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After leading the Cranford High football team in rushing last season, Lester Manuyag is hoping to help the Cougars surpass last year's success and make a run for a state title. For a season preview see Sports, Page C-1.



The unofficial end of the summer is here, but the season went out in a flurry of festivals, concerts, and shows. Cranford resident Jerry Dobbins took his grandchildren to the recent carnival hosted by the Kenilworth Fire Department; for the full picture, see Page A-3. And for photos of last week's Italian Festival at St. Bartholomew's Church in Scotch Plains, turn to Community Life on Page B-1.

Happy campers

These youngsters were members of the Westfield Day Care Center's Summer Fun program; the center's fall session began yesterday. For tips on picking the right day care center for your family, as well as suggestions for handling the morning rush for all the students in your family, see our Back-to-School section on Page B-4.

The free service, administered by Atlantic Health Systems, includes cholesterol lab analysis and assessment of blood pressure, pulse at the carotid artery. The event is 1 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday at the Community Center; pre-registration is required at (800) 247-9580.

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Drill will test readiness of county, towns

When sirens start blaring across Union County 9 a.m. Saturday, area residents don't need to stop sipping their latte or abandoning their coveted parking spaces. It's just a drill.

Under the direction of

Cranford, residents Andrew Flacks, Federal Coordinator in New Jersey for National Disaster Medical System (NDMS); Garrett Williams, Central Region Vice President for New Jersey Chapter of National Emergency Number Association (NENA) and Christopher Scaturro, Union County Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Union County will be testing its readiness to deal with the type of

The drill this Saturday will be "one that will truly tax the municipalities," said Williams. It is designed not only to test each township's individual readiness to respond to emergencies, but also to test the completeness of Union County's interdependent infrastructure.

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — The town's Sept. 11 memorial is complete and ready for the ceremony that will mark the second anniversary of the terrorist attacks which killed six residents, said Jerry Dobbins, chairman of the WTC Memorial Committee.

The ceremony, which will be held on the evening of Sept. 11, will begin with an honor guard march at 5:45 pm. Family members of the victims will march from the municipal building to the memorial park behind a

"Banner" and "America the Beautiful." There will be approximately 200 white chairs for residents to sit in as they reflect on the impact the attacks had on America and the community.

"This will be a healing ceremony," Dobbins said.

Three widows will speak at the

ceremony, along with Dobbin and members of the local clergy.

Also, a new American flag which has been flown over the United States Capitol will be hoisted in the park. The flag will be formally presented to Cranford at the next Township Committee meeting Sept. 9.

"Everybody is going to be speaking about the healing process and moving forward," said Dobbins. "No matter how hard it is, you can't stand still."

Following the township's ceremony, nearby Saint Michael's Church will host an interfaith ceremony at 7 p.m.

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

CRANFORD — High school wrestling coach and gym teacher Dominic DiGiuseppe pleaded guilty in state Superior Court in Elizabeth Aug. 1 to obstructing the welfare of a child and to possessing child pornography on his computer.

DiGiuseppe pleaded guilty before Judge John Triassi to the

third-degree charge of impairing the morals of a person under 16 and will have to undergo treatment, said Union County Prosecutor's Officer Bob DeLong. The teenager leading to his arrest was a joint effort between officials in

Union County and Morris County. Police began investigating DiGiocchino after learning he had sent pro-politico messages through the Internet to a Morris County boy, now 12.

DiGiocchino, 46, had been a coach and teacher in Cranford since 1999, and has run wrestling camps in Pennsylvania for years, often recruiting wrestlers from his Cranford students to participate.

The former wrestling coach now faces an evaluation at the Adult Diagnostic and Treatment Center in Avenel. The evaluation will take anywhere between six to eight weeks, according to O'Leary, and will determine the length and location of his sentence. DiGiocchino was scheduled for Oct. 12.

He said district officials "completely convinced" him that Cranford students were in any way involved with DiGiocchino's crimes.

Still, the incident hit the district hard, and especially its athletic program.

"We were just really shocked about the whole thing," said Board of Education member Cheryl Canino.

Added John Donofrio, father of one of the district's largest number of successful wrestlers up to a major supporter of the program, "Cranford's wrestling program will never recover. This is really going to hurt Cranford."

DiGiocchino's sentencing is scheduled for Oct. 12.

Construction keeps Washington closed; Lincoln to open as scheduled Monday

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

GARWOOD — School board officials announced last week that Washington School will not be opening until at least Sept. 15, disrupting plans for district pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students who had been due to start the school year Sept. 8.

According to project manager Scott Ayers of Construction Services Project Management, the school will be open up to the end of the first week of August, after inspectors from Cranford came to look at plumbing modifications and decided they did not conform to the original plan. The approval of the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in Trenton.

The findings delayed the inspection process, until the school was able to be submitted to the DCA for further approval on the modifications.

