

THE OBSERVER

Serving Summit, Springfield and Mountainside

SUMMIT, N.J.

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75 CENTS

VOL. 77 NO. 21



Hetfield House is revisited

This historic home, more than 245 years old, has undergone changes. Page 18

THURSDAY
JANUARY 12, 2006

IDEA/NCLB workshop scheduled for Tuesday

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 Tuesday from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Cranford High School Library at 201 West End Place, Cranford.

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. The discussion will focus on its benefits and challenges, highlighting key issues such as standardized testing, funding, assessment and accountability.

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

Support groups for kids available

ClubSib, a recreational group offering support for the sibling of a child with special needs, is currently available at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside.

Participants of the program will get to know other kids who, like themselves, have a brother or sister with special needs.

Activities range from self-expression, to pure fun and silliness, to heartfelt discussions and discovery, all while promoting peer support.

The following programs are currently available:

ClubSib I — Open to children ages 6-12 on Thursdays between Jan. 26 and March 2, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

ClubSib II — Open to children ages 13-17 on Tuesdays between Jan. 24 and Feb. 28, from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Class is limited to one participant per family and a \$60 registration fee is required.

For more information or to register, call Linda Nordstrom at 888-233-5373, ext. 5488.

Summit to celebrate MLK Jr. Day

The city will celebrate its eighth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, the federal holiday that marks the life and philosophy of King.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of this official remembrance.

See story Page 2.

Freeholder chairman outlines goals for 2006

Newly sworn-in Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella laid out his initiatives for the coming year at Sunday's reorganization meeting.

Freeholder meetings in "western and central portions of Union County," a "dramatic redesign" of the county's Web site, an online listing of local job offerings from participating municipal agencies, a regional animal shelter located in Springfield and development of the reservoir in Clark were among the initiatives listed by Mirabella in his address.

See story Page 17.

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No butts about it; indoor smoking likely to be banned

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

MOUNTAINSIDE — Local businesses gave mixed reactions to the law just passed by the state Assembly banning indoor smoking in restaurant, bars and other public places.

The Smoke-Free Air Act, which will now head to the governor's desk, "prohibits smoking in workplaces and indoor public places throughout the state, except for certain specifically exempted establishments, and also prohibits smoking in any area of any public or nonpublic elementary or secondary school, whether in the buildings or on the grounds of the school."

Bharet Tahiramani, a manager at Raagini, a restaurant in Mountainside, feels certain the ban will have an impact on businesses in the area. He stated, "There should be smoke-free restaurants."

Margarita Zoubtchenko, a bartender at McLynn's Irish Pub in Springfield, disagrees with the legislation, saying that when the law takes

effect, "somebody who's lonely can't go out to a bar to have a whiskey or cigar."

However, she didn't feel the law would have a significant impact on her workplace or on eating establishments in general.

Agapios Kyritsis, owner of Marco Polo Tavern in Summit, also does not foresee the ban having an effect on business. In fact, he feels it will help his business because the bar in his establishment is close to the dining area and some patrons have complained of drifting smoke.

"It's going to affect some customers, but there's nothing I can do," says Kyritsis. "I was expecting it. If it's OK with the customers, it's OK with me."

At its session Monday, the state Assembly voted 64-12, with two abstentions, to ban smoking in restaurants, bars, bowling alleys, private clubs, bingo halls and enclosed shopping malls. The law exempts the gaming areas of casinos and cigar bars.

The state Senate approved a similar law in December in a 29-7 vote. Acting Gov. Richard Codey has indicated he will sign the act into law. He has argued that people who work in businesses affected by the ban as well as members of the public deserve protection from the dangers of second-hand smoke. The law, expected to be enforced 90 days after it has been signed, will make New Jersey the 11th state in the country to ban indoor smoking.

But the New Jersey Restaurant Association, which has opposed the law, plans to go to court to challenge it. They intend to argue that the law is discriminatory for exempting casinos from its application. Opponents of the law have argued it would affect small businesses. They point out that two-thirds of restaurants in the state were already smoke-free.

Staff Writer Jerome Hule contributed to this story. Staff Writer Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or summitobserver@yahoo.com.

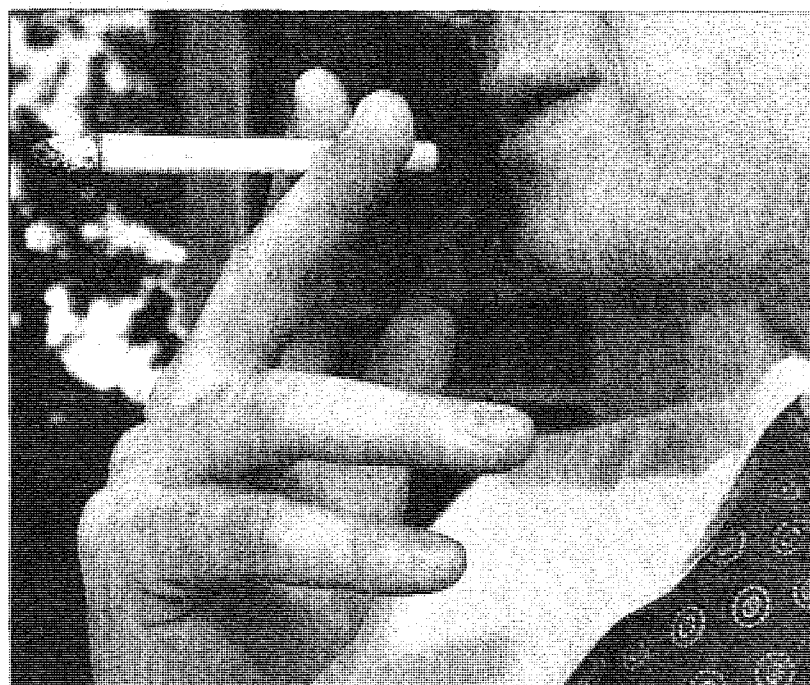


Photo By Barbara Kokalis

With the state Assembly's passage of the Smoke-Free Air Act on Monday, the legislation banning smoking in most indoor public places is one step closer to becoming law.

Board of Ed braces for budget process

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — More than 30 residents attended the Springfield Board of Education meeting on Monday night. The board members were pleased to see the unusually large and active turnout, especially as the issues to be discussed were a cause for concern.

While a variety of complaints and praise flew, it was clear the foremost issue at hand was the 2006-2007 school budget. For several years, the Springfield School District's budget has been voted down. While a number of factors were responsible for this, the foremost addressed at this meeting were communication and voter awareness.

Part of Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino's strategy to pass this year's budget is "to explain as clearly as possible to the parents that we are trying to provide a top-quality educational program within the constrictions of S-1701 and an over-taxed environment."

This law puts a cap on school spending and severely limits the amount of surplus a school district can have to cover unexpected expenses.

A number of parents present at the meeting were concerned about communication between the board and parents in the district. A major concern was potential difficulties in raising an adequate number of residents to support the budget when it comes time to

vote. Board members explained a large part of the problem in getting information out to voters has been that the district's communication resources were cut when last year's budget failed. This included a school newsletter, which was discontinued. In 2006, school officials and involved parents must rely more heavily than before on word of mouth news.

Board members made it clear that, while they have managed to shield students from the brunt of budget cuts in past years, if this year's budget fails, students will begin to feel the effects, as programs not mandated by the state are put into jeopardy. These include the school newspaper, expanded arts programs, the late bus, the G&A program and many others Davino listed.

In response to the concerns of one parent who spoke at the meeting, the board agreed that notice must be given to parents and students as to which programs may no longer exist in the fall.

Board and PTA members continued to urge all concerned residents to contact their state representatives to request them to repeal or amend S-1701 before further cuts to the school district begin affecting students.

The budget is scheduled to be voted on April 18, following a public hearing on March 27.

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

Suspect arraigned

By Robert Zullo
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH — Christopher Pessolano made his first appearance in court Friday, the same day the body of his girlfriend of seven months, Cranford resident Mary Ellen Touris, was laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Pessolano is accused of murdering the 45-year-old Touris at the home they shared at 120 Retford Ave., where the mother of two daughters was discovered at the foot of her basement stairs by a relative around 8:30 p.m. New Year's Day. She was pronounced dead at the scene by Cranford emergency responders, of "severe head trauma."

Pessolano, who a neighbor described as a "disabled landscaper," was arrested hours later, after a team of Cranford detectives, investigators from the Union County Prosecutor's office and Union County Sheriff's officers tracked him to the Colonial Motor Court motel in Springfield.

The motel on Route 22 west is a short drive from the scene of the crime. A manager at the motel, who declined to give his name, indicated it was empty the night of Pessolano's

arrest, except for a night clerk who reportedly witnessed no part of the actual arrest.

The manager estimated that Pessolano was at the motel no more than four or five hours before police tracked him down.

According to reports in *The Star-Ledger*, Touris' ex-husband, Union County Corrections Officer John Touris, had escorted one of his daughters to the family court in Elizabeth in search of a restraining order against Pessolano the day before the murder. The request was reportedly denied.

Union County Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary and Cranford Police Chief Eric Mason, citing the confidentiality of family court cases, declined to comment on whether any attempts to obtain such an order were made.

Mason, however, confirmed a neighbor's report that police were present at the house on Dec. 30, two days before Touris was found dead. Though he described the Dec. 30 incident as "unrelated to the homicide," Mason said police had visited the house on more than one occasion in the two months Touris and Pessolano

See MURDER, Page 3



Mountainside Cub Scout Pack 177 members Vinny Abbate, Ryan Vargo, Evan DiPietro, Max Kelly, Nicholas Sepe and their cub master, Brian Kinney, present a check to the Mountainside PBA, Local 126 for the purchase of bulletproof vests. Accepting the contribution on behalf of the PBA are Officer John Philippakos, Local PBA 126 President Officer Jeffrey Stinner and Detective Michael Jackson. Vargo and Sepe are wearing bulletproof vests.

Scouts present donation to PBA

By Tracy A. Politowicz
Managing Editor

MOUNTAINSIDE — Mountainside Cub Scout Pack 177 recently donated \$500 from the profits of its annual popcorn sale to the Mountainside PBA, Local 126 to help purchase bulletproof vests for borough officers.

For the fifth year in a row, the Scouts sold various types of popcorn from September to mid-October of last year.

Each year, the board members of the pack select a local charity to which to make a donation. The local PBA, which requires vests for approximately 20 officers at a cost of \$700 each, was selected.

Borough Police Chief James Debbie indicated that, according to their manufacturer, bulletproof vests have a five-year lifespan, at which time their

materials begin to break down and they must be replaced. "We appreciate their donation because we have to replace four or five vests every year," Debbie said. "We replace them, but hopefully, they won't be needed."

Last year, Cub Scout Pack 177 ranked second in the Patriots' Path Council, with total popcorn sales of \$21,575. In the prior four years, the local Scouts had ranked first.

The Patriots' Path Council oversees Scouts in the counties of Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Union and parts of Middlesex.

The popcorn sale is the Scouts' only fund-raiser for the year, helping to pay for the running of the organization, which is sponsored by the Community Presbyterian Church in the borough.

The Scouts who generated the

most sales last year were Nicholas Sepe of the first-grade Tigers with a total of \$1,272; Max Kelly of the second-grade Wolves, \$529; Evan DiPietro of the third-grade Bears, \$708; Ryan Vargo of the fourth-grade Webelos, \$1,163, and Vinny Abbate of the fifth-grade Webelos, \$759.

Vargo said, "It was fun selling popcorn. I wanted to do well and be one of the top sellers and earn money for my pack. I'm proud of how well I did."

Recipients of the Scouts' popcorn proceeds donation in prior years were the Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department, Volunteer Rescue Squad, Public Library and the Trailside Museum Association.

Managing Editor Tracy A. Politowicz can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 115, or summitobserver@yahoo.com.

Committee discusses salaries

Springfield Police Department to be restructured to save money

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — At the Springfield Township Committee's meeting on Tuesday night, the main agenda item was the setting of salaries for non-union employees of the township, ranging from the township administrator to the emergency management clerk typist.

Residents who attended the meeting criticized the salaries of the police chief, police captain, fire chief and deputy fire chief, all of which range from \$110,879 to \$118,659. Committee members responded, citing the long years many of those officials had served and discussing at length ideas for further spending cuts.

One step the township will take to save money is to restructure the police

force. Mayor Clara Harelik and Deputy Mayor Ken Feigenbaum have worked closely with Township Administrator Ed Fanning and Police Chief William Chisholm to reduce overtime on the force, while making residents safer by putting more patrols on the road.

In this new system, under the police chief will be a deputy chief, two captains and seven sergeants. The rank of lieutenant, paying a \$96,000 salary, is no longer active in the Springfield Police Department. Previously, there had been three officers of this rank, but all have retired recently.

In the restructured police department, the two captains will be out on the road, where they will work more closely with and have greater control over their patrols.

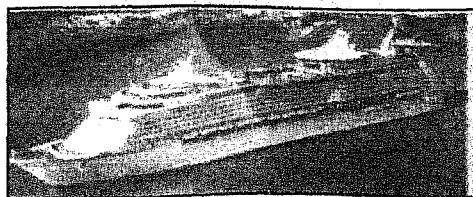
With several more higher-ranking

officers also planning to retire in the near future, police and town officials are hoping to implement these changes while the officers' replacements can still be trained in their new duties.

This restructuring is expected to save some \$200,000 annually and cultivate a more efficient, less top-heavy chain of command.

The Township Committee was in unanimous agreement with these changes. Committee members Steven Grau, Harold Poltrock and Mark Hurwitz praised their fellow committee members as well as Fanning and Chisholm for their work in preparing this plan and expressed confidence that it will benefit the town.

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



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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.

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e-mail:

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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.

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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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The THE OBSERVER (USPS 012-394) is published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$26.00 per year in Union County, 75 cents per copy non-refundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to THE OBSERVER P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083.

Summit to celebrate MLK Jr. Day

By Tracy A. Politowicz
Managing Editor

SUMMIT — The city will celebrate its eighth annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on Monday, the federal holiday that marks the life and philosophy of King. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this official remembrance.

Because King encouraged people to work together to strengthen their community, the Day of Service promotes volunteerism and urges people to make the holiday, "a day on, not a day off."

Many Summit not-for-profit organizations and houses of worship will offer service projects and events on Monday. These are open to the public. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- From 9 to 11 a.m., learn about The Seeing Eye, the world-renowned dog guide school in Morristown, in the lobby of The Connection for Women and Families, 79 Maple St. The event will include a presentation, film and question-and-answer session. The program will repeat at 10 a.m.

- Assemble boxes of donations to be sent to U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan at the Summit Area Red Cross, 695 Springfield Ave.

- From 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., sort, label and categorize new children's books at The Learning Circle, a branch of The Summit Area YMCA, located at 95 Morris Ave.

- From 10 to 11:30 a.m., participate in round-table discussions with representatives from area shelters, write to government representatives about ending hunger and sort toiletries to be transported to the homeless, at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave.

- Prepare brown bag meals to be transported to the homeless, at Temple Sinai of Summit, 208 Summit Ave.

- From 10 a.m. to noon, Overlook Hospital, 99 Beauvoir Ave., will offer free blood pressure and/or glucose screenings to the first 40 people who sign up by calling 908-522-4662.

- From 10 to 11:30 a.m., design artistic and literary representations of events from Dr. King's life on a paper square that will be assembled on a "quilt" to be displayed at City Hall. This event will take place at

the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, 68 Elm St.

- From 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., at City Hall's Council Chambers, Mayor Jordan Glatt will present awards to senior adults for their essays on living through the Civil Rights Movement.

- Volunteer to lay down wood chips on the trails in the woodlands at Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave. Event is weather-dependent. Call 908-273-8787 on Monday morning to confirm conditions.

- From 10:30 a.m. to noon, sort coats and clothing at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Ave. The activity will take place in its Memorial Hall, Broad Street entrance.

- From 11 a.m. to noon, attend a workshop called "Strengthening Community Conversations: Discussions of Diversity" in the Avila Room at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Ave.

- From noon to 1 p.m., attend a free luncheon with volunteers and community leaders in Memorial Hall at St. Teresa Church, 306 Morris Ave.

- From 1 to 2:30 p.m., attend a Celebration of Community Service at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Ave. This will include the presentation of The Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service Committee's "Keeper of the Dream" Award to Richard "Dick" Nelson and the Rev. Gregory Davis. This award was established to honor Summit residents who live their lives and serve their community according to the principles and values espoused by King. Other aspects of the celebration will include a music program and presentation of the "Hero" essays written by sixth-graders from the Lawton C. Johnson Middle School.

- From 1 to 6:30 p.m., participate in a blood drive at The Grand Summit Hotel, 570 Springfield Ave. Appointments are preferred. Call 908-273-2076 or 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

- From 3 to 4 p.m., the Rev. Rose Dean, assistant pastor of Pilgrim Baptist Church, will speak on King's legacy at the Vito A. Gallo Building, 12 Chestnut Ave.

- From 4 to 5 p.m., attend a Celebration of Civil Rights presented through history, poetry, song and the

words of King himself, by the Summit Area YMCA Black and Latino Achievers at the YMCA, 67 Maple St.

- From 7 to 9:30 p.m., attend the annual Summit Community Martin Luther King Jr. Evening Service at Fountain Baptist Church, 116 Glen-side Ave. The Rev. Dr. Lester Taylor of Community Baptist Church in Englewood will be the guest speaker and music will be provided by the Community Choir of Summit.

- Also, several local organizations will be collecting donations through Friday and again on Monday.

BRIDGES Outreach Inc., a Summit-based nonprofit organization, focuses on visiting the homeless in lower Manhattan, downtown Newark and Irvington with various supplies. It is accepting travel-size toiletries at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave. Access its Web site at www.bridges-outreach.org for a list of items.

The Summit Area Red Cross, 695 Springfield Ave., is seeking individual size packages of Kool-Aid or Crystal Light, Power Bars or granola bars — no chocolate — boxes of individually wrapped microwavable popcorn, new or good condition DVDs, with appropriate titles, to be sent to U.S. troops overseas.

The Mount Olive Temple, 217 Morris Ave., is collecting toys, small household appliances in working condition, clothing, coats and non-perishable food items for local families in need.

St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Ave., is sponsoring a coat and clothing drive on Monday from 8 a.m. to noon. It will accept coats and gently used clothing — no socks or undergarments — in its Memorial Hall, Broad Street entrance.

- Finally, the adult and children's sections of the Summit Public Library, 75 Maple St., currently have exhibits that depict King's life.

The Day of Service is sponsored by Shaping Summit Together and the Schering-Plough Corporation.

For more information, call 908-277-4400 or access www.cityofsummit.org and click on "Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service."

Managing Editor Tracy A. Politowicz can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 115, or summitobserver@yahoo.com.

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.

Today

- The Summit Board of Education will have a workshop meeting in the library/middle center of the Lawton C. Johnson Middle School, 272 Morris Ave., at 8 p.m.

Friday

- 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.

Saturday

- The Handcrafter Group of the Women's Association of the Community Presbyterian Church, 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, will meet 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.

Sunday

- In its first appearance in Summit, the award-winning brass quintet Mainstreet Brass will perform at 3 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave.

For more information, call 908-723-1736.

- A workshop called "Parenting for the Positive" will take place at 9 a.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit. This is part of a series of parenting workshops that will give parents new approaches to old problems, including helping children deal with their feelings, ways to inspire cooperation, how to set limits in behavior, creative ways to solve problems with children, and how to listen to children.

Tuesday

- 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, played by 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, 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 Friday.

- The Old Guard of Summit will present an illustrated talk on "Crazy Railroad Inventions" at its Tuesday meeting at 10 a.m., preceded by an informal coffee hour at 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Municipal Building, 360 Elkwood Ave.

For more information, call Earl Gilkey at 908-464-2480 or log on to the Web site, www.summitoldguard.homestead.com.

Wednesday

- 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.

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- ✓ Low combustion air test
- ✓ Temperature overload test
- ✓ Flame roll-out check
- ✓ Safety controls test

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Simply call my office and tell us the best time to come to your home. This offer is first come, first served and once 300 inspections are scheduled the offer ends.

So I urge you to call now. You owe it to yourself to know you and your family have a safe furnace this winter.

SAINT BARNABAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center Checklist for a Healthier You in 2006

To Do:

- ✓ **ANNUAL SCREENING MAMMOGRAPHY**
Recommended for women beginning at age 40 or earlier for those at high risk for breast cancer
- ✓ **COLONOSCOPY**
Recommended for men and women beginning at age 50 or earlier for those with a family history of colon cancer
- ✓ **OSTEOPOROSIS SCREENING**
State-of-the-art DEXA bone density technology
Recommended for women beginning menopause and for men with certain risk factors
- ✓ **WEIGHT MANAGEMENT AND EXERCISE AND SPORTS TRAINING PROGRAMS**
- ✓ **CONSIDER BLADE-FREE LASIK EYE SURGERY**
Laser vision correction

We offer a full spectrum of high-quality medical services in one convenient location, with concierge service, an on-site retail pharmacy, free valet parking and free supervised child care services.

For more information on these screenings, tests or programs, please call the Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center at 973-322-7000.

SAINT BARNABAS HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Saint Barnabas Ambulatory Care Center

200 S. ORANGE AVENUE, LIVINGSTON, NJ • SAINTBARNABAS.COM

Murder suspect found in Springfield motel arraigned



Christopher Pessolano stands before Superior Court Judge John Triarsi at his arraignment on a charge of first-degree murder Friday in Elizabeth.



Photos By Barbara Kokkalis

Murder suspect Christopher Pessolano was arrested at this Springfield motel hours after his girlfriend, Mary Ellen Touris, was found dead in their Cranford home.

(Continued from Page 1)

had lived there. "We have responded there in the past," Mason said.

Before Superior Court Judge John Triarsi in Elizabeth, the 44-year-old Pessolano, in shackles and a prison uniform, was formally charged with first-degree murder.

In a quiet voice, he responded quickly as Triarsi asked him if he understood the charges and confirmed his wish to be represented by the public defender's office, among other formalities.

The hearing came a day after mourners packed the Dooley Funeral Home on North Avenue in Cranford, lining up outside the door to pay their respects to Touris, a part-time nanny and Girl Scout leader.

Funeral director Charles Dooley described the event — that he said drew more than 500 mourners — as "one of the largest we've ever had."

Pessolano has yet to enter a plea, but will be represented by Deputy Public Defender Jeffrey Sagotsky. As of press time, the Union County Pros-

ecutor's Office had not designated an attorney to handle the case. According to Assistant Prosecutor Robert O'Leary, the case is expected to be reviewed by a grand jury within the next 45 days.

Pessolano is being held on \$750,000 bail in the Hudson County Jail.

Staff Writer Paul Greulich contributed to this story. Staff Writer Robert Zullo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 121, or summitobserv@yaho.com.

LIBRARY

Library closed on Monday for holiday

The Summit Free Public Library will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

The new drive-up bookdrops located by the Cedar Street exit are always open for the return of all materials, including magazines, videos and compact discs. No overdue fines are charged for days when the library is closed.

The library is located at 75 Maple St. Its telephone number is 908-273-0350.

Weekly knitting group for kids to begin

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will sponsor a knitting group called the Knits of the Round Table, beginning Wednesday.

Members will learn basic knit stitches and will create a small purse for their first project. The library will provide needles and yarn and there is no charge for this program.

The group is recommended for boys and girls ages 12 and older. Their mothers or caregivers are welcome as well.

The group will meet on Wednesdays from 4 to 5 p.m., for six weeks in the Youth Services Department.

Registration is required and space is limited. Sign up in person at the Youth Services Desk or call 973-376-4930, ext. 233.

Firefighters rescue person trapped in elevator

Springfield

On Friday, firefighters rescued an individual who was trapped in an elevator at a Morris Avenue business.

• Firefighters responded on Saturday to a broken water pipe in a South Springfield Avenue apartment complex.

• On Saturday, firefighters responded to a Troy Drive apartment complex to assist an owner in gaining entry through a broken garage door.

• In the very early morning hours of Saturday, firefighters rushed to the scene of a house fire in New Providence on request from County Mutual Aid.

• Firefighters responded to a Troy Drive apartment complex to assist an owner who had locked themselves out of their residence on Friday.

• On Friday, firefighters responded to a flammable liquid spill resulting from an automobile accident at the intersection of Morris Avenue and Morrison Road.

• Firefighters responded on Friday to

FIRE BLOTTER

a medical service call on Morris Avenue.

• Firefighters responded to a medical service call on Briant Park Drive on Friday.

• On Jan. 5, firefighters responded to a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue business.

• Firefighters responded on Jan. 5 to a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue residence.

• On Jan. 5, firefighters responded to a medical service call at a Lyons Place residence.

• On Jan. 4, firefighters responded to a carbon monoxide detector activation at a Springfield Avenue apartment.

• Firefighters responded on Jan. 4 to an activated fire alarm at a residence on Skylark Road.

• On Jan. 4, firefighters responded to

an activated fire alarm at a business on Route 22 east.

• Firefighters responded to a medical service call at a Tree Top Drive residence on Jan. 4.

• On Jan. 3, firefighters to a medical service call on Interstate 78 west.

• Firefighters responded on Jan. 3 to an activated fire alarm at a Route 22 business.

• On Jan. 3, firefighters responded to a medical service call at a Mountain Avenue business.

• Firefighters responded to a medical service call on Diamond Road on Jan. 3.

• On Jan. 3, firefighters responded to a medical service call at a South Derby residence.

• Firefighters responded on Jan. 3 to a medical service call at an Independence Way residence.

• On Jan. 2, firefighters responded to a medical service call at a Golf Oval residence.

Summit

• On Monday, firefighters responded to an Edgewood Road residence for an electrical odor inside the house. An investigation uncovered an overheated transformer in a closet.

The power to the transformer was disconnected and it was removed to the outside. The owner will notify an electrician for repair.

• On Monday, firefighters responded to an Ashland Road residence to assist the homeowner gain access to a locked bedroom with a child inside. The firefighters gained access to the bedroom.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

A fast one?

It remains to be proven that the replacement of Bank of America as insurance broker with Cranford-based Hale Insurance Brokerage by the Cranford Township Committee constitutes a pay-to-play-type "political favor," but a review of the campaign contributions made by Hale President Donald Readlinger certainly raises concerns.

Last week, in an addendum to the reorganization meeting story on Page 3, *The Eagle* listed campaign contributions made by Readlinger during the last five years. We found that Readlinger had given to both parties, including the party committees of Republican-controlled Somerset County and Democrat-run Union County, both of which have awarded his firm risk management contracts and exert an indisputable influence on local politics.

Even if the new risk manager will be bound by the new state pay-to-play legislation — which exempts insurance companies and only prohibits contributions from firms awarded contracts after Jan. 1, 2006 — the circumstances surrounding the decision to change firms does little to inspire confidence. Two new members of the governing body — Commissioners Michael Plick and Bob Puhak — were, in effect, expected to vote on a measure that had not been discussed openly in a year, a complicated insurance issue they had little or no information about. Interviews with one of Cranford's two outgoing commissioners indicate the change of broker from Bank of America — which does not donate to political campaigns as a matter of policy — to heavily connected Hale was not a decision they had anything to do with.

Unless the Democrats on the committee come clean about the decision, this has all the symptoms of a successful attempt to pull a proverbial "fast one."

Change is sweet

On Election Day 2005, the Democrats lost another seat on the Springfield Township Committee when Republican Steven Grau defeated then-mayor Sy Mullman by a vote of 2,563 to 2,238. Their control of the committee narrowed to a 3-2 margin.

While Grau's margin of victory against Mullman — 53 percent to 47 percent — was not overwhelming, it did affect a significant change in the committee. With two seats, the Republicans can second a motion and force a full vote.

At the township's reorganization meeting on New Year's Day, Grau was sworn in, and Clara Harelik was selected mayor for 2006. He indicated his victory over Mullman, a longtime committeeman, represented a change in voting trends in Springfield. Harelik welcomed Grau to the committee, but disagreed with his assessment of the election results. Grau and Harelik also could not see eye to eye on whether Republicans have been given opportunities to recommend their own candidates for board positions. It was a tumultuous start for the new Township Committee.

In November, Harelik said, "When a motion is made or a second is needed, the decision-making process should be what's best for Springfield, not by political party." While there will always be some disagreement by party affiliation, all committee members should go forward with that thought in mind, regardless of how long they have served.

As Aristotle once said, "Change in all things is sweet."

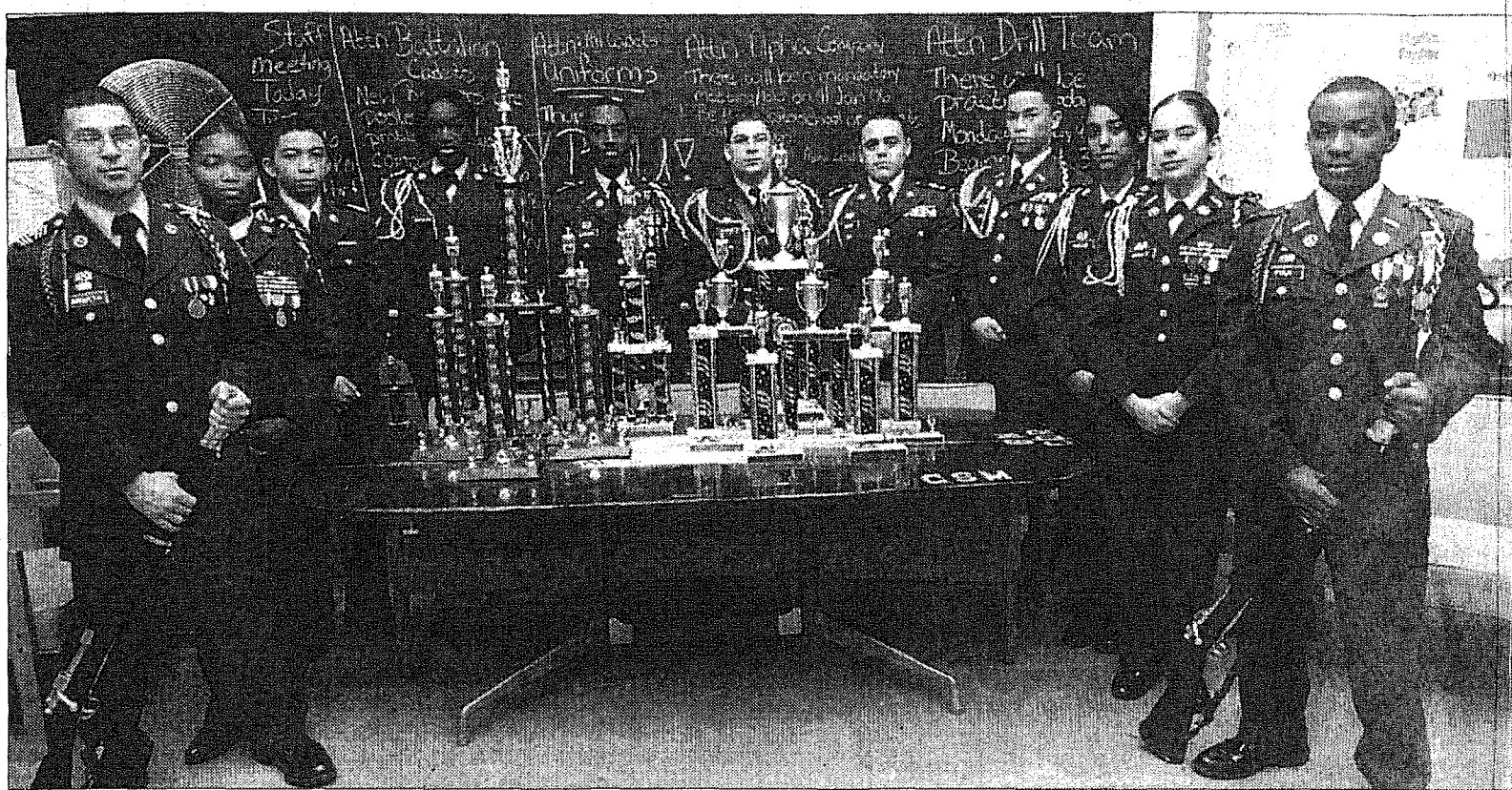
Keep the dream alive

There are few men in recent American history who have had as much of an impact on our nation as Martin Luther King Jr. Born in Atlanta, this son of a pastor never asked for the notoriety that found him. King, who himself became minister of a Baptist church in Montgomery, Ala., seemed destined to follow in his father's footsteps. However, the arrest of Rosa Parks soon made segregation a national issue, one in which King found himself very involved.

