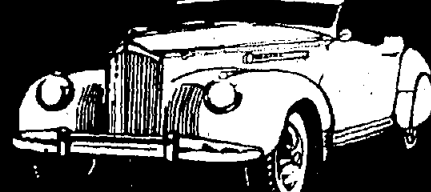


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CHS cagers win first two games. Please see Sports. Page C-1.

Cranford Chronicle

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Around
TownOne more shot for
Cranford flu clinic

CRANFORD — The Township Board of Health has scheduled a makeup flu immunization clinic, scheduled to run from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday.

The clinic is slated to be held in Room 7 of the Municipal Building, located at 8 Springfield Ave. in Cranford. The vaccinations are free. Participants are asked to wear loose-fitting clothes.

Medicare recipients must present their Medicare card. Immunization is recommended for anyone over 65 years old; anyone who has a heart condition, lung condition, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, anemia or severe asthma; and people with certain immune system disorders or certain types of cancer.

Anyone who is allergic to eggs or has a fever should not receive a flu shot. For more information, call (908) 709-7238.

Library to close doors
for January renovations

KENILWORTH — The Kenilworth Public Library, located on the Boulevard, will be closed for renovations right after New Year's Day.

Renovations are scheduled to begin Jan. 3 and take about two weeks, according to a press release from the library. Every effort will be made to keep the children's department and circulation desk open, according to the release.

For specific closing information, call (908) 276-2451. When the library is closed, books can be returned in the book drop located behind the library.

Special arrangements will be made for anyone who has to return videos, compact discs and audio tapes, the release stated.

Borough clerk's office
offering dog licenses

GARWOOD — Dog licenses are due in the borough in January.

Proof of rabies immunization for the entire licensing year is required to obtain a license, according to a press release issued Dec. 12 by the Garwood Borough Clerk's office.

Licenses are available in the clerk's office, located inside Borough Hall at 403 South Ave. in Garwood.

The clerk's office is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For an appointment or more information, call (908) 865-1871.

Summit Chorale sets
open concert auditions

SUMMIT — The Summit Chorale has announced auditions for two major concerts in March and May.

Singers in all voice ranges are welcome to audition 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2 and Jan. 9 in the Great Hall at Drew University, located in Madison.

For an appointment or more information, call (908) 865-1871.

Citizens suffering from Bush burnout, Gore bore

By MICHAEL R. CUOZZO

THE CHRONICLE

UNION COUNTY — The debate over the presidency is finally settled, but questions remain about the electoral process and the ramifications of Election 2000.

There are many wide-ranging thoughts regarding the decision that eventually put George W.

Presidential wrangling leaves many county residents scratching their heads, but must be glad it's all over

Bush into the White House. But the most prevailing thought among area residents appears to be relief that the process is finally over.

"I'm glad it's over," said Robin Marko of Garwood, adding that

while the election and its aftermath were lengthy affairs, they did "remind everyone what the electoral process is."

Some area residents said they believe the overall process was fair, although confusing, since

many national residents are not privy to the details of Florida law. "I think it was a fair process, given uncertain voting laws in Florida," noted Westfield's Rich Brautigam.

Brautigam said the lengthy,

sometimes cantankerous process did have some positives. The American people got to see democracy in action, he said, referring specifically to his daughter Mary Beth, who is a sophomore at American University in Washington, D.C. Twenty-two year old Chris Vandenberg, a stock trader from Scotch Plains, took to ana-

(Continued on page A-6)

Goodbye,
Guiditta

Commissioner cites
past, future as he bids
farewell to committee

By MICHAEL R. CUOZZO

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Tuesday marked the final Township Committee meeting for Deputy Mayor Nicholas A. Guiditta III, who chose not to seek re-election in November and is bidding farewell to public office.

"It is a little disheartening there are not more people that at least take a look at (serving on the Township Committee)," — Nicholas Guiditta, Deputy mayor of Cranford

Guiditta, who said he chose not to run in 2000 because of an increase in his personal and professional responsibilities, had a lot to say Tuesday regarding the committee and how it worked with its current roster of members. He also called for township residents to "become more involved in the municipal government and thanked them for their support he received during his one committee term."

"I thank the residents of Cranford for allowing me to serve over the past three years," he said, adding that concerned residents should "step forward and take a look at running for Township Committee."

All told, it appears the holiday shopping season is going well for downtown merchants and business owners. At least, most of them.

The popular Harry Potter children's books "have been going like crazy," noted Gini Robinson, Artiglier, owner of Gini's Book Barn. "The new ones are in," Artiglier said, referring to the best-selling "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone," but all of the Potter titles are selling, she noted.

Other popular books at the Book Barn include big art books and coffee table-type books — books that have a lot of pictures, Artiglier noted.

(Continued on page A-2)

Jewish Federation speaker blasts 'biased' news media

By THOMAS SCOTT

THE CHRONICLE

SCOTCH PLAINS — There is a story not being told about the crisis in the Middle East, according to Samuel H. Bahn, analyst, educator and advocate for Jewish journalism.

Bahn spoke Dec. 13 at the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey's Scotch Plains facility, giving a lecture titled "Rhetoric or Reporting? Combating Anti-Israel Media Bias." The story Bahn wants told starts with the miscasting of the historical context of the Palestinian and Israeli peace process, which dates back to 1948, when the State of Israel was proclaimed and six Arab states rejected peace and invaded Israel in a war of "extermination."

"Palestinians have consistently rejected opportunities of peaceful coexistence for violence — if we don't tell our story, nobody is going to," Bahn said. "The series of events of the last 52 years —

Not quite a spree-for-all

Holiday season has been a mixed bag for Cranford merchants

By MICHAEL R. CUOZZO

THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Each holiday season features its share of hot items, and headlining this year's best-sellers, according to several downtown business owners, are "Harry Potter" books, custom-made wreaths and jewelry and Christmas tree fire alarms.

Largely said the manufacturer of Thomas toys has experienced an 80-percent increase in sales, and the store has been unable to reorder the movie products because of the increase.

A one-week wait is about the standard for customizing jewelry at Cranford's Golden Touch Jewellers, according to store manager Maria Singer. Of course, potential waits depend on what's in stock and whether owner Mario Haddad can present a stone within the store, Singer said.

The most popular jewelry items at Golden Touch are bracelets, usually bought by men, with watches also getting a lot of attention this year, Haddad said.

A holiday tradition of sorts, Lionel train sets, remain popular at Hobby Heaven, according to owner Fred Largay. In the radio-controlled vehicles department, boats have sold more than cars, which are "usually" the best seller, Largay noted, and the success of the "Thomas the Tank Engine" movie has drastically increased sales of Thomas-themed items.

Largay said the manufacturer of Thomas toys has experienced an 80-percent increase in sales, and the store has been unable to reorder the movie products because of the increase.

A one-week wait is about the standard for customizing jewelry at Cranford's Golden Touch Jewellers, according to store manager Maria Singer. Of course, potential waits depend on what's in stock and whether owner Mario Haddad can present a stone within the store, Singer said.

The most popular jewelry items at Golden Touch are bracelets, usually bought by men, with watches also getting a lot of attention this year, Haddad said.

Singer also noted that wedding bands are common commodities during the holidays because "a lot of people get engaged around this time," while sterling silver remains popular with teen-age shoppers.

One might think a hardware store does more business in drills, hand-saws and power sanders, but that is not the case at Alban & Lewis Hardware. While the aforementioned products are selling steadily, this year's hottest item involves just that — heat.

The Christmas tree fire alarm is a tiny device no bigger than the tip of your finger, but is probably more important. According to manager Bruce Alban, if a Christmas tree catches fire, it "goes up" quickly.

The alarm is heat-activated and can sense any rise in temperature, which would alert the owner before a fire could break out, Alban said. "It makes the most loud, annoying sound in Cranford," he noted.

(Continued on page A-6)



GEORGE PACCIOLLO/THE CHRONICLE

Let there be lights

It may not be a million points of light, but it's close. This house on Munsee Drive in Cranford is a true sign of the season, adorned with tens of thousands of tiny bulbs, several wreaths and a multitude of holiday-theme figures. The dynamic decorations drive home the message of the holidays, whether you're celebrating the birth of Christ or lighting the Hanukkah menorah: peace, love and happiness to all.

Schools
cast eye
to the
future

Garwood officials
meet state deadline
for long-range plan

By MAUREEN FOYE

CHRONICLE CORRESPONDENT

GARWOOD — The Board of Education has submitted its Long-Range Facilities Plan to the state Department of Education.

The board submitted its plan Dec. 15, just before the state-imposed deadline. The submission marks the latest attempt by district officials to procure state school buildings to the number of electrical outlets being used.

Superintendent of Schools Bill Murphy highlighted the LRFP for board members at their Dec. 14 meeting. The 200-plus-page document was then sent electronically to state school officials.

The plan included information required by the state from all grant applicants: a school population projection table that predicts student enrollment through 2005; a district model space program; calculations of current school populations and the existing school footage of current school facilities; and an overview of all school inventories. The last item, the list of inventories, required school officials to literally count everything from the number of classrooms in current school buildings to the number of electrical outlets being used.

Other items covered in the LRFP include a plant summary, a comparison of existing facilities and their ability to house a growing student population and a cost analysis of a proposed new school facility.

School officials estimate the cost of the new facility option at \$15.5 million.

As part of the grant application process, School Business Administrator Barbara Carino also submitted a letter and a copy of the LRFP to the Garwood

(Continued on page A-6)

to discredit Israel ever since." The propaganda campaign is now bearing additional fruit, according to Bahn, who said the international media has in some ways "brought into the propaganda campaign."

"Israelis are under attack — not 'clashes' with 'snipers,' as the media currently characterize events," Bahn said. "Yet all attacks by Jews are characterized as violence."

Through propaganda, the Palestinians hope to wear Israel away from its allies, especially American support, and moreover divide the American-Israeli population on its support of Israel, according to Bahn.

The speaker said he advocates confronting the power of the media, particularly with its influence in Israel, and encourages Jews everywhere to overcome complacency in the face of propaganda messages and address biased reporting.

"You need to overcome a reluctance for making a case," said

(Continued on page A-6)

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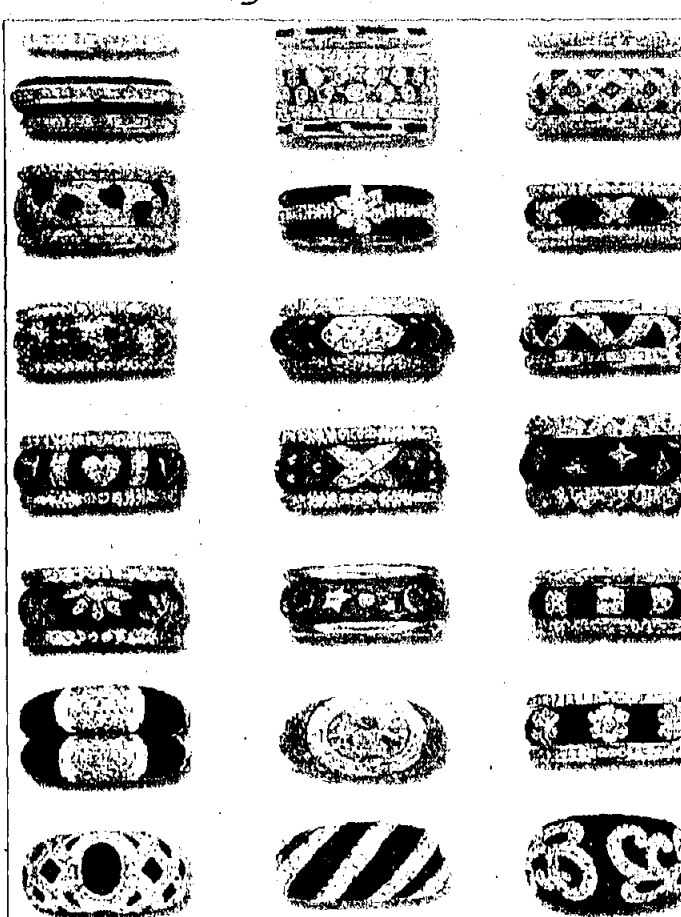


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Cranford

Timothy Kozak, 27, of Linden, was charged Saturday with receiving stolen property.

Police responded to a report of burglary at the Sudz City Laundromat on Raritan Road at 5:02 p.m. Kozak had taken keys from the laundromat that were reported stolen earlier in the week, according to police reports.

Brian Depetris, 47, of Paterson, was charged Tuesday with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (believed to be marijuana), possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of CDS in a motor vehicle and for careless driving.

