

Cranford group to study parking

(Continued from page A-1)

of the Cranford Police Department. Also, two downtown business owners, two downtown employees, two resident commuters and two downtown property owners will be part of the committee.

Mayor Barbara Bilger said the new committee would be able to look at parking issues more efficiently.

"I think it's a good idea. You have everyone there at the same time," she said.

Commissioner Dan Aschenbach, however, questioned if the committee should be closer tied to the DMC itself.

"Why bother having a DMC, if you've said parking is the biggest problem and you're not involved with it?" he said. "I would rather see the Township Committee form a task force of a few people to address what we are looking for from the committee."

Prunty said the DMC was looking for more support from the Township Committee in addressing parking.

"It could've been done at the DMC level, but we were looking for support and a buy-in from the Township Committee to give it some real teeth," she said.

The DMC has a standing parking committee of

volunteer board members, and the township recently adopted some of that committee's recommendations, such as improved signage and the conversion of many spaces in the main Miln Street lot from four-hour to two-hour to prevent meter-feeding by downtown employees. But other suggestions, including those dealing with parking for downtown residents, were tabled.

Prunty said the township professionals are needed on the committee to look at the existing and potential needs of parking.

There is a lengthy wait list for 12-hour commuter permits in the township, and also a shortage of overnight parking for downtown apartment dwellers. And while the Downtown Vision Plan, completed earlier this year, concluded there is not a systematic shortage of spaces for retail shoppers, many property and store owners disagree.

The township's efforts to provide more parking have been stalled by the delay at the Cranford Crossing site, where a garage with approximately 300 spaces is planned to be built.

Bilger agreed it was good idea to have a committee solely devoted to the issue of parking in the downtown.

"It's the biggest problem we have down there, especially with the new restaurants coming in," she said.

Scotch Plains mayor urges county to take action on deer

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE CHRONICLE

SCOTCH PLAINS — Mayor Martin Marks urged residents to notify township and county officials about what he called an ongoing and escalating problem in the community — the influx of deer.

Several years ago the county investigated the problem by focusing on the Watchung Reservation, which borders the north side of the township, Marks explained.

However, there continue to be problems, and the difficulties are now greater for residents on the south side of town near the Ash

Brook Reservation, he said. Both reservations are county properties.

"It is a problem that is really getting out of hand and causing damage to property and causing safety risk as well," Marks said. "I'm not calling for a deer hunt in Ash Brook, but there needs to be an effort between municipalities and the county, as I expressed to (Freeholder Chairman) Lewis Mingo."

Marks expressed concern because of a large number of dead deer on the roads, which are evidence of motor vehicle accidents. Marks called for a regional effort

to curb the problem because taking care of the situation in one municipality would mean deer would migrate to another one, he said.

Marks said that Mingo told him the county had not received many deer complaints from Scotch Plains. Thus, Marks begged residents to contact either himself or Mingo directly to put pressure on the county to take action.

Marks can be reached at the municipal building at (908) 322-6700. Mingo can be reached at the freeholder offices at (908) 527-4110.

Task force will review project

(Continued from page A-1)

Aschenbach announced he had received a letter from the prosecutor saying "there was not a criminal concern" regarding the Township Committee's actions.

But Aschenbach continues to be

the loudest voice calling for some kind of investigation.

"There are expenditures that taxpayers should not be responsible for. As the township proceeds with new projects, there are lessons learned," he said. "We should move forwards with an evaluation."

But Morin, who was on the committee when the project began, said any review must be focused. "If our purpose is to recoup costs, then we have to be very clear. We'll have to go into arbitration and court and would need to get experts to strengthen our case," he said.



NICOLED/MEUA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Cruising for bargains

Shoppers fill bags for \$5 Saturday at the last day of the St. Paul's Church rummage sale in Westfield.

Center will close for Thanksgiving

CRANFORD — The Cranford Conservation Center will be closed Nov. 28-29 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The center will be open Nov. 30 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Winter hours begin Dec. 1, when the center will be open Fridays 9:30 a.m.-3:20 p.m. and Saturdays 9:30 a.m.-3:50 p.m. The

winter hours are effective through March.

The Conservation Center is located on Birchwood Avenue, off of Orange Avenue. The following materials are accepted from Cranford residents and businesses, and a permit is not required: aluminum cans, tin cans, glass bottles/jars, plastic PETE & HDPE

bottles, newspapers, corrugated cardboard, office paper, mixed paper (magazines and junk mail), household batteries, motor oil, motor oil filters, leaves, used clothing and textiles. Branches and other yard waste require a permit.

For more information, call the Cranford Recycling Coordinator at (908) 709-7299.

Lesson on bullying from unlikely source

(Continued from page A-1)

hurting them and yourself. You make the other person feel bad, and, when you think about it, you'll feel bad, too," he said.

Harold told the students that during her teen years, teachers

would not come to her aid. "You are very fortunate that you have teachers that are very supportive and care about you," she said.

The newly-crowned Miss America also said she did not think she won the crown primarily because of her stunning

looks.

"I think they gave me the crown, not because I was the best-looking, but because they saw I had an important issue I wanted to talk about," said Harold.

"If you want to do something important with your life," she said, "it won't matter what clothes you wore or how popular you were. It will depend on if you showed people respect and were kind to people."

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In 1999, Carol Anne achieved National Board Certification as a Clinical Specialist in Orthopedic Physical Therapy by the American Board of Physical Therapy Specialties. She is one of 38 physical therapists in the state of New Jersey to attain this recognition. To obtain board certification, candidates must submit evidence of required clinical practice and successfully demonstrate a specialized knowledge and advanced orthopedic proficiency.

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Cranford board awards contract for new classrooms

By MCKPAMORE
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD - The Board of Education awarded the \$1.3 million contract for the Walnut Avenue School expansion Monday to Paterson-based Tekton Development Corp.

Business Administrator Robert Carfagno said the paving of the schools parking lot and other minor specifications had to be removed from the project for the price to come within the district's budgeted amount. The first time the contract was put out to bid, the lowest bid was several hundred thousand dollars over budget.

"This is the best I can do, to pull the paving. It's the only way we would be under," Carfagno said.

At \$1.6 million, Tekton had also submitted the lowest bid during the first round. The board rejected that bid Oct. 14 and revised the project specifications.

Though the lot paving was removed, Carfagno said the changes freed up funds for an upgrade in the electrical services for the four new classrooms that will be built at the school. An upgrade is needed because the rooms, which will house the district's pre-school program for developmentally-disabled students, must be air-conditioned.

"The need for air-conditioning is based on the special needs of students and is an IEP (Individual Education Plan) requirement for some," Carfagno said.

He said the state is picking up 40 percent of the bill for that portion of the project, the maximum allowed under a statewide facilities improvement initiative. Because of the restrictions on state grant money, the board can not transfer funds from another construction project to pay for the parking lot.

In addition to the lot paving,

other "small deductions" were made to the Walnut Avenue School plan, such as changing floor tiles and lighting, Carfagno said.

"They won't have any effect when you look at the building," he said of the deductions.

Carfagno added he is looking to have the contract stipulate the district "reserves the right to add back any deductions" at a later date.

The Walnut Avenue expansion is part of a larger \$6.3-million facilities project, but is the only new construction in the plan.

By housing the pre-school program — also known as the Snappy program — in the new classrooms, administrators plan to create space for mainstream students at the other elementary schools where the program is now located.

Carfagno said the completion date for the classrooms remains Aug. 30, and construction will begin as soon as possible.



And the winners of the 2017 Tony Awards are...

Maybe "You Can't Take it With You," but these students from Cranford's Orange Avenue School will take fond memories from their performance of George Kaufman's and Moss Hart's famous play. From left are Hannah Brechka as Penelope Sycamore, Teresa Dankosky as Essie, Kathleen Struthers, as an Agent, Carla Rutmayer as Mrs. Kirby and Julie Anne Garretson as Alice.

Developer will appeal Garwood board's denial of townhouses

By NICKITAMORE
THE CHRONICLE

GARWOOD — Developer Giapiedi, Inc. is appealing a July Planning Board decision to deny its application to build 16 three-story townhouses on Fourth Street, a lawyer for the company said this week.

Mario Gurrieri, of Cranford law firm Dughi, Hewit and Palatucci, is representing

Giapiedi in its appeal. Gurrieri said the company is seeking an approval of the application from the Union County Superior Court.

"Our feeling is that we had expert testimony and demonstrated the positive reasons why the borough should approve the application. Nothing negative was presented," he said.

Gurrieri said the owners of the property where the townhouses would be built — the Hidi family

and Liquore family — also spoke in favor of the application.

"Some residents voiced opposition to the application and it appears as though the board was swayed by that," said Gurrieri. "It seemed to turn the application into a political issue."

The families own two "oversized" lots on Fourth Street. Under the company's proposal, the existing buildings would have remained but the rear areas of

those lots would have been converted into a third lot for the townhouses.

"The Liqueores have a one-family house and the Hidi's have a little store. There's extra land back there that's being wasted," said Gurrieri.

Giapiedi, based in Rahway, has proposed to locate the units along a cul-de-sac between the two properties. The developer agreed to restrict the townhouses to resi-

dents 55 and over, in response to concerns of traffic safety and more children in the schools.

During the hearings, area residents raised concerns about the impact the development might have on property values in the area. The developer was also questioned about the effect the development would have on a nearby stream.

The proposed townhouse development borders on both Cranford

and Westfield.

Gurrieri said the company was "surprised and disappointed" that its application was denied.

"We're at a loss why this was denied. We thought the town was in favor of it, then they knocked it down with no reason," he said.

"It seems like they changed horses in midstream," he said.

Gurrieri said the appeal was filed Nov. 6 and no hearing date has been set yet.

Lounge offers cutting-edge technology, relaxed environment

By KEVIN B.HOWELL
THE CHRONICLE

FANWOOD — Maybe it's the dini lighting, cushioned leather furniture and artistic décor, or maybe it's the new Tachyon technology that orders electronic frequencies. Whatever it is, the new Internet Lounge brings a relaxing atmosphere and the intrigue of a new type of business to downtown Fanwood.

Located on the corner of Martine and South avenues, the Internet Lounge has been open for about a month. Owner Alex Kovalyov, a Scotch Plains resident, is happy to see his idea come to fruition after a difficult process.

"Business is pretty good," Kovalyov said, as he walked through the mostly empty lounge on a Monday evening. "Weekends are the busiest times. We've had all machines occupied. We're thinking about adding more machines."

With about 2,300 square feet of working space, the lounge has plenty of open space. Kovalyov said he didn't want customers to feel cramped, and wanted to maintain an inviting atmosphere. On one side of the building are 20 computer stations; the other side houses a lounge and dining area.

Throughout the building are several pieces of art, some of them for sale. Paintings of characters and scenes from computer games are posted throughout the computer area, while original oil, acrylic and pencil paintings from

local artists decorate the lounge and dining area.

An entertainment system with a television, stereo and DVD player sits in the small lounge section, where a leather couch and an overstuffed chair surround a table with books by authors such as Tom Clancy and art texts featuring the works of Picasso and DaVinci.

In addition a Victorian-style lamp, similar to those in downtown Fanwood, sits in the showcase window alongside a carved wood art piece made by

foods are organic, and beverages are made from natural juices. The menu includes gourmet coffee as well as fruit smoothies, salads sandwiches and deserts. Many of Internet Lounge's organic foods come from a local vendor in Scotch Plains, Kovalyov said.

On the computer side, Kovalyov boasted the business offers the "latest and greatest" in technology, including new Pentium 4 Dells. Customers can use the computer for \$5 an hour, with seniors and children receiv-

Counterstrike, Ultima and Diablo. Kovalyov said that the company hosted a Counterstrike tournament a few weeks ago which was won by a group of seniors from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School. Another tournament is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend.

"It's pretty cool. It's kind of unique. There's nothing else like it," said Michael Leide, who was using the lab for only his second time after being invited by a friend. He said the lounge is convenient because he lives around the corner.

Customers can register a user account at the lounge for no additional fee; so far, 130 people have opened accounts. In the future, Kovalyov hopes to have membership accounts with an annual fee. He said members will get notified of special promotions and discounts.

Kovalyov pointed out that all 20 computers are linked to central computer' manned by an employee. He said that the computers have a strong filtering system, which he demonstrated by unsuccessfully attempting to access the Playboy magazine website.

Another feature of the lounge is the new Tachyon technology that orders electromagnetic frequencies on electronic devices.

Tachyon organizes chaotic electromagnetic fields from computer monitors and alleviates harmful effects, according to Kovalyov. Kovalyov uses this technology on all appliances in the lounge.

The technology is said to increase vitamin and mineral consumption, energy and brain function while decreasing stress.

The lab is open 3 p.m. to midnight weekdays and noon to midnight on weekends. Kovalyov said that some patrons have requested it be open at lunch time, but that doesn't appear to be in the plans anytime soon.

As Kovalyov's brother and business partner Leon said, "I have to sleep some time."

"It's pretty cool. It's kind of unique. There's nothing else like it."

— Michael Leide, Scotch Plains resident

Kovalyov's father.

Kovalyov said he wanted the atmosphere to blend with the community, as the business is in a historical district with Victorian-style buildings. Kovalyov said some customers don't use the computer side, but rather get a cup of coffee and read in the lounge, which is what Scotch Plains resident Marguerite Leide was doing Monday evening.

"I think it's real peaceful," Leide said. "It's open until midnight and I can have a cup of coffee, sit and relax. I just like the atmosphere. It's real peaceful and calming. I'd rather come here to sit and have coffee than across the street at Dunkin' Donuts."

In the kitchen, Kovalyov puts an emphasis on health. Most

ing discounts. Scanning, printing and faxing services are also available.

"We have a big mix of customers, from kids who come after school to senior citizens who come to learn what computers are about," Kovalyov said. "We have instruction tools on how to use Microsoft Office, Excel, Photoshop, Microsoft Publisher and the Internet. We even have e-bay junkies who come in and use the computers."

For computer game fanatics, the lounge features

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Local groups get arts grants

KENILWORTH— Six organizations in The Chronicle area have been named recipients of Union County Arts Grants. These organizations were among 46 honored in a reception as part of National Arts and Humanities Month. The reception was held Oct. 29 at the Galloping Hill Road facilities of Schering-Plough Corp. Grant recipients from The Chronicle area:

Celebration Singers, Cranford — \$2,400 for popular music programs performed by adult and children's choruses.
 Cranford Housing Board — \$1,200 for a musical stage show for seniors by seniors.
 Cranford Public Schools — \$3,300 for presenting the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra of seniors and students.
 Kenilworth Public Library —

\$800 for a four-part series that includes drama, performance and storytelling.
 Rahway Valley Jerseyaires, Cranford — \$2,500 for performing, preserving and expanding the quality of barbershop singing, including a youth outreach program.
 Theatre Project at Union County College, Cranford — \$2,700 for performances and a summer program.

Club discusses college-level courses

CRANFORD — The Wednesday Morning Club met 10 a.m. Nov. 6 at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Fran Rod discussed the "University Without Walls," which helps older people take college-level courses at home, at the Nov. 6 meeting of the Wednesday Morning Club.

She is a New Jersey outreach coordinator for the Manhattan-based social service agency DOROT. Co-President Sandi Pells presided over the business meeting. Pells and Co-President Sue Chandler attended the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Fall Conference, held Oct. 22 at the Forsgate Country Club in Monroe. Jane Rofeff spoke on K9 for Independence, a state Women's Clubs project. Members can support this endeavor by purchasing pins in the shape of miniature dogs.

The Drama-Music Department met 9:30 a.m. Wednesday at the home of Alice Roberts for a program on Andrew Lloyd Weber. The Literature Department meets at 1 p.m. today at Meg Lyons' home to review the book "Daughter of China." The Antiques Department meets at 1 p.m. Monday at the home of Bea Sarnowski to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the teddy bear. Women who are interested in joining the Wednesday Morning Club may phone Marie Mastorakis at (908) 272-6243.

New Brearley principal is hired

By NICK AMORE
 THE CHRONICLE

Principal of David Brearley Middle and High School, effective Feb. 1. Cappello is currently the assistant principal at the school and will replace Nancy Baton, who will retire at the end of January.

Cappello will be making \$104,000 as principal, which will be prorated for the rest of the year, said Superintendent Lloyd Leschuk. According to a press release from the district, Cappello, who is from Manalapan, was chosen from more than 30 applicants.

New Advice For Women With Carpal Tunnel Syndrome!!!

Union County, NJ - A controversial free report has just been released that reveals a leading cause of carpal tunnel syndrome has nothing to do with your hand or wrist at all. If you suffer from symptoms related to carpal tunnel syndrome and are tired of wearing splints, taking pills, or hearing about surgery, then you need this free report. To order your copy of this stunning new report call toll-free 1-800-286-4937 24 hr. recorded message.

"I believe he possesses the commitment and skills that will help him build upon the strong foundation created by Ms. Baton and her staff," said Leschuk in the release. Cappello had previously served as a teacher and school administrator in New York City. He has been the assistant principal at Brearley for the past three months.



Ajoyful noise
 Several Cranford High School students, members of the select New Jersey All-State Chorus, performed Friday in Atlantic City for the finale of the New Jersey Teacher's Convention. The students will conclude their performances Sunday at New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark. From left, teacher Gary Seighman instructs Cranford students and chorus members Samantha Dango, Laura Wagenblast, Brian Niemiec and John Merkel on the finer points of singing.

School finances in good shape

By MYCKY AMORE
 THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — An audit of the public school district yielded mostly good news and few recommendations at a Board of Education meeting Monday. District auditor Robert Morrison said the district's finances were in good shape and administrators had effectively kept spending stable over the past few years. One correction Morrison suggested was in the district's application for state school aid, where

the district overstated the number of low-income students in one school. The district had factored in seven students who received a reduced-price lunch. The state counts only those students who receive free lunch, said Morrison. The district is also under the surplus cap instituted by the state for districts such as Cranford. Cranford is allowed to have 6 percent of its total budget as a surplus. Anything over that must be given back to taxpayers, said Business Administrator Robert Carfagno. The district currently has a 5

percent surplus, and Morrison said he prefers districts to come as close to that 6 percent as possible. He said the district has had a surplus of 5 percent in the past two years. Carfagno said it is not a penalty to go over 6 percent. "We just would have to give it back to the taxpayers," he said.

Briefs

Cranford Garden Club will meet Monday

CRANFORD — The Florophile Garden Club meets 1 p.m. Monday at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. President Betty Duckworth will preside over the meeting, which features guest speaker Greg Wolek on "Creative Floral Design." Members are asked to bring Thanksgiving food for Cranford Family Care. The public is invited.

The garden club also is selling pecans for the holidays. Proceeds will go toward plantings in Girl Scout Park and the Cranford First Aid Squad. For more information, phone (908) 276-5175 or (908) 272-3758.

Pasta Night fundraiser on tap at Cranford High

CRANFORD — The senior class of Cranford High School holds its annual Pasta Night next week. Servings are 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21 in the CHS cafeteria at 201 West End Place. The menu includes pasta with sauce, appetizer, salad, Italian bread, juice, coffee and tea. There will be a raffle and entertainment. Cost for adults is \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door. Cost for seniors and children under 12 is \$6 in advance and \$7 at the door. Dessert costs extra. For advance tickets, phone Connie Toth or Kathi Mahon at (908) 709-6290.

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Developer seeks offices in Westfield

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE CHRONICLE

WESTFIELD - The Town Council heard a proposal for a three-story office building at the corner of South and Central avenues at a Nov. 6 conference meeting.

The design plan was presented by New Pointe Realty, which has been working on the project for more than a year and has been before the Planning Board and Board of Adjustment.

New Pointe owns the property on adjacent New Street and has acquired two homes in the area. It plans to demolish the two homes, along with its building, to construct the new office building.

The company made a presentation to the council because it is seeking an ordinance to vacate the public right-of-way on New Street.

According to Town Administrator James Gildea, the ordinance, which could be passed in December, serves two purposes. It will demonstrate the council's approval of the project when New Pointe goes before the Planning Board again, and it will be a source of revenue, as New Pointe will pay approximately \$333,000 for the town to vacate the street.

However, other factors must be nailed down before the project becomes a done deal. One issue is the parking concern: the office will have approximately 200 employees, according to Michael Zempsky

of New Pointe Realty, and it will need a minimum of 50 parking spaces.

New Pointe has proposed to build a two-level parking deck for the office building. Zempsky said that the deck will not be visible from Central Avenue, quelling concerns about it being an eye-sore. The company's parking plan must be included in their agreement with the town before New Pointe goes to the Planning Board, Gildea said.

Council members also expressed concerns with the design of the building, particularly its size. The building's first floor is proposed to be 19,000 sq. ft. and the second and third floors will each be 23,750 sq. ft. Zempsky said. The structure will be 25 feet from the curb, as far back it can be based on the 2.25-acre lot size and parking considerations, he said.

Zempsky said that the design is consistent with the height and style of buildings on Broad Street, and the proposed building is smaller than an existing structure farther west along South Avenue.

Zempsky added that the building shouldn't worsen traffic congestion in the area. Councilman Carl Salisbury agreed, saying 200 additional employees would be a minor increase at the busy intersection.

In addition, the design calls for a right turn only out of New Street, which Gildea said will eliminate through traffic because employees will be the only ones using the road.