After leading the black boycott of segregated buses in 1955 and 1966, King gained prestige as a civil rights leader. Organizing the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, he soon pursued further civil-rights activities using his philosophy of nonviolent resistance. His march on Washington in 1963 brought together more than 200,000 people and, the following year, King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

In the mid-1960s, King's interests widened from civil rights to include criticism of the Vietnam War and a deeper concern regarding poverty. During a trip to Memphis, Tenn., in support of striking sanitation workers, King was shot and killed on April 4, 1968, before he'd had the chance to pursue his dreams of racial equity and social parity further.

However, King's dreams didn't end with his death, and much has been accomplished in the 38 years since. King's words and way of life have become a role model for others to emulate. Although there is still more to accomplish, King's dream of a nation where his children will "not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character" is on its way to becoming a reality.



WINNERS — Award-winning ROTC members from Union High School stand proudly with their trophies.

Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Corzine must continue sustainable development

With Gov.-elect Corzine coming into office facing a series of difficult, if well-known problems, such as corruption and property taxes, it is not inappropriate to dust off a perspective and some ideas that once were beginning to reach the forefront of public policy in New Jersey, but have been largely lost.

These ideas, described as sustainable development, have continued to evolve internationally, as well as very quietly in local pockets in New Jersey, and may have value in informing the resolution of better known problems. But even beyond this, a sustainable development perspective remains critical and must be restored and extended.

Sustainable development reminds us that the state can not lose sight of, and expect to be immune from, worsening global problems.

It offers the promise of some relatively easy creative solutions of which we have not taken sufficient advantage, while not promising we can forever avoid difficult-to-talk-about problems, either.

Many, but not all, sustainable development ideas involve the potential greening of the state's economy and the consequent environmental, economic and social gains that could be created.

Current state policy makers might argue that they indeed have developed sustainability-based initiatives. To a limited degree, this is true, but what is lacking is the explicit direction New Jersey once had — if imperfectly implemented — to use these concepts

Point Of View

By Matt Polsky

as a guiding mandate, a framework to consider how to make policies more sustainable, a function to keep up with, and contribute to, the evolving field and serve as an internal check on developing policies.

The governor-elect, in his now-ending position as one of our state's senators, has shown interest in this and related areas. Uniquely for an incoming governor, he has addressed a sustainable business conference, been the main Democratic voice on corporate governance, has visited Darfur and proposed legislation to formulate a better U.S. response and rose to the leadership of a company that just announced their financial services products will be more sustainable. It would be unfortunate if he neglects this interest because of a lack of vision by most constituencies, the continuance of a narrow perspective for seeking solutions, or a faulty assumption that this area is not relevant.

Many suggestions for policy areas to support a sustainable economy and state are possible.

The most important are: restore the Office of Sustainable Business, this time with some of its efforts devoted to promoting the internationally grow-

ing corporate social responsibility field; restore the environmental excellence track initiative to model how companies in a growing range of sectors could go increasingly beyond required levels of performance in exchange for negotiated levels of incentives; as California and New York State have done, the state's pension monies should be invested in socially responsible funds to a fiscally prudent degree, and actually implement aggressive state government purchasing of green products, beyond the historic buying of products made with recycled materials to products that are environmentally superior in their use of water, toxics, energy.

Other sustainability areas needed are: promote an increase in the number of municipalities that have accepted sustainability as their direction beyond the current eight; name representatives from sustainability-oriented organizations to boards; consider areas where behavioral changes need to be made in order to better deal with the state's problems, such as measures to reduce water consumption beyond just periods of drought, and draw from the social sciences on how to do this; while appropriate incentives will need to be considered, the direction of all new development should be toward green, environmentally sensitive buildings, and leadership in recycling needs to be restored by recreating the multi-dimensional approach we once had; state government, one of the creators of the New Jersey Sustainable State Institute, should restore its strong participation in it, as this Insti-

tute tries to re-establish itself as the independent group that sponsors public sessions to set sustainability benchmarks for the state, develops better indicators — measures of how environmentally friendly our economy is over time would be useful — and begins to do research on sustainability challenges.

International connections should be sought, too, and New Jersey citizens and institutions should be encouraged to make small, but not insignificant contributions toward resolving the problems of the developing countries that are so much worse than ours.

For instance, the recently announced interstate trading of carbon credits should be enhanced by allowing more flexibility for utilities to buy their credits from poor countries where these investments are both cheaper and could foster critically needed environmentally sensitive development — which, if it doesn't occur, will in the long run come back to haunt us.

Finally, if the sustainability field, even if taken seriously, is to become more than a successful boutique area, it needs to evolve and thought given to how it can contribute to the resolution of problems the media cover every day.

Matt Polsky is a volunteer sustainability catalyst for many organizations, local and international, including for business, non-profits, government and academia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Residents should attend town meetings

To the Editor:

Most Springfield residents and business owners are looking forward to a happy and productive year of activities that will benefit them, their families and our community.

Some factors will present a greater burden, such as the increased costs for heat, gasoline and electricity and, for most of us, a probable large hike in our property taxes. Most of these items are predicted to escalate a great deal because of the demands on worldwide oil production, particularly in China, India and other countries that have expanded their manufacturing facilities.

There is very little that we small-town New Jerseyans can do about this situation, with one exception, and that is in the area of continued increases of local property taxes.

We can all become more knowledgeable about the budgets on which our tax bills are being calculated right now by the Springfield Township Committee, the Springfield Board of Education and the Union County government.

An excellent way to easily learn more about these financial matters and to investigate ways of lowering taxes is to attend their meetings and listen. If you desire, you might ask questions about their expenditures. Their members might say the costs are necessary or "mandated" by the state of New Jersey. Can they prove it?

Will these governing bodies make an effective effort to reduce our local taxes? Will they follow the examples of America's large corporations that now share health-benefit costs with full-time employees and stop health benefits to part-time employees of approximately \$8,000 each per year? Will they eliminate longevity pay, adding an extra percentage of one's pay annually, based on the number of years of an individual's employment? Will they combine or eliminate certain jobs? Will they remove stipends and/or perks for related chores? Are the Springfield salary scales higher than those of similar socio-economic, nearby communities?

Of course, it takes certain fixed expenses to operate a business, municipality, county or school system, but with some prudent moves, cuts can surely be made. One does not have to be a certified public accountant to inquire about allocations of millions of dollars. A simple knowledge of basic arithmetic can ascertain the justification of a large expense or even a small line item in a budget.

The Springfield Township Committee meets at 8 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month and the Board of Education meets at 7:30 p.m.,

usually on the first and third Mondays of each month. If you attend these meetings, you will probably be enlightened and you may eventually save yourself and others some tax dollars.

Hazel Hardgrove
Springfield

Editor's note: Readers in other municipalities can find meeting dates, times and locations in the Community Calendar on Page 2.

After-school program is a plus

To the Editor:

I would like to congratulate those at the Springfield public schools for the fine job that they have been doing in the first year of the after-school program.

There were many doubts raised last summer as to whether it would be a quality program, and I can say for certain that it is. I have one son in Sandmeier School and another son in Walton and I could not be happier with keeping them at those two schools in the afternoon.

The staff is friendly and professional. They keep the children busy with activities, and they make sure the children do their homework, which for me is a big plus.

I hope in the future that more parents take advantage of this program. It is a definite plus to our community, and it should be allowed to continue.

Daniel Burke
Springfield

Was it really jealousy?

To the Editor:

The letter written by Harry Pappas in the Jan. 6 issue seemed more of someone being jealous than being concerned for a community. I think he wanted that job. Seems the envy is coming out because Mr. Pappas would not be appointed because of the majority vote on the Township Committee. Let's not forget that the last administrator, who was fired, was making much more than \$100,000 per year and had many more "perks" than Mr. Fanning. This also included a car and free gas. It was a smart move to hire someone in your own community. Remember, do not judge a book by its cover.

Louis S. Herkalo
Springfield

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Removing a grave injustice from New Jersey

On Dec. 12, 2005, the New Jersey Assembly finally acted to clarify this state's Charitable Immunity Act, making New Jersey a safer place for our children.

I would like to thank Speaker Albio Sires and Assembly Majority Leader Joseph Roberts for posting and supporting bill S540/A2512, Sen. Joseph Vitale and Assemblyman Neil Cohen for their endless pursuit of justice and for the overwhelming majority of Assembly members who voted to pass this bill.

The legislature has made a clear statement: charitable immunity laws passed in 1958 were never meant to enable institutions to become safe havens for sexual predators.

Only five members of the Assembly failed to put our children first and voted against the bill. These members are clearly out of step with their colleagues and their constituents who expect New Jersey's laws to protect children from sexual abuse. Though these assemblymen spoke about their sympathy for "victims of horrendous crimes," actions speak louder than words.

What bills have they introduced to protect those who were the victims of these institutions? What action have they taken to hold those who perpetrated such institutional abuse accountable?

Point Of View

By Mark Crawford

Assemblyman Michael Patrick Carroll asserted that charities could not be held accountable because they are "legal fictions which only exist in our minds," and concluded "you cannot punish that which does not exist." Tell that to the countless victims who were betrayed by these institutions which gave free reign to child molesters.

Of course, charitable organizations exist. We see examples of their good works everywhere; responsible charities serve the public interest well. But these institutions should not be held to a lower standard than we expect from the rest of society.

The horrific dark chapters of the Catholic clergy abuse scandal and the countless victims of the prestigious American Boy Choir School — the only two charities to oppose this bill — are just two examples of why New Jersey must act to protect its children. Good works can not excuse organizations from negligence when they have

quietly moved known sexual predators about our communities or have "looked the other way," enabling the sexual molestation of our children.

Abused children suffer lifelong consequences: shame, guilt, depression, addictions and sexual dysfunction are just a few. Some, unable to cope with the shame and betrayal, have taken their own lives. Our lawmakers have no more fundamental duty than to protect our children who are the most vulnerable of our society. Yet, these five lawmakers have chosen to protect the very institutions which have betrayed those entrusted to their care.

During debate on the bill, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan said, "Like it or not, the church acted within the law at the time." But Mr. Cryan got it dead wrong. When was it ever lawful to sexually molest a minor? Like it or not, Mr. Cryan, the assembly made it clear — without your vote — New Jersey's law was never intended to protect charitable organizations which enabled and protected child sex abusers.

Assemblyman Richard Merkert opposed this legislation because it would be applied retroactively. In 1992, recognizing that the sexual molestation of a child is such a horrific crime, our state legislature enacted the Child Sex Abuse Act. Acknowledging that child victims of sexual

abuse will often not recognize the connection between their abuse and the harm that was done, this law set the precedent for retroactively ensuring rights to victims of child sexual abuse. Why reverse this standard? Although our Constitution will not permit the application of criminal law retroactively, it has always allowed civil law to be applied in this manner.

On the same day the legislature voted to amend charitable immunity, the Assembly unanimously granted rights of recovery to people whose pets have been harmed. It is shameful that these five assemblymen voted against granting the same legal protections to child sex abuse victims as they had, just minutes earlier, for pet owners. What were they thinking?

For too many years, New Jersey has been a safe haven for organizations that harbor pedophiles. It is good to see our lawmakers restore justice and fix the law.

When Gov. Codey signs this bill it will effectively end charitable immunity as a pedophile protection policy and New Jersey will be a safer place for children.

Mark Crawford, a clergy abuse survivor, is director of www.Fix-TheLaw.org.

Freeholders reorganize



Photo By Sean Harvey

Linda Stender, 22nd District assemblywoman and a former freeholder, addresses newly elected Freeholder Chairman Al Mirabella at the reorganization meeting Sunday. See story Page 17.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Republican appointments not allowed

To the Editor:

After reading last week's *The Observer*, it appears congratulations are in order for Springfield's newest township committeeman, Steven Grau, for setting the record straight with Mayor Clara Harelik. During his comments on Jan. 1, Grau expressed his "beliefs that the Democrats were making political appointments and the Republicans on the committee were not given the opportunities to recommend their own candidates for board positions." An accurate and honest observation.

Harelik responded, "The Republican members of the committee had every opportunity to make their own suggestions for appointments, but had neglected to do so." How misleading, Mayor Harelik. Our very ambitious and very political mayor is fully aware it takes three votes for anyone to be appointed to any position in our community. There are five Township Committee members, three Democrats and two Republicans, and I'm told she knows how to add.

I would ask the three in the majority, Harelik, Deputy Mayor Ken Feigenbaum and Committeeman Mark Hurwitz, why they didn't request from Grau or the fifth committeeman, Harold Poltrock, qualified names of individuals for consideration. If the mayor was telling the truth when she said, "I intend to bring positive changes to Springfield in the year 2006," she would have invited the two minority Republican representatives to submit qualified individuals to serve our community.

Additionally, how can she not be called a hypocrite by first making this statement and then voting for a four-year appointment placing defeated Mayor Sy Mullman on the Planning Board? If this political appointment is what she considers a "positive change," it is *deja vu* all over again for Springfield in 2006.

Lastly, when the mayor stated she "always encourage people to attend Township Committee meetings," it really got to me. I'm no stranger to committee meetings and I must ask the mayor why anyone would want to sleep in a meeting when they can do so at home? Kidding aside, and in all fairness, let's give the Harelik, Feigenbaum and Hurwitz majority team the benefit of the doubt and wait and see how they cut spending and reduce taxes in 2006. Springfield has to lose the reputation of being the Neiman Marcus of governments in Union County.

Harry P. Pappas
Springfield

Support for education is appreciated

To the Editor:

On behalf of the township of Union Education Foundation, I would like to thank the entire community for their generous support of the Education Foundation in 2005.

With help and support from parents, businesses, teachers, administrators and, truly, the entire community, we were able to fund nine mini-grants to individual teachers and two large "macro-grants," which totaled more than \$15,000. Hundreds of our public school students will benefit from these grants. We thank the community for its support and hope all of Union will continue to be generous in 2006 by supporting the education of the children in our community.

On behalf of the township of Union Education Foundation and the children in our public schools, I thank you.

Susan Lipstein, president
Union Education Foundation.

Does county need more traffic?

To the Editor:

Before embarking on plans to enlarge the Parkway Circle at Interchange 135 and to create high-density residential development in Clark, does anybody in Clark, or Union County for that matter, want more traffic? It would seem that concerns over increasing traffic are almost universally held.

Going along with Parkway Authority plans to enlarge the circle interchange will ultimately increase overall traffic volumes in Clark and dump overflow traffic on to Valley Road and into Linden and Cranford. Presently, traffic on Brant Avenue backs up, because traffic has to yield to traffic on the circle and because the northbound Parkway traffic stops dead during the morning rush. At rush hours, local drivers avoid the circle like the plague and use Broadway or Liberty Street to get to Valley Road.

Likewise, people trying to get to Raritan Road at rush hour try to avoid using Brant Avenue or Valley Road at Interchange 135. Traffic on Interchange 135 at rush hour is predominantly Parkway related.

If the Parkway Circle is enlarged, drivers destined for the northbound Parkway will have a choice of waiting in line on Brant Avenue or following the path of least resistance on to Valley Road with the intention of entering the Parkway a mile further north at Interchange 136. If you were a driver in a rush in the morning, would you rather wait on Brant Avenue or would you rather keep moving?

Unfortunately, diverting Parkway traffic on to Valley Road will only put more traffic across Seton High School and through the school zones at Valley Road School and St. John the Apostle School. Why should Clark create heavy commuter traffic in three school zones by making Valley Road the path of least resistance? Does Interchange 136 at Cranford and Linden need more traffic?

Thinking that the presence of a former Union County manager at the Parkway Authority will somehow benefit Clark presumes that Clark and Union County interests are the same in this matter. For those of us old enough to remember, Union County had plans 35 years ago to put four traffic lanes along most of the length of Raritan Road. Having four traffic lanes on Raritan Road would have connected the Parkway Interchanges at 135 and 136 to the Martine Avenue Extension so that additional traffic volumes could flow via Terrill Road and Martine Avenue to and from Route 22.

The plan would have created a traffic bypass, so that some of the traffic that passes through the Route 22 and Parkway Interchange at Union would be diverted through Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Clark and Cranford. At the time, Clark had

to use all of its influence to get Union County to abandon its plans.

But those plans were apparently never completely abandoned. Over the years, portions of the Raritan Road roadway have been widened at various points at Central Avenue, Westfield Avenue and Madison Hill Road. The same goes for Oak Ridge Road at Lake Avenue. Enlarging Interchange 135 will only give the county enough traffic to justify implementation of its old plan to four lane Raritan Road, turning it into major connector road. If Union County really had a "friend" at the Parkway Authority, we would not be talking about enlarging Interchange 135 and bringing more traffic through the county. A "friend" at the Parkway Authority would be talking about opening a northbound entrance ramp on to the Parkway at Inman Avenue in Colonia, so that Parkway traffic from Rahway, Colonia and Edison would not have to funnel through Clark to access the Parkway.

Existing rush hour traffic volumes on Inman Avenue should certainly justify the expenditure of funds for an entrance ramp.

William T. Fidurski
Clark

Politics remains the norm in borough

To the Editor:

It didn't take Roselle Park residents long to see the type of political shenanigans that 5th Ward Councilman Bob Zeglarski and newly sworn in 1st Ward Councilman Larry DiNardo will be pulling this year.

Both Democrats voted no on appointments to longstanding Borough Attorney Bill Lane and three-year labor attorney Linda Niedweske at last week's reorganization meeting. Both did so without reason, explanation or comment. Just simply a politically motivated "no" when the currently employed names were called for reappointment.

Having had the privilege of working with Mr. Lane during my council tenure, I felt it necessary to comment on Zeglarski and DiNardo's politically motivated negative votes. Mr. Lane is an outstanding attorney who has served the borough for many years.

His work and opinions have been nothing short of flawless. The borough is fortunate to have a borough attorney like Mr. Lane in its employ. I didn't have the pleasure of working with Ms. Niedweske, but I've only heard good things about her.

Despite claiming in his reorganization speech that there needs to be integrity on the dais, Zeglarski showed none with his no vote in these two cases. Having had his law degree for all of 10 minutes, he should feel fortunate he has the opportunity to work with an experienced attorney like Mr. Lane. Frankly, if he moved his huge political ego out of the way, he might just learn a thing or two from Mr. Lane. Most likely three.

DiNardo's first impression left me, as a former 1st Ward councilman, dismayed. To follow Zeglarski's lead on the two votes only proved to residents that he will not be his own man on the dais.

Hopefully that will change and he will find a way to remove himself from the political web that Zeglarski is apparently trying to weave here in Roselle Park. First Ward residents deserve nothing less than a representative who will serve them, not the Democratic chairman in town.

There's no doubt that Zeglarski's vicious attacks on Councilman at Large Ricky Badillo during the last six months sickened most residents of the borough. Many who initially supported Zeglarski's run for 5th Ward councilman now can't wait for the opportunity to vote "no," should he run for re-election or for the seat of mayor this November.

The political votes last week should only reinforce what most people know in town: that Bob Zeglarski and his devious politics have no place on the Roselle Park Borough Council.

Bob Milici
Cranford

We don't represent these solicitors

To the Editor:

I would like to make the general public, business owners, government and law officials aware of a situation that is negatively affecting our organization, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County and possibly other NJ Boys and Girls Clubs.

We have confirmed that a number of children have been soliciting residents and businesses throughout Union County by selling candy bars representing themselves as members and raising this money on behalf of and in support of the Boys and Girls Clubs.

I am writing this letter to inform the general public, business owners and government officials that these children do not represent the Boys and Girls Clubs. Our organization does not raise funds through a door-to-door solicitation of any kind and certainly not through the use of children.

My message is: If in the future you are asked, whether at a shopping mall, residence or business, to purchase or make any donation to a group that says it is raising funds for the Boys and Girls Clubs, please call our offices immediately at 908-687-7976, ext. 101, and report them to local law enforcement officials.

Our organization's 50-year reputation is important to us and our clients and we will not stand for this type of misrepresentation of a good name and this exploitation of children.

Russell Triolo, chief executive officer
Boys and Girls Clubs of Union County

Thank you to those who helped us

To the Editor:

During the evening of Dec. 19, my husband suffered severe respiratory distress and required emergency help. Within minutes of calling 9-1-1, Springfield Police Officer Martin Costello, members of the Springfield First Aid Squad and Overlook Paramedics responded.

Heartfelt thanks to all, for their dedicated service, especially for their consideration of my husband's special needs, and for their understanding.

Joanne Savia
Springfield

Clark's taste of the towns a success

To the Editor:

On Dec. 12, the Arthur L. Johnson Booster Club sponsored its second "Santaguida Taste of the Town" — the brainchild of ALJ Principal Bob Taylor — in which close to 400 patrons from our local community gathered at the Gran Centurions in support of our local high school athletes.

Named after former ALJ Sports Athletic Director Tom Santaguida, restaurants from Clark and surrounding towns showcased their special dishes to the delight of the attendees. Proceeds from the event will go toward providing additional funds for all ALJ sports programs, as well as providing scholarships for four deserving student athletes.

I am pleased to report that the event proved a huge success. More than \$8,000 was raised due to the unconditional support of specific restaurants and vendors.

Thanks also to our community of supporters who by your attendance made the event the success it was. Happy new year to all.

ALJ Booster Club President Chris DeLauro
Clark

A debt and debt service tutorial

To the Editor:

The growth of Summit's municipal debt and debt service is difficult to understand for those who are trying to learn more about Summit's financial condition. This provides a tutorial that is not meant to agree or disagree with the Summit's Common Council's official actions on capital expenditures.

The city of Summit issues all bonds, whether they are for municipal infrastructure or school construction purposes. The school debt service portion is included in the city's budget and paid by the city, but is included as a separate item on the tax bill as school debt service.

Summit's total debt increased from \$37.9 million in 1994 to \$66.3 million at the end of 2004. This is an increase of 74 percent. The total debt of \$66.3 million includes principal and interest of both the city municipal infrastructure of \$29.1 million and school debt of \$37.2 million.

To care for the debt service for all city bonds, the municipal budget approved by the Common Council includes both the municipal infrastructure debt service and school debt services. The total debt service is increasing faster than the city budget growth, as shown in the increase from 12.3 percent of the budget in 1994 to 17.1 percent in 2004.

Within this period of 10 years, the city municipal budget, including the school debt service, increased from \$25.5 million in 1994 to \$35.9 million in 2004, an increase of 41 percent or 3.5 percent per year.

Summit's bonds for city infrastructure have increased from \$15.4 million at the end of 1994 to \$29.1 million at the end of 2004, an increase of 89 percent. There has been a considerable amount of improvements — downtown, parking garage, municipal pool, Memorial Field, etc.

The municipal infrastructure debt service between 1994 and 2004 was 10 percent of the budget. In the 2005 budget, it was also 10 percent. Between 1994 and 2004, municipal debt service increased at the same rate as the budget growth of 3.5 percent per year. Looking only at Summit's municipal infrastructure debt service, it was \$3.5 million in 2005 and will not decrease below \$3 million after 2007, if the city does not sell any additional bonds.

But Summit's Common Council has approved future capital expenditures such as Tatlock Field and the Glenside Avenue property and is considering additional turf fields and improvements of the Transfer Station property with playing fields. Summit's debt is already scheduled to increase with the approval of the \$16.9 million for school construction. Therefore, Summit's debt service will increase and may take a greater portion of the budget than the current 17 percent, which includes both municipal and school.

It is difficult for taxpayers to keep track of how Summit's total debt service is handled. Although the total debt is the city's debt, only the municipal infrastructure portion of the debt service is bundled in the municipal tax rate of Summit's tax bill. The school portion is listed separately on the tax bill.

This tutorial is meant to help you to understand Summit's debt and debt service 10 years ago, now and probably its direction in the future.

John A. Hirner
Summit

Plick and Puhak off to a good start

To the Editor:

Cranford's newly sworn in Republican Township Committeemen Michael Plick and Robert Puhak are to be commended for hitting the ground running at the first meeting of the year and voting no on the appointment of the Hale Insurance Brokerage as Cranford's risk management consultants replacing the Bank of America.

During their fall campaign, Plick and Puhak made a point of discussing the influence the Democratic-controlled county government has been exerting on the local municipal governing bodies that are either fully democratic or where democrats are in the majority.

It should be noted Donald Readlinger of Hale Insurance is Union County's insurance broker of record writing some hefty business. It should be further noted that, for the period of April 2003 through June 2005 alone, Donald, Cynthia and Rachel Readlinger, along with Sharon and Ellen Hale, all listing Hale Insurance as their employer, contributed \$49,390 to the campaign coffers of the Union County Democratic Committee. Could it be that Plick and Puhak are definitely on to something here? After all, who hands over that kind of money not expecting something in return?

It is just too bad these two are outnumbered.

Patricia Quattrocchi
Garwood

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 Friday 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.

'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 per-

son 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.

Register for Springfield YMCA spring programs

Registration for Spring I programs at the Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave., 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 basketball 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 volleyball 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

Saturday from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Summit YMCA, 67 Maple St.

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

Ice rink returns

This winter, the ice rink on Mountainside's municipal tennis courts will again be open for skating, dependent on cold weather. Located on courts number three and four, the ice rink is lighted for nighttime skating.

Once the cold sets in, the ice rink will be open Mondays through Thursdays from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., Fridays from 3:30 to 7 p.m., Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Rink hours may change due to weather conditions. The ice rink will be open earlier in the day during the week if weather conditions permit.

The ice rink must be closed for maintenance at certain times, so call the Recreation Office "Cold Line" at 908-232-0015 for daily information.

A supervisor will be on duty on Friday nights, Saturdays and Sundays. A warming fire will be provided when the supervisor is on duty.

Children younger than 10 years of age must have an adult present while skating.

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

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.

Kids Night Out

The Springfield Recreation Department will host a Kids Night Out on Saturday 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.

Kids' bowling leagues to be formed

The Springfield Recreation Department will offer weekly bowling leagues for children grades pre-K to five on Wednesday afternoons from 4 to 5 p.m. at Plaza Lanes in Madison.

The eight-week program will run from March 15 to May 5. All children must be accompanied by an adult and have their own transportation to and from the bowling alley.

The leagues include the Bumper Division for grades prekindergarten to one, the Little Leaguers for grades two to three, and the Rock and Rollers for grades four to five.

OBITUARIES

Sylvia Weiner

Sylvia Weiner, 83, of Hillsborough, formerly of Springfield, a 1930s band singer, died Dec. 29 in the Haborside, Bridgewater.

Born in Newark, Mrs. Weiner lived in Springfield for more than 40 years and in Lakewood and Boca Raton, Fla., before moving to Hillsborough last year. She performed with the Harry James Band in the late 1930s.

Surviving are two sons, Gary and Mitchell; a brother, Samuel Coleman; a sister, Dorothy Saffer, and a grandchild.

Alfred Harter

Alfred F. Harter, 82, of Mountainside died Jan. 3 in the Fellowship Village, Basking Ridge.

Born in Wuppertal, Germany, Mr. Harter came to the United States as a child and lived in Newark before moving to Mountainside in 1965. He was a chemical engineer and the vice president of engineering at the GAF Corp. in Linden and Wayne before retiring in 1983. Mr. Harter was an Army veteran of World War II and a member of the American Chemical Society. He was a member of the Masons and a representative for the American Association of Retired Persons, Mountainside chapter.

Surviving are a son, Peter; a daughter, Nancy, and his companion, Anne Schell.

Nicholas Mastro

Nicholas J. Mastro, 77, of Huffman, Texas, formerly of Summit, died Jan. 3 in Kingwood Medical Center, Kingwood, Texas.

Born in Derby, Conn., Mr. Mastro lived in Summit and Basking Ridge for 28 years before moving to Huffman six months ago. He was a technician at N.J. American Water Co., Short Hills, for 35 years before retiring in 1991. Mr. Mastro was a Navy veteran and served until November 1946. He was a member of the American Legion in Stirling. Mr. Mastro also belonged to the Stirling Elks, the Italian-American Club in Summit and the National Rifle Association.

Surviving are his wife, Josephine; a daughter, Janice Redmond; a son, Anthony J. Tiano; a sister, Angelina Del Mastro; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Theresa Conroy

Theresa B. Conroy, 98, of Summit died Jan. 6 in the Glenside Nursing Home, New Providence.

Born in Leitrim, Ireland, Mrs. Conroy lived in Summit for many years. She was a pediatric nurse at Babies Hospital, New York City, before retiring. Mrs. Conroy graduated from

Babies Hospital in 1926, where she received a degree as a registered nurse.

She was a member of the St. Teresa of Avila Church Rosary Club, the 60-Plus Club at St. Teresa Church and the Senior Citizens Club at the Senior Citizens House, all of Summit. Mrs. Conroy also was a member of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Surviving are two daughters, Mary Elizabeth Ruppert and Therese Zotti; a son, Michael; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Donna Marie Santiago

Donna Marie Santiago, 51, of Springfield died Jan. 6 in Overlook

Hospital, Summit.

Born in Miami Beach, Fla., Mrs. Santiago lived in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for 16 years before moving to Springfield last year. She was a waitress in Pumpnick's Restaurant, Miami Beach, for one year.

