

Automotive/Classified

Toyota Gen Y cars are nimble, but not radical

BY JERRY GARRETT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Hype and hyperbole in abundance accompanied Toyota's announcement a couple of years back that it would soon launch an all-new, youth-oriented Scion car line.

Anything up to and including the re-invention of the wheel was anticipated. Bland is banned, the ad campaign decreed. Prepare for the unconventional. But when Scion finally begins its limited rollout this summer, prospective customers will find the wheels are still round, the engines are in their usual places, and humans sit inside in normal seats, not beanbag chairs.

In fact, there's nothing much new at all about Scion's first two models: the xA and the xB; they've been here for sale in Japan for some time — as Toyotas.

What's unexpected is that Scions will be sold in the United States at Toyota dealerships.

The idea of a separate dealership network, which Toyota commissioned when it spun off its Lexus luxury division 12 years ago, was initially appealing. But two obstacles prevented that.

Scion's rollout is going to happen so slowly, fledgling dealers would likely starve before the first true Scion product emerges from the pipeline in a year or so.

It will be hard to make much profit off cars priced as cheaply as Scions will be. Overall, the pricing's got to be the best news for anyone interested in a Scion.

The cute xA carries an MSRP of just \$12,480; the quirky xB goes for \$12,200 more for \$13,680 for readers without a calculator.

More good news: those prices include air conditioning, a premium audio sys-

tem, power amenities and ABS brakes. As Toyota is quick to point out: "... this is the same level of equipment found on ... the Camry LE."

The biggest differences are that the ubiquitous Camry is about twice as big, has a V-6 and there are at least six of them waiting at any given time at any intersection in the United States.

The Scion, meanwhile, has it all over the Camry when it comes to "hip," "rad" or "light." Or at least Toyota hopes it does.

If indeed the Scion proves to be all these things, however, that's where the trouble might begin. Will dealers see an opportunity to mark them up a little (or a lot), as history has shown us can happen with must-have rides such as the Mini, the PT Cruiser, the Hummer H2 or almost any Harley-Davidson?

To participate in selling Scions, some 104 (out of 133) Toyota dealers in California, where the yearling national rollout begins this summer, had to sign the "Scion Covenant."

It reads more like a peace treaty between Toyota and its dealers, but it's really a guarantee of Zen-like sales practices between Scion and its buyers.

Toyota is delicately trying to keep the sales process on track by promising shoppers the chance to "build" their dream Scion on the Internet, print out the pricing, and take it to a dealer who will cooperate on transaction price and options.

Although Scions will come fairly well loaded, plenty of options are available



When Scion finally begins its limited rollout this summer, prospective customers will find the wheels are still round, the engines are in their usual places, and humans sit inside in normal seats, not beanbag chairs.

(although neither as many nor as much fun as those for the Mini) to personalize each car.

To make sure Scions remain affordable to their target audience — and that option pricing stays close to MSRP — Scion will offer something of an industry first: dockside installation.

That will be done by the manufacturer rather than the dealer, although the dealer can still do installations; the process is just something designed to help keep pricing consistent.

But why is all this tippy-toeing with buyers so important?

Because Toyota figures most Scion customers will be Gen Y or female first-timers. Surveys show that these people are skittish as raccoons in daylight when it comes to the sales process.

To soothe these fears, Toyota promises a separate "Scion Discovery Zone" (paint-ball rounds not included) within Toyota dealerships. Shoppers can go explore without being approached by salesmen.

And salesmen are supposed to be Scion-specific, distinguished, perhaps, by their multiple piercings and body art.

And Scion buyers can actually apply for their loans online.

If all that works harmoniously, Scion owners can expect an enjoyable owner-

ship experience. In our recent short test drive, both Scion models proved to be nimble and peppy.

The attention-getter (garnering almost too much attention on our ride) was the cubist creation, the xB, which is like a shrunken Honda Element sans the cladding.

In Japan, where it's known as the bB, this quintessential Tokyo cocombo is inexorably considered highly fashionable. No telling how it will play in Ponca.

The xA, called the 1st in Japan, is an appealing, if somewhat generic package that is guaranteed to turn far fewer heads.

Each is powered by the same 1.5-liter motor that comes in the underpowered Toyota Echo. Despite only being capable of generating 108 horsepower and 105 foot-pounds of torque, the cars feel zippy (the xB more so) because they're so small and light.

The xA and the xB each get mid-30s in miles per gallon of regular unleaded gasoline. And isn't this a clever ploy to be introducing a car with this kind of economy?

"When these cars were introduced in Japan," noted chief engineer Tetsuya Tada, "sales went crazy — nearly double the number (48,000) we had projected."

2004 Scion

Body style: Sub-compact four-door hatchback
Drive system: Front-wheel
Engine size & type: 1.5-liter, 4-cylinder, DOHC, with VVTi
Horsepower: 108 at 6,000 rpm

Torque: 105 foot-pounds at 4,200 rpm
Transmission: 5-speed manual (4-speed automatic optional)
Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph 8.7 (xB manual), 8.9 (xA manual)
EPA fuel economy estimates: 30 mpg city, 33 highway xB manual; 30/34 xB automatic, 31/37 xA manual

Fuel tank capacity: 11.9 gallons; regular unleaded recommended

FEATURES

Standard equipment: Air conditioning, premium audio system, tilt wheel, rear defogger/wiper, ABS brakes and power windows, mirrors and door locks.

Safety features: ABS, dual power front air bags, side curtain air bags, first-aid kit and 3-point belts with pretensioners, force limiters, height adjusters and retractors.

CHASSIS

Brakes: front disc, rear drum with ABS, EBD (plus traction control, xB)

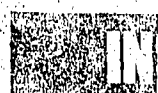
Steering: Power rack and pinion
Suspension: Front — independent, with MacPherson struts. Rear — independent with torsion bars, trailing arms, stabilizer bar.

Tires and wheels: P185/60 R15-inch, with steel wheels

PRICING

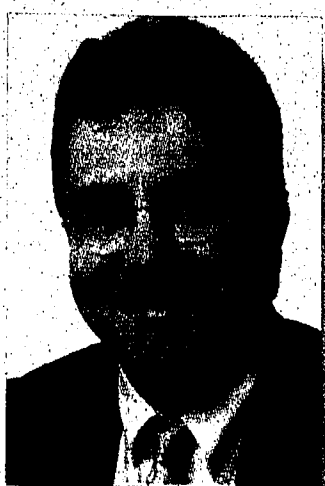
Base prices: xA \$12,480 (automatic, \$13,280); xB: \$13,680 (automatic, \$14,480).

Vol. 115, I



It's a snap

Brearey High School graduate Steve Washuta takes snaps during practice for the annual Snapple Bunsicle, held July 17 in East Brunswick. The all-star event features four Brearey alumni and two graduates of Cranford High School. For the full story, see Page C-1.



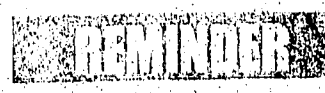
What's up? This doctor is

Cranford resident Joaquim Correia has been named one of the "Best Doctors in 2003" by New York Magazine. Correia is Physician Director for Critical Care and the Telemedicine Units at Saint James Hospital in Newark. For more on his accomplishments, turn to Page A-5.



Cranford Scouts receive honors

Members of the Cranford Girl Scout Community were recently bestowed Silver and Gold Awards in honor of their achievements. For more on the Court of Awards ceremony, turn to Page B-1.



Railroad discussion in Kenilworth

A public forum on the pending reactivation of the Staten Island and Rahway Valley railroads across Union County will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday at Kenilworth Borough Hall, 367 Boulevard. For more information, call Borough Hall at (201) 276-3051.



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Cranford Chronicle

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Much work remains on EMS talks

By LAUREN TRAINER and GREG MARX
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — While there have been some recent developments in the negotiations on an operating agreement between the township and the First Aid Squad over delivery of emergency medical services, the two sides remain far apart.

Township officials and the squad are still negotiating the contract that will determine what role the township will

have in the provision of emergency medical care and how the financial burden will be shared.

Earlier this year, the township submitted a 1½-page proposal which stipulated the township would partially pay for gas, electricity at the First Aid building, and medical supplies, among other things.

As of three weeks ago, the township had received little in the way of a response to the proposal. Since then, the First Aid Squad has made a counterproposal — a

20-page draft that has yet to be the subject of serious negotiations between township officials and First Aid Squad representatives.

Squad President Jane Zawodniak said the draft was so lengthy because it addressed many state requirements that the township's proposal did not. According to Zawodniak, there are numerous conditions regulated by the state that will have to be met soon, whether the two sides reach an agreement or not.

"I think it is kind of unfair to put that burden on the town that is trying to help in the midterm because it has a lot of regulations," Zawodniak said.

Though specifics on the differences between the two sides were not available, the discrepancy in the length of the documents reveals just how far the parties must come in negotiations, and how different their perspectives are. Indeed, one

(Continued on page A-2)



JOHN FEICORRESPONDENT

July 4 extravaganza in Cranford

July 4 marked the return of two annual traditions to Cranford — the Firecracker Four-Miler road race sponsored by the Jaycees and the canoe races hosted by the Recreation and Parks Department. Above, four friends from Cranford help each other get ready for the Four-Miler in Nonahegan Park; from left are Shannon Paster, Kara Gianecchini, Jess DiDonato and Christine Schmitt. Right, Johnathan Denci of Cranford gets some last minute tips from his father Joe before dipping his paddle at the canoe races. For more pictures of the canoe event, turn to Page B-1, and for a full account of the Four-Miler, see Sports on Page C-1.

Goose gassing elicits mixed public response

County exterminates fewer birds than permits allowed

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

Union County officials exterminated more than 700 Canada geese last week, far less than the 2,700 birds the county's contract with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) authorized them to remove from park and recreation sites.

Although the county had obtained a permit to eliminate the geese from seven sites, workers actually only destroyed birds in Wanaquo Park in Elizabeth and Roselle, Echo Lake Park in Mountainside and Westfield.

Nonahegan Park in Cranford, and Rahway River Park in Clark and Rahway, said spokesperson John Salerno.

"You can't always do the roundup," Salerno said. "Some places are impractical — geese tend to vanish."

While the county exterminated many fewer geese than permitted, Salerno said the effort met the goal of reducing the population. There are no plans to gas more geese this year, and the county would have to reapply for the permit in future years.

Hanif Skinner of Newark, who

(Continued on page A-2)

Cranford plans parking changes

By GREG MARX
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The Township Committee is expected to adopt a number of ordinances Tuesday that are part of a broader effort to rationalize parking in the downtown.

Two of the ordinances would create 18 nine-hour permit spaces for downtown employees on the outskirts of the business district. They include the conversion of 10 underutilized two-hour meters on Eastman Street near the Post Office, the conversion of four existing four-hour meter spaces on Main Street, and the creation of four new spaces on Main Street near Cleveland Plaza.

Another ordinance would convert 15 underutilized two-hour meters along South Avenue East to four-hour meters, designed for use by part-time employees or shoppers on extended trips.

The new regulations are intended to provide more long-term parking for downtown employees ... in locations that are on the periphery of the downtown, ... said.

Downtown Management Corporation Director Kathleen Miller Prunty said the new spaces should no longer be parking in the two-hour meter spaces in Lot 7 and on streets in the center of the downtown. And "when business

(Continued on page A-2)

Author highlighted in popular children's magazine

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Laura Sassi tells a story about a languid grey squirrel sprawled on the deck behind her home one sunny day in January.

She was curious about the way it just seemed to lay there, doing nothing, while every other animal seemed to be doing the things they do to keep themselves alive in the winter.

So Sassi called the animal rescue squad. The squirrel scooted away. She called her friend, a baby animal rescuer. Turns out the squirrel was merely playing the bill of a alive, sunning herself on an open surface and maybe even taking it easy while combating the aches and symptoms of a squirrel pregnancy.

What was remarkable is not that Sassi saw something unusual and checked it out, but that she remembers to tell the story whenever she can, and further point out that red squirrels — not grey squirrels like her porch friend — are the only species of animal that deliberately harvests maple syrup.

Sassi is not a naturalist. She is an author, and her squirrel discovery led her to write a story for Boys' Quest magazine and consider where else her new knowledge could take her.

That episode is just one chapter of a promising career in children's literature.

"The history and teacher in me got me into legends. As I read, I collected different versions of the story. I enjoyed the trail they traced and bringing them to life."

— Laura Sassi, children's author

dren's literature. In her latest effort, "The Greedy Spider," readers tag along with Anansi, the troublemaking, arachnid of African folklore. In Sassi's retelling, which can be found in the July issue of Highlights for Children, Anansi has gotten himself into another dilemma.

"The history and teacher in me got me into legends," Sassi

said about the story. "As I read, I collected different versions of the story. I enjoyed the trail they traced and bringing them to life."

Sassi began her literary career when she was a fourth grade teacher for one year at Orange Avenue School. One day she decided to show her kids her initial effort.

"I was kind of disappointed in their reaction. They were like, 'Oh, that's cute,' but that wasn't exactly what I wanted to hear."

But the children's opinions didn't deter her. And after her son Will was born, Sassi devoted her free time and boundless energy to writing while her son, now 2, was napping.

So far Will has taken enough naps for Sassi to be published in the children's magazines Clubhouse Jr., Boys' Quest, Highlights and Hopscotch for Girls. She was also the grand prize winner of the 2002 Institute of Children's Literature history profile contest.

(Continued on page A-2)



Children's author Laura Sassi, shown here outside her Cranford home, has written a story about Anansi the Spider for the July issue of Highlights for Children.

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Resident seeks to divide lot at Lincoln, S. Union

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The Planning Board will hear a proposal Wednesday for a subdivision application at 50 South Union Ave.

The proposal, by Douglas and Susan Haustin, would subdivide the current lot at the corner of South Union and Lincoln avenues into two lots, one containing a single family residence and one containing a two-family home.

The proposed site would require variances for the size of both rear lots.

Variances sought for a similar project were originally rejected in September 1999, but then appeared to be approved later that year when Haustin addressed the board's concerns about the buildings on the sites.

But, according to Haustin, officials did not sign the appropriate paperwork, and the lots must be resurveyed and the application for the variances presented to the board again.

Also to be discussed at Wednesday's meeting will be an application by JET Development to build two homes closer to the Garden State Parkway than the ordinance allows.



Give him a hand

The Kenilworth Public Library kicked off the 2003 "Read and Grow @ Your Library" Summer Reading Club with a performance by juggler Dave Smith and his Amazing Sideshow July 1.