The ride of his life

For many residents, the Union County Harvest Festival at Trailside Nature & Science Center was a celebration of colonial and Native American life. But for James Duffey, 3, of Garwood, it was just time for a good ride. James' mother Lynn is at left.

Police Log

CRANFORD

Daniel Kaltnecker, 21, of Wrattfield, was charged with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia Friday.

Police stopped his car at 6:43 p.m. on South Avenue for a suspected motor vehicle violation.

Kaltnecker was released on a summons, police said.

Deshon Tutt, 25, of East Orange was charged Saturday with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Police said Tutt was stopped by officers at 7:14 p.m. on Centennial Avenue for not having an inspection sticker.

It was released on a summons.

Michael Tears, 23, of Chester L'ing Place, was charged with disorderly conduct at 11:44 p.m. Sunday for allegedly urinating at the intersection of Centennial Avenue and Wall Street.

Tina Brown, 40, of Philadelphia, was charged Thursday with theft and forgery.

Police said the arrest stemmed from an Oct. 24 incident in which Brown had allegedly attempted to cash a \$996 check at the United Trust Bank on Raritan Road.

Police said the check was stolen from an extended-care facility in Raritan and that theft is being investigated by the Raritan Borough Police Department.

Brown is currently at the Passaic County Jail on an unrelat-

ed charge, police said. She was released on a summons by Cranford police.

KENILWORTH

Robert Wilson III, 32, of South 5th Street and Michael Giuliano, 37, of South Plainfield were charged Thursday with shoplifting.

Police said Wilson was also charged on an Oct. 4 warrant for allegedly taking his ex-girlfriend's car without consent while it was parked on North 11th Street.

Sgt. William Hannon and Detective Timothy Dowd saw the two walking from the A&P Supermarket on Galloping Hill Road.

Both were charged with shoplifting \$177 worth of groceries from the A&P. Giuliano was also charged with obstruction of justice and hindering apprehension for allegedly providing a false identification and name. Police said he used the identification from a wallet he found in Newark.

Police also found a hypodermic needle in the car and it is being tested for drugs at a lab, police said.

Thomas Wansaw, 41, of Railway Avenue in Westfield, was charged with marijuana possession after rear-ending a car stopped at a red light on Colfax Avenue.

Patrol Officer Kenneth Grady saw a marijuana cigarette on the driver's side floorboard, police said.

AT HOME

Remodeling a home is a great investment

(ARA) - Homeowners interested in investing in an unstable economy are looking to home remodeling as an option. According to the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), in 1995 home equity accounted for 44.4 percent of the typical household's total net worth — far more than any other investment.

Housing has outperformed most other investments, making remodeling an even more popular choice for homeowners. Home prices have more than doubled in the last two decades. The continual gains in home value and historically low interest rates are two strong factors in homeowner's decisions to remodel.

Investing in your home may be an easy decision. Deciding where to start, can be another story. Homeowners look to update the interior of their homes and improve the exterior. A great place to begin your investment is on the most maintenance intensive part of the home, the exterior.

Older homes did not have the siding options we have today. Most were painted or sided with cheap materials to keep the cost down. After years in the elements, the exterior of many homes need to be repaired or replaced. Here are some things to look for if you think your home is in need of a makeover:

1. Does the home need to be scraped and painted more often?

2. Is the current siding rotting, chipping or flaking off?

3. Is the current siding warping or fading?

4. Does the siding require more maintenance than it once did?

5. Has dirt and moisture gotten between the seams or behind the siding?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you may want to look into a home inspection from a professional siding company. ABC Seamless, for example, offers a free home inspection to answer any questions homeowners may have about their current siding needs.

Siding companies today offer alternatives to scraping and painting. ABC Seamless has been improving home exteriors for almost 30 years. It manufactures maintenance-free seamless steel siding, which offers added insulation to make the home more energy efficient. Seamless steel siding has many advantages over other siding products. Because it is steel it has the strength to withstand significant changes in temperature, Vinyl siding, on the other hand, expand* and contract* at an alarming rate. It need* to be

overlapped to allow for the movement of the siding creating ugly seams. ABC Seamless steel siding is measured and cut to the exact length of the home

plaints and what kind they were. Last but not least, a homeowner should ask the siding professional if they carry workers compensation insur-

ance. If not, and if there is an accident on the property, the customer's homeowner insurance policy will be responsible for the cost.

Professionally installed seamless steel siding will save time and money. Your home will look freshly painted year-after-year, be more energy efficient and virtually maintenance-free.

For more information, visit the ABC Seamless online showroom at www.abcseamless.com

Investing in your home may be an easy decision. Deciding where to start can be another story. Homeowners look to update the interior of their homes and improve the exterior. A great place to begin your investment is on the most maintenance intensive part of the home, the exterior.

giving it a clean, seamless look.

Like any other investment, it is important to research your product. When investing in steel siding ask for references of previous customers. A list of completed projects will help the customer decide what colors and styles they like the most. Homeowners should contact the Better Business Bureau, who can research a company and inform the homeowner if that company has received com-

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Commentary

DMV reforms are long overdue

New Jersey residents have learned not to expect much from their state government.

And the state government has done everything it can to meet those expectations.

In Trenton, "change" is a dirty word. Any reforms or — if we use a kinder, gentler word — upgrades of the state bureaucracy often become bogged down in the bureaucratic morass on the Delaware. Lobby forces both inside and outside the permanent government stall change of any sort. Just take a look at how much progress property tax reform, auto insurance reform, regionalization and the state master plan have registered over the past few years.

That's why our best wishes go to Governor James E. McGreevey Jr. and Department of Transportation Commissioner Jamie Fox, who unveiled an ambitious plan to make the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV), the bane of every long-suffering New Jersey resident, more efficient, secure and, hallelujah, consumer-friendly.

The effort to reform the DMV was led by a blue-ribbon panel that included two former attorney generals, a former Supreme Court Judge and former Public Advocate Stanley Van Ness. Not surprisingly, the panel found there were many areas in which the agency needed a long overdue overhaul.

For example, in the past 20 years, as the state has been growing, the DMV's workforce has been slashed from 3,500 to 1,400. The budget has also been cut by a quarter.

At the same time, the DMV has been ordered to enforce 103 new regulations since 1994 and to help the state's 566 municipalities in a number of ways, including suspending licenses for offenses not related to driving. In fact, more than half of suspended licenses are for non-driving reasons.

Also at a time of great technological growth, the DMV has a 20-year-old computer system that often breaks down and are incapable of processing high volumes of data. Imagine what you would do if the computer you used at home or in the office was bought during the Reagan Administration.

It's no wonder DMV employee morale is poor. Adding to that picture of an agency in misery are inadequate facilities. Parking is terrible and restrooms are embarrassing, especially for those with long waits. The phone system doesn't work and you can't use a credit card at the DMV office.

At the DMV's busiest office in Wayne, it is not uncommon to wait in line for six hours — and then not to return the next day.

If the DMV was a business, the commission found, it would have been bankrupt long ago.

Privatization of the agency — like the other lame and expensive attempts at privatization in state government — has been a failure.

That's why the FIX DMV Commission proposed a sweeping plan to overhaul the bureaucracy last week. It is sadly ironic, however, that many of the reforms are being proposed to improve security in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack, not just to improve service for residents.

Among the proposals are, implementing digitized driver licenses, instating better security practices at DMV offices, opening DMV offices on Saturdays, creating a new phone center, giving employees better training, allowing credit card transactions and designing a better website so more transactions can be done online. The commission also suggested the creation of a Motor Vehicle Commission to oversee the agency and to make sure it meets the needs of a growing population.

None of this will be easy. And it's going to cost money, which would be funded through a relatively modest \$8 registration surcharge seniors would not have to pay.

The sooner these reforms go into effect, the better New Jersey residents will feel about the one branch of state government they have to deal with every year. A visit to a DMV office doesn't have to be as painful as visiting a dentist for a root canal treatment. That's why McGreevey, Fox and the members of the FIX DMV deserve our thanks.



Jersey Boy



Mike Deak

Winona: Should I really care?

Perhaps I've lost my sense of what is really important, but I didn't care whether Winona Ryder was found guilty last week of shoplifting from a Beverly Hills department store.

Perhaps my values are warped, but I actually thought the midterm elections, the possibility of war in Iraq and an economy that refuses to respond to any form of stimulation were actually more worthy of my attention.

But the media — of which, I'm afraid, I'm a card-carrying member — turned the actress's trial and conviction into a story of gargantuan proportions.

Yes, her conviction was news; when any celebrity runs afoul of the law, it is generally good for a few minutes of amusement. But it's, not important news.

What was important news was the low turnout in last week's elections. Most Americans didn't bother to vote. That means only a majority of a minority is deciding who will run the country.

That's disappointing, distressing and depressing.

As an American, I think the pitiful turnout was embarrassing, especially just days before we honor those brave soldiers who have put their lives on the line to defend our precious rights, including the right to choose our leaders.

I fear most Americans do not vote because they are alienated from the system. They are swimming in a dangerous cocktail of apathy and cynicism. They believe their vote is meaningless. They believe nothing will change because all politicians are cut from the same cheesy cloth.

And some do not vote simply because they're too lazy, though; they whine they're too busy.

Given those facts, maybe the media was right to give a lot of attention to Winona. After all, the media is a business and must respond to the taste of the customers. If more people want to know about Winona's trial than the resignation of Harvey Pitt, the media has a fiduciary responsibility to fulfill that want.

My collegiate instincts in anthropology tell me, somewhat surprisingly, the attention given to Winona's conviction is actually a healthy sign for our culture.

Winona's inability to beat the rap re-enforces our belief that justice in this country is blind to the influence of money, power and celebrity. That's reassuring at a time when most Americans — judging from last week's election, turnout — have lost faith in the ability of government to do anything right.

Too few people realize what perilous times we live in now. For the past six months, the smarties on Wall Street have been expressing their worries by selling stock and not placing a bet on the future by buying. The smarties know we are headed for a period of uncertainty. Will our economy recover? What will happen in the war with Iraq? Will there be another terrorist attack?

Perhaps because we cannot grasp those issues, we can grasp something we can understand — like a pretty young movie star being busted for shoplifting. We know how that situation feeds our ambivalence about celebrities — we place them high on a pedestal, yet we can't wait to see them fall. We raise celebrities to unrealistic heights so that the inevitable, come-uppance will only be sweeter. The stubborn American streak of Puritanism — to which we will pay homage in just a few weeks — demands immortals become mere mortals again. After all, maybe we are all subjects in God's surveillance cameras.

Winona will recover. Look at Marv Albert and all the other celebrity miscreants who have fallen from grace, yet have managed to regain a modicum of trust and respect.

I hope the (Mwile who loae their job in thii ttallw) economy will recover jwtt w/ wtll.

But I doubt ttiot' who may Utau their tiwv in tw upcoming w'r wllt nww* nwwww

Letters to the editor

Aschenbach should release letter

To the Chronicle:

I understand that on or about Oct. 30, the Union County Prosecutor had letters hand-delivered to the homes of Cranford Commissioner Dan Aschenbach and Democratic candidates for Cranford Township Committee John Williams and George McDonough responding to Mr. Aschenbach's request for the Prosecutor's Office to investigate the Cranford community center/library project.

I also understand that the prosecutor's letter addressed the use of Mr. Aschenbach's request in several campaign fliers from the local Democratic candidates which alleged that a criminal investigation was ongoing by the Union County Prosecutor's Office against me and others regarding the project.

It is further my understanding that Mr. Aschenbach, notwithstanding the fact that this letter was hand-delivered on Wednesday two weeks ago, initially refused to confirm that he had, in fact, received a response from the prosecutor and has continued to perpetuate the belief in the Cranford community that illegal activity occurred with respect to the community center/library project.

In fact I understand that, despite Mr. Aschenbach's recent public comments to the contrary, the prosecutor unequivocally stated that there was no criminal conduct. To the contrary, he apparently did reprimand Mr. Williams and Mr. McDonough for their use of the Prosecutor's Office in election materials and pointed out a technical violation by the Democratic candidates of election law regarding one of their fliers.

Despite several opportunities to correct the misinformation in various public forums or in campaign literature that was mailed or hand-delivered by Democratic operatives over the final weekend before Election Day, Mr. Aschenbach and company have deliberately kept the prosecutor's response from the public despite at least one request from a local news organization to release it. (I wonder why...) This deliberate attempt to delay or completely avoid releasing this letter is despicable, particularly given the fact that Mr. Aschenbach, in an obvious attempt to get press coverage, circulated a draft of his letter to the

prosecutor to several news organizations and made his allegations public.

Furthermore, Mr. Aschenbach claims that the letter from the prosecutor only addresses "financing" and not "bidding." From my understanding, of the prosecutor's letter, this is a misstatement of what the prosecutor wrote. I understand that the prosecutor did not make a distinction in his letter, yet Mr. Aschenbach continues to generate misinformation about it. The only way for the public to know exactly what the prosecutor said or didn't say is for Mr. Aschenbach to immediately release the letter to the public.

I call on Mr. Aschenbach to immediately release the full and complete letter he received from the Union County Prosecutor's Office, so that the public knows the real story behind his ridiculous allegations.

Furthermore, I call upon Mr. Aschenbach; Mr. Williams; Mr. McDonough; Ms. Carolyn Vollero, the local Democratic municipal chairperson; Mr. James Murphy, the local Democratic campaign treasurer; and any other members of the local Democratic party who participated in the mailers or otherwise orchestrated this effort to assert that a criminal investigation was underway against me, Tom Denny, and other members of the Cranford Township Committee, to issue a complete and unconditional apology for using Mr. Aschenbach's request for an investigation as a campaign tactic and implying in any way that I or other members of the Township Committee were under investigation by the prosecutor or committed criminal acts regarding the project.

I do not take allegations of criminal conduct lightly (and, apparently, the Prosecutor's Office feels the same way). I am confident that now and in the future, the citizens of Cranford will continue to reject these kinds of divisive smear tactics. As an elected official I may not always have all the answers to every issue facing Cranford, but I have served, and will continue to serve, this community with integrity and honesty, despite these malicious recent claims to the contrary.

PHIL MORIN III

Cranford

The writer is deputy mayor of the township.

Flood project should be put to vote

To the Chronicle:

I am writing to commend Cranford Commissioner Dan Aschenbach's proposal to place a plaque inscribed with the name of Gregory Sgroi on one of the pumping stations in Cranford's multimillion-dollar flood control boondoggle. Mr. Sgroi, a former Cranford township engineer who developed an appreciation for flood control theory and practice during the Eisenhower era, was the mastermind behind the township's IDUS program of driving bulldozers down the Railway Itwv; from one end of town to the other, to convert it to a fully-dedicated stormwater drainage canal, he has been an ardent proponent of the township's present plans, which are based on a strikingly similar rationale.

I would also like to propose that a plaque with the name of Commissioner Aschenbach be placed on the other pumping station in the project, or maybe on the express sewer. Commissioner Aschenbach is the chairman of the Cranford Flood Advisory Committee, a small group of private citizens, most of whom will directly benefit from the current project proposal, until their hired engineers. This private lobbying group was responsible, (or initiating and developing the prenent plan that is the basis for the project.

In dedicating prominent features of this project to these two men, both important drivers of the program, it will indelibly name them: the names with it when Cranford residents tune to imluti Uw deapliabU ft«tJM, Jul and environmental (ilm'ily that it will become.

Mr. A#C1WJMUUI, peratetwll conUmUon Uwt ftuvd-

ing approval for the project was needlessly delayed by partisan stalling is unfounded and untrue. The delay was the result of feeble attempts by other members of the township committee to address valid objections, raised by residents within the project area, to a program that would obviously be destructive to their property, their neighborhood, and the river. The consideration of "alternatives;" often alluded to by Mr. Aschenbach were not alternatives at all, but merely minor variations of the original plan put forward by his committee, Commissioner Aschenbach's assertion that "most of Cranford is on the same side on this" is baseless as well. There is no way for him to know. My repeated calls for Cranford to initiate a referendum on the issue, to determine what the majority of residents really think, have gone unanswered. Dan Aschenbach is obviously worried that his program will fail if put to the test of candid public opinion.

As a member of the Cranford Township Committee for several years now, on and off, Commissioner Aschenbach should have by now developed a level of maturity as a public servant to appreciate the rights of taxpaying residents to question township projects that are not in their best interests of the township as a whole, and to recognize the township's responsibility to openly and reasonably address those concerns. I still think it in the township's best interests to find out how its taxpayers truly feel about Dan Aschenbach's program. Quod agitvili pmgnuu.

JAMISLOOERSTEOT

Cranford

Cranford Chronicle

Sim MM

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Should schools be closed for the teachers' convention?



"I think it's a good thing if they're learning new things that can help our kids benefit in the long-run."
Erika Efthymiou
Westfield



"I think it's dated. I'd be curious to know how many actually attend it and if it's worthwhile. When kids are out of school, it's a hardship for working parents."
Carrie Swingle
Westfield



"It's a good chance for everyone to regroup and have some downtime."
Joanne McHugh
Cranford



"The NJEA has a lot to offer professionals, in terms of updating skills and learning new processes."
Gary Jones
Maplewood



"I like the kids being out of school; it's like a holiday. You can go to New York City without the crowds and do things without the crowds."
Maryann Cubberly
Watchung



"I think the majority of teachers go to the conference. It's really valuable."
Alison Bekkedahl
Maplewood

Letters to the editor

Time for Cranford to come together

To the Chronicle:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the voters who supported me in last week's election for the Township Committee. Many of you crossed party lines to support my candidacy, and I will never forget you for your support. In addition, I would also like to thank those who did not support me, yet came out to the polls to vote. Our right to openly choose our leaders is the foundation of our greatness as Americans.

Although the turnout was considered heavy, nearly 50 percent of Cranford's registered voters decided not to exercise their constitutional right. I hope that those people will be energized to vote next fall, considering the fact I trailed by a mere 14 votes after the tallies were announced on Tuesday night. In essence, your vote does count.

I would also like to thank two individuals who were instrumental in this campaign, namely B.J. Kowalski and Kevin Illing. B.J. worked tirelessly in organizing the walk lists, phone banks and the Get-Out-The-Vote effort on Election Day. Without her efforts, I don't believe this election would have been as close as it was. My new friend Kevin came to the campaign in

September, but showed us that he is a force to be reckoned with. His efforts were an inspiration to us all. He gave us a new awareness of the obstacles that the physically challenged face every day of their lives, and I will work to bring that awareness to the agenda of the Township Committee.

Lastly, I have one final statement for my supporters: Do Not Dismay. During the campaign, all of the candidates voiced similar concerns about the way Cranford has done business in the past, and we all promised to address those issues in the future. I believe that Ann Darby and Scott Mease are honest, hard-working people, and I know they will give their best efforts in formulating better public policy that includes consensus building and proper planning.

Cranford is a great town filled with wonderful people, and we should unite behind our new government, regardless of party affiliation, for the benefit of the community.

GEORGE McDONOUGH
Cranford

The writer was a Democratic candidate for Township Committee.

Lincoln's words 'will last forever'

To The Chronicle-

One hundred and thirty-nine years ago next Tuesday, President Abraham Lincoln delivered his immortal Gettysburg Address at the dedication of the national cemetery on the Civil War battlefield in Gettysburg, Pa.

It has since become one of the most famous and most-quoted of modern speeches and has been internationally recognized as a masterpiece of world literature.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address took just 120 seconds to deliver. Yet such was the clarity of thought

and purity of expression that it has become recognized as one of the classic utterances of all time.

The address was only 272 words long, written in three paragraphs on 31 lines. It used 204 words of one syllable, 50 words of two syllables and only 18 words of three or more syllables.

On next Tuesday's anniversary of this great Address, let all Americans give a moment's thought to this towering American president who never wrote a book, but whose written words will last forever.

NAT BODIAN
Cranford

Local business offers help to parks

To The Chronicle:

The Township of Cranford and Cranford Recreation and Parks Department have been very fortunate to have Tree-Tech Inc. and Pete Ellis, a longtime resident of Cranford, in helping to ensure that the trees around town continue to thrive. Pete leads his Tree-Tech crew in donating their time and equipment to perform complete tree services, which include pruning, shaping, stump grinding and removal services. Most recently the team donated their immediate services in preparing Crane Park for the Cranford 9/11 memorial services. In addition Mr. Ellis maintains "Old Peppy" at Lincoln Park to ensure its future growth.

He recently remarked, "We are simply doing our part to help preserve the beauty of Cranford and commemorate members of our families affected by Sept. 11. Preserving the town's parks is one of the many reasons that Cranford has been among the most desirable areas to live."

This certainly exemplifies his commitment to our area. Because of this type of community service, we sincerely thank Pete Ellis and Tree-Tech Inc. for their outstanding dedication.

FRANK A. D'ANTONIO
Director, Cranford Recreation,
and Parks Department

Township fails to honor veterans

To the Chronicle:

On Monday, Veteran's Day, a national holiday, I was surprised to see that within the center of Cranford there were no American flags flying from the street lamps. On every other holiday the township puts these flags up to celebrate the day. I hope that Cranford officials have not fallen in the mode of thinking that it's just another day for sales.

As we are now on the brink of war, I hope that we don't forget the men and women who served our

country during other wars.

I called the township offices and found out they were closed for the holiday. If they, the office responsible for putting up the flags, state they forgot to put the flags up, they didn't forget to take the day off.