Surviving are a son, Anthony Luzba Jr.; her mother, Lorraine Dowling; a brother, Robert Dowling; two sisters, Deborah Del Viscovo and Lorraine Rotonda, and three grandchildren.

Edward Wade Jr.

Edward H. Wade Jr., 77, of Springfield died Jan. 6 in the Atlantic Home Care and Hospice, Morristown.



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EVENTS

Brass quintet to play

In its first appearance in Summit, the award-winning brass quintet Main Street Brass will perform Sunday at 3 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave.

The ensemble, based in Lehigh Valley, Pa., will present dance music, such as polkas and swing, and music by Sir Arthur Sullivan, opera airs, twentieth century tunes and folk songs.

A free will offering will be collected at the concert, but there is no charge for admission.

Funding for the concert has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

For more information, call 908-723-1736.

Parenting workshops to be offered

A series of workshops called "Parenting for the Positive" will take place on Sunday, Jan. 22 and 29 at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit.

These workshops will give parents new approaches to old problems, including helping children deal with their feelings, ways to inspire cooperation, how to set limits in behavior, creative ways to solve problems with children, and how to listen to children.

Leigh Rosoff will lead the workshops. A certified parenting instructor, Rosoff has 30 years of experience as a parenting counselor. She teaches classes for parents at schools and community organizations.

Each week's session, which begins at 9 a.m., is designed to stand alone. The format includes a presentation and discussion, with opportunities for parents to ask questions.

No registration is necessary. A \$5 donation per week is requested to defray expenses.

Child care will be provided.

For more information, call 908-277-1814.

Professor to speak about poverty

Temple Sinai, 208 Summit Ave., Summit, will host a lecture by Dr. Lawrence Mead at 8 p.m. on Jan. 20.

Mead, a professor of politics at New York University, will discuss the causes and possible solutions to abolishing poverty in the United States, some of the worst of which the world witnessed during Hurricane Katrina.

He is an expert on the problems of poverty and welfare in the United States. Among academics, he was the principal exponent of work requirements in welfare, the approach that now dominates national policy. Mead is also a leading scholar of the politics and implementation of welfare reform programs. His works have helped shape welfare reform in the United States and abroad.

Mead has consulted with federal, state, and local governments in this country and with several foreign countries. He testifies regularly to Congress on poverty, welfare, and social policy, and he often comments on these subjects in the media.

Temple Sinai welcomes everyone regardless of religious affiliation or belief.

For more information, call 908-273-4921 or access www.templeisraelnj.org.

Nets tickets available

Tickets to the Nets versus Celtics game scheduled for Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Continental Airlines Arena may be obtained by contacting the Springfield Recreation Hall, 30 Church Mall.

A pair of Nets retro replica kid's shorts will be offered with each ticket.

For more information, call 973-912-2227 or access springfieldrecreation@yahoo.com.

Kent Place Gallery to showcase art exhibit

The Kent Place Gallery is showcasing the work of artist Tim Trelease in an exhibit titled "The Midnight Zone," running 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 manipu-

lation 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 Friday 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 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 fencing exhibition is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. A wrestling match with Sparta will be at 4:30 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 younger and may be mailed to 1 Highpoint Drive, Mountainside 07092.

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

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 Buscicula at 908-508-1210.

Find peace and joy

The Women's Issues Group of SAGE Eldercare will host speaker Lisa Athan, M.A., presenting "Women in Transition - Finding Peace and Joy in our Daily Lives" on Jan. 19 at 10 a.m. at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad St., Summit.

This free program is open to local area women of all ages.

"This workshop will help women become aware of the attitudes and outlooks we walk around with everyday, how they affect the choices we make about what we do, and how we do it," says Athan. "I will highlight the difference between motivation, which is the power to do something we may not want to do, and inspiration, which is the power to overcome obstacles and do something that our inner spirit is guiding us to do — something that we really want to do that would fulfill our passion and purpose, and help us express 'who we really are.' I believe there is a great source of energy, passion and joy within each of us that is ready to be expressed."

Athan has a master's degree in counseling and has been a motivational speaker on spiritual and health topics for more than 15 years.

This program is free. Refreshments will be served beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Registration is suggested, though walk-ins are welcome.

For more information, call Suzanne Lyon at 908-598-5514.

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.

'MomSense' to be presented 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 a message by e-mail to tickets@waltonplayground.com.

PUBLIC NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

COUNTY OF UNION, NJ

Pursuant to the New Jersey Public Meetings Act, Public Laws of 1975, Chapter 231, the Regular Meetings of the Township Committee are held in the Committee Room, Municipal Building; the Monday Workshop Meetings are held in the Municipal Annex Building.

The year 2006 Meeting Dates are as follows:

JANUARY		
9th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
10th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
23rd Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
24th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
FEBRUARY		
14th Tuesday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
14th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
27th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
28th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
MARCH		
13th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
14th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
24th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
28th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
APRIL		
10th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
11th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
24th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
25th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
MAY		
8th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
9th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
22nd Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
23rd Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
JUNE		
12th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
13th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
26th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
27th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
JULY		
10th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
11th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
24th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
25th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
AUGUST		
14th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
15th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
28th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
29th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
SEPTEMBER		
11th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
12th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
25th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
26th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
OCTOBER		
10th Tuesday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
10th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
23rd Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
24th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
NOVEMBER		
13th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
14th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
27th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
28th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
DECEMBER		
11th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
12th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.
26th Monday	Work Shop Session	7:00 p.m.
28th Tuesday	Regular Meeting	8:00 p.m.

Workshop Sessions are held prior to each Regular Meeting at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

Any changes or additions to this calendar will be announced pursuant to the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act.

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, Township Clerk

U134407 OBS January 12, 2006 (\$66.00)

STA presents donation to first aid squad



Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad President Mark Koernig, left, accepts a contribution to the squad from Bob Wolfenbarger and John Hirner, on behalf of the Summit Taxpayers Association. The squad is an independent organization that performs a valuable service to city residents without taking their tax dollars. We felt it was important to assist them," said former STA president Wolfenbarger. The STA is a non-partisan group of city residents who strive to keep property taxes affordable by watching over local affairs.

Police chief offers pedestrian safety tips

SUMMIT — 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 indicated his 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 corners, 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 car-

ries 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 Busi-

ness 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 MEETING NOTICE

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE

BE IT RESOLVED that the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountainside does hereby schedule its monthly meetings as follows for 2006:

	WORK SESSION	REGULAR MEETING
January	10	17
February	14	21
March	14	21
April	11	18
May	9	16
June	13	20
July	11	18
August	8	15
September	12	19
October	10	17
November	21	28
December	12	19

Reorganization Meeting: Tuesday, January 2, 2007

U134465 OBS January 12, 2006 (\$17.26)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

COUNTY OF UNION, NJ

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.

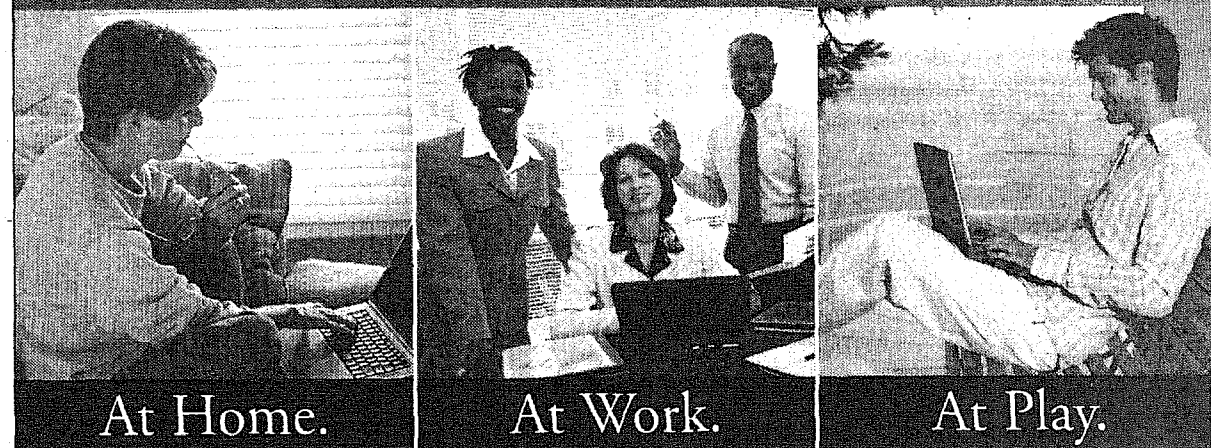
New Year's Day	Monday	January	2nd
Martin Luther King Jr.	Monday	January	16th
Lincoln's Birthday	Monday	February	13th
President's Day	Monday	February	20th
Good Friday	Friday	April	14th
Memorial Day	Monday	May	29th
Independence Day	Tuesday	July	4th
Labor Day	Monday	September	4th
Columbus Day	Monday	October	9th
Election Day	Tuesday	November	7th
Veteran's Day	Friday	November	10th
Thanksgiving Day	Thursday	November	23rd
Day after Thanksgiving	Friday	November	24th
Christmas	Monday	December	25th

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC
Township Clerk

U134444 OBS January 12, 2006 (\$18.76)

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SENIOR NEWS

Old Guard to present talk on railroad ideas

Can you imagine hurtling on top of a speeding train relying on a multitude of springs to cushion you from the disastrous effects of a head-on collision, or riding on a train propelled by repeated explosions of gunpowder? "Crazy Railroad Inventions" will be the topic of Tony Bianculli's illustrated talk to the Summit Old Guard at its Tuesday meeting.

Bianculli, a mechanical engineer, formerly involved with product design and management at RCA and a life-long student of railroading history, will describe patented, preposterous ideas never built.

He is a member of the National Railway History Society, and the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society. Bianculli is a life fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Retired men are invited to attend meetings of the Old Guard of Summit on Tuesday mornings at 10 a.m., preceded by an informal coffee hour at 9:30 a.m., at the New Providence Municipal Building, 360 Elkwood Ave.

Old Guard members participate in organized bridge, golf, walks and trips to shows, museums, gardens and other interesting places.

For more information, call Earl Gilkey, membership chairperson at 908-464-2480 or log on to the Web site www.summitoldguard.home-stead.com.

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.

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.

Free income tax assistance available

SAGE Eldercare, a major community resource providing services for the elderly, is pleased to announce free income tax assistance to senior citizens living in SAGE's service areas of Union, Essex, Morris and Somerset counties.

John McDonnell, a trained volunteer counselor of the AARP Tax Aide Program, will be at SAGE Eldercare, 290 Broad St., Summit, on Thursdays between Feb. 16 and April 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Appointments are necessary and can be made by calling Ellen McNally, SAGE InfoCare director, at 908-598-5509. Space is limited, so interested parties are encouraged to make an appointment as soon as possible.

Participants should bring copies of appropriate materials including real estate tax bills, Social Security statements, W-2 forms, 1099 forms and last year's tax return.

SAGE Eldercare's income tax assistance program is offered free of charge. Coffee and tea will be available.

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 currently 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.

Correction policy

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to our attention.

If you believe that we have made such an error, write Tom Canavan, editor in chief, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union 07083, or call him at 908-686-7700, ext. 129 weekdays before 5 p.m.

Handcrafter Group donates



Sandra Reppert and Speedy of the Special Wishes Foundation accept both handmade and new clothing donations from Helen Mulholland and Gisela Groiss of the Handcrafter Group of the Women's Association of the Community Presbyterian Church of Mountainside. The foundation helps struggling families stay together by supplying groceries and other needed items. The Handcrafter Group consists of volunteers whose projects help various organizations.

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 AHM 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. 973-376-0539. Mark Mallach, Rabbi. Richard Nadel, Cantor. Marilyn Garlen, President. Beth Ahm 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 359 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/Maariv 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 bar/bat 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, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office, (973) 379-5387.

LUTHERAN

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 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. Kirsch, 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 of Pastors Gina or Rich Hendrickson, Senior Co-Pastors for more information at 908 277-1700.

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 a.m. 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, 973-379-4320. 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 worship, Christian Education, Choir, ongoing

church activities, and Fellowship. Holy Communion is held the 1st Sunday of every month; The Ladies Evening Group 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; Kaffeeklatsch-1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Men's Fellowship-2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m.; Choir-every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We also host various outdoor group meetings: Springfield Garden Club, Children's Community Choir, Learning Disabled Group, and Alanon. For information about any of our programs or services, call Geselle at the Church Office: 973-379-4320, Mon. through Fri., 9:00 a.m.-12 noon; 1:00pm-4:00pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC

THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 300 Central Avenue, Mountainside, 908-232-1162. Celebrate the Lord's Day: Anticipated Mass 5:00pm. Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am. Weekdays: Monday-Friday 7:30am, Saturday 8:00am. Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday at 1pm. Perpetual Adoration Chapel for personal prayer and devotion. www.ollmountainside.org, office@ollmountainside.org

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081-973-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon. Reconciliation: Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 & 8:00 a.m.

UNITARIAN-UNIVERSALIST

UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT, 4 Waldron Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901. 908-273-3245. www.usummit.org. Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Minister, Emily Boggis, Assistant Minister, Mitchell Vines, Music and Choir Director. Sunday Services and religious education classes at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Adult Education and other programs.

NOTE: All copy changes must be made in writing and received by Worral Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays prior to the following week's publication.

Please address changes to:

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Worral Community Newspapers
1291 Stuyvesant Ave.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006

Priore is on top of game

Rahway, Eliz. champ focused

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

Anthony Priore broke through last year with his first Union County Tournament championship.

This year, the standout Johnson junior wrestler also has his eyes on winning his first district and region crowns.

"I want to go further than I ever have so far," Priore said Monday night, at that time owner of an 8-0 mark at 119 this year and of a lifetime record of 63-8. Priore fashioned a 55-8 record at 103 his first two seasons.

Johnson was scheduled to wrestle Rutgers Prep and Matawan Tuesday at home and was to face Bound Brook on the road last night. Johnson's next scheduled match is Plainfield home Saturday morning at 11.

"I just want to keep working hard and keep getting better and try to do my best," Priore said.

Johnson's top wrestler since the beginning of the 2003-2004 season, Priore finished 26-5 as a freshman two years ago, placing second in the UCT, second in District 11 and second in Region 3.

In his very first appearance in the NJSIAA Tournament, Priore was defeated in his first match. Still, he had an outstanding season.

As a sophomore last season, Priore did even better, posting a 29-3 mark that saw him go undefeated until the District 12 final.

Priore won Rahway and Elizabeth tournaments before capturing his first UCT crown by beating Peter Terrezza of New Providence 15-0, technical fall at 5:18, in the 103 final.

"Having been in the final the year before really helped me adjust to the atmosphere," Priore said.

Johnson moved from District 11 to District 12 last year. In the 103 final, Priore was edged by Patrick Hunter of host South Plainfield 6-5.

"I thought District 12 was a better group of teams," Priore said. "Even though I took second, I felt confident about my wrestling abilities and felt good going into the regions."

In Region 3 at Union, Priore was edged by eventual 103 winner Frank Perrelli of Delbarton 3-2 in the semifinals. Priore's season came to an end when he was downed by Mike Sarfati of North Plainfield 7-5 in the third-place match.

"The competition was tougher in Region 3 last year," said Priore, who lost twice by one point and once by two points in 2005.

"You can take third in the districts and end up winning in the states, I've seen it happen," Priore said. "It's a matter of how you feel about yourself and how you go into a tournament."

Priore, who trains at The Edge in Kenilworth, repeated as a Rahway and Elizabeth tourney champ this season and also beat his Rahway counterpart in a dual match in between.

After beating Greg Zannetti of J.P. Stevens 2-0 in the Rahway Tournament 119 final in late December - Priore beat Zannetti 7-2 in the 103 final last season - Priore pinned Brenno Martins of Rahway in 1:56 of their 119 match last Thursday in Rahway.

Rahway won the match 53-17 to improve to 4-0, with Priore's victory one of just four Johnson wins.

At last Saturday's Elizabeth Minutemen Classic, Priore won a 4-2 double overtime decision over James Soprano of Belleville in the 119 final.

The next UCT is three weeks from tomorrow - Feb. 3 and 4 at Union.

Last year's 119 champ, Joe Blackford of Roselle Park, has graduated. Priore is one of six returning champs.

"A lot of wrestlers, like myself, moved up in weight class," Priore said. "You have to keep fresh because the competition will be tougher."

Last year's second-place finisher at 119 - Sal Gano of Scotch Plains - is back at 119. Priore vs. Gano could be the 119 championship bout this year.

Priore, who seeks to continue wrestling in college, is satisfied with his start so far this year, but is also still working hard to improve.

"I'm working on the mental aspect of wrestling," Priore said. "I'm trying to stay more focused and sticking with what I have to do."

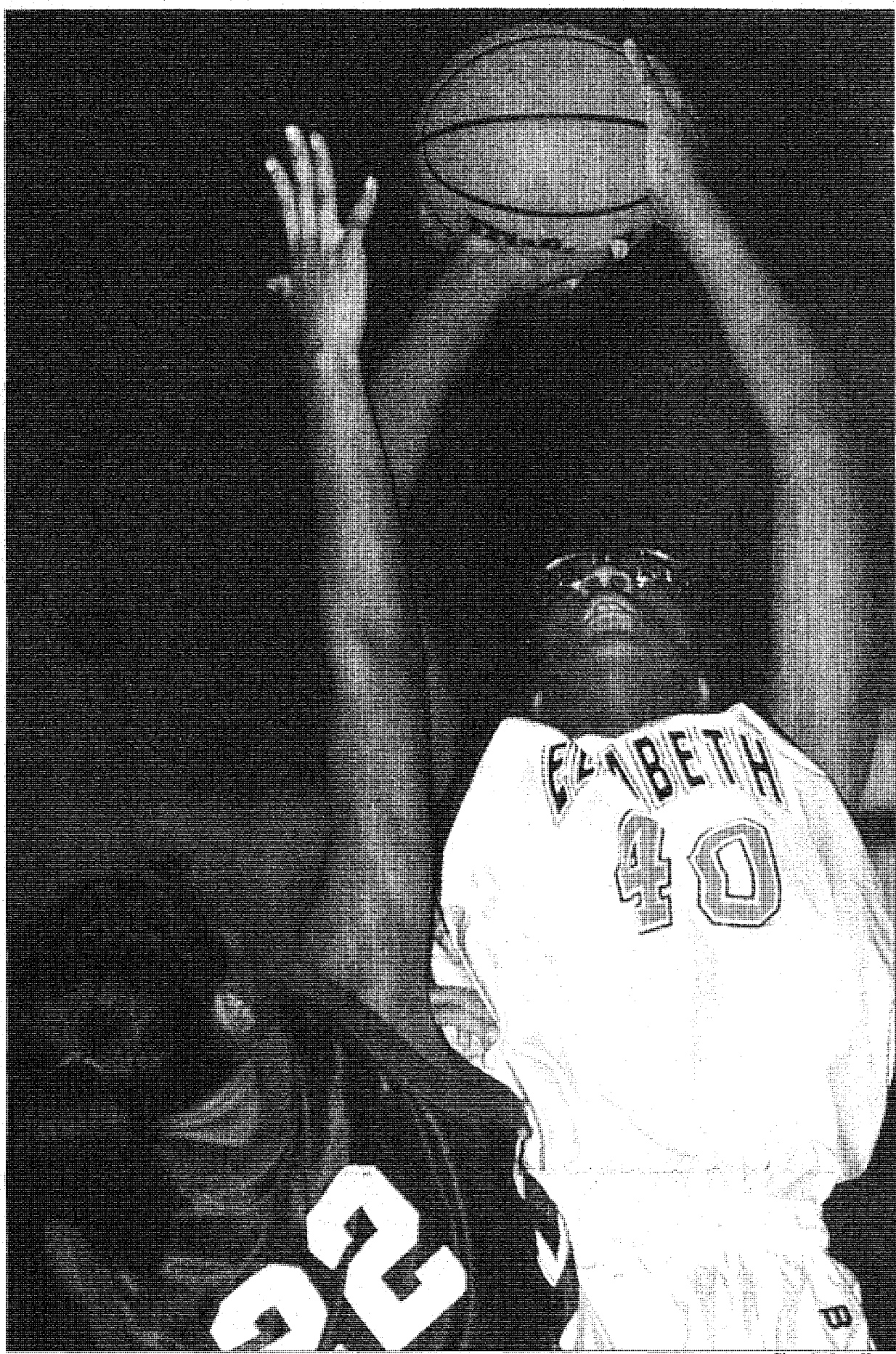


Photo by Sean Harvey

Union, sparked by Tatiana Jarvis (No. 22), and Elizabeth, led by Quiana Porter (No. 40), will meet again Feb. 23 at 4 p.m. in Union. The Farmers, who beat the Minutemen by a score of 38-24 last Saturday at the Dunn Sport Center, began the week at 5-3. Elizabeth began the week at 1-6.

Union girls' lifted by play of standouts Johnson, Jarvis

Elizabeth excited about having Carmona back

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH - Johnson and Jarvis. It just rolls off the tongue.

RoRo Johnson is the veteran player, a four-year starter for the Farmers. Tatiana Jarvis is the pupil, just getting her feet wet at the varsity level.

The dynamic duo are the secret to Union's success this winter and helped put the Farmers at 5-3 after a convincing 38-24 victory over Elizabeth last Saturday afternoon in Watchung Conference-American Division play at the Dunn Sport Center.

Johnson led all scorers with a 16-point effort and was an impressive 10-of-14 from the free throw line.

Javis chipped in with 10 points of her own, converting four of six from the charity stripe. She also did well to bring down 10 rebounds.

"Both girls bring something different to the table," Union head coach Justin Meyer said. "Johnson is a big-time player and has had the ball in her hands for the past three seasons. Jarvis is still coming into her own, but is averaging over 14 points per game and is one of the best defensive players around."

In addition to her abilities on the court, Jarvis has the attitude of a winner despite her young age.

"It doesn't matter that I am just a freshman," Jarvis said. "High school basketball is definitely harder, but I feel like nothing can stop me."

It was evident that Elizabeth could not stop the Farmers last weekend. Union built a 19-10 lead at the half and continued to control the game during the final 16 minutes.

Union's third win in a row came after victories over Monroe in the Redbird Hoopfest at Allentown Dec. 29 and at Plainfield in conference play Jan. 3.

The Farmers seek win No. 6 today at Cranford at 4 p.m. The Cougars entered last night's non-conference home game against Lincoln of Jersey City with a 6-2 record and two-game winning streak.

Cranford defeated Union twice in two tries last year, first winning 33-31 in the Rams Roundball Festival in Randolph. The second win was a 33-30 decision in Cranford 15 days later.

The Minutemen enter today's scheduled 4 p.m. home game against Kearny with a record of 1-6.

Despite Elizabeth's rough start to the season, there is reason for optimism in Minutemen country.

Sophomore Nidia Carmona, who was out of the country when the season commenced last month, will be back this afternoon when Elizabeth takes on the Cardinals in conference play.

The 5-2 point guard should add an instant spark to the Minutemen and help the team scratch out some much-needed victories.

"Nidia does it all for us," Elizabeth head coach Marc Mitchell said. "She handles the ball, rebounds, assists and scores. She is our leader and we will be instantly better when she comes back."

NOTES: Elizabeth has made the states 11 seasons in a row, from 1995-2005. The Minutemen will have to start winning in a hurry to qualify once again in North 2, Group 4.

The state playoff cutoff date is three weeks from this Saturday - Feb. 4.

Elizabeth is at Scotch Plains Saturday at 1 p.m., at Shabazz Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. and hosts Oak Knoll Jan. 21 at 1 p.m.

Elizabeth's first win was a 37-18 triumph at Newark East Side Jan. 3. Freshman Tasza Carter had a solid game with a game-leading 14 points and five assists. Senior Gheree Flagler scored eight points and pulled down nine rebounds.

Carter had nine points against Union.

Javis had 16 points and Johnson 12 points and 10 assists in Union's 51-27 win over Monroe. Union went 1-1 in the Redbird Hoopfest, falling to Delran by a score of 47-39 in its first contest.

Union was upset by Plainfield last year and did not make the grade in North 2, Group 4. The Farmers are off to a good start to get back to the states.

Union roster: RoRo Johnson, senior; Angela Nascondiglio, sophomore; Angeliat Mobley, senior; Sophia Iloh, senior; Tatiana Jarvis, freshman, Shaquana Williams, senior; 1. Silas, sophomore; Anna Hall, senior; Rebecca Morgan, freshman; Keri Bohse, sophomore; Ashley Simonson, junior; Jasmine Smith, junior; Amirah Cardin, junior; Brittani Carter, senior.

Elizabeth roster: Tasza Carter, freshman; Gheree Flagler, senior; Jessica Cavaco, senior; Halimah Reed, senior; Diana Porter, junior; Quiana Porter, sophomore; Kara Machison, junior; Shanique Wylue, sophomore; Stephanie Feliciano, junior; Jalessa Dockery, junior; Nidia Carmona, sophomore.

Hillside girls' are making comeback

Oliver, Isom spark Comets

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

A comeback of sorts by the Hillside girls' basketball team is in the works. The Comets began the week with a 4-5 record and were just two wins shy of equaling last season's victory total. Hillside hoped to even its record with a win at Oak Knoll Tuesday afternoon. The Comets host Roselle Catholic today at 4 p.m. in another big Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division clash.

The two met for the first time on Dec. 22 in Roselle, with RC coming out with a 41-36 triumph for its first win in three tries. Hillside got to 4-5 with impressive home wins over Union Catholic and Perth Amboy. First came a 28-27 hold-on-for-dear-life win over the Vikings Friday, followed by a more comfortable 41-39 victory over a Middlesex County opponent Saturday.

Wins against Union Catholic do not come often, although the Comets were able to split with the Vikings last year. Just a few years ago Hillside lost by 30 to Union Catholic.

So, last week's win over the Vikings can be viewed as nice upset victory. "Our goal is to get six more wins to at least be .500 so we can make the states," fourth-year Hillside head coach Rahim Graham said.

Hillside made the states Graham's first two seasons at the helm, qualifying in North Jersey, Section 2, Group 2 in 2003 and 2004. Last year's team, which moved up to the Mountain Division of the MVC from the lower Sky Division, finished 6-15 and did not qualify.

Hillside is situated in Central Jersey, Group 2 this year for the first time. "That's a little weird," Graham said. "I think the section is a little tougher than North 2, with tougher teams. It will be a tougher section to win should we make it."

Although Hillside had a less than superb record in 2005, the Comets played RC tough twice, falling 51-49 in double overtime at home and then 45-43 on the road. Hillside split with Union Catholic, winning 40-37 at home and falling 41-35 at home. RC won its first conference and sectional titles last year and reached a state championship game. UC reached another Union County Tournament title game and had another sterling record.

"After winning the Sky Division two years ago, we were moved up to the Mountain Division last year," Graham said.

So far, Hillside has been led by the stellar play of senior guards Hassanah Oliver and Porscha Isom and the contributions of junior Shanita Holloway. Oliver paced the Comets with 14 points, eight rebounds and eight assists in the win against UC. Isom added 11 points and Holloway two.

"We played one of our better games as a team against UC," Graham said. "We were aggressive on defense, even though we didn't have offensive firepower." Hillside won despite not scoring in the final three minutes.

"We were up 28-21 and then UC got the lead down and had a couple of opportunities at the end," Graham said. "They were trapping and double-teaming and we weren't making plays. Luckily, their final shot hit the side of the backboard."

Isom had a season-high 16 points, Oliver 13 and Holloway a career-high nine points in the win over Perth Amboy.

"Porscha came back from her knee injury last year and needed some time to adjust," Graham said. "She's been able to help out Hassanah a lot more this year."

After Hillside went 13-10 during Isom and Oliver's freshman season in 2003, Isom tore her ACL in the pre-season of 2004 and could not play. The Comets were led that season - a 19-6 finish - by Oliver and Kateema McLean.

However, McLean transferred to Bloomfield Tech for the 2004-2005 season and, with Hillside moving back up to the Mountain Division, last season's results were not as favorable, although the Comets did play some top teams real tough, such as RC and UC.

NOTES: Oliver, a four-year varsity starter, began the week leading Hillside in scoring and rebounding. She passed 1,000 points with a nine-point effort in Hillside's 50-37 loss to Chatham Dec. 27 in the Chatham Tournament.

She will continue on athletic scholarship at Mount St. Mary in Maryland. "When she came in as a freshman after moving from Newark, I didn't really know anything about her," Graham said. "She had potential her freshman year, but didn't want to shoot. She wanted to be in the background."

Oliver averaged 11.8 points her freshman season, 16.9 her sophomore and 13.8 her junior.

"She exploded her sophomore year," Graham recalled. "Her and Kateema were our prominent players."

Oliver poured in 23 points in Hillside's first game against RC this season. "She has unlimited potential if she puts her mind to it," Graham said. "She can jump, is fast, but has to work on her outside shot. She can drive easily to the basket, so that has not made her work on her shot as much."

Oliver, a 5-6 point guard, is also a National Honor Society student. The Mountain Division this year includes Hillside, RC, UC, Rahway and Oak Knoll.

After today's home game against RC, Hillside is scheduled to play at non-conference foe Randolph Saturday night at 7.

Hillside's final two scheduled games before the Feb. 4 state playoff cutoff date are Irvington home Jan. 30 at 4 p.m. and at UC Feb. 3 at 4.

"If we play the way we did against Union Catholic and Perth Amboy, we should do well enough to make the states," Graham said. "We have to learn to play with some urgency and desire."

Hillside has played Group 4 schools in Paterson Kennedy (North 1) and Perth Amboy (North 2) and will play Group 4 schools in Randolph (North 1) and Irvington (North 2). The Comets played a Group 3 school in Morristown (North 2).

Roselle Park bowlers on roll after victory over GL

Panthers on a roll.

The Roselle Park High varsity bowling team remained undefeated in total match play after defeating Governor of Livingston at Hy-Way Bowl in Union last week. The Panthers posted a 6-2 scratch record, while winning the handicap play by a score of 5-3. The win brought Roselle Park's overall scratch record to an impressive 27-7 and handicap mark to 19.5-12.5.

As of last week, the Panthers were among the top two teams in the Mountain Valley Conference. The match against GL brought many parents and spectators out to watch, including the school's superintendent, Pat Spagnoletti.

"I'm really grateful for the support we've received at each match," Roselle Park coach Vince Fucci said. "Though the matches start at 3:45 p.m., we've had a large number of parents and spectators attend. The team and I were very happy to see Mr. Spagnoletti at the match."

Roselle Park was sparked by the outstanding efforts of Dan Heiss and Fred Villas and even outscored GL in total pins.

"I'm proud of the team and how they are playing," Fucci said. "It seems they all step up when necessary and really play like a seasoned team."

Villas rolled a team-high 234, while Heiss came up with a 223 in his first varsity competition after starting the season with the junior varsity squad.

"Dan really came up big for us," Fucci said. "I'm proud of him."

