, the former star outfielder and base-stealer for the Kansas City Royals, and Keith Hamilton of Montvale, the former 12-year defensive tackle for the New York Giants.

"We're very pleased to have Willie Wilson and Keith Hamilton as guest speakers at this year's Hot Stove League Awards Dinner," said Freeholder Al Mirabella. "We hope that family members and friends of all the award recipients will enjoy the Sunday afternoon ceremonies and support youth baseball and the new inductees into the Union County Baseball Hall of Fame."

In addition to the new Hall of Fame inductees, the Hot Stove League Baseball Dinner will also honor young athletes and local baseball teams for their achievements in 2005.

Tickets for the dinner are \$35, with proceeds going to help fund the Union County Summer Youth Baseball League for youngsters 8 to 15 years, and the Fall Teen League.

Since 1937, the annual Hot Stove League Dinner has been the primary fund-raising effort for the Union County Baseball Association's summer and fall programs. Over the years, the awards dinner has honored many local and national baseball luminaries — including Phil Rizzuto of Hillside, Jeff Torborg of Mountainside, Don Newcombe of Elizabeth, Willie Wilson of Summit, Joe Collins of Union, Jake Wood of Elizabeth, and Elliott Maddox of Union.

Tickets to the 70th Annual Union County Baseball Association Hot Stove League Dinner on Feb. 12th are available for \$35 and may be obtained by calling this number: 908-527-4910.

WINTER SPORTS GUIDELINES ISSUED

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites the public to visit the County Park System to enjoy winter-time activities.

Winter sports such as cross-country skiing, sledding and ice skating are permitted in several locations — weather, snow and ice conditions permitting.

Cross-country skiing is allowed at Ash Brook Golf

Course in Scotch Plains, Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark, and the Watchung Reservation. There is no location in the park system suitable for downhill skiing.

"The Union County park system is heavily wooded. The parks sit in proximity to roadways and bodies of water, and there are other park amenities that can be hazardous to sleds and snowboarders," said Freeholder Al Mirabella. "We encourage people to observe our regulations in order to enjoy the winter outdoor activities in a safe manner."

The flag pole area in Echo Lake Park in Mountainside is the only sanctioned site in the Union County park system for sledding. Please note that toboggans, bobsleds and other non-steerable devices are strongly discouraged at any time, for safety reasons.

The park supervisor may suspend sledding activities if there is not enough snow on the hill or if there are severe ice conditions. Children should be supervised at all times.

Snowmobiles are strictly prohibited in the Union County Park System.

Galloping Hill Golf Course is not available for winter sports activities. Terrain of the course is considered too hazardous for this use. Snowboarding and sledding are also prohibited at the Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses.

Many options are available for ice skating in natural areas. Lighted lake areas include Warinanco Park Lake in Roselle; Meisel Avenue Lake in Springfield; Rahway River Park Lake in Rahway; Briant Park Lake in Summit; and the Upper Lake of Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

All areas are unattended and used at the patrons' own risk. Please observe all signs regarding ice conditions.

Non-lighted skating areas are: Warinanco Park Lagoon in Roselle; Black Brook Park Lake in Kenilworth; Nomahegan Park Lake in Cranford; Milton Lake Park in Rahway; and the extension lake and lagoon in Green Brook Park in Plainfield. Signs announcing the suitability of any natural area for skating will be posted. The public is urged to observe any restrictions since these decisions are based upon the lake's ice thickness and other safety concerns.

Ice hockey is permitted at designated skating areas at the discretion of the Union County Police. This decision is based upon the ratio of ice hockey skaters and non-hockey skaters proportionate to the size of the skating area. It is the County's intention to provide adequate ice area for the enjoyment and safety of all skaters.

The Union County Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities reserves the right to cancel winter sports at any park at any time if the conditions of the park are such that the safety of the public is in jeopardy.

For additional information regarding winter sports, call the Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities at 908-527-4900 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Information can also be obtained by visiting the website www.ucnj.org, or calling the recorded message at the Warinanco Skating Center 908-298-7850, and the Union County Parks hotline 908-352-8410.

Rebel Softball registration begins Jan. 21

Registration dates for the spring season of the Rebel Softball League will be on Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. to noon, Feb. 2 from 7-9 p.m. and Feb. 11 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Recreation Department office, located at 1120 Commerce Ave. behind the Hannah Caldwell School.

The Rebel Softball League is celebrating its 31st year of serving the youth of Union.

The league is open to all boys between the ages of 8 and 17 who live in Union.

Games are played on Saturdays and Sundays from April until mid-June.

All boys who register are placed on a team and play every game.

Birth certificates and proof of residency will be required at registration.

Returning Rebel Softball League players have the option of registering by mail.

More information may be obtained by calling Larry Sansone at 908-688-7288, Rich Grossberg at 908-686-2714 or the Union Recreation Department at 908-686-4200.

Umpires can earn more in 2006, with classes commencing Feb. 21

Men and women who enjoy the game of softball can earn extra money in their spare time by becoming certified softball umpires.

The Greater Union County Softball Umpires Association, in cooperation with the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, will conduct its annual softball umpires training program beginning Feb. 21.

The training classes will take place from 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings from Feb. 21 through March 28 at the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth.

The cost of this six-week umpiring course is \$125.00. The classes are open to men and women, 18 years of age and older, who are interested in officiating softball games.

More information may be obtained by calling the Union County Amateur Softball Association office at 908-313-0983, Bill Smith at 908-259-0154, or by logging on to: www.asasoftballucnj.org.

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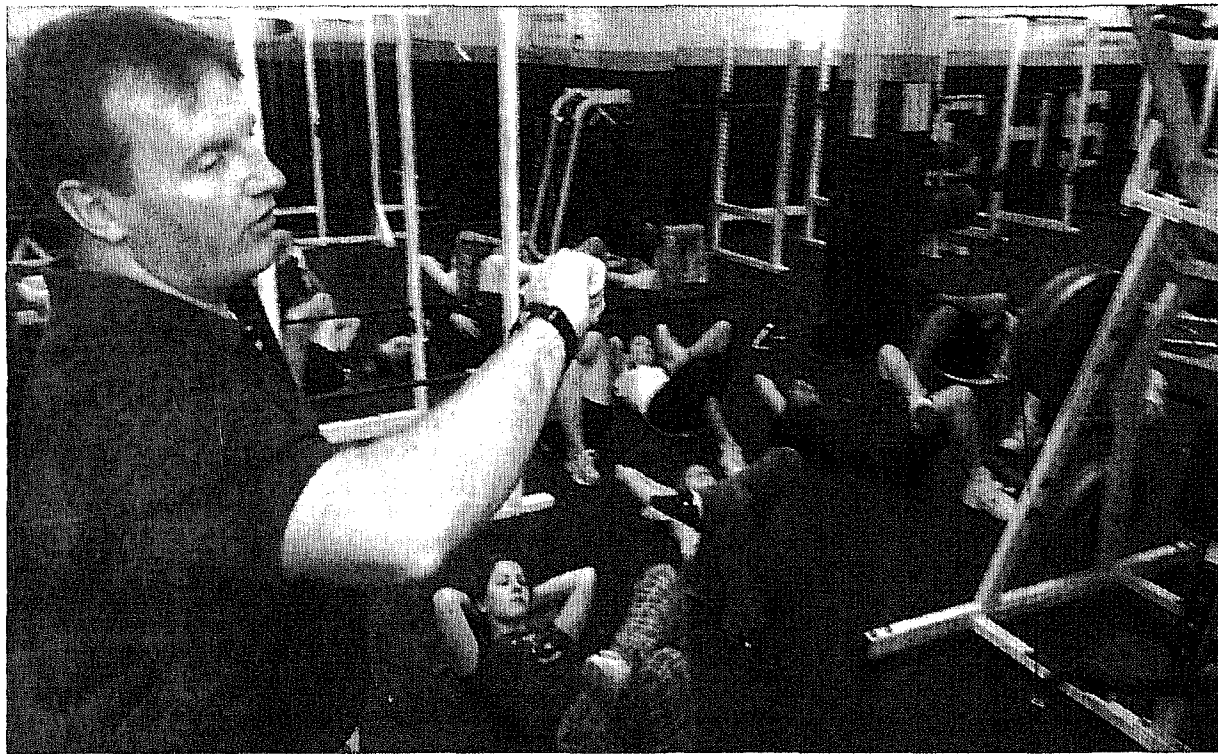
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Cranford physical education teacher Erik Rosenmeier instructs students inside the high school's new Fitness Center classroom.

There's more to taking gym class at Cranford

Fitness Center offers chance to get in shape

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

There's more to taking gym class at Cranford High School. Students, it's time to get in shape! Strength training and physical fitness is being taught to Cranford students in the new Fitness Center in the high school.

"The old fitness center was separated by a wall from the wrestling room," Cranford athletic director Mark Taglieri said. "The wall was taken out and the wrestling room relocated to the old metal shop on the other side of the school."

"With the wall out, the new fitness center is now 3,700 square feet. The old room was nice, but it was small and it didn't adequately provide for our athletes. We have stairmasters, treadmills, power lifting stations, squat racks. You name it and we have it."

According to Taglieri, a good portion of the money for the fitness center came from the Cranford Booster Club, with the rest coming from the Board of Education. Students are in the fitness center all day during physical education classes. From 3-5 p.m., the room is open for the entire student body to enjoy.

"We started construction on the room as soon as school was out last June," Taglieri said. "We completed the project in the second week of September." Taglieri explained that a core strength program for all Cranford athletes has been designed, so they can use the fitness center to their advantage. "Cleins, bench press, squats, that kind of workout is good for boys and girls in any sport from tennis on up to football," Taglieri said.

Youngsters are offered the opportunity to take fitness classes instead of traditionally physical education classes.

First-year head football coach Erik Rosenmeier, also a physical education teacher at Cranford, sees the fitness center as a place where athletes and non-athletes can work on improving their physical fitness.

"I know that coach (Chris) Hull before me and other coaches wanted to move toward a weight training course as part of the phys. ed curriculum," Rosenmeier said. "We wanted to improve the facility and with the help of the board of education and the football booster club we were able to move forward and moved into the room next door to the weight room."

Rosenmeier teaches physical education classes in the new Fitness Center. "I think it's one of the nicest weight room fitness centers in the area," Rosenmeier said. "We now have Strength Training and Fitness as an elective course. It allows us to focus on developing absolute strength, which is something I copied from the Scotch Plains program."

Rosenmeier was a longtime assistant football coach and one-time athletic director at Scotch Plains before he took over the football program at Cranford this past fall season.

"Many of our sports programs at Scotch Plains took off

in the 1990s due to the strength and fitness facilities we had there," Rosenmeier said. "We were able to measure a kid's strength level and I believe all of our football players were able to get stronger."

The new Fitness Center is by no means just tailored for the big and beefy varsity football player. "I think it will help athletes in all sports," Rosenmeier said. "I've already had the mother of a swimmer come up to me and tell me that her child exercising in the fitness center helped times become two seconds faster."

Rosenmeier went on to explain that it's no mystery that an athlete is less likely to get injured and is to improve performance by what training can take place in a fitness center such as the one Cranford High now has.

"We want our kids to play multiple sports and not have to worry about finding time for training," Rosenmeier said. "Youngsters being able to take advantage of the fitness center will allow for coaches to have shorter practices where they won't have to worry about getting their players in shape. That also means that kids can go home and do their homework and perhaps have time to participate in other activities."