BILL GRIFFIN
Cranford

The writer served in the 1st Infantry Division during the Vietnam War.

Officers came through for families

To the Chronicle:

On Oct. 26 our family lost a loving son, husband, father and brother. During this difficult time, the outpouring of love and support received was overwhelming and comforting.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Officer Robert Peters and Sgt. Christopher

Chapman for their assistance, guidance and concern at an extremely painful time in our lives.

The sincerity and kindness shown by these men was recognized and appreciated.

The CARINO, BRIGHTMAN and CAMPBELL families
Cranford

Why no flags in Cranford center?

To the Chronicle:

On Monday, in honor of Veterans' Day, American flags flew proudly in Clark, Garwood, Kenilworth, Roselle Park and Westfield. But not in Cranford's

town center.
Why not?

MARYLOU DELANO
Cranford

Nominations sought for King award

CRANFORD - Nomination forms for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Award for Civil & Human Rights are available at local houses of worship and the Cranford Public Library, Cranford Clergy Council President Rabbi Akiba Lubow has announced.

Local residents or groups may make nominations for the award. The guidelines are as follows:

The nominee must have made a significant contribution to the cause of civil human rights and social justice.

The nominee should be either a local resident or a non-resident who is closely identified with the township.

The nominee should be identified with, though not necessarily a member of, a Cranford religious

community or another community identified with the Cranford Clergy Council.

The nominee may be a clergy member or a layperson.

Applications should be mailed to Kathy Willis, President of the Inter-Faith Human Relations Committee, 386 Centennial Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. The deadline is Dec. 2.

Car windows are smashed on Mischief Night

Mischief Night was a rosy night for nine Kenilworth residents, who woke up on Halloween to find their car windows smashed.

"Nine windows had been broken by bricks, police said. The vandalized cars were parked on Lafayette Avenue near North 14th.

North 17th and North 20th streets.

Borough police said last week they had no suspects in the vandalism.

Cranford police also reported six cars were damaged during the night. In each incident, said Lt. Siep Jwn WUde, the rear wind-

shields of the cars were broken.

The incidents took place between 4-11 p.m. on Lawrence Road, Berkeley Place and Springfield Avenue. Police have 10 suspects, said Wilde.

Garwood police reported no substantial property damage on Mtachki Night.

Campus notes

Three students in The Chronicle area earned degrees in August from Montclair State University in Upper Montclair. The graduates, their degrees and majors:

Michelle Ann Casciano of Cranford, master of arts in teaching degree.

Freddie Laverne Edmonson of Cranford, master of education degree with a concentration in critical thinking.

Kevin Richard O'Brien of Cranford, master's degree in music with a concentration in theory composition.

Dan T. Bedea of Garwood has earned a diploma in therapeutic massage from the Somerset School of Massage Therapy in Piscataway. He plans a career in massage therapy along with work in a spa or health club.

Erin Welsh of Cranford has been selected for the 2003 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." She is a senior majoring in management at Providence College in Providence, R.I.

Tara Smallze of Cranford

was nominated for the homecoming court at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where homecoming was held Oct. 12.

She is a junior, majoring in sociology with a minor in criminal justice and psychology. A member of the Findley Hall Council and Inter-Residence Hall Council, Smallze is a Learning Center tutor and a member of the Sociology-Criminal Justice Club. She also was on the college's Dance Marathon committee.

The daughter of Tina Santo graduated in 2000 from Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung.



It's a small world

The Garwood P.T.A. sponsored an Earth Dome assembly. The Earth Dome is a 22-foot by 17-foot high exact replica of the Earth and is built to scale showing the continents, oceans, mountains and rivers. Constructed and painted onto 24 panels, each representing a different time zone, students were even allowed to enter into the "center of the Earth." Students were amazed by the displays of volcano eruptions, tornadoes and lightning bolts, which added to the hands-on learning experience.

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Community Life

Briefs

Open Agenda meeting scheduled for tonight

CRANFORD Superintendent Lawrence Feinsod will hold his November "Open Agenda" meeting 7:30 tonight in the Cranford High School library.

The monthly meetings are an opportunity for parents of schoolchildren and other township residents to ask questions and discuss educational issues with school administrators.

Artists are invited to county-wide meeting

Union County performing, visual and literary artists are invited to bring their concerns, opinions and artistic wish lists to a summit meeting 7 p.m. Monday at duCret School of Art, 1030 Central Ave., Plainfield. The meeting is part of the Union County Cultural Planning Project.

All artists, including those who may not have received invitations, are welcome to participate at the summit meeting. Those who plan to attend are asked to call the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at (908) 558-2550 to register; NJ Relay users should dial 711.

Holiday wreaths on sale from parent council

CRANFORD — The Parent Teacher Council is selling decorative wreaths for the holiday season. Each 24-inch balsam fir wreath is hand-crafted with holiday ornaments and snow-tipped pinecones, and comes with a variety of bow colors.

Each wreath costs \$18, and all proceeds go college scholarships for Cranford High School seniors who demonstrate financial need. To order a wreath, call Nancy at (908) 276-1308. The wreaths will be ready for pick-up Dec. 2.

Garwood Knights sponsor toy drive

GARWOOD — The Knights of Columbus are collecting new, unwrapped toys for terminally ill children.

Donations, which will be turned over to The Make-A-Wish Foundation, can be dropped off after 4 p.m. at the Knights' council hall at 37 South Ave., opposite Pathmark. Parking is available behind the building on Willow Avenue.

Donations by check should be made payable to "Garwood K. of C. Toy Drive." For more information, call Keith Gallagher at (908) 789-0931, or call the council hall after 4 p.m. at (908) 789-9809.

Scouts' annual food drive is under way

CRANFORD — Boy Scout Troop 75 and its fellow Cub Scouts are collecting food for the hungry in the annual "Scouting for Food" drive.

Homes throughout the township have received collection bags. Residents are asked to fill the bags with nonperishable food and to leave them at the front door, where scouts will pick them up beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday. All donated food will be brought to Cranford Family Care.

Library teen room will close for improvements

KENILWORTH — The teen room of the Kenilworth Public Library will be closed beginning Saturday in order to install new shelves.

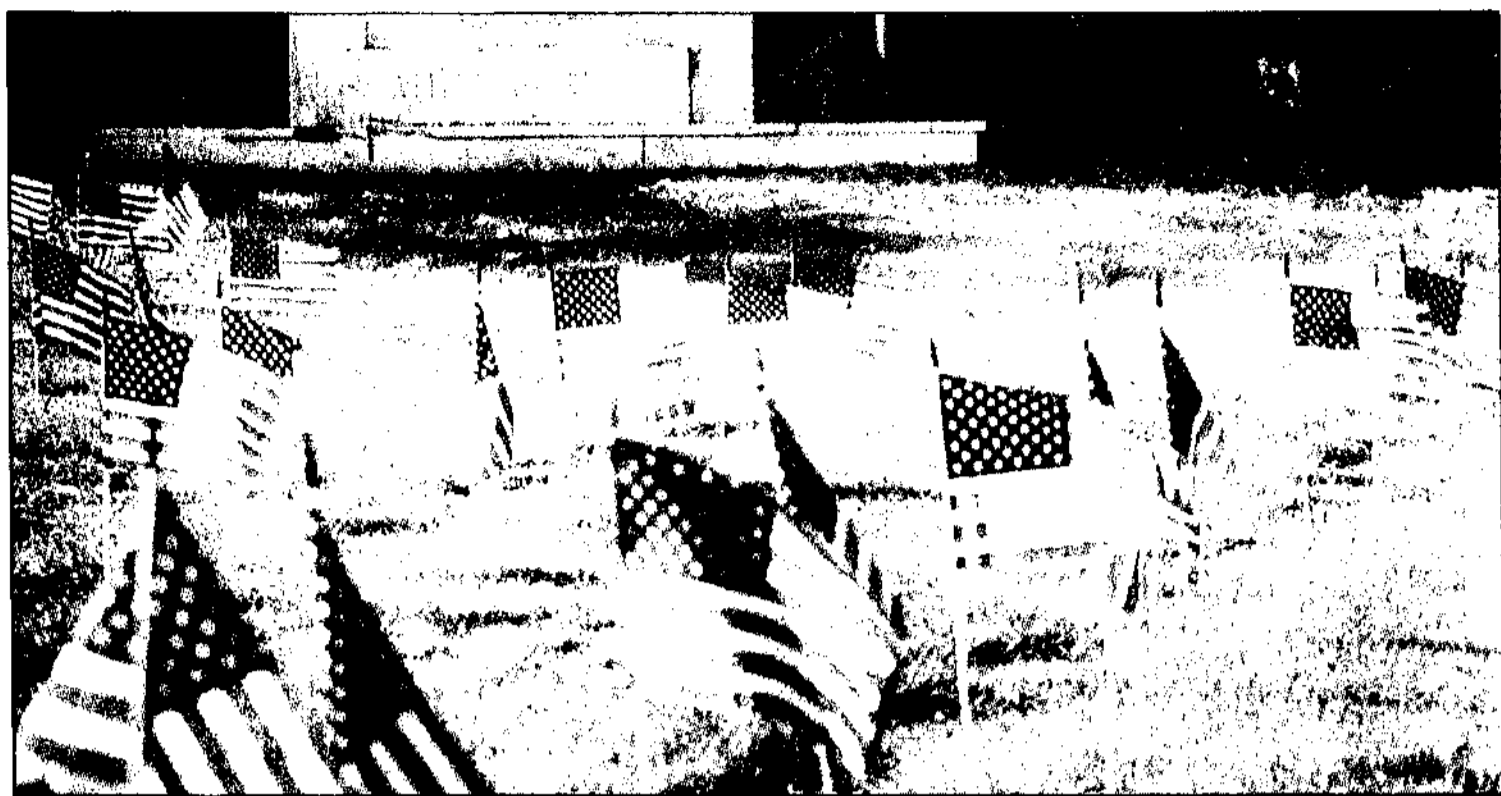
If you need a "Young Adult" title from the Boulevard library while renovations are in progress, ask anyone on the library staff.

Funds to purchase the shelves are through a donation from Dr. George Schlenker in memory of his wife, Adeline. She was the recording secretary of the library board of trustees from KW9 until her death last year.

Motivational speaker to lecture at library

CRANFORD — Motivational speaker Brendan Tobin comes to the township for a lecture 7 p.m. today at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

His program is sponsored by the Friend* of the Cranford Public Library and was postponed from an earlier date* Tobin is the author of "Yes You Can! Extraordinary Hensl* from Ordinary People*." Admission is free.



Townshonor veterans

Municipalities throughout the county honored war veterans with activities Monday. Top, the Veterans Association at Graceland Memorial Park in Kenilworth has been lined with flags, set out by local Veterans organizations. Below left, former soldiers salute the flag before a ceremony at the Kenilworth Veterans Center. Below right, North Plainfield high school student Kate Ruskins plays "Taps" before a ceremony outside the Fanwood library.

PHOTOS BY NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER



Cancer couldn't stop this woman, or her business

Former Cranford resident, a 'newsletter guru,' grew her communications company from her kitchen table

By GREG MARX
THE CHRONICLE

Today, the offices of Patricia Morris Associates are a hive of activity, as the 16 employees of the marketing and communications strategy firm work to serve clients in the educational and corporate sectors and recruit new ones. But when the business got its start 18 years ago, it was just Pat Morris sitting at the kitchen table of her Cranford home, laying out the school newsletter by hand.

Morris had inherited the task when she went to see Robert Paul, superintendent of Cranford schools at the time, on an unrelated matter. During the course of their conversation, Paul asked if she would take on the newsletter responsibilities.

Morris didn't have much experience in the field, but took the job, she says, "because my mother always told me I could do anything."

Though it was a challenge, she enjoyed the task — and was good enough at it to have two more school districts as clients the next year.

"It had never dawned on me to start a business," Morris said. "But this one gave me the flexibility I needed" to care for her two children, even if "flexibility" meant working through the night after the children had gone to sleep.

From there, the company grew gradually, but steadily. When her husband was laid off in 1987, Morris knew her home business would have to support their family. She and her increasing staff continued to gain new clients — before long, she became known as the "newsletter guru" of New Jersey — and the growth was fueled almost entirely by word of mouth.

"We were very, very aware of how to meet people's needs, and how to deliver," she said. "I knew from the beginning... it was all about relationships."

In 1997, though, that steady growth hit a major speed bump: Morris was diagnosed with Stage 4 breast cancer. With the same



Patricia Morris at work in her company's Clark offices.

NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

willpower that had helped her grow her small business, Morris steeled herself for the most aggressive treatment plan available: high doses of chemotherapy, radiation treatment and a bilateral mastectomy.

But even when the cancer was at its worst, Morris knew she would not give up her company. The business that had once allowed her the flexibility to be a mother had now become almost another child, she said, "I realized how important the thought of living it up made me... This

was like a new baby for me. I had to continue to nurture it."

At the same time, her struggle against cancer gave her a softer perspective. Her clients, who had received so much personal treatment over the years, repaid it in kind. And her home was flooded with visitors and dinners prepared by neighbors and friends from the high school and Orange Avenue School, where her husband now teaches.

"I never knew that I had this strength. And it was a big wake-up call. It changed my life."

Morris said. There is an upside to cancer. It's learning that life is something to enjoy, and the people around you are something to cherish.

Now in her fifth year of survival, Morris brings that perspective to work every day. Though "she still has a tendency to push," says her sister-in-law, childhood friend and vice-president Triab, Morris insists it is the dedicated staff that does the real work now.

Allowing more people to be involved, she says, was crucial to

the company's development. Shortly after she returned to work, the company outgrew her kitchen table and moved to an office in Clark. It has kept growing since: the staff has more than doubled since 1999, and the company has gained national acclaim and inroads into the corporate community. Recent and current clients include Continental Airlines and the Port Authority, and in 2001 the company exceeded \$1 million in gross revenue for the first time; you know the nice thing about

Edna Bresnahan; active in March of Dimes

KENILWORTH --- Edna Kopta Bresnahan, 82, a March of Dimes volunteer from its earliest years, died Nov. 10, 2002 at the Father Hudson House in Elizabeth.

She first worked with the March of Dimes when it was known as the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. Mrs. Bresnahan came to the March of Dimes through her job at Roosevelt & O'Connor, a Manhattan law firm whose partners included President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The foundation honored her in 1940 for her volunteer work.

Mrs. Bresnahan also was a volunteer at Union Hospital and the Cranford Health and Extended Care Center. She was a member of the Kenilworth Senior Citizens Club, American Association of Retired Persons, Catholic Daughters of the Americas and National Council of Catholic Women.

She was a Eucharistic minister for Masses at St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church, where the Altar Rosary Society honored Mrs. Bresnahan as a Rosarian of the Month. She was in charge of the kitchen for the parish's Thursday bingo games.

Mrs. Bresnahan was born in Elmhurst, Queens, and lived in Newark before moving to Kenilworth in 1948.

A sister/Dorothy, is deceased.

Surviving are her husband of 57 years, Frank G.; two sons, Gerard and Dennis; a daughter, Diane; a brother, Edward; two grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass was offered yesterday at St. Theresa's Church. Burial was private.

Arrangements were by the Mastapeter Funeral Home in Roselle Park. Donations may be sent to Father Hudson House, 111 DeHart Place, Elizabeth, NJ 07202;

John Alex Broskey

Cranford --- John Alex Broskey, 79, died Nov. 9, 2002 at his home in Brick.

A native of Middleport, Pa., he lived in Cranford before moving to Brick in 1970.

Mr. Broskey was a welder with the Laurelton Welding Co. in Point Pleasant Beach prior to his 1988 retirement. The former owner of A.I.S. Atlantic service station in Elizabeth, he also was a construction worker at oil refineries and powerhouses in Venezuela.

He was a member of the National Rifle Association and

Loyalty Lodge 33-272, Free & Accepted Masons, in Clark. Mr. Broskey served in the Coast Guard during World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 52 years, Lillian Fraatz Broskey; a son, Alex J.; three daughters, Joyce Erickson, Lillian Hammon and Diane; a brother, John; five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Colonial Funeral Home in Brick. Burial was in the Brig. Gen. William C. Doyle Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Amytown.

Alberta Bulwinski

Cranford --- Alberta A. Bulwinski, 90, died Nov. 8, 2002 at the Greenbrook Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Green Brook.

She was born in New Brunswick and had lived in Cranford since 1932.

Miss Bulwinski was with the Prudential Insurance Co. of America for 30 years, retiring in

1972 as a clerk in its home office in Newark.

Seven sisters are deceased. Surviving are a brother, John and wife Elizabeth of South Bound Brook; and many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Services were held Tuesday at the Dooley Colonial Home in Westfield. Burial was in Rosehill Cemetery, Linden.

Ruth Irwin Gary

Cranford --- Ruth A. Irwin Gary, 85, died Nov. 2, 2002 at Berkeley Heights Convalescent Center.

A native of Newark, she lived in Piscataway and Chester before moving to Berkeley Heights in June.

Mrs. Gary was once a supervisor of catalog sales for Sears, Roebuck & Co. She retired in 1987 after 30 years with Sears at its Morristown and Watchung stores.

She was a member of the

Azure Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star, in Cranford.

Her first husband, Thomas A. Irwin, died in 1962. Her second husband, Clifford J., died in 1987.

Surviving are two daughters, Beverly Sonnenberg of Berkeley Heights and Barbara S. McWilliams of Texas; a sister, Hope Woolensack of Union; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service was held Friday at Valley Memorial Funeral Home in Gillette.

Bridget McLaughlari

Cranford --- Bridget McLaughlan, 80, died Nov. 10, 2002 at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

Miss McLaughlan was born in County Limerick, Ireland, and lived in Scotland before moving to Cranford in 1961. She became an American citizen in 1967.

She was a nurse's aide for many years at the Cranford Hall Nursing Home. Miss McLaughlan was a member of the Cranford Senior

Citizens, Tuesday Club and a parishioner of St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

Surviving are three nieces, Margaret Ahimovic, Nora Moen and Mary Petrozziello; and a nephew, John Starrs.

A funeral Mass will be offered 9:30 a.m. today at St. Michael's Church, 40 Alden St. Burial will be in St. Teresa's Cemetery, Summit.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Todd Allen Gibson

Cranford --- Todd Allen Gibson, 45, died Nov. 3, 2002 at Union Hospital.

He was born in Plainfield and lived in Cranford for most of his life.

Mr. Gibson was a chief cardiovascular technologist at St. Michael's Medical Center in Newark, where he was on the staff 15 years. He received a bachelor's degree from Kean College of New Jersey in 1984.

He was a member of the Cardiovascular Association.

A sister, Mary Ellen, is deceased. Surviving are his wife, Deborah

A. Vincent Gibson; his parents, John and Anna Rizzo Gibson; four brothers, Jack, Dennis, Scott and Thomas; three sisters, Annie Redmond, Janet Wright and Gayle; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was offered Friday at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Entombment was in the Good Shepherd Chapel Mausoleum at St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Todd A. Gibson Memorial Fund, 1 Davis St., Cranford, NJ 07016.

Charles Maynard

Cranford --- Charles F. Maynard, 92, died Nov. 10, 2002 at the Cranford Health and Extended Care Center.

He was born in Glens Falls, N.Y., and had lived in Cranford since 1942.

Mr. Maynard retired in 1973 after 31 years with Acme Electric in Roselle. He was a past president of the Men's Club at the Cranford United Methodist Church.

He served in the Army prior to World War II.

Surviving are his wife of 72 years, Verna Samler Maynard; two daughters, Joan DiFabio of Munds Park, Ariz., and Kay Porcella of Cranford; a sister, Jane Faller of Eureka, Calif.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation is 10 a.m. tomorrow at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home, 12 Springfield Ave., where services will follow 11 a.m. Burial will be in Rosedale Cemetery, Linden.

Paul E. Reed

Cranford --- Paul Everett Reed, 59, died Nov. 3, 2002 at his home in Alexandria.

Born in Staten Island, the son of the late William A. Reed Sr. and Pauline E. Detmar Reed, he lived in Cranford before moving to Alexandria in 1972.

Mr. Reed was a chemical engineer at the Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township. He earlier was a chemical engineer with the Pratt & Whitney Division of United Technologies in Connecticut.

He earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Newark College of Engineering in 1965 and a master's degree in

chemical engineering from Purdue University in 1967. Mr. Reed was a member of the American Society of Chemical Engineers.

A brother, William A. Jr., is deceased.

Surviving are a sister, Doris Anne Durrua, and a brother-in-law, Donald Allen Durrua, both of Colts Neck; a sister-in-law, Joyce H. of Cincinnati, Ohio; two nieces and a nephew.

Graveside services were held Monday at Fairview Cemetery in Westfield.

Arrangements were by the WE. Johnson Funeral Home in Holland Township.

Roy H. Adams

Cranford --- Roy H. Adams, 75, died Nov. 6, 2002 at Overlook Hospital in Summit.

Mr. Adams was born in Hoboken and had lived for more than 40 years in Cranford.

Surviving are his wife,

Mildred Ruth Nelson Adams; a sister-in-law, Marion Diehl; a brother, Edward Nelson; and an uncle, Richard Diehl.

Services were held Monday at the McCracken Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Hollywood Cemetery, Union.

Alfred B. Weber

Kenilworth --- Alfred B. Weber, 78, died Nov. 10, 2002 at Rahway Hospital.