Nicholas Milici led all bowlers with a 591 series, including a high game of 192, while Villas added 276 pins to his high game of 234 for a 510 series. Marc Dos Santos added a 205 game, while posting a 445 series, and Kirk Shutz added another 471 series. Anthony Sinatra also bowled well for the Panthers, posting a 467 series. Milici began the week with a team-leading 189 average, followed by Dos Santos at 170 and Villas at 164. RP faces Hillside and Rahway this week.

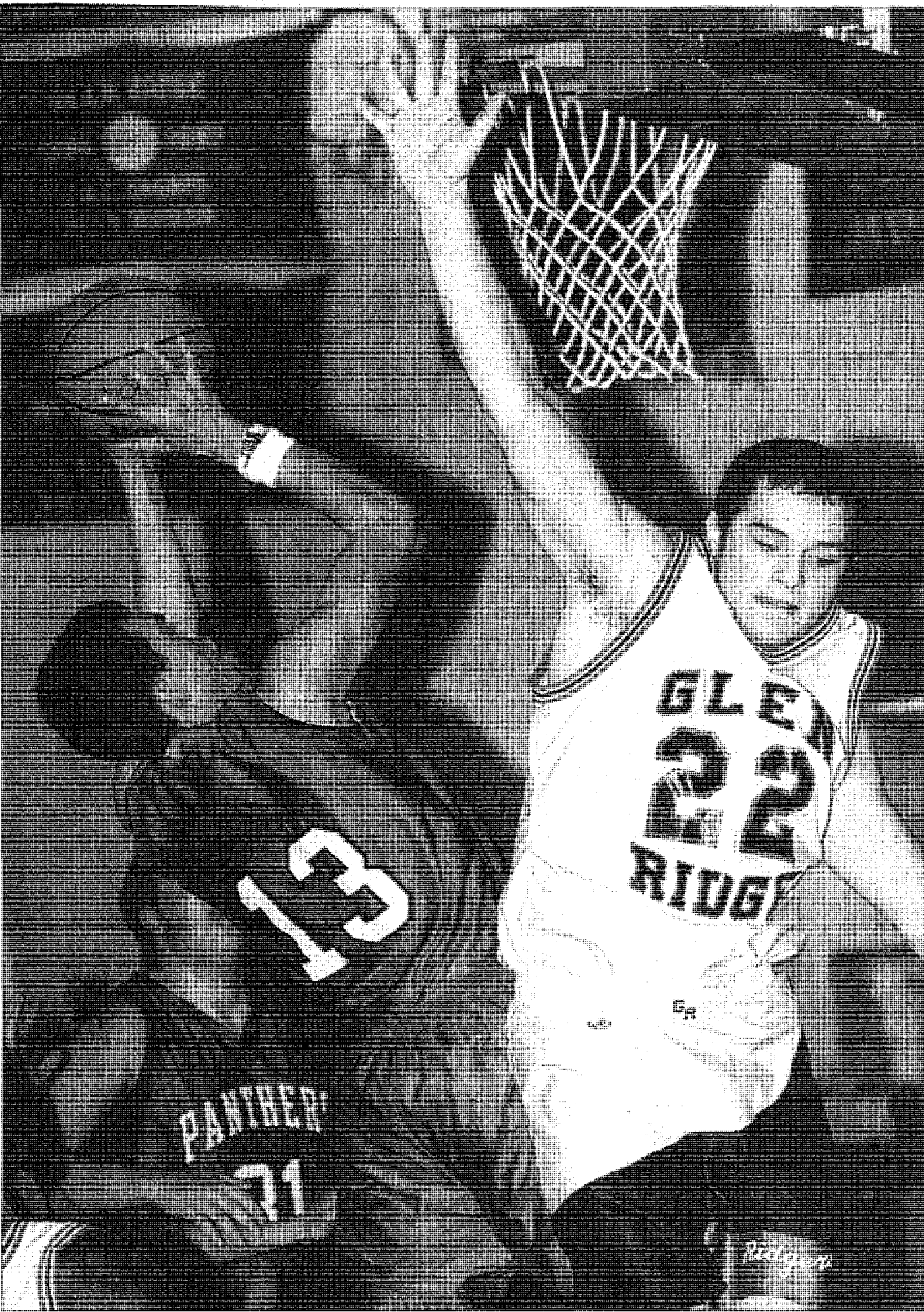


Photo by Sean Hovey

Brearley outlasts Dayton in classic rivalry contest

Hoag sparks Bears in overtime session

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD - Rivalry games.

They always seem to bring out the best in both teams. One of the top rivalries in Union County is Brearley vs. Dayton.

They met in boys' basketball play last Friday night, with each seeking a much-needed win over their Mountain Valley Conference counterpart.

As is the case with many rivalries, regulation time - or in this instance four quarters - was not enough to determine the outcome.

After 32 minutes of back-and-forth play, an overtime session was needed.

In a game that was filled with heroics, the visiting Bears were able to come away with a hard-fought 66-62 triumph.

Brearley improved to 4-3 with its second consecutive victory, while Dayton fell to 3-5 with its second straight setback.

Brearley held a small advantage at 17-13 at the end of the first quarter, but Dayton fought back in the second quarter to take a halftime lead of 28-25.

Dayton outscored Brearley 15-8 in the second quarter and could have buried the Bears had it not been for the stellar free throw shooting of Corey Dixon.

Dixon was a near perfect seven of eight from the charity stripe in the period to help keep the Bears afloat heading into the second half.

"We shoot a ton of free throws in practice," Dixon said. "We run drills to get a little tired and then head right to the line to work on our foul shots. The key is to learn to shoot when you are tired."

"Shooting foul shots is all in the legs," Brearley head coach Gene Melleno said. "If you practice foul shots while you are tired you will be that much better at them during the game."

Brearley closed the gap to one point at the end of the third quarter at 40-39, once again relying on Dixon to lead the way. The senior guard tallied nine points in the third and finished with 24 before fouling out midway through the fourth. He also grabbed 11 rebounds and came up with four steals.

With Dixon out, the Bears turned to fellow co-captain Dennis Hoag. The junior forward responded with six points in the fourth to put the Bears out in front 55-53 with a little more than a minute to go.

The score remained the same until Dayton's Dan Shabat was fouled with less than three seconds to go in regulation.

Dayton head coach Dave Nash called a timeout and informed his team to stay focused after Dan made his second free throw.

"Every player dreams of being in that situation with the game on the line and all eyes on you," Nash said after the game. "I just knew Dan was going to make them both."

Shabat converted both of free throws to the delight of the hometown crowd, sending the game into overtime at a score of 55-55.

In OT, Hoag took over the scoring by pouring in five points to lead the Bears to their eventual four-point win.

"The whole team did a good job in overtime," said Hoag, who finished with 22 points.

Teammate Dallas Ricks, a sophomore, added nine points.

"We didn't sit back and let them come to us," Hoag said. "We kept the pressure on them on both sides of the court."

"All the credit has to go to Hoag," Nash said. "Our plan was to full-out deny him in overtime and he found a way to get the job done anyway."

NOTES: Michael Dubiel and Chris Muckle, both juniors, paced Dayton with 14-point efforts.

Brearley's next scheduled game is tonight at non-conference foe Dunellen at 7. The Bears wrap this week with a home game against Bound Brook tomorrow night at 7.

Next week, Brearley hosts Roselle Park Tuesday at 7 and then will play at Newark Technology on Jan. 20 at a time to be determined.

Dayton was scheduled to play at Johnson Monday night and tomorrow night has a non-conference game at South Amboy at 7.

Next week, Dayton is to play at Bound Brook Tuesday night at 7 and then at Dunellen Jan. 21 at 2 p.m.

Brearley roster: Corey Dixon, senior; Dennis Hoag, senior; Brett Byars, junior; Jack Hill, sophomore; Dan McGettigan, junior; Dallas Ricks, sophomore; Bill Sues, sophomore; Mike Lynch, senior; Dave Padlo, sophomore; Carl Gabriel, sophomore.

Dayton roster: York Cook, senior; Joe Furnaguera, senior; Adam Hirst, senior; Jesse Alava, junior; Michael Dubiel, junior; Eliot Grossman, junior; Chris Muckle, junior; Kyle Seeley, junior; Dan DiCocco, sophomore; Joey Pulice, sophomore; Scott Reyes, sophomore; David Steinman, sophomore; Dan Shabat, junior.

Brearley girls' basketball triumphs with team effort

Big home game tonight vs. Roselle Park

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

Brearley girls' basketball coach Ed Murray sees something special in his Bears squad this winter.

After missing out on last year's Central Jersey, Group 1 playoffs by one game, the Bears are on their way to qualifying again in North 2, Group 1 this year.

Brearley entered Tuesday afternoon's scheduled game at St. Mary's of Elizabeth with a 5-2 record and two-game winning streak.

The state playoff cutoff date is three weeks from this Saturday, Feb. 4.

Brearley, which is scheduled to host Roselle Park tonight at 7, looks poised to return to the states for the fourth time in five years.

"This is probably the most well-rounded team I have ever coached," said Murray, in his sixth year at the helm. "All the girls run the floor, make passes, play defense and can score."

Brearley's only game last week was a convincing 70-46 victory at home over Newark Technology Friday.

"We are a team of interchangeable parts," Murray said. "All 11 girls get involved in every game. Having so many options makes my job very easy."

While junior center Jenna Vitale paced Brearley with a 25-point effort against Technology, the rest of the scoring was spread out quite a bit. Hannah LoBello added 11, Melissa Perkins and Candace Ehmann had eight, Amanda Aguirre poured in seven and Ashley Dotter had six.

Making Murray's job even less difficult is the offensive explosion the Bears have been enjoying thus far.

Brearley is routinely scoring in the 60s so far, with the 70 points against Technology a season high prior to Tuesday's game at St. Mary's.

In a 10-13 season last year, Brearley opened with a victory by a score of 59-33 at home over Technology. However, over a month later, the Newark school defeated visiting Brearley 59-34.

Leading the scoring onslaught so far is Vitale, the team's returning MVP. She is averaging over 20.

Coming into the season, Vitale had 587 career points. She is now less than 300 from reaching 1,000. Vitale should reach that plateau late this year or early next season.

Senior co-captain Melissa Perkins is back at the point and is, once again, leading the Bears on the floor.

Perkins had the game of her life in a one-point overtime loss to St. Dominic of Jersey City Dec. 28 in the first round of the Brearley Tournament two weeks ago.

She tallied 23 points, dished out 11 assists, came up with five steals, grabbed rebounds, blocked one shot and hit a game-tying three-pointer as time expired to force overtime.

Johnson boys', Rahway girls' victorious

The Johnson boys' and Rahway girls' basketball teams had big wins Monday. The Johnson boys' downed Dayton 61-54 in Clark, sparked by a 30-point performance by junior forward Brian Kelly. Dusting Pflug added 10 points for the Crusaders, who improved to 4-3.

"That was the greatest individual performance I have ever seen," Murray said.

"Melissa is far and away the best point guard I have ever coached."

Although the Bears lost the overtime battle to St. Dominic by a score of 62-60, they rebounded to easily handle Highland Park 57-38 in the next night's consolation game.

Vitale and Perkins are joined in the starting five by junior forward Candace Ehmann and senior co-captains Ashley Dotter, the other forward, and Amanda Aguirre, the 2-guard.

The first player off the bench for the Bears this season is freshman Hannah LoBello. She is averaging over eight points and racked up a team-high 13 on opening night against Roselle Park.

"We are not just a five-player team," Murray said. "Everyone contributes and everyone plays."

Brearley's other setback was the opening night game against Roselle Park, a 50-43 decision in Roselle Park.

The Bears will seek to avenge that defeat tonight at home against the Panthers at 7.

Brearley will go back on the road for consecutive night games at Mount St. Mary tomorrow at 7 and at Dayton Tuesday at 7.

"We like to run a fast-paced offense and get everyone involved running up and down the floor," Murray said. "I have always been a defensive-minded coach and we still stress solid defense, but, surprisingly this season, we are scoring in bunches."

Although the Bears have been solid on both ends of the floor thus far, the team still needs to improve upon its free throw shooting.

Both Brearley setbacks were the result of poor foul shooting. The Bears are addressing the matter with increased practice time devoted to shooting free throws.

"Foul shots come down to mental toughness," Murray said. "The girls just need to focus more when they are on the foul line."

NOTES: Roselle Park began the week with a 3-3 record after falling at Bound Brook 31-27 last Friday.

In its win against Brearley, the Panthers were led by Katie Bundy's 20 points and 10 rebounds and Brandy Guarnaccio's seven points.

Meet the Bears

Seniors (5): Melissa Perkins, Amanda Aguirre, Melinda Garzon, Ashley Dotter, Caitlin Martin.

Juniors (2): Jenna Vitale, Candace Ehmann.

Sophomores (3): Brittany Hoag, Michelle Calabrese, Loren Dotter.

Freshman (1): Hannah LoBello.

R. Park boys' have already equaled last year's win total

Clash with Brearley Tuesday night in Kenilworth

The Roselle Park boys' basketball team continues to excel as evidenced by a 7-1 start prior to Tuesday afternoon's scheduled home game against Newark Technology.

A big Mountain Valley Conference game on the horizon is Tuesday night at 7 at Brearley. The Bears began the week with a 4-3 record.

Roselle Park won its only game played last week, downing non-conference foe Glen Ridge by a score of 39-37 in Glen Ridge.

Here's a look at Roselle Park's 7-1 start:

Dec. 16 (A) Roselle Park 65, Dayton 62
Dec. 17 (A) Roselle Park 73, Belvidere 49
Dec. 19 (A) Roselle Park 69, South Amboy 53
Dec. 20 (A) Roselle Park 51, Metuchen 37
Dec. 22 (A) Roselle Park 56, Bound Brook 47
Dec. 27 (H) Hanover Park 71, Roselle Park 60
Dec. 28 (H) Roselle Park 48, Johnson 47
Jan. 6 (A) Roselle Park 39, Glen Ridge 37

Roselle Park has already improved a great deal this year, coming off a 7-16 season. The Panthers are on their way to qualifying in Central Jersey, Group 2 for the first time.

The Central Jersey, Group 2 field this year includes: Allentown, Carteret, Delaware Valley, Governor Liv-

ingston, Hillside, Iselin Kennedy, Johnson, Manasquan, New Providence, North Plainfield, Rahway, Raritan, Roselle, Roselle Park, Rumson, Shore Regional, Somerset Tech, Somerville, Spotswood, Summit and Weequahic.

The playoff cutoff date is three weeks from this Saturday - Feb. 4. New to the section this year are: GL, Hillside, Manasquan, New Providence, Roselle Park, Somerset Tech, Summit and Weequahic.

In last week's triumph at Glen Ridge, Bryan Caicedo paced the Panthers with a 14 point effort. Also scoring were Kenny Marciano with 11, Remic Garcia with 11, Mike Mazza with two and Visar Gocaj with one.

Roselle Park began the season with a 65-62 win at Dayton on Dec. 16. Caicedo poured in a team-high 26 points, while Garcia netted 14, Gocaj 11 and Igor Skaro eight.

The next two wins were on the road as well. First was a 73-49 triumph at Belvidere on Dec. 17, followed by a victory by a 69-53 count over South Amboy on Dec. 19.

Roselle Park remained on the road for wins at Metuchen 51-37 on Dec. 20 and at Bound Brook 56-47 on Dec. 22.

Roselle Park split Roselle Park Tournament contests. First was a 71-60 setback to Hanover Park, followed by a 48-47 triumph over Johnson.

After playing at Brearley next week, the Panthers will host the Bears Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

Cranford grapplers host Kearny tomorrow, seeking another 'W'

Cougars pin down Union, Plainfield and GL

The Cranford wrestling team is off to a fine start, with wins last week following a seventh-place finish in the Bloomfield Tournament held at Nutley. Next year's Bloomfield Tournament will return to Bloomfield High as the school's gym will be fully renovated this year.

Cranford opened with a 78-0 home win over Linden on Dec. 16 and was then scheduled to wrestle in the Hopatcong Tournament on Dec. 17.

Cranford's first setback was a 45-27 decision at Hudson County foe North Bergen.

In the Bloomfield Tournament, senior Dave Veca placed second for the Cougars at 215, falling to Nutley's Lou Ritacco by pin in 1:58 in the final.

Last week, Cranford easily handled Union, Plainfield and Governor Livingston. First came a 57-16 home win

over Union on Jan. 4, followed by a 78-6 triumph at Plainfield Friday. The Cougars downed GL 49-20 in Berkeley Heights Saturday.

Cranford was also scheduled to wrestle at North Plainfield earlier in the day Saturday.

Cranford had a tough match scheduled last night at Watchung Conference-National Division arch rival Scotch Plains. The Cougars return to the mat to host Kearny tomorrow at 5.

Next week's schedule includes a match at Elizabeth Wednesday at 5 and at J.P. Stevens Jan. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

Remaining matches before the Union County Tournament at Union on Feb. 3 and 4 include Shabazz home on Jan. 27 at 4:30, at Roselle Park on Jan. 28 at 7 and Irvington home on Feb. 1 at 5.

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Lies, MacDonnell, Kuczynski impressive



The All-County and Second Team All-Group 2 defensive selection is among a select group of players who are eligible to be selected as a national Red Zone Player of the Year and be honored in a full-page feature in *USA Today* in February. For the fifth straight year, Old Spice is recognizing high school football players who go above and beyond the call of duty, particularly in the Red Zone.

Pre-season clinics will be held for all levels in March and official dates will be forthcoming.

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.

More information may be obtained by visiting the website: www.unionsoccer.org.

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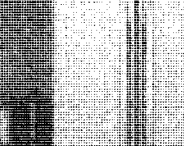
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The Cranford Soccer Club's US Parma 13-and-under boys' soccer team did well to place second in its division. Players included Marco Avella, Brian Flores, John Sedillo and Evan Stevens of Union; Dan Espuga and Gus Exarhakos of Cranford; Paul Cselovsky and Franco Pezzella of Clark; David Verdia of Kenilworth and Frank Roselli of Sayreville and guest players Dan Couto of Cranford, Mark Kallidine of Hillside and Manny Martis of Union. The team was coached by Rocco Avella and trained by Nick Guilfoyle.

Cranford Soccer Club's Parma squad impresses

Has fine second-place finish in Premier Red Division

The Cranford Soccer Club's US Parma 13-and-under boys' soccer team concluded its inaugural season with a fine second-place finish in the Premier Red Division at the Howell United Holiday Soccer Tournament.

The competition took place Nov. 26-27 at various middle school fields in Howell.

Cranford opened the tournament at 8 a.m. on Nov. 26 on a frozen and frost-covered field and came away with a disappointing 2-1 setback to the Colts Neck Lightning of the Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association Premier Flight.

Later that morning, Cranford bounced back to post a victory by the score of 5-2 against the Middletown Fire, who compete in National Flight 1 of the Monmouth Ocean Soccer Association.

On the morning of Nov. 27, Cranford defeated the Union Cosmos of MNJYSA Flight 2 by a 4-0 score. Parma's final game of the tournament was played a couple of hours later against the Jersey United Patriots, who compete in MAPS.

The result was a hard earned 1-1 tie against the tournament champion.

The Parma squad was formed in June and consisted of Marco Avella, Brian Flores, John Sedillo and Evan Stevens of Union; Dan Espuga and Gus Exarhakos of Cranford; Paul Cselovsky and Franco Pezzella of Clark; David Verdia of Kenilworth and Frank Roselli of Sayreville.

Cranford competed in Flight 1 of the Mid New Jersey Youth Soccer Association (MNJYSA), with only 10 players on its roster. In spite of playing one or two players down in every game, Parma came away with three ties in its nine league matches.

Cranford was able to compete at even strength in the tournament due to the participation of talented guest players Dan Couto of Cranford, Mark Kallidine of Hillside and Manny Martis of Union.

Cranford is coached by Rocco Avella and trained by Parma Premier men's team player Nick Guilfoyle.

Parma is looking to add a few more players for the upcoming spring season who are capable of competing at a high level.

Interested candidates may contact coach Rocco Avella at 908-964-3946 to arrange a tryout.

Cranford swimmers splash Kent State in tri-meet event

Cougars also excelled vs. St. Peter's Prep

The Cranford High swimming team competed in a tri-meet against St. Peter's Prep and Kent Place Jan. 5 at the Cranford Pool and Fitness Center, winning once and falling once. Cranford defeated Kent Place by a score of 88-66 and was defeated by St. Peter's Prep 155-88.

Cranford's record moved to 5-5 with the results.

A tri-meet has different rules and scoring than a dual meet. Each team only has two lanes for its swimmers instead of three lanes in a dual meet.

Also, the scoring for individual races is 7, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 instead of 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. For relay races, the scoring is 14, 10, 8, 6, 4 and 2 instead of 8, 4 and 2.

"This presents a challenge to the coaches," Cranford head coach Barbara Kolesa said. "I'm limited to only two swimmers per race instead of the usual three. Unfortunately, some people will not get a chance to swim. However, all the swimmers were excited and the enthusiasm level was very high."

St. Peter's Prep dominated the first- and second-place finishes in most of the races. Based on the state rankings published in last week's *Star-Ledger*, the Hudson County school from Jersey City was ranked No. 12.

"Cranford did very well against an exceptional team," assistant coach Colleen Donnelly said. "Our times were not that far behind theirs and in some of the races, we were swimming girls against boys."

The relay team of Steven Jurpalis, Haley Brown, Matt Duescher and Sean French placed third in the 200 medley relay, followed by a fifth-place finish by Mary Kate Miller, Mark Bagniewski, Mike Walano and Johnathan Van Ostenbridge.

In the 200 freestyle, Laurel Klappholz placed fourth and Duescher sixth. After two races, Cranford had 16 points and led Kent Place by two.

The 200 individual medley produced a fifth-place finish

by Brown and a sixth-place showing by Van Ostenbridge. Kent Place swimmers placed third and fourth to take a brief two-point lead.

The 50 freestyle produced the initial first-place finish for Cranford. French finished first, followed by Javier Nino in fourth. That put Cranford back ahead of Kent Place by five points.

"This was an important race for us," said French, a sophomore.

"I was hoping for a good finish and I knew Javier would finish strong."

The 100 butterfly produced a third-place finish by Duescher and a fifth-place finish by Klappholz.

The 100 freestyle produced Cranford's second first-place finish. Once again, French was first, followed by Walano sixth.

The 500 freestyle had Miller finishing third and Nino fifth. Cranford's lead over Kent Place was now 12 points, although it was behind St. Peter's Prep by 41.

Strong finishes in the 200 freestyle relay produced a third-place finish by Duescher, Brown, Walano and French and a fifth-place finish by Natalie Laucius, Jenna Pfarr, Eugene O'Neill and Van Ostenbridge.

Steve Jurpalis was second in the 100 backstroke, followed by Delia DeBlass in fourth. The 100 breaststroke was another good race for Cranford. Brown finished second and Bagniewski third.

The last race, the 400 freestyle relay, produced a third-place finish by Nino, Klappholz, Walano and Jurpalis and a sixth-place finish by Miller, Heather Lee, Blaire Fraiser and O'Neill.

"Many of the swimmers swam their best times," Kolesa said. "Everyone stepped up and was motivated. Even though we didn't win, I was extremely happy with the effort."

Much-needed hoop wins for Summit, Cranford boys'

Both trying to get records back to .500

Much-needed victories were attained by the Summit and Cranford boys' basketball teams. Summit defeated Parsippany Hills 51-45 last Friday in Summit, winning for the second straight time to improve to 3-4. Summit was to play at Chatham Tuesday and tomorrow night hosts Mendham at 7. Cranford downed Pope John 60-56 Monday in Sparta, snapping a three-game losing streak to improve to 2-6.

Summit, which captured North 2, Group 2 in 2004 and 2005, is trying to qualify in Central Jersey, Group 2. Cranford, which won North 2, Group 3 in 2003, is trying to make the grade once again in the same section. Cranford is

scheduled to host Union tonight at 7 and then Plainfield Saturday at 1 p.m.

In Summit's win over Parsippany Hills, James Johnson paced the Hilltoppers with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Travis Marchell had 14 points and three boards and Chris Kehoe eight and nine. Summit outscored Parsippany Hills 29-19 in the second half to overcome a 26-22 deficit.

Cranford received fine games from Simon Smith, Andrew Ciencin, Greg Van Horn and Chris Brown. Smith scored 14, while Van Horn netted 13. Ciencin scored 12, including a key 3-point field goal late, and Brown had 11.

Experience is a winner over young conference opponent

Cranford girls' bounce Linden for 5th victory

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

Cranford - Experience.

That is one of the most important factors towards the success of a team.

The old adage that the, "more you play the better you get," was on display last week when the Cranford girls' basketball team defeated Linden 51-34 Thursday in Watchung Conference-National Division play.

The Cougars have two seniors and three juniors in their starting lineup, while the Tigers have two juniors, two sophomores and a freshman.

Linden has the talent to become a top-notch program in the coming years and has been progressing this winter as the Tigers work toward acquiring that much-needed experience.

The Tigers have a solid inside presence with sophomore center Deonna Overton and forwards Maesoon Deeb, a junior, and Channel Jones, a sophomore. Their play forced Cranford to focus on its outside shooting game.

The Cougars are always up to the challenge when it comes to perimeter shooting. Standout junior guard Lisa Levonas paced all scorers with 14 points and had her jump shot working to perfection in the second quarter when she tallied nine.

"We knew they were strong inside," Levonas said. "Their size underneath is something that you have to plan for on both ends of the court."

Cranford improved to 5-2 with the victory, while Linden fell to 1-5.

"We did a good job of keeping the pressure on them all game and played solid for four quarters," Levonas said.

Leading the defense for Cranford was Carla Rutmayer. The junior guard is always a tough defender and can routinely be seen squaring up with the opposition's top outside offensive threat.

"We pride ourselves on our defense," Rutmayer said. "Linden has some big inside players and we doubled down on the post against them and it worked well."

Cranford opened the game with an 11-5 first-quarter

lead and stretched it to eight points at 27-19 by halftime.

"That has been one of our biggest problems so far," Linden head coach Shamona Patterson said. "We always seem to be trailing early and have to dig ourselves out."

The two will play again Feb. 9 at Linden at 4 p.m.

"We extend so much energy trying to come back that we usually don't have anything left at the end of the game," Patterson said.

NOTES: Cranford improved to 6-2 with a 35-24 conference win at Westfield last Friday. Levonas scored seven points; Rutmayer, Samantha Cartwright and Courtney Koellner four. Lindsay Dolan three and Theresa Minitelli two.

Cranford was scheduled to host Lincoln of Jersey City last night and today is scheduled to play at Union at 4 p.m.

The Cougars will wrap this week with a game at Plainfield Saturday at 1 p.m.

Linden fell at home to Shabazz last Saturday and today has a game scheduled at home against Plainfield at 4. The Tigers are at Union Saturday at 1.

Cranford opened with a 30-28 win at Mother Seton Regional of Clark Dec. 16, with Levonas scored 10 points, Cartwright eight and Rutmayer scoring the winning basket.

Levonas scored nine and Cartwright seven in a 59-29 loss at Shabazz. Levonas poured in a game-high 13 points in Cranford's 44-35 win over Homestead in the Surf and Slam Tournament in San Diego, Calif. on Dec. 28.

Cranford won two of three games in San Diego.

Cranford roster: Amanda Porter, senior; Lisa Levona, junior; Carla Rutmayer, junior; Lindsay Dolan, junior; Courtney Koellner, senior; Theresa Minitelli, senior; Rebecca Flanagan, senior; Samantha Cartwright, junior; Erica Couro, sophomore; Kitty Goski, freshman; Alexa Fedorchek, sophomore; Erika Streeter, senior.

Linden roster: Michelle Dorand, senior; Jamie Paulino, freshman; Tanika Tate, junior; Courtney Melchiona, freshman; Maesoon Deeb, junior; Ondya Morgan, freshman; Channel Jones, sophomore; Arsula Hooper, junior; Brittany Bradshaw, sophomore; Latesha Tate, junior; Deonna Overton, sophomore.

Elizabeth's McNair is named NJAC Player of Week at NJCU

Averaged 18 points, 6.7 steals, 4.0 assists

New Jersey City University junior point guard Latrese McNair of Elizabeth, a former standout at Elizabeth High School, had an exceptional all-around week during which she averaged 18.0 points, 6.7 steals, 4.0 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 2.0 blocks per game and became NJCU's all-time leader in career steals.

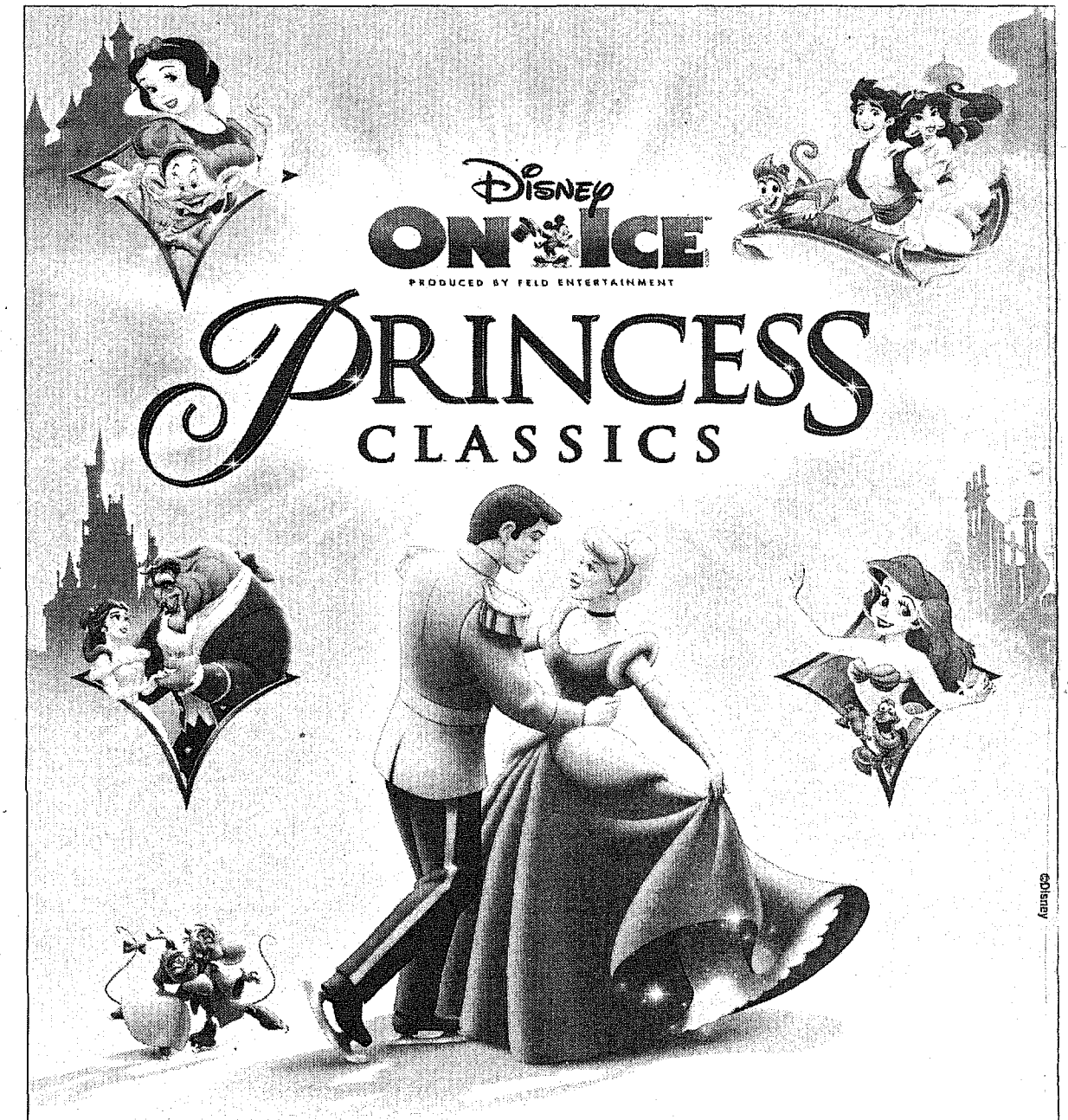
For her efforts, McNair has been named NJAC Player of the Week. It also marks the first time on record in school history that two members of the same Gothic Knight team have been accorded NJAC Player of the Week accolades in the same season. Sophomore Arnese Goodman of Jersey

City and Lincoln High previously earned the nod on Dec. 5 for Week 3.