Depetris was stopped at 12:17 a.m. on North Avenue for failing to keep right, according to police reports.

Richard Noble, 19, of Cranford, was charged Tuesday with possession of a controlled dangerous substance (believed to be marijuana) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Noble was stopped at 2:49 a.m. when he was found walking in the wooded area at the end of Georgia Street, according to police reports.

Police Log

Costas Constantinou, 26, of Edison, was charged Tuesday with criminal trespassing.

At 5:11 p.m., officers responded to a building on Commerce Drive after receiving a report of an unwanted person in the building, police said.

Constantinou was found in a women's bathroom on the second floor of the building, according to police reports.

Eric George, 20, and Jeffrey Duncan, 20, both of Linden, were charged Wednesday with burglary to motor vehicles, receiving stolen property and resisting arrest.

At 12:01 a.m., police responded to reports of two suspicious individuals walking up to vehicles and opening the car doors on Oraton Drive. Upon arrival of officers, the two suspects fled on foot, according to police reports.

A brief foot pursuit ensued from Oraton Drive to the area of Walnut and Raritan Road, where the officers lost the suspects.

The officers then tracked the suspects' footprints in the snow

and followed them through backyards for about one mile, police said. They traced the footprints to a Jeep parked on Iroquois Road where they found George, hiding in the front seat, according to police reports.

Duncan was later apprehended on Oraton Drive after another brief foot pursuit, police said.

Officers recovered what they believed to be over \$7,000 worth of cell phones, laptop computers and other electronic equipment, police said. All of the recovered items are believed to be stolen, police said.

Garwood

Patrick Reilly, 31, of Cranford, was charged Monday with driving with a suspended license, failing to stop and failing to surrender his license.

Reilly was stopped at the corner of Walnut Street and 4th Avenue at 11:50 p.m. Sunday.

An investigation revealed that Reilly was driving with a suspended license, police said.

He was also charged on an outstanding warrant issued by the Nutley Municipal Court, according to police reports.

Reilly posted bail and was released on his own recognizance, police said.

Rui A. Ferreira, 39, of Garwood, was charged Saturday with driving while intoxicated, refusing to submit to a sobriety test, careless driving, driving with a suspended license and failing to wear a seat belt.

Ferreira was stopped on Beech Avenue at 1:40 a.m., according to police reports.

Kenilworth

Michael P. Norton, of Dewitt, N.Y., was charged Dec. 13 with driving while intoxicated.

Norton was stopped at the intersection of 21st Street and the Boulevard late in the night of Dec. 12, police said. He was released on his own recognizance.

Michael R. Vance, of 2nd Avenue in Elizabeth, was charged at 10:45 p.m. Dec. 13 with parole violation, according to police reports.

A Springfield Road business reported at 9:50 a.m. Dec. 14 a theft of checks. More than \$200 was believed to have been stolen, according to police reports.

State certifies Garwood BOE

GARWOOD — The Borough Board of Education has been certified by the New Jersey School Boards Association.

Carole Larson of the NJSEA presented school board members with a plaque at the board's Dec. 14 meeting, marking the Garwood BOE's professional development and distinction as a

certified board of education. According to Larson, the Garwood Board of Education is one of only five Union County school boards to achieve certification. Of the approximately 600 school boards in the entire state, only 70 have been certified, she said.

— Maureen Faye

Committeeman bids farewell

(Continued from page A-1)
"racy work," he said, noting that despite some public posturing, the current crop of commissioners did agree on most occasions.

The committee members, he said, worked hard, and would "look at each issue ... the pros and cons ... and weigh the best decision for Cranford."

The commissioner also said he

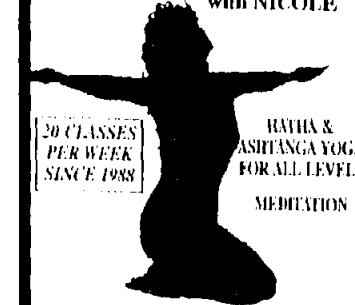
was "pleased to play a small role in the development of the community center," because it brought so many people together. Commissioner John Williams, who is likely to succeed Guiditta as deputy mayor when the committee holds its annual reorganization meeting Jan. 1, commended Guiditta's community service, while Commissioner Thomas Denny said he would miss working with Guiditta, referring to the many issues they had " tackled" together.

Guiditta took a moment to express his hopes for the future of the township, citing the Cranford Crossing redevelopment project as especially important. He said he hoped the 2001 committee would move forward and resolve the present situation and said he has confidence in the new-look committee—which will feature Williams, Denny, current Mayor Phil Morris, former Mayor Dan Aschenbach and Commissioner George Jern, who is likely to assume the mayor's seat in January. "Each resident should know and take comfort in the hard work and dedication of these commissioners," Guiditta said.

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Rica bids farewell to Borough Council

After nine years, veteran is honored with 'Don Rica Day'

By MICHAEL R. CUZZO

THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH— December 13 marked the final Borough Council meeting for Councilman Don Rica, who is leaving the council days after nine years.

Rica leaves the council after serving three consecutive terms. He was first elected in 1992, then re-elected in 1995 and again in 1998.

The council honored Rica at the Dec. 13 meeting, and each council member was given an opportunity to reflect on their time spent with him.

Councilwoman Carmelo Colosimo commended Rica for "putting up with the problems" during election time and said he felt he "upheld the constitution of Kenilworth."

Rica will be replaced by councilwoman-elect Kathy Flamingo, who along with incumbent Carmelo Colosimo was elected to the council in November's election. Flamingo will take her first council oath, and Colosimo will be sworn in again, at the council's annual reorganization meeting, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2 at Borough Hall. The meeting had originally been scheduled for Jan. 1.

Rica called his nine years on the Kenilworth Borough Council "very, very rewarding" and said his three terms held a lot of memories. He paused several times during his speech, especially when referring to his family — his wife

Roxanne and his two children, Dominic and Michael.

Mrs. Rica said that it was "sad to see him go" but that her husband, while "very committed," has reached a point where he "needs a break."

Mrs. Rica added that she will be happy that Rica will be home more often, especially so he can spend more time with his sons. "They don't want to go fishing with their mother," she noted.

Rica also spent some time Dec. 13 noting the highlights of his three terms, citing the Waldorf affair and the reopening of the David Brearley High School, which had been closed for three years. He said he was pleased with his three elections, particularly in 1995 when he "won the primary off the line."

The outgoing councilman also thanked his family for "putting up with the problems" during election time and said he felt he "upheld the constitution of Kenilworth."

Rica will be replaced by councilwoman-elect Kathy Flamingo, who along with incumbent Carmelo Colosimo was elected to the council in November's election. Flamingo will take her first council oath, and Colosimo will be sworn in again, at the council's annual reorganization meeting, scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. Jan. 2 at Borough Hall. The meeting had originally been scheduled for Jan. 1.

County college offers full slate for the spring

UNION COUNTY — Union County College is conducting registration for Spring Semester classes at its campuses in Cranford, Scotch Plains, Elizabeth and Plainfield.

The college conducts classes during the day, as well as during evening hours and on the weekends.

Credit courses will be available this spring in accounting; American sign language/deaf studies; biology; business; chemistry; civil construction engineering technology; communications; computer science; criminal justice; dental assisting; dental hygiene; economics; education; electromechanical technology; engineering; and English.

Other credit courses available this spring include English as a Second Language; fine arts; fire science technology; history; human services; manufacturing engineering technology; marketing; mathematics; mechanical engineering technology; medical assisting; modern languages; nuclear medicine technology; nursing; office administration; philosophy; physical education; physics; and restaurant management, among many other selections.

Several distance learning options, including "telecourses" and on-line courses, will be available, according to a press release issued this week by UCC. A growing number of courses feature internships in practical employment settings, the release added.

Registration Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fridays; and from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Registration is held on the Cranford, Elizabeth and Plainfield campuses.

Students are not required to register at the specific campus where they wish to study, according to the press release.

For more information, call the UCC Admissions Office at (908) 709-7500.

Fax us
your news!
(908)
575-6683

Cranford churches schedule Christmas services

Cranford — The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford and the township's Calvary Lutheran Church are hosting a full slate of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

First Presbyterian Church
The First Presbyterian Church, located on Springfield Avenue in Cranford, has scheduled Christmas Eve services for 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. Dec. 24.

Music for the 9 p.m. service will be provided by the Westminster Choir and alumni, who are expected to sing "Angels from the Realms of Glory," "Jesus is Born," "The Dark Softly Falling"

and "O Holy Night." Joining the singers will be Lynn Pinto, soloist.

Music for the 11 p.m. service will be provided by the Chancel Choir, who will sing "Nova Nova," "Shake Off Your Drowsy Sleep," and "Hodie! Hodie!" Joining the Chancel Choir will be Ann Weeks, soloist.

Calvary Lutheran Church
Calvary Lutheran Church, located on Eastman Street in Cranford, has announced a full slate of Christmas services:

* Fourth Sunday of Advent, 9:30 a.m. Sunday.
* Young Children's Service, 4 p.m. Sunday. Younger churchgo-

ers will set up the figures in the Nativity as the Christmas story is read. Carols will be sung by the Alleluia Choir of singers 4-6 years old.

* Christmas Eve service, 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Carols and handbell music will come from the Children's Choir and the SPiRiT teen group. Soloists are Katie Mertens of Cranford, soprano; Kate Vaupe of Cranford, alto; Laurel Patterson of Cranford, violin; Heather Patterson of Cranford and Deborah Montlick, flute; and Daniel Nelson, piano/alto saxophone.

* Candlelight service, 10:30

p.m. Sunday. Songs from the Calvary Choir include "Verbum caro factum est," "There is a Flower," "I Wonder as I Wander" and "I Hear the Bells on Christmas Day." Soloists are Melissa Toddings of Garwood, mezzo-soprano, and Candace Guido of Cranford, soprano. Handbell music is by the Senior Handbell Singers.

* Festival Service, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, Christmas Day.
Rev. George Freyberger, pastor, will deliver the sermon at each service.
Music is under the direction of Jaye Newbold.

Calvary Lutheran Church
108 Eastman St., Cranford
908-276-2418

The Rev. George W. Freyberger, Pastor
Jaye S. Newbold, Associate in Ministry

Find Your Way To Worship Services This Christmas.

December 24

9:30 a.m. Advent Service, Holy Communion
4:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Eve Service
7:00 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion

10:30 p.m. Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

December 25

9:30 a.m. Christmas Service of Holy Communion

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Commentary

A holiday tradition

Over a century ago, on September 21, 1897, The New York Sun published what was to become the most widely read and quoted letter to a newspaper of all time. Its message is as valid today as it was 100 years ago. Below is the full text of that letter and the reply written by Sun editor and writer Francis Pharos Church.

Dear Editor:
I am eight years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

Papa says, "If you see it in The Sun, it's so." Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?
Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West 95th Street
New York, N.Y.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except what they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the worlds would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could ever lift. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernatural beauty and glory beyond.

Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else more real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay 10 times 10,000 years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into the *Cranford Chronicle*. Call Editor Gregory Zeller at (908) 575-6686 with story suggestions, questions or comments.

For sports, call Dan Murphy at (908) 575-6691.
Our address: The Chronicle, P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. Our e-mail address is anton@nypublishing.com.

Deadlines

The deadline for submitting articles and press releases to The Chronicle is 5 p.m. Friday. The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is noon Monday.

Letter policy

Letters may be edited for content, brevity, good taste and libel. They should be typewritten and include the writer's daytime telephone number for verification.

Please send letters to the above addresses or fax number.