Borough tries a new method to collect delinquent fines

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

KENILWORTH — Borough Council members learned of a program Tuesday which could help the borough collect thousands of dollars in outstanding fines from delinquent offenders.

According to Thomas Vitale, municipal judge, the fines would be collected for a number of offenses including disorderly persons domestic violence, and motor vehicle violations.

The program, developed and administered through New Jersey's Administrative Office of the Court (AOC), would allow the borough to effect more severe penalties on uncollected debt.

"(Kenilworth) is owed over \$300,000 in payments," said Joanne Szlingiewicz, Court Administrator. And although the state agency could only pursue about \$190,000 of that money, that would still be a vast improvement over the little they are presently able to collect.

Most municipalities, like Kenilworth, currently issue bench

warrants to individuals whose payments to the borough are seriously overdue. If an individual is subsequently arrested for another crime or violation, the bench warrant will appear, and the warrants will be enforced.

Because the new Comprehensive Enforcement Program would be run by the state, it would allow fines to be placed against the offender. If the delinquent tries to buy, sell, or otherwise dispose of property, their offense would show up on the title search. Also, because there would be a civil injunction against them which would be docketed in Trenton, the state would be able to garnish wages and offset tax rebates.

The program would be fairly easy for the municipality to implement. It would require Kenilworth to download names of violators onto a computer disk, which would be sent back to the AOC. The AOC would then send notices to the offenders followed by a summons to appear in an enforcement hearing conducted by state officials.

The state officials would work out a payment schedule, and sometimes assign community service in addition to billing the individual for owed money.

According to Dennis Martin, Chief of Probation Collection for the Comprehensive Enforcement Program, "We are enforcing monetary penalties — it is in everybody's best interest if we can work out something that's reasonable."

It would also greatly reduce the burden on the borough to enforce the bench warrants on their own.

"The municipal courts are inundated with a tremendous workload on the administrative staff," said Vitale. "It's all they can do to keep up with it."

Under the plan, the Comprehensive Enforcement Program would bill the municipality for 25 percent of what the collections amount to, Vitale said. The fee would exclude fines paid for parking tickets, payments for an assessment of restitution, and the payment to the Victims of Crime Compensation Board, which could still be enforced, but not billed by the agency.

According to Szlingiewicz, the program should be fully implemented in about 12 weeks.

Gassing elicits mixed response

(Continued from page A-1)

was fishing at Echo Lake Park Monday, supported the effort. "It's actually better, they were messing up the grass," he said. "You could hardly walk — they'd try to attack you. They were pooping everywhere."

Others at Echo Lake, though, were indifferent to the changes.

"I didn't notice much of a difference," said Juan Dominguez, who often comes to the park on his lunch breaks.

"If they raked the area once a week or chipped it up so it would mix with the dirt, it wouldn't be a problem," said Anthony Frustaci, another park visitor.

Edwin Moran of Irvington stopped by the playground with his son. "There's not really a difference. I still see a couple of them," he said.

As a gaggle of remaining geese followed him across the street, broke eggs and begged for food, Moran said, "They're used to people feeding them. I thought it would be better if they picked them up and took them somewhere else... They're going to come back next year anyway, especially if they leave some (behind)."

According to Salento, the Canada geese population has grown to its currently overwhelming size only recently. That is a marked contrast from the 1960s, when seeing a Canada goose was a rare opportunity.

"When I was growing up, my father used to take

me to the Great Swamp — it was a thrill to see the geese," said Salento. At that time, the goose population in New Jersey was basically migratory.

Salento said, "The geese have come to take up residence fairly recently... (Now) our goal is to work in different parks to cut back on an unsustainable population."

According to Hallie Pickhardt, spokesperson for the Wildlife Services division of the USDA, the Canada geese population has grown tremendously in the recent past and they have become full-time residents of New Jersey.

"The geese are abundant in this habitat because people feed them and they have no natural predators, so they've adapted very well to urban and suburban areas in the United States. As a result, the population in New Jersey and the United States has proliferated," said Pickhardt.

Charles Sigmond, Director of Union County Parks and Recreation, has said that the geese do pose a health threat. But some area residents enjoy the company of the Canada geese.

Maria Mendezof Elizabeth, who was also at Echo Lake Monday, said, "I like the geese — so many times I saw them walking behind each other. I mean, it's part of nature, you know. See, they're crossing the street and they are so beautiful."

"I really didn't mind that they were here — it was like it was their park," agreed Jose Santos, who spends his lunch breaks fishing at Echo Lake.

New Jersey has roughly 96,800 geese, according to a 2002 estimate by the USDA.

Much work remains on EMS talks

(Continued from page A-1)

township official expressed skepticism that a deal could be reached in the foreseeable future.

While negotiators stretch on, provision of emergency care has continued. "The residents of Cranford have nothing to worry about. We will guarantee them service using our current plan," said Police Chief Eric Mason.

Under that arrangement, EMT workers paid by the township respond to ambulance calls on weekdays, with township firemen providing back-up if needed. At night and on weekends, the volunteer First Aid Squad continues to

provide service.

But the stalemate in negotiations hampers the township's efforts to plan for the financial obligations it incurred when it began providing emergency care last year. With the First Aid Squad on the brink of collapse, the township last summer appropriated \$95,000 to found Cranford Emergency Medical Services, a substantially larger sum was appropriated this year to continue the service.

To offset that expense, some in the township have again broached the possibility of third-party billing, or recouping costs from Medicare and insurance providers. But going down that road, which is

tremendously complex in any circumstance, is also made more difficult by the absence of an agreement.

Nonetheless, the lead negotiator on the township side remains hopeful.

"It is in our best interest to take care of this as soon as possible," said Barbara Bilger, Commission of Public Safety. "When someone needs help, whether it's a volunteer or a paid person, all they see is the name Cranford."

The issue is expected to be on the agenda at the next Township Committee meeting Tuesday, though the discussion may be held in closed session.

Author highlighted in magazine

(Continued from page A-1)

Sassi also wrote an article for Focus on the Family magazine on parenting after her son's development seemed to be delayed in some areas. Will, who was born four months early, eventually overcame his difficulties, and so Sassi wrote an article about the value of letting children take their own time, and not getting too alarmed when they don't seem to be operating on schedule.

Laura Sassi is someone you'd want to hang out with around a campfire.

She's tirelessly interested in the things around her, and tends to talk with her hands in an animated way that is completely captivating. She speaks fluent French and understands Spanish, and as her latest work indicates, she is an enthusiastic teller of folk tales and legends.

Though Sassi has lived all over the globe — she was born in Spain and lived in France and Mexico as a child, later moving to Los

Angeles before coming to New Jersey — she loves Cranford and enjoys its small-town atmosphere.

And while she's settled down, the local library is a wonderful resource, where she does a lot of the research for her books.

"Sassi is keenly aware of the people around her as well as her natural surroundings. She knows the names of the librarians and the mailman, even the cashiers at the supermarket know who we are," she says. Her former students still drop by for tutoring and

to baby-sit Will.

In her home, Sassi has surrounded herself with 19th-century clocks and paintings. They accompany her mother's bright Mexican-inspired paintings and her small collection of art by a favorite Colorado artist.

The collection seems to describe Sassi herself. Her stories possess a brightness and warm energy that draw from her personality, and each one tells you something that will make you smarter, somehow.

Cranford plans changes

(Continued from page A-1)

people stop using the short-term meters, there is sufficient parking for shoppers," she said.

Prunty is a member of the ad hoc Parking Committee that recommended the changes to the Township Committee. The Parking Committee has also

recommended the creation of seven new two-hour meters along various streets in the downtown, as well as modifications to provide employee permit parking and four-hour meters at Lot 11.

The committee has made a recommendation that could provide more parking for commuters, as well. Lot 3, behind Swan Cleaners, currently houses 36 nine-hour permit spaces which are underutilized by downtown employees.

The group has proposed converting half of those spaces to 12-hour permits, which would be open to all drivers but would most likely be used by commuters. Putting that change into effect would require another ordinance, which may be introduced in August.

Prunty said the Parking Committee expects the changes to go into effect all at one time, on Sept. 1. Prior to that date the township will reach out to store owners and employees, and information will be available for the public as well, she said.

Twin Oaks hearing set to resume

CRANFORD — The controversial Board of Adjustment hearing on the application to build 36 townhouses at Meeker Avenue and Hale and Heinrich streets will resume July 21.

The application, proposed by Twin Oaks Realty, has encountered stiff resistance from some residents who believe the density of the project will harm the neighborhood and the township. According to township ordinances, which set the same density requirements for townhouses as for single-family homes, only 26 units are permitted at the site.

The July 21 meeting is expected to include continued questioning of Zoning Officer Ron Meeks, who has indicated 34 units might be an appropriate compromise.

Following Meeks' testimony, members of the public will have a chance to voice their opinions. A final vote is unlikely July 21, and another meeting has already been scheduled for Aug. 11.

Calabria Pizza to move across the street

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — Plans to demolish an existing house and build a new Calabria Pizza directly across the street from its current location on Centennial Avenue were unanimously approved by the Cranford Planning Board July 2.

The new building approved by the board at 208 Centennial Ave. will be two stories high and will house two apartments about the new pizza shop.

The board granted two variances to the site, one waiving the 11 parking spots required on the business's property to allow for only 7 or 8, and one allowing less room from the north side of the building to the edge of the property line.

A township ordinance dictates that the building must be 5 feet away from the property line, but the proposed structure will stand only 1.5 feet into the property.

Teacher resigns after board denies child care extension

By GREG MARX and
LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

GARWOOD — A teacher in the borough's school district who had denied an extension of her child care leave has resigned from the district.

Lauren Healy, who taught Grades 2 and 3 in the district for five years, had been on child care leave since the beginning of the 2002-2003 school year. At April 1, the deadline specified in the teachers' contract to inform the board of her intentions, Healy said she planned to return in the fall. But in late May she changed her mind and requested an additional year's leave.

At a June 17 meeting, the Board of Education unanimously denied the request, leaving Healy with two choices: return to teach or resign her position. She chose the latter.

"It was pretty disappointing that it had to come to that point," she said this week. "It just made me feel that I wasn't a valued employee there. I can't work for... people who don't value me as an employee."

Healy said her resignation like-

means that if she returns to teaching, it will be without her tenure.

The board, on Superintendent Bill Murphy's recommendation, denied Healy's request because it concerns that a deviation from the language of the contract would set a negative precedent. The Garwood Education Association had proposed a memorandum of understanding that disavowed any precedent, but the concern persisted.

This week, Murphy restated his position. The board is adhering to "what the contract said," he said.

The deadlines are necessary to allow the board to provide adequate staffing, he said.

Asked whether he would consider recommending an exception to the contract for a well-liked teacher, he replied, "They expect me to uphold the contract."

Murphy said he did not believe any similar incidents had occurred previously.

Healy did not dispute the language in the contract, but said an exception could have been made. "There's nothing in the contract that says they couldn't have granted it to me," she said.

Board adopts new goals

CRANFORD — The Board of Education adopted its goals for the 2003-2004 school year at a meeting last month.

The goals, established at a board retreat earlier this spring, are to:

- focus on improving student learning and understanding by using instructional strategies that address individual needs, thereby enabling all students to attain

their full potential.

- promote the expectation that principals shall model, through practice and implementation, the district's belief statements

- encourage all district stakeholders to engage in active, open, substantive and clear two-way communication.

- ensure intensive, on-going, high-quality professional development for all district faculty.

Kathleen Williams, PhD
Counseling and Psychotherapy

115 N. Union Avenue Cranford, NJ
100 Kings Road Madison, NJ

Voice: 732-381-5760
Email: counseling@comcast.net

Spring rains cause minor delay for school construction

By LAUREN TRAINER
THE CHRONICLE

GARWOOD — Despite heavy rainfall throughout the spring and early summer, work on the first phase of the borough's school construction is still expected to be completed by its late December due date, Business Administrator Barbara Carino said this week.

"We've been a little behind (at Lincoln School) because of the bad weather, but they will be closing it up within the next few weeks, so all the work they will be doing will be inside," Carino said.

Carino also said that parts of the project completed ahead of schedule helped close the four-week delay caused by the bad weather. "We were four weeks behind because of the weather, but the steel workers were finished two weeks ahead of schedule, so we are really only two weeks behind," she said.

Underground portions of the old Jefferson School were found at the Lincoln School site. The removal of the brick will add an additional cost of \$20,000 to the project.

According to Scott Ayers of Construction Services, Project Management and Consulting, the company in charge of the project, tests prior to construction did not reveal the brick.

Despite the minor setbacks, Ayers said, "We are making good progress."

The \$12.3 million project is

funded in part by a taxpayer plan under which the renovation's cost will be spread out over a 30-year period.

And although New Jersey is in the midst of cutting funding to various state-wide programs, the state remains committed to fund approximately 28 percent of the total cost of the project under the Long Range Facilities Plan, according to Carino.

"It was necessary," Carino said. "The state came in and made an assessment of all the facilities. They determined what we had and what we needed, and what we had warranted funding."

The project at the borough's schools is three-fold. Phase One, the current project, consists of the construction of an addition at Lincoln School adjacent to the old building.

Phase Two, rehabilitation at Lincoln School, is slated to begin in January after the current construction is completed. During that phase, Lincoln School students will be housed in the addition.

Phase Three includes the demolition of Franklin school as well as the construction of the new library, lunchroom, and music room at Lincoln school.

All construction is scheduled to be completed by the start of the 2005-2006 school year.



A little change makes a big difference

On the last day of business at the school store at Harding School in Kenilworth, children donated their spare change to the project to move the Nitschke House. A total of \$146 was collected in the program sponsored by the Harding PTO. Above, Nicholas Cantalupo, center, helps Bo Benko, second from right, and Christine Johnstone put their change in the bottle as two classmates look on.



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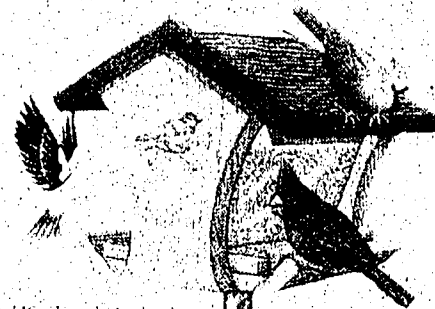
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Cranford Chronicle

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Commentary

Goose problem wasn't inevitable

Union County has resorted to desperate measures to control the Canada goose population. Last week, workers contracted by the county rounded up more than 700 birds into collection areas and gassed them in the back of trucks.