In addition to breaking Norma Gonzalez's four-year record of 267 steals from 1991-1995, McNair was selected to the All-Tournament Team at the Presidents' Classic, hosted by Washington and Jefferson College.

For the week, McNair shot .438 from the field on 21 of 48 shooting and was .385 from 3-point range on five of 13.

In an 81-72 setback to second-place Kean University on Jan. 4, McNair scored a game-high 22 points on nine of 19 field goal shooting. She made three of four 3-point baskets.



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Elizabeth wrestlers using time wisely

Experienced unit off to good start

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

Planning to make good use of the time they have. That is the goal of the Elizabeth Minutemen wrestlers. With a little more than a month remaining before the madness that is the end of the wrestling season, Elizabeth began the week sporting an impressive 4-1 mark and was working on getting healthy and shoring up any holes in its lineup before the end-of-the-season push begins.

With seven seniors that have been together since they were freshmen, Elizabeth has plenty of experience throughout its lineup. However, the Minutemen need to find some depth at key weight classes if they are going to be a factor in upcoming matches and possibly North 2, Group competition.

"With all of the seniors we have, coming into the season I knew we were going to be a solid team," Elizabeth head coach Adam Aquilina said. "Right now our biggest concern is filling in the gaps in a few weight classes."

Senior Mike Biadoo at 119 and junior John Otolu at 125 provide the team with a solid upperclassmen presence at the top of the lineup, but the Minutemen have no experienced wrestlers backing them up. Without an insurance policy at those weights, the Minutemen could be in trouble should they suffer an injury that keep either Biadoo or Otolu out for extended time.

A similar situation exists at the 171-pound position. The Minutemen are without a true 171-pounder and have routinely been bumping Jeffrey Norville up from 160 to fill the gap, forcing Jason Pryor and Fernando Gallego to do the same.

Despite a few depth issues, Elizabeth has started the season off with a bang at 4-1 and Aquilina has full faith in his large group of seniors.

"This is one of the closest teams I have ever been involved with," Aquilina said. "They do so much together as a group outside of wrestling and are such good friends that it really is like a family. That is how the kids see it."

In addition to the ardent support of each other, the Minutemen have been receiving plenty of encouragement from a huge increase in attendance at their home meets.

In the team's first three home matches, the Minutemen have averaged 100 spectators, which is almost four times more than last year's attendance.

Much of the increase in fan support is due to the middle school's wrestling team, which has been at all of the Minutemen's home meets so far, cheering on their older counterparts.

Senior 112-pounder Rahman Furquan leads the team in wins so far with a record of 10-4 record prior to yesterday's scheduled home match against Westfield. Sophomore Hafis Williams, at heavyweight, was right behind at 9-3.

Both Kendell Nelson at 135 and Norville were 8-3, while Eric Ogada at 140 was a solid 6-3 and Angelo Matias a winning 5-3.

Although the Minutemen have had only five dual meets, while most other schools entered the week with seven or eight matches under their belts, Elizabeth has gained plenty of experience, participating in three tournaments in the early going.

Elizabeth finished 11th in the highly-competitive Neptune Classic, fourth in the Middletown Tournament and 11th in their own Minutemen Tournament, held last Saturday in Elizabeth.

The Minutemen had to forfeit four weight classes due to injury and absence, but Furquan, Norville and Williams all earned bronze medals at the event.

In addition, the team competed in the Jersey Shore National Open Wrestling Championships over the summer and took fourth in the 42-team field.

Elizabeth takes all that experience with them on the mat tomorrow in a 4:30 p.m. home match against Linden.

NOTES: At the Middletown Tournament - known as the 5th Walter Woods Tournament - Furquan at 112, Nelson at 135, Ogada at 140 and Norville at 171 all finished second.

Elizabeth opened with a 78-6 home win over Plainfield and then topped Paterson Eastside 52-21 at home. Next came a 60-41 home win over Newark West Side.

After a 48-31 loss to Belleville on Dec. 22, Elizabeth rebounded by beating Union by a score of 54-21 last Friday in Union.

After Linden home tomorrow, the Minutemen will remain at home for a match against Cranford Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

Elizabeth then hits the road for five consecutive away matches and one home match prior to the Union County Tournament at Union on Feb. 3 and 4.

Elizabeth is at Howell Thursday at 4:30, at Newark East Side Jan. 20 at 4:30, at Scotch Plains Jan. 25 at 4:30, at Irvington Jan. 27 at 4:30 and at Marlboro Jan. 28 at 11 a.m.

The Minutemen are scheduled to host Shabazz Feb. 1 at 4:30. District 11 at Westfield is Feb. 24 and 25. Region 3 at Union is Feb. 28 and March 3 and 4. The NJSIAA Tournament at Atlantic City is March 10-12.

Meet the Minutemen

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 103-Angelo Matias, sophomore | 145-Anthony Davis, senior |
| 112-Rahman Furquan, senior | 152-Jason Pryor, sophomore |
| 119-Mke Biadoo, senior | 160-Fernando Gallego, senior |
| 125-John Otolu, junior | 171-Jeffrey Norville, senior |
| 130-Chinedu Eleanya, sophomore | 189-Richard Tabor, junior |
| 135-Kendall Nelson, senior | 215-Freddie Epps, sophomore |
| 140-Eric Ogada, senior | HWT-Hafis Williams, sophomore |

Elizabeth's Chinedu Eleanya, top, battles Union's Randy Halal during last Friday afternoon's 130-pound bout at Union. Elizabeth grabbed the Watchung Conference match by a score of 54-21.

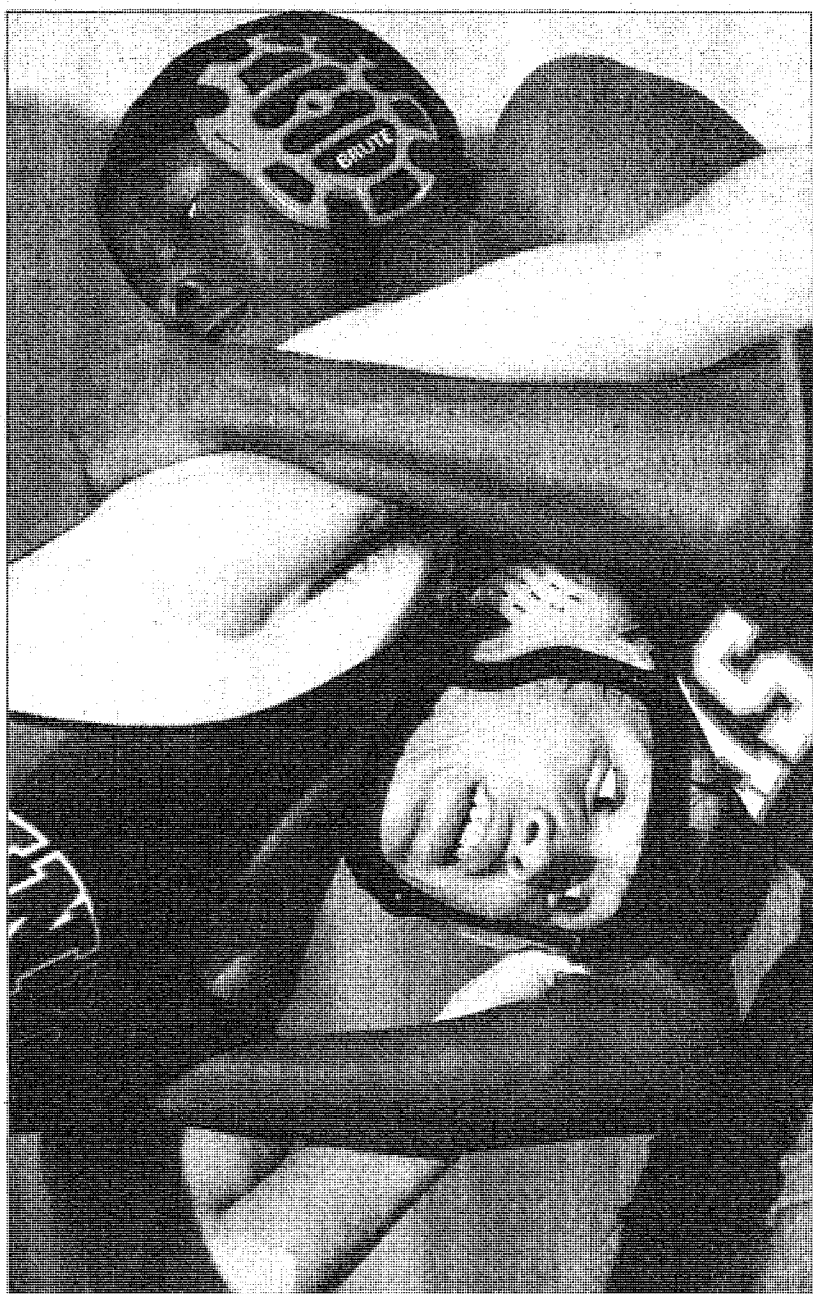


Photo by Sean Harvey

Union grapplers hanging in there, keeping heads up

Farmers are going through growing process

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

With only three seniors and five members of the squad fresh to the sport, it is safe to say the Union wrestling team lacks a bit of experience.

Without a solid core of experienced grapplers, it is easy to understand why Union began the week in search of its first victory in a sport where one false step can find you staring up at the ceiling and wondering what went wrong.

"We've had a rough start," Union head coach Ron Bubnowski said.

Union was 0-7 prior to yesterday's scheduled Watchung Conference-American Division match at Kearny.

The Farmers are scheduled to host Newark East Side tomorrow at 5 p.m., Colonia Saturday at 1 p.m. and Roselle Park Wednesday at 7 p.m.

"We lost seven seniors from last year's team," said Bubnowski, a former UHS standout wrestler himself. "Five of them were standouts and propelled the team with both their ability and spirit."

Although those seniors are gone, Bubnowski has noticed a part of their legacy that lives on.

"This team still has that same spirit it had last year," Bubnowski said. "We have the same morale we had last season, even though we are going through a rough start. Now we just need our talent level to catch up."

The good thing about wrestling is that it is both a team and an individual sport. Although the Farmers are struggling as a unit right now, some members of the team are enjoying solid seasons.

Junior Bryan Gomes is leading the way at 125 pounds with a 9-1 record. He should be a force to be reckoned with at the close of the season, along with fellow District 10 runner-up Tim Loessel, a senior who wrestles at 140.

Calvin LeMatty progressed at 103 last season as a fresh-

man and is coming into his own at 112 this winter and should also be one of the Farmers looking to advance past the districts.

John Simpson at 119 and Josh Nazario at 160 are steadily improving and Bubnowski is expecting the junior tandem to also make some noise in the end-of-the-season tournaments.

"As a team, we are struggling right now," Bubnowski said.

"We have some talented kids and should be a different team at the end of the season."

Gomes placed second in the Parsippany Tournament Dec. 28, falling to three-time state champion Mike Grey of Delbarton in the 125 final.

"That is all you can ask for," Bubnowski said. "As long as the kids keep working hard and continue to improve, I expect a tremendous difference from the first day to the last."

Meet the Farmers:

- 112-Calvin LeMatty, sophomore
- 119-John Simpson, junior
- 125-Bryan Gomes, junior
- 130-Randy Halal, junior
- 135-John Lodato, sophomore
- 140-Tim Loessel, senior
- 145-Callum Higgins, junior
- 152-Jeff Homere, freshman
- 160-Josh Nazario, junior
- Dan Lougheny, junior
- 171-Save Olivera, junior
- Rich Gonzalez, sophomore
- 189-Brandon Montano, senior
- 215-Vinny Kowalski, sophomore
- HWT-Solomon Okereke, senior

Summit wins its first UC girls' relays title

Union captures 880, shuttle hurdles

After an impressive performance at last Friday's Iron Hills Conference-Hills Division relays at Drew University in Madison in which it finished third and had two champions, the Summit girls' winter track team made history Monday at the Dunn Sport Center in Elizabeth.

Summit captured the Union County girls' relays for the very first time.

The Hilltoppers finished first in the distance medley relay in 13:29.2 behind Sarah Burke, Susan Scavone, Paige Boehmke and Samantha Lee and were also first in the team shot put at 67-1 behind Patrice Chatman and Emily Kinnaman.

Summit outscored Plainfield 36-34, with Cranford third at 32, Westfield fourth at 28 and Union fifth at 26.

Union also won two events, capturing the 880-yard relay in 1:58.9 behind Ashley Battle, Katelyn Reiter, DeJahna Claiborne and Tolu Oyetunde and the shuttle hurdles in 34.9 behind Battle, Reiter, Nicole Bryant and Oyetunde.

Summit gained a crucial two points by finishing fifth in the one-mile relay to clinch the victory. The Hilltoppers came in at 4:36.6, with Plainfield winning at 4:30.4. Like Summit and Union, Plainfield also won two events, also capturing the sprint medley relay.

Lee won the 1,000-meter run in 3:13.53 and Rachel Smith the high jump at 4-10 at the IHC-Hills meet, won by Chatham with 104.5 points. Parsippany was second at 77 and Summit third at 55.

Johnson, Cranford also victorious: Johnson did well to capture the team high jump event at 9-8 behind the outstanding efforts of Heather Albrecht and Stephanie Amalfe. Cranford captured the two-mile relay in 10:35.1 behind Erin Hannen, Caitlin Curtis, Jenn Hanke and Hannah Van Why.

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Cruz lifts Elizabeth in track

By Timothy Denman
Staff Writer

ELIZABETH - It was a fine repeat performance for the Minutemen.

For the second straight year, Elizabeth was able to run past Scotch Plains for the Union County boys' relays title at the Dunn Sport Center.

The Minutemen, sparked by senior Armando Cruz, placed in seven of the eight events in the Jan. 4 meet. It was Elizabeth's 19th championship since the meet was moved to Dunn in 1979.

Elizabeth put in a workmen-like effort. The Minutemen didn't capture gold in any event, but were able to consistently score. When the smoke cleared, Elizabeth had a three-point win over the Raiders - 44-41.

Cruz, running in his fourth event of the meet, didn't let up one bit as he split 56.3 on the anchor leg of the one-mile relay to bring Elizabeth across in second place in 3:51.9. Westfield was third at 29 and Rahway and Union Catholic tied for fourth at 28.

Elizabeth finished second in the 880-yard relay (1:44.2), one-mile (3:51.9), shuttle hurdles (33.9) and the high jump (11-4) events. Cruz also ran on the second-place shuttle hurdles, 880 and fourth-place sprint medley.

Rahway won the sprint medley in a nifty time of 3:58.4 behind Doreace Santiago, Deion Lawson, Paul Jones-Burden and Watson Estelahn.

Roselle Catholic was first in the team high jump at 11-4 behind the stellar efforts of seniors Joe Kroppa and Bobby Tretola.

Rahway's shot put team was second behind Scotch Plains at 128-5.

"I think we all could have done better," Rahway's Ralph Pierre said. "We had a team goal of everyone throwing at least 40 feet. We met that goal, but we could have done just a little better and won the event. Overall, we are happy with our performance."

Rounding out the Indians' day was a third-place finish in the 880 and fifth-place finishes in the distance medley and shuttle hurdles events.

Union finished in a seventh place tie with Roselle Catholic with 10 points each after Plainfield was sixth with 26. The Farmers took fourth place in the 880 and shot put events and were fifth to the finish line in the two-mile.

Plainfield won the 880 in 1:42.3 and Union Catholic the one-mile in 3:50.6. Westfield was first in the two-mile in 9:08.2 and also first in the distance medley in 11:27.4. Scotch Plains won the shuttle hurdles in 33.1 and the team shot put at 133-7.

Johnson finished ninth with nine points and Linden 10th with sixth. Johnson was third in the team shot put at 127-2 after missing third last year by just one inch.

"We could have done better," Johnson shot putter Oliver Haney said. "Right now the team is rebounding from some injuries, but should be back at full strength for the spring."

NOTES: Union shot put results included Dave Barragan 41-10.75, Kyle Von Linden 40-10 and Paul Prokopovich 39-6.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Artists bring their own interpretations of realism to gallery exhibit

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

Rebecca Sittler's painting, "The Lovers," is subtle. Its impact doesn't hit you instantly.

Then you look at it again.

There are two bananas, and one is peeled, revealing two different lives, in essence.

That's precisely the sort of effect that Samantha Mae Dorfman was looking for when she created "A Separate Reality: An Eclectic Exhibition of Realistic Visual Artwork," a mixed media exhibit that will be on display through Feb. 10 at the Arts Guild of Rahway, with an opening this Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Dorfman is focusing on realism in this show, but with a slight twist. These artists focus on realism, but they add their own particular take on it.

"It's work that has something to do with the figure, or something that's not abstract," said Dorfman. "I mean, it's just like photographs of things that people can actually see in reality. It's things that are obviously recognizable,

as opposed to abstract art."

In a statement, Dorfman said, "Each work portrays the personal and public ideology of the individual artist in varying degrees of realistic representation. This depiction is somehow skewed, enhanced or magnified in order to convey an added intent or subtext. In a vast world, the artist's role has become selector of imagery. The viewer must ask why would the selected images be used and what is the underlying message. The concept becomes the over-riding key to discovery in a time when the artist is free to use any image they desire."

The exhibit includes photography, painting, sculpture among its forms of media. In some ways, Sittler's painting is representative of the work that will be included in the exhibit.

"Her work is really interesting," Dorfman said, regarding Sittler's work. "It reveals a sort of secret life in a place."

In addition to Sittler, the other artists in the show are Thomas Andersen, Aileen Bassis, Allen Maertz, Jen-

nifer Mazza, Douglas Newton, Leah Oates, Roger Sayre, Charlotte Schulz, Brian St. Cyr and Randall J. Stoltzfus.

St. Cyr has a fascinating sculpture titled "Rotating Contraption," that he created in 2003. At first glance, it appears to be similar to lawnmower blade anchored to a shed of sorts. St. Cyr was inspired by the book "Andrew Henry's Meadow," about a boy who runs away from home after being chastised for building too many things in the house. Again, it's not abstract, but it definitely has St. Cyr's distinctive slant on things.

It may seem odd to some, but one glance at St. Cyr's biography puts his perspective into better focus.

"Through my invented landscapes and small-scale dioramas I hope to question the relationship between city-life and the rural, nature vs. the urban, the meadow against the grid."

Another interesting piece is Allen Maertz's archival digital print, titled, "Encyclopedia: Chimpanzee," which seems to be showing a chimpanzee in a museum, hanging by a branch and

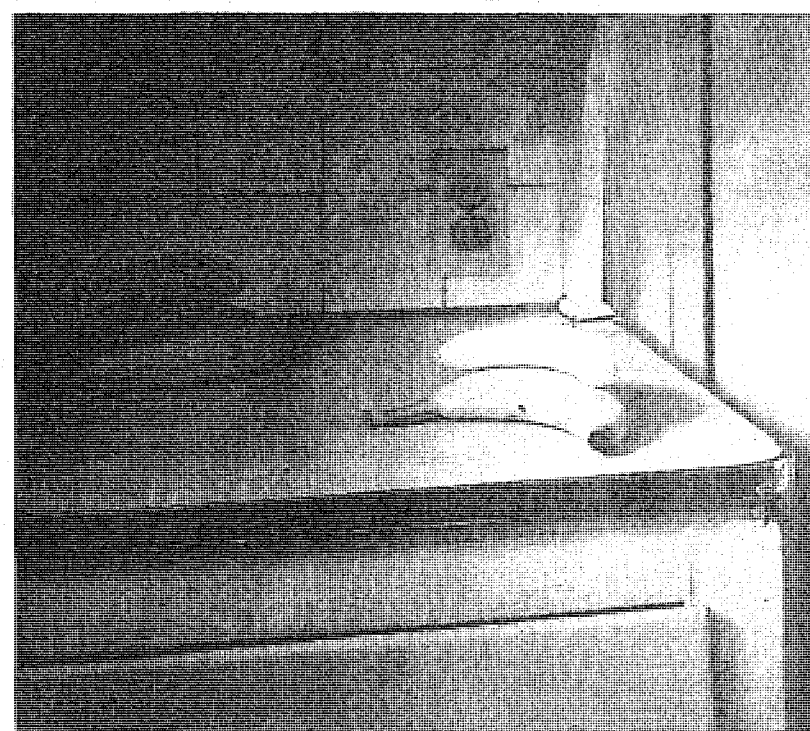
observing a human, who is looking at something else.

"David, from the Sitting Series," is a pinhole photograph by Roger Sayre, taken in 2003. It almost seems to have a way of warping the subject's face, in addition to having a sort of weather-beaten black and white look to it.

One explanation of the off-beat realism is provided by Rebecca Sittler on her Web site. "I'm looking for tipsy metaphoric relationships between the naïve and the sublime, the goofy and the sensual—a conversation between the throes of the romantic and the chores of the week. This pseudo-symbolic language of vanitas fumbles between humor, lightness, empathy, mortality and acceptance."

Information on the exhibit is available on the Internet at www.rahwayartsguild.org, or www.sparkle7.com, or call 732-381-7511. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway.

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins may be reached at jcummins@thelocal-source.com.



"The Lovers," by Rebecca Sittler, is on display at The Arts Guild of Rahway.

Taylor plays those mallets, determined to keep 'real music' alive

By Jeff Cummins
Associate Editor

Even if you're busy, Jason Taylor's enthusiasm is so infectious that you'll make time to listen to him.

Taylor, a Hillside resident, is a whirlwind dervish of energy and enthusiasm, dropping names and touting the importance of jazz and R&B — "real music," as he calls it — while showing off his preferred instruments, the mallets.

Taylor's chosen field of expertise is "vibrafunk," a combination of jazz, R&B and gospel music.

Aside from being great conversation pieces, mallets are percussion instruments used to play the vibraphone. Taylor's mastery of them will be on display when he performs at the New York Hilton on Jan. 28 from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. in an annual post-New Year's celebration honoring the late Rosa Parks and

the late Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

For Taylor, his appearance at the Hilton is one more step in a mild comeback, of sorts. He studied under Lionel Hampton, and later opened for Earth, Wind & Fire. In 1998, he released "The Christmas Song" and "Xmas Jam." He also released "Color By Mallets" in 1996, "Love Attack" in 1990, "Good Grief b/w My Destiny" in 1986 and "Love and Understanding b/w Once Upon a Mallet" in 1984. Following 9/11, financial concerns kept him from recording more music, but over the last couple of years, his record company, Mallet Records, is starting to pick up steam.

Following his eighth release in June, a CD single titled, "Live at Mallet's Place," Mike Balter Mallets made a pair of signature mallets for Taylor.

Recently, he became the first musician to play live music at Bed, Bath and

Beyond, playing in stores from Albany, N.Y., to Charlotte, N.C.

Among Taylor's many passions is his devotion to keep jazz and R&B music alive.

"Now, with 'American Idol,' everybody wants to be a singer," said Taylor. "Instrumentation is great in the schools, but once they get out of school, there's really no place for them to go. I don't care how great you are, people in school are playing drums and sax and they're great, but once that line is drawn, and they go out into the world, there really aren't too many places for you to go, and that's why at Mallet Records, we specialize in keeping real music alive. We're constantly looking for artists who'll make a difference for our label. We're just trying to make a difference in the world of old school R&B and jazz."

Even more electricity was added to Taylor's career recently when he had an

impromptu consultation with Mariah Carey, who took an interest in having Taylor participate in her summer music camp for children.

Taylor will be joined on the bill for the New York Hilton by Soul Generation and Keisha Williams. For the uninitiated, Taylor's music has a sound reminiscent of CD101.9, a sort of adult contemporary jazz feel to it.

For more information on Taylor, log on to www.malletrecords.com, or to www.sonicbids.com/malletman.

Further information on Taylor's performance on Jan. 28 is also available by calling the New York Hilton at 212-586-7000.

The New York Hilton is located at 1335 Ave. of the Americas in New York City.

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins may be reached at jcummins@thelocal-source.com.



Jason 'Malletman' Taylor, shown with Mariah Carey. Taylor, a Hillside resident, will perform in concert at the New York Hilton on Jan. 28.

Auditions are set for Westfield jazz band

The New Jersey Workshop for the Arts Music Studio will hold auditions for its newly formed Jazz Band on Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m. at 150-152 E. Broad St., Westfield.

The Jazz Band will be directed by NJWA founder and executive director Ted Schlosberg. Band members will meet on Saturdays from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Broad Street location from Jan. 21 until April 8. There is a \$100 band membership fee.

Musicians must have at least one year of playing experience on sax, trumpet, trombone, drums, piano, string

bass, bass guitar or electric guitar. For the audition, they should bring the last completed or current music book which they are using. Schlosberg hopes "to introduce and develop skills" within the group while they "have fun playing the Jazz Band repertoire." The types of music will include jazz, rock, pop, Dixieland, Broadway and Latin rhythms.

To arrange for an interview time, call The Music Studio at 908-789-9696 or visit the office at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield. Info on other NJWA programs is available on the Web at www.njworkshopforthearts.com.

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Two Tony's is two treats in one

Whether looking for a place to grab a hot, hearty pizza or someplace to enjoy a sumptuous dinner in a relaxed, family-friendly atmosphere, area residents need go no further than Two Tony's Pizza Cafe in Linden for a two-fold culinary delight.

Located on North Stiles Street, Two Tony's features both a traditional pizzeria as well as a dining room, accommodating every need for diners seeking delicious Italian fare.

While the pizzeria boasts standard offerings - pizzas with a wide variety of toppings, subs, calzones, hot sandwiches and the like - the dining room menu is equally comprehensive, making final selections a deliciously arduous task.

The extensive list of appetizers ranges from hot and cold antipastos to an impressive selection of hot dishes. Among the cold antipastos, I selected the Mozzarella Fantasy, a fantasia of deliciously fresh mozzarella, prosciutto, sun-dried tomatoes and roasted peppers. Delicately but richly seasoned and marinated, each component wonderfully complemented the flavor of the next, yet retained its own unique identity on the palate.

Also featured on the appetizer and salad sections of the menu are traditional antipastos as well as several tempting varieties featuring such ingredients as olives, artichoke hearts, a variety of meats, hot peppers and much more; grilled marinated Portabello mushroom with Gorgonzola cheese and field greens; a hot antipasto for two featuring baked clams, mussels and shrimp; hot and cold appetizers encompassing shrimp cocktail to fried calamari to mussels and beyond; and salads ranging from garden salad to Caesar salad to spinach salad. One could easily make an entire, filling meal without venturing into the main course offerings.

However, venture I did!

For my main course, I selected one of my all-time favorite dishes - veal Marsala - and Two Tony's did it justice and then some. The veal was succulently tender, cooked to perfection, and swimming in a richly delicious Marsala sauce with generous chunks of mushrooms. My side dish of pasta was perfectly prepared - neither over- nor undercooked - and boasted a freshness that made it light while at the same time hearty.

Also featured among the main course selections are traditional Italian fare: a variety of chicken and veal dishes including Parmigiana, Franchese and Florentine; seafood, most notably shrimp scampi; a wealth of pasta, from penne to linguine to ziti and more, and vegetarian selections such as baked ziti Sicilian made with eggplant.

In addition to the regular menu, Two Tony's offers daily specials, not all of which are Italian, such as the popular chicken Murphy.

With the pizzeria for eat-in or take-out and the dining room for a more traditional dining experience, Two Tony's is the best of both worlds!

Two Tony's Pizza Cafe is conveniently located at 628 N. Stiles St. in Linden. Reservations are recommended on weekends, especially for larger parties, but are not necessary Mondays through Thursdays. For information, call 908-925-1977.

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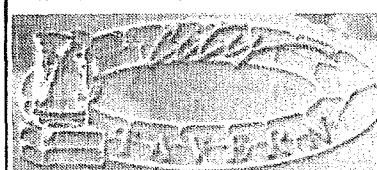
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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

ART SHOWS

THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY, located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway, presents "A Separate Reality: An Eclectic Exhibition of Realistic Visual Artworks," to Feb. 10, with an opening reception on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Thomas Andersen, Aileen Bassos, Allen Maertz, Jennifer Mazza, Douglass Newton, Leah Oates, Roger Sayre, Charlotte Schulz, Rebecca Sittler, Brian St. Cyr and Randall J. Stoltzfus. The exhibition will be curated by Samantha Mae Dorfman. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

LANDSCAPES will be the focus of "Landscape: Recent Landscape Imagery," at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway, from Feb. 19 to March 17 with an opening reception on Feb. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Patricia Brentano, Peter Giaccio, Laura Lou Levy and Roger Tucker. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

THE VISUAL ARTS CENTER of New Jersey will present the third exhibition in its Emerging Artists Series, continuing through Feb. 3. This special exhibition will showcase the work of five Master of Fine Arts candidates who will be graduating in 2006. The artists all attend New Jersey colleges and universities offering Master of Fine Arts programs. The artists chosen are Stephen Shingler from Montclair State University; Neil Callander and Jeffrey Thompson from Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Rutgers; Lydia Viscardi from William Patterson University; and Todd Doney from New Jersey City University. For more information, call 908-273-9121, or log on to www.artcenter-nj.org for more information on classes, exhibitions and special events.

THE DONALD B. PALMER MUSEUM at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, plans the following exhibits:

- Robert Parker, through Feb. 16.
- Louis Winarsky, Feb. 21 through March 30.