A native of New Bedford, Mass., he lived in Kenilworth before moving to Iselin in 1952.

Mr. Weber was a machinist with the Westfield Sheet Metal Co. and Casale Sheet Metal Co. prior to his 1987 retirement. He was associated for 42 years with Sheet Metal Workers Local 22 in Cranford.

He was a fourth-degree knight with Knights of Columbus Council 3639 in Iselin. Mr. Weber was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, a Good Conduct Medal and the Victory Medal for his Army service in World War II.

He was a member of the Iselin Senior Citizens Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2636 and American Legion Post 471, both in Iselin, and the Iselin Senior Citizens Club. Mr. Weber was a

parishioner of St. Cecelia's Roman Catholic Church in Iselin.

Surviving are his wife of 54 years, Betty; twin daughters, Christine Conklin of Iselin and Linda Delaney of Port Reading; two sons-in-law, Charles Conklin of Iselin and Ray Delaney of Port Reading; a brother, William of Florida; a sister, Mary Iiska of Little Egg Harbor; six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Thomas Joseph Costello Funeral Home, 200 Cooper Ave., Iselin. A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Cecelia's Church, Oak Tree Road, Iselin. Burial will be in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. today at the funeral home. Donations may be sent to American Cancer Society, Middlesex Unit, 846 Main St., Fords, NJ 08863.



A handshake hell never forget

Members of the Fanwood Fire Department recently paid a visit to Brunner School in Scotch Plains to teach students about fire safety. Second Assistant Chief David Ziegler and Firefighter Marc Donadio reviewed fire safety rules and fire prevention information with children in the pre-school, Pre-K Title I and kindergarten classes. The children had an opportunity to look at the firefighters' clothing and special equipment. The children received firefighter helmets, ribbons and coloring books to help them review fire safety and prevention lessons with their families. Above, Pre-K Title I student Andrew Fuschman greets Donadio as he arrives at the school.

Rainbow Experience brings songs and spirit

WESTFIELD --- The Rainbow Experience, a multi-cultural community theater group, will present "Songs in the Spirit - A Coffeehouse Cabaret" on Nov. 15 and 16 at the First Congregational Church on 125 Elmer St. in Westfield and on Nov. 22 and 23 at the United Church of Christ at 220 West Seventh St. in Plainfield.

Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12 and seniors over 65. For the price of admission, audiences will be served coffee and dessert and be treated to a spirited evening of songs ranging in style from classical to gospel to pop.

Featured songs include "Joy of Man's Desiring" from Les Miserables. Coffee and dessert will be served starting at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so patrons are encouraged to make reservations in advance by calling (908) 233-2494. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of performance.

"Songs in Spirit" is directed by Charles Alexander Hay, Hay, a Cranford resident and owner of Helicon Music Productions, is a professional composer, arranger and music director.

Lending a hand to direct the gospel portion of the evening is Plainfield resident Phyllis Beach. Beach is member of the professional gospel quartet 4

Christ. She is also the minister of music for Rose of Sharon Church of Christ-Disciples of Christ in Brooklyn.

Now in its fourth year, The Rainbow Experience theater troupe was founded by the joint ministries of the United Church of Christ-Congregational in Plainfield and the First Congregational Church UCC in Westfield. The Rainbow Experience is dedicated to its mission to create and maintain a multi-cultural, interfaith, intergenerational

church and community production of theater, indeed, this is a partnership through the production of songs in the spirit. Seating is limited, so partnership is encouraged through the production of songs in the spirit. Advance by calling (908) 233-2494. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of performance. Featured songs include "Joy of Man's Desiring" from Les Miserables. Coffee and dessert will be served starting at 7:30 p.m. Seating is limited, so patrons are encouraged to make reservations in advance by calling (908) 233-2494. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of performance. "Songs in Spirit" is directed by Charles Alexander Hay, Hay, a Cranford resident and owner of Helicon Music Productions, is a professional composer, arranger and music director. Lending a hand to direct the gospel portion of the evening is Plainfield resident Phyllis Beach. Beach is member of the professional gospel quartet 4

professional singers who have sung for City Opera and cut their own CDs. Generous support for this program has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs along with generous support provided by the The Westfield Foundation and NJ Association of the UCC and the congregations of the United Church of Christ in Plainfield and the First Congregational Church in Westfield.

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'Character Counts' at Westfield school

WESTFIELD - Students at Jefferson Elementary School celebrated their 2002-2003 school theme, "Character Counts," at an assembly Oct. 25.

The children began the assembly with a pledge to be students of good character. Then, Jefferson Principal Jean Munoz spoke to the students about the importance of one's actions and how we can all make a difference.

The students have spent the past weeks learning new songs written by Karen Yula, one of

Jefferson's music teachers. They sang about the importance of being respectful, kind, helpful, truthful, responsible and caring.

The theme "Character Counts" will be incorporated into many activities throughout the year. Principal Munoz begins each day with inspiring announcements that help build good character.

A bulletin board has been decorated in tin; main hallway at the school so that teachers can recognize and honor students who display acts of kind-

ness. The board will help to remind students of the many positive ways they can behave to demonstrate good character.

The students are also involved in a number of service projects, such as sending care packages to our armed forces and the homeless.

They also plan to construct a Kindness Quilt, and a photo scrapbook of character-based activities will be compiled and displayed throughout the year. "Character Counts" will also be a part of the students' reading and writing programs.

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BEST BETS THIS WEEK

Young pianists to be in concert

UNION— Sixteen talented pianists are winners of the Fourth Annual Andrew De Grado Piano Competition and will perform in the Winners Recital on Sunday, Dec. 1, at 3 p.m. at Kean University's "Little Theatre" located in the University Center Building, 1000 Morris Ave.

The pianists' ages range between 11 and 18 and were chosen out of a group of ninety-five very talented young New Jersey pianists who entered the competition this past October. The competition, which consisted of various piano categories, was held at Kean University and adjudicated by Dr. Christine Dolinich-Matuska, Mr. Joseph Patrych and Dr. Mark Terenzi. The timers were Brian Cariddi and Daniela Suarez.

Winners in various age piano soloist categories and their hometowns are: Catherine Kim, Berkeley Heights; Pierre Miller, Budd Lake; Jennifer Hau, Cedar Grove; Jun Liu, Edison; Grace Lee, Livingston; Ji-Nee Lo, Manalapan; Grace Kim, Millburn; Melissa Coppola, Nutley; Yifei Chen, Plainsboro; Shoni Oey and Taktin Oey, Princeton Junction; Samuel Budish, Short Hills; Kirk Benson, Summit; Kyle Ehrmann, Wayne; Gil Scott Chapman, Westfield. The winner in the piano accompanist category is pianist Faye Xu from Scotch Plains who will perform with cellist Jason Tammam of Westfield.

The winners will be presented with a Certificate of Recognition and a cash award of \$100.00 each following their recital. The public is invited to attend the Winners Recital at no charge. For more information, please call (973) 467-1348.

Train exhibit at arts center

WOODBIDGE— "Train 582-2002" is a setup of choo-choo trains that'll serve as the holiday exhibit for the Barron Arts Center in Woodbridge.

If you're familiar with model railroads — engines, boxcars, layouts and such — you're more than welcome to volunteer your time to keep "Train 582-2002" on the tracks between Dec. 1-27. You don't need to be available for the entire month.

For more information, phone (732) 634-0413 between 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Chorus to perform with the symphony

BASKING RIDGE - In the interregnum between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Somerset Hills Children's Chorus goes "Home for the Holidays" with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra.

The all-child ensemble from Basking Ridge provides vocal accompaniment in two NJSO holiday concerts at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, Newark. Showtimes are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12 and 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15.

Patricia Joyce founded the Children's Chorus in 1991 and has been its director to date. Singers in Grades 3-12 who live in Central New Jersey audition every year to join their peers.

The program includes "Dance; of tin' Tumblers," from "The tnuw Maiden" by Nikolai Khnsky-Korsakov; a "Christmas Festival" by Leroy Anderson; the overture to the "llanukkah Festival"; "This Chnstmastide"; "March of the Toys," from "Babes in Toyland" by Victor Herbert; and "The Twelve Gifts of Christmas."

Both ensembles will be led by Mark Laycock, music director of the Princeton Symphony Orchestra and assistant conductor of the NJSO. He also will lead the New Jersey Tap Ensemble in the performance.

AH audience ding-along ami a visit from Hantu Clans ate included.

Admission is \$6M-14. Pur ticket* tiukl directiou, visit www.njajmuhony.org or phono (000) AUKUHO.



Chuck Brodsky at Watchung Arts Center

Thanksgiving is the perfect time for a Chuck Brodsky concert. As The New York Times put it, Chuck's shows are filled with "insight and good humor, distilling life experiences into old-fashioned story songs brimming with wit and compassion." Baseball, farm life, and the everyday tales of ordinary people who are trying to muddle through with grace fill Chuck's songbook. Larry Gross of NPR's Mountain Stage summed it up: "One of the finest singer-songwriters in America." Brodsky will be appearing at the Watchung Arts Center at 8 p.m. Nov. 23.

Legend's grandson continues legacy

Paul Ellington will bring Duke's music to Central Jersey this month

MORRISTOWN — On Sunday, Nov. 24, at 3 p.m. the Duke Ellington Orchestra will perform at The Community Theatre.

This concert, led by Duke's grandson Paul Mercer Ellington, will continue the Ellington big band tradition that originated almost a century ago. While most of the renowned members of the original orchestra have long since passed, this particular edition of the band has several members that go back at least 25 years.

"My grandfather and father devoted their lives to jazz. They shared the joys, great achievements and sorrows of the world with everyone through their music. They truly understood that the only way to be a part of jazz music was to give of them-

selves completely and freely, and that is what I am trying to do. Only at that point does the music become you and you become the music.

Interchangeable. Inseparable," explains Paul Mercer Ellington.

Paul's musical mission is to carry on three generations of style and bring this musical experience to a new level. "As much as I can learn from the people around me, hopefully, they can learn energy-wise from me. People are excited to be seeing the Duke Ellington Orchestra, and I try to bring some of that excitement into our live shows," Paul explains, "...the same kind of excitement you'd have if you were going to see a rock 'n roll or hip hop show."

Since the 1920's the musical

exploits of Duke Ellington have become legendary. For over 50 years, Duke Ellington was at the forefront of jazz. He has been long recognized and hailed as "America's Greatest Musical Composer" that has ever lived. With over five thousand songs written, the sheer breath and quality of material more than supports that statement. He possessed a unique ability to write music and had a keen eye for talent.

Upon Duke's death, his son, Mercer Ellington began leading the band on its musical crusade. Mercer was successful as a writer, arranger, producer and musical director. He allowed for the Duke Ellington Orchestra's continued success. He wrote for the band, played in the band, was

conductor, booking agent, and even band manager.

Immediately following Mercer's sudden death in 1996, Paul knew in his heart and soul that he wanted to keep the Duke Ellington Orchestra alive, which he has succeeded in doing. Paul has inherited the family talent for composition, having listed his pencil as his favorite instrument. He possesses the burning desire to create beautiful music and satiate his audiences as his father and grandfather did.

Tickets are \$30, \$35, \$40 and \$45. Tickets can be purchased online at www.communitytheatre.com or at the box office, 100 South Street or by calling (973) 539-8008. Box office hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Two area performers are 'Big Boys'

When you hear the way Al Mohrmann of North Plainfield speaks to his employee, you will realize he has no respect for his subordinates inside a Fortune 500 corporation. He makes them answer to ridiculous names, forces them to work through the holidays and generally makes Ebenezer Scrooge look like a guardian angel. Yet it's not Mohrmann's fault: He can't be blamed for the things he's saying.

On the other hand just who is Michael Irvin? Is this man from Meluchen, not related to the Dallas Cowboys wide receiver of the same name, one of the new guys? Does he really want to be one of the big guys?

Mohrmann and Irvin aren't playing the corporate game for now. As professional actors they are two of the "Big Boys," a comedy by Rich Orloff that has its world premiere this month. "Big Boys" is a co-production of the Long Branch-based New Jersey Repertory Company and the Madison-based Playwrights Theatre of New Jersey.

"We have found that co-productions are an important part of the new play development process," said John Iretowski,



MICHAEL IRVIN

artistic director of the Playwrights Theatre and director of "Big Boys."

Orloff calls his comedy an over-the-top comic fable about what men value and what they desire. He got the idea for the show and some of the dialogue on a bus to the Herkshires from Manhattan while Bill Clinton was in the White House.



AL MOHRMANN

"Conversations continued to enter my head at intervals for a couple of years," said Orloff, who has received a playwrighting fellowship for 2002-03 from the Dramatists Guild.

In its finished form "Big Boys" reached the final round of the playwrighting contest sponsored by Theatre1st at Montclair State University. The show also was a

finalist for the Kaufman & Hart Prize for new American comedy this year.

Mohrmann is no stranger to the New Jersey Repertory Theatre; he played the alcoholic boyfriend of Maggie Rose in "Till Morning Comes." Irvin began his career 20 years ago in Cincinnati and has been in a number of Manhattan-based improvisational troupes.

Set design is by Yoshinori Tanokura with costumes by Patricia E. Doherty. The stage manager is Rose Riccardi of Edison.

"Big Boys" runs Nov. 21-Dec. 29 in Long Branch at the Lumia Theater, home to the New Jersey Repertory Company. Showtimes are 8 p.m. Thursday through Saturday plus 2 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$30; discounts are available. For tickets and directions, visit www.njrep.org or phone (732) 229-3166.

After its run in Long Branch "Big Boys" moves to Madison for shows Jan. 9-25 in the Playwrights Theatre space. Admission is \$27.50-\$22.00 for adults and \$10 for students. For showtimes and directions, visit www.ptnj.org or phone (973) 514-1787.

A cool 'Hot Piano' is coming to Bridgewater

"Hot Piano" is the third concert this season for Jazz In Bridgewater, the monthly concert series at the Somerset County Vocational and Technical School.

The show 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7 features two sets with Bob Seeley, a boogie-woogie piano man out of Michigan, and Mark Uraun, a blues pianist coming to New Jersey for the first time.

"Seeley is a force of nature," said Dick Ilyuun, a veteran of Woody Allen movie* and a musician lit his own right who ultyed at the vu-tot-h school last summer. *m* the

beat boogie-woogie player on the planet."

"When I first heard Bob Seeley ... in the late 1960s, I figured he was probably the best living boogie pianist," added pianist and jazz critic Tex Wyndham.

Braun also is based in the Midwest and over the years has played a number of duets with Seeley.

Admission is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. For tickets in advance, phone (BOH) 538-8000, Ext. nm

The vo*tech school is on Vogt Drive adjacent to the Somerset County Library, about

a half-mile north of Route 22.

Jazz in Bridgewater is co-sponsored by the New Jersey Jazz Society, publishers of Jersey Jazz magazine. Proceeds benefit the Somerset County Vo-Tech School Foundation to support enhanced programs at the vo-tech school.

Funding for Jazz in Bridgewater is in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State through a grant administered by the Somerset County Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Theatre ready to celebrate holidays

MOKRISTOWN — The Community Theatre will celebrate the holiday season with five festive events. Performers range from New Jersey's own ballet company to a wide variety of internationally acclaimed musicians.

"Oh Holy Night, A Gospel Christmas," on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. features the 20-member Joyous Voices Gospel Band and Choir. This choir will have audiences singing and dancing along as they perform well-known Christmas music in a fresh and energetic celebration.

Klezmer Conservatory Band, on Sunday, Dec. 8, at 2 p.m. plays with a lively, creative spirit. America's elite klezmer performers have a richly diverse musical heritage and has impressed audiences of all ages and backgrounds for over two decades.

The Judy Collins Show on Thursday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m. will be a compilation of her well-known music and favorite Christmas songs. There is no one quite like Judy. Her performances are a reminder; without false sentimentality, of the powers of love, trust and healing.

"Babes in Toyland" on Sunday, Dec. 22, at 1:30 and 4:00 p.m. is American Family Theatre's version of Victor Herbert's Holiday Operetta. The performance will include special effects, unforgettable songs and audience participation.

"Hansel and Gretel" on Friday, Dec. 27, at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. is performed by New Jersey Ballet, the state's premiere ballet company. This adaptation of the Grimm Brothers' fairytale comes to life on stage for the entire family to enjoy. Share the graceful magic of the New Jersey Ballet and this timeless holiday story.

Windham Hill Winter Solstice on Friday, Jan. 17, at 8 p.m. is an elegant evening of music highlighting four peerless Windham Hill artists: award-winning jazz and popular pianist Liz Story, jazz-pop vocalist extraordinaire Jenna Mamma and the contemporary vernacular violin and piano duo of Darol Anger and Philip Aaberg.

Single tickets for all 2002-2003 events are currently on sale. Group discounts of up to 30 percent off single ticket rates are currently available for parties of 10 or more for most performances.

Simon play at county college

EDISON — "Broadway Bound," the prize-winning Neil Simon comedy, will be presented by the Performing Arts Department of Middlesex County College on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 24 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center Theater on the Edison campus.

General admission tickets are \$7 and \$5 for students and seniors. All seats are reserved.

"Broadway Bound," the third in Simon's autobiographical trilogy, follows two brothers who are trying to break into the world of professional comedy writing. Meanwhile they have to cope with their parents and grandfather who do not sympathize with their efforts, as everyone in the family is busy with his own domestic problems. The play is based on Neil Simon's own experiences and is filled with humor and tenderness.

The cast includes Middlesex County College students Adolph Marrero U of Perth Amboy, Chris Behan of Milltown, Kevin Kaye of Sewaren and Pamela Del Franco of Edison. Also appearing are veteran community theater players Judie Winik of Kendall Park and Norman Politzintz of North Brunswick. Professor Lynn Winik of Metuchen is the director.

Ticket* may be reserved by calling (732) WMIM9 and utuy be held *i the box office until til* performance.

Theater

ALLIANCE REPERTORY THEATRE COMPANY
 Brook Arts Center, 10 Hamilton St., Bound Brook (732) 469-7700; www.brookarts.org
 "Children of a Lesser God," local production of stage/movie thriller. 8 p.m. Nov. 14-16, 21-23; 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Admission \$15; discounts available.
CIRCLE PLAYERS
 416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway (732) 968-7555
 "Dancing at Lughnasa," local production of stage play/Meryl Streep movie. 8 p.m. Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23; 3 p.m. Nov. 17. Admission \$13 opening night, \$12 other evenings, \$11 matinee. Discounts available.
FORUM THEATRE
 314 Main St., Metuchen (732) 548-0582; www.forumtheatrecompany.com
 "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," local production of Broadway/movie comedy. 8 p.m. Nov. 14-16, 22, 23, 30, Dec. 6, 7; 3 p.m. Nov. 17, 24, Dec. 1, 8; 2 p.m. Nov. 20. Admission \$25; discounts available.
 "A Winnie the Pooh Christmas Carol," or Dickens crosses A.A. Mims. To Dec. 29. Admission \$15; group rates available. Call for showtimes.
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
 9 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick (732) 246-7717
 www.georgestplayhouse.org
 "Dirty Blonde," docu-comedy about Mae West. To Nov. 24. Admission \$50-\$26; discounts

available. Call for showtimes.
THE NEW THEATER Rutgers University
 George St., New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu
 "Tartuffe," Moliere comic-tragedy in English translation. 8 p.m. Nov. 14-16. Adults \$19; seniors, Rutgers alumni and employees \$17; students \$9.
PAPER MOLL PLAYHOUSE
 Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343; www.papennill.org
 "Annie," revival of Broadway/movie musical. To Dec. 8. Admission \$67-\$30; discounts available. Call for show schedule.
SOURLAND HELLS ACTORS GUILD
 Orchard Hill School 244 Orchard Rd., Skillman (908) 904-0489
 "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," early Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23; 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Admission \$7 in advance, \$8 at the door; no phone orders.
VILLAGERS THEATRE
 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710
 "Sweet Charity," local production of Broadway/movie musical. 8 p.m. Nov. 15, 16, 22, 23; 2 p.m. Nov. 17. Adults \$16; seniors, students \$14.
EDISON ARTS SOCIETY
 Edison High School, Blvd. of the Eagles, Edison (908) 753-ARTS; www.edisonarts.org
 "A Night of One Acts," six short plays with young actors. 7 p.m. Nov. 23. Admission \$7.
STATE THEATRE
 15 Livingston Ave.

New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatrenj.org
 "A Midsummer Night's Dream," touring production of Shakespeare comedy. 8 p.m. Nov. 19. Admission \$16.
 "Fosse," revue of Bob Fosse-inspired musicals. 8 p.m. Nov. 22; 3 and 8 p.m. Nov. 23. Admission \$50-\$22.
Sky Shows
RAMTAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 Route 28, Branchburg (908) 231-8805; www.raritanval.edu/planetarium
 "Autumn Skies," 2 and 7 p.m. Nov. 16, 23. Admission \$4.50.
 "Laser Lite," 3 and 8 p.m. Nov. 16, 23. Admission \$5.
 "Best of Pink Floyd" laser concert, 9 p.m. Nov. 16. Admission \$5.

For Kids
TOM CHAPEN
 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24
 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatrenj.org
 Erstwhile host of "National Geographic Explorer"; brother of the late Harry Chapin. Admission \$14-\$12.
MEET THE PERCUSSION
 2 and 3:15 p.m. Nov. 24
 Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Springfield Ave., Murray Hill (908) 790-0700; www.scmcmusic.org
 With Scott Simpson of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$5.
SLEEPING BEAUTY
 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24
 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucaac.org
 Not quite Tchaikovsky, but a version from the 17th century by Charles Perreault. Admission \$10.