According to Rosenmeier, you can take the elective course for a marking period. He reported that many kids in fall sports took it during the first marking period. "Now we have basketball and hockey players in there now," Rosenmeier said. "This is not instead of phys. ed, but another offering." Rosenmeier also said that the fitness center has helped not just athletes, but dancers and youngsters who play in town sports. "Some people just want to get stronger," Rosenmeier said. "The fitness center provides a safe strategy toward that goal."

Rosenmeier teaches three classes that are 48 students strong. The average class size, he reports, is about 40 students. "Let's see, there are eight periods a day and if you go 40 students per period, that's 320 kids a day going through a weight training program, Rosenmeier said.

Rosenmeier is especially grateful to Renee Dorfman, the supervisor of physical education at Cranford, for all of her support. "It was the efforts of people like Renee and Mark who helped move this along," Rosenmeier said. "I just happened to be in the right place at the right time and with a background from Scotch Plains."

It took funding and the wrestlers were able to get some new matting for their new wrestling room. For the first two marking periods so far this year, Rosenmeier has instructed classes for five periods, from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

"The program is structured that everyone has to be in certain areas to keep things safe," Rosenmeier said. "This is the future of physical education. This is not competitive and there is a high participation rate, with kids part of an activity they can enjoy."

Staff writer Timothy Denman contributed to this story.

Brearley grapplers seek to extend December success

Pinned 3 foes last week to start January 7-1

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

Heading into the second month of the season, the Brearley wrestling team is already at the top of its game.

Brearley entered Wednesday night's scheduled non-conference home match against Boonton with a 7-1 record after having won three matches Dec. 27 at home.

Brearley defeated Cedar Grove 54-15, Seton Hall Prep 48-18 and Sayreville 38-27 after rebounding from a close 39-33 home loss to defending Union County Tournament champion Rahway Dec. 21 in Kenilworth.

"December was very good to us," Brearley head coach Brian Luciani said. "It is great to start the season off strong, but now we have to put it behind us."

Brearley was scheduled to host Newark Central last night and Saturday will wrestle Hackettstown and Paramus at Hackettstown.

"We have to turn our attention to January and February," Luciani said. "We want to be peaking at the end of the season."

Brearley and Roselle Park will tangle next Wednesday night in Roselle Park, the time of the match 7 p.m. on Roselle Park's schedule, but to be announced (TBA) on Brearley's.

Brearley, which has never beaten Roselle Park, came a lot closer in last year's 11-10 campaign, falling by a score of 39-27 in Kenilworth.

Leading the way for the Bears last week was freshman Travis Dilts, who was a perfect 3-0 and who earned Outstanding Wrestler honors.

Dilts is one of five freshmen to earn a spot on Brearley's roster this winter as the Bears seek to build for beyond the present 2005-2006 season.

Brearley has a pair of freshmen in Kenny Knatt at 103 and Joe Lospinoso at 119 at the top of the lineup, both paying immediate dividends.

Knatt began the week with an impressive 10-1 record. Luciani credits a tenacious attitude for his early impact.

Lospinoso has utilized his smooth effortless style to help build a perfect 7-0 mark as of Wednesday.

In addition to the freshmen infusion, Brearley will also be relying on some veterans to help power the team towards the ever important end of the season crunch.

Junior Anthony Evans sported a 7-3 mark and will be looking to improve upon his second place finish in last year's District 10 competition.

Standout sophomore Jesse Boyden is back at 215 pounds.

Boyden won a UCT title as a freshman last season, placed second in District 10 and was fourth in Region 3, just missing out on a trip to the NJISAA Tournament in Atlantic City.

Brearley Bears (7-1)

Dec. 16: (A) Brearley 63, Verona 7
Dec. 17: (H) Brearley 58, Iselin Kennedy 15
Dec. 17: (H) Brearley 56, Columbia 13
Dec. 17: (H) Brearley 70, Union 2
Dec. 21: (H) Rahway 39, Brearley 33
Dec. 27: (H) Brearley 54, Cedar Grove 15
Dec. 27: (H) Brearley 48, Seton Hall Prep 18
Dec. 27: (H) Brearley 38, Sayreville 27
Jan. 4: Boonton, home
Jan. 5: Newark Central, home
Jan. 7: at Hackettstown, vs. Hackettstown and Paramus
Jan. 11: at Roselle Park, TBA or 7 p.m.
Jan. 14: at Scotch Plains quad, 10 a.m.
Jan. 18: at Governor Livingston, 7 p.m.
Jan. 21: North Plainfield, 7 p.m.
Jan. 25: at Johnson, TBA
Jan. 28: at Millburn tri-match, TBA
Feb. 1: Bound Brook, 7 p.m.
Feb. 8: New Providence, 7 p.m.
Feb. 11: Manville, 11 a.m.
Feb. 11: at Point Pleasant Boro, 7 p.m.
Feb. 18: at Madison, 10 a.m.

Meet the Bears:

103-Kenny Knatt, freshman
112-Dan Conroy, junior
119-Joe Lospinoso, freshman
125-Sean Kane, freshman
130-Joe Mraz, junior
135-Matt Lofton, sophomore
140-Tom Mannix, freshman
145-Steve Margolin, sophomore
152-Anthony Evans, junior
160-Hany Elshiekh, sophomore
171-Travis Dilts, freshman
189-Conor Shannon, senior
215-Jesse Boyden, sophomore
275-Eric DuBeau, junior

UHS track standouts impress

Here's a look at how Union High track standouts performed in meets from Dec. 23-29:

Holiday Relays at Drew University,

Dec. 23 in Madison:

Shuttle hurdles: girls' set team record with first place finish of 33.69, Ashley Battle 8.5, Katelyn Reiter 8.3, Nicole Bryant 8.1 and Tolu Oyetunde 8.6. Boys' were 8th behind Dave Lewis 8.6, Jamal John 9.1, Tobi Oyetunde 8.6 and Chris Reid 9.0.

Distance medley: girls' were 20th in 14:44.58 behind Stephanie Genna 4:25.2, Zainab Bisiolu 68.9, Tamara Dumarsais 252.8, Krystal Alvarez 617.7.

The boys' were 25th in 12:45.99 behind Sam Ogunmoye in 4:14.5, Ken Disbrow 64.1, Ben Li in 215.5 and Joe Drylewicz in 5:11.5.

4x200: girls' A were third in 1:54.06 in school record time behind Battle 28.6, DeJahna Claiborne 29.1, Oyetunde 28.5, Bryant 27.6.

Girls' B were 27th in 2:05.07 behind Bisiolu 28.7, Tarah Filsaime 32.6, Kierra Bailey 31.6 and Francesca Bonny 31.6.

Area track stars triumph in competition

Area high school winter track and field standouts Joe McKenney and Laura Gallo of Cranford, Rahdel Savage of Roselle, Jordan Gray of Governor Livingston and Patrice Chatman of Summit all excelled in competition that took place last week.

At the 11th Drew University Invitational held at Drew University in Madison on Dec. 29, Gray, Gallo and Chatman were individual winners on the girls' side.

DeSchriver Invitational at Drew, Dec. 27:
Boys': Dave Lewis 8.82, 13th out of 56 in the 55-meter hurdles. Jamal John 9.15, Tobi Oyetunde 9.30.

John 5-3 in high jump, Adewale Sangobiyi personal-best 5-3, Kizabi Zongwe 5-0.

Girls': Nicole Bryant 9.03, fourth; Ashley Battle 9.63, Katelyn Reiter 9.66.

Danielle Morency 27-1.25, 19th out of 53 in shot put, Nancy Guillaume 25-1.75 for 32nd and Renira LaBong 21-1.75 for 46th.

Drew Invitational, Dec. 29:

Boys': Sprint medley 9th out of 26 teams in 3:57.17 behind Tracy Daughtry 25.4, Latif Brewer 24.6, Chris D'Andrea 56.4 and Olu Ogunye 2:10.1.

Shot put: Dave Barragan 11th at 43-4.75, Paul Prokopovich 20th at 39-8.25, Kyle Sheuermann 23rd at 39-4.25, Kyle Von Linden 27th at 37.9.

Girls': Sprint medley 11th out of 24 teams in 4:46.83 behind Battle 28.4, Claiborne 39.0, Oyetunde 65.1, Alvarez 2:44.1. **High jump:** Reiter 6th at 4-10. Bonny 20th at 4-0.

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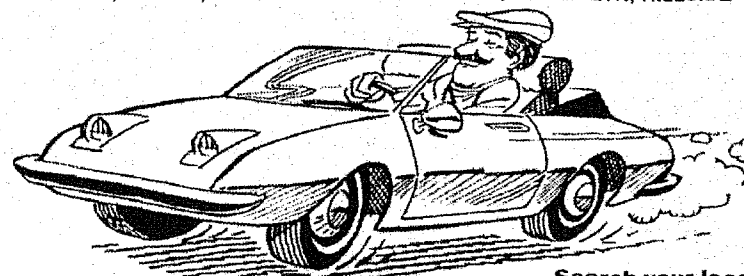
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EDUCATION & CAREERS

Motorists learn valuable safety lessons at 'extreme driving school'

Laura Byrd

Copley News Service

Traffic on eastbound Interstate 8 outside San Diego was heavy, as usual.

Preoccupied with thoughts about work, I was startled when another car abruptly crossed into my lane near the state Route 163 exit and hit the brakes. I stomped on my brakes and swerved into the next lane.

My Miata reacted to the overbraking and oversteering by careening sideways to the left — out of control and toward the median across three lanes of freeway.

I overcorrected the steering wheel to the right and spun violently in the opposite direction. That's when I finally let go of the wheel, took my foot off the brake and let the car straighten out.

Heart thumping and hands shaking, I took the next exit and pulled over.

I couldn't believe I'd survived my first close call in 20 years.

A glance into the rear-view mirror explained why. Several car lengths behind me, all three lanes of traffic had slowed to a crawl. Drivers had seen my car spin out of control and had stayed way back.

"That kind of situation is what our school helps prevent," said Don Swanson, owner of the Don Swanson Racing School.

Swanson has a new program in San Diego that puts people in the seat of a race car and shows them what professionals already know: Racing is fun, and learning the skills demanded of it can make better drivers off the track, in their own cars.

"We not only give people the thrill of being in a race car, but we teach them racing maneuvers they will use in everyday driving situations," Swanson said.

Swanson moved to the area in 1979 and drove race cars professionally in the International Motorsport Association, beginning in 1986.

During that time he also was an instructor for the Skip Barber School of Racing at Sears Point, now Infineon, in Northern California.

"I love racing," Swanson said. "I started with soap box derby when I was 9 years old, went to go-karts, then started sports car racing, which is my greatest love."

That great love almost turned fatal in the '90s when Swanson was racing in the Del Mar Grand Prix, which ran at the fairgrounds from 1987 to 1992.

Swanson was running practice laps when a passing driver miscalculated the speed and distance between the two cars and clipped Swanson's front end, sending him into the wall where two additional cars hit him.

"I was in the hospital and thinking, 'What could I have done to avoid this?'" he said. That got him to thinking about teaching. "When I started as a driving instructor at Skip Barber, I found it to be really rewarding. I was surprised at how much I enjoyed it."

Swanson noticed that many of the students came from San Diego County, and by 2002 he was formulating a plan to bring a racing school to his

home. But what San Diego County lacked was a race track. Except for Cajon Speedway, there wasn't a track available, and talks with the speedway stalled.

"I decided to start a mobile school that could move around and operate in large parking lots," Swanson says. "I know how to set up a track, and that's what we do."