The waterfowl were asphyxiated with carbon dioxide and the corpses were dumped in a landfill.

Though it sounds like a harsh penalty for the offense of being an overpopulated nuisance, officials are claiming the gassing is a "last resort." Chemical sprays, dogs, adding eggs and numerous other methods have been tried to discourage Canada geese from settling in county waterways. All have failed.

So authorities, like those in Watchung last year, decided to use lethal measures against the birds.

This has led to an outcry from animal rights groups and residents.

As unfortunate as it is, gassing the geese may be the only control option for suburban Central New Jersey. Hunting the birds could be dangerous in most areas. Non-lethal methods do not seem to be working.

The question we should be asking is: Why is this necessary?

There are nearly 97,000 geese living permanently in New Jersey. Most of the problems stemming from geese seem to be minor: hissing at people, slowly crossing the road, leaving piles of droppings to be stepped in. Certainly, these are not executable offenses.

But the droppings — a single goose produces nearly a pound per day — can actually have serious environmental consequences. Waterways with a large flock of year-round geese often suffer from high nutrient levels, low oxygen levels, algae blooms, increased sediment and erosion. In effect, Canada geese can kill ponds. This is reason to take things into hand, even if lethal measures must be used.

Unfortunately, it didn't have to be this way.

Canada geese build their nests in open areas — and need grass to eat. New Jersey once heavily forested, was not a prime nesting area, but northern Canada was. Until recent decades, New Jersey was just a winter pit stop for the waterfowl.

But when we cut down the trees for farms and suburbs, we turned New Jersey into Canada goose heaven — especially in areas where the geese can't be hunted.

Then, in an all-too-successful attempt to bolster Canada geese populations in the early 20th century, wildlife officials released thousands of captive-bred geese into the wild. By then, hunting had actually reduced the migratory geese to near extinction.

New hunting laws and the release of captive-bred geese reversed the trend, but there was a catch: The captive-bred birds didn't know how to migrate like the wild geese. Instead, the captive-bred geese and their descendants stayed put in the Garden State, where the environment had been shaped by their liking. The growth of the resident goose population is a prime example of unintended consequences.

The decision to gas Canada geese is an attempt to address past mistakes and shortsightedness. But it is unlikely to "solve" the problem — thanks to our ecological meddling, the geese are here to stay. We can only hope that the decision to gas the birds does not have unintended consequences as well.

The Chronicle is here for you

The following information should help you get your ideas and community news into *The Chronicle*:

Call Editor Gregory Marx at (732) 396-4219 with story suggestions, questions or comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

Our address: *The Chronicle*, 301 Central Ave., Clark, NJ, 07066.

Our fax number is (732) 574-2613.

Our e-mail address is union@njpublishing.com.

Deadlines

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The deadline for submitting letters to the editor is 10 a.m. Monday.

Cranford Chronicle

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Letters to the editor

An alternative to gassing the geese

To The Chronicle:
I am an 11-year-old Cranford girl writing to you about an article in the July 3 issue of *The New York Times*, "A Battle Against Pesky Geese Turns Lethal in North Jersey."

I do see the opinion of (County Manager George) DeVanney, the man who signed a contract allowing park officials to kill many geese in Union County public parks, but I think there are other solutions to the problem. We have to remember that geese serve a purpose in the world, as humans do. In the summer, New Jersey is full of mosquitoes. Geese love to eat them.

At a park near my house where I like to go in the spring and summer, there are a lot of geese. It is true that their feathers and droppings are on the ground in some parts of the park, but the geese don't deserve to

be killed for that!

I think using chemicals and dogs to chase the geese away from the public park is a safer, and a more humane way to rid the park of geese, as mentioned in the article. Also altering some of the geese's eggs so they will not hatch is also humane, because it is not hurting a live animal.

Once the geese are gone from that park, it could be the job of volunteering high school students to clean the park and make it more usable for the people again. This could make a good solution, where all sides are happy: the geese get a new home, the people get to use their parks, and the high school students will be fulfilling their community service requirements.

ANNA AUTILIO
Cranford

Policy on the Rahway is misguided

To The Chronicle:

The people of South Orange became so ashamed of the condition of their section of the Rahway River that they initiated a town-supported program to rehabilitate it. The program is sponsored primarily by their downtown management association and organizes activities for local residents. The group maintains an informative and current website (<http://civic.rutgers.edu/~kbarrett/rahway/>) that includes many useful links, including real-time data from the U.S. Geological Survey's river monitoring station in Springfield. They use the river and its restoration as an invaluable tool in the education of their school children.

The city of Rahway has developed an effective river association that receives state and federal grants for acquisition of persistently flood-threatened properties and for restoration of the Rahway River and its associated wetlands (www.nj.gov/de/pnews/04/releas.asp?01097.htm).

The township of Cranford is pursuing a plan to pump ever-increasing volumes of polluted, sil-laden storm water into the Rahway River. The plan was

bonded arbitrarily by the Township Committee, without voter referendum, based on recommendations of a panel dominated by property owners who will benefit from the program and chief engineers of the firms designing and bidding on the project.

Cranford officials openly discuss the resumption of a continuous dredging program for the river that has been halted by the state for environmental reasons. Influential and politically-connected Cranford attorneys, intimately involved in township planning activities, are signing on with speculators interested in the development of a major commercial enterprise directly on the banks of the Rahway River in the center of town.

Clearly the town of Cranford does not enjoy a positive relationship with its immediate surroundings. In fact, most of the township's official activities seem bent on aggravating the already adversarial face-off between Cranford and its abused environment. It is long past time for Cranford to wake up and take a good, long look at where it's headed.

JAMES LODERSTEDT
Cranford

Seniors' health coverage on the rise

To The Chronicle:

New Jersey seniors won a great victory in the battle for prescription drug coverage with passage in the United States Senate of legislation to expand Medicare to include drug coverage. Sen. Frank Lautenberg and I added an amendment to the bill that will protect and expand our state's already strong prescription drug programs, PAAD and Senior Gold.

New Jersey's existing pharmaceutical assistance program is the oldest and one of the largest state programs in the country. PAAD and Senior Gold provide comprehensive prescription drug coverage to more than 200,000 low- and moderate-income seniors and disabled people.

The program was at risk and the alternative unacceptable — forcing all New Jersey seniors to have their drug benefits thrown into the hands of private insurers.

Leave pets at home on summer days

To The Chronicle:
Now that summer weather has finally arrived, the Governor's Domestic Companion Animal Council wants to remind you that when the weather is hot, your pets are better off at home!

It's certainly important to spend time with your pet, but on hot summer days, home is the place to be. Summer is the season for flea markets, outdoor concerts, fireworks and picnics, but your pet may not always be welcome at these events. Owners may be tempted to leave their pets in the car, but this scenario can quickly turn deadly. On a warm day the interior of a parked car can reach 100 degrees in a matter of minutes, even with the windows partly open! Even a quick stop at the grocery store can have dire consequences.

In addition to the risk to your animal, you could be subject to legal action. New Jersey state law 4:22-17 states that any person who leaves an animal unattended in a vehicle under inhumane conditions adverse to the health or welfare of the living animal or

ers. But we took steps to ensure that state pharmacy assistance programs like PAAD will be able to administer the Medicare drug benefit.

The amendment inserted into the bill provides \$310 million of federal funds to the state's senior prescription drug benefits programs. This money will not only allow the state to continue to provide excellent prescription drug coverage to seniors, but be able to expand the program as well.

As always, the goal is top-notch care for Garden State seniors. The language we won will give us hundreds of millions of dollars a year to preserve and strengthen New Jersey PAAD program so we can turn PAAD and Senior Gold into "Senior Platinum."

The Governor's Domestic Companion Animal Council wishes you and your pets a safe, happy and healthy summer!

NINA AUSTENBERG
Chair, Domestic Companion Animal Council

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

Here's the scoop on ice cream

This is going to be the most difficult summer of my life.

I've resolved not to buy Turkey Hill Dutch Chocolate Ice Cream.

I am not being paid by Turkey Hill to sing the praises of their products. But the Dutch Chocolate Ice Cream is the best ice cream I've ever bought in a grocery store. It is the ultimate comfort food.

But the rich and elegant ice cream has no place in my diet anymore. Pathetic male megalomania, vanity and egotism, coupled with high blood pressure have forced me to take a new look at my feckless and reckless space age bachelor lifestyle.

There is nothing better than this ice cream after you've come home from a tough day at work and the temperature is still a stinky 90 degrees. It's better than beer. And my stomach is screaming for ice cream.

But I just can't eat that ice cream anymore.

I feel much better these days after losing about 15 pounds this year. Despite the everyday stress test of working on a newspaper, my blood pressure seems to be under control and I can actually jog from my desk to the soda machine for a Diet Coke without getting out of breath. I've applied so much discipline to my appetite that sometimes when I go out for lunch at a diner, I actually leave some of the Olympian-sized portions on the plate. I've learned to watch my carbohydrates and avoid any food that leaves a greasy stain on a plate.

Of course there are times when temptation gets the better of me and the yearning for Burger King onion rings is too powerful to resist. But most of the time I eat sensibly. There's nothing wrong with a dinner of steak, a baked potato with fat-free sour cream and a salad with a fat-free salad dressing. I'm happy with that and so is my heart.

But the cold call of ice cream has always proven to be the nemesis of any diet, particularly the lure of Turkey Hill Dutch Chocolate. Helpful friends have suggested I try frozen yogurt or fat-free ice cream to quiet the screaming stomach. But it doesn't work. Those confections have neither the taste nor the texture of ice cream; in fact, they tend to taste like their containers. And they just don't deliver the same sensual pleasures of ice cream.

For centuries, ice cream has been a guilty pleasure. Even back in the 18th century, Voltaire wrote: "Ice cream is exquisite — what a pity it isn't illegal." Exactly what makes the act of eating ice cream such a source of joy is hard to say.

It is the combination of something cold and sweet in our hot mouths.

Or maybe it's just a reversion to the innocent days of childhood when all the world's fears and worries could be erased by ice cream. It may be the only leftover pleasure of childhood adults can still enjoy without shame.

I'm not fond of all the boutique ice creams with their overly cute names. I don't like ice cream with things in it. And I particularly do not enjoy ice cream with all sorts of bizarre flavors, like ginger salmon or pistachio French roast decaf latte.

I'm a purist. Just give me the simple flavors in a cone or a dish and I'm happy — until I start thinking about the calories and the extra half hour of exercise needed to work off the five minutes of pleasure.

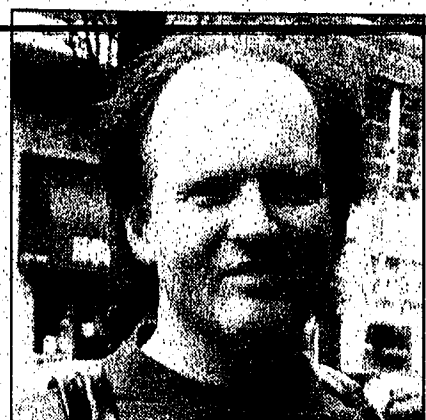
It's going to be a difficult summer. I have bought fat-free chocolate milk that soothes the craving for chocolate (no fat, but too much sugar) and that helps to settle my nerves after a tough day at the newspaper. And I managed to make it through the broiling Fourth of July weekend without succumbing to the inner screams for ice cream. It's a frustrating pain for overall health gain, and that's a satisfaction you can't measure in scoops.

DO YOU THINK THE LATEST INCREASE IN THE CIGARETTE TAX IS FAIR?



ASHISH PATEL
Housing consultant working in Cranford

It's not fair to the people who smoke, but I don't smoke so I really don't have a problem with it. Unfortunately, it hurts a lot of businesses as well.



ROBERT SNYDER
Cranford

I don't know what the alternative is.



FERRIS CALDWELL
Cranford

I don't think the government has a right to tell people they can't smoke in a restaurant; that's going into a whole new issue, but basically I think it should be your own choice.



RAY PARDON
Scotch Plains

The politicians pass laws regulating smoking, but then they're going to cover their deficit by taxing cigarettes. It isn't clear whether they want us to smoke or not. Obviously, it's not a healthy habit and I wish I didn't smoke, but it just seems hypocritical to me.



CAROLYN KIGULA
Nail technician in Scotch Plains

I just quit smoking five months ago. I think it's good — maybe it will make people think twice about buying cigarettes, so it doesn't bother me. If it prevents kids from starting to smoke, it is a good thing.

Child Care Center holds graduation

CRANFORD — The Cranford Child Care Center Kindergarten graduation took place June 8 at Cranford Alliance Church. The Class of 2003 graduated 16 students under the direction of teacher Karen Fonseca and assistant Susan Sun Binyan.

The student's class created PowerPoint drawings depicting their favorite Bible story; the class also sang "I am a Promise" along with their favorite praise songs.

The center is located at 7 Cherry St. and is open 7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. State-licensed and nationally-accredited, the center has been in existence since 1986.

The center's curriculum includes Spanish, sign language, special guests and child interest programs, hands-on learning, music and other specials. The center promotes health and safety, builds individuality and self-respect and encourages responsibility and getting along with honors in a Christ-centered environment.

Union County chapter of REBEL meets weekly

Did you know that almost 90 percent of adults who have ever been regular smokers began smoking at or before the age of 18? More than 18,700 children under the age of 18 become regular smokers each year — that's 54 teens per day!

If smoking were listed as a cause of death in New Jersey, it would be the third-leading killer after heart disease and cancer, and tobacco is the number one cause of preventable death and disability in this country. Nearly 18,000 New Jersey residents die each year of tobacco-related diseases.

High school students throughout New Jersey banded together three years ago to protest against the tobacco industry. The REBEL (Reaching Everyone by Exposing Lies) youth-led movement has been growing stronger and now over 10,000 teenagers in the state are involved.

REBEL's mission is to reach, educate, and empower New Jersey teens to make healthy lifestyle decisions and to support non-smoking as the norm. These adolescents meet locally, through schools and communities and have formed groups on a county, regional and state level to protest the use of tobacco.

Some of their projects have included "Kick Butts Day," "Beach Clean-Up," "DARE Day," "Junkies," "World No Tobacco Day," "Multicultural Day" events, and "Free Comic Book Day."

As a result of their initiatives and through collaboration with Communities Against Tobacco (CAT) Coalitions, local and state legislation has been enacted, restaurants have decided to go "smoke-free," and some beach towns and parks have passed no smoking laws.