Concerts
ALL NATURE SINGS
 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15
 Miller Chapel, Princeton Theological Seminary (609) 497-7890
 Fall concert of the seminary choir. Free admission.
BRATISLAVA CONSERVATORY CHAMBER CHOIR
 7 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24
 Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu
 Slovak ensemble performs with the Kirkpatrick Choir and Rutgers Glee Club. Free admission.
BUCK CREEK JAZZ BAND
 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
 Somerset County Vo-Tech

Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7219
 Marking its 25th anniversary this year. Admission \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.
JAMES L. DEAN
 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15
 Metuchen High School 400 Grove Ave., Metuchen (732) 632-8502
 Saxman/clarinet player leads "A Tribute to Ellington, Basie and Buddy Rich." Adults \$8; students, seniors \$7.
DESTINATION HOLLYWOOD
 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
 Presbyterian Church 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield (908) 232-9400
 Movie music with the Westfield Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$60-\$25; discounts available.
ENTERTAINMENT OF MUSICK
 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17
 Hillsborough Reformed Church at Millstone Route 533, Millstone (908) 359-3391
 "Early musick" with Eugene Roan, harpsichord, and John Burkhalter, recorder. Free admission.

AN EVENING OF DOO-WOP
 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 23
 Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College Route 28, Branchburg (908) 725-3420; www.raritanval.edu/theatre
 Four groups with the music all but abandoned by CBS-FM: The Chantels ("Maybe"), The Dubs ("Could This Be Magic"), The Classics ("Till Then"), The Cliftonaires. Admission \$34, \$29.
THE IMPROVABLES
 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 22
 Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190; www.watchungarts.org
 Improvisation-style comedy troupe. Admission \$5.
JONNYLAMERT
 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
 Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190; www.watchungarts.org
 Headlining the center's monthly comedy show. Admission \$12.
LEFT FIELD
 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 21
 Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-9384, Ext. 331; www.eagleton.rutgers.edu
 "Campaign Songs and Other Music About Politics." Free admission.

KATHYMATTEA
 8 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16
 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatrenj.org
 Presented by the National Ballet of Senegal. Admission \$32-\$20. Related lecture 7 p.m.

ORGAN-BRASS EXTRAVAGANZA
 Noon Friday, Nov. 22
 Kirkpatrick Chapel, Rutgers University, New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu
 George B. Stauffer, organ, plus the Rutgers University Brass Ensemble. Free admission.
RAVEL & STRAUSS
 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17
 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (800) ALLEGRO; www.njsymphony.org
 "Bolero" (from "10") and "Also Sprach Zarathustra" (from "2001: A Space Odyssey"), performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Admission \$72-\$19.

Events
GREENBERG'S TRAIN SHOW
 New Jersey Convention Center Raritan Center, Edison (732) 417-1400; www.greenbergshows.com
 Lionel and other model railroad layouts, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Nov. 23, 24. Adults \$7; 6-12 \$2; under 6 free; scouts in uniform free.
Dance
DancePLUS
 8 p.m. Nov. 22, 23; 2 p.m. Nov. 24; The New Theater Rutgers University New Brunswick (732) 932-7511; mgsa.rutgers.edu
 "The Envelope," "Fanning in Sixes," "Mrs. Etta Baker's Kindhearted Blues," "Three Songs" and a revival. Admission \$16; discounts available.
KUUYAMBA
 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 15
 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatrenj.org
 Presented by the National Ballet of Senegal. Admission \$32-\$20. Related lecture 7 p.m.

Museums
AMERICAN HUNGARIAN FOUNDATION
 300 Somerset St. New Brunswick (732) 846-5777
 Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$5.
 Recent additions "From the Old World to the New World," to

April 20.
CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE Middlesex County Museum
 1225 River Rd., Piscataway (732) 745-4177
 Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday.
 "UnCommon Clay: New Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta Industry, to May 30, 2003.
MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM
 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield (908) 232-1776
 Open 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; children under 6 free.
 "Libations, Socialization, Accommodations: The Colonial Tavern," Nov. 17.
 Thanksgiving dinner, Nov. 24.

Galleries
EDITH HODGE PLETZNER ART & ANTIQUES
 465 Main St., Metuchen (732) 906-6422
 Open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday; 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday.
 Mixed media from Sandy Mezinis, Helen Post and Diane Padovano-Madrid, to Nov. 23.
MASON GROSS SCHOOL OF THE ARTS Rutgers University
 33 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick (732) 932-2222; mgsa.rutgers.edu
 Open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.
 BFA/BA Art Open, to Nov. 22. Reception 5-8 p.m. Nov. 14.
PRINTMAKING COUNCIL OF NEW JERSEY
 440 River Rd., Branchburg (908) 725-2110; www.printnj.org
 Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday.
 Juried members show, to Jan. 18.

RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
 Route 28, Branchburg (908) 218-8876; www.raritanval.edu
 Open to the public 3-8 p.m. Monday; noon-3 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday; 1-8 p.m. Wednesday.
 Art faculty exhibition, to Nov. 21.
TOMASULO GALLERY Union County College
 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford (908) 709-7155
 Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Monday, Saturday; 1-4 and 6-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday.
 "Bearing Witness" from Helen M. Stummer, to Dec. 19.

Irish play at Circle Players

PISCATAWAY — The Circle Players continues its 2002-03 season with "Dancing at Lughnasa," a 1991 play by Brian Friel that was later turned into a Meryl Streep movie.
 Showtimes at the Piscataway playhouse are 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, through Nov. 23 with a matinee 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17.
 Performers are Jim Boyd as Michael, Pat Carpenter as Gery, Colleen Cohan as Agnes, Phil Hochman as Father Jack, Catherine Rowe as Maggie, Gina Vbegeck of Highland Park as Rose, Laura Carey as Chris and Ellen Cusick of South Plainfield as Kate. The show is directed by Amy Levine, produced by Jesse and Bernice Woldman.
 Admission is \$13 for opening night; \$12 for other evening performances; \$11 for one or \$20 for two at the matinee. Seniors and students receive \$1 off at all shows with proper ID. Group rates are available.
 For reservations and directions, phone (732) 968-7555.

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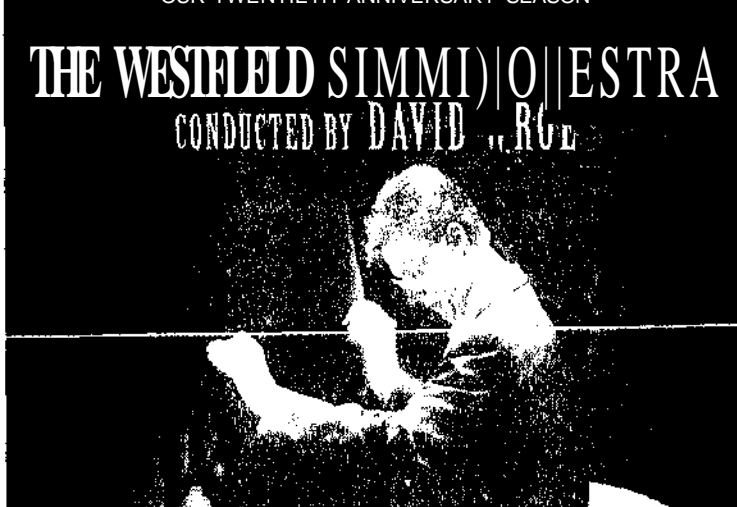
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 DVORAK *New World Symphony*

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 (elyni>grunt>S>Mty)
 Town Book Store
 Cranford: Martin Jewellers
 Scotch Plains: Beautiful Things
 Summit: Pipp's Books

www.wesleld.com

New show at print council

BRANCHBURG — The Printmaking Council of New Jersey has opened its 28th annual juried members show last weekend. The show includes prints, photographs and "alternative media" from the council's members. It may be seen until Jan. 18. Curator is Barbara Madseri, an associate professor at the Mason Gross School of the Arts on the New Brunswick campus of Rutgers University.
 Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday. The gallery will be closed Thursday, Nov. 28, Thanksgiving Day; Wednesday, Dec. 25, Christmas Day; and Wednesday, Jan. 1, New Year's Day.
 For driving directions, visit www.printnj.org or phone (908) 725-2110.

"Oh God, It's George!"
 - Unit Wint/NCSOAY

"YOU'LL BE IN HEAVEN YOURSELF, AT LEAST FOR AN HOUR AND A HALF."
 -BnctWitir/NYTIMIS

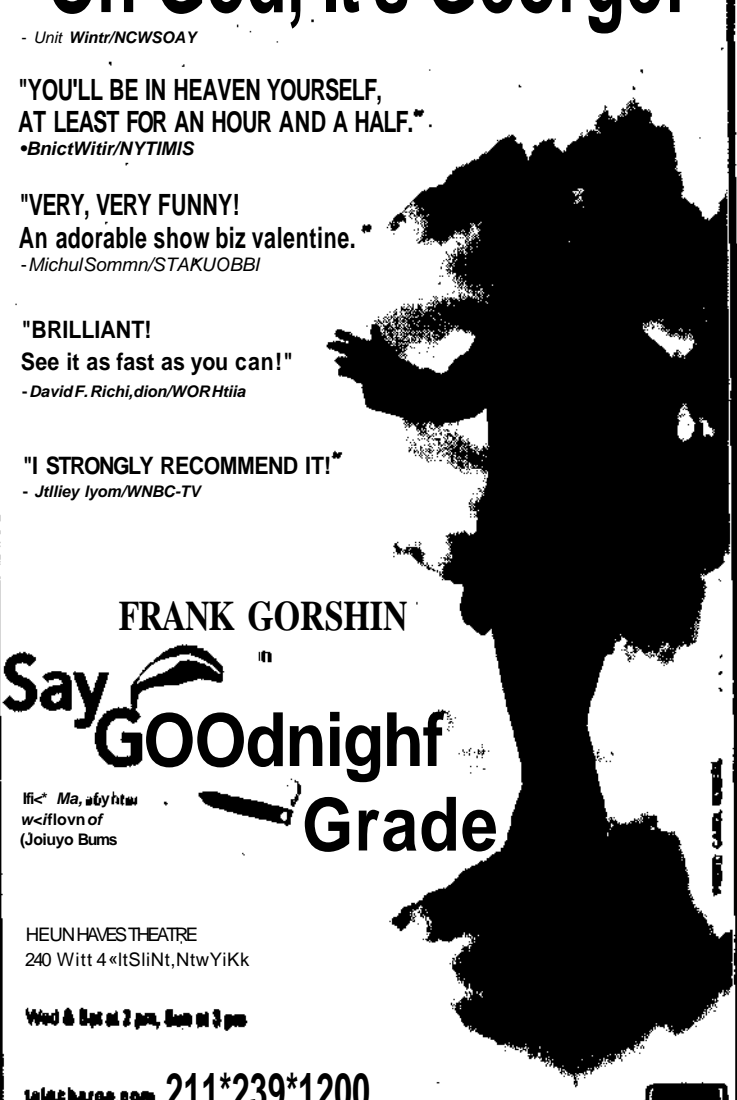
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Thanksgiving dishes for which turkeys can give thanks

By MARQABETKINC
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Despite nil the turkoy talk, Thanksgiving is not just for carnivores. Those who will number vegetarians among their guests can include festive plant-based main dishes on the holiday table.

Patti Tveit Milligan, corporate nutritionist for the West Coast grocery chain Henry's Marketplace, has collected recipes for vegetarian entrees from a variety of sources. She shares these dishes when she gives talks to vegetarian groups.

"Over the years I've kept a couple of good ones that come out well and are easy to make," Milligan said. People can serve them for those folks in their family who don't want to do the turkey thing."

Acorn Squash Stuffed With Quinoa and Fruit is a festive-looking dish that also provides a wealth of nutrients.

"Quinoa, of all the grains, has the highest protein and probably the best profile of minerals," Milligan said. "You combine that with the vitamins in the acorn squash and you have an arsenal to build your immune system."

SCALLOPED PUMPKIN AND SPINACH

6 cups cubed, peeled fresh pumpkin (about 2 pounds)

1 1/2 cups thinly sliced onion

1/4 cup all-purpose flour

2 cups low-sodium vegetable or chicken broth

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/4 teaspoon pepper

3/4 cup (3 ounces) shredded reduced-fat Swiss cheese

1 (10-ounce) package frozen chopped spinach, thawed, drained and squeezed dry

Yields 4 (1-cup) servings.

Preheat oven to 375 F. Steam pumpkin for 8 minutes, or until tender; set aside. Coat large non-stick skillet with cooking spray and saute onion for 7 minutes, or until golden brown. Remove from skillet and set aside.

Add flour to skillet. Gradually add broth, stirring with whisk until blended. Cook over medium heat until thick and bubbly, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in salt, nutmeg and pepper. Combine pumpkin, onion, 1/4 cup of cheese and spinach in bowl. Spoon pumpkin mixture into 6-cup gratin dish coated with cooking spray. Pour sauce over pumpkin mixture and sprinkle with remaining cheese. Bake for 30 minutes, or until bubbly. Broil 3 minutes, or until cheese is golden brown.

Nutritional analysis per (1-cup) serving: 190 calories, 6 g fat (4 g saturated), 430 mg sodium, 15 mg cholesterol, 26 g carbohydrates, 13 g protein, 4 g fiber.

— Nutrition Action Newsletter, adapted from www.cookinglight.com.

ACORN SQUASH STUFFED WITH QUINOA AND FRUIT

4 medium acorn squash

4 cups low-sodium vegetable stock or apple juice

2 cups quinoa, rinsed and drained

2 tablespoons margarine

2 cups chopped apples

1 cup chopped pears

1/2 cup dried cranberries,

2 tablespoons chopped walnuts

2 tablespoons honey

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

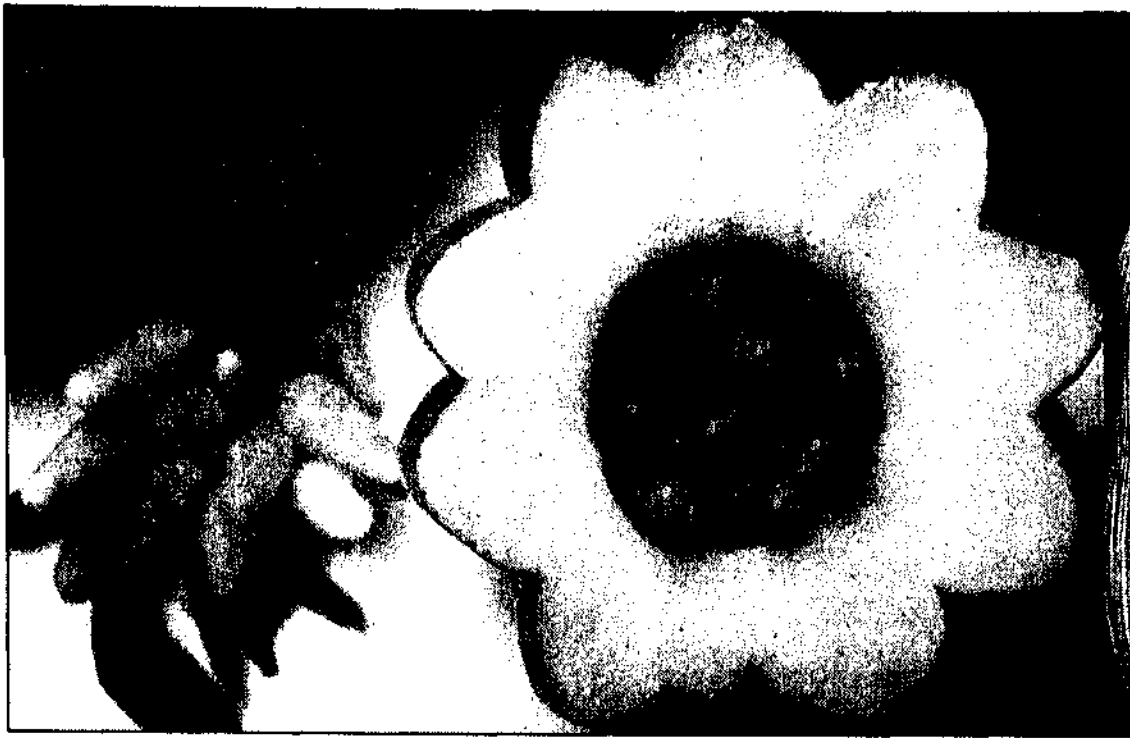
1/2 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice

1/4 teaspoon allspice, ground

Yields 8 servings.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Coat large baking dish or roasting pan with nonstick spray. Cut squash in half lengthwise; scoop out and discard seeds. Place halves, cut side down, in prepared dish. Bake for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in 2-quart saucepan over medium-high heat, bring stock or apple juice to boil. Add quinoa; stir and reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 20 to 25 minutes, or until liquid has been absorbed. Remove from heat and let stand for 5 minutes. Fluff with fork.



Acorn squash stuffed with quinoa and fruit is a festive looking dish that also provides a wealth of nutrients. CNSPhoto.

In large nonstick frying pan, melt margarine. Add apples, pears, dried cranberries and walnuts. Cook, stirring frequently, for 5 minutes. Stir in honey, cinnamon and pumpkin pie spice; cook for 2 minutes.

Transfer to large bowl. Add quinoa and mix well. Turn squash cut-side up. Divide quinoa mixture among squash halves. (If there is any extra filling, place it in small casserole dish.) Bake for 15 minutes, or until squash is tender.

Nutritional analysis per serving: 388 calories (411 with apple juice), 7 g fat, no cholesterol, 12 g fiber, 178 mg sodium.

— Adapted from aboutproduce.com.

TOFU "TURKEY" WITH STUFFING

5 pounds firm tofu

Stuffing:

2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil

1 large onion, chopped fine

1 1/3 cup diced celery

1 cup finely chopped mushrooms

3 to 4 cloves garlic, minced

2 tablespoons dried sage

2 teaspoons dried marjoram

2 teaspoons dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried savory

Salt and pepper, to taste

1 teaspoon chopped dried rosemary

2 teaspoons celery seed

1/4 cup soy sauce or tamari

3 cups seasoned bread crumbs

Basting mixture:

1/2 cup toasted sesame oil

1/4 to 1/3 cup soy sauce or tamari

2 tablespoons miso

2 tablespoons orange juice

1 teaspoon prepared mustard

Yields 12 servings.

In large bowl, mash tofu or mix well with hands. Be sure that all lumps are out. Line 12-inch colander with wet cheesecloth, allowing it to overlap sides. Add mashed tofu to cloth-covered colander, press down and cover with overlapping sides. Place whole thing in large bowl. Cover cheesecloth with plate that fits inside colander and place 5-pound weight on plate. Refrigerate and let sit for 2 to 3 hours.

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When time is up, start stuffing. In large pan, saute onions, celery and mushrooms in 2 tablespoons vegetable oil. When vegetables are soft, add garlic and all other stuffing ingredients, except bread crumbs, mixing well. Stir and cook for 5 minutes. Add bread crumbs and mix well.

Remove tofu from refrigerator and remove weight and plate and unwrap top of cheesecloth. Hollow out tofu, leaving 1-inch shell, and placing tofu you remove into bowl.

Place stuffing inside shell and pack in firmly. Cover with remaining tofu and pat down firmly. Unmold stuffed tofu onto greased

baking sheet, flat side down. Gently press on sides to achieve more oval shape.

Combine all basting mixture ingredients and baste tofu "turkey" with half of it. Cover tofu with foil, and bake at 400 F for about 1 hour. Remove foil, baste with all remaining mixture except few tablespoons, and return to oven for 1 hour more, or until tofu is golden. Remove from oven and baste with remaining basting mixture. Using at least 2 large spatulas, move to platter. Serve with gravy of your choice, if you wish, and cranberry sauce.

— Carol Van de Erve Tracy.

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iThis week

THURSDAY

NOV. 14

PEP TALK — Brendan Tobin, motivational speaker. Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 7 p.m. Free. (908) 709-7272.

New Jersey Chapter, American Association of Individual Investors. The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, 6 p.m. Registration: (908) 276-7337.

RELIGIOUS TALK — "The Theological Mission of Therese of Lisieux." Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 7 p.m. Free. (908) 709-7272.

FRIDAY

NOV. 15

FLU SHOTS — clinic for Cranford residents (rescheduled from Oct. 31). Municipal Building, 8 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 1-3 p.m. Wear loose-fitting clothes. (908) 709-7238.

"WORKING" — fall musical of Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, Cranford, 8 p.m. Nov. 15, 16. \$5. Tickets: (908) 709-6291.

WEDNESDAY

NOV. 20

KIDS EAT FREE — dinner for Newcomers Club of Westfield. Rainforest Cafe, Menlo Park, Edison, 5:30 p.m. (908) 654-5373 or (908) 789-4842.

EARN MONEY — investment seminar for women with Stewart Ritter. The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, 7 p.m. Free. Registration: (908) 789-7827.

SATURDAY

NOV. 16

BLOOD DRIVE — at Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Rd., Union, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Nov. 16, 30. Donor requirements: (800) NJ BLOOD.