Cranford Chronicle

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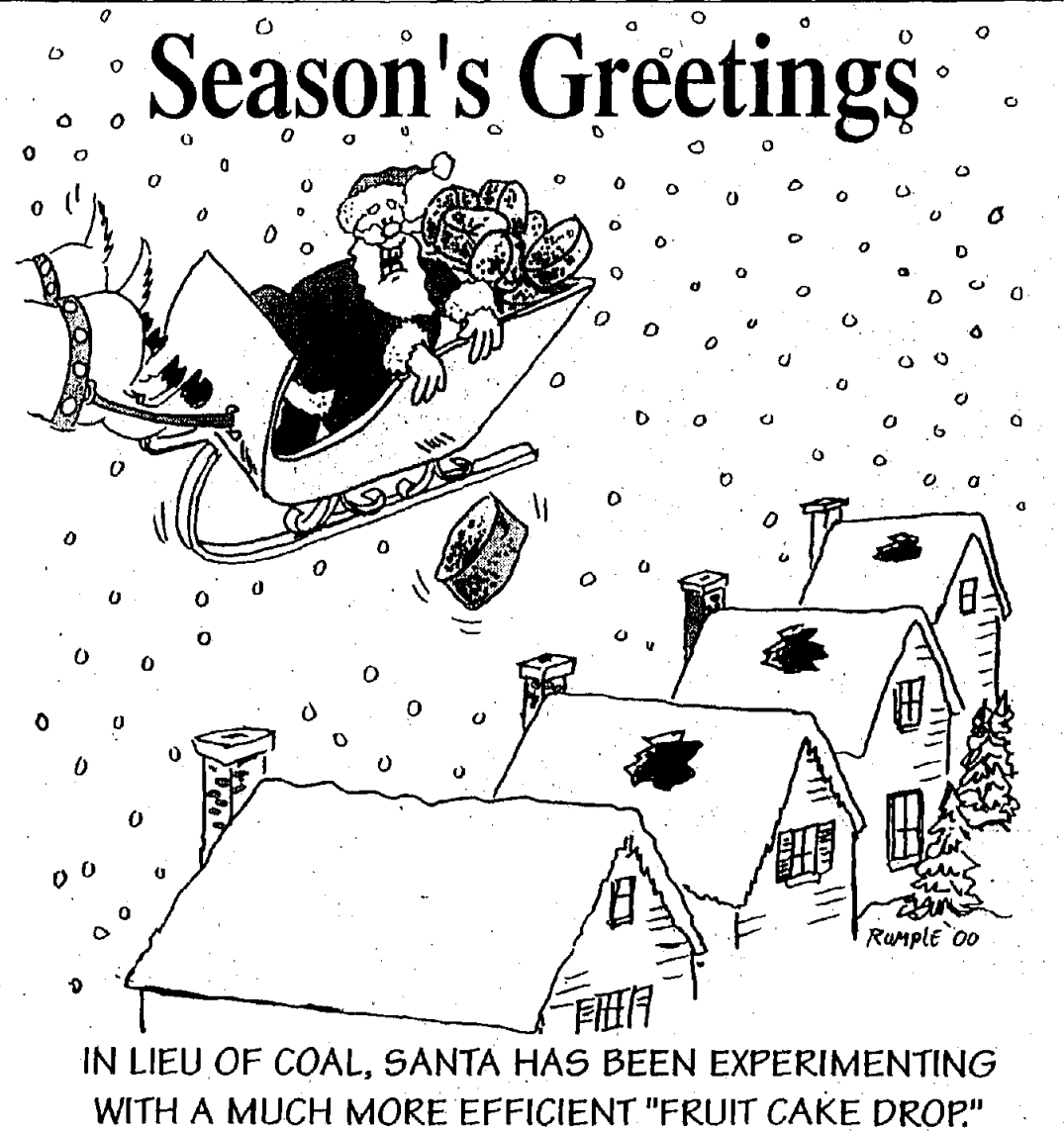
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IN LIEU OF COAL, SANTA HAS BEEN EXPERIMENTING WITH A MUCH MORE EFFICIENT "FRUIT CAKE DROP."

Letters to the editor

Former engineer outlines flood plan

To The Chronicle:

The following is a statement I will make before the Township Committee at its Dec. 19 meeting, relative to possible partial funding from the county for funding the Killian Associates flood control program which no one has considered or is even aware of.

Honorable Mayor and Members of the Township Committee:
As you know, on Sept. 25 I was privileged to speak before the state Senate Budget Committee in Trenton at the request of Mayor Philip Morin and Commissioner Thomas Denny on the \$3,250,000 grant. Subsequently, the Senate and Assembly approved the grant, but unfortunately, Gov. Whitman approved the bill on condition that matching funds be provided by the township.

I have spoken on this matter since Nov. 21, 1995 when I gave then-Mayor Norm Albert a copy of the floodholders' resolution adopted by them on May 9, 1974 and which provided for matching funds for certain flood control projects in which the floodwaters originate in upstream communities.

I happen to be familiar with that particular resolution because it had its genesis in Cranford in 1973 when then-Mayor Jack McVey invited the floodholders to a dinner meeting at the then-Cochman Inn for the purpose of appealing to them for financial assistance following the disastrous flood of Aug. 2, 1973. That flood, on damaging impact, was as severe as the Floyd flood of 1999. Mayor McVey stressed that we had been flooded by waters originating beyond our boundaries. I spoke on the technical aspects — that the floodwaters of the 31-square-mile drainage basin

originate in South Orange, West Orange, Maplewood, Millburn, Springfield, Mountainside, Union and Kenilworth to the east.

We received \$119,000 from this resolution in 1974, largely for improving (dredging, widening, deepening and straightening) 3 1/2 miles of the Rahway River.

We received additional funds later as did Springfield for the construction of the large detention basin between the Rahway River and Misset Avenue. I am sure that there were other municipalities which benefited from the resolution.

In more recent years I have brought up the matter of the 50-50 county resolution only to be greeted with polite disinterest, mainly, I suppose because no one in government had a copy of the relevant resolution. To avoid similar greetings in the future, I have a copy of the resolution I acquired from the floodholder clerk several days ago. As a matter of fact, I have seven copies of the resolution: one for Mayor Morin, one for Commissioner Denny, one for Commissioner Jern, one for Commissioner Williams, one for Commissioner-elect Aschenbach, one for administrator Schmidt and one for clerk Hollenbach.

I believe that the resolution is still valid and I fervently believe that funds from this source should be pursued vigorously to supplement other funds required to secure the \$3,250,000 state grant.

I will be willing to assist in this initiative as much as possible.

GREGORY A. SGROI
Cranford

The writer is a former Township Engineer in Cranford.

Cherished memories of Father Ed

To The Chronicle:

Many of us Cranford residents remember Father Ed Swierzbinski, who retired from St. Anne's Church in Garwood during 1995. Father Ed, a current resident of Norwandy Beach, is an intelligent and understanding man. He always took time to pray with us parishioners about

matters which were important to us. We who reside in Cranford, Garwood and Westfield will always have cherished memories of Father Ed. God had surely blessed us with Father Ed's presence.

MARTHA MCLOUGHLIN
Cranford

Please give the gift of life this season

To The Chronicle:

As we all know, this is a special time of the year for gift giving. I want to encourage all your readers to add a precious, potentially life-saving gift to their holiday gift list — a donation of a unit of blood — the gift of life.

Your gift can help to reverse a disturbing trend — less blood donations. Recently, New Jersey Blood Services was forced to announce that low blood inventories have caused NJBJS to begin to reduce blood unit shipments to area hospitals. Type "O" blood inventories are expected to be critically low through the end of February 2001. Type "O-" and "O+" donors, as well as "B+" and "B-" are especially needed.

New Jersey is a state that continually needs to import approximately 90,000 units of blood annually to supply the state's hospitals. This let-

ter is one effort to educate the general public about the critical need for blood donations at this time of year.

To avert a major blood supply crisis, all area residents who are able to donate blood are asked to take time from their busy holiday schedule and give the gift of life — a unit of blood. To make an appointment to donate blood, please call (800) 933-2566. There is no greater gift to give. And one more thing: in making your New Year's resolutions, please include a resolution to give blood on a regular basis. The average healthy person can give blood about every 56 days.

Have a happy, healthy, safe and grateful holiday season.

DONALD H. BOWERS
NJBS Chairperson

The Chronicle photograph policy

The Cranford Chronicle welcomes color and black-and-white photographs of community events.

Individuals in the photos should be identified and clearly visible. Time, date and details of the event should be included with each submission.

Please do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like your photo returned, please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Photos can be sent to The Chronicle, P.O. Box

699, 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, NJ 08876.

If you would like to request photo coverage of a community event, please contact us at least 48 hours prior to the event and we will do our best to schedule a photographer. Call Editor Gregory Zeller at (908) 575-6686.

If you would like a reprint of a photo taken by a staff photographer that appeared in The Chronicle, call the photo department at (908) 575-6708 for a reprint request form.

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

Achieving harmony of wonder

All merry Christmases were alike then.

In Neshaic Station, where I tried to grow up, comfort and joy were the absolutes of the season. Putting — my natural state of being then and now — topped at the threat of coal in my Christmas stocking. My eyes ached with longing when I studied the Sears Christmas catalog as if it was a Kabala of mysticism. At night, when my throat was raw from singing carols all day in school, I watched the snow skid like tattered pieces of a dream through the warm glow of Christmas lights outlining the back porch. It was warm and cozy in bed and sleep came like an angel of mercy to erase the anxious time before Christmas morning.

Remembering those child's Christmases is at once both pleasant and sad. It is pleasant because, well, I was fortunate to have Christmases that resembled a Norman Rockwell idyll. The family was harmonious (except for arguments over whether the turkey was done) and the setting was seeped with the mystery and the beauty of the season (was that a holy star or an isolated street-light that hung in the distance over the church's live nativity?) It is sad because it is a memory of what we have lost, not just the world of wonders, but also the meaningfulness, purity, sentiment and benevolence of the season.

The cards with which we now deal most in the holiday season do not bear greetings of good cheer, but the dire credit statements of a raw January. Like members of a cargo cult, we perform our commercial ritual without thinking about what we are doing or why we are doing it. Sometimes I think we would all be better if we returned to the practices of childhood and made pathfinders for each other and cards with crayons and construction paper. It is a futile hope that we will be prompted by childhood memories to seriously review our values, see how they have changed since the days of relative innocence and make the necessary adjustments.

I do not want to dwell on the maudlin aspects of nostalgia; you get wet if you spit too much into the wind. I could write forever about those days, about the surreptitious plans to transport Santa Claus from the firehouse to the church when their Christmas parties were on the same night. But that would take too long, so instead I will write about the joy of Christmas caroling.

It's a frosty Saturday night when we gather in the church basement to go caroling from house to house in our small town. Because I am one of the little ones they tell me to stand in front. I imagine my face has the frightened look of someone who wants to do so well so badly that he knows he is just going to screw up.

At first our voices are so enthusiastic that the adults tell us "not too loud" and at about the fifth house (Mrs. Verneusen is going to have hot chocolate for us and annual crackers too) our voices hang suspended in the brittle air with the brilliant clarity of a crystal rose. It is a moment of absolute still beauty as the carols' individual notes take shape in the clouds of warm breath.

Suddenly the moment is lost when the mechanical flatulence of a hokey muffler (whose Studebaker is that?) forces us off the road and never again that night do we ever quite regain that perfect balance, that awesome harmony.

In that epiphany of harmony, we were the messengers of a different world, of a place of peace, love and brotherhood, where good will is exchanged freely and children and adults alike are allowed the luxury of wonder and the belief in something that is not real.

As adults, we may never again reach that moment of perfect balance and harmony, but that does not mean we should stop trying.

Rutgers Co-op hopes program helps to build stronger families

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County is sponsoring a program aimed at "Strengthening Families" after the holidays. The program is open to families with children 10-14 years old. It is scheduled to take place at the First United Methodist Church of Scotch Plains, located at 1171 Terrill Road.

Sessions are slated to run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesdays between Jan. 16 and Feb. 27. "Strengthening Families" is developed by Iowa State University; adults meet in one group and the children in another.

Adult topics are "Love and Limits," "Making House Rules," "Encouraging Good Behavior: Using Consequences," "Building Bridges: Protecting Against Substance Abuse," and "Putting It All Together." The scheduled instructor for the adult

group is Elizabeth Levin, family life educator with Rutgers Cooperative Extension.

Child topics are "Having Goals and Dreams," "Appreciating Parents," "Dealing with Stress," "Following Rules," "Dealing with Peer Pressure," "Peer Pressure and Good Friends," and "Putting It All Together."

The scheduled instructor for the child group is James Nichadnowicz, 4-H youth development agent.

Cost is \$25 for a family of two parents and all children 10-14 years old.

Child care is available for those under 10 years old.

Seating is limited and prepayment is required.

For more information, e-mail levin@aesop.rutgers.edu or call (908) 654-9854.

Cranford to host 'Kid Safe Karate' classes

CRANFORD — Session II of "Kid Safe Karate" is scheduled to begin after the holiday season at the Township Community Center on Walnut Avenue.

Classes begin the week of Jan. 3 and meet in two age brackets:

Ages 5-8 — New students, 4

p.m. to 4:40 p.m. Wednesdays;

returning students, 4:50 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and 5:40 p.m. to 6:20

p.m. Wednesdays; second-

degree yellow belt and higher,

4:50 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays.