The REBEL program for students in Grades 9-12 has a chapter that meets in every county in New Jersey. The Union County branch meets in the Clark office of Prevention Links on Monday evening from 7-9 p.m. all year long.

For more information about the program or how to get involved, feel free to contact Prevention Links at (732) 381-4100 or check out the website at www.rebelnj.com.

Prevention Links is a private, not-for-profit agency that takes a leadership role in the prevention of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse and related issues. Its programs serve all of Union County.

For agency information, check out our website at www.prevention-links.org.



The Cranford Child Care Center Kindergarten class graduated 16 students June 8. For more information on the center's programs or to register for the fall session, call director Patti Williams at (908) 276-8668.

Kahrer named to board at Saint Peter's College

CRANFORD — Township resident Michael Kahrer is one of four new members elected to serve three-year terms on the Saint Peter's College Board of Regents. His term began July 1.

The Board of Regents' primary responsibility is to provide the college with leadership in several areas including fund raising, management, business operations, communications, marketing, investing, community service and other areas where they have personal expertise.

The Board of Regents, which consists of 64 members, also runs the college's annual Business Symposium, which will be held on Nov. 6 at the Hyatt Regency on the Jersey City waterfront. The symposium, entering its 32nd year, is the oldest business meeting of its kind in New Jersey.

"The college administration relies on the Board of Regents for counsel in many areas," said Father Loughran of Saint Peter's. "The four new members of the Board have diverse interests and areas of expertise that the college can call upon. They are dedicated to the college and recognize the value of the affordable, Jesuit liberal arts education we provide."

Kahrer, a 1979 graduate of Saint Peter's, is currently the vice president of human resources at Organon Pharmaceuticals Inc. He has been with the Roseland-based pharmaceutical company since 1989.

Saint Peter's alumni activities for many years and served on the college's Alumni Board as secretary and vice president.

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This week

THURSDAY

JULY 10
HAPPY DAYS — special musical storytime presented by Tama Bruder of the Happy Days Nursery School, 10:30-11:15 a.m.
 Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. (908) 276-2451.

MONDAY

JULY 14
'THE SON'S ROOM' — movie screening in the Cranford Library's foreign film series. 1:30 and 7 p.m. Free.

TUESDAY

JULY 15
TEEN BOOK DISCUSSION — of "Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" and/or "Second Summer of the Traveling Pants" by Ann Brashares, Cranford Public Library, 224 Walnut Ave. 3:45 p.m. July 15. Contact Fran

Houston at (908) 709-7272.
PUBLIC FORUM — on pending reactivation of Staten Island and Rahway Valley railroads across Union County. 7 p.m. Kenilworth Borough Hall, 567 Boulevard. (908) 276-9091.

WEDNESDAY

JULY 16
SUMMER FAMILY FUN NIGHT — Lyle Cogen entertains kids and adults with renditions of Broadway tunes. 7-7:45 p.m. Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. Free, but pre-registration requested at (908) 276-2451.

THURSDAY

JULY 17
CRUISING CRANFORD — second "Cruiser Nights" of the season in the township. 6-9 p.m. throughout the downtown. Featuring music by DJ Stickshift Eddie and a special appearance by The Shepps, playing

ing a capella hits from the 50s and 60s; 8 p.m. at Eastman Park. Free. For more information, call Hot Radio Garage at (908) 337-8050 or visit hotradiogarage.com.

COMING UP

'SAME OLD SONG' — movie screening in the Cranford Library's foreign film series. 1:30 and 7 p.m. July 21. Free.

SCRAPBOOKING CLASS — learn how to design a cover for your book. Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. 7-8:30 p.m. July 24. \$10 fee; register in advance. (908) 276-2451.

'NINE QUEENS' — movie screening in the Cranford Library's foreign film series. 1:30 and 7 p.m. July 28. Free.

GOLF TOURNAMENT — 13th annual event hosted by the Cranford Rotary. Shotgun start 12:30 p.m. July 28. Echo Lake Country Club, Springfield Avenue, Westfield. \$240 per golfer; sponsorships available. Benefits Project Home of Cranford and Cranford Rotary Charitable Fund. For more information, contact Bob Loder at (908) 889-8300, ext. 121.

'BEIJING BICYCLE' — movie screening in the Cranford Library's foreign film series. 1:30 and 7 p.m. Aug. 4. Free.



Troop 46 shines in Cranford

During the past two years, the members of Girl Scout Troop 46 in Cranford have earned numerous badges, including the Bronze Award, the top honor given to Junior Scouts. This year the girls received the Junior Aide Badge by helping members of a local Brownie troop bridge over to Junior level; they also planned and ran Junior bingo. Above, Troop 46 poses with the Brownies after the bridging ceremony. The troop was led by Cranford resident Jackie Kalamaras.

Man found unconscious in car is charged with drunk driving

CRANFORD

Jerry Heda, 49, of Linden was charged July 2 with driving while intoxicated, possession of an open container, driving while suspended, and failure to make repairs on his vehicle.

Heda was arrested after police Officer Ryan Greco responded to a call about a car stopped on Lexington Ave. at about 9:30 p.m. When he arrived, he reportedly found Heda in the driver seat slumped over his wheel, unconscious.

A 16-year-old juvenile from Cranford was charged with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia Sunday.

Officer Michael Andrews

Police Log

responded to a burglar alarm at the Orange Avenue School and found a group of five juvenile males running across a field away from the school. Following a brief investigation the 16-year-old was charged and released to his parents.

There was no indication that the juveniles had set off the burglar alarm at the school.

KENILWORTH

Artis Bobien of Roselle was charged Sunday with driving while suspended, driving an uninsured vehicle, driving an unregistered

vehicle, and speeding. Officer Glenn Sandull arrested Bobien after an investigation revealed he had two active warrants out for his arrest.

Bobien was later released to the Watchung Police Department. The other warrant for Bobien is from Cranford.

Some borough residents were out of power Sunday when a transformer exploded at about 9:30 p.m.

Officers Soos and Sandull responded to numerous 9-1-1 calls about the exploded transformer and fire on the vires at 18-North 19th St. The entire street reportedly lost power.

PSE&G was notified and responded, and power was restored approximately 1 1/2 hours later.

Prosecutor takes aim at insurance fraud

Following his swearing in as the Union County Prosecutor, Theodore J. Romankow became increasingly concerned about the steady upsurge in insurance fraud in Union County.

"We have investigated operations involving staged accidents; cases where people tried to collect for damages after having their vehicle deliberately stolen or set ablaze; even staged injuries involving drivers deliberately taking action to cause their vehicle to be struck by another vehicle from behind," said Captain Patricia Leonard of the Special Prosecutions Unit.

The prosecutor said that in the past, such cases were often investigated by overburdened detectives from the Special Prosecutions Unit, or referred to the State for handling. He vowed to find a way to fund a separate unit within the Prosecutor's Office to specifically handle such cases.

Romankow's efforts have been rewarded. His office recently learned it is to receive a \$375,000 renewable grant for an 18-month period which will enable the creation of a special unit to investigate and prosecute cases involving all types of insurance fraud. The grant will cover the salary of one assistant prosecutor and two detectives to work exclusively on insurance fraud cases.

The New Jersey Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor within the Division of Criminal Justice will provide the funding. "There is insurance fraud to be uncovered, and we now have the means to make this possible. We will be screening cases generated by municipalities and using computerized intelligence to connect and uncover larger, more widespread insurance fraud conspiracies," Romankow said.

Another common scheme the office will pursue is the so-called "give up" in which a new car owner, unable to make lease or loan payments, arranges for someone to purposely steal the car and then reports the car as stolen.

To that end, one investigator will work exclusively with members of the Essex/Union Auto Theft Task Force to develop informants and information on car insurance fraud and assist in making the connection between stolen cars and persons trying to illegally recover money from insurance carriers.

The assistant prosecutor will handle cases involving fake insurance cards recovered by municipal officers during traffic stops and prosecute the offenders.

Garwood Library will be closed to the public July 21-Aug. 2 while asbestos is removed from the adjacent Lincoln School facility.

Patrons with valid Garwood Library cards may use any of the surrounding community libraries, with the exception of the Westfield Memorial Library.

The outdoor book drop will be open and emptied daily for any returns that come due during the time the library is closed.

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CRANFORD 164 Walnut Ave.	EAST BRUNSWICK 227 Route 185	KENILWORTH 342 Boulevard	MARLBORO 342 Route 9N	TOMS RIVER 1400 Hooper Ave.

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Community Life

Briefs

Cranford library seeks CHS yearbooks

CRANFORD — The Cranford Public Library is seeking Cranford High School yearbooks for the following years: 1933 and any years prior to that date, 1935-37, 1939-48, 1950-56 and 1958-59. The volumes will be added to the library's yearbook collection, which is complete except for the years listed above.

Residents who have a volume or volumes to donate are asked to call the library at (908) 709-7272 and ask for Ben Stanley, Fran Houston or John Malir, or email the library at library@cranford-nj.org.

Kids take a trip with videoconferencing camp

CRANFORD — Instead of hanging around the house all summer, local children can take a quick trip to the Museum of Television and Radio in California, the COSI Science Center in Ohio and the Library of Congress, all while making a video or computer documentary and cracking a spy ring.

All this can happen in just four days through a videoconferencing mini-camp held 10 a.m.-noon July 28-31 at Hillside Avenue School.

Students who will be in Grades 6-8 in September are eligible to participate in the free program. To sign up, send a completed registration form to Karen Whalen at 132 Thomas St., Cranford, or fax it to (908) 709-1708. For more information, call (908) 709-8872.

Woman can learn basics of home business

From 7-9 p.m. Tuesday, July 22 at the Westfield Inn, women can learn the ins and outs of having a home-based business.

Whether interested in starting a business or have one and want to network with other professionals, this interactive workshop sponsored by Silk Purse is the place to go. Participants will get advice from experts in marketing, business plan development, insurance, legal and accounting requirements, and more. The cost is \$25.

Attendance is limited, so sign up early. There are two ways to register: online at silkpurseforwomen.com (click on the Events page) or send a check made out to Silk Purse, P.O. Box 3458, Wayne, NJ 07470. Be sure to include your address, phone number and number of people attending.

Garwood Library to close for two weeks

GARWOOD — The Garwood Public Library will be closed to the public July 21-Aug. 2 while asbestos is removed from the adjacent Lincoln School facility.

Patrons with valid Garwood Library cards may use any of the surrounding community libraries, with the exception of the Westfield Memorial Library.

The outdoor book drop will be open and emptied daily for any returns that come due during the time the library is closed.

Circle of Jewish Friends plans July 20 meeting

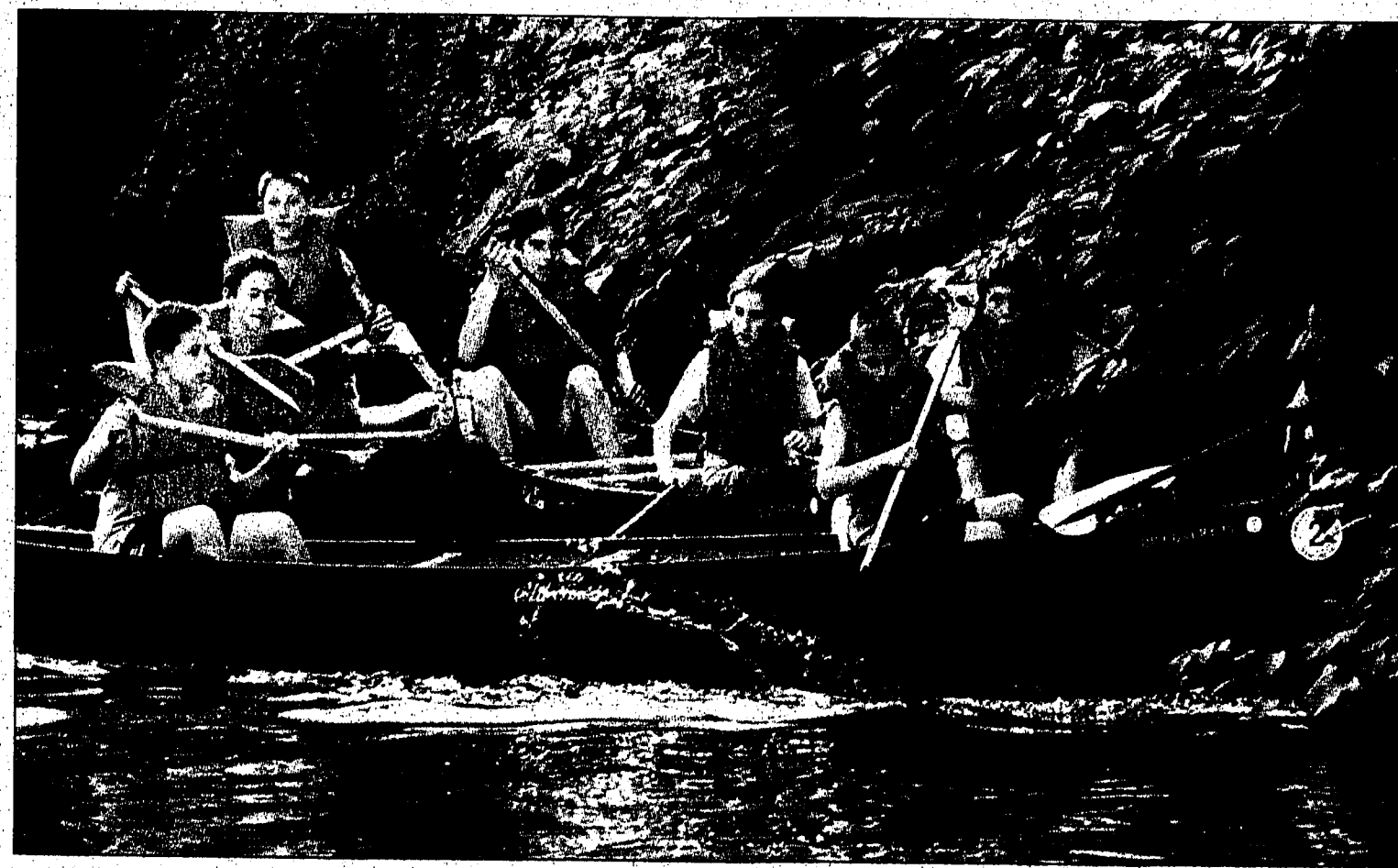
The Circle of Single Jewish Friends 49+ presents "Oye Vey, I'm 49+ and Single: Living Single and Living Well!" an interactive discussion and social hour facilitated by Lauren Balkin. 2 p.m. July 20 at Jewish Family and Vocational Service of Middlesex Co., 515 Plainfield Ave., Suite 201, Edison.