THURSDAY

NOV. 21

PASTA NIGHT — at Cranford High School, 201 West End Place, Cranford, 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Adults \$7/advance, \$8/door; seniors, under 12 \$6/advance, \$7/door. Tickets: (908) 709-6290.

"ANNIE" — fall musical of Mother Seton High School, Valley Rd., Clark, 7:30 p.m. Nov. 21-23. Adults \$10; seniors, under 12 \$5 (no discount Saturday). Tickets: (732)382-1952.

MONDAY

NOV. 18

HORTICULTURE — Greg Wolak on creative floral design. Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 1 p.m. (908) 276-5175 or (908) 272-3758.

SUPPORT GROUP — for caregivers of Alzheimer's disease patients. Sunrise at Westfield, 240 Springfield Ave., Westfield, 7 p.m. (800) 833-1180.

COMING UP

PANCAKE BREAKFAST — sponsored by the Garwood Lions Club. The Westwood, North Avenue, Garwood, 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Nov. 24. \$5 donation, children under 6 free.

FOREIGN FLICK — "Monsoon Wedding," megaplex movie from earlier this year. Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave., Cranford, 1:30 and 7 p.m. Nov. 25. Free. (908) 709-7272.

TUESDAY

NOV. 19

INVESTING — meeting of



Cultivating some green thumbs

On Oct. 17, the girls of Brownie Troop 550 planted flower bulbs outside Cranford's Hillside Avenue School. Local landscaping business MCR Horticultural Enterprises contributed gardening expertise and the bulbs, which should brighten the school's grounds with blossoms next spring.

Golden Nuggets SENIORS

AARP Chapter 4269

The AARP conducts its "55 Alive" driving course 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 3-4 at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. All who complete the course are eligible for a discount on their car insurance premiums. You may also be able to have points taken off your driving record.

Fee of \$10 includes lunch. Seating is limited. For registration, visit the Community Center 12:30-1:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, Nov. 14-15.

Non-seniors are also welcome to participate. "55 Alive" is presented in association with the Cranford Municipal

Alliance. Trips sponsored by the AARP chapter:

Wednesday, Nov. 20 and Dec. 18 — Atlantic City (Showboat). Cost is \$15. The bus leaves the Centennial Avenue pool 8:45 a.m.

Thursday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Thursday Club meets 1 p.m. at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Programs:

Nov. 14 — Horse race bingo. **Nov. 21** — Trivia. Bring donations for Cranford Family Care.

Nov. 28 — No meeting due to Thanksgiving. The Thursday Club is spon-

soring an Atlantic City trip Tuesday, Nov. 26 to Caesars. For full information, phone (908) 272-6828. The public is invited.

Members celebrating birthdays are Ruth Oemcke, Jim Rowe, Bob Bishe, Clem Zavila, Lucy Lettier and Mary Goscinsky.

Friday Club

The Cranford Senior Citizens Friday Club meets 1 p.m. Friday at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Activities:

Nov. 15 — Social and bingo. **Nov. 22** — Thanksgiving social.

Nov. 29 — No meeting due to Thanksgiving.

Trips sponsored by the Friday Club:

Wednesday, Dec. 11 — Atlantic City, Cost is \$16. The bus leaves the Centennial Avenue pool at noon. Other trips are scheduled Jan. 8 and Feb. 12.

Tuesday, Dec. 17 — Christmas show at Three Little Bakers. Cost of \$68 includes a complete buffet dinner. The bus leaves the Centennial Avenue pool 8 a.m.

March 16-22 — "Florida

Hospital will display paintings for sale

MOUNTAINSIDE — The Children's Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States, will exhibit the work of the Raritan Valley Arts Association throughout the month of November. Monthly exhibits are sponsored by the Auxiliary at Children's Specialized Hospital. All artwork is available for purchase, with a portion of sales benefiting the Auxiliary.

Admission is free and exhibits can be viewed 10 a.m.-8:30 p.m. by entering the hospital's east wing entrance at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

For more information, please call (908) 233-3720.

Winter Getaway," seven days and six nights. Cost is \$429 per person, double occupancy.

For trip reservations and full information, phone Helen at (908) 276-2849.

Celebrating birthdays are Ann Nardone (Nov. 23) and Mary DePaola (Nov. 29).

Wednesday Club

Activities of the Cranford Senior Citizens Wednesday Club:

Nov. 20 — Bingo. **Nov. 27** — No meeting due to Thanksgiving.

Dec. 4 — Business meeting. Birthdays and anniversaries noted.

Cranford Recreation & Parks Department

These activities for Cranford seniors 60 and older are sponsored by the Recreation & Parks Department:

Monday, Nov. 18 — Movie, "Dragonfly" (2002), 11 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 25 — Movie, "Miracle on 34th Street" (1947), 11 a.m.

All programs are in the Community Center at 220 Walnut Ave. For more information, phone (908) 709-7283.

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Let's Ask Jill
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Proud to help out

Members of Kenilworth Brownie Troop 59 recently presented the borough library with a \$50 check. The donation will be used to purchase books for the library's children department. From left are Emily O'Rourke, Amanda Lopata, Melissa Latorre, Kareema Abdelfattah, Gina Milazzo, Danielle Kleissler, Nicole Katula, Melissa Stryker and Melissa Vorhees. The girls' troop is led by Olga Dressier Milazzo and Carol Ann O'Rourke. Other recent events at the library have included a Halloween craft program and a celebration of Red Ribbon Week, during which borough police led an educational program about drinking and driving.

Software upgrade enhances nurses' ability to provide care for patients

The emergency department, of Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center is the first in New Jersey to install Ibox, a comprehensive tracking system that enables clinicians to create and access online patient charts.

Using Ibox, nurses and physicians can complete charts in real time at the point of care, automatically posting information to patient records.

"Adding the Ibox system to our emergency department is a big step as we strive to continually improve on quality and safety for our patients," said Nancy Fleming, the hospital's vice president and site administrator at the Plainfield hospital.

"Physicians and nurses are able to input information into a patient's chart directly at the bedside, eliminating the chance for potential mistakes," she said. The clinicians are also afforded more time to spend with the patient.

Ibox provides immediate access to electronic patient charts, alleviating the search for paper records. The Ibox system records the exact time a patient is assessed and allows for more than one clinician

to review a chart at any given moment.

Because Ibox has linked documentation from nurses, physicians and patient care technicians, communication among the staff has improved dramatically.

Clinicians can access Ibox from any computer in the hospital, including the 10 mobile bedside units in the emergency department. These freestanding units, which run on 12-hour batteries and can be rolled around, offer the added advantage of increased patient-clinician time. By creating electronic charts at bedside, nurses and physicians eliminate manual documentation and can instead spend this time with patients.

Ibox features custom-designed templates that reduce statistical errors by enabling clinicians to instantly record data, including patient complaints; assessment of body parts; vital signs; procedures performed; medicine or treatment administered; and laboratory results. The system also provides "nursing and physician notes" for free text entry.

Through a historical database Ibox can display records from a

patient's previous visits to the Muhlenberg emergency room. When patients are discharged from the emergency room their charts are automatically downloaded to the medical records database.

Patients go home with a printed copy of their records, including follow-up instructions in English or Spanish. If a patient is admitted to the hospital, subsequent caregivers can easily access, review and add to the chart.

The password-protected system automatically logs off when it is left idle.

When clinicians complete a chart, they sign it digitally; once signed a chart cannot be edited but can be revised.

Ibox has been used by doctors on the Muhlenberg staff since July 2001 to create patient charts. Nursing records were added to the system in August of this year.

"The addition of Ibox has definitely improved the efficiency of the emergency department," said Michele Yingling, nurse manager.

"It's a great thing when you can enhance the patient experience and that is just what Ibox has done," she said.

Health & Fitness

New treatment can help reduce danger of aneurysms

(ARA) - Every 53 seconds someone in the United States experiences a stroke, or brain "attack. According to the National Stroke Association (NSA), the deadliest form of stroke is a ruptured brain aneurysm, also known as a hemorrhagic stroke.

A study recently published in the scientific journal the Lancet found that a relatively newer treatment for ruptured aneurysms, called coiling, reduced the risk of death or significant disability by almost 25 percent compared to the conventional,

more invasive surgical treatment. Yet nearly 75 percent of patients who experience a ruptured aneurysm show up at hospitals that don't have the capacity to do the coiling procedure.

Statistics show that up to 18 million Americans have unruptured aneurysms which may or may not need medical attention. Of those, approximately 30,000 people each year will suffer a ruptured aneurysm, and 10 to 15 percent of them will die before reaching the hospital. Further, more than 50 percent of patients will

die within the first 30 days after the rupture. Of those who do survive, about half will suffer some form of permanent disability.

A brain aneurysm is an abnormal, balloon-like bulging of the wall of an artery, affecting between one-half percent and 5 percent of people in the United States. Many aneurysms are only discovered after they burst and spill blood into the brain.

Before rupturing, most aneurysms exhibit no symptoms. However, an expanding aneurysm may cause headaches, double vision or loss of vision, numbness in the face, or a drooping eyelid. If an aneurysm ruptures, patients often describe experiencing "the worst headache of their life." Other symptoms of a rupture may include nausea, vomiting, double vision or unconsciousness.

Dr. Kieran Murphy, associate director of radiology and neurological surgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institute compares aneurysms to bombs. "We either fix the damage or prevent them from (doing) damage," he says.

Effective treatment of a ruptured aneurysm can greatly impact a patient's outcome. The main goals of treatment after a

rupture are to stop the bleeding, curtail potential brain damage, and reduce the risk of another rupture.

Currently the two U.S. Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments for ruptured aneurysms are surgical clipping and coiling. While both options have been effective, a recent study called ISAT, begun in 1994 and sponsored by the Medical Research Council of the United Kingdom, found that the relative risk of death or significant disability within a year of a ruptured aneurysm was nearly 25 percent lower for patients treated with coils than with surgical clipping.

In fact, the trial data was convincing enough that the trial's ethics committee stopped the trial early after enrolling only 2,143 of the planned 2,500 patients.

During surgical clipping, currently the most common treatment, a surgeon makes an opening in the skull bone and places a metal clip across the neck of the aneurysm to stop blood from escaping into the brain.

Coiling, on the other hand, has been performed since the early 1990s and involves inserting a catheter through an artery in the

leg. An endovascular surgeon then runs the catheter through the body into the brain and fills in the aneurysm with tiny platinum coils.

"Coiling is the placement of little slinjdies that are passed (into the body)," says Dr. Murphy. "We gently fold them into the aneurysm like a ball of yarn one by one and stop the flow of blood."

The endovascular coiling procedure must be performed in a hospital that is properly equipped for this type of surgery. Coiling is also used as a preventative procedure for aneurysms that have not ruptured.

The trial studied 2,143 randomized patients at 44 medical

centers in Europe, North American and Australia. Researchers say that an additional follow-up study will be necessary to assess the long-term results of coil treatment versus surgical clipping.

The National Stroke Association urges patients experiencing any of the symptoms of a possible brain aneurysm or hemorrhagic stroke to call 911 immediately. Patients should also ask their doctors about what facility would be best to treat hemorrhagic stroke. For more information on brain aneurysms and stroke, contact the National Stroke Association at (800) STROKES or www.stroke.org.

Website offers links to cancer information

(NAPSI)-You've just been told that a loved one has been diagnosed with cancer. Your head is swimming with questions. You sit 30 down at your computer, go to your favorite search engine, and type "cancer." The search turns up millions of sites, but an hour later you've looked at a dozen and haven't found what you're looking for. You log off, more frustrated and confused than when you began.

This is the unhappy experience most people report when using the Internet as a resource for information on cancer, according to a recent survey conducted by Harris Interactive. The poll surveyed 1,046 adults, finding that while the majority of Americans go on the Internet for cancer facts, seven in ten respondents (71 percent) say that the sheer volume of cancer Web sites makes it difficult to know where the best source is for online cancer information.

In response to these findings, a team of leading cancer advocates teamed up with Ortho Biotech Products, L.P., a leading pharmaceutical company in cancer care, to launch www.cancer.com-the first comprehensive resource directory of cancer links on the World Wide Web.

More than a year in the making, Cancer.com provides instant access to more than 200 of the most respected Internet cancer sites. All of the sites listed on Cancer.com have been thoroughly reviewed for accuracy of their information by independent cancer advocates and cancer information specialists.

Cancer.com was designed to be logical and easy to navigate. As visitors click on the Web site, they will start on the Cancer.com home page and will have immediate access to menu options covering:

- Types of cancer
• Current therapies
• Information about clinical trials
• Facts about prevention and detection
• Help with coping with cancer
• Treatment of side effects, such as hair loss, anemia and fatigue.

When users click on a selected cancer topic, they are automatically connected to the exact location of a linked site where the information made available is more than just lauding on the homepage. This automatically directs the

number of clicks required to get the desired information.

Cancer.com also provides a comprehensive search function and a series of self-assessment tools" and patient materials addressing some of the most challenging aspects of cancer treatments. Additionally, the physician locator on Cancer.com makes it easy for people to find a cancer specialist in their geographic area.

November is American Diabetes Month

Rahway Hospital Diabetes Self Management Center

Holiday Taste Testing

Thursday, November 21, 2002

0:30 to 8 p.m.

Main (Conference Room)

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please note this is not a meal, just samples

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Pre-registration required by November 14

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SPOTLIGHT ON: SPORTS MEDICINE. Presented by William Bell, R.P.T. LIGAMENT INJURIES. The anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) and posterior cruciate ligament (PCL) connect the tibia and femur, crisscrossing each other inside the knee joint. The ACL controls pivoting motions and is vulnerable to tears and stretching. The lateral collateral ligament (LCL) and medial collateral ligament (MCL) help stabilize the knee from the sides. Rapidly twisting or changing direction and landing awkwardly from a jump are common causes of ACL damage, while the PCL is injured less often. Injuries to the MCL usually involve a blow to the outside of the knee that stretches and tears the ligament on the inner side. While a completely torn ACL will likely require surgery, most MCL and LCL injuries heal with ice, rest, and physical therapy.

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Children's Theater brings Pooh to town

This year's Children's Theatre production of "A Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Tail" is based on the classic stories of A. A. Milne. This timeless story is directed by Matthew Nazzaro of Cranford. Also involved are Madge Wittel of Westfield as assistant director, producer Elizabeth Howard of Cranford, musical director Shayne Austin Miller of South Plainfield and choreographer Jennifer Sara Eisenberg of Cranford. The book, music, and lyrics are by James W. Rodgers, formerly of New Jersey.

This delightful story in which Winnie-the-Pooh and his friends help Eeyore have a very merry Christmas are supported by the Production crew including Tracey Lynn Haskell of Garwood, as Stage Manager and Committee Chairs; Elizabeth Howard and Danielle Einhorn of Kenilworth for Costumes, Danielle for Props, Mary McGhee of Cranford for Set Design and Mary and Art Kusiv, of Cranford for Set Painting, Terry Schultz and Jim Ruff, both of Cranford for Set Construction, Ed Wittel of Westfield for Sound, Anamarie Llanos of Elizabeth for Lighting Design and John Duryee of Cranford, for Lighting.

The cast that brings the characters to life include Ed Wittel as the lovable, cuddly bear Pooh; Jarrod Schlenker of Cranford as teenager Christopher Robin; Marc Ricci of

Cranford as the sad and gloomy Eeyore, the donkey who tries his hardest with no success; Debra Bassin of New York as Piglet, Pooh's concerned sidekick; Kevin Kessler of Cranford as the milk-knowing wise Owl; Tiffany Wilson of Plainfield as the take-charge Rabbit; Carl Brnber-Steele of Westfield as the energetic Tigger; Melissa Loderstedt of Garwood as the very proud mother kangaroo Kanga; Joseph DaSilva of Cranford as Kanga's adorable child, Roo; and an Ensemble of Woodland Animals including Natalie Rothweiler and Luke and Lauren Wittel of Westfield, Jake Forrestal of Cranford, Beth Pindilli of Westfield, Maeve Brady of Cranford, Jeffrey Baumann of Cranford, and Ella Chamis of Roselle.

A total of 15 musical numbers in the performance includes the favorites, "Think Yourself Up," "What Tiggers Do Best," "Dear Little Roo," "Everybody Needs a Friend" and "It's a Winnie-the-Pooh Christmas Story."

Performances are Friday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 7 at 1:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., and 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 8 at 1:30 and 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. The theatre is located at 78 Winans Avenue in Cranford, off Centennial Avenue and just minutes from Exit 136 of the Garden State Parkway. For further information, please call (908) 276-7611.



Testing their skill

Students in Jerian Brockman's fourth-grade class participated in a bike rodeo Oct. 2. The children rode their bikes to school and with the help of Officer Craig Marino and several parents, the students pedaled through three courses to test their control on the bikes.

Westfield considers senior discount

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
THE CHRONICLE

WESTFIELD — With tax burdens threatening to drive some senior citizens out of town, the Town Council is looking into ways to give senior residents a break on municipal services. In an initial step, the council discussed giving seniors a discount at the Conservation Center during a Nov. 6 conference session.

Councilwoman Susan Jacobson, chairperson of the Solid Waste Committee, proposed an annual fee of \$30 for seniors, a \$20 discount from the current price. To help offset the costs, she also suggested raising the regular fee to \$60. Jacobson said that the lower fee

could attract more seniors, therefore increasing the number of permits the center distributes. But other council members said the increased rate for the general public could cause a decline in use of the center.

Town Engineer Kenneth Marsh said he will do an analysis to see how the changes would affect revenue, possibly doing a one-year trial of the new prices. James Gildea, town administrator, warned that a decision must be made soon because Public Works brochures will be mailed to residents in January with cost listings.

Councilman Matthew Albano was cautious about the proposal, saying that the town shouldn't try to make money from the service,

but rather break even. Taxes are already high enough, he said, and services like the Conservation Center shouldn't be a revenue source.

Marsh agreed and assured Albano the fee increase would not create a major revenue source. He said the center loses money and its fees are generous compared to neighboring municipalities.

Marsh added the town raised its bulky waste permit fee last year from \$50 to \$65 and broke even.

Jacobson also discussed the town's recycling services, asking if the council wants to continue the next two years with the current contractor. The council can opt out of the three-year contract, but must notify the contractor by December.

fBriefsT

Alliance hosts driver safety program

CHANFORD — The Cranford Municipal Alliance will host a driver safety program at the (In)iminity Center 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Dec 3-4. The program is geared toward individuals age 50 and older, but is open to other residents.

A certificate for a 5 percent insurance saving on major portion auto premiums or the deduction of 2 points from a driver's record, if applicable, will be given upon full course completion.

Seating for the workshop is limited and registration is required. Members of the Municipal Alliance can register at the Community Center today and tomorrow between 12:30-1:30 p.m. A \$10 check made out to the AARP is required at the time of registration.

Library seeks titles for 'Favorite Books Quilt'

CRANFORD — It is not too late to participate in the "Favorite Books Quilt" sponsored by the Cranford Public Library.

Each square will have a favorite title from the reader who contributed to the covering. Titles from the library's regular collection are being considered.

If you live in Cranford and wish to participate, leave your name, address and phone number at the main desk of the Walnut Avenue library. No experience is necessary. All suggestions are subject to library approval.

For full information, phone John Malar at (908) 709-7281.

Ellen Hess, who worked on a quilt marking the 125th anniversary of Cranford's incorporation as a township, is coordinating the quilt project.

Lisieux lecture series continues next week

CRANFORD — The second lecture in a series on SL Therese of Lisieux is 7 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave.

Ronald Pavone returns to the township to speak about "The Theological Mission of Therese of Lisieux." Admission is free and the public is invited.

For more information, phone (908) 709-7272. The program is sponsored by the Cranford Public Library.

Gift umbrellas on sale at Kenilworth library

KENILWORTH — The Friends of the Kenilworth Public Library are selling their newest gift item: a folding umbrella embellished with the phrase "I'd Rather Be Reading!"

Cost is \$10 for each blue-and-white umbrella. Supplies are limited. To purchase an umbrella, visit the library at 548 Boulevard.

For more information, phone (908)276-2451.

People in Business

Stacey Miller of Flemington has joined UnitedTrust Bank in Bridgewater as a mortgage origination officer for the Cranford area.

Luis Bandelra of Kenilworth

was recently named maintenance coordinator at Sunrise Assisted Living of Basking Ridge. Bandeira is a graduate of the Union County Fire Academy and has served three years as a borough fire fighter.

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Village association holds regular board meeting

CRANFORD — The GFWC Village Improvement Association held its board meeting at the home of Joan Campbell with Sybil Limon as co-hostess and President Marge Bowman presiding.

Josephine D'Arcangelo read a letter of thanks from the Cranford Public Library for a donation of a child's table and chair.

Delores Clarke's group sings 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 at the Ashbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Scotch Plains.

Phyllis Dolin sent 122 afghan squares for Warm Up America. The Literary Club met Thursday at the home of Eileen Cleary to discuss "Silent Lady" by Catherine Cooksan.

Membership Chairman Elaine Hamilton announced that Andrea Augustyn would be installed as a new member at the regular VIA meeting held

Tuesday. Serafina Seiler is collecting cell phones and eyeglasses for the needy. Lucy Lettier is running a bus trip April 10 to Doolan's. Cost is \$55.

Bowman announced that "Canine Companions" pins are available through the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs office in New Brunswick. Each 1-inch pin has a golden retriever with a red collar and red tongue.

Cleary asked for winter clothes for a foster family the VIA is sponsoring. The foster family has two boys, 8 and 4, and a girl, 6.