Ages 9-15 — New students,

5:40 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

Wednesdays; returning stu-

dents, 4 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

Thursdays; second-degree yellow belt and higher, 5:40 p.m. to 6:20 p.m. Thursdays.

Fee for each class is \$50.

Registration is required at the Community Center and limited to those who live in the town-

ship. For more information, call

(908) 709-7283.

Men, women

can improve cardiovascular conditioning

CRANFORD — "Total Conditioning Session II" is a cardiovascular workout open to men and women at the Community Center on Walnut Avenue.

Workout times are scheduled to run 6:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 4.

Fee is \$45.

Registration is required at the Community Center and limited to Cranford residents.

For more information, call (908) 709-7283.

Historians honor trustees emeritus

CRANFORD — Henrietta Dreyer, John Malar and Ralph Marra have been honored as trustees emeritus of the Cranford Historical Society.

Dreyer was a trustee for 20 years while Malar and Marra

were trustees for 10 years.

The Historical Society maintains the Crane-Phillips House Museum, located on North Union Avenue and the Hanson House, located on Springfield Avenue.



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Cranford sets kindergarten registration

CRANFORD — Kindergarten registration forms are now available in each of the Township School District's elementary school offices.

The forms may be picked up between 8 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., or between 12:45 p.m. and 4 p.m., weekdays.

Parents are reminded that children are eligible for kindergarten admission in September if

they will be 5 years old on or before Oct. 1.

Registration for the 2001-2002 school year will be held between 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., and again between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., at all township elementary schools on Jan. 23, 24, 25 and 26.

A birth certificate, immunization record and a completed enrollment form for each child should be presented at the time

of registration.

Toward the end of the 2000-2001 school year, parents will be notified in writing concerning their children's kindergarten assignment and the date and time for a classroom visitation prior to the beginning of classes in September, according to a press release issued this week by district Director of Curriculum and Instruction Joseph Corriero.

Your news here! Fax to: (908) 575-6683



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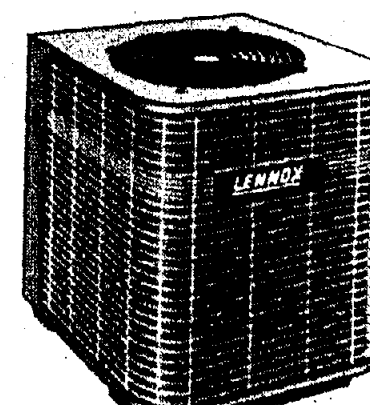
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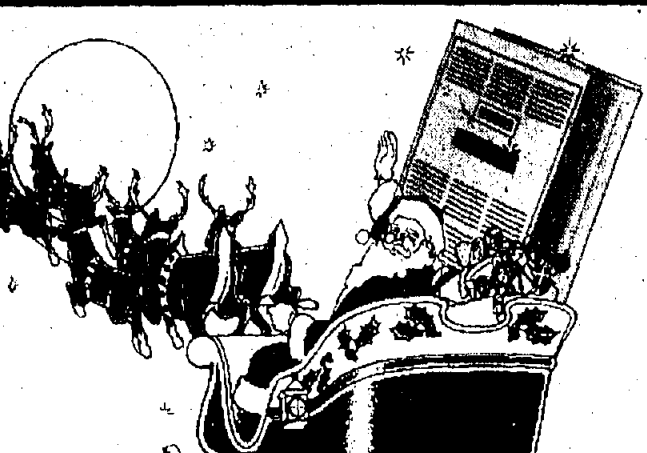
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Speaker blasts 'biased' media

(Continued from page A-1)

Bahn. "The Jewish community has to be more active in challenging the media coverage. Don't cancel a subscription... inquire about the media coverage. What is the media doing? We must become critical analysts and become actively involved with the way media treat the news."

To illustrate his point, Bahn shared various *New York Times* clips which he said demonstrated media distortions. In one example, a headline from the Nov. 21 issue of the *Times* read "Israel Strikes Back After School Bus Is Bombed." This, Bahn said, was a classic example of journalistic inversion.

"The Palestinian killers were not identified as Palestinians," he said. "Israelis were not only identified as the victims, but identified as the perpetrators of violence. The nature of the Palestinian

atrocies was clouded by the use of the passive voice — 'bombed,' rather than 'kill' or 'murder.' And when the active voice is used, it was applied in response of the victims — 'Israel Strikes Back.'"

Photographic images are also very important, he added, because "you don't realize you are being peppered with them, or that you internalize what you see."

Bahn showed the audience a photo that appeared in the Oct. 26 *New York Times* that juxtaposed the looming presence of an Israeli tank against a woman and child in the foreground. The picture was about a Palestinian funeral, according to Bahn.

"Pictures should represent what a story says — things should not be faked out of context," he said. "Headlines and pictures on the news must represent contents of reports and not take an incident out of context."

"Why would the *New York Times* report in this manner?" Bahn added. "Why are Palestinians designated as victims?"

On the one hand, Bahn concedes that intimidation of journalists by the Palestinians is a factor for reporters covering the news in that part of the world. But more over, Bahn said, journalists are manipulative. To make his point, he quoted William Orm of the *New York Times*. "Journalists manipulate language so as not to attribute responsibility."

The speaker prepared an Israeli-Palestinian-Arab Language Guide that he said further illustrates the disparity of language. He compared common media usage of a word or event suggested alternate uses. For example, Bahn said the media commonly use words such as "clashes," "protests," "fighting breaking out," "conflict," "violence," "confrontation" and "struggle" to describe Palestinian aggression and attacks.

"They use 'violence,' not 'attacks,' he said. "It is not the correct language."

Bahn suggested people "listen carefully" to what the news media say and "look for patterns in media coverage, find a few examples that show the truth over time and contact the editor."

"I urge you to read and watch," he said. "We've internalized the (Palestinian) message — that we're not such good people — and it divides us, because we're the most sensitive consumers of news."

Garwood BOE casts eye to the future

(Continued from page A-1)

Planning Board. Planning Board members will have an opportunity to review the plans and make recommendations to the school board, although the recommendations will not be binding, school officials said.

Murphy also outlined a general timeline for a potential public referendum and school construction process.

"The Department of Education has given all indications that they will work with the district to try to achieve a spring public referendum," the superintendent said, adding that if the referendum is not held, and a public vote is put off until the fall of 2001, any construction project was not likely to be completed until 2004.

thetical state grant — is approved, construction on a new borough school building could be completed by 2003.

School officials indicated in November that if a spring referendum is not held, and a public vote is put off until the fall of 2001, any construction project was not likely to be completed until 2004.

Holidays are a mixed bag for merchants

(Continued from page A-1)

Other items that have done well at Alban & Lewis include bird feeders, especially one called the "Yankee Flipper," which is squirrel-proof, Alban noted. The Yankee Flipper is weight-activated and represents a "pay-back time for squirrels," he said.

The store has also seen an own rise in sales of customized items. Alban's daughter Holly, a senior at Cranford High School, runs her own "personalization station" in the store, personalizing such items as piggy banks.

Preparing for the customary holiday parties requires an abundance of food, and at The Pink Submarine, owner Jackie Strunk is working to provide seasonal appetizers. The hot item at The Pink Submarine is actually cold — Strunk makes both 6-foot and 3-foot subs for office and home parties.

The orders started coming in around the second week of December, Strunk noted, and the shop has been turning out about three to five orders per week. That's an average number for the holiday season, Strunk said.

Some downtown shops have been doing below-average business this season. At The Enchanted Garden, potpourri, candles, handmade snow globes and custom wreaths are helping owner Carolyn Yannuzzi compete with the larger floral business. But despite the success of certain items, this has not been a banner year for the Enchanted Garden, Yannuzzi noted. "The economy is down because of the stock market," she said.

Yannuzzi said she has been forced to get an early jump on the post-holiday sale season. Some items have been discounted as much as 20 percent, although the business prospered within the sphere of personalized items. "People want something different that they can't get in a big store," Yannuzzi said. "People are looking for decorative and natural things."

Most downtown shops, however, are enjoying a profitable season. Patrick Mack, the owner of the Cranford Sports Center, said holiday shopping is easy — especially when parents bring their kids along for the ride. "The kids come in, tell their parents what they want and the parents come back with the credit cards," Mack said.

Presidential wrangling

(Continued from page A-1)

lying the situation from a business perspective. "I'm relieved it's over," Vandenberg said. "Now we can get the uncertainty out of the market."

Westfield Mayor Thomas Jardim, a lawyer by trade, said he understands the judicial process and the responsibilities of the judges involved in the ballot debate, and has been disappointed mostly by the reaction of the American people. The mayor said he was upset because the judges who are upholding the Constitution are (being) called partisan.

As for the election itself, Jardim said he felt Vice President Gore had more obstacles to overcome than his opponent. "I was disappointed that there were so many impediments in the way of Vice President Gore in obtaining a recount for (a) election," Jardim said, adding that Gore was more "prohibited" — and Secretary of State James Baker was one of the reasons why.

Jardim said when a decision went in favor of now-President elect Bush, Baker said it was the right decision, but when something went in favor of Gore, Baker challenged it.

Six weeks after the fact, it's great to have it resolved, one way or the other, Jardim said. "The election of the Sportman's Outfitter in Clark is recognized as one of the best in the industry, and his celebrity client list includes avid angler President George W. Bush."

Charters: A great way to get out in the water with the fish and hassles. All tackle and ancillary items are supplied. It's Captain Al Riston (732-233-5729) oceanfront weekfish, blues, blackfish and striped bass. Capt. Dave DeGennaro (800-739-3515) ignites Barbeque Bay week on ultra-light tackle. Fly fishing the salt from surf, jetty and pier is the specialty of Shore Rich Guide Service (732-528-1111). Go big game crazy with Capt. Pete Barrett (732-295-8600) and the Linda B. out of Pt. Pleasant. The historic monster per beaches of upper Long and are the domain of Tom "Moutak" Melton (631-878-6666). Visiting the east coast of Florida after the New Year? Capt. Bogdan (561-848-2405) of Beach Guides Service is a former fishing Lake are who specializes in heart-pounding inshore changes with sailfish, wahoo, tarpon and snook. Jersey coasters can count on Rocky Krone of New Horizons (908-571-1568) to put the them on Hopatcong's and Greenwood's biggest mossbacks and smallmouth bass.

"Crab time" is synonymous with "stocking stuffers" when it comes to last-minute gifts for the angling homebody or homegirl. The nice in easy slide into-the-gift is the way to go when spending time is at a premium. (Here are quick pick items that all bring long lasting smiles: License/stamp: A 2001 New Jersey fishing license is a Yuletide favorite. Should the recipient be a salt fishing enthusiast, the addition of an '01 Trout Stamp will get gift-givers all around.

Lures: Always a hit in the stocking, a salt or fresh water lure put to the test as soon as possible. For the surf and jetty angler, gets no better than the Yo-Zuri Surface Cruiser, Crystal Minnow or Hydro Popper. The Hopkins No-EQJ spoons are equally popular with surf runners. Buck bay weekfish and fluke hunters can't get enough of the DPRO bucktail. Springtime trout fishing equates with spinners, and the Mepp "Pocket Pac" three lure sets and its six-piece Troutier kits are monster hits. Bass busters will rev with the Yo-Zuri Rattl'n 'n Vibe, Crank 'n Drive, Pop 'n Splash and

Holiday Gift Guide

There's nothing fishy about these gift-giving tips

By TOM PAGLIAROLI

The holiday shopping season need not be hectic when hunting gifts for the resident angler.

To be sure, from fresh to salt, there are myriad options at area tackle emporiums. The expert advice and recommendations proffered by these fishing professionals will put one at each when choosing a gift that will be utilized and appreciated as opposed to being "misplaced" in the attic or garage.

Following are a few ideas that will rest easy under the tree.

Reelers: Fin-Nor's MegaLite spinning series covers the water, front from walleye and shad to fluke and stripers. Ultra-light trout and panfish enthusiasts will jump all over the Daiwa Spinning Series. Bass casters put the bit on globular with Abu Garcia's planetary BION Surf and jetty regulars dot on Fin-Nor's AHAB MegaDrag 16. The Marado Evolution 250 and D.A.M. Quick 250DL really shake the inshore salt. When it comes to blue water, big-game, Fin-Nor's AHAB 30, 50W and 80W 2-Speed instruments play the tune to scale. Saltwater fly fishing buffs will jump for the Sea-Angler 8/9 System Two.