With orange cones, chalk and race flags, Swanson is able to take the racing school to any large parking lot and create a road course.

His racing transporter hauls all the equipment and four Honda Civics built by Tipton Honda in El Cajon. Ty Tipton, a semi-professional race car driver and instructor for the school, built the race cars based on vehicles he has raced in the past.

"I run the aftermarket division at the dealership," Tipton said. "Any performance modifications to stock Hondas are what I handle, and these cars are great. They have great suspension and geometry."

In addition to being inherently good race cars, the 1994 and '95 Hondas are loaded up with engine headers, racing cams and racing ignition, tuned exhaust and suspension, aerodynamic body kits, oversize brake rotors, racing wheels, roll cages, five-point racing harnesses and racing instrumentation.

"Sports car racing involves a lot of science," Swanson said. "You're multitasking and coordinating so many things: braking, accelerating, cornering, looking in every direction for the other guy and hoping he warmed up his tires and won't slide into you."

"It's like a chess game, and a lot of strategy takes place in a split second. It's thrilling and challenging to keep a level head when you're three abreast."

Which is why some companies consider Swanson's racing program an ideal way to build team morale or reward executives.

Some of his biggest clients are corporations that use the school experience to reward their management staff.

Being mobile allows Swanson to set up the course in any roomy parking lot.

"This is done by other schools in other parts of the country," said Swanson. "But this is a first for San Diego. It would be nice to see a track in San Diego eventually, but our mobile system keeps us flexible for executive-day events and corporate events. We can come to them."

Aside from the fun of putting on a driving suit and getting strapped into a racing seat, maybe my close call on I-8 wouldn't have been so if I had attended Swanson's school.

And for companies that have a

rolling sales force traveling by car, the benefits of a driving/racing school can be a good investment.

"We teach car control and performance driving," Swanson said. "They learn all the tactics: cornering, braking, all driving techniques. Plus we give them a better understanding of how a car works."

Tipton said that many times the "throttle is your friend and should be used instead of braking. We teach people to be more aware and proactive rather than reactive. Probably 75 percent of accidents could be avoided."

What race car drivers know and apply on the track is what keeps them safe during the daily commute.

What usually gets people into trouble is the fear point, said Tipton.

It's normal for drivers to look at whatever they think they're going to hit, and panic. But part of what the racing school teaches them is how to focus on where they want to go, not what they're afraid of hitting.

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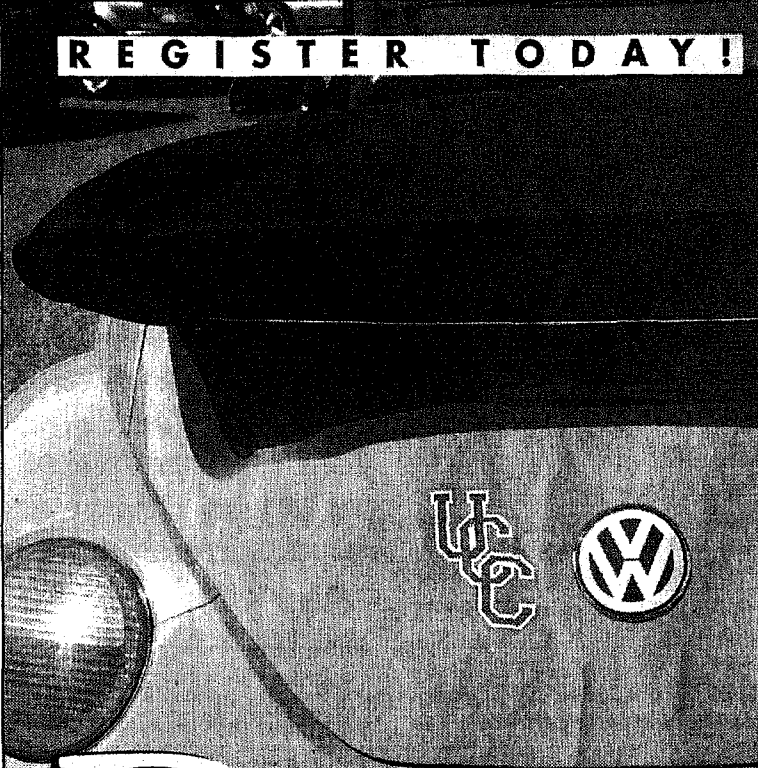
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Artists explore abstraction in exhibit at Summit gallery

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

Wes Sherman certainly has strong feelings on communication.

There are numerous forms of communication, including written, oral and visual. Sherman is one of several artists who use abstract painting to communicate with their audiences.

Sherman has joined fellow abstract artists Gary Stephan, Jonathan Lasker, Thomas Nozkowski, Jasmine Justice and Aaron Williams as part of "New World Orders: Vision and Revision," an exhibit that's on display at the Domo Gallery in Summit through Jan. 28.

Stephan's work contains stark contrasts in colors, with plenty of gray hues mixed with black and white. Contrast that with the work of Justice or Nozkowski, both of which are filled with flamboyant colors.

"I think the show's focused on

abstraction and the relationship between an established body of workers like Gary Stephan, and Thomas Nozkowski," said Sherman. "They're all abstract painters in the show, and it's about the language of abstract painting. What is abstraction? Paint is a visual language, versus a written or audio language of sorts. I think painters throughout history have been trying to communicate with each other visually and this show is showing these three very established artists, Nozkowski, Stephan and Lasker, and their influence on a new generation of artists, which includes the other three painters in the show."

Sherman's own work is representative of the term "abstract." His oil-on-canvas painting, titled, "The Day You Love Me," includes mustard-like yellows, with purples and greens thrown in. There's little to convey to the

uninitiated what the painting means — which means it fits in pretty well in the abstract genre.

"They have had an influence; it's taking a language that's basically almost 100 years old now, they're coming out of a generation of abstractionists, of minimalism. They've kind of created this form of post-modern painting, it's something that's still trying to be hashed out and understood. Painters like Williams, Justice and myself are trying to continue that dialogue. What does it mean to be post-modern? What does it mean to live?"

Sherman pointed out that abstractionism really began to take hold in New York in the early 1900s, when people were moving around a lot, citing painters like Wassily Kandinsky and Jackson Pollock. Pollock had grown up in Cody, Wyo., but moved to New York. In some of his works, he let

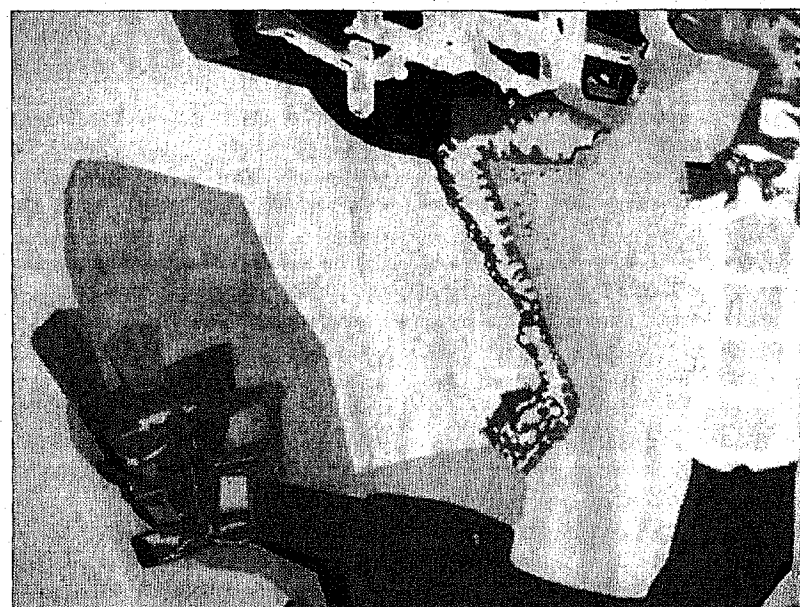
paint drip onto the canvas in an attempt to show "unconscious imagery."

Sherman's show at the Domo Gallery serves as a notice that the dialogue of abstractionism continues, and also that the baton has been passed to a new generation of abstractionists.

"I look to the generation before me to see how they dealt with the language of painting," said Sherman. "We're trying to make paintings that are fresh, but contribute to a discussion that's been going on for a long time."

"New World Orders: Vision and Revision," will be on display at the Domo Gallery, 447 Springfield Ave., Summit, through Jan. 28. For more information, call 908-608-0079, or log on to www.domogallery.com.

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins may be reached at jcummins@thelocalsource.com.



'Gifladdersend,' by Gary Stephan, is one of many abstract paintings currently on exhibit at the Domo Gallery.

Maulbeck, theater start new era

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

Dave Maulbeck knows his audience well, and he's well aware how things have changed through the years.

Hence the reason he tries to borrow a substantial amount from movies in his making of "Dreamcatcher Junior: The Innermost Power," which he's writing for the Dreamcatcher Junior Repertory Theatre.

"I try to take a lot more from the world of film. Kids don't go to theater as much as they used to. I wanted to make it more acceptable for them," said the Summit resident. "Peter Pan" would be one that springs right to mind. You could talk to the cast, we talk about 'Lord of the Rings' a lot."

In Maulbeck's play, two young twins go on a quest to save the world from an evil king, who is trying to acquire four power gloves which control the universe.

Maulbeck is young enough to relate to teenagers, which gives him a decided advantage in developing this play, which is the first he's had produced at this level.

"The idea comes from reading a lot, trying to become a screenwriter," said Maulbeck. "I was reading a lot of Joseph Campbell, and I've always had a bit of an affinity for myths and lore and legend. As I was reading it, I said 'It's

'I try to take a lot more from the world of film. Kids don't go to theater as much as they used to. I wanted to make it more acceptable for them. 'Peter Pan' would be one that springs right to mind. You could talk to the cast, we talk about 'Lord of the Rings' a lot.'

— Dave Maulbeck

such a simple but captivating structure that he lays out in his books.' I thought 'What a great way for kids to learn how easily one can treat a captivating tale.' You can literally just take his framework and flesh out your story. It still allows you to create your world, and it just gives you a great tool to let others into the world that you're creating."

Maulbeck had studied theater for years, and graduated from Long Island University after spending several years in the theater program at LIU. During the last two years, he's shifted his focus in an attempt to carve out a niche as a playwright.

"Overall, I want the audience to have a fun time and be entertained, and be taken away to an imaginary place," said Maulbeck. "That's something that I would hope happens, because we don't have billions for special effects. In some ways, that's more rewarding. The other

thing is that the idea is the innermost power is that all of us have the ability to change our minds, that we're not ruled by fate and destiny."

"This is the very first time we've done a project like this," said Dreamcatcher artistic director Laura Ekstrand. "We've done lots of classes for kids, but never a show with kids, for kids."

Ekstrand noted that Maulbeck does a lot of teaching and writing, and asked for the opportunity to put together the project. "We've been planning it for a long time," Ekstrand said.

"Dreamcatcher Junior: The Innermost Power," is set to debut tomorrow night at The Baird Center, 5 Mead St., South Orange, at 8 p.m. and will continue through Jan. 15.

Saturday and Sunday performances are scheduled for 2 p.m.



Performers with Dreamcatcher Junior Repertory Theatre prepare for 'Dreamcatcher Junior: The Innermost Power,' which will be presented through Jan. 15.