Married Couples Unit hosts annual barbecue

The B'nai B'rith Ketubah Married Couples Unit (40+) will host their annual barbecue and pool party at a member's home in Manalapan 1 p.m. Sunday, July 20.

The cost is \$18 per member couple and \$25 per non-member couple. If a non-member joins Ketubah Unit at the barbecue, they can come to the barbecue for free. Please RSVP to Mona at (732) 780-5704 by July 18.

Making a splash



JOHN FEIV/RESPONDENT

Fireworks may be the tradition most closely associated with Independence Day, the annual canoe races on the Rahway River in Cranford aren't far behind. Top, a four-canoe pile-up caused a traffic jam in one of the youth races; fortunately, everyone stayed dry. Left, Cranford residents Kyle and Jeff Markovitch get a helping hand with life preservers from Mike Pender before they can begin paddling. And above, not all the excitement was on the river — these spectators had a ball as they watched from a nearby bridge. In addition to the canoe races, the day included the annual Firecracker Four-Miler and a host of children's activities in Nomahegan Park before the big bangs began after 9 p.m. For more on the canoe and road races, see Sports.

Center for Hope moves ahead with plans for new hospice

'Charity Cup' contest in Scotch Plains will boost organization's fundraising

By KEVIN B. HOWELL
 STAFF WRITER

The scent of eggs, bacon and sausage — breakfast served at any time of the day — can no longer be detected from 1900 Raritan Rd. in Scotch Plains.

The Park Place Diner's doors have been closed, and another facility will take over the corner of Raritan Road and Martine Avenue.

That new facility, the Peggy Colony House, will be opened by The Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care in honor of the organization's founder, who died June 2 at her home in Kenilworth.

Colony founded the organization along with Rev. Charles Hudson in the late 1970s. The agency's mission is to provide physical, emotional and spiritual support to individuals with life-limiting illness, without regard to their ability to pay.

The center went before the Scotch Plains Board of Adjustment earlier this year and won approval for the variances necessary to construct the new hospice. The center plans to build a 30-bed hospice with three wings, each serving 10 patients. The site will include a 54-space parking lot.

The surrounding area will remain wooded in an effort to provide a secluded feel to the facility, which is optimal for hospice care.

The board stated in its memorial resolution that the hospice

is "highly beneficial" and "a tremendous opportunity for service to residents." It also acknowledged a need for the hospice in western Union County.

The center is linked to 19 nursing homes and has several other facilities in the county, including the Father Hudson House assisted-living facility, the first licensed residential comprehensive personal care facility in the state; and Theo House, the state's first residential hospice facility.

The game will be held at Brookside Park on Hetfield Avenue at 11 a.m. Tickets are \$10, and admission includes refreshments and entertainment. Spectators will be able to view display firetrucks, DARE cars and rescue vehicles.

Scotch Plains Mayor Martin Marks will do the play-by-play commentary for the game. And t-shirts will be sold to support the teams: red for the firemen, blue for the police and white for those who are neutral.

The township hopes to raise \$10,000 for the hospice.

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Walter I. McCann

CRANFORD — Walter I. McCann died July 5, 2003 at Union Hospital, 263 in Elizabeth. Born in Elizabeth, he was the son of the late Walter and Mary McCann. Mr. McCann lived in Elizabeth before moving to Cranford. He was a civil engineer with Exxon Corp. for 40 years, last working at the Bayway Refinery in Linden. He was a licensed professional engineer and held a degree in civil engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. Mr. McCann was a member of the Linden Lions Club and Knights of Columbus Council 263 in Elizabeth. He was an Army veteran of World War II in the Pacific. Surviving is a sister, Mary. A funeral Mass was celebrated yesterday at Immaculate Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, Scotch Plains, following services at the McCracken Funeral Home in Union. Burial was in Mount Olivet Cemetery, Newark. Donations may be sent to Parkinson's research.

Elvira Holmquest

CRANFORD — Elvira A. Krammer Holmquest, 86, died July 4, 2003 at the Ellen Memorial Health Care Center in Honesdale, Pa. Born in Jersey City, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Matilda Krammer. Mrs. Holmquest lived in Cranford and Toms River before moving just over a year ago to Hawley, Pa. She was a homemaker. Surviving are her husband of 66 years, Walter, a son, Jeffrey of Hawley; a granddaughter, Jennifer Holmquest-Neundt of Cochranville, Pa.; and a grandson, Douglas of La Crescenta, Calif. Private arrangements were by Teeters' Funeral Chapel in Hawley.

Christian Jensen

CRANFORD — Christian M. Jensen, 86, died July 5, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. Born in West Orange, he lived in Livingston and Elizabeth before moving to Cranford in 1950. Mr. Jensen was with New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. for 45 years, retiring in 1985 as a supervisor. He was an active adult volunteer with Boy Scout Troop 103 in Cranford. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Jensen was an Army veteran of World War II. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Marian Schou Jensen, two sons, Robert N. of Bethesda, Md., and Eric P. of Basking Ridge; a brother, John M. of Lakewood; and two grandchildren. Services were held yesterday at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was in Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover.

Louis Klekner

CRANFORD — Louis Klekner, 83, died July 4, 2003 at Union Hospital. Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., he lived in Elizabeth before moving to Cranford in 1944. Mr. Klekner retired in 1975 after 30 years as a machinist with Dayton Corp. in Elizabeth. He was a Navy veteran of World War II and a member of Capt. Newell Rodney Fisher Post 335, Veterans of Foreign Wars. His wife, Dorothy "Dolly" Lanza Klekner, died in 1980. Surviving are a brother, James, and several nieces and nephews. A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia. Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home.

Obituaries

Helen Jean Wallace

CRANFORD — Helen Jean Wallace, 97, died July 2, 2003 at her home in Summerville, S.C. Born March 30, 1906 in Rockville Centre, N.Y., she was a daughter of the late George and Cora Coleman Brooks. Mrs. Wallace lived in Cranford before moving to Summerville. She retired in 1985 after 10 years with the Golden Carousel shop in Clinton. She earlier worked 25 years with the Florence Cox Ceramic Studio in Clark. Arrangements were by the James A. Dyal Funeral Home, Summerville, and locally by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the charity of your choice.

Dominik Wiktor

CRANFORD — Dominik M. Wiktor, 75, died July 8, 2003 at his home. A native of Poland, Mr. Wiktor lived in England and Irvington before moving to Cranford in 1961. He also had a winter home in St. Petersburg, Fla. He designed an intravascular coronary stent that earned him a United States patent. For his efforts the New Jersey Hall of Fame honored Mr. Wiktor as its inventor of the Year for 1996. He became a consultant to Medtronic Inc. after it acquired his stent design for production. Mr. Wiktor earlier worked for the Automotive Switch Co. in Florham Park from 1966-91. He earned a degree in electrical engineering in 1951 from the Polytechnic Institute in Scotland. He was a member of the Polish Children's Heartline in Brick, the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark and the Isla del Sol Yacht and Country Club in St. Petersburg. He was an active adult volunteer with Boy Scout Troop 103 in Cranford. He was a member of the Telephone Pioneers of America and the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Jensen was an Army veteran of World War II. Surviving are his wife of 57 years, Marian Schou Jensen, two sons, Robert N. of Bethesda, Md., and Eric P. of Basking Ridge; a brother, John M. of Lakewood; and two grandchildren. Services were held yesterday at the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Burial was in Restland Memorial Park, East Hanover.

CRANFORD — Jeanne Scher, 91, died July 7, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. She was born in Elizabeth and lived in Cranford before moving to Mountaintop. Mrs. Scher retired in 1988 after 50 years as a clerk with the Union County Superior Court in Elizabeth. Her husband, Sidney, and a daughter, Barbara Gordon, are deceased. Surviving are a stepdaughter, Virginia, a stepson, Dr. Charles, and a brother, William Kall. Services will be 10 a.m. today at the Menorah Chaiques at Millburn, 2950 Vauxhall Road, Union. Burial will be in Beth Israel Memorial Park, Woodbridge.

Walter Boehm

CRANFORD — Walter George Boehm, 74, died June 27, 2003 at Bon Secours Community Hospital in Port Jervis, N.Y. Mr. Boehm was born in Philadelphia Sept. 20, 1928 and lived in Dingmans Ferry, Pa. and Sun City Center, Fla. He was previously a manager for the Honeywell Corp. in Westfield. A veteran of the Army who served during the Korean War, Mr. Boehm was an avid golfer and bowler who enjoyed playing billiards with his friends. He is survived by his wife, Constance Klesse Boehm; two sons, W. Thomas and wife Kathleen of Vernon and Matthew and wife Carol of Ambler, Pa.; a daughter, Susan Mikotazyk and husband Chester of Cranford; and seven grandchildren. Arrangements were by the Knight-Archwood Funeral Home in Port Jervis. Donations may be sent to the American Cancer Society.

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Helen D. Mercer

Helen Donitter Mercer, 85, died June 28, 2003 at Rahway Hospital. She lived in her native New Brunswick and in Rahway before moving to Fairwood in 2000. Mrs. Mercer was a homemaker. Her husband, Sam, died in 1978. Surviving are a brother, Carl.

John E. Callaghan

John E. Callaghan, 62, died July 4, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. A native of Philadelphia, Pa., he lived in Westfield for 22 years before moving to Scotch Plains in 1999. Mr. Callaghan was once a patent attorney with Exxon Corp. He later was on the civilian staff of the Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway Township, from which he retired in 1999. A funeral Mass was celebrated Tuesday at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial was private. Donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Huxsca St., Linden, NJ 07036.

Joan R. Hewitt

Joan Robertson Hewitt, 78, died July 3, 2003 at Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights. She was born in Newark and lived in Scotch Plains since 1999. Mrs. Hewitt retired in 2001 after 28 years as a receptionist with the Suburban Medical Group in Fairwood. More recently she was a hushmore monitor at Franklin School in Westfield. A 1942 graduate of Mount St. Mary Academy in Watchung, Mrs. Hewitt attended Georgian Court College. She was a founding member of the Scotch Plains Junior Women's Club when it formed in 1948. Mrs. Hewitt also was a member of the Golden Age Club in the township. A sister, Susan Davis, is deceased. Surviving are a daughter, Kim Hewitt Bonstein; a son, William J.; and two grandchildren. Services are scheduled today at the Rossi Funeral Home, 176 Huxsca St., Linden, NJ 07036.

Vincent Kraszewski

Vincent F. Kraszewski, 83, died July 6, 2003 at Overlook Hospital in Summit. A native of Lorain, Ohio, he lived in Bayonne before moving to Scotch Plains in 1981. Mr. Kraszewski retired in 1985 after 12 years as a tool and cutter grinder with Kiddle Inc. in Belleville. He earlier worked for the Eastern Cutter Corp. in Newark and Singer Manufacturing Co. in Elizabeth. He was an Army sergeant in World War II and a life member of the Disabled American Veterans. Mr. Kraszewski also was a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10122. He was a parishioner of St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church. Surviving are his wife of 56 years, June Mackiewicz Kraszewski; two sons, Robert and Kenneth; a daughter, Ellen McKee; a brother, John; and a grandchild. A funeral Mass is scheduled today at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church, following services at the Rossi Funeral Home. Burial is in St. Gertrude Cemetery, Colonia.

Willnette 'Billie' Powell

Willnette M. 'Billie' Powell, 85, died June 29, 2003 at Genesis Elder-Care-Westfield Center. She was born in Warsaw, Va., and lived in Westfield before moving to Scotch Plains. Mrs. Powell was a producer clerk at the A&P supermarket in Westfield. A traveler and reader, she was a member of the Westfield Negro History Club and the Women's Club at the Bethel Baptist Church in Westfield. A brother, John Carlyle Woods, is deceased. Surviving are her husband of 66 years, Ernest; two sons, Russell of Fort Washington, Md., and Kim of Arlington, Va.; three daughters, Jacquelyn Crawley of Wilmington, N.C., Donna Powell Smith of Southfield, Conn., and Vicki Powell-Worley of Las Cruces, N.M.; 14 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Services were held Saturday at the Bethel Baptist Church in Westfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to the Bethel Baptist Church Building Fund.

Herbert Thompson

Herbert O. Thompson, 91, died July 5, 2003 in Oakmont, Pa. Mr. Thompson was born in Chicago, Ill. He lived in Scotch Plains and Plum, Pa., before moving to Oakmont, Pa. He was an industrial engineer with the elevator division of Westinghouse Corp. Two brothers, Jack and Sidney, are deceased. Surviving are his wife of 63 years, Beatrice Threlfall Thompson; a son, Richard of Harmer, Pa.; a daughter, Lois Corbett of Ben Lomond, Calif.; a sister, Ruth Longshore of Batavia, Ohio; four granddaughters, Darlene Gulden Dunlop of Lewisburg, Pa., Bonnie Gulden of Clintondale, N.Y., Wendy Gulden of Virginia Beach, Va., and Pamela Thompson Albrethsen of Vermilion, Ohio; and 10 great-grandchildren. Services were held Wednesday at the Oakmont United Methodist Church. A memorial service is scheduled today at Longwood at Oakmont. Arrangements were by the Thomas D. English Funeral Home in Oakmont.

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BEST BETS

Chinese paper-cutting on display in Springfield

An exhibit of the Asian Folk Art Center at Davidson Road, Somerset, July 19 and 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The 60,000-square-foot facility is a conditioned facility located just off Exit 10 of Route 287.

The Garden State Cat Club's 67th Annual Cat Show will spotlight 450 felines representing 37 different breeds, as well as special household domestic cats. Some of the featured breeds in this year's show include the American Curl, Sphinx, Maine Coon, Norwegian Forest Cat, Siberian, Balinese, Birman, Burmese, Ocicat, Persian, Exotic, Shorthair, Abyssinian, Himalayan, Somali, Egyptian Mau, Devon Rex, Scottish Fold, American Wirehair, Manx, Cornish Rex, Ragdoll, and American Shorthair.

This year, GSCC has added a special celebration to commemorate one of New Jersey's finest cat authorities, Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) judge and author Dick Gebhardt. Gebhardt has given 50 years of service to CFA as an all-around judge. He has served as past president to CFA and Garden State Cat Club, of which he is an honorary lifetime member.