Rods: St. Croix's Legend is an excellent across-the-board series, from ultra-light spinning to bait-casting to fly. Another stellar performer is Fenwick's Techna/HMG collection. Fin-Nor's Classic fishore collection is the luxury level of the big game drive, with the Orvis TL909 a "must-have" for the saltwater fly enthusiast. Beach bums and jetty jockeys toss in turn about a Loomis rod, especially the light-but-beastly SUR9655. For those who want to give the ultimate rod, go custom. These "made-to-order" rods will angle a fair amount of lead time is required, so an open-ended gift certificate is the most logical avenue. The angler can then meet with the rod artist to review each piece of expectation. Don expect of The Sportman's Outfitter in Clark is recognized as one of the best in the industry, and his celebrity client list includes avid angler President George W. Bush.

Charters: A great way to get out in the water with the fish and hassles. All tackle and ancillary items are supplied. It's Captain Al Riston (732-233-5729) oceanfront weekfish, blues, blackfish and striped bass. Capt. Dave DeGennaro (800-739-3515) ignites Barbeque Bay week on ultra-light tackle. Fly fishing the salt from surf, jetty and pier is the specialty of Shore Rich Guide Service (732-528-1111). Go big game crazy with Capt. Pete Barrett (732-295-8600) and the Linda B. out of Pt. Pleasant. The historic monster per beaches of upper Long and are the domain of Tom "Moutak" Melton (631-878-6666). Visiting the east coast of Florida after the New Year? Capt. Bogdan (561-848-2405) of Beach Guides Service is a former fishing Lake are who specializes in heart-pounding inshore changes with sailfish, wahoo, tarpon and snook. Jersey coasters can count on Rocky Krone of New Horizons (908-571-1568) to put the them on Hopatcong's and Greenwood's biggest mossbacks and smallmouth bass.

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3-D Shad. Ditto the Rapala Shad Rap and the tried and true Floating Minnow. Bags of plastic baits are favorites that squish way down in a stocking (read: more than one bag, please!). Berkley Power Worms, Power Grubs and "Spawormers" draw big smiles because they are so effective. The Garden State's walleye renaissance (Hopatcong, Monksville, Big Swartswood, Delaware River) make the Yo-Zuri Suspending Crystal Minnow and Southwick Rattlin' Rogue easy choices.

Bait: It's a jar or two of Mike's Atlas salmon eggs (shrimp, "glo," natural, "cheese") and Berkely PowerBait (Chartreuse, yellow, orange) for the family trout nut.

Line: A filler spool of line is a very welcome staffer. Berkley's FireLine is without peer when it comes to fused line sensitivity and strength. Yo-Zuri's hi-tech Hybrid is a mono-fluorocarbon blend that is drawing raves up and down the East coast. Fly fishing addicts will flip over Seaguar's Grand max tip-pet material and its PowerTaper leaders.

Subscriptions: The weekly (50 issues) NJ Fisherman (732-295-8600) keeps the family angler informed about all salt and fresh water fishing in the Garden State. The NJ Lake Survey Fishing Map Guide gives the all-around on lakes, ponds and impoundments. It's available at tackle shops or via www.njsportsmensguides.com.

Cutlery: The edge-holding steel of Rapala's 4-inch and 6-inch fillet knives will hone everything from bluegill to bluefish.

Jewelry: A hardcore fisherman and artist, Jersey's own George Harris' works are now internationally distributed. Available in pewter, gold and custom hand-painted selections, these multi-sized (tie tacs to key rings) pins are startlingly realistic and make a statement on a fishing vest, hat, cap, jacket or in the salon of a six-figure sportfishing vessel. Favorites include brook, brown and rainbow trout, largemouth bass, striped bass, fluke, seahorse, bluefish, fluke, sharks, billfish, and tuna. The Harris Collection can be perused at select area tackle dealers.

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Community Life

Prime
Time
Inside

Holiday Happenings

SUNDAY, DEC. 24
Young Children's Service: Featuring Alleluia Choir (ages 4-6) of Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., 4 p.m. (908) 276-2418.
Youth Service: With Children's Choir and SPIRYT teen group of Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., 7 p.m. (908) 276-2418.
Christmas Family Service: At Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. East, 7:30 p.m. (908) 276-0936.
Candlelight Services: At First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave., 9 and 11 p.m. (908) 276-8440.
Candlelight Service: At Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., 10:30 p.m. (908) 276-2418.
Communion by Candlelight: At Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. East, 11 p.m. (908) 276-0936.
MONDAY, DEC. 25
Festival Service: At Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., 9:30 a.m. (908) 276-2418.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

Thursday Club

Activities of the Cranford Senior Citizens Thursday Club.
Dec. 21 — Cheese and crackers party (with added surprise) at Community Center, 1 p.m.
Dec. 28 — No meeting.
Jan. 4 — Business meeting at Community Center, 1 p.m.
Trips sponsored by the Thursday Club:
Jan. 10-20 — Florida (Orlando area). Cost is \$899 per person, double occupancy. Call (908) 272-5375.
Jan. 30 — Atlantic City (Showboat). Call (908) 276-8593.
May 11-18 — Mackinac Island, Mich. Call (908) 272-5375.
Oct. 4-10 — Nashville and Gatlinburg, Tenn. Call (908) 272-5375.

Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club

The club held its monthly membership meeting Dec. 6 with 164 in attendance. Christmas music came from the Harding School band under the direction of Howard Hopkins.
Officers for 2001 are: Minnie Leikuskas, president; Ernie Hammer, first vice president; Dorothy Butler, second vice president; Raymond Grunwald, recording secretary; Barbara Morison, corresponding secretary; Flo Tuozzolo, treasurer; Mary Librizzi, assistant treasurer; Ann Lando, sergeant at arms; Charles Vitale and Minnie Kern, trustees. All were to be sworn in Dec. 11 during the anniversary party at The Westwood in Garwood.
RSVP hours volunteered by members in November were 124 in the nutrition program, 82 at the Cranford Health and Extended Care Center, 60 making baby hats, 46 in the flu program, 31 1/2 at Children's Specialized Hospital, 17 1/2 making toys for tots, 12 in the Kenilworth schools and 8 ringing the bell for the Salvation Army.

Friday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Friday Club will not meet Dec. 22 or 29. Celebrating a December birthday is John Gillich.

Tuesday Club

Members of the Cranford Senior Citizens Tuesday Club who are celebrating December birthdays are Joan Donohue, Ann Goodwin, Catherine Grall, Helen Robertello, Julia Sasala, Lou Valvo and Mary Zarzecki.

Wednesday Club

Activities of the Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club.
Dec. 27 — Bingo and hot dogs.
Jan. 3 — Business meeting.
Birthdays and anniversaries noted.
Officers for 2001 are: Arlene Borden, president; Grace Van Drak, first vice president; Alice Harlan, second vice president; Helen Grayce, recording secretary; Joan Stanton, financial secretary; William Gilliam, treasurer; Roz Arsenault, Ellen Jordan and Carolyn Lindaroth, trustees.
The Wednesday Club is sponsoring an Atlantic City trip Monday, Jan. 8 to the Showboat. Cost is \$14; you will receive \$17 in coin. The bus leaves Meeker Avenue 11 a.m. For reservations, call Ruth Amsterdam at (908) 276-6718 or Harmon Pinston at (908) 276-2845.
Garwood Senior Citizens Club
Members celebrating birthdays in December are Evelyn Bucciarelli, Mary Maszczak, Anne Peters, Carmen Spueglia and Tom Worenski.

AARP Chapter 4269

Trips sponsored by the AARP chapter:
Wednesday, Dec. 27 —

Atlantic City (Showboat). Cost is \$13; you will receive \$17 in coin. Bus leaves the Centennial Avenue pool 8:45 a.m. Other Atlantic City trips are Jan. 24, Feb. 28 and March 28.
May 3 — "Abie's Irish Rose" at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Cost is \$53.
For more information, call Michael Donerank at (908) 486-6679. All trips are open to the public.

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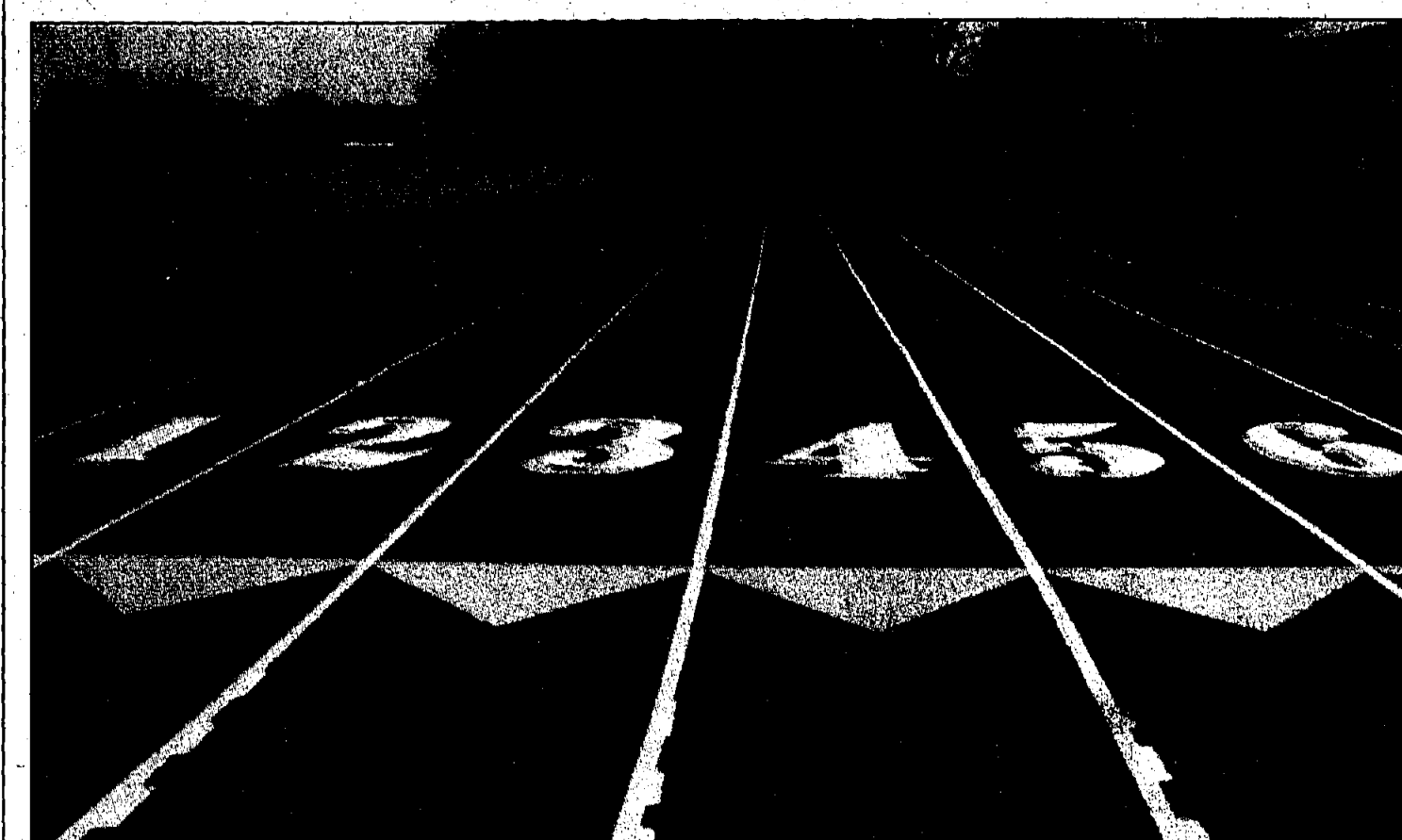
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GEORGE PACCIOLLO/THE CHRONICLE
The track outside Cranford High School has been renamed in honor of Raymond V. White, who has served as a teacher, coach and mentor to innumerable CHS students since he joined the faculty in 1969.

The White stuff

Cranford school board renames CHS track in honor of longtime coach, mentor

By MICHAEL R. CUOZZO
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The Board of Education has renamed the track at Cranford High School in honor of longtime teacher and coach Ray White.

Board members voted unanimously Dec. 11 to rename the track Raymond V. White Track, just in time for White's birthday, which was Dec. 12.

Superintendent of Schools Emalene Renna said the coach puts "his heart and soul in (his) kids." With White, the focus is always on the students and "it's not just about winning," Renna said.

supervisor of health and physical education, said White was an "absolutely wonderful human being and a terrific coach," while Superintendent of Schools Emalene Renna said he puts "his heart and soul in (his) kids."