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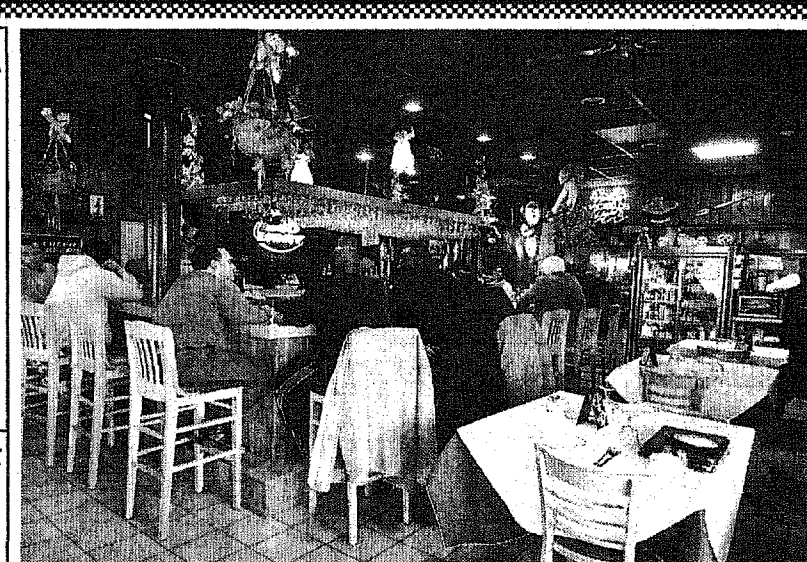
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City Tavern

By Dan Burns
Staff Writer

You don't have to be in the mood to dine at the City Tavern at 1109 Elizabeth Ave., in Elizabeth. The restaurant and bar is a great place to go no matter what type of food and drink you're in the mood for.

The menu features an array of steak, seafood, chicken and pasta dishes, almost all of them priced in the \$10-\$18 range. Most of the dishes feature Spanish or Italian cuisine.

When I first entered the tavern, I noticed it was a charming place with a neighborhood feel to it. It is a suitable setting for a small business lunch, a dinner date, a family meal or drinks with friends.

The tavern's owner, Concetta Bongiovi, said a lot of different people patronize her tavern, especially business people during the day and neighborhood residents in the evening.

After sampling the fresh bread basket they brought to my table, I ordered a plate of linguini with garlic and olive oil. My dining companion ordered shrimp and chicken in a spicy red sauce.

Although I was looking forward to the pasta, I became a little jealous when I saw my friend's dish come out of the kitchen. The waiter carried three separate plates: one each for the main dish, yellow rice confection and french fries.

My friend said the chicken and shrimp, covered with vegetables and sauce, tasted terrific. He said the rice was even better, calling it "the best yellow rice he's ever had."

My pasta was served with plenty of fresh garlic, just the way I like it. There was an array of other pastas and sauces available as well, including fettuccini alfredo and penne in pink vodka sauce.

Bongiovi said the skirt steak and various meat skillet dishes are some of City Tavern's most popular meals.

I recommend that anyone who eats at the City Tavern order dessert, even if you're full from dinner. The dessert portions will satisfy your sweet tooth, but they're small enough that you won't feel as if you're overstuffing yourself. I had the flan and my friend ordered tiramisu. Both desserts were very good.

My friend and I left the tavern satisfied. We both agree that the City Tavern is a great place to eat, whether you feel like a quick, low-key meal or a three-course feast.

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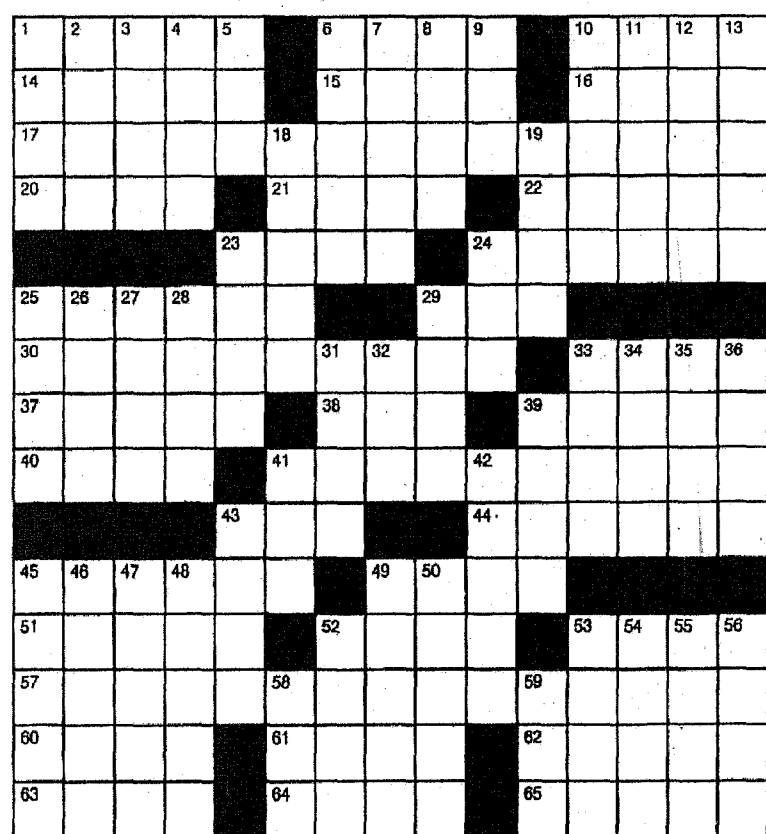
ACROSS

- 1 "The West Wing" star
6 Obsolete Mideast ruler
10 Therefore
14 Schusser's accommodations
15 Narrative
16 Son of Lot
17 X
20 Brewed beverage
21 Bobbles
22 Lollapalooza
23 Yorkshire river
24 Pretty serious
25 Remove weaponry
29 Flammable fluid
30 X
33 Defrost
37 Highway markers
38 Sight prefix
39 Shakespearean manuscript
40 Wapitis
41 X
43 Peace org. of 1948
44 Foreigners
45 Household head
49 Iniquitous
51 Redolence
52 North Carolina college
53 Melancholy
57 X
60 Diplomacy
61 Poker admission
62 Kidney enzyme
63 Bitter drug
64 Sine qua non
65 Prince Valiant's beloved

DOWN

- 1 Piece of marble
2 Golf unit
3 Brink
4 Historic Hungarian city
5 Bird's beak
6 Bart or Brenda
7 Le ____ Fr. seaport
8 Oh, wellaway!
9 That girl

X MARKS THE SPOT



COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- 10 High-tech transmission
11 California white oak
12 Rankles
13 Toes the line
18 Site of Germany's 1945 surrender to the Allies: var.
19 Altar exchanges
23 Part of BA
24 Yea opposite
25 Carp cousin
26 Matinee
27 Done for
28 Stout relatives
29 Overfill
31 Butterfingers' expletive
32 Sgt., e.g.
33 Memento ____ L.
34 Sultry Sommer, of 1960s cinema
35 Mortgage

- 36 Rocky crests
39 Autumn
41 Made a lap
42 The Pine Tree State
43 Son of Judah, in Genesis
45 Italian staple
46 Spatial
47 ____ and His Brothers
48 Display feelings
49 Send to cloud nine
50 Cast a ballot
52 White-tailed sea eagle
53 Composer Jacques
54 Highway division
55 Single component
56 Ferber or Best
58 AI's predecessor
59 Bikini top

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 20

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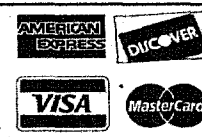
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Jeff Cummins, Editor

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HOROSCOPES

Jan. 9 to 15

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: You have extra pep or zest in your step this week.

Use this abundance of energy, passion and drive to promote an exciting business idea or proposal.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: As you are exposed to a plethora of different and new ideas from a partner or mate, do your best to keep an open mind.

Listen, take notes and learn.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Positive planetary influences will bring luck to fiscal matters or investments.

Consider the financial advice of an experienced counselor or successful accountant.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Relationships are a major source of joy and happiness.

Plan to spend quality time with a partner or mate who has a special surprise or present in store for you.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: A work-related association has great potential for success.

Connect with co-workers in a unified effort to support a collective idea

or common cause.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: A wild and joyful celebration is on tap this week.

Acknowledge positive news about a child or loved one and turn it into a memorable commemoration or event.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Enjoy your domestic environment and all of the comfort and cares of home.

Plan to lie low as much as possible this week and block out unwelcome distractions.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: A sibling or peer awaits your decision on a very important matter.

Gather all of the pertinent information and make up your mind as soon as possible.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Expect an unexpected raise or valuation in personal property or stocks.

Take pleasure in raking in the cash and vow to use or spend it wisely.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Use your personal charm to open doors this week.

Frankly and truthfully state your dreams, wishes or desires and watch them somehow magically come true.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18:

You are ending and beginning a very important cycle pertaining to love and money.

Tie up loose ends and prepare to make a fresh new start.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Club or group activities are exhilarating and uplifting.

Find time to gather together with close friends and associates and let the fun begin.

If your birthday is this week, spontaneity is your key word for the coming year.

Get in gear and make up your mind to approach life with enthusiasm and a driving passion to succeed at all cost.

You are in the driver's seat when it comes to financial or romantic affairs.

Get a clear idea of where you would like to go and proceed to lay down the proper tracks or plans that will take you there.

Also born this week: Dave Matthews, Rod Stewart, Kirstie Alley, Jack London, Heather Mills, Howard Stern, LL Cool J, Martin Luther King Jr.

REUNIONS

The following schools are planning reunions:

• Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.

• Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.

• Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726, or call 732-617-1000.

• Hillside High School Class of 1960 is planning its next reunion for 2007.

Forward your contact information to Linda Arotzky Lieb at Hillside-high1960@aol.com.

• Rahway High School Class of 1980 is organizing its 25-year reunion.

Call 732-288-2857 or send an e-mail to Ron Knox at rahway25reunion@aol.com for more information.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social events — Friday at noon.

Entertainment — Friday at noon.

Sports news and game results — Monday at noon.

Letter to the Editor — Monday 9 a.m.

General news and information — Monday 5 p.m.

Send us information of your high school reunions

Worrall Community Newspapers seeks information on reunions of Union County schools. Send news of your reunion plans to Reunions, Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., Maplewood NJ

07040, or by e-mail to either jcummings@thelocalsource.com or essex-city@thelocalsource.com, with "Reunions" in the subject line.

Include all pertinent contact information, such as the names of contact

personnel, phone numbers and e-mail addresses, so that attendees may inquire about the reunion.

All dates and deadlines that are relevant to the reunion should also be included.

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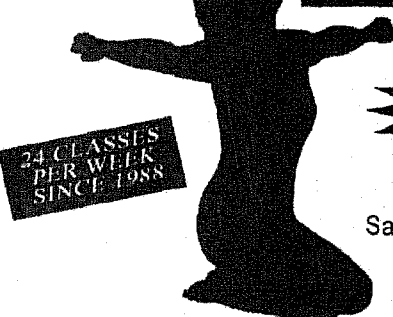
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UNION COUNTY NEWS

Ann Baran, former leader in county, dies

What they said

As we enter 2006, the following are some of the quotable quotes that have been heard around Union County.

"My goal is to stabilize taxes, provide a higher level of customer service, complete the flood control project and continue efforts to improve the downtown." — Michael Plick, newly elected member of the Cranford Township Committee on being sworn in on New Year's Day.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

"There has been more than \$50 million in investment in the central business district in the last decade... there have also been some houses in Cranford which have actually sold for more than \$1 million." — George Jom, outgoing Cranford mayor who will serve as commissioner of Public Works and Engineering in 2006.