For information on these exhibits and other programs at the Donald B. Palmer Museum, call 973-376-4930.

BERKELEY HEIGHTS ARTIST NANCY ORI is featured at a permanent exhibit at Berkeley Heights Public Library, 290 Plainfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 908-464-9333.

AUDITIONS

THE STROLLERS will hold auditions for the Pulitzer Prize winning play by Nilo Cruz, "Anna in the Tropics" on Tuesday and Wednesday, Jan. 20 at 7 p.m. at the Burgdorff Cultural Center, 10 Durand Road, Maplewood. Directed by Leon Acosta, the production will take place March 3, 4, 5, 10 and 11. Winner of the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, this lyrical ode to great literature and a time gone by takes us to Tampa in 1930, where every day the workers at a cigar factory recreate the intoxicating Cuba they left behind. Into this heady atmosphere comes the handsome and mysterious Juan Julian, a professional "lector" who reads Tolstoy's tragic love story, Anna Karenina, aloud to the workers. The results are seductive, bemusing and shocking. For information, call 908-486-6921.

BOOKS

PSYCHIC MARY ROSE OCCHINO, the author of the psychic memoir "Beyond These Four Walls," has written a revealing book that offers readers new insights into recognizing, accepting, deciphering, and surrendering to the psychic signs and symbols in their own lives, titled "Sign of the Dove." Come meet this amazing woman and hear her messages from "the other side." Occhino will come to the Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, on Saturday at 2 p.m. For information, call 973-376-6581.

STEPHANIE LESSING will sign copies of her new book, "She's Got Issues," on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. Chloe Rose is living the dream. She's the newest assistant to the assistant at Issues Magazine, and she has a key to the shoe closet. Her natural talent for accessorizing, not to mention her happy-go-lucky attitude, are attracting lots of attention. But ... is it all good? For more information, call 973-376-6581.

JEFFREY COHEN, New Jersey's funniest sleuth is back! Aaron Tucker is on the case of a young man with Asperger's syndrome arrested for a senseless murder in "As Dog Is My Witness." Come meet this funny mystery writer on Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

THE BEST-SELLING DEBUT NOVEL by newspaperman John Grogan, author of "Marley & Me," will touch everyone who's ever known and loved a goofy dog during the Discover Great New Writers Book Group on Jan. 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, located

at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST Alice Walker's thrilling book, "The Color Purple," with the movie and new Broadway play as part of the African American Book Group on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581. All are invited to join this newly formed group. Titles will be selected for upcoming months.

CLASSES

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.ducr.edu. **LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM** on Morris Avenue in Union has scheduled its popular Lunch and Learn series, which is free to members of the public who

the Ticket Central Box Office located at the corner of 1601 Irving Street and Central Ave., Rahway. **SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER** will host the following concerts:

- Meet the Woodwinds, with New Jersey Youth Symphony coach Diana Charos, on March 5 at 2 p.m.
- Meet the Brass, with New Jersey Youth Symphony coach Remoh Moseley, on April 23 at 2 p.m.

The concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8. For more information, call 908-790-0700.

WILKINS THEATRE celebrates the spirit of nature with a concert by Gao Hong, a virtuoso pipa player, who leads an ensemble performing the best of Chinese folk, classical, court, silk and bamboo music on dozens of string, wind and percussion instruments, on Jan. 22 at 3 p.m. Wilkins

908-737-7469, or log on to www.wilkinstheatre.com.

"TEA DANCE: A DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA" is not your grandmother's tea. Kean University notes this event is for mature audiences. Tickets are \$25: \$20 for alumni, faculty, staff and seniors; \$15 for students. For tickets and information, call 908-737-7469, or log on to www.wilkinstheatre.com.

BALLET MESTIZO ... THE BEST OF COLOMBIA will be presented on April 29 at 7:30 p.m. at the Wilkins Theatre on the campus of Kean University in Union. Tickets are \$25: \$20 for alumni, faculty, staff and seniors; \$15 for students. For tickets and information, call 908-737-7469.

HOBBIES

THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC. meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to

22 West Restaurant and Lounge, 2185 Route 22, Union. Patrons must be 21 and older. For more information, call 908-206-0060.

KIDS

TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes & Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CLIFFORD THE BIG RED DOG will visit Barnes & Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CALLING ALL BUDDING ARCHITECTS - come learn about building castle cards! What's small enough to fit in your pocket, yet big enough to hold an entire medieval jousting tournament? Amazing building cards. Create a castle. For boys and girls 8 and up, on Jan. 26 at 4:30 p.m., at Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call 908-889-5265 or 908-889-4751.

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-688-8816.

SINGLES MIX AND MINGLE, every Thursday, starting at 7 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment and free finger food at Cafe Vivace, 1370 South Ave., and Terrill Road, Fanwood. Admission is free. Call 908-753-4500 for details.

THEATER

YOUNG PLAYWRIGHTS will compete for the 2006 fourth annual Young Playwrights Competition for New Jersey High School Students, sponsored by The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company. First-, second- and third-prize winners will receive \$600, \$400, and \$200 U.S. savings bonds, respectively. The winning scripts will be honored with professional script-in-hand performances during New Jersey Family Week at the theater in March when professional theaters in New Jersey offer free programming for young people. The contest is open to students in New Jersey in grades nine to 12. Scripts at any stage of completion are eligible. Deadline for submission is Jan. 31. There is a \$5 entry fee. Mail to The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. For information, call 908-659-5189.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, and live bands perform on Friday and Saturday nights.

Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island iced teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 lacos. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke.

The Back Porch is located at 1305 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6455.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry; Live at Instant Coffee, 8 p.m.

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night.

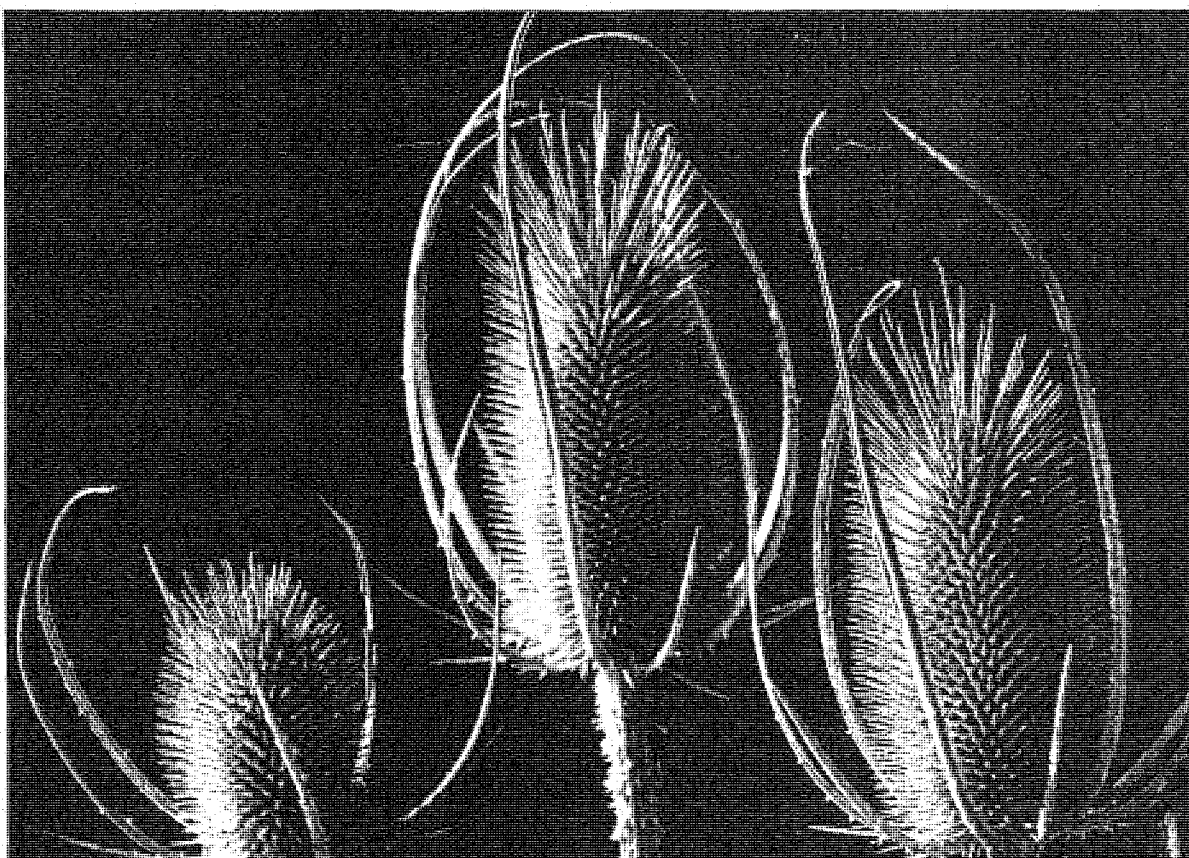
Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam; all pints, \$2.

Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night; Miller Lite and MGD, \$2 all night.

Every Thursday: Fiesta Night; Corona, Cuervo and margaritas, \$2 all night.

For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.xxroads.com.

Garden State art



'Teasels/New Jersey' is one of the photographs that will be on display as part of 'New Jersey Images: Photography by Robert A. Parker,' which will continue at The Donald B. Palmer Museum, located at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. Call 973-376-4930 for more information.

are invited to bring their lunch and learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for a reservation.

Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations, call 908-527-0400.

CONCERTS

LEON REDBONE will perform on Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Redbone, the eccentric and eclectic New York musician who has devoted his career to injecting new life into the blues, jazz, vaudeville, ragtime and folk traditions of the roaring 1920s, '30s and '40s, will take the stage at the Union County Arts Center. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online by visiting the Web site at www.ucac.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at

Theatre is located on the campus of Kean University, Union. For more information, call Marge Devaney at 908-737-6019.

DANCE

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehly School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Connection, Morris Avenue at Maple Street, in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed. All sessions begin at 8 p.m.; newcomers may arrive at 7:30 p.m. for extra help. Admission is \$2 for the evening. Call 973-467-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

TEATRO SI presents "Noche Flamenca," a celebration of Iberian dance, on Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m., at the Wilkins Theatre at Kean University in Union. Tickets are \$30; \$20 for students and children. For tickets and information, call

TMRCInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrcl.com.

JAZZ

JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE! "Wednesday's Jazz Cocktails" will feature the house band, Tempo, playing at Dusty's Place on Monday, formerly known as The Cove, 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. Saturday Jazz Showcase features top acts from the New York Metropolitan area. For information, call 908-241-5675, or 908-241-1224. Patrons may also send a message by e-mail to salange@bellatlantic.net.

LIVE JAZZ PERFORMANCES will be featured every Friday at 9:30 p.m. at

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of the month at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call 908-241-5758.

SCRIPTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting



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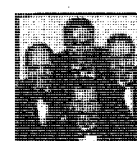
Sun. • Feb. 19 • 3PM
Charlotte's Web
A TheatreworksUSA production
Tickets: \$10



Sat. • Mar. 4 • 8PM
Weird & Wonderful
A Box of Light Theatre production
Tickets: \$15
Subscription: \$10

PARK Downtown Rahway's new parking deck, featuring FREE SHUTTLE SERVICE to the theatre.

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Sat. • Mar. 25 • 7:30PM
LAR Enterprises, Inc. presents
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Tickets: \$35



Sun. • Mar. 26 • 7:30PM
LAR Enterprises, Inc. presents
Tower of Power/ Average White Band
Tickets: \$45, \$40



Fri. • Mar. 31 • 8PM
Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes
Tickets: \$45, \$35
Subscription: \$40, \$30

Featuring:

The Duprees

"You Belong To Me"

The Crystals

"Da Doo Ron Ron"

Kenny Vance & The Planotones

"Looking For An Echo"

Gene Chandler

"Duke Of Earl"

Cleveland Still & The Dubs

"Could This Be Magic"

Emil Stucchio & The Classics

"Til Then"

Kid Kyle

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featuring:

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Sons of the Desert

Sat. • Jan. 28 • 8PM

Metropolis (1927)

Sponsored by Garden State

Theatre Organ Society

Sun. • Jan. 29 • 3PM

Willy Wonka and the

Chocolate Factory

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What's Going On?

AUCTION

FRIDAY
JANUARY 20th, 2006

EVENT: Tricky Tray Auction
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School,
One Raritan Road, Roselle NJ 07203
TIME: Doors open 5:30 P.M. Calling
Starts 7:P.M.
PRICE: Ticket Price \$8.00 in Advance;
\$10.00 at Door. No One Under 18
Admitted. Ticket information call 908-
851-2924

ORGANIZATION: The Mother's Club of
Roselle Catholic High School

Jeff Cummins, Editor

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PRICE _____
ORGANIZATION _____

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HOROSCOPES

Jan. 16 to 22

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Pay attention to professional or business matters this week.

Communicate your ideas and impress a boss or superior with your wisdom and insight.

TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Let "adaptable" be your middle name.

Keep an open mind, learn to roll with the punches and incorporate change whenever possible.

GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Wor-rying about things you cannot control is a waste of energy.

Release the blame or guilt that has built up from a mistake from the past.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Expect open, honest and harmonious communication between you and a loved one.

Do not hesitate to express your true and deepest heartfelt feelings.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: There is a focus on work or routine duties and responsibilities.

Outline a clear and concise plan of action that will lead you to your desired success.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: You

have a lot to learn about love, romance or socializing.

Make sure your lessons are easy and enjoyable with the right setting and company.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 2: Harmonious relationships among family members and friends are on tap for you this week.

Enjoy spending quality time in pleasant and amiable surroundings.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Make it your mission to get your point across as effectively as possible.

Share your compassion, thoughts, feelings and opinions with a creative flair.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Although your finances appear to be improving, there is still some work required to get you back in the black.

Keep striving toward your fiscal goals.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: There is a crowd of people who are clearly in your corner.

Put your best foot forward and expect acceptance and support from a

variety of colleagues and peers.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Inspiration comes through meditation or moments spent in contemplation.

Get quiet, go within and listen to your subconscious voice.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Enjoy a heightened level of communication among your friends.

Do not be surprised by how often someone speaks up and completes your sentences.

If your birthday is this week, it will be easy to express your thoughts and feelings during the coming year.

Uncover a method of communication with siblings or loved ones that will allow you to break down barriers and really get your point across.

Avoid confusion or uncertainty connected to financial matters.

Make an all-out effort to understand your investments and make sound and practical decisions.

Also born this week: Ethel Mer- man, Benjamin Franklin, Cary Grant, Robert E. Lee, Bill Maher and Plácido Domingo.

Your Christmas list is done... what about your gift to you?

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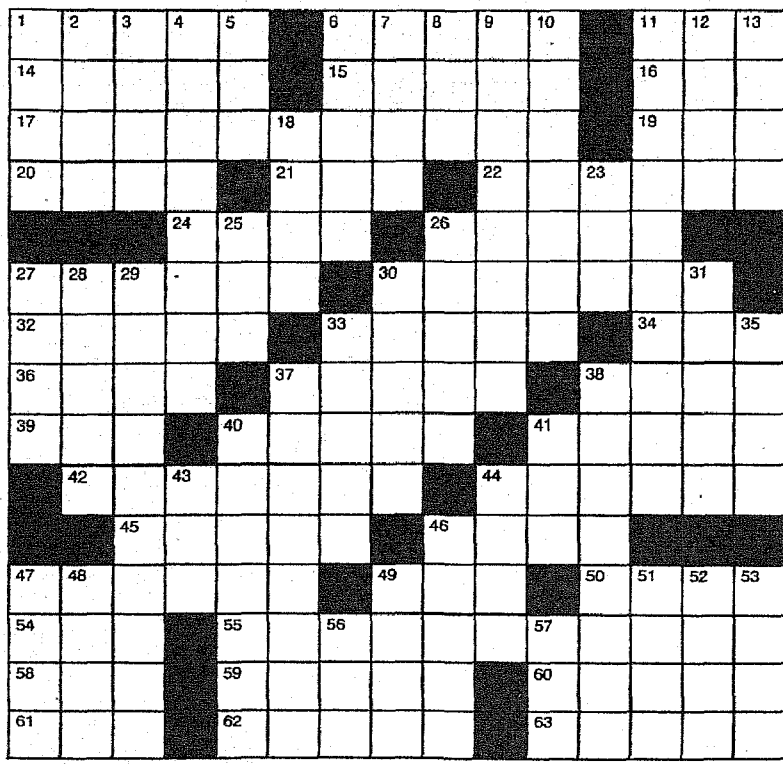
ACROSS

- 1 In the lead
- 6 Strikebreakers
- 11 Cribbage piece
- 14 diem
- 15 Gem weight
- 16 Gob
- 17 Gilbert and Sullivan opus
- 19 was saying ...
- 20 Villa d'
- 21 Afore
- 22 Wore a smile
- 24 Church recess
- 26 Mme Curie
- 27 Arboreal Australian marsupials
- 30 Supervisors
- 32 Brownish-yellow
- 33 Ghostly
- 34 Go one better
- 36 Got: abbr.
- 37 Trig function
- 38 A minute
- 39 Ms. Sothern
- 40 City on the Rhine
- 41 One of Columbus' three
- 42 Cut
- 44 Tarry
- 45 Civil wrongs
- 46 "Fan Tutte"
- 47 Do electrical work again
- 49 Monk
- 50 Do in
- 54 Ab from the beginning
- 55 Taxpayers' nemeses
- 58 Knightly title
- 59 Macabre
- 60 It's sometimes wild
- 61 Moose
- 62 Clown's perch
- 63 Passion

DOWN

- 1 Pine
- 2 They overact
- 3 Once, once
- 4 Pled

LETTERED



COPELEY NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- 5 Agnus
- 6 Say boo!
- 7 Bistro
- 8 Orinoco tributary
- 9 Uncivilized
- 10 Took the wheel
- 11 Grade school event
- 12 Facilitate
- 13 Lattice
- 18 Loch
- 23 Goal
- 25 Duffer's dream
- 26 Edible mushroom
- 27 Sen. Kennedy's daughter
- 28 Portents
- 29 It carries Jeopardy
- 30 Joined
- 31 Nick, of films
- 33 Comes in second

- 35 Bosc
- 37 British statesman John
- 38 Clergyman
- 40 Goose and blue
- 41 Omicron followers
- 43 "Che Sapete": Mozart aria
- 44 Laundry unit
- 46 Vinegar bottle
- 47 Stood
- 48 Immoral
- 49 Get an F
- 51 Noisy
- 52 Sacramento arena
- 53 Flanders river
- 56 Lanka
- 57 Ms. Lupino

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE 21

This concert showcases a nut job

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield presents Folk Legend and "Professional Nut-Job," Christine Lavin, in concert at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield, 1 E. Broad St., on the corner of North Avenue in Westfield, on Jan. 21. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and the concert begins at 8 p.m. Admission is \$20. All net proceeds from the evening's concert will be donated to the Eric Johnson House in Morristown.

Reservations are essential for this concert, and can be made by calling the concert hot line at 908-412-9105, or send an e-mail to concerts4causes@aol.com.

Christine Lavin, whose Web site is <http://www.christinelavin.com>, is a nut job. Yes, she's a renown singer/song-writer/guitarist, a comedienne extraordinaire, a dynamo of energy, a brainiac with a fascination for astro-physics, a tireless supporter of too many causes, a freelance writer, a talk-show host and the beloved "Godmother" to all singer/song-writers. But when the show is over, one is left with a very clear picture of who and what this woman is ... a nut job! You will be tickled in places you didn't know you had places. Your sides will hurt. Be warned ... She's a nut job!

With the release of her latest CD, folkZinger, on Appleseed Records, this

now brings her number of solo albums to 17, joining three "Four Bitchin' Babes" disks, and six compilations she produced showcasing the works of dozens of contemporary singer/song-writers whose music she loves. She has won one NAIRD award, two New York Music Awards, five ASCAP composer awards, the Kate Wolf Memorial Award, and her songs have been performed by such diverse artists as Sutton Foster, Tony Award-winning actress; The Dartmouth College Decibelles; The Acci-dentials; and the Washington, D.C., Gay Men's Chorus. In 2001, Backstage Magazine named her "Outstanding New York Singer/Songwriter of The Year."

Lavin's concert career continues to take her all over the United States, Canada, and points beyond. She now performs wireless, enabling her, as she says, "to turn any size concert hall into a living room." When not performing or recording, Lavin writes freelance and she is the occasional guest host for the popular "Sunday Breakfast" radio program on WFUV, 90.7 FM in New York City, and in between all this, she knits.

For more info about the artists, visit their Web site: www.christinelavin.com.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield is a ten-show series running from September through

June at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield. This season, the concerts are being recorded for broadcast by Westfield's TV-36. Residents of Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountainside can catch each month's concert on Fridays at 10 a.m. and 10 p.m., and on Sundays at 7 p.m.

The Coffee With Conscience Concert Series of Westfield supports the following charities: The Eric Johnson House in Morristown, the Interfaith Council for the Homeless, the Names Project — more commonly known as the AIDS Quilt — Habitat for Humanity and the Community Food Bank of NJ. Each concert benefits one of these charities.

The series is made possible in part by a generous grant from the Westfield Service League, and other private donations — which are enthusiastically encouraged. A season sampler CD is also available for \$13 by sending an e-mail, with your name and address, to the address below.

For more information about the Coffee With Conscience Concert Series, the upcoming performance, ways in which to get involved with the series, or info on getting your own copy of the season sampler CD, call the concert hot line at 908-412-9105 or send an e-mail to concerts4causes@aol.com. You can also visit www.coffeewithconscience.com.

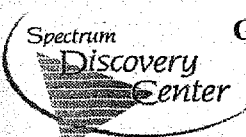
In the Zone



'Cave Totem,' by Tim Trelease, part of 'The Midnight Zone,' which will be on display at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit through Feb. 2. For information, call 908-273-0900.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 2006

Taking the extra base

Al Faella of Mountainside can spell interoperability. He knows what it means and, as the newly appointed director of Economic Development, he intends to make it happen in Union County.

For those not possessing a master's in publication administration degree like Faella, the word means to make the different layers of government talk frequently and actually work together in resolving problems. It's something like seeing the whole picture and then get moving to get results.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

In the "twelve years of governmental managerial experience," as described in his announcement, Faella's most recent success was shepherding the county's Community Development Program and its \$7 million budget in affected 19 municipalities.

He worked with the representatives from the different communities to make sure projects got completed and funds were fairly allocated. He had previous stops as a director in Elizabeth municipal government and served time in the private sector at Sealand.

For two years, he was drafted by lifelong friend Jaime Fox to help clean the mess at the State Motor Vehicle agencies.

Speaking with Faella means getting a dose of the optimism that shows in the longtime baseball coach. He coached at St. Patrick's in Elizabeth, succeeding the legendary Buzz Fox. He still coaches in the recreation program in Mountainside.

The guy is a doer. He helped to institute a separate band for radio communication for emergency personnel. He notes that now, "at the push of a button," all involved can update on breaking developments during a crisis.

Faella's involvement in the county's successful Community Development Block Grant Program is documented. He quickly points out that the program was the brain child of a Republican president. His skill has been to maximize the public funding on public needs so that the private sector funding is both comfortable and available to maximize projects.

He speaks about the need to focus on suburban towns to develop a stream of knowledge of the funds and opportunities available.

Faella is not your typical bureaucrat. The relationship with Fox, currently the number two guy at the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, goes back to Faella succeeding Fox's father as a baseball coach.

Among his high school chums was J. Christian Bollwage, mayor of Elizabeth, who appointed him director of Neighborhood Services in Elizabeth from 1993 to 1999. Bollwage spoke about his friend last week, recalling Faella's determination to absorb himself in the complexities of Federal Housing and Urban Development regulations and use them for the benefit of the city. Another co-worker at the time was George Devaney, the county's manager.

Faella is going to need friends and the daring of a baseball coach in the coming year. The federal government doesn't seem inclined to move forward with more assistance.

The state transportation fund is considered almost broke. It's estimated that \$405 million in funds are needed just to complete existing projects. Beyond a gas tax, even a leasing of the Parkway and Turnpike has been proposed to find money for the big projects and fixing the potholes. The money for new projects is tight.

With the retrenchment, Faella already has on his plate the expanded Ferry Service in Elizabeth and Linden to New York and the Kapkowski Road extension. It seems like the job for someone who can get the different levels of government to talk and work together, and, when necessary, take an extra base.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

Freeholder board welcomes return of re-elected members

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

Union County's elected officials gathered Sunday afternoon to put their governmental house in order.

The nine-member freeholder board welcomed back Nancy Ward of Linden; Angel Estrada of Elizabeth, and Rick Proctor of Rahway. Joanne Rajoppi took the oath as county clerk for the third time.

Freeholders Alexander Mirabella and Bette Jane Kowalski were also sworn in as the board's chairman and vice chairman respectively.

The annual reorganization meeting got under way nearly 30 minutes behind schedule but still clocked in at two hours.

Union County Democratic Committee Chairman Charlotte DeFilippo welcomed not only municipal and county officials, but also members of the Legislature and Rep. Robert Menendez, who represents parts of Elizabeth and Linden in Congress.

"I'm proud to be here," DeFilippo said. "The sun is shining on all of Union County, but I'd like to believe it shines just a little brighter on the citizens in the 13 cities and towns that have Democrats at the helm," she said.

DeFilippo also made light of her party's electoral results throughout the county, including the city of Plainfield, which was the scene of a heated mayoral race this fall.

"Our party works real hard. Our freeholders build consensus; they actually listen and act," she said.

Initiating the formal part of the afternoon, Rajoppi was the first to be sworn in, with her sons by her side.

"Today actually marks the seventh time I've taken office in this historic courthouse," Rajoppi said. She has held the post of clerk since 1993, when the office merged with the Office of Register of Deeds and Mortgages, the previous post she held for a dozen years.

"Quite honestly, I'm as thrilled now as I was 29 years ago when I first entered the public sector," she said. Rajoppi joined the county first as a member of the Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1977.

Looking back on her tenure, Rajoppi said that with maturity comes greater perspective. "It seems to me, with age, vision expands exponentially," she said.

In addition to Rajoppi, Nancy Ward was officially sworn in to her first full three-year term on the board. Ward was appointed to the freeholder board in November 2004.

DeFilippo described Ward as "one smart cookie lawyer," as she introduced her. "It's a particular delight to look upon not only another woman on the freeholder board, but someone with idealism and a sense of awe. All this is bright, sparkling, and new to her. She took the first year as a novice and worked very hard to find a niche that she could nurture and grow her ideas," DeFilippo said.

Surrounded by members of her family, Ward took her post, calling

Union County the best place in the world to live and work.

"Today is a very special day in my life. Being a first-generation American, it's that much more special to me and my family," she said.

"Government can be good. Government can be wise. Government can create permanent, positive change if it is led by people who care, people who understand their role in our democracy, and people who truly believe in their responsibility to the people who elected them," she said, speaking of her colleagues on the board.

Angel Estrada officially began his third term as member of the freeholder board. Estrada, the first Latino elected to the board in 1999, said, "We have to remember that we are not in this world by ourselves. We rely on each other, and the decisions that individuals make, have an impact on our lives — both ways — for the better or for worse."

Talking about his last seven years in office, Estrada said he felt he had changed, and gotten older, but "there isn't a day that I don't learn something new."

Proctor, who served as the board's chairman in 2005, was sworn in to his second term on the board.

"I find this to be a great honor, and I take it very seriously," he said in his brief remarks. "I promise I will do the best job I can to represent the best interests of the county."

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or unioncounty@yahoo.com.



Photo By Sean Havey

Freeholder Al Mirabella, who was elected chairman during the county's reorganization meeting, addresses the audience at the court house and outlines plans he wants to implement this year as leader of the board.

Mirabella sets goals as latest chairman

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

Setting the tone for 2006, newly sworn in Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella laid out his initiatives for the coming year. Falling under the theme, "Community Connections to County Government," Mirabella outlined several outreach efforts that are intended to bring the process of county government and information about county programs, to the county's 21 municipalities.

Mobile Meetings

The first initiative outlined by Mirabella was the concept of a mobile freeholder meeting. Typically, meetings of the freeholder board take place on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m. in the freeholder meeting room, which is located in the county administration building in Elizabeth.

"Some residents have difficulty coming to our meetings so we will come to them, at the local town hall or nearest public facility with a meeting room," he said.

The initiative, which Mirabella introduced during his first term as chairman in 2000, will bring freeholder meetings to "several western and central portions of Union County."

Presently, dates, times and locations have yet to be determined.

Other components of the mobile meeting initiative include sponsoring a "County Government Day," in which the county will sponsor seminars or events about different programs and services offered by the county, as well as taking out the county's Public Information vehicle to locations throughout the county, stocked with brochures and other information about county programs and services.

"We're going to places where you may run errands," Mirabella explained.

Webpage Redesign

Mirabella also announced that the county's webpage, www.ucnj.org, will undergo a "dramatic redesign." He said the webpage would be more interactive as well as have high definition graphics and an easier to read design.

In conjunction, the county will also create a Union County Virtual Library online that will be linked to the county's main page. The site will allow local libraries to share resources, catalog information, and details about special programs.

"Eventually, Union County will also invest in specialized, subscription only databases, available from this site and accessible to anyone with a library card," Mirabella explained.

Additionally, Mirabella announced the creation of an Intergovernmental Relations Committee, which will be led by Freeholder Daniel Sullivan. Mirabella said the committee will concentrate on developing a closer connection between the county and its municipalities.

Job Connection

In an attempt to address unemployment in the region, Mirabella announced the Internet feature called "The Job Connection."

The site will feature updated listings of local job offerings from participating municipal agencies in the Union County One Stop System, and will feature contact information for these vacancies which county residents can access through the webpage.

"This service will be offered to participating companies serving on the Workforce Investment Board, other companies, and local chambers of commerce," Mirabella said.

The chairman also said the freeholder board will create a Corporate Ambassador program as part of the initiative to complement their aggressive outreach efforts with major employers.

Additionally, Mirabella said the county will welcome the new "Retail Skills Center West," to be located in Plainfield.

Commitments from the state of New Jersey and National Retail Federation Foundation will make the center a reality, Mirabella said.

The county's first Retail Skills Center opened in 1999 in Elizabeth. Since that time, more than 17,000 people have received training, workshops, direct job placement, and counseling, Mirabella said.

Regional Animal Shelter

In addition to fostering a county government that is more connected to residents, Mirabella announced that the long-awaited Union County Regional Animal Shelter is coming to fruition.

"Part of our higher calling includes the care of every living creature under our domain," Mirabella said.

The shelter facility will be located in the Houdaille Quarry in Springfield, which Mirabella said, eliminates concerns about space.

According to the chairman, the building will have classrooms, and be accessible for tours.

"By reaching out to children, the shelter will show the county's youngest residents how to properly care for animals and provide a foundation for a life based on respect for all things," he said.