While he worked mostly with distance runners, White, according to many of his students, has had an effect on all of his athletes, be they jumpers, hurdlers or throwers.

White first joined the

the Group 3 state title, the team's second-ever title — he coached them to their first in 1975. Other accolades during his tenure include 29 Watching Conference titles, eight Union County and eight State Section titles. He has had three boys go on to the Golden West Meet Invitational after finishing in the top seven in their respective events and has coached three Meet of Champion Winners — including one athlete who went on to the Olympics.

There is "nothing more" of the track a "very unique honor," gave credit to his assistant coaches for his achievements. He particularly noted the efforts of Tom Stupich, who has coached with White for 26 years.

Two of his assistant coaches, Mike Dow and Mike Harnett, are former athletes who were coached by White, while former coach Eileen Hartman was also a former athlete who coached for 10 years before leaving last year.

There is "nothing more" rewarding than having someone come back who you coached, White said, noting there is already "cooperation and trust."

This past fall, White coached the boy's cross country team to

Cranford High School student Landon Allison Lombardo said White is a "wonderful teacher," while junior K.C. Brown, who competes on White's cross country and track teams, said the coach "deserves" to have the track renamed in his honor.

"Definitely," K.C. said.

Sophomore Tom Flanigan said the honor was fitting because "it's not just that he's been a coach — he's been a successful coach."

Every one of the boy's records

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A winter-sports wonderland in Union County

Freeholders invite residents to take part in seasonal sports at county parks system

UNION COUNTY — The Board of Chosen Freeholders

invites the public to visit the county park system and pursue the activities of the season.

Winter sports (cross country skiing, sledding, ice skating) are permitted in several locations.

Park supervisors may ban sledding because of severe icing or lack of snow.

Galloping Hill Golf Course in Kenilworth is not available for winter sports because of its terrain.

Skating in natural areas is available throughout the park system and at the county's rink

in Warinanco Park, Roselle. Signs will be posted to announce if the ice is thick enough for skating.

Restrictions also will be posted. Ice hockey is allowed in designated areas at the discretion of the Union County Police, which

patrol the county park system. Whether a game will go on is determined by the number of hockey players and the size of the ice surface.

Winter sports in any county park may be canceled if conditions are too hazardous.

For skating information, call (908) 298-7850 or (908) 352-8410.

For other winter sports information, call (908) 527-4900.

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This week

THURSDAY DEC. 21

BREASTFEEDING? — La Leche League of Westfield meeting at Cranford United Methodist Church, 201 Lincoln Ave. East, Cranford, 10:15 a.m. Call (908) 301-1339.

FRIDAY DEC. 22

"A WINTER NIGHT OF MUSIC" — with Kenny Sack, singer-songwriter. PerQ up, 502 Boulevard, Kenilworth, 8:30 p.m. Free. Call (908) 497-0995.

WEDNESDAY DEC. 27

FLU SHOTS — immuniza-

tion clinic at Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 10-11 a.m. Requirements: Call (908) 709-7238.

COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE — at St. Michael's Church, 40 Alden St., Cranford, 2-7:30 p.m. Call (908) 298-7850 or (908) 352-8410.

COMING UP

SHADY GROOVE — rock concert, sponsored by junior class of Cranford High School, West End Place, Cranford, 7 p.m. Jan. 12. Cost \$8 in advance, \$10 at door. Tickets: Call (908) 709-0272.

WINTER CONCERT — singers from Grades 7-8 of Cranford's Orange Avenue School, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 18. Call (908) 709-6257.

PhiloMusic schedules auditions

EAST BRUNSWICK — The PhiloMusic Chamber Choir has scheduled auditions for singers in all voice parts. Auditions are slated to be held on 8 and 15 at the Unitarian Church in East Brunswick.

Grab your skates and get ready for 'Hanukkah on Ice'

WEST ORANGE — Looking for a unique way to entertain children during the Hanukkah season? What could be more delightful than a combination of sparkling ice and a sparkling menorah?

From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, thousands of children will converge on the state's ultimate celebration of Hanukkah — "Hanukkah On Ice."

The program will begin with open skating, wherein children and adults can ice skate to contemporary Jewish music and classic Hanukkah songs. Judah Macabee and friends will entertain the children with on-ice festivities, including Hanukkah

them races and games. For those who would enjoy putting their hands, in addition to their feet, on the ice, ice carving will be just thing. Children will be able to join in creating a giant eight-foot Hanukkah ice menorah and watch with excitement as it is actually lit during the festivities.

To be certain that the kids do not go home empty handed, they will be able to make their own hand-dipped Hanukkah candles to use in their menorah at home. "We want to bring the spirit of the Hanukkah holiday alive for

the Living Legacy, the educational branch of Rabbinical College of America-Lubavitch. The South Mountain Arena is located at 560 Northfield Ave. in West Orange.

Open skating is scheduled to run from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. and again from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

The main show is slated to begin at 2:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$10 at the door and \$7.50 in advance. Ticket prices include skate rental.

Light refreshments will be available.

Holiday Dining

Fax us your entertainment news!
(908) 575-6683

Ye Cottage Inn
Waterfront Dining at its finest
Specializing in Seafood, Steaks, Chicken and Pasta Dishes
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New Year's Eve - 12pm to 11pm
Daily Luncheon Specials 6:30pm to 9pm
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Join us for our 1st
NEW YEAR'S EVE GALA PARTY
Accepting Reservations for NEW YEAR'S EVE
Seatings at 6:30pm, 8:30pm & 10:30pm
Complimentary Champagne Toast
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Ring in the New Year in class & style
Expect an exciting setting, great food, music & a fantastic evening in our Grand Ballroom
Music by the renowned "HANK JOEL"
This very special evening will begin with a sumptuous array of hors d'oeuvres
FEATURING A FIVE COURSE GOURMET DINNER
Grilled marinated shrimp, sliced tomatoes, cheese en croute, seasonal greens, served with vinaigrette dressing
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Special Dessert
Coffee, Tea & Brandy
Specially Selected Wine
Champagne Toast Served at Midnight
5 HOUR DELUXE OPEN BAR INCLUDED
Continental Breakfast at 1:00 am Limited Reservations
NOW TAKING RESERVATIONS
8:00 PM - 1:30 AM \$225.00 Per Couple

For dessert or just for nibbling, go for a dip!

Strufolli (Honey-dipped dough bits)

1 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
1/4 teaspoon salt
2 eggs
1 cup honey
2 cups light vegetable oil

Christmas is almost here. You've been busy with preparations — the house is decorated, the presents are purchased and you've planned a beautiful, festive holiday dinner. Now it's time to prepare dessert.

Italian tradition offers a very simple dessert that is delicious. This week's recipe, strufolli (deep-fried honey-dipped nuggets), is a special Christmas treat. The dough is essentially an egg pasta, and it's simple to prepare.

The dough is rolled into a long, rope-like form and then cut into small pieces. When placed into the hot oil, the dough puffs up into golden balls. The fried balls are drained, placed in warm honey and drained again, and after you sprinkle them with nonpareils, they're ready to eat.

This dessert keeps well on the table for at least a week (if they're not devoured by then), and it's perfect for nibbling. Always enjoyable at the holiday table, you're sure to make this a holiday tradition.

If you have any questions, please contact me via fax at (908) 272-2974.

In the meantime, buon appetito! Enjoy!

Combine the flour and salt in a large mixing bowl, then add one egg at a time. Mix with a

fork until the flour stiffens into dough, then turn the dough onto a flat, floured board or any flat surface.

Knead the dough vigorously until it's smooth, then wrap it in wax paper and let it rest for at least 20 minutes.

Cut the dough into 1/2-inch slices. Between the palm of your hands, roll the slices into 1/4-inch-thick ropes, then cut the ropes into 1/4-inch pieces.

In a deep, wide skillet (the wider the skillet, the more you can fry at once), heat the oil until a sample piece of dough fizzes. Fry the dough pieces until all sides are golden; when you put it in the oil, the dough should drop to the bottom of the pan and then rise to the top.

When it rises, turn it quickly so it turns golden on all sides. Sprinkle cooled nonpareils over the dough balls before the honey engulfs.

Let the pieces sit until they are thoroughly cooled before you serve them.

Ecco, tutto e pronto!

turns more fluid. Add the dough pieces to the honey, a little at a time, turning the pieces to make sure all sides are coated.

Again using a slotted spoon, pick up the honey-coated dough pieces and place neatly on a large, round platter in the form of a wreath. When you've moved all the pieces, pour the remaining honey over the dough balls.

Sprinkle cooled nonpareils over the dough balls before the honey engulfs.

Let the pieces sit until they are thoroughly cooled before you serve them.

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Ecco, tutto e pronto!

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Italian Bistro
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Serving Lunch Monday thru Friday
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A La Carte Regular Menu
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NEW YEAR'S EVE
CELEBRATE
3 Seatings: 6pm or earlier, 8pm & 10pm
• Complimentary glass of champagne at last seating!
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OPEN CHRISTMAS DAY
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The Clarion Hotel and Towers
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Proudly Presents New Year's Eve Gala 2001
9:00 PM to 2:00 AM
Open Bar
Dinner and Dancing
Champagne Toast at Midnight
Noisemakers and Party Favors
DJ Entertainment
★ Cocktail Hour
Butter Passed Hors d'oeuvres
★ Raw Bar
Jumbo Shrimp, Blue Crab Claws, Dill Pickled Clams and Crab Cakes
Displayed on a Bed of Crushed Ice and Served with Traditional Caviar
★ Pasta Station
Lettuce Pasta with Fresh Pesto, Pine Tomatoes and Roasted Vegetables
Penne Pasta in a Bolognese Sauce
★ Steak Station
Chicken and Beef Sirloin with Seasonal Vegetables in an Oriental Sauce and Served Over White Rice
★ Carving Station
Roast Pork Loin Stuffed with Stuffing and Topped with Pineapple
★ Dinner and Dancing
★ Appetizer
Baked Potatoes with Bacon and Cheddar
Roasted Sweet Red Peppers and Fresh Mozzarella
Served Over Marinated Sauce
★ Salad
Mixed Field Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette
★ Entrée
Pasta with Shrimp and Sautéed Chicken
Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Fresh Vegetable Medley
★ Viennese Table
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JCC presents comedy of TV-veteran Mittleman

SCOTCH PLAINS — The Jewish Community Center of Central New Jersey and Congregation Beth Israel have scheduled a special night of comedy and wit.

Comedian Steve Mittleman is expected to take the stage Jan. 6 at Congregation Beth Israel, located at 18 Shalom Way in Scotch Plains. The show is slated to begin at 8 p.m.

A renowned stand-up comedian, Mittleman has enjoyed great success on such television programs as "Late Night," "The Tonight Show" and the NBC sitcom "Midnight Run."

He has also appeared in dozens of films and TV commercials. Mittleman has headlined in major comedy clubs throughout the U.S.

The evening of Jan. 6 will be packed with great entertainment, laughter, friends and food.

Seating is limited, so don't delay in reserving your seats.

For more information, call Susan Leiman at (908) 889-8800 ext. 205, or Ina Thau at (908) 232-4217.

The JCC of Central NJ is a constituent agency of the United Way and the Jewish Federation of Central New Jersey.

Still a chance to see Behr's 'Electrotechs' in Watchung

WATCHUNG — "A Room Full of People," an exhibition of Marion Behr's "Electrotechs" prints, monographs and sculptures, is still on display at the Watchung Arts Center.

The center is located at 18 Stirling Road in Watchung. Behr's work has recently been shown at the National Academy and the Audubon Artists in New York City and is in the collection of the National Association of Women Artists at the Zimmerman Museum of Rutgers University in New Brunswick.

The artist was awarded First in Show during a recent exhibition at the Somerset Art Association in Pluckemin.

She and her husband have invented Electrotechs, an ecological friendly process of art etching in which harmful acids are replaced by a non-toxic bath.

By this coming spring, the process is expected to have been installed in a number of U.S. universities and colleges. The Behrs have taught the process in art studios as far apart as the Moroccan and Northwest Territories of Canada.

The show is slated to run through Dec. 31. It is open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call the Watchung Arts Center at (908) 753-0190.

Your horoscope guide, Dec. 25 to Dec. 31

By WANDA PERRY
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

ARIES (March 21 - April 19): Seek intellectual stimulation. Spend time talking to a boss or superior and gain knowledge or information that will enhance your career goals.

TAURUS (April 20 - May 20): Working with a greater sense of responsibility, you can begin to see yourself clear of a financial hurdle. Take one step at a time.