"There is so much pent-up demand and it is so hard to get a permit anywhere. I don't think there is a bubble in New Jersey." — Mark Vitner, senior economist at Wachovia Corp. predicting that even with rising interest rates, he doesn't expect housing prices to moderate in the state.

"I have worked seven years moving up the ladder to get this position." — Freeholder Daniel Sullivan on his elevation as chairman of the North Jersey Planning and Transportation Authority.

This is the first time a Union County official has headed this agency, which directs major transportation funding initiatives in the 13 Northern County area of the state.

"Unions are in a tougher economic environment. The skyrocketing costs of pensions and health packages mean the days of employers paying full freight are gone." — Anthony Sabino, Business Law professor on the State of Unions in 2006.

"In 2006, I'm going to spend more time with my two sons. I'm also going to work to elect Tom Kean Jr. the first Republican Senator for New Jersey in 30 years." — Union County Republican Chairman Phil Morin while having a late lunch on New Year's Eve with his family.

"Now that the door has been opened, I'll go back as many times as necessary to beat that door down." — Frank Mazzarella, Clark councilman, on his efforts in Washington to gain funding to offset the costs necessary to upgrade the Rahway Valley Sewerage Authority.

The federal government has come up with \$25,000 so far. Mazzarella is also a long time representative to the Authority.

"This is a first for Winfield and a first for Union County as well." — Winfield Mayor David Wright at the selection of Deborah Daley as the new fire chief in the community on Monday evening at the township reorganization.

"Earlier this year, the Fire Department displayed the powerful \$3.5 million Neptune fire fighting system, which is capable of suppressing large petrochemical fires from land or sea. The city of Elizabeth is one of the first municipalities in the country to have such extraordinary fire-fighting equipment." — Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage in the state of the city address on Monday.

"City ratables continue to rise, increasing by more than \$2.8 million last year. I am also happy to report the city of Elizabeth continues to lead Union County in increased home values with an amazing 127.9 percent increase since 2000 and a 20.4 percent increase for the year 2005." — Mayor Christian Bollwage.

"I work hard for you and to deliver for Union County." — Congressman Mike Ferguson in a glossy colored mailed flier setting out the grants and other goodies that came back to his towns in Union County.

The flier is a so called "franking privilege," which means the taxpayers pay for it. The Democrats who took a hit for a taxpayer-

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief

Remembering Ann Baran is remembering a career filled with leadership, strength and a great deal of dedication to her work and colleagues.

That is how officials in Union County have been describing Ms. Baran, a former county manager and business community leader who died Jan. 3 after a long illness.

Ms. Baran most recently served as senior vice president of external affairs and hospital services at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, but her career in Union County extends back to 1985, when she served as director of Human Services before being appointed acting Union County manager. She served several years as acting county manager before the Board of Freeholders appointed her to the post permanently in the mid 1990s. She was the first female Union County manager.

During that time, she became known for her desire to start a proactive relationship with the business community throughout Union County, a task she began while serving on the board of directors of the Union County Economic Development Corp., and her creation of the Union County Alliance.

The Alliance was an organization that brought government and business together, bringing Senators Donald DiFrancesco and Raymond Lesniak together as co-chairmen of the organization.

"She was the first county manager to start a proactive relationship with businesses in the county," said Maureen Tinen, president of the UCEDC. "Business was a high priority with Ann Baran. Under her leadership, economic development was moved from something the board of freeholders could support to a high level

priority in the county."

Hence, the birth of the Union County Alliance.

"The EDC brought services to the business community, while the Alliance brought together a diverse group of people to advance business growth in the county," Tinen recalled. The first executive director of the Alliance was Hank Ross, an administrator at Kean College at the time. Ross served with Ms. Baran on the EDC board, where they began their work together.

"Ann was always a goal-oriented person who set her mind on something and usually achieved it," Tinen recalled. "She was one of the brightest women in the county and had a true spirit of leadership."

Gary Horan, president and chief executive officer at Trinitas Hospital, said it's very difficult to summarize the contribution Ms. Baran made to the hospital.

"Ann truly was an inspiration to all who knew her. Her leadership style was marked by her great talent,



Baran

intelligence and dedication, and her joy was to serve others as a mentor and advisor, something she continued to do until just recently," Horan said in a memo to his staff the morning after Ms. Baran died. "It goes without saying that her positive impact upon our institution will long endure."

Horan also recalled Ms. Baran speaking freely about her battles with cancer, most recently at a breast cancer awareness event in October. "I think all who knew her were inspired by the courage she exhibited during her illness, which she approached with the same spirit and attitude that marked all of her endeavors."

Ms. Baran joined Trinitas in 1999, when it was Elizabeth General Medical Center, one of the hospitals in the city that merged to become Trinitas. Prior to that, she served as director of operations at the Gateway Institute for Regional Development at Kean University from 1997 to 1999.

That position began after she completed her tenure as Union County manager, having served in that role the longest of any county manager.

Former Freeholder and Freeholder Chairman Frank Lehr remembers Ms. Baran's early days as county manager.

"She made a sincere effort to bring

Union County up to speed in a lot of ways," Lehr said Wednesday. "Reinventing government was her theme. Nothing dramatic was to come out of that, but she did make some improvements to the way county government was operating."

Frank Guzzo remembers "a good friend" when he remembers Ms. Baran.

Guzzo, the director of the Union County Human Services Department, worked for Ms. Baran when she served as director of the same department before assuming the role of county manager. Guzzo then became one of Ms. Baran's department managers when he was promoted to director.

"There is definitely a void by her loss," Guzzo said. "She was a model for government. She was innovative, easy to work with, and had great people skills. Her commitment to human services helped her in her job as county manager, not only with the people we encountered through human services, but with county employees."

Guzzo said if there were a legacy left by Ms. Baran, it was her ability to unite people of diverse backgrounds and opinions to get them to work together. "That was a testament to her

capabilities," Guzzo said Ms. Baran was able to bring together management, clerical and assistants, among other staff in county government, to look at government and its problems, and try to resolve them together.

"When she started that, that was unheard of," Guzzo said. "She was the strongest person I ever knew, and probably ever will know."

"She really did make a difference. She had a knack for balancing government and people to work together. She is missed."

Ms. Baran received master of science and bachelor of science degrees in psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a master of arts degree in public administration from Rider University. She has served on many boards, including Leadership New Jersey, Community Access, Union County United Way and the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce.

She has received numerous awards and citations from various national, state, county and local professional organizations and community-based groups.

She lived in Milltown with her husband, Francis, and their children, Jessica and Christopher.

County has lost a great leader, pioneer and trailblazer

Freeholder Dan Sullivan: "She had the ability to bring people together. She was one of those people who had a great laugh that would just fill a room. She was just a person, after a few minutes of talking with her, would make you feel just enormously comfortable. All she would talk about were people, how to help the poor, and make life better for the people of the county. That's her real legacy."

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi: "Despite a long illness, she showed remarkable courage and caring for the people around her. She never let her illness interfere with living her life. She was an exceptional person."

"The fact that she was the first female county manager certainly speaks to her intelligence, knowledge and ability. The most important thing to her was her family. She made it a point to spend as much time as possible with them."

Michael LaPolla, former county manager: "She was smart, and tough, and

funny as hell. She was a consummate professional. She loved her job. She was good people. She was so proud of her husband and her two kids. They were everything to her. She believed she had it all and really lived every day."

County Manager George Devaney: "As our first female county manager, Ann Baran was an administrator who worked to modernize the functions of county government. With her passing, the county of Union has lost a great leader and pioneer."

Freeholder Al Mirabella: "Ann blazed a trail and extended leadership wherever she went. Everybody who knew her will miss her enthusiasm and her leadership. It's a great loss to the county."

Staff Writers Lauren DeFilippo and Toni Ann Antonelli compiled this information.



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

The entrance room to the Liberty Hall Museum in Union reveals a portrait of Mary Alice Barney Kean, the last resident to live at the historic home.

Liberty Hall reveals family history

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series on historic sites in Union County.

The history of Liberty Hall in Union stretches back to the birth of the state. The home even boasts the artifacts, and the legends to prove it.

Liberty Hall was the home of New Jersey's first Governor, William Livingston. Built in 1772, the home was originally a 14-room Georgian-style mansion built on 120 acres that extended from Morris Avenue all the way to the Elizabeth River.

"Every generation, from that point forward, continued to add to the house," said Bill Schroh, director of Museum Operations, noting that as advancements in technology were made, such as electricity and heating, the house was adapted.

Livingston's descendants, the Kean's, lived in the home for the next two centuries. In 2000, the 50-room home officially opened its doors as a museum.

The nooks and crannies of the historic home are filled with an eclectic mixture of antiques from a variety of time periods. "Everything is a hodge-podge," Schroh said.

The home boasts the families' collection of books, as well as complete sets of china, crystal and flatware. Notes discovered in drawers and desks written by the home's last resident, Mary Alice Barney Kean. The notes detail the families' traditions and practices.

It is because of those notes, Schroh said, that the museum can verify that guests attending a dinner party at Liberty Hall would have been placed around the hosts, seated in the center of the table, in the "English Tradition."

"She was a wonderful, wonderful amateur historian," he

said. According to Schroh, the family held on to almost everything.

When something new was purchased, or a new generation took residence, older items were packed away into storage spaces, and living spaces evolved. Schroh said some of the museum's repeat visitors notice new items and intricacies of the home even after multiple visits. What was once a master bedroom on the first floor, was later transformed into formal dining space.

Over the years, the home played host to famous politicians including Gerald Ford, George H. Bush, and Alexander Hamilton. Martha Washington spent the night in the home during her tour of the fledgling nation.

But not all the guests who entered the home were welcome. A look at markings on the banister leading to the second floor unravels one of the home's legends. According to family history, a band of British soldiers stormed into the home based on information from a local informant that Livingston was at the residence.

He was not at home, but his papers were. To protect the patriot cause, Livingston's daughter Susan stood over her father's traveling bags with her dress obscuring them, knowing that a British gentleman would never investigate what lay under the mounds of fabric. She also prevents the troops from looking into her father's locked desk by claiming the letters inside were her correspondence with a gentleman suitor, Schroh explained. Finding nothing, a disappointed band of soldiers used their swords to hack in to the polished wooden banister of the staircase.

Liberty Hall is listed on both the state and national registers of historic places.

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119 or unioncounty@yahoo.com

Faella appointed to director's post

Daley to seek employment in private sector opportunities

Mountainside resident and Elizabeth native Alfred Faella will become acting director of the Union County Department of Economic Development, County Manager George W. Devaney announced.

Faella, who has more than 12 years of governmental managerial experience, will assume his position immediately, according to Devaney. Faella succeeds James Daley, who resigned as director effective Jan. 1 to seek opportunities in the private sector. Daley will remain on board for the next 30 days to assist Faella with the transition.

Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor said the board looks forward to working with Faella.

"The county has worked to leverage approximately \$5 billion in economic development projects over the past decade in part, through this department," Proctor said. "It is important to have someone like Al who has proven experience and an in-depth knowledge on how the department functions."

Devaney, who appointed Faella as acting director, agreed with Proctor.

"Al is a capable administrator who has a wealth of governmental experience in Union County," said Devaney. "As he already works for the department, he will provide a seamless transition in leadership."

Daley congratulated Faella on the appointment, and said he looked forward to new challenges.

"I am leaving the department to seek private sector opportunities," said Daley, who worked as the department director for seven years. "It was an honor to serve the freeholder board and the people of Union County."

Faella, who has worked nearly five years in the county's Economic Development Department during two stints, said he was excited about the opportunity to serve as director.