Ayers said that because work was done essentially constructing new rooms in an old space, the most deal with "connecting it to existing systems," which adds a layer of complexity to the project. "There are variables we can't predict," said Ayers.

Those variables are going to mean delays for pre-kindergartners, who will not be able to start the school year until the class of 2000.

(Continued on page A-2)

Cranford residents (from left) Andy Flacks, Gareth Williams and Chris Scaturro have played key roles organizing the drill to be held throughout Union County Saturday in which a terrorist attack will be simulated.

"We go to sleep at night hoping that something won't happen, but we go to sleep at night knowing that people have been trained and they know how to respond."

— **Andy Flacks**

attacks, will simulate a terrorist attack using weapons of mass destruction.

According to Williams, the drill will involve one staged emergency situation in Unica, and then another which will immediately follow at the Union City train station. Emergency Medical Squads, Fire Departments, Police Departments, and HAZMAT

communities will play necessary support roles in the county-wide drill.

"If a volunteer First Aid squad is taxed with resources, they can call to another city to have them also respond," said Williams. This is an integral part of the operation, he said, because "in a real emergency situation, surrounding communities are often called

(Continued on page A-2)



Stargazing

By LAUREN TRAINOR
THE CHRONICLE

Bruce Wayne was a playboy philanthropist. Clark Kent was a newspaper reporter. Peter Mandile is opening a comic book store in downtown Cranford.

To teenagers and avid collectors in the area, Mandile may become a hero in his own right, bringing into Cranford's streets shelves of comic books, action figures, statues, t-shirts, game cards, and other collectibles indispensable to fans.

"I feel like it was kind of inevitable," said Mandile of the shop's opening, scheduled for the first week of November. He has spent time working in a comic book shop before and has spent countless hours poring over comic books at home.

Mandile said he has been enjoying comics "since I was 3 or 4; before I could even read... My mom used to buy them for me. It was a great way to build vocabulary."

Mandile is passionate about the wares he and his wife Heather will sell at their storefront at 102 North Main Street.

Comics are pop culture icons. They're everywhere. From Spider-Man to Star Wars, there are endless titles and films of comic origin.

"I have a ton of stuff," says Mandile, who has a large collection of comic books, action figures, and more.

He is also eager to share his passion with others. "I looked at it as a business opportunity," said Mandile. "Comic books are a huge market, and there's not a lot of places around here where you can find them."

Comic book stores are popular destinations for fans of all ages. Mandile and his wife plan to offer a wide variety of titles, from classic superhero stories to newer, more diverse titles.

"It's a weird place," says Mandile. "It's one of those places where you can find everything you need, but it's also a place where you can find anything you want."

The store is expected to open in late October. Mandile and his wife are looking forward to sharing their love of comic books with the community.

Book store hard this fall

It's not recently home to a telemarketing outfit armed with the knowledge that regular right now — the sequel to the movie is already one of the most-awaited summer.

of ideas, I really don't mind working I'll really put my heart into it," said

enthusiastic about the potential downsides to attract customers.

Woodbridge and a couple other traffic, "Frankford got a lot of sidewalk traffic, bringing the really like it downtown. I and I had my target.

collectors are unique customers, said because of their loyalty they will often be to shop at their favorite comic book

business because it is a loyal customer the few retail businesses where you see — if you see someone come in, chances ever over and over," said Mandile.

Commentary

Do we need a state teachers' contract?

According to the New Jersey School Boards Association (NJSBA), 112 of the state's 576 operating school districts are beginning the school year without a new teachers' contract in place. While this may be alarming to those who have children in one of these districts, it's just business as usual. "It is not unusual for more than 100 districts to be in the middle of negotiations when the school year begins; students and parents should not worry about the opening of school," said Edwina M. Lee, executive director of NJSBA. "Traditionally, we see a large number of contract settlements in the fall. Until a new agreement is reached, teachers are covered by the old contract, with its guarantees of salary, health benefits and other protections. In reality, public school teachers never work without a contract."

New Jersey residents, already overburdened with property taxes, may be surprised to learn the average salary increases being given in new teacher contracts. At a time when the state has frozen aid to school districts and the private sector is struggling in a sluggish economy, the average annual increase being given to teachers statewide is 4.63 percent, up from last year's 4.48 percent.

Whether teachers deserve the size of those raises is not the issue. For decades, teachers have been notoriously underpaid in relation to the responsibility they have. What's at issue, however, is whether New Jersey really needs 576 separate school contracts.

Can an argument be made that all teachers in New Jersey have the same contract? That would level the playing field between rich and poor school districts, urban and suburban districts, and districts in different regions of the state. The competition that now exists among school districts would go away as every district would offer the same package of salaries and fringe benefits. Also going away would be the tension and cost every three years of each school district entering into separate negotiations for a new contract.