GEMINI (May 21 - June 21): Your enthusiasm for life runs off on those around you. Put yourself in a position where you can meet and inspire a great number of people.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22): Close relationships are in the spotlight during this period. Take a close look at what you have to give to each union and what you expect in return.

LEO (July 23 - Aug. 22): New friends or associates expose you to viewpoints that will force you to see the world a little differently. Don't be afraid to change your mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Employment matters demand your attention. Take steps to clear up an ugly misunderstanding between you and a co-worker and bury the hatchet.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): Broaden your intellectual horizons through your involvement in a cultural or creative project. Make the most of a harmonious period of emotional bliss.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): Your mood is best described as mentally restless this week. Join forces with neighbors and come up with a solution to a pressing community problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Financial matters will be heavy on your mind this week. Move to settle a dispute or suit that involves other people's money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You will face an active partner who could help or hurt your cause. Keep the situation under control with clear communication and specifically assigned tasks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Put your energy into completing a long-running personal project in preparation for starting a brand new cycle very soon. Clear the decks!

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): An old problem comes to the surface again forcing you to deal with it seriously this time. Face up to the truth about a loved one and work on forgiveness.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Hard work and efficient effort pays off for you during the coming year. Embrace the chance to prove that you are more than capable of handling the most difficult tasks and challenges with ease. Make it a point to be organized and disciplined in your daily life. Relationships could suffer due to emotional, mental or physical separation. Make a conscious effort to keep it together. Avoid confusion surrounding your finances.

Also exhibiting their work with Mitchell and Mercadal are Susan Boynton, Wanda Blake, Buel Ecker, Kathleen Madden, Vicki Parry, Marilyn Pagach, Dore Rodriguez and Katherine Yinkas.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information and directions, call (908) 638-3838.

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SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 21): Your mood is best described as mentally restless this week. Join forces with neighbors and come up with a solution to a pressing community problem.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): Financial matters will be heavy on your mind this week. Move to settle a dispute or suit that involves other people's money.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): You will face an active partner who could help or hurt your cause. Keep the situation under control with clear communication and specifically assigned tasks.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Put your energy into completing a long-running personal project in preparation for starting a brand new cycle very soon. Clear the decks!

PISCES (Feb. 19 - March 20): An old problem comes to the surface again forcing you to deal with it seriously this time. Face up to the truth about a loved one and work on forgiveness.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS: Hard work and efficient effort pays off for you during the coming year. Embrace the chance to prove that you are more than capable of handling the most difficult tasks and challenges with ease. Make it a point to be organized and disciplined in your daily life. Relationships could suffer due to emotional, mental or physical separation. Make a conscious effort to keep it together. Avoid confusion surrounding your finances.

Also exhibiting their work with Mitchell and Mercadal are Susan Boynton, Wanda Blake, Buel Ecker, Kathleen Madden, Vicki Parry, Marilyn Pagach, Dore Rodriguez and Katherine Yinkas.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesday through Sunday. For more information and directions, call (908) 638-3838.

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Cranford kids can go 'Mad' at science program

CRANFORD — "Mad Science: Session 1" features hands-on fun and take-home projects for township residents ages 6-10 years old. Activities are scheduled to run from 3:30 p.m. to 4:20 p.m. Fridays at the Cranford Community Center, located on Walnut Avenue, beginning Jan. 5. Fee is \$60 per child. Registration is required at the Community Center. For more information, call (908) 709-7283.

New Releases

"102 Dalmatians" — You don't know fat-fried ham acting until you've seen Glenn Close as Cruella De Vil (like the biggest queen at Truman Capote's Black and White Ball) rip up scenes with the equally overwrought Gerard Depardieu as a vile Parisian furrier (he's like Attila plus Liberace). This lavish kibble pile of Disney fun is made somewhat charming and always active by the 102 pooches plus many other breeds. The sequel goes for more rather than better and, on this level, seems to satisfy kids. 87 minutes. Rated G. 2 1/2 stars.

"Unbreakable" — As David Dunn, Bruce Willis often wakes up feeling sad, and seems to have blanked on past stretches of his life even before he becomes the only survivor of a tragic train derailling outside the city. David doesn't really know who he is and appears to have stunted curiosity. He does puzzle vaguely about surviving the wreck unharmed, but it takes the intrusive arrival of Elijah Price (Samuel L. Jackson) to shake him from zombiehood. Elijah, who suffers a congenital bone weakness, is enthralled by the superman of the comic books that was his life raft as a child. He prods David to new perils and old clues that he is a superhero, virtually beyond sickness or injury. "Unbreakable" wants so desperately to cast a spell that it comes close to trancing itself, like a dog staring at a very slow bug. Cast: Bruce Willis, Samuel L. Jackson, Robin Wright Penn, Spencer Treat Clark. Running time: 123 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

Recent Releases

"Bounce" — Ben Affleck plays Buddy Amaral, a benignly arrogant ad exec stuck at a snowed-in airport. He meets up with both a friendly blonde named Mini (Natasha Henstridge) and a homesick writer named Greg (Tony Goldwyn), who has written a flap of a play. Buddy figures he'll help everyone, himself in particular, by giving Greg his boarding pass for the one flight out, thus freeing himself from an evening with Mini. The plane goes down. So does guilt-ridden Buddy, into an abyss of alcoholism. And back in L.A., Greg's widow, Abby, is left to struggle with two young sons and a nowhere job in real estate. A year later, out of rehab and determined to make amends, Buddy

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Alexus Steakhouse & Tavern, home of the original 24 oz. Delmonico and NY Sirloin Steaks for only \$11.95, great burgers, overstuffed sandwiches and other delights, is open for dinner in Montclair and Brielle and both lunch and dinner in Clifton. The menu also offers chicken and seafood entrees and specials, soups and salads, an array of appetizers and desserts, and both domestic and imported beer and wine. How can Alexis offer such good food at such low prices? A manager explained, "Our goal is to offer better quality, quantity, service and prices than other restaurants. Why pay more somewhere else and get less for your money?"

Low priced, high quality food are not the only reasons for Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern's popularity. There are many more at these easy-going, high quality family restaurants. The atmosphere is always light and cheery with families, groups and couples enjoying themselves. Eating here is believing!

Every meal starts with complimentary bowls of pickles, cherry peppers and fresh-cut french salad. After a choice of tasty appetizers and soups come the specialties of the house: the enormous 24 oz. Delmonico Steak or the 24 oz. NY Sirloin Steak...cooked to juicy perfection with Alexis' special seasonings. Each has generous helpings of home-made, french fried potatoes or other veg. entree. Other selections include Baked or Blackened Swordfish, Lobster, Bar-B-Que Ribs, Chicken Alexis and specials.

Alexus sandwiches are meals in themselves. The juicy, hand-cut hamburgers, made to order with various trimmings, are a full 8 oz. of fresh onions topped with mozzarella cheese and bits of Swiss cheese. New England Clam Chowder is a hearty mix of clams and fresh-cut chunks of potato.

Appetizers include house specialties like Alexis Cheddar Flower, a velvety onion carved into a blossom and deep-fried for a sweet-tasting treat. The Hot Buffalo Wings are Tangy.

Among the desserts are the enormous Hot Fudge Sundae, Strawberry Shortcake, Caramel Cake and New York Cheesecake. There are free soda and coffee refills as well as domestic and imported beer, wine and spirits. For people who just want a drink and a snack, the bar has its own ambience. Alexis welcomes table reservations. Party rooms are available for special events.

Films in Focus

tracks down Abby. From the moment they meet, the movie starts to take on a sense of inevitability. Cast: Ben Affleck, Gwyneth Paltrow, Joe Morton, Natasha Henstridge, Tony Goldwyn, Jennifer Grey. Running time: One hour, 42 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 1/2 stars.

"Charlie's Angels" — After an action-packed opening scene that has nothing to do with the rest of the movie, we finally meet Charlie's new Angels. First comes Natalie (Cameron Diaz), a "Jeopardy!" winning nerd with a thing for fast cars and disco dancing. Then there's Dylan (Drew Barrymore), a martial-arts specialist with a kick-butt attitude and a weakness for questionable men. Rounding out the photogenic trio is Alex (Lucy Liu), a well-bred beauty with a knack for crossbows and computers. Keeping a paternal eye on the gals is Bosley (Bill Murray). The gals are ostensibly hired to find kidnapped computer genius Eric Knox (Sam Rockwell) and spy on Roger Corwin (Tim Curry), the flamboyant competitor who may have stolen Knox's top-secret voice-identification system. Loud, fast and uproariously excessive, "Charlie's Angels" is the kind of empty-calorie good time you can enjoy in the moment and forget about on your way to the parking lot. Cast: Drew Barrymore, Cameron Diaz, Lucy Liu, Bill Murray, Sam Rockwell, Tim Curry, Kelly Lynch. Running time: 92 minutes. Rated PG-13. 3 stars.

"Dr. T and the Women" — Funny, floating entertainment set in Dallas, from Robert Altman and writer Anne Rapp. Richard Gere's best role as Dr. T, a classy ob-gyn man who adores the women (they reciprocate) whom he serves without being a womanizer; he's swamped by them, yet still courtly. The film, a touch long, is blithely sharp and nips Texas without being cruel. The fine-fettle female ensemble includes Helen Hunt, Laura Dern, Fanny Ardant, Shelley Long, Kate Hudson, Tara Reid, Liv Ullmann, Lee Grant, Janine Turner. If you're in the mood (and why not?) the film is a casual but lovingly shaped pleasure, with a neat surprise at the finish. 122 minutes. Rated R. 4 stars.

"How the Grinch Stole Christmas" — I couldn't help but notice that the tone suggested by Anthony Hopkins' voice, so eerily literate and fond-of-our-favorite, was being gradually shifted aside by the tone of the movie. This doesn't happen at once, and for about an hour the movie seems to me a valid if theme-park version of the famous story, inevitably distorting the magic but not (for a time) devastating it. A lot of this film works very nicely. Rick Baker did some terrific humanoid and critter effects. As Cindy Lou, the little who with a heart of gold, Taylor Momsen is a delight, adorable yet not over-trained. She holds her own even with Jim Carrey, whose Grinch rig is a marvel. Still, the due to what goes "off" is Carrey. He's an overbearing presence. I don't begrudge this "Grinch" the millions it will earn. I do resent some of the millions that went into making it. Running time: 100 minutes. Rated PG. 2 1/2 stars.

"The Legend of Bagger Vance" — Robert Redford directed this attempt at warm, folksy myth set in the Dixie golf world of the '30s. It's a pastoral fantasy of golf, a nice snooze at the clubhouse, and Charlie Theron thrives through an ampie dream. Matt Damon is the budding star of the sport who was wrecked by World War I but now, over a decade later, easily recovers his form with the whimsical advice of a mysterious, saintly caddy (Will Smith). Here we are in 2000, a great year of the Tiger Woods era, and Hollywood chooses to give us a black golfing hero who is a caddy. Bruce McGill is amusing and sanely savvy

as the great Walter Hagen, the film should be about him. 127 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

"Little Nicky" — Oddly endurable idiosyncrasy, if you need humor crafted for frat-house jocks in hell. Twisting his mouth and using his adonoid voice in a cute Igor manner, Adam Sandler is the nerdy, most likeable son of Satan. He goes to Earth, meets a dog and a girl, outwits (well, outwits) the mischief of his two devilish brothers. The vulgarity is nearly all harmless and sometimes funny, and we get Rodney Dangerfield, Henry Winkler, Regis Philbin, Reese Witherspoon, Bill Wallon, Quentin Tarantino and, as a weirdly shrunken Satan with many horns, Harvey Keitel. 92 minutes. Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

"Lucky Numbers" — A tiresomely snappy, cynical comedy about a TV weather bozo (John Travolta) who gets involved in a lottery scam. There's no style to shape the screw-ups that follow, just dimly plotted gags in a badly patronized Harrisburg, Pa. Lisa Kudrow does well as an immoral sexpot and torch mouth. Director Nora Ephron, too much a Hollywood veteran, and writer Adam Resnick, a Letterman show scripter, serve up good actors (including Tim Roth, Michael Rapaport, Ed O'Neill) like fodder for a funnily amusing, a brief glimpse of Kubrick's "The Killing" spotlights the vacancy. 104 minutes. Rated R. 1 1/2 stars.