In addition, Friskies will host a live segment of entertainment featuring their own specially-trained celebrity performing cat team.

Clarinets galore at Crescent Ave. Church

Ever wondered what a bass clarinet looks like, or how a contra-bass clarinet sounds? Find out Sunday during a special performance by Rouge et Noir Clarinets at Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Ave., Plainfield, starting at 3 p.m. Admission is a \$15 suggested donation.

The concert features something for everyone from the classical to jazz and popular. Hear creations by LeRoy Anderson, Percy Grainger, Henry Mancini, Kurt Weill, even the Beatles' own Lennon and McCartney, as well as classics from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite, Bach's Suite No. 5, Clara's Russian Sailor's Dance, and other works by Holst, Handel, Byrd and Mussorgsky.

This rare opportunity to see clarinets of all sizes and to observe first-hand such versatile sounds, from exceedingly low to very high, skillfully played by top-notch musicians, promises to be a unique sonic experience.

Rouge et Noir Clarinets, formed three years ago by Rutgers University alumni, meets throughout the New York metropolitan area, and the director, Raymond H. Brungard, The concert is part of a series to help raise \$67,000 for the church's organ fund. All tax-deductible donations, over and above the ticket price, are welcome.

See 'Ragtime Rascals' with the Wilf JCC

Join the campus of the Wilf Jewish Community Campus, located at 1291 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday for a bus trip to the Brownstone Dinner Theater in Paterson.

The Ragtime Rascals Band will raise the roof with music from Dixieland, vaudeville, burlesque and everything in between. This music and comedy revue includes lunch and one hour of open bar.

The menu will feature salad, roast beef, chicken, dessert, coffee or tea. The bus returns to the JCC at 5 p.m.

Call Nan Statton, at (908) 899-8800 ext. 207 to reserve a seat as soon as possible. JCC members pay \$50; the non-member fee \$55.

Country western night at the Deutscher Club
From 5-10 p.m. Saturday, enjoy a country western night in the Pencil Grove at the Deutscher Club of Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane. For more information, call (732) 574-8600.

Director has these puppets on a string

Westfield church hosts marionette production of classic 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

The Friday Night Classics concert series at the Westfield and Methodist Church, located at 1 E. Broad St., will take on a different format 7:30 p.m. Friday with a full theatrical and professional marionette production of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' presented by the well-known Paper Moon Puppet Theatre of Atlantic Highlands.

Produced on a large main touring stage with full lighting, sound, and effects, the show is designed for entertainment as well as cultural, historical, and educational values and is intended for both children and adults.

Paper Moon Puppet Theatre is under the direction of well-known marionetteeer and creator of many custom marionettes, Jim Racioppi. Hand-crafted marionettes are individually designed and crafted for each production.

Elaborate scenery, lighting effects, and music make the show a full theatrical experience. Exciting music, both classical and modern, make it a most enjoyable experience for everyone.

The music for 'Jack and the Beanstalk' is drawn from old English ballad themes and styles of the 19th- and 20th-centuries.

For many adults and young children, this production may be an absorbing first encounter with



Friday Night Classics presents a puppet show of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' July 11.

live theater. In addition to enjoying the performance, older children and adults take delight in the mechanics of classic marionette theater.

Before each performance, the attention of audience members from the youngest child to the most senior citizen. The actors' voices will be amplified to be clearly heard throughout the spacious church sanctuary.

Before each performance, the puppets engage young and old alike in audience participation and interaction with the marionettes. The pre-show generally includes some special music and marionettes. The puppets talk to the children, clown around with the marionettes and engage

the audience in humorous physical and verbal interplay with special numbers and a demonstration of marionette manipulation. At the end of the pre-show, puppets tell the story of the play about to be presented.

The Paper Moon cast is a multi-talented staff of performers, writers and craftsmen. Producer and director, James Racioppi, has had 35 years experience in legitimate theatre and puppetry with extensive creative and professional credits in puppetry, production and animation designs. Besides his work with Paper Moon, he has worked with the 'Theatrical Company of California' where he designed characters and settings for televi-

sion and feature projects, the Dreamstuff Corp., Family Entertainment, and 'Cottage Marionette Theatre'—all in New York. It was at the Cottage Marionette Theatre that Racioppi accomplished set and puppet design for the famous Central Park Marionette Theatre.

Racioppi's work has been featured on the Captain Kangaroo show for CBS, the 'Peanut TV' show for Channel Five, and in puppet films and off-Broadway productions.

Puppets, all-time favorite toys of both children and adults, come in many sizes, shapes, and varieties. Early types of puppets include shadow puppets, glove puppets, rod/stick puppets and

marionettes. Early shadow puppets, such as those from China, India and Turkey, probably were silhouettes set in motion by the firelight against the sides of nomadic tents. Puppets acquired limbs, becoming movable rod puppets, and eventually they acquired strings to become marionettes.

The art of puppetry still flourishes. True puppeteering requires a lot of practice to perfect the craft. Puppeteers must actually be performers, storytellers, technicians, and perhaps even artists. They must be actors creating reality on stage. As storytellers, they must get the audience involved in the show. They have to perform technical movements with their puppets. They may also make their own puppets. A sense of humor and love of fun, thrown in with their other talents, contribute to the fun and entertainment found that are the basic elements of puppet shows.

With this type of background, Friday Evening Classics guarantees that the upcoming presentation of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' will most certainly be an all-time crowd pleaser for both children and adults.

This will be a free community event; no tickets are required. Donations are suggested to help ongoing support of the Friday Night Classics which feature music and productions of many styles throughout the year.

The sanctuary is air conditioned and handicap accessible, and refreshments will be available. For concert information, call the church office daily from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There is plenty of free parking in the church lot adjacent to Morris Place off Prospect Street.

A Wild Night in the Rockies, Old West comedy by Jewel Seehaus-Fisher, 8 p.m. July 10-12, 3 p.m. July 13. Admission \$15; discounts available.

VILLAGERS THEATRE
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710.
www.villagers-theatre.com
"Not Waving," mother-daughter "diamedy" by Gen LeRoy, 8 p.m. July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 2 p.m. July 13, 20. Admission \$12.

Arts and Craft show returns to Edison July 18

The tradition of quality, handcrafted folk art will be showcased at The Country Folk Art and Craft Show in Edison, July 18-20, at the New Jersey Convention Center.

The nation's leading folk art and craft show, with 40 shows in 10 states, returns to Edison with more than 200 of the nation's finest artisan-exhibitors offering the highest quality folk art and craft items.

Admission to the show is \$7. Show hours are 9-4 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday. One paid admission is valid for show re-entry all weekend. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend Friday for early buying privileges.

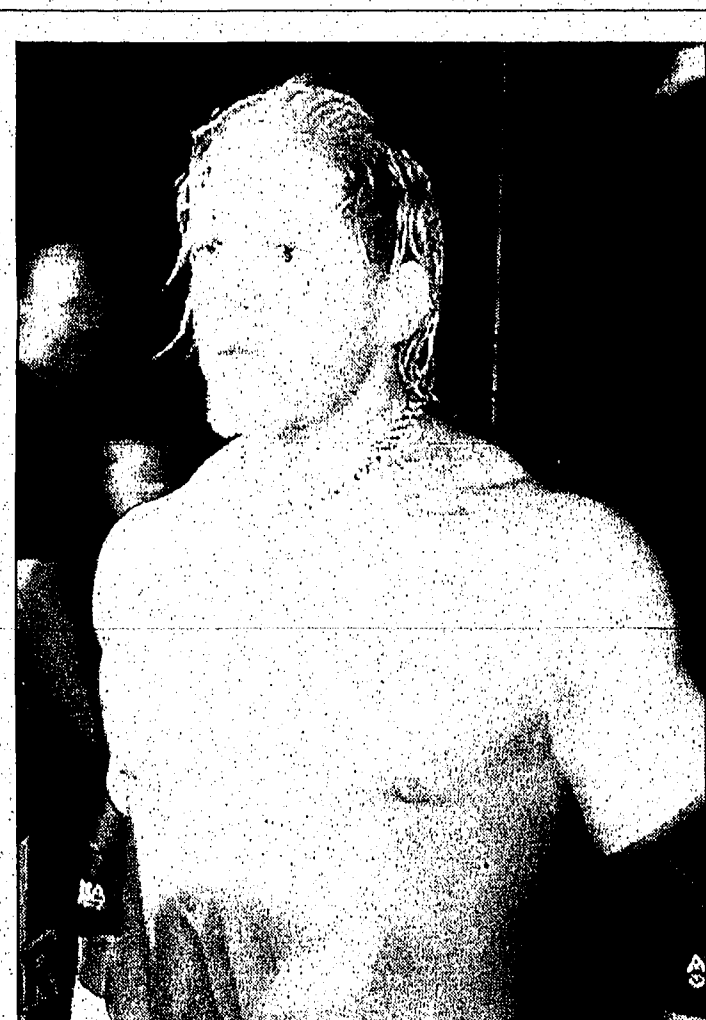
This is Country Folk Art's 15th year in Edison. "Over the years, our Edison shows have become very popular and much-anticipated events for lovers of handmade crafts," said Rhonda Blakely, show producer. "By popular demand, we're returning to the New Jersey Convention Center again this summer with outstanding, hand-selected artists from all over New Jersey, New York and nationwide."

The Country Folk Art and Craft Show returns to Edison again later this year Oct. 16-19 and Dec. 5-7.

The shows have a loyal following of artisans from across the nation and Canada eager to participate in these prestigious events. Every participant is juried and selected for their outstanding workmanship and integrity of creative design.

Each Country Folk Art and Craft Show offers a variety of country decorating items and folk art accessories. "Although all items in country decorating are very popular, there has been an increased popularity of the rustic, whimsical and gardening... items as part of the consumer decorating themes," said Blakely. "A huge array of these items, including garden and cabin signs, birdhouses, seed boxes, fun, summer time gifts, and everything else imaginable to decorate a country-style home is available for sale."

Several funders, like a wine-tasting and a special arts/music event, are being planned to reach out to and involve the public. WAC's challenge is to raise \$20,000 in cash and work contri-



A wrestling extravaganza in Elizabeth

Ring Of Honor, the underground wrestling phenomenon that has captured the imagination of fans and critics alike, makes its Elizabeth, N.J. debut at the RexPlex, 1001 Ikea Dr., at 7:30 p.m. July 19. The show offers original style and incredible competition featuring the hardest-hitting, highest-flying, most athletic action anywhere in the area. At the Elizabeth show, an incredible "8 Man Weapons Match" will take place, and ROH Heavyweight Champion Samoa Joe will defend his belt. WWE star Raven will see action, as will top independent stars A.J. Styles and Paul London. And Elizabeth High School student Jay Lethal will be making his professional debut! Fans can expect to see every style of wrestling, from action-packed tag-team scrambles to hard-hitting "strong style" bouts to technical classics. Tickets are now on sale at RFVideo.com or by phone at (215) 891-9431.

WAC will continue to contribute through volunteer work, and many upgrades have already been implemented over the last few weeks. WAC is reaching out to civic-minded contractors, electrical and other building professionals to help with some of the work. WAC is also in the process of raising funds from individuals and corporations through appeal letters and calls.

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"It would be a tragedy if the upper gallery were to close. Thousands of people from central New Jersey count on us for entertainment and culture."

— **Shelia Duyckinck**
executive director,
Watching Arts Center

The nonprofit, almost exclusively volunteer-run Watching Arts Center, which limits the Arts Center's functions.

The nonprofit, almost exclusively volunteer-run Watching Arts Center, which limits the Arts Center's functions.

the Arts Center 26 years ago when a group of civic-minded local residents came together with a goal toward enriching lives in the region through visual arts, music and arts education.

The borough has expressed support for the work of the Arts Center but has not committed sufficient funds to pay for the needed upgrades, which limits the Arts Center's functions.

The nonprofit, almost exclusively volunteer-run Watching Arts Center, which limits the Arts Center's functions.

The building is owned by the Borough of Watchung, which began leasing it to

the Arts Center 26 years ago when a group of civic-minded local residents came together with a goal toward enriching lives in the region through visual arts, music and arts education.

Exhibit center will host Annual Cat Show

The Northeast's largest cat show will be held at the Garden State Exhibit Center at Davidson Road, Somerset, July 19 and 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The 60,000-square-foot facility is a conditioned facility located just off Exit 10 of Route 287.

The Garden State Cat Club's 67th Annual Cat Show will spotlight 450 felines representing 37 different breeds, as well as special household domestic cats. Some of the featured breeds in this year's show include the American Curl, Sphinx, Maine Coon, Norwegian Forest Cat, Siberian, Balinese, Birman, Burmese, Ocicat, Persian, Exotic, Shorthair, Abyssinian, Himalayan, Somali, Egyptian Mau, Devon Rex, Scottish Fold, American Wirehair, Manx, Cornish Rex, Ragdoll, and American Shorthair.

This year, GSCC has added a special celebration to commemorate one of New Jersey's finest cat authorities, Cat Fanciers' Association (CFA) judge and author Dick Gebhardt. Gebhardt has given 50 years of service to CFA as an all-around judge. He has served as past president to CFA and Garden State Cat Club, of which he is an honorary lifetime member.

In addition, Friskies will host a live segment of entertainment featuring their own specially-trained celebrity performing cat team.

One of the main attractions will be the Parade of Breeds hosted by CFA judge and cat expert Judy Thomas. The Meow Mall will consist of merchants selling items for people and their cats, as well as heavily discounted pet supplies.

This year, special awards will be given to shelter adoptees. The categories include the longest whiskers, fluffiest tail, prettiest face, most unusual color, and most striking marking and stripes.

Breeders from around the country will have pedigreed kittens of various breeds for sale. They will also be on hand to answer questions about what breed would be good for one's lifestyle. Tickets are available at the door. Adults are \$9, seniors and children under 12 are \$6. Children under 5 are free.

For more information, email kimbberly@online.net or lusciouskitts@aol.com, or call Katherine Beck at (908) 231-0267.

Theater

FRIDAY NIGHT CLASSICS
Westfield Methodist Church
1 E. Broad St., Westfield
"Jack and the Beanstalk," classic tale told with marionette puppets.
7:30 p.m. July 11. Free.