Marilyn Troiano asked for Christmas donations for three young girls, ages 12-16, at the "House on Fenwick Street." Bring donations by Saturday, Dec. 14.

Eleanor Fakelmann is making teddy bears at her home Tuesday. Anyone interested is welcome.

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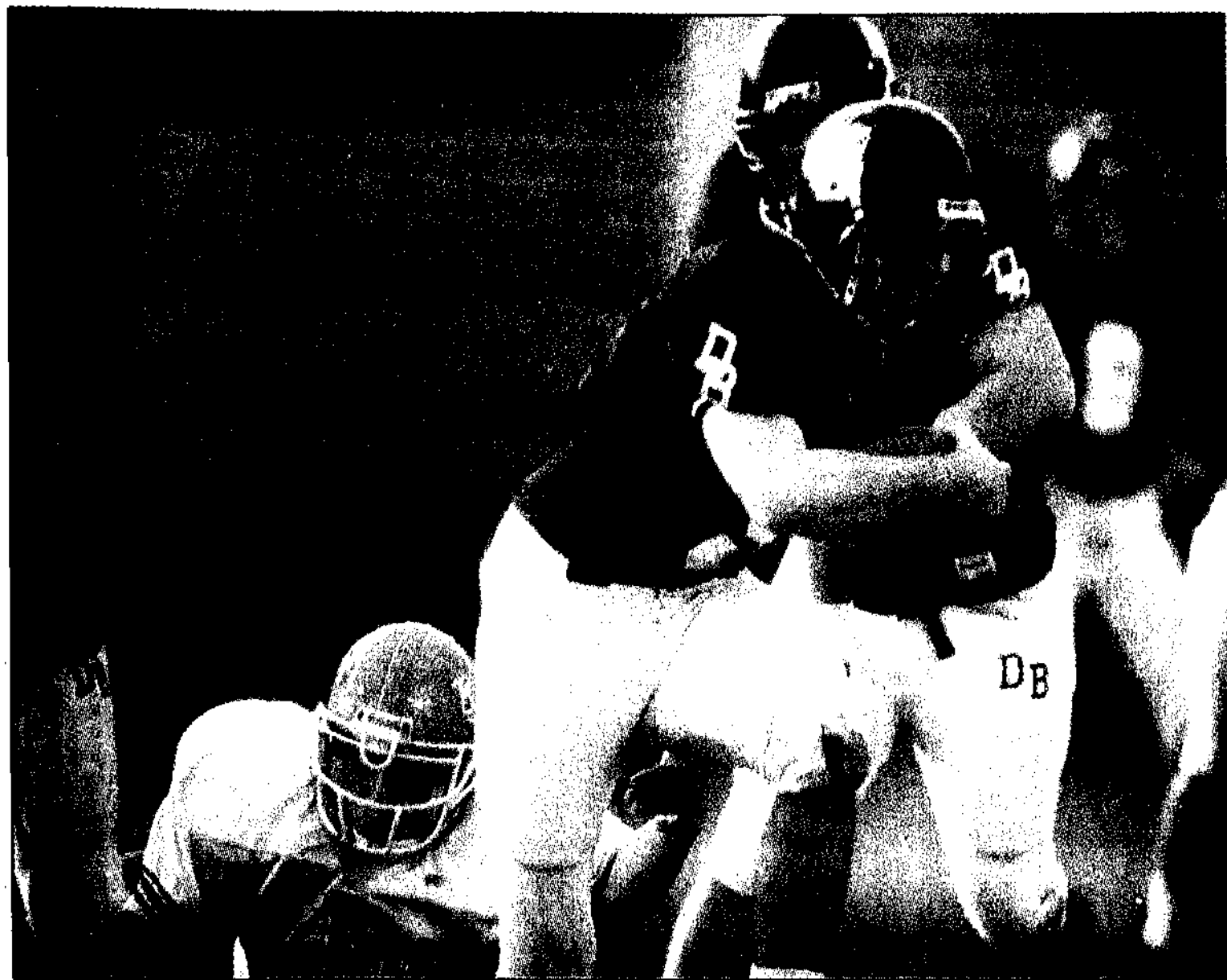
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 - Parsippany/Tarrioh** WW. Nov. 20, 57pm
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Sports



GEORGE PACCIELLO/THE CHRONICLE

Dan Zika ran for 147 yards and four more touchdowns Saturday as Brearley defeated Bound Brook 49-0 to improve to 8-0. Zika leads the state with 180 total points and is closing in on the state record of 254.

CHS qualifies for postseason

Defense, Ingram top Irvington

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Before the season began the Cranford High football team knew success would be dependent on how well it played defense. Saturday it turned in its best defensive performance of the season to accomplish what no Cranford team has been able to in 27 years — a berth in the state playoffs.

With the Cougars' first playoff berth since 1975 on the line, the defense recorded its second shutout of the season and Jamar Ingram scored a fourth quarter touchdown to lift Cranford to a 6-0 win over Irvington and into the postseason.

Cranford (5-3) earned the seventh seed in the North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 tournament

and will meet a familiar foe in second-seeded Shabazz Friday (see related story). Cranford has won four straight and five of its last six games to find its way into the state playoffs — a major step for the program and the culmination of four years of hard work for Head Coach Chris Hull and his staff.

"(The playoffs) is the payoff for the work these kids put in all season," said Hull. "It's what we've been aspiring to do for years. It's like a bowl game in college football — it's the payoff at the end of the season."

"When I got here everybody and their brother said we were wasting our time here. When we had reaching (the playoffs) as one of our goals some people laughed."

(Continued on page C-4)

Rematch with Shabazz next

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

NEWARK — The state playoffs represent uncharted waters for the Cranford High football team but the Cougars at least know what it will take to navigate around their first obstacle.

Making its first appearance in the state playoffs since 1975 Cranford will meet Watchung Conference rival Shabazz, a team they opened the season against with a 27-14 loss. The game is slated to kick off at 7 p.m. at Shabazz's state of the art stadium in Newark. Cranford ruined the grand opening of the stadium with a 15-14 win over the Bulldogs last season.

Shabazz's star running back Amir Pinnix victimized Cranford

for 183 yards and three touchdowns on 43 carries in the opener but was held in check throughout the first half. Pinnix exploded for touchdown runs of 53 and 42 yards in the second half as Shabazz rallied from a 7-6 deficit.

"We tackled him 41 times, but they gave him the ball 43 times," said Hull. "Those two long runs we had him stopped for a no gain but he broke a few tackles and was gone. They're strong and physical up front, but Irvington was the most physical team we've faced and now our kids feel like they can go toe-to-toe with anybody."

Limiting Pinnix's production is the top priority for Cranford, but Shabazz has been able to

(Continued on page C-4)

Bears face Boonton in first round

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

The statistics the Brearley High football team has posted this season are downright scary. The fact that there is room to get better is absolutely frightening.

"The Bears are 8-0 after a 49-0 shelling of Bound Brook Saturday, have recorded four straight shutouts — six on the season — have outscored their opponents 293-15 and are champions of the Mountain Valley Conference Valley Division, and they feel it could have been better."

"We haven't played a perfect football game yet," said Head Coach Scott Miller. "We're hoping that perfect game comes at the right time in the playoffs."

It may not take a perfect game to advance past the first round of the playoffs, but it will certainly take one of the Bears'

best efforts. Brearley earned the second seed in the North Jersey Section 2 Group 1 playoffs and will face Boonton 7 p.m. tomorrow night at Union High School. The Bears last playoff experience was a first round blowout loss at the hands of Cedar Grove in 2000.

Brearley cruised through much of the first eight games, with the only real challenge an 8-0 win over New Providence Oct. 19. Though untested for most of the season the Bears understand what it is going to take to win in the playoffs and are confident they can get the job done.

"We did what we had to do to take care of what was on our schedule," said Miller Tuesday night. "We've had two good days of practice so far this week. The kids are focused."

"Being undefeated and winning some of the games the way we won them the kids get a lit-

tle swagger. It's good to have that confidence going into the playoffs.

"For the kids that are seniors it's really something special for them to be in the position they're in. Winning the conference was a great accomplishment for them. They've put themselves in a position to accomplish something special."

It's been a remarkable regular season for Brearley, which includes running back Dan Zika's chase of the state scoring record, but the ease in which it cruised through the regular season is nothing but a distant memory at this point.

Defense has been the main point of emphasis for Miller throughout the season, and the top priority tomorrow night will be Boonton fullback Bill Biermeister. He's the main cog in the wheel off a Bomber's offense that relies heavily on the run and features a lot of

double tight end sets, and he'll garner most of the Bears' attention.

"To be a good wing-T team you need a good fullback," said Miller. "They want to be physical and run it at you. I think we match up with them well with the size we have. Our focus will be on stopping (Biermeister)."

Offensively the Bears aren't going to try anything fancy. Like they have all year they'll look to turn Zika loose, pound it at Boonton and grind out yardage on the ground. It doesn't matter to Miller if the Scoreboard looks like the Bound Brook game or the New Providence game, just so long as the Bears continue to come out on top.

"I'll take four more 7-0 wins," said Miller. "We do what we do and (running the ball) is what we do best. We'll see if you can stop us."

Nobody has yet, and the perfect game still awaits.

CHS hauls home more hardware

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

ROSELLE — Seniors are supposed to rise to the occasion when titles are on the line and the live on the Cranford High boys cross country team have done just that to lead the Cougars to a dominating championship run.

The Cougars continued to stunk their trophy case Saturday, capturing the North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 crown with a dominating performance.

Air edging Scottdi Plain! for the Watchung Conference and Union County championship; over the last two weeks, the Cougars easily defeated the we oil place Haider; 37 (>4, washing away the bitter taste of last year's one point loss to Mount Olive in the sectional championships.

Senior Ed Clinton paced the Cougar, taking second in 16:53. Senior Tom Flanagan took fourth in 17:11 and senior Mike Bell was eighth in 17:26 to put three Cranford runners in the top-10. Senior Brian Zuravnsky was 11th (17:43) and junior Uriun Brown 12th (17:44) to round out Cranford's scoring. Kienlunun Kevin Brown was 13th (17:45) and senior Stove Swan was 14th (18:06). Cranford's sixth runner* tit before Scotch Pluiiii' fourth.

"(The wmiortf) know how to peak at the right unto," aul Cranford U<ml <Wh K&y White. "We have more itoptli than tScotch i'iuuiis). In the bigger ri>e< depth becomes much more



important."

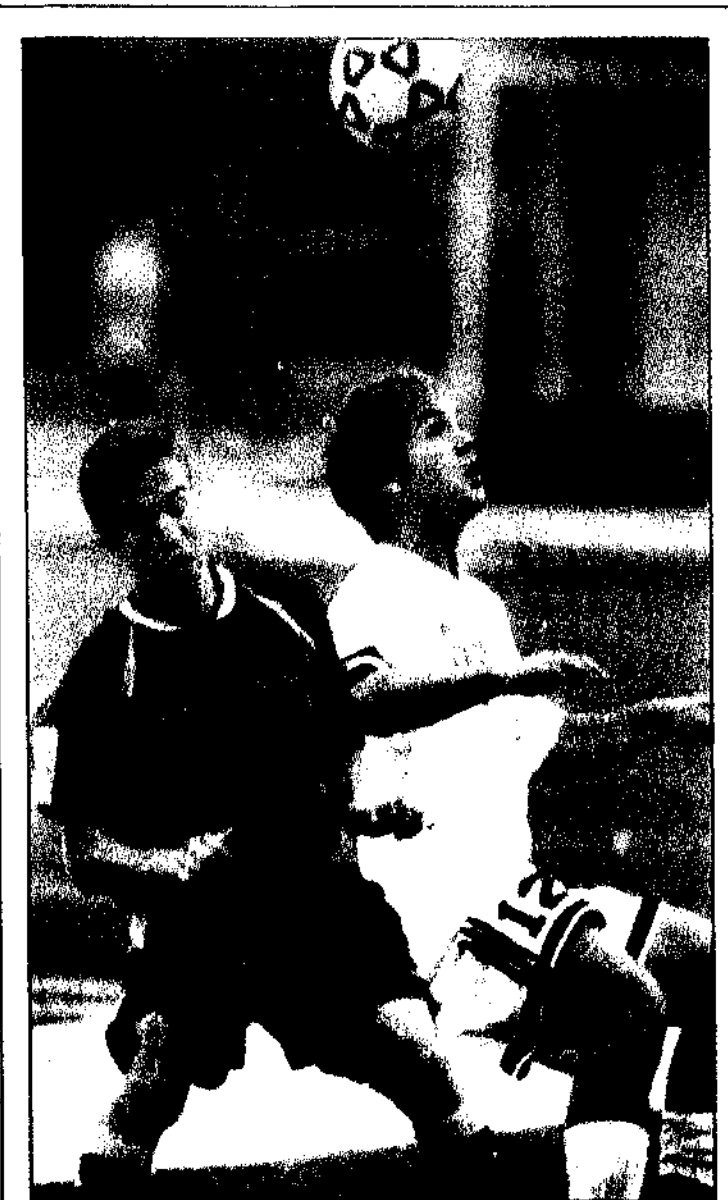
Morris Hills took third with 85 points and Parsippaiy Hills was fourth with 127. Jeremy Zagorski of Parsippaiy Hills won the race in 15:40. Cranford turned in a team average of 17:23, 1H seconds better than Scotch Plains.

Cranford won the race by beating Scotch Plains man-tor-man up front for the first time in the three championship meets. Clinton busted Brian Kopmcki by 15 seconds, Flanagan was two places better than Zack McGuire and Hell was two places in front of Walter Miner. Pete liassinan led Zuravnsky and Brian Brown down the stretch but the Cranford duo passed him over the final 400 meters.

Cranford will have to step up even more Saturday at Hoiudel Park to capture the Group 3 championship. It will be a five-way tussle between the Cougars, Mainland, Middletown South, Red Bank and Ocean City. Middletown South averaged 17:41 to win the Central Jersey (iuup 3 title over Red Bank, which averaged 17:28 but wan without one of its top-five run-HUM."

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(Continued on page C-4)



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Headplay

Cranford's Ntek IMwvW (e<) and Scotch PMm ihytor Colt btWt for the ball during the Union County Tournament final Sunday, tooth ttJnt won the third straight UCT crown 1-0.8<t wrftt up 04.

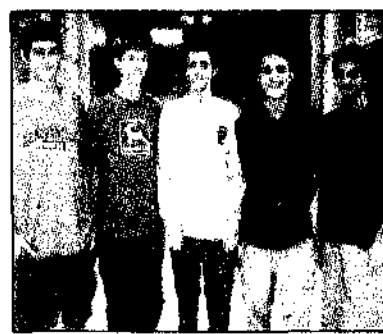
ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

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Bridget Murphy, a junior on the varsity gymnastics team, won the all-around title at the North Jersey Section 2 championships, winning the vault, uneven bars and floor exercise.



The Cranford boys cross country team won the North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 championship Saturday. This season the team has also won the Stewart Memorial, Watchung Conference and Union County titles. Pictured, from left, Kevin Brown, (ik'im Brown, lid Clinton, Steve Swan, Brian Brown. Not pictured: Jojn l-lanarau, Mike Bell, Brian Zuiavnsky.

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NICOLE DIMELLA/THE CHRONICLE
Laura Sofia advances the bail up the field for Cranford in its state tournament game with South Plainfield Friday. The Cougars fell to the top-seeded Tigers 3-1.

Murphy wins all-around crown

The Imnford High gymnastics team may have fallen short of its goals of advancing to the state finals and winning the section, but one Cougar stood out above all the rest.

Junior Bridget Murphy turned in another dominating performance Friday, winning three events to rapture the North Jersey Section 2 all-around title.

Murphy, who was sick the day before the meet and wasn't even sure if she would be able to compete, totaled 36.65 to top Pequannock's Karley Walek (36.2) for the all-around title. She took first place on the vault (9.55), uneven bars (9.35) and floor exercise (9.3). The only slip up came on the balance beam where she nearly fell and ended up with a 8.45.

Murphy now sets her sights on the state championships Saturday at Hunterdon Central. Her all-around total at the sectional meet was the fifth best in the state, despite the slip up on beam.

BOYS SOCCER
When you've won as many Union County Tournament titles as the Scotch Plains-Fanwood High boys soccer team you get the breaks.

And in the second half of the UCT Final the breaks went Scotch Plains way as Cranford controlled play for much of the final 40 minutes but hit two posts and came up empty, falling to the Raiders 1-0 in front of a crowd of 300 at Kean University Sunday.

The Raiders got on the board in the 17th minute when Ed Zazzali lofted one of his flip throw-ins past the goal where it was settled by Taylor Cole, who quickly fed Terrance Charles for a header past Cranford keeper Brian Woglom.

Scotch Plains hit two more posts before the half ended and Woglom came up with some big saves to keep the Cougars in the game.

In the second half Cranford

stepped up its play but couldn't get a shot to find the back of the net. Joe Bultaupt blasted the shot off the right post 1:05 into the second half, then a few minutes later Nick Flamini's header got past Scotch Plains Ricky Fleissner, but caught the right-post.

GIRLS SOCCER
Cranford was knocked out of the state tournament, when

Morris Knolls scored 18 minutes into the second half for a 1-0 victory over the Cougars.

BREARLEY

After a scoreless first half Glen Ridge scored twice in the second half to knock the Brenley High boys soccer team out of the state tournament Friday. Ryan Mulligan stopped five shots for Rearley.

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Rematch with Shabazz next

(Continued from page G-1)

spread the ball throughout the backfield over the course of the season. Barry Pickney and Glen Simpson are both dangerous backs and quarterback Temir Hill gives the Bulldogs and option through the air.

Cranford will have to contain an explosive offense with a banged up defense. Outside linebacker Mike Dollard is out for the season with a knee injury and has been replaced by Lester Manuyag. Inside linebacker and running back Dennis Rasmussen is doubtful and will be replaced by Josh Howard on offense. Lineman Mike Eisert's status was still in question at the beginning of the week.

Shabazz may have gotten the letter of Cranford in this year's season opener but anyone expecting a replay of that Sept. 14 contest better think twice. Cranford has

evolved into a far different football team since that first meeting — physically and mentally.

The starting backfield of sophomores Chris Drechsel, Jamar Ingram and Manuyag was playing its first game on the varsity level and the defensive unit that has been the fulcrum of Cranford's four game winning streak — allowing just 12 points and posting two shutouts in that time — was still gelling together.

The growth of the sophomore class and the melding of the defense has seen the Cougars season turn 180 degrees since that Opening Day defeat. But they're not the only ones to improve. Shabazz (5-3) has posted impressive wins over Elizabeth, Scotch Plains and Linden, all playoff qualifiers, while falling to Westfield, Plainfield and Seton Hall Prep.

"I think we've both (improved)," said Cranford Head Coach Chris Hull. "I don't know if we've

improved by leaps and bounds, but we've definitely gotten better.

"(The sophomores) have grown from rookies to seasoned veterans. We no longer have to worry about how they will respond to the pressure. All of our kids have never been to the playoffs. It's a new world for a lot of people. We're going to make it special, but try to keep it as even keels as possible and play our usual game."

The usual game means ball control and strong defense. Cranford will mix up the run and pass and may have a few new wrinkles to keep Shabazz off balance and honest, but the key will be making first downs and playing strong defense.

Cranford used that game plan to take a 7-6 halftime lead in the first meeting, holding Pinnix to just 33 yards rushing and taking the lead on a 14 yard pass from Drechsel to Rasmussen 23 seconds before the half.

CHS qualifies for postseason

(Continued from page C-1)

From that standpoint it's gratifying. This is why you coach and why you play. You don't coach and play for moral victories, you coach and play to win."

Cranford's playoff berth has been a direct result of the play of one of the best defensive units in the conference, which rose to the occasion again to hold Irvington to under 80 yards in total offense and just four first downs. Cranford's offense struggled to get going but the defense bought it enough time to finally capitalize early in the fourth quarter when Ingram scored from six yards out for the lone score of the game.

Irvington put together its best sustained offensive drives after the Ingram touchdown, but was stymied at midfield with eight minutes remaining and at the Cranford 33 yard line with 1:47 left. With less than 20 seconds remaining the Cougars'

defense held off two Hail Mary attempts to secure the win.

"The strength of this team has been the defense," said Hull. "It's a hardworking crew and that's what defense is — it's about going out there and getting after it. We weren't perfect, but we did what we had to do to win the game."

Irvington answered Cranford's defensive challenge for most of the game, but in the second half Ingram began to find some holes. The Cougars began running counter plays, letting Irvington's speedy linebackers run themselves out of the play, then turned to the power game to push the ball into the end zone. Ingram carried five times for 48 yards and scored from six yards out as Cranford marched 54 yards to take the lead with 11:32 left in the game. Ingram finished with 85 yards, 75 coming in the second half.

X-Country

(Continued from page C-1)

and Holmdel match up closely," said White. "The only difference is mental because it's very hilly. But for every uphill there is a downhill. We practice there every Saturday over the summer which helps us a lot.

"Mainland is for real. They won it last year and have everybody back. I think we've got a good shot if we have everybody on the line and healthy. Mainland is going to have to prove to us that they're the better team that day."