"Men of Honor" — A military museum of every stale but ramrodded macho cliché, with Cuba Gooding Jr. trying very hard (inside a weak script) to play the actual hero Carl Brashear, the first black man to be an elite salvage diver for the Navy. Robert De Niro displays his own museum, of effects he's used before, including the creepy "Cape Fear" scowl and the sudden eruption of "Raging Bull" fists. Charlize Theron and Anjanette Ellis are the stand-around females, there's a rather ridiculous series of diving thrills, and Hal Holbrook is a nutcase bare commander who makes Capt. Queeg seem the pride of Annapolis. George Tillman Jr. directed with rugged piety. 129 minutes. Rated R. 2 stars.

"Pay It Forward" — A well-acted manifesto of inane uplift, finally decapitated by a tragedy. The almost spookily intense Haley Joel Osmert is the troubled lad (mean father gone, boozing mother around) who launches a "pay it forward" campaign to better humanity (St. Francis meets Dale Carnegie). But mostly he steers the soap drama of his teacher (Kevin Spacey, a secular saint of inner pain and outward burn scars) trying to find the nerve to take the boy's mother (Helen Hunt, who has real life as a raised voice). It's a meandering, punchy weeper with streaks of humor and adult talk, and Mimi Leder directed as if she were Frank Capra begging for a Nobel Prize. The end brings anguish, a candle service and a dismal song, "Come Little Angels." No, little angels, go away. Two hours. Rated PG-13. 2 stars.

"Rugrats in Paris: The Movie" — The animated Rugrats go less to Paris than to a big theme park outside Paris, a blatantly whopping parody of EuroDisney. Susan Sarandon voices the main French character, a grumpy "chic" shrew and yuppie elitist who almost marries Chuckie's dad. The highlight for most young viewers, apart from the diaper jokes, is the song "Who Let the Dogs Out?" 80 minutes. Rated G. 2 stars.

"The Sixth Day" — It takes the time, charged type of genetic cloning and after some dinky dollops of thought, reduces it to terms we can all fathom: chases, explosions, wounds, deaths, showers of blazing sparks. In other words, it's another Arnold Schwarzenegger wipe-out picture. Slick, driven and weary, the film stars Schwarzenegger as Adam Gibson, a former war hero "in the near future, closer than you think." He must retrieve his wife, daughter and dog after a cloned version of himself takes over his life. It all feels as if someone tried to clone Hitchcock, but lost his brain. Arnold as Adam and Adam 2 is chasing or being chased through the sort of drained, gray-blue, technoscape landscape that is giving the future a bad name. The true Schwarzenegger fan never loses sight of the main action. Smiling as Arnold piles on payback, he grunts with satisfaction. Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Tony Goldwyn, Michael Rooker, Michael Rapaport, Robert Duvall, Sarah Wynter. Running time: 2 hours, 4 minutes. Rated PG-13. 1 1/2 stars.

RATINGS: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, worthy; 2 stars, mixed; 1 star, poor; 0 stars, forget it.

Capsules compiled from movie reviews written by David Elliott, film critic for The San Diego Union-Tribune, and other staff writers.

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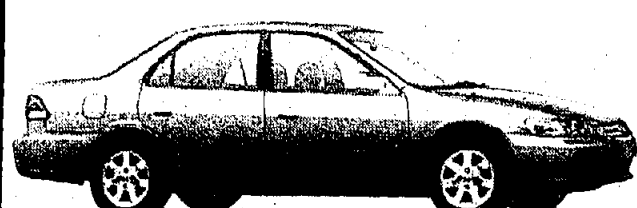
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1950 to 1954, 1955 to 1959, 1960 to 1964, 1965 to 1969, 1970 to 1974, 1975 to 1979, 1980 to 1984, 1985 to 1989, 1990 to 1994, 1995 to 1999, 2000 to 2004, 2005 to 2009, 2010 to 2014, 2015 to 2019, 2020 to 2024, 2025 to 2029, 2030 to 2034, 2035 to 2039, 2040 to 2044, 2045 to 2049, 2050 to 2054, 2055 to 2059, 2060 to 2064, 2065 to 2069, 2070 to 2074, 2075 to 2079, 2080 to 2084, 2085 to 2089, 2090 to 2094, 2095 to 2099, 2100 to 2104, 2105 to 2109, 2110 to 2114, 2115 to 2119, 2120 to 2124, 2125 to 2129, 2130 to 2134, 2135 to 2139, 2140 to 2144, 2145 to 2149, 2150 to 2154, 2155 to 2159, 2160 to 2164, 2165 to 2169, 2170 to 2174, 2175 to 2179, 2180 to 2184, 2185 to 2189, 2190 to 2194, 2195 to 2199, 2200 to 2204, 2205 to 2209, 2210 to 2214, 2215 to 2219, 2220 to 2224, 2225 to 2229, 2230 to 2234, 2235 to 2239, 2240 to 2244, 2245 to 2249, 2250 to 2254, 2255 to 2259, 2260 to 2264, 2265 to 2269, 2270 to 2274, 2275 to 2279, 2280 to 2284, 2285 to 2289, 2290 to 2294, 2295 to 2299, 2300 to 2304, 2305 to 2309, 2310 to 2314, 2315 to 2319, 2320 to 2324, 2325 to 2329, 2330 to 2334, 2335 to 2339, 2340 to 2344, 2345 to 2349, 2350 to 2354, 2355 to 2359, 2360 to 2364, 2365 to 2369, 2370 to 2374, 2375 to 2379, 2380 to 2384, 2385 to 2389, 2390 to 2394, 2395 to 2399, 2400 to 2404, 2405 to 2409, 2410 to 2414, 2415 to 2419, 2420 to 2424, 2425 to 2429, 2430 to 2434, 2435 to 2439, 2440 to 2444, 2445 to 2449, 2450 to 2454, 2455 to 2459, 2460 to 2464, 2465 to 2469, 2470 to 2474, 2475 to 2479, 2480 to 2484, 2485 to 2489, 2490 to 2494, 2495 to 2499, 2500 to 2504, 2505 to 2509, 2510 to 2514, 2515 to 2519, 2520 to 2524, 2525 to 2529, 2530 to 2534, 2535 to 2539, 2540 to 2544, 2545 to 2549, 2550 to 2554, 2555 to 2559, 2560 to 2564, 2565 to 2569, 2570 to 2574, 2575 to 2579, 2580 to 2584, 2585 to 2589, 2590 to 2594, 2595 to 2599, 2600 to 2604, 2605 to 2609, 2610 to 2614, 2615 to 2619, 2620 to 2624, 2625 to 2629, 2630 to 2634, 2635 to 2639, 2640 to 2644, 2645 to 2649, 2650 to 2654, 2655 to 2659, 2660 to 2664, 2665 to 2669, 2670 to 2674, 2675 to 2679, 2680 to 2684, 2685 to 2689, 2690 to 2694, 2695 to 2699, 2700 to 2704, 2705 to 2709, 2710 to 2714, 2715 to 2719, 2720 to 2724, 2725 to 2729, 2730 to 2734, 2735 to 2739, 2740 to 2744, 2745 to 2749, 2750 to 2754, 2755 to 2759, 2760 to 2764, 2765 to 2769, 2770 to 2774, 2775 to 2779, 2780 to 2784, 2785 to 2789, 2790 to 2794, 2795 to 2799, 2800 to 2804, 2805 to 2809, 2810 to 2814, 2815 to 2819, 2820 to 2824, 2825 to 2829, 2830 to 2834, 2835 to 2839, 2840 to 2844, 2845 to 2849, 2850 to 2854, 2855 to 2859, 2860 to 2864, 2865 to 2869, 2870 to 2874, 2875 to 2879, 2880 to 2884, 2885 to 2889, 2890 to 2894, 2895 to 2899, 2900 to 2904, 2905 to 2909, 2910 to 2914, 2915 to 2919, 2920 to 2924, 2925 to 2929, 2930 to 2934, 2935 to 2939, 2940 to 2944, 2945 to 2949, 2950 to 2954, 2955 to 2959, 2960 to 2964, 2965 to 2969, 2970 to 2974, 2975 to 2979, 2980 to 2984, 2985 to 2989, 2990 to 2994, 2995 to 2999, 3000 to 3004, 3005 to 3009, 3010 to 3014, 3015 to 3019, 3020 to 3024, 3025 to 3029, 3030 to 3034, 3035 to 3039, 3040 to 3044, 3045 to 3049, 3050 to 3054, 3055 to 3059, 3060 to 3064, 3065 to 3069, 3070 to 3074, 3075 to 3079, 3080 to 3084, 3085 to 3089, 3090 to 3094, 3095 to 3099, 3100 to 3104, 3105 to 3109, 3110 to 3114, 3115 to 3119, 3120 to 3



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'98 ACURA INTEGRA GS	4-cyl., 2-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, alloy wheels, sunroof, 38,899 mi., VIN#5008719	\$16,663
'98 HONDA ACCORD LX	4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, A/C, cruise, tilt, 38,877 mi., VIN#WA127739	\$15,333
'97 HONDA ACCORD EX	4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, A/C, sunroof, tilt, 37,457 mi., VIN#A084898	\$15,360
'97 HONDA ACCORD SE	4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PB, PS, PW, PDL, CD player, sunroof, alloy whls., 54,039 mi., VIN#A203783	\$14,938
'97 HONDA CIVIC LX	4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PW, PDL, A/C, AM/FM Cass., 32,992 mi., VIN#H534668	\$11,962
'97 HONDA CIVIC LX	4-cyl., 4-dr., auto, PW, PDL, A/C, AM/FM CD, 37,019 mi., VIN#H559995	\$11,962
'97 PONTIAC SUNFIRE SE	conv., 4-cyl., auto, PS, PB, PW, PDL, CD, A/C, R/def., 39,829 mi., VIN#B205993	\$ 9,718
'96 PONTIAC TRANSPORT SE	6-cyl., 7-pass., auto, PW, PDL, PDS, A/C, cruise, 44,501 mi., VIN#T205451	\$11,883
'95 HONDA CIVIC DX	4-cyl., 2-dr., auto, PS, PB, AM/FM cass., A/C, R/def., tilt, 77,311 mi., VIN#H514537	\$ 7,541
'94 HONDA ACCORD EX	4-cyl., 2-dr., 5-sp'd., PS, PB, PW, PDL, alloy wheels, sunroof, 96,526 mi., VIN#A050764	\$ 8,663
'93 SATURN SL2	silver/grey, 4-dr., auto, 89,422 mi., VIN#PZ166388	\$ 4,673
'91 HONDA ACCORD LX	4-cyl., 4-dr., 5-sp'd., PS, A/C, PDB, PW, cruise, 159,136 mi., VIN#A163728	\$ 3,958

Lease 1: 2001 Honda Accord EX (4-cyl, 180 mi, 12,000 mi), 154-hp, MSRP \$27,940. Total monthly payments: \$580. Cap Cost/Paid: \$1,956.18. Amount due at inception: \$2,107.16. Total amount of lease: \$10,536.18. Lease 2: 2001 Honda Civic EX (4-cyl, 180 mi, 12,000 mi), 154-hp, MSRP \$16,500. Total monthly payments: \$761. Cap Cost/Paid: \$1,625.05. Amount due at inception: \$1,716.05. *Leasing.com* (800) 929-2636. Money for nothing now. Finance responsibly for you, and your credit will be better. General lease subject to change without notice. Lease exp. for month and excess wear and tear fees subject to change without notice. All for illustration purposes only.


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'99 VOLKSWAGEN	CABRIO GLS	5 SPD	BLACK	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	CABRIO GLS	5 SPD	GREEN
'99 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GLS	5 SPD	RED	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	CABRIO GL	5 SPD	WHITE
'99 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GLX	5 SPD	RED	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GTI VR6	5 SPD	BLACK
'99 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GL	5 SPD	GREEN	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GLX	5 SPD	RED
'99 VOLKSWAGEN	BEETLE GLS	5 SPD	RED	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GL	AUTO	GREEN
'99 VOLKSWAGEN	PASSAT GLS	AUTO	SILVER	'98 VOLKSWAGEN	JETTA GL	AUTO	GREEN
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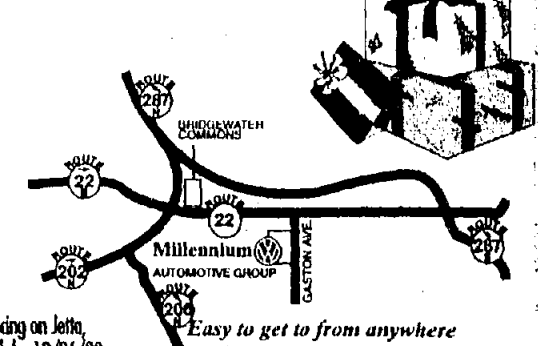
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