FORUM THEATRE
314 Main St., Meluchen
(732) 548-0562; www.forumtheatrecompany.com
"Sleeping Beauty," famous fairy tale done live and local with music. To July 19. Admission \$12; group rates available. Call for show times.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE

Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 548-2884; www.papermill.org
"Grease," touring production of Broadway movie musical. To July 27. Admission \$66; cat, discounts available. Call for showtimes.

PLAYS IN THE PARK
Stephen J. Capostro Theater
Roosevelt Park, Edison
(732) 548-2884; www.playsinthepark.com
"Mac and Mabel," lesser-known musical by Jerry Herman of "Mame" fame. 8:30 p.m. July 10-12. Adults \$3; under 12 free; bring your own chairs for seating.

ROY W. SMITH THEATRE
Union County College
1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford
(908) 659-5189
"A Wild Night in the Rockies," Old West comedy by Jewel Seehaus-Fisher. 8 p.m. July 10-12, 3 p.m. July 13. Admission \$15; discounts available.

VILLAGERS THEATRE
475 DeMott Lane, Somerset
(732) 873-2710.
www.villagers-theatre.com
"Not Waving," mother-daughter "diamedy" by Gen LeRoy, 8 p.m. July 11, 12, 18, 19, 25, 26, 2 p.m. July 13, 20. Admission \$12.

Events
RING OF HONOR
RexPlex
1001 Ikea Drive, Elizabeth
(215) 891-9431; www.RFVideo.com
Underground wrestling extravaganza featuring WWE star Raven. 7:30 p.m. July 19.

COUNTRY FOLK ART AND CRAFT SHOW
New Jersey Convention Center
Raritan Center, Edison
(732) 417-1400; www.countryfolkartshows.com
Summer edition of touring craft show. 9-4 p.m. July 18, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 20. Adults \$7; under 10 \$2 (no strollers).

GARDEN STATE CAT CLUB CAT SHOW
Garden State Exhibit Center
(908) 231-0267

EDISON NJ CONV. & EXPO CENTER
Phone (732) 417-1400
For directions, visit
www.CountryFolkArt.com
for more show information!
FREE PARKING

Country Folk Art Shows, Inc.
P.O. Box 1214, 1501 PA 404-2738
www.countryfolkart.com

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*All prices include a \$1.25 Facilities Fee. All seats subject to availability. Offer may be revoked at any time.

67th ANNUAL CAT SHOW
Garden State Exhibit Center
July 19 & 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Adults \$9, seniors and children under 12 are \$6. Children under 5 are free.

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Adults \$9, seniors and children under 12 are \$6. Children under 5 are free.

SPRING LAKE PARK CONCERTS
Maple Ave., South Plainfield
(732) 745-3900; www.middlesex.nj.us
Shows on the bandstand 3 p.m.
Sunday. Free admission.
Mike Kucak (guitar), July 13.
Just Us (featuring Ed Szymorski), July 20.
KENNY LOGGINS
8 p.m. Saturday, July 19
Slate Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11; www.slatetheatre.org
Best known for hit themes from 80's movies: "Footloose," "Danger Zone" (from "Top Gun"), "I'm Alive" (from "Caddyshack"), "Meet Me Halfway" (from "Over the Top"). Admission \$68-\$32.

PLAINTIFF OUTDOOR FESTIVAL OF ART
Library Park, Plainfield
West Eighth St., Plainfield
(908) 754-7250
40th anniversary of the art show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 12 (rain date July 13). Free admission.

Concerts
JIM BARONE
6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 16: Three Beloved Church
10 W. Somerset St., Raritan
(908) 722-1287; www.threelovedchurch.org
Elvis Presley impersonator. Free admission.

JIMMY BEAUMONT & THE SKYLINERS
7 p.m. Sunday, July 20
Duke Island Park
Old York Rd., Bridgewater
(908) 722-1200, Ext. 351; www.park.co.somerset.nj.us
Pre-Beatles group that hit big with "Since I Don't Have You." Free admission.

CONNIE TARANTINO CONCERT SERIES
Borough Hall
Route 28, Somerville
(908) 541-1600
Shows on the lawn 7 p.m. Friday (weather permitting). Free admission.

Annie Baerlein/Chip Mergott
(folk), July 11.
John Hanly (jazz), July 18.
JOHNSON PARK CONCERTS
River Rd., Piscataway

COUNTRY FOLK ART CRAFT SHOW
JULY 18-19-20
200+ ARTISANS!
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Adm. \$7
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*All prices include a \$1.25 Facilities Fee. All seats subject to availability. Offer may be revoked at any time.

67th ANNUAL CAT SHOW
Garden State Exhibit Center
July 19 & 20, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Adults \$9, seniors and children under 12 are \$6. Children under 5 are free.

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Health & Fitness

These wraps are healthy 'finger food'

(ARA) — Busy families need quick, healthy meals to keep them going. This is especially true during the summer, as they engage in all kinds of outdoor activities from swimming and baseball to bike-riding and gardening.

Tortilla wraps are a food trend that fits the bill for an easy summertime lunch or dinner. Mom and Dad can be in and out of the kitchen quickly and the kids will have fun

with this versatile "finger food." To make a wrap, simply fill a tortilla with your favorite ingredients. Let your creativity go wild for some innovative combinations. You can add your favorite sandwich filling, from turkey to tuna (don't forget all the interesting extras like lettuce, tomatoes, onions, olives and your favorite low fat sandwich spread).

Or you can follow tortilla tradition and use low fat or no-fat refried

beans, fresh avocado, salsa (either made fresh or store-bought), and low fat cheese for a tasty Mexican meal.

Since most tortillas are made with refined white flour, they aren't adding any nutritional benefit to your meal. However, Food For Life Organic Ezekiel 4:9 Sprouted Grain Tortillas provide an extra nutritional punch to your wrap. Made from freshly sprouted live grains, these tortillas contain no flour. The blend of freshly sprouted grains, beans and seeds provides a complete protein. No milk, baking yeast, artificial colors or flavors are used.

The tortillas, which are available

in either a 10-inch "burrito" size or a 6-inch "taco" size, are certified organic. That assures consumers that the grains have been grown and processed without the use of spray fertilizers, chemical or pesticides, says Torres.

Food for Life, a family owned and operated company, produces an entire line of over 60 high quality baked goods made from natural ingredients for optimum health and nutrition. The company's products are distributed nationally.

For more information or to locate a retailer near you that sells Food for Life products, visit www.foodforlife.com.



Runnells Director of Activities Therapy, Pat Scott accepts a selection of hand-crafted items, including this quilt, from organizer, Marian Connolly of The Second Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corp.

'Runnells Ladies' make life special for hospital patients

To the residents and patients of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County located in Berkeley Heights, some of the residents of the Second Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corp. are affectionately known as "The Runnells Ladies." For the past six years a group of women from the Westfield facility have donated handmade decorations, gifts and flowers to Runnells.

The Runnells Ladies supply decorations throughout the year, customizing them depending on the holiday or season. The decorations are used throughout the facility. Cognitively-impaired residents have their rooms and doors adorned with the crafts. To complement the handmade decorations, the group also donates silk flower arrangements.

The Runnells Ladies donate gifts both hand-made and store-bought. Unique items such as wheelchair bags, chart holders and slings are crocheted or sewn by members of the group.

The items are used as gifts or as prizes for activities such as bingo. Prizes may include jewelry, stationery and toiletries. The items are also used as part of a gift bag in welcoming new residents and patients. Each gift bag includes an afghan also crocheted by one of the members.

Recently, The Runnells Ladies started a new program that consists of recognizing the residents' birthdays by sending personalized greeting.

Union County Freeholder liaison to Runnells, Alexander Mirabella, lauds the efforts of the Runnells ladies. He says, "There is a significant response from the patients and residents to their generosity and thoughtfulness. I am so glad that they include us in their thoughts."

Alzheimer's support group meets monthly

The Caregiver & Alzheimer's Family Support Group will be meeting each month at Runnells Specialized Hospital. The hospital, located at 40 Watching Way in Berkeley Heights, hosts the event in association with the Greater NJ Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. The bi-monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:00 pm in the

first floor Family Conference Room. The remaining meeting dates for 2003 are as follows: July 17; Aug. 21; Sept. 18; Oct. 16; Nov. 20 and Dec. 18.

This group is free of charge and open to the community. If you would like to attend, call Liz Carabuenza, LSW, at (908) 771-8828. Additional help and information can be found by calling the Alzheimer's Association helpline at (800) 883-1180.

Now, if they'd do away with that archaic one player per team rule and replace Blown Save Benitez with rookie sensation Dontrelle Willis (8-1, 1.98 ERA), then it'd be perfect.

Hospital guild has programs for shopping

The Volunteer Guild at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County invites the public to participate in their shopping programs.

Outside vendors are invited to set up shop in the main floor multi-purpose room. Each vendor offers a unique product at very affordable prices. A portion of the proceeds from sales goes to support the Volunteer Guild, which uses the funds to purchase items for residents and patients such as televisions, VCR's and games.

Union County Freeholder Alexander Mirabella says, "The money raised from the program is a big help to the residents."

The program is an excellent way to do holiday shopping or to pick up unique gifts. The program has also been popular with visitors to the hospital and has attracted residents from communities surrounding the Berkeley Heights facility located at 40 Watching Way.

The Volunteer Guild also operates the hospital's gift shop and coffee shop. The Guild is made up of individuals who donate their time to helping the community of Runnells Hospital. There are always opportunities for anyone interested in helping. If interested in shopping at Runnells or learning more about being a volunteer, call (908) 771-5847.

The following is a list of vendors scheduled for the rest of 2003: Sept. 4, Reese Jewelry; Sept. 18, Sock Exchange; Oct. 2, Home Products; Oct. 16, Gadget Lady; Oct. 30, Music Lovers; Nov. 13, Catherine's House of Silver Jewelry; Dec. 5, Impulse Items; and Dec. 11, Christmas Boutique.

Sports

MURPHY'S LAW

All-Star game should be classic

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

Other than dreading seeing Armando Benitez represent the New York Mets, I'm extremely excited about this year's Major League Baseball All-Star Game because, as you may have heard, this time it counts.

The fact that this year's game will determine which league gets home field advantage in the World Series has created an energy and a buzz baseball's Midseason Classic desperately needed.

Say what you want about the fairness of having the winner of an exhibition game, in which ballet stuffing fans choose the starting lineups, determine who will host Game 7 of the World Series, but it certainly beats the old system.

In the past, the National League and American League rotated each year which league had home field advantage. Regular season performance had nothing to do with it, only whether it was an odd year or an even year.

The ideal system would have the winner of the most regular season games hold home field advantage throughout the playoffs, much like in basketball and hockey. But in the Bud Selig error, asking for the ideal situation is like asking Ashton Kutcher to just go away. It just isn't going to happen, no matter how much we beg and pray.

So having the winning league of the All-Star game receive home field advantage is about as good as it's going to get, and it's pretty good. First of all, this year's game is going to have to have a winner, which is an immediate improvement. Secondly, while most of the players on each roster will see action, the manager's will actually have to manage like professionals, not little league coaches who need to find a way to get everyone in. And the players, at least in the latter innings, will play hard and play to win, not just put on a show.

Making the game count will produce the type of action we've always wanted from the Mid Summer Classic.

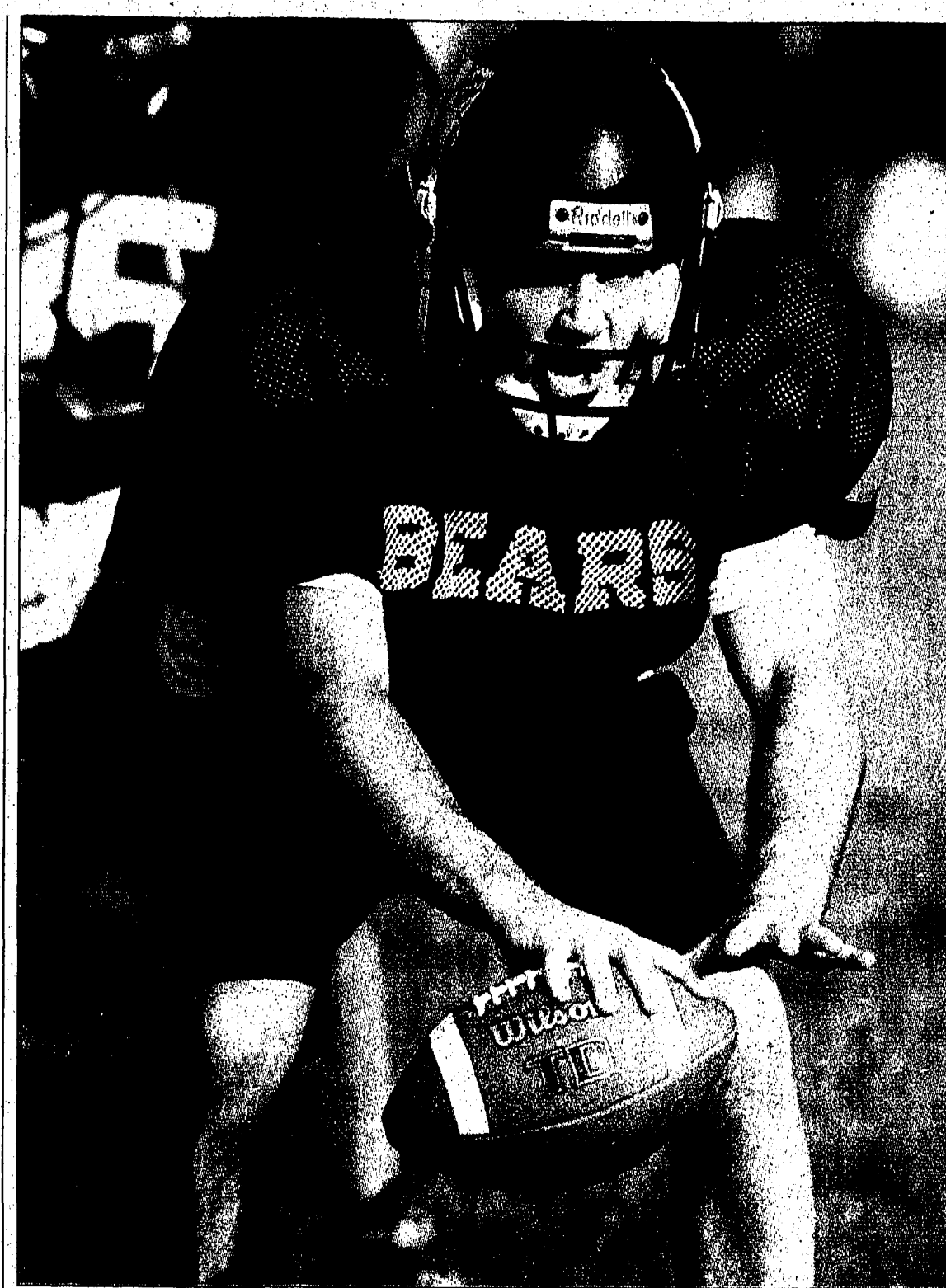
Now, if they'd do away with that archaic one player per team rule and replace Blown Save Benitez with rookie sensation Dontrelle Willis (8-1, 1.98 ERA), then it'd be perfect.