"I would like to thank the county manager and freeholder board for their confidence in me and the opportunity to lead this department," Faella said. "I look forward to serving the residents of our county and working with our many partners in moving ahead all our projects and plans."

In particular, Faella said he looks forward to continuing the county's progress on important transportation projects such as the Kapkowski Road Transportation plan, the Staten Island Railroad and Rahway Valley Line, Smart Growth planning, ferry service

to New York, and Freight Access planning in Port Elizabeth and Tremley Point.

As acting director, Faella will be responsible for the supervision of three divisions in Economic Development:

- Planning and Community Development, which includes several bureaus, Community Development, Transportation Planning, and Land and Facilities Planning.

- Cultural and Heritage Affairs, which creates, supports and encourages programs promoting public interest and participation in local arts, history and culture to benefit all residents.

- Information Technologies, which provides data processing and communication solutions and services to county departments and agencies and includes the Bureau of Geographic Information Systems.

Faella will also manage the Workforce Investment Board, a board of public and private partners, which develops policies to match the needs of employers to have a well-trained workforce.

Faella began his governmental career as director of Neighborhood Services for the City of Elizabeth from 1993-99.

In that capacity, he managed the city's Community Development Program and the Bureau of Construction.

The Department received three Best Practice Awards from 1997-99 from the Department of Housing and Urban Development under his supervision, and the John A. Sasso Community Development Award in 1998 from the National Community Development Association.

Faella then served his first stint from 1999-2003 in the county's Economic Development Department as the division head of Community Development.

There he was responsible for the management and administration of more than \$7 million in federal funds in 19 municipalities. He also oversaw the preparation of the County Consolidated Plan.

For the next two years, Faella served as a Motor Vehicle Commission Manager for the State of New Jersey, where he worked on the creation of a statewide siting study before returning last year to the county's Economic Development Department as director of the Division of Information Technologies.

Holmes awarded President's Award by state association of counties

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

Chester Holmes has led a life of public service.

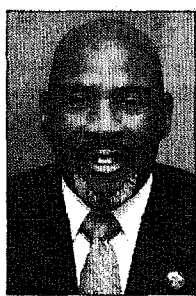
Currently serving his third term as a Union County freeholder, Holmes is also a licensed private investigator, a former police officer in his hometown of Rahway and a Rahway City Council member.

Recently, Holmes was the recipient of the President's Award, given by the New Jersey Association of Counties.

"I truly enjoy what I do," Holmes

said. "I would do it for free."

According to the county's Department of Public Information, the President's Award is given to an individual who has, through the course of their life, displayed one or more of the following characteristics:



Holmes

extraordinary leadership; devotion to community service and volunteerism; philanthropic support of charitable causes or outstanding achievements within their practiced profession that has significantly contributed toward bettering the lives of the residents of the state.

Holmes has represented the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders at the NJAC since the beginning of his tenure on the board in 1997.

"I cannot think of anyone who is more deserving than Freeholder

Holmes," NJAC President and Gloucester County Freeholder Helen Reed said in a prepared statement. "His record of achievement is exemplary and his commitment to bettering the lives of the citizens of our state is second to none."

As a freeholder, Holmes serves on the county's Homeland Security Committee and serves as chairman of the Families First Funding Committee and as a member of both the county's Economic Development Committee and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Fellow freeholder and long-time friend Rick Proctor described Holmes as a very caring individual who is very much concerned with the life of people around him.

"I can guarantee that there's probably not a day that goes by where he does not extend himself for someone else," Proctor said.

"I'm like the heart. The only time the heart rests is in between beats," Holmes said.

"It's just a thrill for me to be of

service," Holmes, a self-proclaimed workaholic, said. "I am always thinking, 'What should I be doing?'" he said.

But, when he does have downtime, Holmes said he's a regular at the bowling alley.

"I go down there to have fun. I just use that as a change of tempo for me," he said. His current average is 170.

Holmes said that working hard for others has always been his way.

He modeled himself after a relative who was a high school principal in Georgia, where he spent his early years.

He would work all day, and then go home and work on his farm.

"I just took note of the strength and energy," Holmes said.

In addition to his work as a private investigator and his obligations as an elected official, Holmes also serves on the board of college scholarship fund, named in honor of his late brother Herman Holmes.

The fund helps to provide financial

assistance to college-bound students in Union, Essex and Hudson counties.

For the last three years, the board has awarded \$45,000 annually to students, something Holmes said has been very rewarding.

Holmes has lived in Rahway for 50 years. A graduate of Rahway High School, Holmes also took courses at Rutgers University, Essex County College, and Northwestern University. He also served in the New Jersey National Guard for eight years as a sergeant to the 50th Armored Division.

Holmes served as a police officer for the city of Rahway for 29 years, retiring in the rank of detective.

Holmes is also a lifetime member of the NAACP Rahway Chapter. A 40-year member of the Rahway Friendship Baptist Church, Holmes has served as a trustee for more than three decades.

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119 or union-county@yahoo.com.

Psychic powers



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Although the selection of a chairman and vice chairman of the Union County Board of Freeholders becomes official after a vote during the reorganization meeting, and the meeting is not scheduled until Sunday, the portraits of Freeholders Al Mirabella as the new chairman and Bette Jane Kowalski as the new vice chairman, are already hanging on the wall on the sixth floor of the county administration building.

Freeholder board to reorganize for 2006

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

The reorganization meeting of Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will be held in the court room of Assignment Judge Walter Barisonck, 2 Broad St., in Elizabeth at 1 p.m. on Sunday.

The meeting will include the swearing in of Freeholders Angel Estrada of Elizabeth; Rick Proctor of Rahway; and Nancy Ward of Linden.

The three Democrats beat Republican challengers Patricia Quatrocci, Albert Dill and Stuart Kline in the November election.

Republicans have not won a countywide race since 1994.

Ward, who was appointed to the freeholder board in October 2004, led the field with approximately 20 per-

cent of all the votes.

An attorney, Ward serves on the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund; the Union County Animal Shelter Committee, the Families First Committee, and the Union County Planning Board.

Angel Estrada was first elected to the freeholder board in 1999, and served as the board's chairman in 2004.

Estrada has served as the chairman of the Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund, and serves on the Economic Development Committee and the Policy and Administrative Code Committee.

Outgoing Chairman Rick Proctor was appointed to the freeholder board in February 2002 and was elected to a

full three-year term in November 2002.

Proctor has served on the Union County Local Emergency Planning Council and the Freeholder Committee on Homeland Security. He also serves on the county's Advisory Board for the Disabled, the Union County Alliance, and the Union County Vocational-Technical School Board of Education.

County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi will also take the oath of office at the meeting.

Rajoppi was first elected to the office of County Clerk in 1995 when the office was merged with the Office of Register of Deeds and Mortgages.

The nine-member Democratic board will also select their chairperson and vice chairperson for 2006.

Seniors return to school in county program

More than 12,000 senior citizens have taken courses at Union County College, free of charge, through the Union County Senior Scholars Program offered by the Union County Board of Freeholders.

Courses are offered at the Cranford, Elizabeth and Plainfield campuses of Union County College, where the program will soon successfully complete its seventh year. It started with an original 28 courses servicing 300 seniors, and has served a total of more than 12,000 seniors in 900 courses since 2000.

"This highly successful program enables our senior cit-

izens to tap into their inner talents, acquire new skills, remain productive and meet new people," said Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski. "We recognize that our seniors are an educational resource, and we appreciate it when they are able to share their insights with younger generations."

The benefits to senior citizens participating in these programs are extensive.

Many of the courses provide mental stimulation, enhancement of self-esteem, feelings of capability through mastery, relief from depression and anxiety, and distraction from pain.

CASA to honor volunteers

The Court Appointed Special Advocates of Union County Inc. will be swearing in its first class of volunteers today at the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth. The ceremony will take place at 1:30 p.m.

Here in Union County, more than 1,000 children are living in out-of-home placement because their homes are no longer safe.

These children lead uncertain lives; some are in foster care, others in group homes or shelters. Many of them are separated from their siblings and many don't understand what has happened or why.

CASA programs and their volunteers exist solely to help these vulnerable children.

CASA of Union County volunteers reside in the county and vary in age, gender and socioeconomic background. They stand up for these children in court, advocate for their best interests and seek to ensure that these children receive the services they need.

They strive to minimize the amount of time the children spend in placement before reaching permanency either with their biological or adoptive family; and that they are protected from any further risk of abuse.

In short, CASA volunteers become an objective voice for the child in the court process as well as a consistent and caring person in the child's life.

The first class of volunteers has undergone intensive technical training to provide the necessary support, consistency, and communication.

The CASA training covers, but is not limited to, the history of child abuse and neglect and the laws established for child protection.

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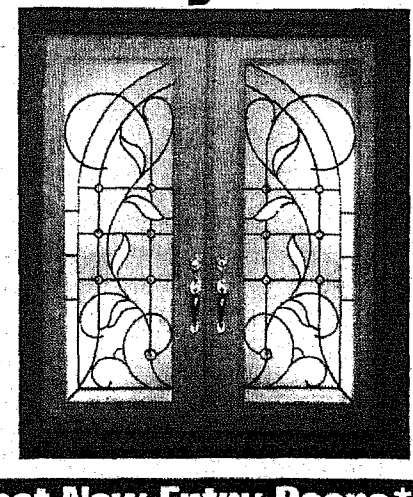
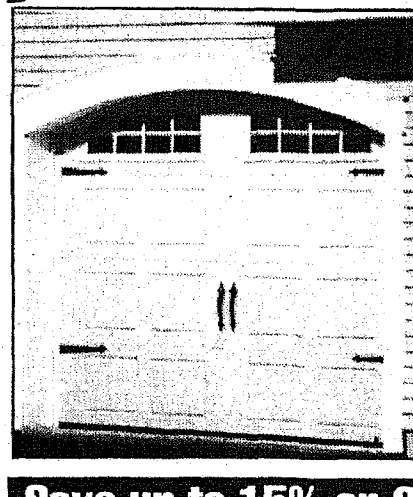
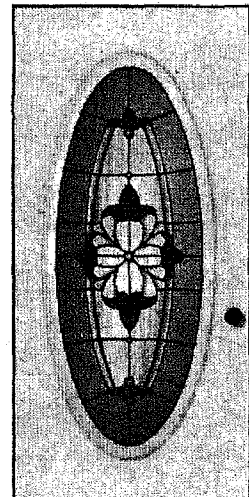
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What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is PRE-PAID and costs only \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) in Essex or Union County and just \$30.00 for both counties. Your notice must be in one of our offices by 4:00pm on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Offices are located at 463 Valley Street, Maplewood; 266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield; or 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union.

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EVENT _____
PLACE _____
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PRICE _____
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"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination." "We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis."

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BLOOMFIELD/BELLEVILLE 2-1/2, 3 & 4 large room apartments. Utilities included. \$800 & Up. Convenient to NYC buses, trains. No pets. No fee. Susan, 973-429-6444

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SPRINGFIELD, PINEVIEW Gardens. 2 bedroom townhouses \$1425; 3 bedrooms from \$1700. Nice location. Newly renovated. Close to major highways. 973-467-1050.

APARTMENT TO RENT

SOUTH ORANGE, 1st floor large studio apartment. Hardwood floors, freshly painted. Heat/hot water included. \$900. Available February 1st. 1-1/2 months security. No pets. Walk to NYC train and village. Weichert Realtors. Call Anju, 973-376-4545 or 201-888-0398.