The Cranford girls squad took fourth to qualify for the group championships. Mallory Harlin finished 12th in 21:26, Kristen Ford was 21st in 22:09, Nicole Lordan was 35th in 22:56, Shannon Kileee was 37th in 23:07 and Nicole Cabrera was 39th in 23:10 to round out Cranford's scoring. Katie Piwowarczyk finished in 25:00 and Julia Doty finished in 25:58.

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If What do you recommend for the (el.rction and eradication of termites? I suspect, that we have them.

A. Termites are a common problem. Found throughout the United States, Mexico and in parts of Canada, the heaviest infestations occur in the southeastern United States and the Sun Belt. Two varieties — subterranean and dry-wood — are the most common threat to homeowners. Damp-wood termites, a third variety, rarely damage houses but they may be found in house construction where wet lumber is used.

These pests can go undetected for years and cause major structural damage to your home. They feed primarily on wood, but also attack cardboard boxes, hooks, furniture and plastics. Damage may not be noticeable on wood surfaces, because termites avoid exposure to air by constructing galleries within the material they attack.

Subterranean termites burrow through the ground to find avenues into your home. Wood supports, that connect with the soil, are particularly vulnerable. However, even homes with masonry walls are easily infested by subterranean termites, which build networks of mud tubes made from the earth and partly digested wood. They create these tubes to cross such obstacles as concrete or brick foundation walls and even the "termite shields" provided by some builders.

Subterranean termites can enter your home through openings as small as one-thirty-second of an inch. Typical points of entry include expansion

joints, cracks around pipes, crawl spaces, cracks in the slab, and wooden supports that are in contact with the ground, such as those used for decks. Look for their telltale mud tunnels in crawl spaces or along the exterior of your house.

Dry-wood termites are often harder to detect because the entire colony lives within the house, usually in the beams of attics and garages. Left undisturbed, they can consume the entire inner portion of a board, leaving only a thin outer shell. The most telltale sign for this variety is its piles of pellets, which accumulate under the push-out holes through which the termites clear their galleries or work areas. Look for these scatterings of sawdust-like pellets.

The winged swarmers of both varieties are the reproductives — the kings and queens — and their wings allow them to find new places to colonize. Swarms commonly occur on warm days in spring or fall, often on the first sunny day after a rain. When the swarm alights, the termites mate, shed their wings and proceed to establish a new colony. They do not cause damage, but their offspring do. A pile of discarded wings indicates a well-established colony is nearby.

The best method of detection and eradication is to hire a reputable termite/pest control company. A professional is trained to do a thorough job and knows what to look for. Expect a written report. If no infestation is found, you should be given a written report that says so.

If treatment is necessary, the inspector should present you with a drawing of your house, indicating infested areas. Accompanying the diagram

should be a written report of recommended work to be performed, as well as identification of structural damage, which may exist, and what repairs are necessary.

The report should itemize areas that were not inspected because they were inaccessible. These might include wall interiors, attics without adequate crawl space and slab foundations. The report should also spell out treatment methods and the guarantee — if any — for work to be done, the length of the guarantee, and what you must do to maintain it. Also expect to see a work completion report, which is required in many states by the governmental agency overseeing pest control companies.

Treatment varies with the type of termite and the construction of the infested building. A pest control company may recommend covering an entire structure with tarpaulins and using fumigants to exterminate dry-wood termites, the most accepted method of complete eradication for this variety of termite.

Treatment for subterraneans usually involves treating the soil around and beneath the house with insecticides, and drilling obvious or likely areas of infestations inside the house and injecting chemical protection against further damage.

These are just a few of the common methods of termite abatement. Newer, non-chemical technologies are being developed and are available in certain geographical areas. They range from uses of propane space heaters to raise temperature of wood framing to 120 degrees to killing them with coldness (freezing) or electrocution. All of these eradication methods require professionals. The chemicals and methods available to the average homeowner will not do a complete job.

Even after eradication, swarming termites can re-infest your home. If you live in an area known for termite infestation, an annual termite inspection may be your best protection to ward off expensive repairs in the future.



A newly enclosed sunporch is set off from the formal living room by classic fluted columns. CNS Photo.

Have a home that's both classical and comfortable

By ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q. As much as we enjoy our antiques, we'd love to have a more relaxed family room on the first floor, something less formal than our traditional living room, but not as casual as the sitting room out in the kitchen.

An architect we consulted suggested enclosing the porch and opening it up to the rest of the house, but my husband and I think we'd prefer separate spaces. What do you advise?

A. Have it both ways — open to the eye, but with the contiguous spaces differentiated ever so subtly. Unless you plan a dramatic juxtaposition, say, silk-upholstered walls abutting knotty pine and twig furniture — and somehow I don't think so — the transition can be wonderful.

Here's a home that was similar to yours, with separate, formal sitting room, and a sun porch that didn't pull its weight during the chillier months. Like you, the family loves an open flow of space and activities — it's the way we all want to live in the 21st century.

Their solution is millennia old: classic white columns that suggest separate spaces without blocking either. Down

pany is a young entrepreneur named Jeff Davis (not that Jeff Davis), who felt our collective yearning for authenticity and classicism in — and outside — our homes.

For more info, just dial up the company's name.

Q. Maybe you can persuade me to do something drastic. I figure if I "accidentally" leave our hideous old patio furniture too near the curb on pickup day, it will be gone before my husband notices. By next spring, we will have to buy more.

My girlfriends love the idea, but then I have to come up with suggestions for what to choose. What's happening in outdoor furniture?

A. Such amazing things you may throw away some of your indoor furniture, too, and take advantage of new materials that make new styling both possible and extraordinary.

Just for openers, indoor/outdoor thinking no longer applies. Today's leisure furniture goes out — and can stay out, all winter if you have to — without damaging the comfy "deep seating" (sofa-like upholstery, all-weather fabrics, and trimmings). In fact, some of the groups I saw, at the recent Outdoor Furniture & Accessories Market in Chicago can come right into your living room all year round.

Other ideas as fresh as all outdoors:

— High tables and bar-height chairs! (so your view over the patio railing isn't blocked. At Gloster, they're made of teak.)

— There are extension tables everywhere (Werner Woods' Victoria Park has a self-storing butterfly leaf).

— There's also a new category of tables, — "chat" tables, the industry calls them — which hover somewhere between dining and cocktail height.

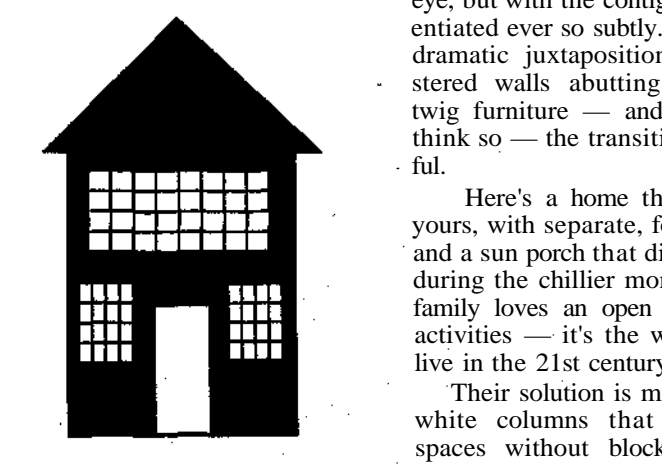
— And keep an eye out for what has to be the hottest innovation on your patio: stoves and fire pits designed to lengthen your time in the great outdoors.

O.W. Lee's Firepit comes with an optional side table to hide the propane gas tank that powers the flames (or hook it up to your natural gas supply). Check out the fun for yourself: www.gloster.com; www.wernerwoods.com; www.owlee.com.



Tucked away, amid towering trees & mature shrubbery this enchanting CRANFORD 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Expanded Ranch captures your imagination. Pegged hardwood floors, vintage tile floors, expansive windows, superb lead glass sconces, beautiful moldings & an exquisite stained glass window craft a home that has a storybook ambiance. A Living Room with raised hearth brick fireplace, Dining Room with floor-to-ceiling bay window, comfy Family Room & an Eat-In-Kitchen with Riitt cabinetry complements 2 spacious Bedroom Suites. The 2nd Floor has a Bedroom, full bath and a generous attic storage space that can be finished to add to your living space. Presented for \$529,000. Contact Faith for more details or to schedule your appointment to view this home.

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15 YK 1-1X1-D	5.375	0.00	1.00	5%	111 DAY	15 YK 1-1X1-U	5.375	0.00	1.00	5%	111 DAY
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Automotive/Classified

Redesigned Viper remains rude, crude — and fast

BY JERRY GARRETT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

The Dodge Viper is the real Tasmanian Devil of the automotive world. Not that creature with a bow tie, in those TV ads.

On sale now in third-generation form, Dodge has invested some effort in sending its new Viper to charm school.

But to little avail. Despite its new clothes, new manners and a new patina of respectability, the Viper remains proudly and defiantly crude, rude and as socially unacceptable as belching in church.

The Viper used to get away with a lot because it was unapologetically what it was: raw, unrefined, uncultured. A concept car come to life, with all its real-world shortcomings. Take it or leave it.

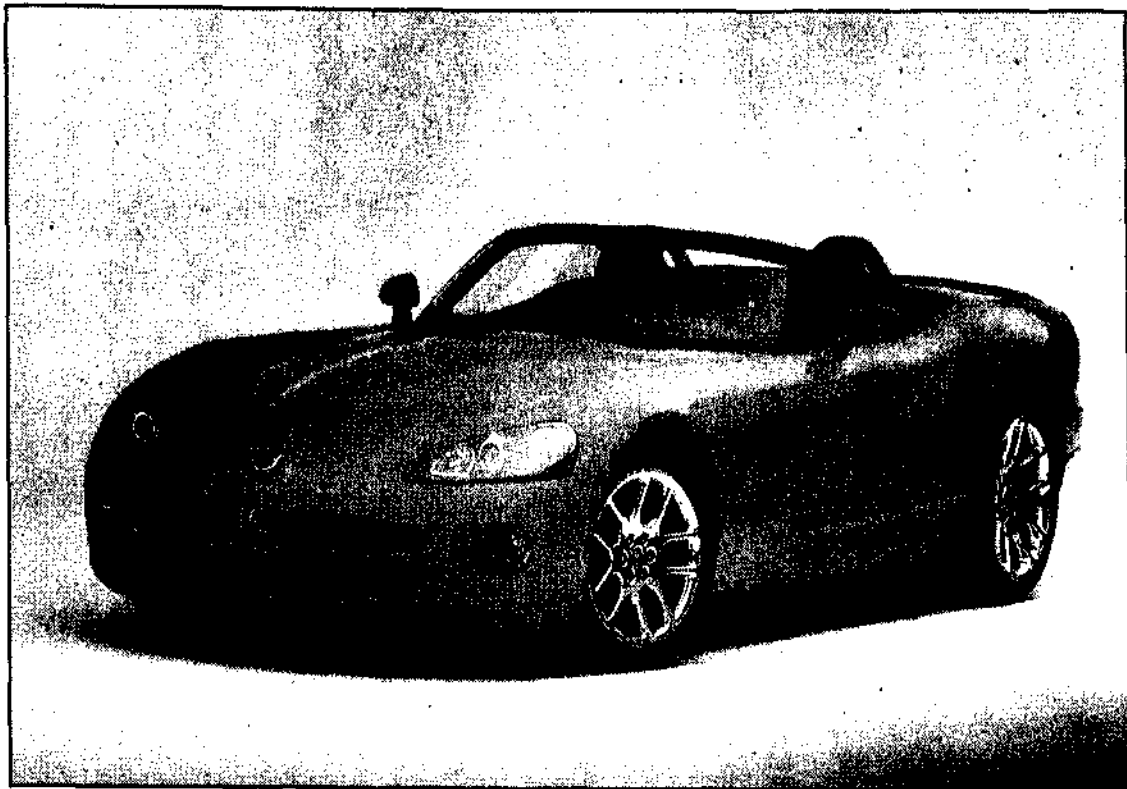
The new \$80,000 SRT-10, a complete redesign set in motion by a goal to lengthen its wheelbase 2 1/2 inches, is an odd paradox. While Dodge has tried to clean up the naughtiest aspects of the Viper's act, it has exacerbated others.

Women said they couldn't drive the Viper because the clutch spring was so stiff that, upon its release, they would be catapulted out the back of the car.

So, the new Viper gets a very user-friendly clutch. In fact, the clutch and brake pedals are adjustable now, and the footwell has even been expanded just enough for a left-foot "dead pedal."

But the new Viper has been made so much more powerful, maybe Shirley Muldowney is the only woman alive who could fearlessly launch it.

"Our performance targets in development were 500 horsepower, 500 foot-pounds of torque and 500 cubic inches," says project engineer Jim Ori. "We went a little over on each of those."



The 2003 Dodge Viper convertible has a 500-horsepower engine, bigger brakes and more interior comfort. CNS Photo courtesy of Dodge.

Oops. Expect about 525 foot-pounds of torque and nearly 520 wild horses from the new 505-cubic inch V-10. Expect sub-4 second zero-to-60 times and an ungoverned top speed near 190 mph. Expect tickets.

Launch power is so great, the new Michelin P345/30ZR19 rear tires — mounted on 13-inch wide aluminum wheels — can dig holes in concrete pavement. (Front tires are a relatively dainty P275/35ZR18 on 10-inch wheels.) Stopping power, thanks to enormous 14-inch Brembo brakes, is almost as extreme.

"Zero to 100, and back to zero," Ori says, "is less than 13 seconds."

That's another reason why the Viper comes without cup holders.

Any attempt to drink anything in the car while moving will likely result in parts of the interior looking like a Jackson Pollock painting.

Besides, a driver will need both hands on the wheel at all times, to wrestle the Viper to follow a straight line. Despite a new power-assisted rack and pinion steering system, the front tires follow every imperfection in the road, wherever they might lead, at just about any speed. Excessive "bump steer" was the consensus of several fellow writers.

Under hard acceleration, the front end on our test-model seemed to float increasingly, and from 100 mph to about 140, the front wheels seemed to be barely touching the pavement. There,

our adrenaline gave out and fear regained control of the throttle. Flashbacks to the early Audi TT came to mind, before they were all recalled to put a rear spoiler on.

But any rear spoiler on a Viper would rob it of top-end speed and reduce its "Top Gun" status perilously close to the output of the dreaded Z06 Corvette (costing \$33,000 less).

An older RT-10 running alongside seemed much more planted — and a lot lower.

Part of that is because Dodge raised the rear deck to create room for the new hideaway retractable top. That in turn necessitated a trunk big enough to store it in, while retaining a modicum of storage capacity. (The spare and jack are gone, thanks

to run-flat tires.)

The result is a car that seems about 6 inches higher, although Ori said he's aware of no increase in the new Viper's center of gravity.

That's even taking into account a two-inch higher hip point for seating. Although you no longer feel like you're falling into an open manhole when tying to enter the cockpit, the new, more aggressively sculpted seats are surprisingly cramped for anyone wider than about 200 pounds — considerably less than the Viper's traditional "old fat cat" demographic.

However, if you're petite enough to wedge your shoulders between the back cushion bolsters, you're in for a well-supported driving position.

It's possible now — thanks to new gearing, throttle settings and kinder, gentler clutch engagement — to operate the Viper at low speeds, and around slow corners. Sitting in traffic, or dawdling along behind a wheezing Winnebago, the Viper no longer lopes like an idling Top Fuel dragster.

In the unlikely event of a break in today's ubiquitous bumper-to-bumper traffic, it is possible to exploit the opportunity with a fury sudden enough to make the lines on the road mere reference points, meant for lesser vehicles.

But isn't it nice to know you have the power to pass safely when you need it? And the 220-mph speedometer is just for show, right?

And what about that six-speed manual transmission? Why? You can drive all day in first gear alone, all the way up to the legal speed limit. You'll seldom ever get beyond third gear. Even on an autobahn, you'll never need to use fifth gear, much less sixth.

Put another way: At 110 mph

in sixth gear, the engine is at 1,500 rpm — barely above idle!

If you want to lug it along like that, it's OK, because as Ori points out, even at that low rpm number, the engine is already making 90 percent of its peak torque.

But it's a good idea to keep the Viper moving along at a pretty good clip, because the slower it's driven, the more cockpit occupants are likely to feel like rotisserie chickens.

Blast-furnace-caliber heat roils up from the side-mounted exhausts, from under the car, out of the 10 tony-looking hood louvers and places you can't even track.

One tester said her CD nearly melted in the new six-disc changer (Viper's one concession to creature comfort). If you've ever sat on a Harley in summer traffic, know that the new Viper feels five times hotter.

Early testers were, told the Sahara-like scorching was due to lack of heat dissipation panels on prototype models. But our late pre-production versions merited no such disclaimer from Dodge, and no promise for further relief once production ramps up.

Dodge, ostensibly not worried these niggling problems will hurt sales, expects the new Viper to be much easier (and therefore more economical) to assemble, due to some 45 new chassis pick-up points that facilitate bolt-on modules for full assembly.

Nostalgically to some, the new Viper no longer looks like the haphazard pile of hand-hammered parts that gave the original Viper such an endearing homemade look. It is now sleek and slick, likely to appeal to a different demographic than the 11,750 or so middle-age males who have purchased the 12,000 made since its introduction in 1992.

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VIN #XA33223, SIK KEVP0262, 4 DR, 4 cyl., auto, a/c, p/ABS/windsh/ks/mirrs/TS, amfm/cass, cruise, sunroof, alloys, 47,398 mi. \$1860.28 down + 1st mo. pymt + \$895 bank fee = \$3054.28 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/Residual: \$11,661/\$9300.

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VIN #XA062983, 4 DR, 5 spd., a/c, p/windsh/ks/seals, sunroof, leather, cd playlet, black, 32,536 mi. \$1965.82 down + 1st mo. pymt + \$895 bank fee = \$3160.82 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/Residual: \$11,661/\$10,600.

'99 Audi A6 2.8 Quattro

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Buy for **\$21,500**

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VIN #N001733, auto, a/c, p/windsh/ks/seals, hi seats, cd playlet, sunroof, alloys, 44,000 mi. \$1965.82 down + 1st mo. pymt + \$895 bank fee = \$3160.82 due at signing + tax & MV fees. Total pymts/Residual: \$11,661/\$9300.

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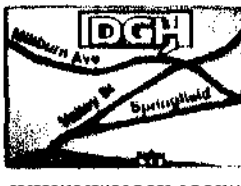
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A12.700

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NEW 2002 CHEVROLET Impala LS



***19.746**

Automatic, 6 cylinder, p/s, p/b, air cond, 4 door, leather, 24 hr rdside assist, keyless entry, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, cassette w/CD, rear defrost, sunroof. MSRP: \$25,101. Vin#29376925. Stk#3524. Price includes: \$3500 Factory Rebate, \$1455 Dealer Discount and \$400 College Grad Reb (if qual).

NEW 2003 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO SS



\$21.004

2 door, 6 cylinder, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, dual airbags, leather, buckets, 24 hour rdside asst, cc, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, cassette w/CD, rear defrost. MSRP: \$26,740. Vin#39126616. Stk#3627. Price includes: \$3750 factory rebate, \$1688 Dealer Disc, \$400 college graduate (if qual) & \$750 Lease-Loyalty Reb (if qual).

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4 dew 6 cyl, automatic, p/steering, p/brakes, rear heat & air conditioning, dual airbags, 24 hr rdside asst, cruise, tilt, tint, p/windows, p/locks, CD, rear defrost. MSRP: \$28,080. Vin#3D157254. Stk#3802. Price includes: \$3750 Factory Rebate, \$1812 Dealer Disc, \$400 college graduate (if qual) & \$750 Lease-Loyalty Reb (if qual).

1998 CHEVROLET PRIZM \$6762



Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder engine, p/steering, p/brakes, air, dual airbags, buckets, cassette, tint, rear defrost. 45,743 mi. Vin#WZ411538.

2000 CHEVROLET Csh/auer \$7642



Automatic transmission, 4 cylinder, p/steering, abs, air conditioning, airbags, rear defrost, cassette, tinted glass. 22,350 miles. Vin#Y7237010

1999 CHEVROLET Vbodtui \$9850



Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder, p/steering, p/brakes, air conditioning, rear defrost, dual airbags, bucket seats, cassette, tint, 27,939 mi. Vin 1X6155211.

1999 CHEVROLET UEHTUFE \$12,956



7 Pass, auto, 6 cyl, p/steering, p/brakes, air cond, p/windows, p/locks, rr defr, dual airbags, cassette, tint, cc, tilt, 34,215 ml. Vin#XD239555.

2001 CHEVROLET Impala \$14,953

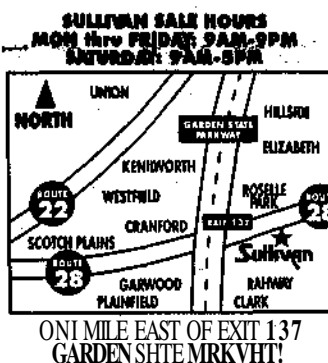


Automatic transmission, 6 cylinder engine, p/s/b, air cond, p/w, rear defrost, airbags, tint, cruise control, tilt, 24,245 ml. Vin #19339254.

2001 CHEVROLET BLRZER \$16,976



Auto trans, 4x4 6 cyl, p/s, p/b, air cond, p/windows, p/locks, p/r riser, rear defrost, dual airbags, cassette, leather, sunroof, cruise, tilt, tint. Vin#12151999. 23,650 ml.



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