— Free Kobe: All the facts aren't in yet in the sexual assault charges against the NBA star but I'll put my money behind Bryant and his spotless reputation. And since the prosecution has hesitated to actually charge Bryant after his arrest shows you they don't think they have a very strong case. Danton "Puff" Daddy Stoudamire, on the other hand, is a completely different story.

— Anthony Carter is now accepting resumes. The Miami Heat guard was set to make \$4.1 million this upcoming season, however his agent failed to submit the necessary paperwork to exercise an "opt-in" clause by the July 1 deadline. Now Carter is a free agent, and after averaging 4.1 points and 4.1 assists in 49 games last year, could make as low as the veteran's minimum of \$689,000.

— Women get dramatic. The final hole of the fourth round of the U.S. Women's Open was some of the most interesting golf I've watched in a while. Between Annika Sorenstam's unlikely shank, the over-15 minute ruling and the dramatic putts of eventual champ Hilary Lunke and Angela Stanford it was the most riveting 20 minutes of golf since the 1999 Ryder Cup. Between Sunday's drama, Sorenstam playing with the big boys at the Colonial and 13-year old Michelle Wie hitting like the big boys the LPGA has some serious momentum it needs to build on.

— Don't tease me. I heard a rumor last week that Caddyshack 3 is in the works. The writers and directors aren't yet in place, but the project is off to a good start—they're planning to completely ignore everything from Caddyshack 2.



Brearley's Steve Washuta takes snaps during the second day of Snapple Bowl practice Tuesday. The annual battle between Union County and Middlesex County All-Stars will be held at East Brunswick High School July 17.

Rothery looking forward to North-South game

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

It's going to be the last bit of game action he'll see in a while, so Mike Rothery wants to make the most of it.

The Brearley High grad will play in Saturday's North-South All-Star football game at Rutgers Stadium in Piscataway before heading off to Towson University in Maryland, where he'll red-shirt his freshman season before the Tigers join the Atlantic 10 in 2004.

The squads gathered on the Rutgers campus Tuesday, where they'll stay and practice until Saturday's game. The contest is slated to kickoff at 1 p.m., followed by the Governor's Bowl, pitting New Jersey all stars against a squad from New York, at 5:30.

"I miss playing football," said Rothery, who has bulked up to 240 pounds after wrestling at 215 and playing in the fall at 220. "It's going to be a good experience playing against some great competition, which will help get me ready for college."

For players getting ready to take their games to the college level, summer all-star games serve as an excellent way to get back in the groove after months of not playing.

"I think it will be a good way to get back into it," said Rothery, who leaves Aug. 9 for Towson. "When I got to camp in August it won't be my first time practicing in pads. I've been lifting a lot and I weigh more now than I ever have."

As a scholarship athlete Rothery, along with the other 14 players in his class, has to red shirt his year as Towson moves from the non-scholarship Patriot League to the Atlantic 10. But it is also a situation he sought and one that made Towson more appealing during the recruiting process.

"I wanted to red shirt," said Rothery. "My brother red shirted and he told me it was the best thing to do. I'd rather red shirt one year and be better prepared. It will be weird to just practice and not have the opportunity to play, but it will be better in the long run."

For Rothery the game is a chance to get back into the football swing and to have fun, but like most competitive athletes once the ball is kicked off the competitive juices will be flowing.

"I want to play football and have fun," he said. "I want to go there and play well, maybe get a sack or two, and I want to win. But whenever I play a game I want to win. I'm sure all the other players in the game will feel the same way. We're definitely going to want to win."

"Without the Jaycees, this race doesn't happen," said Bilenker.

Westfield, normally well represented at local races was led by Rick Pingitore who was fourth master and 13th overall in 22:36. Todd Schwartz, 37, was the leading South Plains finisher, 60th overall in 25:45. Sheila Custer, 39, of Westfield was the first area woman finishing 65th in 25:51 and was the seventh woman overall.

The first Fanwood finisher was a woman, Susan Craft, 47 who ran 29:41 and was second in her age group.

Bilenker was pleased with the Cougars' showing. "It's supposed to be a fun family event but it's nice when it can serve as a showcase for local talent," said Bilenker.

John Williams once again served as race director, ably assisted by more than 100 volunteers from the Cranford Jaycees who seemed to be everywhere attending to runners' needs.

"We like running together in the summer," said Brian Brown. "It helps to run as a team."

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SPOTLIGHT ON
SPORTS MEDICINE

Presented by William Bell, R.P.T.

RECOVERING FROM ANKLE SURGERY

There are a number of strengthening exercises that are designed to help patients who are recovering from ankle injuries. Among them is the "ankle alphabet" exercise, which calls for the patient to sit on a chair with one foot flat on the floor. The other raised foot is then used to trace the letters of the alphabet, using the big toe as the "pen." There is also a balance exercise that calls for the patient to stand within reach of a wall. Then, while holding one knee, one foot is lifted off the floor and balance is maintained with the other (straight) leg. These exercises, along with the raises and push-outs, help in the recovery from ankle injury.

P.S. Aside from regaining strength, flexibility and balance are two other elements of recovering from an ankle injury.

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Marianne Luckenbach, PT has specialized in orthopedic physical therapy for over 10 years. She is an active member of the Orthopedic Section of the American Physical Therapy Association. Through extensive orthopedic education and training, Marianne cares for her patients with state-of-the-art skill and knowledge.

DAVE RETURNS FOR DIAMONDS

Dave has been an avid skier for years. His favorite resort is the pristine mountain-scape of Whistler, Canada. In November, he was slicing his way down a double diamond trail when he hit a patch of ice and injured his knee.

Dave returned home where his orthopedist referred him to Marianne at ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates.

His evaluation revealed joint stiffness and muscle weakness. He was placed on an aggressive stretching and strengthening program. As Dave regained strength, Marianne added lateral drills and plyometrics to incorporate the power and agility needed for skiing. Dave was able to return to majestic Whistler in time for a sparkling spring day of double diamonds.

Marianne was happy to assist Dave in his return to the slopes. Successful stories like Dave's, demonstrate why ADVANCED Physical Therapy Associates is the finest private practice in the state.

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DAVE RETURNS FOR DIAMONDS

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CHS runners lead the pack at Firecracker race

By DAVID LAZARUS
CORRESPONDENT

CRANFORD — Cranford High School cross country runners past and present dominated their hometown race, the annual Cranford Jaycees Firecracker Four-Miler held Friday through the streets of Cranford and Kenilworth.

Though short of the mega size fields of recent years the 942 finishers was still an impressive total according to Dr. Art Bilenker, a Cranford dentist, who has served in various capacities during his 13 year involvement with the race, which was held for the 26th time.

"We had a good turnout, especially because it was a Friday and people would normally take a long weekend," said Bilenker, himself a runner who has completed numerous marathons. "But it seemed that many of the runners came here and then immediately left for the long weekend."

Tim Styler, captain of Cranford's 1999 conference and state sectional championship team, winner of the 3200 meters at the 1999 Meet of Champions and a recent Villanova graduate, led the charge, finishing second in 20:29, 18 seconds behind the winner, Mohamed Khadrouti of Paterson.

Since graduating in May, Styler joined the Sneaker Factory Racing team in Millburn and has been a top finisher in many of the biggest local races.

Styler finished comfortably ahead of two time race champion, Budd Coates of Ennais, PA who ran 20:54 a remarkable achievement for anyone, much less a 46 year old.

"He's quite a runner," said Styler of Khadrouti, who was unbeaten against New Jersey high school competition this past spring. The second Cranford finisher was the star of last year's Cougar team, Ed Clinton who placed 8th.

Following the pack philosophy, which was instrumental in the success of the Cranford cross country squads over the years, Cougar runners filled in four more spots between 16th and 30th all running under 6 minutes per mile, no small feat on a hot and sultry day that fanned many a runner.

Brian Brown finished 16th (22:54), Tom Flanagan was 24th (23:40), Glenn Brown was 28th (23:49) and Kevin Brown 30th (23:55) to complete the impressive showing. Daniel Lordan and Ryan Byrnes were just behind in 32nd and 34th.

"We like running together in the summer," said Brian Brown. "It helps to run as a team."

Bilenker was pleased with the Cougars' showing. "It's supposed to be a fun family event but it's nice when it can serve as a showcase for local talent," said Bilenker.

John Williams once again served as race director, ably assisted by more than 100 volunteers from the Cranford Jaycees who seemed to be everywhere attending to runners' needs.

"Without the Jaycees, this race doesn't happen," said Bilenker.

Westfield, normally well represented at local races was led by Rick Pingitore who was fourth master and 13th overall in 22:36. Todd Schwartz, 37, was the leading South Plains finisher, 60th overall in 25:45. Sheila Custer, 39, of Westfield was the first area woman finishing 65th in 25:51 and was the seventh woman overall.

The first Fanwood finisher was a woman, Susan Craft, 47 who ran 29:41 and was second in her age group.

JULY 4TH RESULTS

The Cranford Recreation and Parks Department is pleased to announce the following July 4th Nomahegan Park contest winners.

Canoe races
6-13 years old — 1st: Andrew McGlynn and Miles McCann.
14-20 — 1st: Paul Sharkey and Chester Klimke. 2nd: Jenna Weismann and Michael Denici. 3rd: Conner Mahoney and Harry McCann.

Parent and child — 1st: Anthony and Matthew DiGiovanni. 2nd: Conner and Kevin Mahoney. 3rd: Christopher Denici and Mike Scotti.

21 and older — 1st: Mike and Joe Denici. 2nd: Jim Byrne and Joe Tama. 3rd: Chris and Warren Ousterman.
Ma and pa — 1st: Hove and Colleen Markovitch. 2nd: Eva and Mark McGlynn. 3rd: Tom and Deb Grable.

Marathon

17 and under — 1st: Jenna Weismann, Michael and Tricia Denici. 2nd: Matthew DiGiovanni, Austin and Julie Adonna. 3rd: Colin McKay, Miles McCann, and Andrew McGlynn.

18 and older — 1st: David Gelber, Rob Pender, John Bush. 2nd: Jonathan Steinberg, Mike Scotti, Tim Burd. 3rd: Paul Starkey, Chester Klimke.

Bike decorating
4 and under — 1st: Bridget Coleman. 2nd: Devon LoConte. 3rd: Bonnie Calibrelli.
5-7 years old — 1st: Bobby Puhak. 2nd: Matt Riegi. 3rd: Anthony Perrone.
8-11 years old — 1st: Phil Hamilton. 2nd: Ashley Katlak. 3rd: Chris Hamilton.

Backwards race
Parent and child — 1st: John LoConte and Ali LoConte. 2nd: John Muratore and Sarah Muratore. 3rd: Cathy Katlak and Ashley Katlak.

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Pools are a lot of fun, but be sure to take safety steps

Now that temperatures are finally on the rise, swimming pool covers will be coming off in backyards everywhere. But before pool owners make a splash this season, the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club encourages them to evaluate their pool areas for safety and review safety rules with their children and guests.

"While there's plenty of fun, but there's also a large investment demanding tremendous responsibility," said Steve Hnath, CPCU, the Club's senior vice president of insurance services. "Besides watching out for their own children, pool-owning parents have a responsibility to keep neighborhood children safe. Your pool area must be secured when you're not around to supervise. And even when you're careful, accidents are possible."

AAA recommends pool owners consider umbrella insurance coverage. Umbrella insurance can add coverage not normally included in current policies and extend or broaden some of your current coverage. It also provides a layer of liability coverage over what you already have under your homeowner's, boat, or other personal liability insurance policies.

"An umbrella policy not only covers you, but your spouse, children, and relatives living with you," added Hnath. "And the cost is minimal. The average \$1 million policy costs an average of just 45 cents a day."

Always remove the pool ladder when not in use and place it in a safe place such as inside a locked shed.

The AAA New Jersey Insurance Agency, a wholly owned subsidiary of the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, provides all lines of personal and commercial insurance products to AAA members and the public.

Never leave toys near a pool - they could lure a small child dangerously close to the water's edge.

Don't let children who can't swim use rafts or floats. They can deflate suddenly, causing a child to slip off into the water.

Realtors Foundation awards scholarships

The New Jersey Association of Realtors Education Foundation (NJAREF) awarded 20 scholarships recently totaling \$27,750 to students pursuing careers in real estate related fields. The trustees of NJAREF reviewed 90 applications and interviewed 35 students before selecting the 20 recipients. To date, the foundation has awarded \$34,100 in scholarships.

The Educational Foundation is honored each year to acknowledge the academic and volunteer achievements of New Jersey students who are interested in pursuing a career in some aspect of the real estate industry," said NJAREF President Christine Caggiano. "These students are our future and will put the scholarship funds to good use pursuing higher education."

A non-profit organization, the Educational Foundation was established in 1969 to foster education, promote knowledge of, and conduct research in, and assist in the education of students pursuing a career in real estate. The Foundation provides scholarships to members of the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) or relatives of NJAR members.

The scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who will be attending an undergraduate four-year institution, students currently enrolled in undergraduate four-year institutions and students pursuing graduate studies. The scholarship program is funded by the Local Boards/Associations of Realtors who have designated memorial gifts to honor members who passed away. In addition, many of New Jersey's local Boards/Associations of Realtors donate annual gifts to support the foundation.

RE/MAX is at new location

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield has moved its office, and is now located at 200 North Ave. East in Westfield. All phone and fax numbers will remain the same.

"Our office is expanding, and we needed a larger space to accommodate our staff," said Broker Manager Ellen Troeller. "We want to let our clients know about the move, and we will continue to provide them with top notch service."

RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield is comprised of 14 full-time sales associates, specializing in all areas of real estate. To contact a sales associate in RE/MAX Properties Unlimited in Westfield, call (908) 233-9292.

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SCOTCH PLAINS \$529,000
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