SPRINGFIELD MOUNTAINVIEW GARDENS. Limited Time offer. One bedroom, \$1020, 2 bedrooms from \$1220, 3 bedrooms from \$1425. Newly renovated. Heat, and hot water. Close to major highways 973-467-1050

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UNION, ACROSS from Suburban Country Club, 2nd floor, 1 bedroom, eat-in-kitchen with new appliances. Living room with A/C. Newly renovated bathroom. Heat hot water included. No pets. \$950. 973-222-2971

UNION, 2 BEDROOMS, dining/living room, eat-in-kitchen. Very spacious. Pella, back yard. Close to transportation & shopping. \$1400 includes utilities. 732-974-3440

UNION, MODERN 2 bedroom, 2nd floor, brick 2 family house. Great for newlyweds. \$1230 per month plus utilities. Non-smoker. 908-851-0194.

UPPER IRVINGTON, Efficiency apartment for rent. Heat/hot water included. \$550. Please call 973-373-9462

VAUXHALL - 95 aSTORIA Place, small house for rent, 3 bedrooms, \$1200 per month. Immediate Occupancy. Call 9am-12 Noon, 908-769-7722.

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CRANFORD - seeking roommate for nice 2 bedroom apartment. Big kitchen, living room. Walk to downtown, train, bus. \$550 per month, plus utilities. Bob, 908-208-0088.

FURNISHED ROOMS

NUTLEY small room with adjacent private bathroom, first floor. Fully furnished. Lovely home in best area. Can use house facilities such as laundry and kitchen. Air conditioned. \$700 per month; one month security, one in advance. Minimum one year lease. Credit will be investigated. Overnight guests not allowed. Call (973) 861-1553 after 1 p.m.

ROOMS TO RENT

EAST ORANGE, share kitchen and bath. \$100 weekly, 1 month rent-1 month security. Call Mr. or Mrs. Hill 973-676-3371

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SOUTH ORANGE -500 Square feet 2 room professional office conveniently located in Village. Parking. Call 908-295-2356

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UNION: FOR lease by owner, street level approximately 700 square feet. \$950 month. Retail or any use. On Springfield Avenue. Available immediately. 888-295-9234.

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REAL ESTATE

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HOLLYWOOD MEMORIAL Park, Union. 4 grave plots. Best offer. 908-202-4477.

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EAST ORANGE - Motivated seller. Renovated 2 family. 5 bedrooms/3 bedrooms. Separate utilities. Other property for sale. Call Now. 646-509-5400.

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HILLSIDE - 480 Hillside Avenue, 3 bedroom renovated house; huge garage, high overhead doors; near Rt. 22, 78 & Turnpike. Contractors EZ Park Vans; \$295K. Make Offer 201-854-2429
www.247auctioneer.com/broker.

REAL ESTATE: Government Foreclosed Homes \$0 or Low Down! No credit! OK! Bank & Gov't Foreclosed Homes! HUD, VA, FHA For listings. 800-746-5913.

UNION, LOVELY Mother/Daughter 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, large yard. \$335,000. Danielle Rubel Realtor. 973-378-5808.

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A ribbon-cutting ceremony was recently held for the new RE/MAX Allied Realty on Route 22 in Mountainside.

RE/MAX Allied Realty opens

RE/MAX Allied Realty, located at 1429 Route 22 East in Mountainside, recently hosted a grand opening celebration. The office, owned by Joe Sinisi, broker/owner, and Rose Marie Sinisi, sales associate/owner, and operated by Peter Baker, manager, offers full real estate services in Cranford, Scotch Plains, Watchung, Westfield, and the surrounding areas.

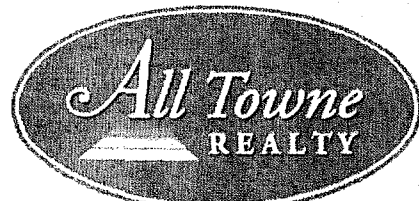
"With a sales force of nearly 20 associates and a management team dedicated to serving the Union County area, RE/MAX Allied Realty brings a renewed spirit and an aggressive attitude to the Borough of Mountainside, as well as the surrounding area," said Baker. "Many of our associates are very involved in local, civic and community organizations. Here at RE/MAX Allied Realty, we don't just sell houses, we build communities. We live here, too."

To contact the associates of RE/MAX Allied Realty, call 908-654-7776, or log on to the office Web site, www.remax-nj.com/mountainside.

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30 YR FIXED		6.000		0.00		6.129		APP		30 YR FIXED		6.000		0.00		6.033		APP					
15 YR FIXED		5.625		0.00		5.715		FEE		15 YR FIXED		5.375		0.00		5.463		FEE					
30 YR JUMBO		6.250		0.00		6.310		\$300		1 YR ARM		3.625		0.00		6.699		\$495					
All rates and fees are guaranteed in writing!										New Jerseys Lowest Jumbo Rates! www.Loansearch.com													
Kastle Mortgage						800-592-2930						Union Center National Bank						908-206-2877					
30 YR FIXED		5.500		0.00		5.580		APP		30 YR FIXED		6.250		0.00		6.274		APP					
15 YR FIXED		5.000		0.00		5.080		FEE		15 YR FIXED		5.750		0.00		5.789		FEE					
5/1 ARM		4.375		0.00		5.750		\$325		10 YR FIXED		5.250		0.00		5.305		\$350					
Reverse Mortgages & Free Refinancing										Adjustable Rate Mortgages to \$3,000,000 No Doc and Interest Only Loans Available													
Lighthouse Mortgage						800-784-1331						Call CMI @ 800-426-4565 to display your rates here!											
30 YR FIXED		5.875		0.00		5.963		APP															
15 YR FIXED		5.375		0.00		5.463		FEE															
30 YR JUMBO		6.125		0.00		6.213		\$375															
20 Yr Fixed 5.75 0.25pts 5.843apr																							
Rates were received on 12/29/05 from the lenders and are subject to change. Contact lenders for more information. C.M.I. assumes no liability for typographical errors or omissions. To display information, lenders call 800-426-4565 Copyright, 2005. Cooperative Mortgage Information - All Rights Reserved. Visit lenders at cml-mortgageinfo.com																							

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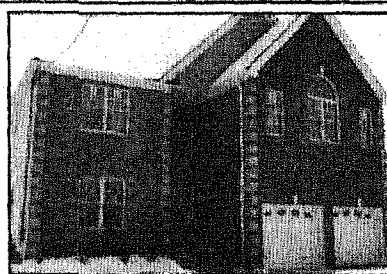
Call About Our 100% Financing & First Time Buyer Programs!



CLARK - Move-in condition 3 bedroom, 1.5 bath Split Level with new roof, updated kitchen. Florida room off family room. Pool in "as is" condition. Offered at \$499,000.



LINDEN - Immaculate 5 BR, 2.5 BA Split Level in desirable Sunnyside Section. Lots of updates. Perfect Mother/Daughter Use. Offered at \$479,900.



SCOTCH PLAINS - Custom Col. 3467 sq. ft. in living space, 2 gas fpl. FR/MBR, MBR with dressing area. Walk-in closet & 15x12 bath w/jacuzzi, all baths & kit counters granite, Anderson windows & grills, 2 story ent. foyer laundry room 2nd flr. Offered at \$879,900.

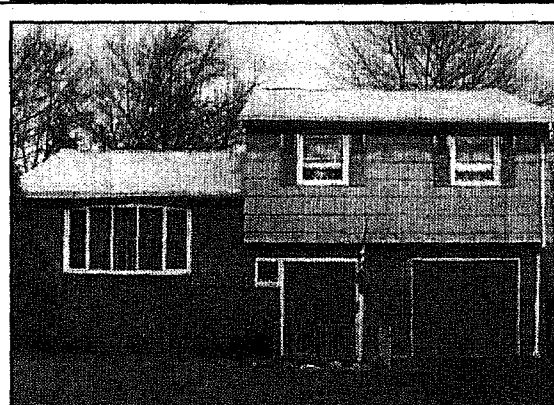


LINDEN - Absolutely Gorgeous Two Family! Just move in to this 1 yr old immaculate home w/ lg rooms. Enjoy finished basement w/ fam room, office/bdrm, full ba, glass sliding doors to patio / rear yard. Enjoy the convenience of W/D hook-ups in each unit. Plenty of closets & storage space. Offered at \$629,900.

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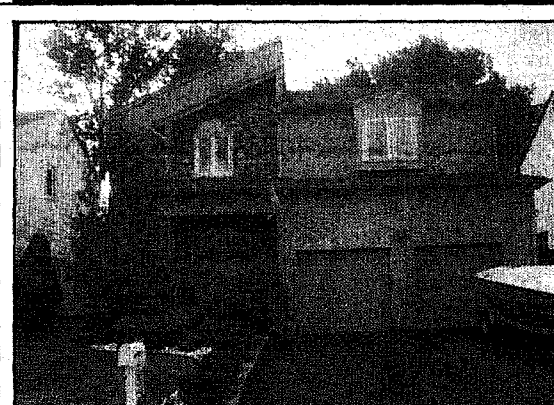


Secluded Elegance!

UNION TOWNSHIP - Fantastic split located on a cul-de-sac street! Many amenities make for comfortable living including CAC and central vac, and skylights in the Eat-In Kitchen! 3 bedrooms and 2 full baths! For the alert buyer! \$499,000.

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UNION TOWNSHIP - Meticulously maintained Contemporary by original owners! Freshly painted interior and exterior, new windows and hot water heater! 3 bedrooms including Master Bedrooms suite with WICs, 2.5 baths, sunken Living Room with fireplace! Sliders to deck with hot tub! \$585,000.

#048010149

BUY FOR \$1,909/month

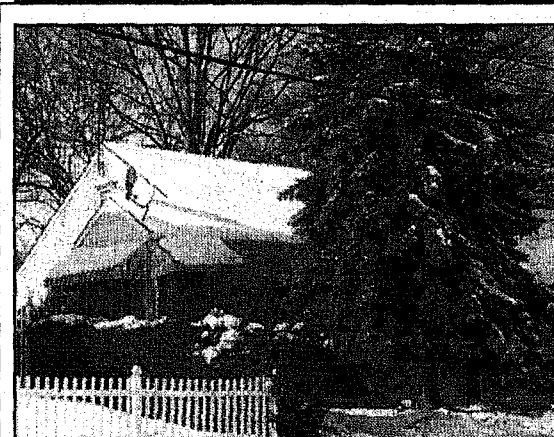


Easy, Carefree Living!

UNION TOWNSHIP - Delightful bi-level with 4 bedrooms, 1.5 baths! Updated Kitchen and Bath! Family Room with sliders out to large, private yard! If you want the best. \$449,000.

#048010226

BUY FOR \$1,509/month



Small Wonder!

UNION TOWNSHIP - Charming Cape with 3 bedrooms, 2 full baths, and tons of room for possible expansion! Gleaming wood floors, large rooms, finished basement! Tap the potential! \$355,000.

#048010224

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REAL ESTATE

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

O'Connor is named a seniors' specialist

Harvey Tekel, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Westfield office, has announced that Patricia O'Connor, sales associate, recently earned the Seniors Real Estate Specialist professional designation from the Senior Advantage Real Estate Council in Murphys, Calif.

Seniors real estate specialists help seniors make decisions about selling the family home, buying rental property, managing the capital gains and estate tax implications of owning real estate, obtaining a reverse mortgage, moving to a senior community, and other issues. By earning the designation, O'Connor has joined a small number of seniors real estate specialists in the Westfield area. O'Connor has been with the Weichert family for seven years.