Goals

Mirabella announced that the township of Berkeley Heights is in talks with the New York Jets football team to make the township their practice home.

"As with other economic development projects throughout the county, we stand ready to go the extra yard to assist in any way possible to bring this major attraction to our county," Mirabella said.

He announced that the county's Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Committee will pursue the ownership of the 150-acre Clark Reservoir property and add it to the county's park inventory in 2006.

"After much examination and study, it has been determined that the county is the best entity to take over the property, which has long been neglected due to the size and resources required to maintain it," he said.

Mirabella also charged the committee with the task of finding ways to install field turf on all county-owned playing fields. The synthetic grass surface would increase the longevity of the field as well as cut maintenance costs.

Additionally, the committee will pursue attaining a historic site designation from the state for Roselle's Warinanco Park.

Mirabella called the park "an extraordinary example of an Olmstead designed park," and said the designation would open the county to additional grant funding opportunities to restore the property.

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or unioncounty@yahoo.com.



Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow displays sample phones that law enforcement officers will be collecting for domestic violence victims beginning Jan. 18.

Phones collected for crime victims

A countywide effort that will put cellular phones with programmed call minutes into the hands of crime victims will be up and running next week, Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romankow announced.

After two months of planning, the Victim Witness Advocacy Unit is spearheading a collection of newer model phones that will be used to get credits for telephone minutes under a Michigan-based program known as "Call To Protect."

Elaine O'Neal, coordinator of the unit, said operation "Call to Protect" will accept the newer model cell-phones and give the county free phones that will come with a set amount of calling minutes.

"If a victim comes to us and we believe they are at risk of being victimized further, we would be able to assign them an emergency phone," said O'Neal, who said her office has always been able to give phones that only dial out to 9-1-1 but now they

can be used to dial any number for help.

Romankow said the effort is more than timely. "Within the last month, we have lost two innocent victims in this county to brutal domestic violence killings," he pointed out.

"We certainly don't know if this program could have changed anything, but we are aggressive in our weapons seizure policy and in prosecuting crimes of violence in court so this can be another way to try to make a difference and possibly save a victim from harm."

During the 1990s, the prosecutor's office began one of the first programs to accept used cellular phones and the Verizon company reprogrammed the devices at no cost and made them available to violent crime victims for emergencies.

"We got hundreds of phones, so many that we had to start declining the donations and ran into storage problems," said O'Neal. "In one case

several years ago, a woman who was being stalked by a perfect stranger made use of the phone on several occasions because she worked odd hours and was being harassed whenever she used public transportation."

Persons who want to donate newer model phones can drop their phone off at Union County Police Headquarters in Westfield or at the Prosecutor's Office at 32 Rahway Ave., in Elizabeth beginning Jan. 18.

"We will have a box in our headquarters centrally located so that residents can get rid of phones no longer needed and help us protect residents with a small measure of safety at the same time," said County Police Chief Daniel Vaniska, president of the county police chiefs association this year.

He said Roselle Chief Peter DeRose has also volunteered to help collect the cell phones by having a collection spot at his headquarters.

Questions can be directed to O'Neal at 908-527-4596.

Foster grandparent program set to begin

Community Access Unlimited, a progressive non-profit social service agency that empowers people with developmental disabilities to become productive independent contributing citizens, was recently awarded a three-year grant from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service to implement a Foster Grandparent Program.

Program volunteers, retired individuals 60 years and older, will provide mentoring, academic tutoring, nurturing, relationship skills and building self-esteem in children placed in day care, head-start centers, schools and in residential settings.

Volunteers may also provide teen pregnancy and support education to young mothers. The program will serve Union

County's at-risk children with exceptional or special needs.

The Foster Grandparent Program advocates an intergenerational approach to addressing community and basic human needs of its participants and recipients.

The initiative is to foster higher levels of achievement physically, emotionally, mentally, socially; also help participants excel in behavioral development and meet educational goals.

For more information, contact Denise Carroll, director of the Foster Grandparent Program, at 908-354-2040, ext. 389, e-mail address dcarroll@caunj.org. To learn more about Community Access Unlimited, view its Web site at www.caunj.org.

Hetfield House revisited

By Lauren DeFilippo
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is part of an ongoing series on historic sites in Union County.

Nearly 245 years, and two re-locations have not changed Mountinside's historic Hetfield house much.

Even the home's five fireplaces survived the trek, said Scott Daniels, chairman of the Mountinside Historic Preservation Commission.

Originally constructed as a two room, one and one half story building, a complete second floor and three additional rooms on the first floor were all added by 1830.

Despite its age, much of the original architecture of the 18th-century residence is still intact, save for a sloping ceiling and one slanted window.

The oldest portion of the home, constructed in about 1760 by the Deacon Andrew Hetfield, consisted only of a kitchen and a sleeping loft above.

Hetfield was born in Elizabethtown in 1740, and fought in the Revolutionary War. Later, he served as a deacon and an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

Today, the kitchen is outfitted in antiques the Historical Preservation Commission has acquired over time.

"We have a whole list of things we want to acquire for each of the rooms," Daniels said.

Axe marks line the sides of the hand-cut wooden beams that hold up the ceiling in the oldest section of the home, and the home's original "hogging," or insulation, is behind drywall, but makes it nearly impossible to run



A small bedroom on the second floor of the Hetfield House in Mountinside portrays the living accommodations during the 1800s.

modern wiring throughout the house.

There is even a hole in the ceiling near the open hearth that would be used in the winter months to transfer heat from the kitchen to the sleeping loft above, Daniels said.

In later years, additional rooms were added to the home as the family grew and prospered.

Adjacent to the kitchen is a two room living space. Six-foot ceilings were added, as was a complete second floor.

Today, the second floor houses the Historical Preservation Commission's meeting space, as well as room devoted entirely to veterans, in addition to two rooms interpreted as bedrooms.

The largest room, made to look like a period master bedroom features a recent addition to the home's furniture collection, an era-appropriate bed that

came all the way from Maryland, Daniels said.

The room also boasts an early dresser that does not have any drawers. Instead, the furniture piece is more akin to a hope chest or footlocker, only taller. Carved out of a single piece of wood, rather than joining three or four pieces together, the top lifts up so that items may be stored inside.

The home also features antique clothing, including ensembles complete with bonnet and shoes.

The home remained in the Hetfield family and was passed down from generation to generation. Approximately two decades after World War I, the home was used as a tea room, a brochure produced by the Historical Preservation Commission said.

In the early 1930s, the home transformed again, when it was rented by

"Andersonville" author McKinley Kantor. By 1935, the home was rented by the Rosencrantz family, who turned the house into an antique business named "The Dutch Oven."

Wald Rosencrantz, whose parents opened the antique shop, purchased the home in 1946 from the Rev. Frederick Fitz Randolph, a Hetfield inlaw.

In 1984, the home was sold to the Kuczynski family, who hoped to turn property into a commercial site.

In June 1985, the home was turned over to the Borough of Mountinside.

The Hetfield House is listed on both the state and national registers of historic places.

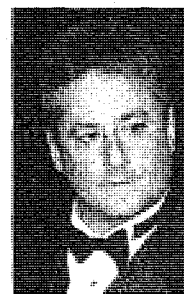
Staff Writer Paul Greulich contributed to this report.

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119 or union-county@yahoo.com.

Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Brown is installed as Union Bar president

Marc R. Brown, a partner in the law firm of Wolkstein Von Ellen & Brown in Springfield, was installed as president of the Union County Bar Association in December at The Short Hills Caterers in Short Hills.



Brown

Brown received his bachelor of arts degree from Rutgers University and his law degree from New York Law School.

He was admitted to the Bar Association in 1985 and litigates matters involving family, commercial and chancery issues.

In 1994, Brown received a certification in mediation from the Institute for Dispute Resolution at Seton Hall University Law School and is privately retained and appointed by the court to mediate family and commercial disputes.

Since 1986, Brown has served as a panelist with the Matrimonial Early Settlement Program in Union County.

He served as a member of the District XII Ethics Committee and was a chairman in 2001.

He has been chairman of the Association's Family Law, Judicial & Prosecutorial Appointments and Activities Committees.

He is also a member of the New Jersey and American Bar Associations and the New Jersey Association of Professional Mediators.

Brown is also active in his hometown of Cranford. He is a past pres-

ident and current member of the Board of Directors of the Cranford Rotary Club, where he was named a Paul Harris Fellow in 2000.

He has also served as a member and chairman of the Cranford Zoning Board of Adjustment and currently serves as attorney for the Cranford Planning Board.

Brown also has coached PAL and recreation basketball in town. He and his wife, Ruth, have a son, Zach and a daughter, Jessica.

Flower group meets

The Union County chapter of the African Violet Society will hold its monthly meeting on Jan. 19 in the Scotch Plains library, 1927 Bartle Ave., at 1 p.m.

The program will be "The Cincinnati Convention Show." Jan Riemer, past president of the African Violet Society of America, will present a slide show of the winning plants at the convention. Anyone interested in African violets is invited to attend.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Auction at Devon Self Storage- 825 Glenwood Hills, N.J. 07035 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 24A:18-7 ET SEQ. Units A8 Gerald Anthony, 1037 Donald Jones, 1037 Vanessa K. Land, 1078 Lori Ann, 1037 Jr., 1058 Karen Macey, 1031 Toy-In, Washington, D17 Carolyn Cason, 1047 Nicole Macey, 2068 Mary Ann, 1037 1069 Shelly D. Larkins, G21 Balleigh N. McCrimmon, E12 Kirk A. Mills, D27 Richard Mills, 1037 Sammie Natch, 1037 Wilma O. 2074 Tempco, H Smith 3rd, D22 Wayne Stachhouse, B1 Norry N. Stevenson, A32 Jerome L. Sutton, E18 Laetonia, 1037. The award of the contract is hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Keller & Kirkpatrick, for the services of a Township Engineer for the Township of Springfield, at a monthly fee of \$1,000.00 and for additional work at an hourly fee of \$110.00 or as specified by contract, not to exceed \$25,000.00. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Services" under the Local Contract Law as bids are not required under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

General Manager
U134337 WCN Jan. 68.12, 2006 (\$40.50)

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, (N.J.S.A. 17:27 et seq.) requires a resolution authorizing the awarding of contracts for "Professional Services" without competitive bids, must be advertised; and

WHEREAS, the award of this contract is pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Keller & Kirkpatrick, for the services of a Township Engineer for the Township of Springfield, at a monthly fee of \$1,000.00 and for additional work at an hourly fee of \$110.00 or as specified by contract, not to exceed \$25,000.00. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Services" under the Local Contract Law as bids are not required under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution shall be published according to law.

TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Re-organizational meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey, held on Tuesday afternoon, January 10, 2006.

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC Township Clerk
U134420 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$15.00)

RESOLUTION FOR AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO ROBERT A. MICHAELS, P.C. BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is in need of contracting for the services of a Board of Adjustment Attorney for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, (N.J.S.A. 17:27 et seq.) requires a resolution authorizing the awarding of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids, and that the contract itself must be available for inspection; and

WHEREAS, the award of this contract is pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Neil Dworkin, Esq. to serve as Board of Adjustment Attorney, at salary set by Ordinance, plus for additional work at a fee of \$100.00 per hour, with a maximum fee of \$10,000.00. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Services" under the Local Contract Law as bids are not required under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be published according to law.

TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Re-organizational meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey, held on Tuesday afternoon, January 10, 2006.

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC Township Clerk
U134439 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$18.38)

RESOLUTION AWARDED A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT TO KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is in need of contracting for the services of a Planning Board Attorney for the year 2006; and

WHEREAS, the Local Public Contracts Law, (N.J.S.A. 17:27 et seq.) requires a resolution authorizing the awarding of contracts for Professional Services without competitive bids, and that the contract itself must be available for inspection; and

WHEREAS, the award of this contract is pursuant to a fair and open process in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Kathleen B. Estabrooks, PC, to serve as Planning Board Attorney, at salary set by Ordinance, plus for additional work at a fee of \$100.00 per hour, with a maximum fee of \$10,000.00. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Services" under the Local Contract Law as bids are not required under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be published according to law.

TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Re-organizational meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey, held on Tuesday afternoon, January 10, 2006.

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC Township Clerk
U134442 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$15.38)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

WHEREAS, an annual audit is required by N.J.S.A. 17:27 et seq.; and

WHEREAS, funds are or will be available for this purpose; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Kathleen B. Estabrooks, PC, to serve as Planning Board Attorney, at salary set by Ordinance, plus for additional work at a fee of \$100.00 per hour, with a maximum fee of \$10,000.00. This contract is awarded without competitive bidding as a "Professional Services" under the Local Contract Law as bids are not required under N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4, et seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution shall be published according to law.

TAKE NOTICE, that the foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Re-organizational meeting of the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, in the County of Union, and State of New Jersey, held on Tuesday afternoon, January 10, 2006.

KATHLEEN D. WISNIEWSKI, RMC/CMC Township Clerk
U134442 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$15.38)

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Shade Tree Commission of the Borough of Mountinside will hold its meeting on Friday, January 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountinside, NJ 07035. All are welcome to attend and participate.

Ruth M. Rees
Secretary
U134500 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$5.25)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the following resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountinside, County of Union, State of New Jersey at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2006.

Judith E. Osty, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION 13-2006

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside is required by the terms of N.J.S.A. 40A:5-1 et seq. to engage Registered Municipal Accountant to be the Official Borough Auditor and Financial Advisor; and

WHEREAS, such services constitute professional services of such a qualitative nature as will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside desires to appoint the Borough Auditor and Financial Advisor as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate Borough official has determined that the value of these services may or will exceed \$17,500 over the life of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of the contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, Robert B. Cagnassola (a member of the firm of Supple, Clooney & Co.) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountinside, that Michael Disko, Sr. (a member of the firm of Michael Disko, Sr. & Associates) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in an appropriate newspaper within ten days hereof.

U134484 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$23.25)

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the following resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountinside, County of Union, State of New Jersey at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2006.

Judith E. Osty, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION 10-2006

WHEREAS, the Borough Attorney is required to perform services for the Borough beyond the scope of the services upon which his salary is based; and

WHEREAS, such services constitute professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2; and

WHEREAS, the nature of such legal services will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside desires to appoint the Borough Attorney as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate Borough official has determined that the value of these services may or will exceed \$17,500 over the life of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of the contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, Robert B. Cagnassola (a member of the firm of Supple, Clooney & Co.) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountinside, that Michael Disko, Sr. (a member of the firm of Michael Disko, Sr. & Associates) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in an appropriate newspaper within ten days hereof.

U134484 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$23.25)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

TAKE NOTICE: The Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, at the regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 24, 2006, at 8:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, will consider a Resolution waiving a reverter set forth in a deed dated November 26, 1993, recorded at DB2761, PG317, from the Township of Springfield to Robert H. Johnson and Katherine L. Johnson, his wife, as to the property located at 21 Ruby Street, Springfield, also known as Block 2904, Lot 7 on the tax map of the Township of Springfield, prohibiting the sale of the property on any portion of the said land, except as an addition to the existing building, and a public hearing concerning same will be held at that time.

Kathleen D. Wisniewski RMC/CMC Township Clerk
January 12, 2006
U134876 OBS (\$18.75)

PUBLIC NOTICE

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the following resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountinside, County of Union, State of New Jersey at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2006.

Judith E. Osty, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION 15-2006

WHEREAS, the Borough Engineer is required to perform services for the Borough beyond the scope of the services upon which his salary is based; and

WHEREAS, such services constitute professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2; and

WHEREAS, the nature of such engineering services will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside desires to appoint the Borough Engineer as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate Borough official has determined that the value of these services may or will exceed \$17,500 over the life of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of the contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, Robert B. Cagnassola (a member of the firm of Supple, Clooney & Co.) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountinside, that Michael Disko, Sr. (a member of the firm of Michael Disko, Sr. & Associates) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in an appropriate newspaper within ten days hereof.

U134487 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$22.88)

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE
COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY

NOTICE is hereby given that the following resolution was adopted by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Mountinside, County of Union, State of New Jersey at the Reorganization Meeting held on January 3, 2006.

Judith E. Osty, RMC
Borough Clerk

RESOLUTION 14-2006

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside finds it necessary to engage an Insurance Agent to analyze the Borough's insurance program and to assist in the development of a viable and cost-effective insurance program; and

WHEREAS, such services constitute professional services of such a qualitative nature as will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside desires to appoint the Borough Insurance Agent as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate Borough official has determined that the value of these services may or will exceed \$17,500 over the life of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of the contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, Bruce Dickerson (a member of the firm of Benninger, Tansey & Company) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Mountinside, that the Insurance Company Agent Bruce Dickerson of Benninger, Tansey and Company be and he hereby is appointed to be the official Borough insurance agent and advisor for a term of up to one year commencing January 1, 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be published in an appropriate newspaper within ten days hereof.

U134513 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$22.88)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

TAKE notice that the following decision was made at the regular meeting of the Planning Board held on Wednesday January 4, 2006:

Application # 8-2005-S
Applicant: Zoe's Restaurant, LLC
Site Location: 901 Mountain Avenue
Block: 3901 Lot(s): 3
For: Preliminary and Final Site Plan approval, and conditional use approval for a restaurant.
Was: Approved
Said application is on file in the Office of the Secretary of the Planning Board, Annex Building, 20 North Trivett Avenue, Township of Springfield, New Jersey and is available for public inspection.
Robert C. Kirkpatrick
Board Secretary
U134464 OBS Jan. 12, 2006 (\$10.89)

PUBLIC NOTICE

RESOLUTION FOR AWARD OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT FOR BOND COUNSEL TO ROBERT M. CARNEY TROY LLC, BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is in need of retaining legal services of a bond counsel; in connection with the authorization, issuance and sale of bonds or notes for the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, such services constitute professional services within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 40A:11-2; and

WHEREAS, the nature of such legal services will not reasonably permit the drawing of specifications or the receipt of competitive bids;

WHEREAS, the Borough of Mountinside desires to appoint the Borough Public Defender as a non-fair and open contract pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4 and 20.5; and

WHEREAS, the appropriate Borough official has determined that the value of these services may or will exceed \$17,500 over the life of the contract; and

WHEREAS, the anticipated term of the contract is one year; and

WHEREAS, Robert M. Carney Troy, LLC (a member of the firm of Carney Troy & Associates) has completed and submitted a Business Entity Disclosure Certification which certifies that it has not made any reportable contributions to a political candidate or committee in the Borough of Mountinside in the previous year, and acknowledging that the contract will prohibit it from making any reportable contributions through the term of the contract; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Committee of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, that the Mayor and the Township Clerk of the Township of Springfield are hereby authorized, respectively, to execute and attest to an agreement with Robert M. Carney Troy, LLC, for purposes of providing legal services to the Township of Springfield, for the year 2006, at a total fee not to exceed \$10,000.00.

BE IT F

Singer Leon Redbone to appear in Rahway

On Jan. 21, Leon Redbone, the eccentric and eclectic New York musician who has devoted his career to injecting new life into the blues, jazz, vaudeville, ragtime and folk traditions of the roaring 1920s, 1930s and 1940s, will take the stage at the Union County Arts Center.

Redbone's baritone croon and yodel and his nostalgic orchestrations, heavy on the strings and horns, make fun of the theatrical, sentimental and pompous styles of the past, but, at the same time, reveal what was precious and is forever lost of that era.

For a man whose music seems timeless, Leon Redbone prefers to immerse himself in the here and now. On "AnyTime," Redbone's 11th record and his first for the Blue

Thumb label, the singer-guitarist continues his very real love affair with tunes from the turn of the century, flapper-era radio ditties, depression-spawned ragtime and folk-jazz. Yet there is always something oddly modern about this musician, his lyrical satire and emotional cynicism tend to wear well with any generation.

Since his 1975 Warner Brothers gold record debut, "On the Track," Redbone has defied other people's expectations while consistently building up his own myth. Beyond what he has exposed through his music, the artist prefers to reveal nothing else.

There is no consensus on how he first flirted with, and eventually came to personify, the vast styles

associated with the gramophone era.

Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online by visiting the Web site at www.UCAC.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Ticket Central Box Office located at the corner of 1601 Irving St. and Central Ave., Rahway. The Arts Center provides barrier-free access and seating for patrons upon request. The theater is located within walking distance of the Rahway NJ Transit train station and can be reached by taking exit 135 from the Garden State Parkway or exit 12 from the Turnpike.

Parking is available downtown at the newly completed Rahway Parking Garage. A free shuttle is available to and from the theater. The Union County Arts Center is dedicat-



Leon Redbone

ed to providing world-class entertainment that is exciting, educational, affordable and responsive to the diverse interests of the communities it serves.

Blues singin' Block comes to Sanctuary

When Bonnie Raitt calls a blues singer "my inspiration," it's time to sit up and take notice. Rory Block, often compared to Raitt, is this generation's most celebrated master of the Delta blues, and her performances are marked by her fiery slide guitar playing, passionate delivery and soulful songs.

Block's fascinating life story includes a childhood in Princeton and Neshanic, during which her father, Allan Block, opened his famous Sandal Shop in Greenwich Village and presented folk music there nightly. Rory Block was voracious in her interest in traditional music. Beginning in her early teens, she sought out the heart of the blues. She met and learned from Gary Davis, Son House, Skip James,

and Mississippi John Hurt.

Block has recorded 15 albums in her long career, was the 1997 and 1998 Handy Award Traditional Blues Artist of the Year, and in 1999 won the Handy for Acoustic Blues Album of the Year. Heralded as "a living landmark," "a national treasure," and "one of blues music's few living legends," Block has committed her life and career to preserving the Delta Blues tradition and bringing it to life for 21st-century audiences around the world.

As always, the admission includes home-baked desserts and coffee.

The folk concert will be on Jan. 28 at 8 p.m., tickets are \$10. The Sanctuary Concerts take place at the Presbyterian Church, 240 Southern Blvd., Chatham. Call 973-376-4946.

EDUCATION & CAREERS

EDUCATION

Course offered on Baltic Sagas

Union County College Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education will offer the course "Baltic Sagas" from Feb. 14 through March 21.

The course will discuss marauding Viking, armored knights, war, tsars and empresses, rockets and communism, which are all part of the heritage of the Baltic. It will cover tales of strong-willed men and women, courage, love, murder, greed, seduction and intrigue.

The course will be presented by Cranford resident Karl Heinze, who recently published, "Baltic Sagas — Events and Personalities that Changed the World!" which takes an intriguing look at the Baltic Sea region and its important parts in history.

"This is not a comprehensive history of the region, but I have selected events and personalities that were important to the area and had an interesting story," Heinze explained. "I have included several scenes throughout the book that are based on historical events, but to which I have sometimes added reasonable assumptions as to dialogue and incidents."

The stories focus on such events as The Crusades, the Hanseatic League, Peter the Great, Catherine the Great, the Winter War of 1939, the beginning of the Space Age, and the fall of Soviet Communism.

Heinze's book is published by virtualbookworm.com Publishing Inc. and is available through Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.com.

To register for the course at Union County College, call the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at 908-709-7600.

Electronics technician is just a course away

If you are interested in becoming an electronics technician, come to Union County College. The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education offers courses toward an Electronics Technician Certificate Program.

No previous knowledge or experience is necessary to enroll in courses for this certification program. The program will prepare a person for employment as electronics technicians and electronics systems troubleshooters.

"Introduction to Electronics and Electricity" provides an overview of key concepts such as the understanding of general operation and common applications for major electronic and electrical components. Students will learn to recognize typical failures and use the appropriate test equipment to measure critical AC and DC signals.

This course will begin Jan. 30. The course cost is \$350.

"Troubleshooting Analog Systems" covers topics related to analog circuitry commonly used in electronic and electromechanical machines. Students will gain practical information about linear and switching power supplies, major signal amplifier circuits, and will learn to develop and apply efficient troubleshooting techniques and procedures. This course will begin on Feb. 27. The course cost is \$475.

"Troubleshooting Digital Systems" covers topics related to digital circuitry commonly used in electronic and also in electromechanical machines. Students will gain practical information about logic devices, microprocessors and memory devices.

They will also come to understand general operation and typical applications of PLCs, or programmable logic controllers. This course begins on April 3. The course cost is \$435.

The above courses will be held at the UCC Bayway Center, 720 Clarkson Ave., Elizabeth, on Monday and Wednesday, evenings from 6 to 10

p.m. For more information or to register, call the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at 908-709-7600.

Classes are offered in caregiver certification

The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education will offer "Child Care: Professional Practices," a course in its Children's Care-Giver Certificate Program beginning Tuesday from 6 to 9 p.m. at Roselle Park High School. It is held Tuesdays and Thursdays and runs through Feb. 16. Part II of this course begins Feb. 21 and continues through March 23.

By taking this course, one will prepare for a supervisory position and will cover topics such as guidelines for state manuals, procedures for establishing a day-care center, resume writing, and interview techniques.

The cost of each section of the course is \$185. To register, contact the Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education at 908-709-7600.

Union County College will train for EMT

Union County College's Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education will offer two sessions during its spring semester that provide the necessary training to work as a professional emergency rescuer.

To take this course, one must have current CPR/AED certification at the healthcare/professional level by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or the National Safety Council.

Beginning Tuesday from 6:30 to 9 p.m. or Jan. 21 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., on the college's Plainfield campus at 232 E. Second St., the course, "Emergency Medical Technician, Basic" will be offered.

The course meets the requirements of the National Highway and Transportation Safety Administration's Emergency Medical Technician Basic: National Standard Curriculum. This course is designed to instruct a student to the level of Emergency Medical Technician-Basic.

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Saturday, January 14th, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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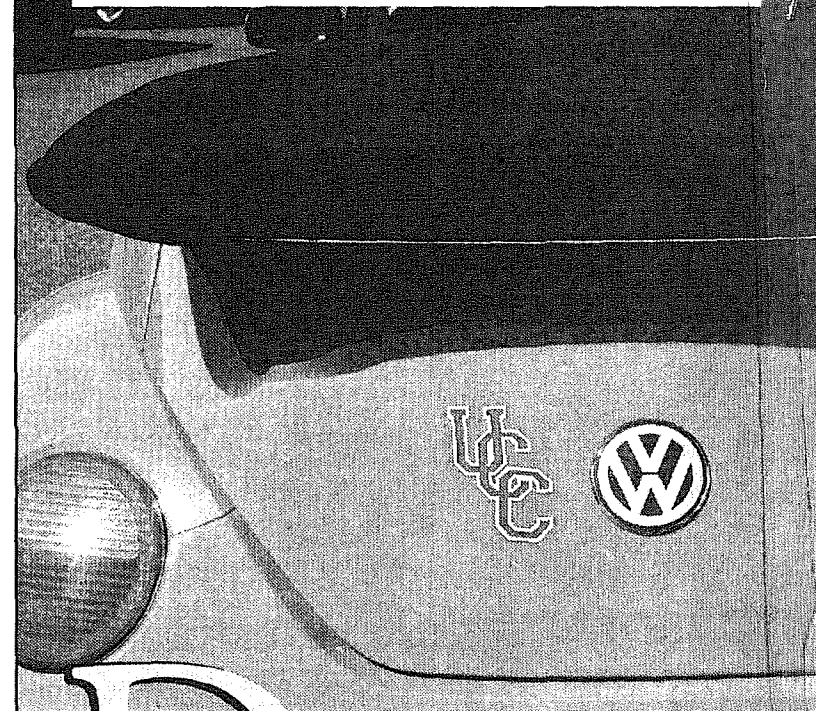
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Thursday, January 26th.

Doors open at 6:30pm - Presentation begins at 7:15 pm

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Union, NJ 07083

Phone: 908-686-7850

Fax: 908-686-4169

Offices where ads can be placed in person:

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1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

ESSEX COUNTY
463 Valley Street, Maplewood
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

NEWSPAPERS

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Union Leader
The Eagle
The Progress
The Observer

ESSEX COUNTY
News-Record of Maplewood & South Orange
West Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
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CLASSIFIED RATES
20 words or less.....\$20.00 per insertion
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Display Rates.....\$25.50 per column inch
Contract Rates Available
Blind Box Number.....\$20.00 per insertion

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Additional 10 words.....\$10.00 per insertion
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Contract Rates Available

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In-column 3 PM Tuesday
Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday
Ad Copy 12 noon Monday
Business Directory 4 PM Thursday

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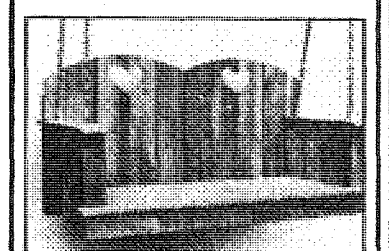
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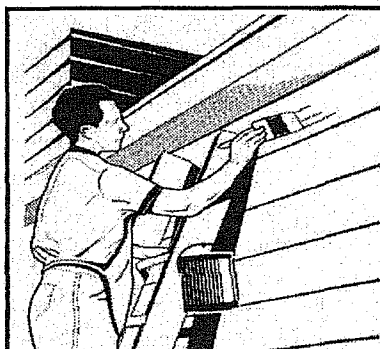
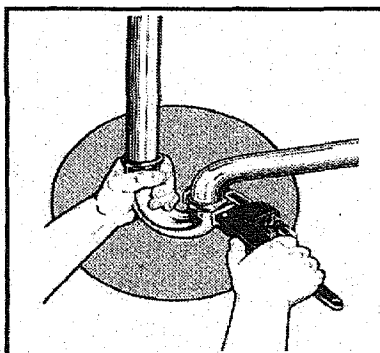
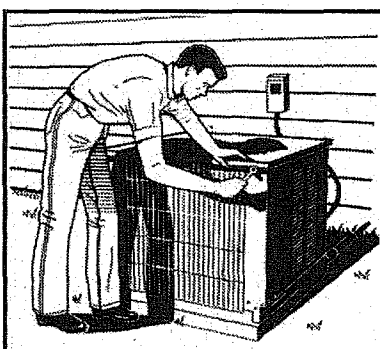
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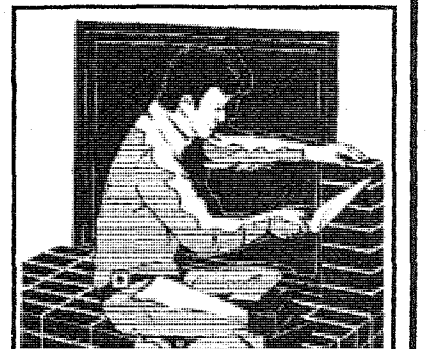
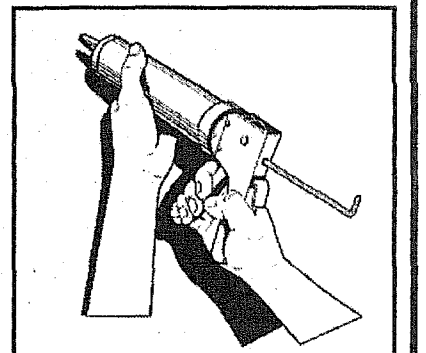
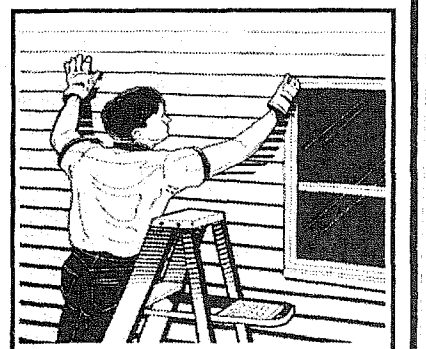
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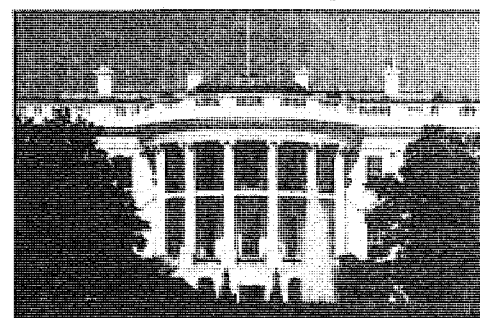
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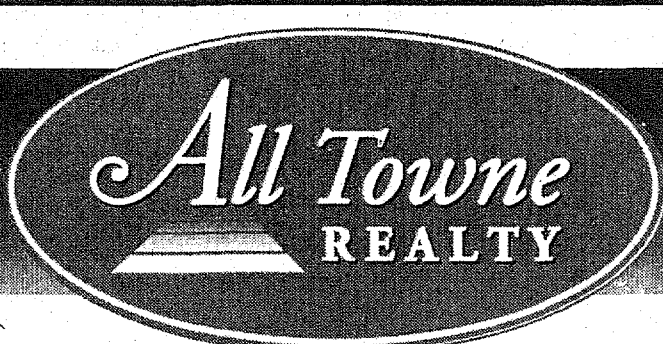
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WESTFIELD: \$449,900

First time buyers!! Great opportunity to own in Westfield. 20 years old well maintained colonial. Quiet neighborhood, close to schools, highways and transportation. Lots of closet space, nice size deck.