The Senior Advantage Real Estate Council tracks the special issues and needs of senior property owners and provides education to Realtors who make seniors an important focus of their business. The designation was introduced in 1997 and is nationally recognized.

O'Connor and the other fine sales associates of Weichert's Westfield Office can be reached for real estate transactions at 908-654-7777. The office is located at 185 Elm St.

Wittman graduates from national Realtor Institute

Sales associate Jane Wittmann from the Burgdorff ERA Summit office was recently awarded the Graduate Realtor Institute designation.

Wittmann, who is a North Central Jersey Association of Realtors member, completed the curriculum required to achieve the highly acclaimed designation, and she joins other top producers in the residential real estate industry who hold the designation across the nation.

Wittmann attended a specific, intensive series of a minimum of 90 hours of classroom instruction, covering a variety of subjects, including contract law, professional standards, sales and marketing, finance,

and risk reduction. In addition, she learned the fundamentals of brokerage and other areas of real estate specialization.

With this designation and through increased awareness of current topics important to the real estate professional, such as legal issues, Wittmann can better serve prospective clients and customers.

A Realtor with many close ties to

the community, Wittmann also holds the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation to assist customers considering retirement moves, buying or selling homes, obtaining rental property or making other life-changing real estate decisions.

She is past president of the Junior League of Summit and also served as a member of the Area I

Council of the Association of Junior Leagues.

She is a past president of the United Way of Summit, New Providence and Berkeley Heights and served on its Budget Review Committee for six years. She presently serves on the city of Summit's Arboretum Commission and is a member of the board of governors of the Foreign Policy Association's

Off The Record Lecture Series in New York City.

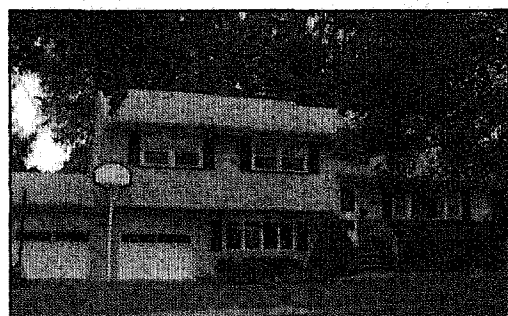
Wittmann grew up in Orlando, Fla., and graduated with a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Prior to working at Burgdorff she worked in Boston for six years as a systems engineer for the IBM Corp. A resident of Summit

since 1970 she and her husband have raised three boys who attended the local schools and played sports.

To contact Wittmann, call her at 908-522-3032, e-mail her at Jane.Wittmann@burgdorff.com, or visit her at the Burgdorff ERA Summit office located at 401 Springfield Ave.

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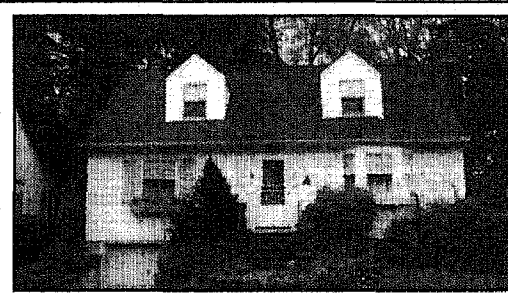
CRANFORD
Spacious home on nearly a quarter of an acre and located on a tree-lined street consists of 5 levels. Large rooms, hardwood floors, Eat-In Kitchen, Master Bedroom with full bath, great Family Room with walk-out to patio, large backyard, 2-car garage and Central Air Conditioning.



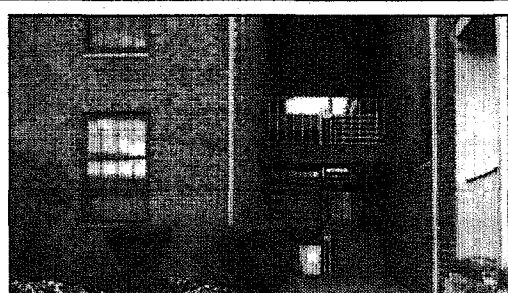
CRANFORD
English Village Condo! Two Bedroom unit in mint condition features spacious room sizes, oak parquet floors, archways and moldings, updated Eat-In Kitchen and bath. Minutes to NYC transportation.



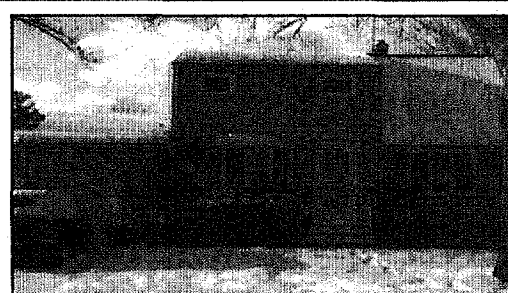
LINDEN
Welcome home to a 2 Bedroom Duplex featuring a country Kitchen with dishwasher and separate eating area. A glassed sun room and large screened porch off Kitchen provides months of additional living spaces.



SPRINGFIELD
Wonderfully located 4 Bedroom home on desirable street. Offers a park-like yard with deck and sun porch, fireplace, hardwood floors, beautiful moldings and attached garage.



WOODBIDGE
Move-in condition Charming 2 Bedroom Condo in Harrowside offers a Living Room with wood-burning fireplace, Master Bedroom with walk-in closet, balcony off Kitchen, newer windows, carpet and appliances. Heat and hot water included in maintenance fee.



WOODBIDGE
Lovely Cape Cod offers 6 rooms and includes 3 Bedrooms, 2 baths, Eat-In Kitchen with breakfast bar, Formal Dining Room, Living Room and central air conditioning.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Auction at Devon Self Storage, 625 Glenwood Ave., Hillsdale, N.J. 07605 on January 26, 2006 at 11:00 a.m. Property contained in the following units, will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the owner's lien for rent under N.J. code section 2A:44-197 ET SEQ. Units AS Gerald Anthony, 2030 Donald E. Jones, 1057 Vanessa Kirkland, 1078 Lionel A. Leach Jr., 1058 Karen Macvey, 1031 Toyling Washington, D17 Carolyn Cason, 1042 Nicole M. Furr, 2069 Matthew Garcia, 1069 Shelly D. Larkins, G21 Balogh N. McCrimmon, E12 Kirk A. Mills, D23 Richard Mills, 1052 Samuel Nash, C37 Wilman Orval, 2074 Kemper H. Smith 3rd, D22 Wayne Stackhouse, B1 Norman L. Stevenson, A32 Jerome L. Sutton, F18 Lantonia R. Taylor-Williams, 1027 Reginald S. Torain have household clothing and furniture Auction is with reserve. Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. Cash only.

Kelvin Taylor
General Manager
U134337 WCN Jan 6&12, 2006 (\$40.50)

AUTOMOTIVE

Be prepared for the winter weather

For winter weather, it's equally important to make sure your car and driving skills are up to the task. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, about 70 percent of automobile accidents resulting in death are ice-or-snow related. Another 25 percent of winter deaths can be attributed to people being caught out in a storm. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving.

"When taking to the roadways during the winter months, drivers need to be more attentive when they're behind the wheel," says Sheila Breeding of Allstate New Jersey Insurance Co. "In addition to driving carefully, drivers also need to be sure their vehicles are in proper working condition. Cautious drivers and a winterized car can go a long way in preventing a tragic accident."

Allstate New Jersey, the largest auto insurer in the state, offers the following safety tips to ensure a safe winter driving season.

Get your car a winter tune-up, including:

- Tire check, including spare, should examine inflation and tread levels.
- Battery test, you don't want to be stranded in severe weather.
- Wiper blades check and replacement, if needed.
- Radiator, engine and all fluid levels check
- Brake line and pad inspection.
- Head- and brake-light, and turn signal inspections.
- Thermostat.

- Heater.
- Exhaust system.
- Defroster.
- Maintain at least half a tank of gas
- Keep a winter kit in your car, and stock it with:
 - Windshield scraper and small broom.
 - Flashlight with extra batteries.
 - First aid kit with pocket knife.
 - Several blankets.
 - Flares and bright colored cloth.
 - Extra clothes.
 - Small sack of sand for generating traction under wheels.
 - Small shovel.
 - Jumper cables.
 - Extra gallon of windshield washer fluid and antifreeze.
- Winter weather driving tips:
 - Reduce speed.
 - Avoid distractions such as cell phones.
 - Watch for icy surfaces.
 - Turn on your headlights and use your signals.
 - Leave plenty of room for stopping.
 - Don't use cruise control.
 - Don't be overconfident with four-wheel-drive.
 - Allow extra time to reach your destination.
- If you have an accident or are stranded in a storm:
 - Call the police for assistance.
 - Call your insurance agent.
 - Stay with your car. Do not try to walk to safety.
 - Tie a brightly colored cloth, preferably red, to the antenna for responders to see.
 - Start the car and use the heater for

about 10 minutes every hour. Keep the exhaust pipe clear so fumes won't back up in the car.

- Leave the overhead light on when the engine is running so that you can be seen.
- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to keep blood circulating and to stay warm.
- Keep one window away from the blowing wind slightly open to let in air.

Allstate New Jersey Insurance Co., headquartered in Bridgewater, was established in 1997 as a separate and distinct company to service the unique needs of consumers in the New Jersey insurance marketplace. Allstate New Jersey is a major provider of auto, home, and commercial insurance products. Allstate New Jersey's many sales agents and experienced claim professionals are located throughout the Garden State. Allstate Insurance Co. is no longer licensed, and does not write property and casualty business in New Jersey.

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Union Office (1291 Stuyvesant Ave) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices. 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 483 Valley St. Maplewood. For more information call 908-686-7850

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE

2000 JEEP CHEROKEE Sport 4x4. Original owner. Approximately 40,000 miles. \$8,000-negotiable. 908-276-4133.

CADILLAC ELDOADO, 1992, great condition, 90,000 miles, 1 owner, garage kept. Must sell, \$3750. Call 908-608-0839.

CORVETTE 1982. all power, new interior, glass T-tops. \$6000. 973-763-7975.

FORD PROBE 1997 stick, gold, 2-door fully loaded. Good condition. Only 49,000 miles. Asking \$3,500 or best offer. 908-486-1784, 908-370-3272.

HONDA ODYSSEY EX 2000 MINIVAN 64K, new front brakes, good condition, garage kept, \$13,000. 908-273-2870

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MOTORCYCLES FOR SALE

HONDA SABRE, 2002 VT1100, red with burgundy flames, 13,000 miles, windshield, aux. light driving lights, additional chrome parts. Excellent condition. \$5500.00. 908-494-4536

TRUCKS FOR SALE

FORD EXPEDITION, 2003 Bauer -Black-Saddle Interior-Navy Heated/AC Seats most available options 60,000 miles. Excellent Condition 22,500/or best offer 732-684-2226

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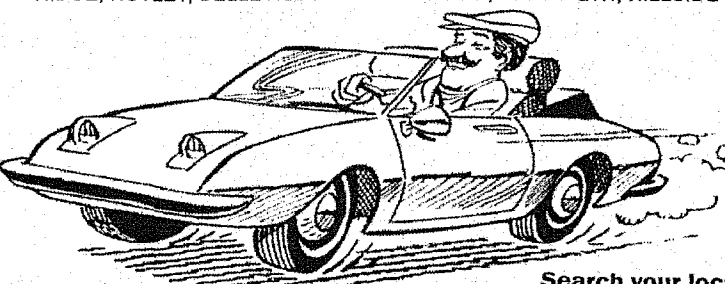
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