SCOTCH PLAINS: \$879,000

Custom Col. 3467 sq. ft. in living space, 2 gas fpl. FR/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.



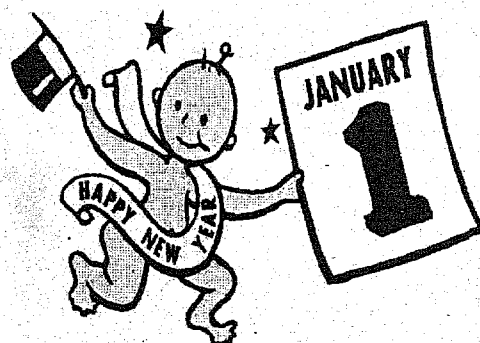
LINDEN: \$460,000

Very good condition 2 family house, 3 bdrms with 2 full baths each unit, central air, finished bsmt with separate entrance, separate utilities. Price Negotiable... Bring ALL offers!



ISELIN: \$539,000

To be built! Still time to pick colors, great location, all large rooms, full basement, fireplace, CAC, 2 car garage.



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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

2% Real Estate Consultants

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LOOK NO FURTHER

BERKELEY HEIGHTS-Great opportunity to own a 4BR, 2.5 bath home that backs Green Acres. Paver patio, all appls incl, hw flrs, fpl, new windows, poss in-law. Won't last! \$580,000.



RELAXING RANCH

SPRINGFIELD-3 BR, EIK w/breakfast bar, fpl, sits at top of circular drive, a welcoming place to call home. Residential neighborhood, nr transp, shops, schools. \$429,000.



LOVELY!

SUMMIT-5 BR Split, perfect for commuters, many updates & renovations, hw flrs, C/A, 2 car garage, fin'd bsmt, EIK, bkrd w/deck, sunroom, and much more. \$689,000.



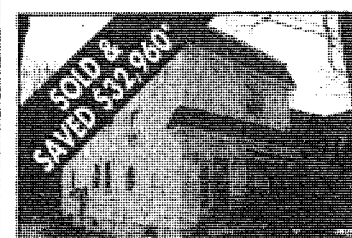
PICTURE PERFECT

UNION-Lovely 4 BR Colonial, new kitchen, IDR & LR, den w/deck, 2 tier deck & patio, fin'd bsmt w/rp/rpce, & wet bar, prof'l landscaping. \$468,000.



INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

ELZABETH-Corpuscle 2 yr old multi-family. Each apt has 3 BRs, 2 baths. Fin'd bsmt w/kit & 1 bath, 2 car gar w/2 car spaces in driveway. \$30,000 in upgrades. \$535,000.



INCOME OPPORTUNITY

MILLBURN-Multi-use with offices on ground floor; 3 BR apt on 2nd flr, small building has new roof, framing, electrical work. French drain in bsmt. \$824,000.

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*Savings Compare Real Estate Consultants' Commission vs 6% Realtors

Hoferkamp: housing market in New Jersey remains strong

New Jersey residents should rest assured that warnings of a bursting New Jersey housing bubble are unfounded. In fact, there is no bubble in New Jersey, according to Pat Hoferkamp, president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA.

"For several years economists have made generalized predictions of a pending 'housing bubble burst' in New Jersey, and their predictions have not held. On the contrary, there is no bubble, but a stable market that continues to contribute significantly to the health of New Jersey's economy," said Hoferkamp.

Hoferkamp points out three factors driving the market: low mortgage rates, a shortage of inventory, and a diverse buyer pool.

Providing a rock-solid foundation for the current housing market are low mortgage rates. In fact, average 30-year fixed mortgage rates have been lower over the last four years than at any point in the previous 40 years. In the 1970s, for example, the average 30-year fixed mortgage rate was 9 percent. During the 1980s, that average climbed

to 12.7 percent before dropping in the 1990s to 8.1 percent. By contrast, interest rates have steadily declined during the new millennium, from 6.9 percent in 2001 to the current average of 6.0 percent.

Demand for inventory also factors into the residential real estate boom. The mission of New Jersey's Smart Growth Plan, implemented by the governor's office, is defined "to promote well-planned, well-managed growth that adds new homes and creates new jobs, while preserving open space, farmland, and environmental resources." As a result, open space is protected from development, which leads not only to the intended result of preserving New Jersey's natural beauty, but also to hire prices of land. In fact, since 2002, the value of land has increased by 35 percent. Therefore, builders and contractors have to spend more money on a tract in order to build residential properties.

"With land being a hot commodity, the latest catch phrase for buyers has changed from 'location, location, location,' to 'new! new!

new!' One consequence of land's scarcity is that some pockets of the New Jersey market are increasing in value as teardowns transform into luxury properties," said Hoferkamp.

According to the Otteau report, produced by New Jersey's expert appraiser, Jeffrey Otteau, counties such as Bergen, Somerset, and Essex, where Burgdorff ERA has some of its branch offices, saw a decline in inventory between 2004 and 2005. This decline suggests that there is insufficient supply of properties to meet the existing demand of buyers. On the other hand, Warren County has increased inventory, possibly due to new construction.

The final reason for maintaining confidence in the housing market sustainability, is its diverse buyer pool, which includes baby boomers, generation Xers, single women, immigrants, and seniors.

Hoferkamp points to an especially significant trend among these buyers. "Homeowners now view their homes as places to be pampered. They are moving into upscale

residences, from the first-time buyer to the high-end buyer, they want high-tech home entertainment. As a result, it is not uncommon to find homes equipped with media rooms, spas, ballrooms, luxury gardens, indoor pools, and cigar rooms."

Contributing to this trend are baby boomers who have been retiring at increasingly younger ages and taking advantage of the real estate market. Many boomers have chosen to stay in New Jersey rather than relocate to Florida as they often did in the past. In fact, the Burgdorff ERA relocation department's statistics show that in 2005, 27 percent of buyers relocated to southern New Jersey, where as only 14 percent moved to Florida.

Baby boomers lead the way in purchasing second homes, according to the National Association of Realtors. These second homes are used as weekend getaways, and they tend to be located only a few hours driving distance from main residences.

In addition, people are now living longer, and baby boomers who are newly retired often become caretakers to their aged parents.

Living in close proximity to loved ones has therefore become part of the changing lifestyle.

"The senior market includes many distinct markets segments, from early retirees to those seeking assisted living," said Hoferkamp. "One ongoing trend is that many seniors stay in New Jersey after retirement to stay close to their family and friends. The New Jersey Shore has also become an attractive place to retire. The homes are affordable, and retirement communities are more prevalent than ever. Housing communities catering to those older than 55 are being sold at a rapid pace."

Finally, first-time buyers, from immigrants to generation Xers, particularly single women, compete for the same properties, especially condominiums, townhouses, and multi-family homes.

"Some first-time buyers are challenged with affordable listing prices and low inventory. However, if a property is positioned properly, the consumer will buy, and it is also important to know that the buyer determines the price of the home," said Hoferkamp. "We must ensure

that first-time buyers are able to experience homeownership opportunities. Without this buying pool entering the market, it will be harder to sell homes. It is a domino effect."

Taken together, these trends indicate that the New Jersey housing market is anything but a bubble. Instead, consumers should recognize that real estate will continue to be strong for years to come.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and more than 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 29,100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories. Each office is independently owned and operated except offices owned and operated by NRT Inc. Burgdorff ERA is a member of the NRT family of companies. NRT Inc., a subsidiary of Cendant Corp., is the nation's largest residential real estate brokerage company. The Burgdorff ERA Web site is located at www.burgdorff.com.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Weichert Union wins awards for October

Three sales associates in Weichert, Realtors' Union Office received industry recognition for their office and regional achievements in October. In addition, the Union office was recognized for regional achievement. Robert Spillane, branch manager, made the announcement.

Hudson Almeida, who joined the Weichert family in April, was named top listings associate for the month.

Allan Schuster was named top sales associate in the office in October. Schuster is a 2004 member of Weichert's Million Dollar Sales Club.

Kathleen Gwaldis led the office in revenue units and dollar volume for

the month. Gwaldis also received regional awards for top resale marketed listings and top resale revenue units. She is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, as well as Weichert's 2004 President's Club, an honor that places her in the top 1 percent of the company's 16,800 sales associates. In addition, she holds membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the gold level for 2004.

Furthermore, the entire Union office received a regional award for top resale marketed listings in October.

These fine sales associates can be reached for real estate transactions in Weichert's Union office at 908-687-

4800. The office is located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

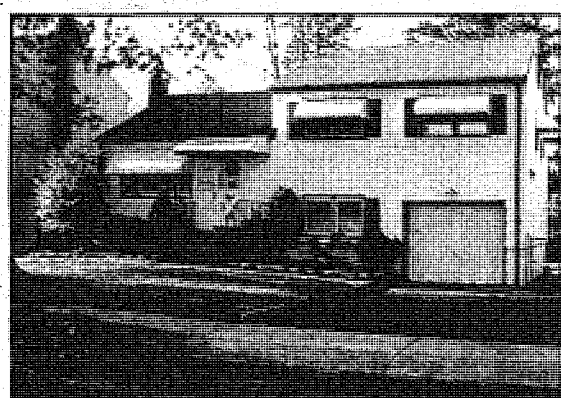
Gonzalez is top seller at R.E. Consultants

Max Gonzalez has been named top sales associate in the Union region for October, and is saving his client's thousands of dollars on the sales of their homes through Real Estate Consultants L.L.C.'s flexible commissions.

In 2006 the real estate pace is predicted to set new records. Real Estate Consultants is now the only agency offering flexible commissions as low as 2 percent. By smart business practices, including virtual tours of all homes listed with the firm, the agency is able to offer far more options to today's savvy homebuyer.

Weichert®

BUY FOR \$1,828/month



Try to beat it!

UNION TOWNSHIP - Meticulous split level boasting 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths! Many desirable amenities including CAC, gas heat, security system, ample closet space and a partially finished attached garage! Luxury you deserve. \$429,900.

#048010197

BUY FOR \$1,700/month



Big Home on a Small Budget!

PLAINFIELD CITY - Five level Split located on a corner lot in the Cedarbrook section! 4BR, 2.5BA, CAC, gas heat, and more! Many amenities for stylish living! Priced to break the rent habit. \$399,900.

#048010185

BUY FOR \$3,481/month

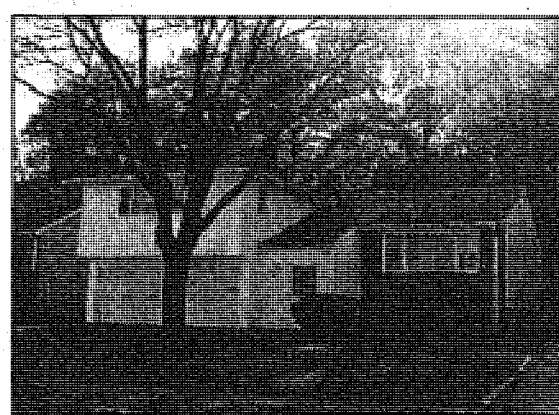


Ageless Beauty!

SCOTCH PLAINS TOWNSHIP - Custom home with total remodeling in 2000. 5 bedrooms, 4 full baths, Master Suite, In-Law Suite, and more! 2 zone CAC/FHA heat, alarm system - all on over half an acre. What are you waiting for? \$819,000.

#048010242

BUY FOR \$1,827/month



You'll Love to Call This Home!

UNION TOWNSHIP - New Larchmont split-level with 3 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, gas/central air! Backs to wooded area. Centrally located for easy commute! For the alert buyer. \$429,800.

#048010235

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weichert.com

One Click. Countless Homes.

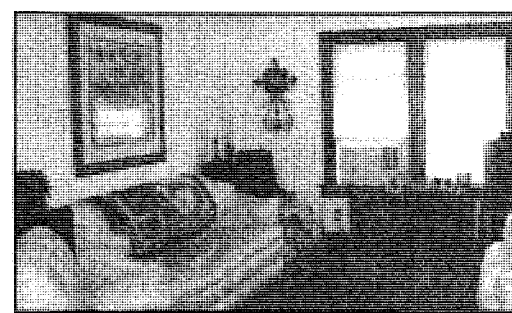


BURGdorff REALTORS ERA

Visit us at burgdorff.com to see all our homes for sale.



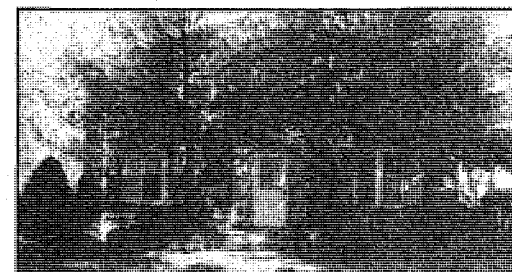
CRANFORD \$634,500
Charming center hall Colonial in Heathermeade area offers hardwood floors, archways, walk-in bay windows, Living Room with fireplace, Formal Dining Room, Family Room off Living Room and newer Eat-In Kitchen, large master with ample closets, lovely yard with deck and located on a cul-de-sac.



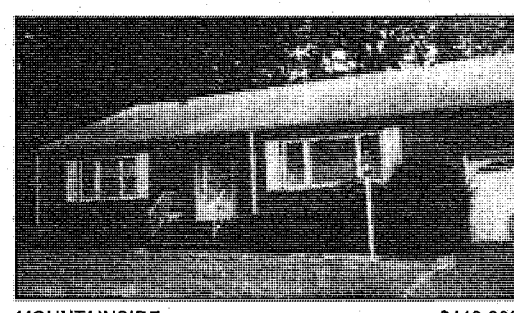
CRANFORD \$399,900
Wonderful 3 Bedroom home features enclosed porch, Formal Dining Room, Living Room, newer Kitchen and bath, large Family Room, 200' deep property, garage and much more. Close to NY transportation, schools and shopping.



LINDEN \$499,900
Fabulous 4 Bedroom, 3 full bath brick home in mint condition. Features include Family Room with fireplace and sliders to patio, large eat-in Kitchen, Formal Dining Room, central air conditioning, gas heat, wood floors, 2-car garage and much more.



CRANFORD \$324,900
Move-in condition, 2 Bedrooms, 1 bath Condo with patio near park. Newer Kitchen and bath, hardwood floors throughout, new neutral carpet on 2nd floor, basement for storage. Great Buy!



MOUNTAINSIDE \$440,000
One level Custom home! All brick Ranch on an 80' x 140' lot offers Formal Living and Dining Rooms, Eat-In Kitchen, 2 Bedrooms and 1.5 baths. Quality construction can lend this home for expansion. Generous room sizes.



SPRINGFIELD \$549,900
Creative living space! Wonderful home for extended or large family with 3 full baths, updated lower level, 1st and 2nd floor with 3 Bedrooms, Kitchen and bath. Total 4-6 Bedrooms, large yard and covered patio. Convenient to all.

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REAL ESTATE

Summit ERA joins Sharing Hope gala

Behind the scenes at Burgdorff ERA's Sharing Hope fund-raising gala, benefiting Court Appointed Special Advocates, or CASA, of New Jersey and Make-A-Wish of New Jersey, are the volunteers and vendors. Without their support and dedication toward New Jersey's children, this special event would not have been made possible.

Every Burgdorff ERA branch office had a Sharing Hope committee that was responsible for securing donations from area vendors, friends, and supporters for the silent auction and for a tricky-tray basket that promoted the office's local area.

Burgdorff ERA appreciates Carolee Jones, the vice president

and manager of the Summit office, and the branch office's Sharing Hope team leaders, Tina Broughton, Rachel Buntin, Deborah Prinzen, and the sales team, who worked countless hours making the gala a night to remember. In fact, the Burgdorff ERA Summit office won first place in the tricky tray office basket category with a large wooden train, symbolizing the Summit train and filled with gift certificates from local Summit vendors.

The Summit office acknowledges friends, supporters, and local vendors who donated gifts for the tricky tray and silent auction that amounted to more than \$10,000 with all proceeds going toward Sharing Hope.

To learn more about Burgdorff ERA's Sharing Hope charitable organizations, visit Court Appointed Special Advocates CASA of New Jersey at www.casaofnj.org and Make-A-Wish Foundation of New Jersey at www.wishnj.org, or contact Mary Jeanne Dolahan, director of special markets/events coordinator of Burgdorff ERA at 973-240-5627.

Founded in 1958, Burgdorff ERA is the top-producing ERA real estate firm in dollar volume nationally, with 16 offices and more than 700 sales associates in New Jersey. The ERA real estate network includes more than 29,100 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

Keenan joins ERA at its Summit location

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Jodi Keenan has joined the company as a sales associate in its Summit office, located at 401 Springfield Ave.

Keenan has been a licensed New Jersey sales associate since 2001 and is known for her professionalism, dedication, and attention to detail. Before joining Burgdorff ERA, she worked with high-net-worth clients as the assistant manager of Saks Fifth Avenue's SFA Club in San Francisco, and was acknowledged as a leading producer during her tenure as a northeast regional salesperson for Keebler Co. Keenan has a BS degree in marketing from Kutztown University.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

A resident of Summit for the past eight years, she was raised in Manasquan. Keenan is married with one son, and is a member of the Brayton Elementary School PTA.

The Burgdorff ERA Summit office is a full-service real estate office. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at 908-522-1800.

Gwaldis is honored for October performance

Kathleen Gwaldis, a sales associate in Weichert, Realtors' Union office, received recognition for achievements within her region and sales office in October. Robert Spillane, branch manager, made the announcement.

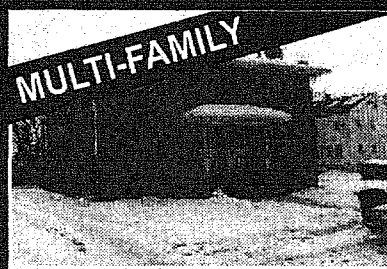
Consistently recognized as a multi-million dollar producer, Gwaldis led the region in resale marketed listings and resale revenue units for the month. She also earned awards for top revenue units and top dollar volume in the office in October.

Gwaldis is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, as well as Weichert's 2004 President's Club, an honor that places her in the top 1 percent of the company's 17,000 sales associates. In addition, she holds membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the gold level for 2004.

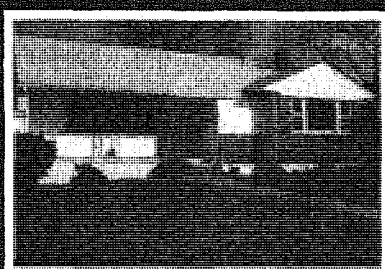
Kathleen Gwaldis can be reached for real estate transactions in Weichert's Union office at 908-687-4800. The office is located at 1307 Stuyvesant Ave.

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Roselle **539,900**
Brick 4 Family in excellent condition. Great rental income. Conveniently located to schools, shopping & NYC transportation. Call 908-688-3000. UN19469



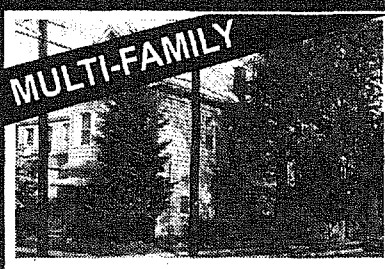
Springfield **489,900**
Updated front to back split with four bedrooms, two baths, on a spacious corner property. Call 973-467-1555. SPF5053



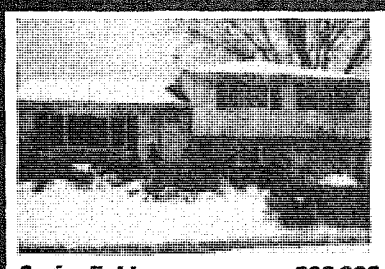
Roselle Park **374,900**
Sherman School beauty features charming open front porch, LR, FDR, new EIK, 3 BR's, 1.1 baths, gorgeous chestnut trim, NEW windows, roof, siding & replacement. Must see! Call 908-688-3000. UN19445



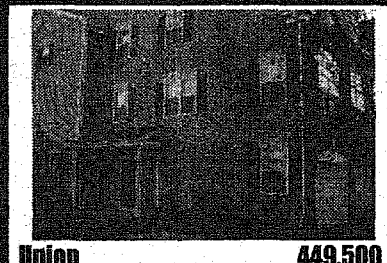
Elizabeth **389,900**
Beautifully maintained 4 bedroom Colonial. Large Eat In Kitchen, finished basement w/ kitchen. Hardwood floors, big walk-in closet. Large attic, recent roof, vinyl and windows! Call 973-467-1555. SPF5056



Roselle Park **364,900**
Well maintained 2 family home features 5 BR's, updated kitchens & bathrooms, full unfinished bsmt. Convenient location. Sold in as is condition. Call 908-688-3000. UN19479



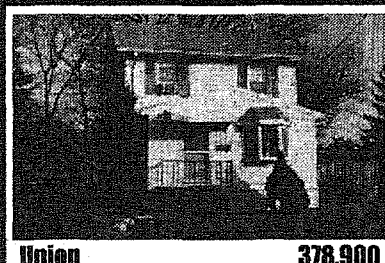
Springfield **629,900**
Completely renovated home with every amenity. Designer interior offering gourmet kitchen w/custom cabinetry, tile, vaulted skylight, breakfast area. French doors to private deck & yard. Tumbled marble baths. Call 973-467-1555. SPF5052



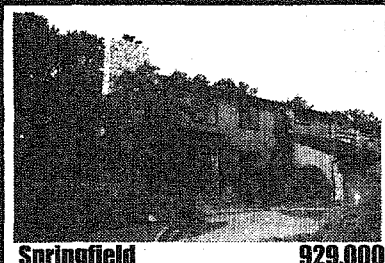
Union **449,500**
Relax & enjoy community living at its best in this newly built complex w/pool & clubhouse. You will have plenty of room in this spacious end unit w/2 BR's, 2.1 baths, LR, DR, kit, w/breakfast bar & dreamy lot that overlooks the open & airy 1st flr w/its cathedral ceiling & skylight. The great location of this unit allows you to watch the town fireworks from your own private balcony off your MBR. All this comfort and less work for you. Call 908-688-3000. UN19477



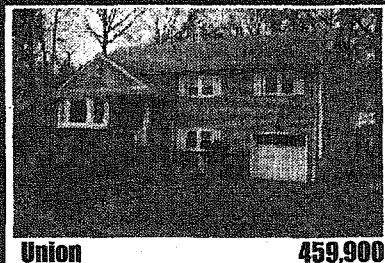
Springfield **599,999**
Updated Woodside four bedroom, two and a half bath split w/new vinyl exterior and windows, central air conditioning. Private property with lush landscaping and idyllic free-form inground pool. Call 973-467-1555. SPF5046



Union **378,900**
Charming Colonial home on extra wide lot w/spacious deck off the DR, newer windows & roof plus a new gas furnace, newer kit w/ breakfast bar, expanded LR, 3 BR's & 1.1 baths. Great starter home. Call 908-688-3000. UN19474



Springfield **929,000**
Wonderful custom home with many features. MBR on first floor, great room w/cathedral ceiling and 3 skylights. 3 fireplaces, gourmet EIK, finished basement & a country club backyard w/pool and hot tub. Call 973-467-1555. SPF5028



Union **459,900**
Spacious 4 BR, 2.1 bath tri-split level in Putnam Manor features open flr plan w/large newer windows, wood flrs, brand new kit & 4 flrs of living space w/25 ft. fam rm. Must see! Call 908-688-3000. UN19478



Roselle **350,900**
Spectacular renovated vintage colonial. All new electric, multi-zone gas heat, designer kitchens, 4 beds, 2.5 baths. Premium finished basement. Deck for entertaining. Call 973-467-1555. SPF5057

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AUTOMOTIVE

AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE

2000 JEEP CHEROKEE Sport 4x4. Original owner. Approximately 40,000 miles. \$8,000-negotiable. 908-276-4133.

CADILLAC, ELDORADO, 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.

AUTO FOR SALE

FORD TAURUS, 1992, 100,000 miles, power windows, power locks, remote starter. Asking \$1,000 or best offer. Call Dennis, 908-447-8936.

HONDA ODYSSEY EX 2000 MINIVAN 64K, new front brakes, good condition, garage kept, \$13,000, 908-273-2870

AUTOS WANTED

AUTOS - DON'T Trade In!! Charly Donations: Children's Cancer Big Brothers/Sisters, Boy/Girl Scouts, Homeless, SPCA, YMCA and more! Or we'll buy any condition/year/make - free pickup - fast service. Call 1-888-395-3955.

AUTOS WANTED

AAA Rated Donation. Donate Your Car, Boat or Real Estate. IRS Tax Deductible. Free Pick-Up/ Tow Any Model/ Condition. Help Underprivileged Children 1-800-598-9211 Outreachcenter.org.

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

Classified Ads Are Quick & Convenient!

Kia has a winner with Spectra5

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Nothing shows the progress at Kia better than today's test car, the Spectra5. This nifty and compact five-door hatchback is loaded with details, including six air bags, for a little more than \$15,000.

When this South Korean carmaker began selling its first model in the United States 11 years ago, it was advertised as a car you'd love to flog. Today, Kia sells cars you'll want to flaunt.

When I wrote about my first drive in that first Kia, the Sephia, it seemed to be a decent econobox, even with its patchy paint and misaligned body panels.

Watching the growth of Kia and parent company Hyundai has been like watching the car business in fast-forward.

With Kia's starting prices from \$9,000 to \$12,000, American buyers took a chance in 1994, ran the cars hard, threw them away after the warranty expired and moved up to another brand. So Kia started adding models to keep customers.

It added the compact Sportage SUV in 1995, refreshed the Sephia as a 1995-1/2 model, and by 1997 Kia had sold 100,000 vehicles in America. A two-door Sportage convertible was added for 1998.

Sales hit a half-million by December 2000, and Kia added the Spectra hatchback, Rio subcompact and its sixth model, the Optima midsize sedan. Those were followed the next year by a minivan, wagon and the

Sephia replacement, Spectra.

Today, Kia sells 10 vehicles, and with this fall's introduction of the Rio5, the company will have updated all its offerings, which isn't bad for what was once a struggling carmaker.

Coming early next year will be a new Sedona minivan. A new Optima goes on sale by March 2006, and the company is looking at adding a larger SUV than Sorrento, with three rows of seats.

The Spectra5 is an example of all the company has done right, but it took some evolving to get it done. The first-generation Spectra that I drove was so flimsy and unimpressive that I never got around to writing about it.

What a difference. The J.D. Power 2005 Initial Quality Survey gave the 2005 Spectra5 an excellent 100 points, 18 better than industry average, in the compact-car category. It was also the second-most-improved model in the industry, ranking higher than Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic and Mazda3.

The Spectra5 is a small car with a lot of flexibility and attention to detail. The doors are snug, panel alignment is precise and the styling is good, somewhat like the retired Mazda Protege5.

Inside, nothing appears flimsy or cheap. The fabrics and plastics are durable and attractive. There are many little but usable storage places, and the tall roof allows 40 inches of head room and creates a feeling of openness. Visibility over the hood and over the shoulders is clear.

The driver's seat has manual height adjustment, but after a hundred or so miles, my seat started to get numb.

A big driver's footrest and pedals trimmed in stainless steel add function and coolness.

The back seat has ample foot room for adults and no shortage of features: grab handles, coat hooks, dome light, carpeted floor mats, seat-back pockets, cup holders and a split folding seat-back for cargo area expansion.

Kia also gave Spectra the horsepower it needed.

The 2.0-liter four-cylinder has four valves per cylinder, double overhead cams and continuously variable valve timing. The 138-horsepower engine gets a SULEV, or super ultra low emission vehicle, rating. Horsepower dips to 132 on cars with the optional four-speed automatic transmission, priced at \$975, in California and northeastern states.

The engine-transmission pairing is simple and pleasurable to rev, and the pedals are placed for heel-toe shifting. The engine isn't a screamer, but it does drone on at highway speeds.

On the highway, I caught myself several times reaching for a sixth gear to settle the high revs of the engine. But on the positive side, the power is always on edge.

Fuel economy is 25 mpg around town and 33 on the highway, using 87 octane. They're at 24/34 with the automatic.

Four-wheel disc brakes and 16-inch Goodyear Eagle RS/A tires are a bonus. The tight 33.2-foot turning circle is to be appreciated, and the nearly 103-inch wheelbase and compliant suspension give a stable ride quality, not something jittery that could be expected of a youthful car.

AUTOMOTIVE CLASSIFIEDS

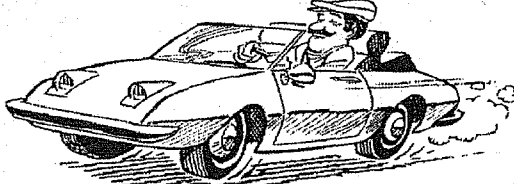
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