Of course this is never going to happen. In New Jersey's irrationally decentralized government, the possibility of even school districts within the same county negotiating a common contract is dim. Each school district is passionately jealous of protecting its own turf and charting its own course. Does anyone believe that Livingston and Newark, two Essex County communities, really want to share the same teacher contract, let alone be grouped in the same school district, no matter how much sense it makes?

The number of teacher contracts in the state only reinforces the need for New Jersey to take a serious look at how public education is organized. Does it make any sense to have more school districts in New Jersey than municipalities? Similarly, does it make sense to have 566 municipalities? How long can the New Jersey property taxpayer afford to continue to support such an inefficient and costly public school system?

These are the important questions voters should be asking the candidates for State Assembly and State Senate this fall. The need for reform is obvious; it is up to the Legislature to make it happen.

Correction

An article in last week's Chronicle misidentified a program in Cranford schools that pairs students with professional actors in the classroom. The initiative is the "Playwriting in School" program, not the "artist-in-residence" program.

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 of comments. For sports, call Daniel Murphy at (732) 396-4202.

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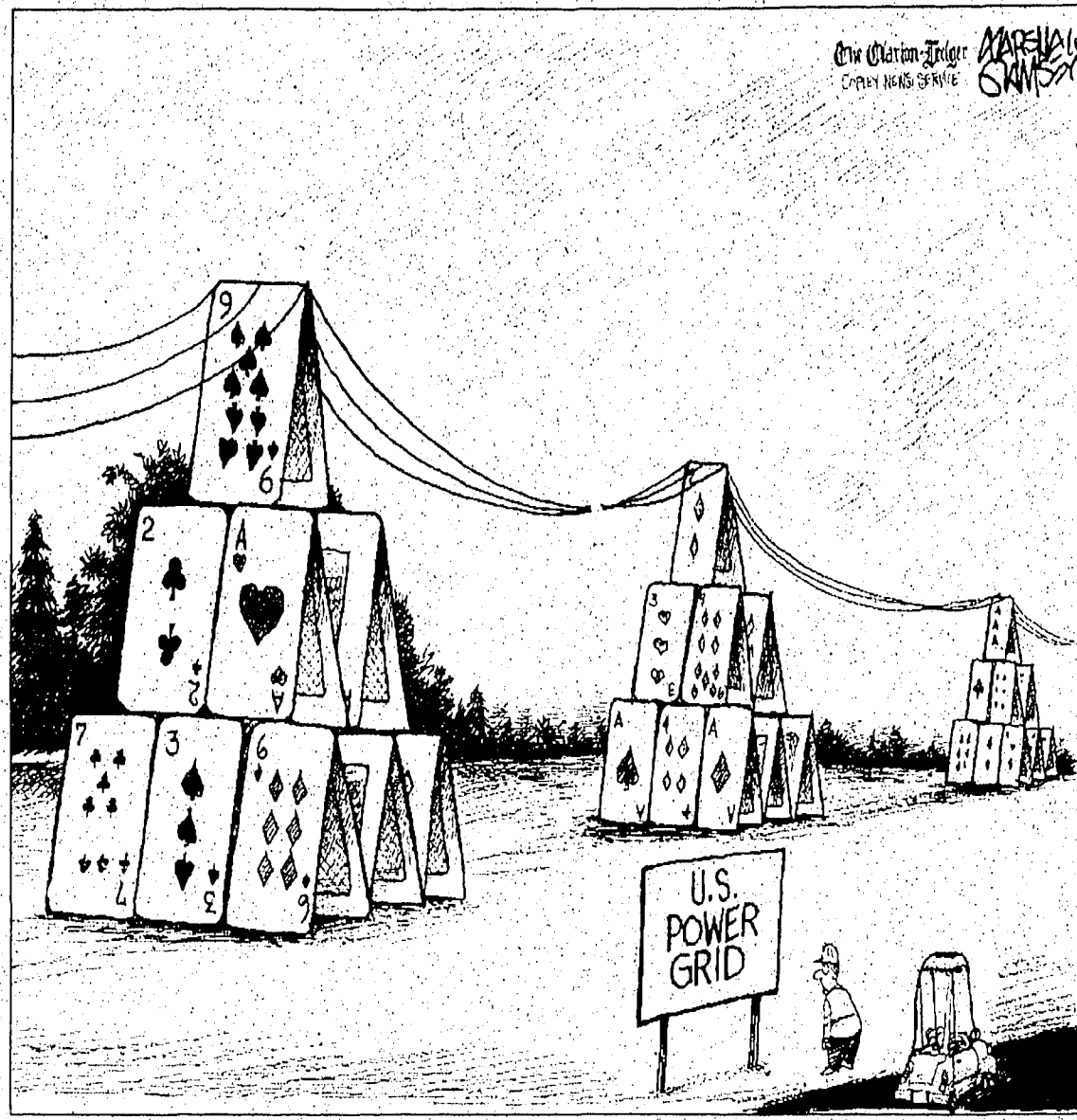


301 Central Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066

President: Thomas H. Kerkel 908-782-4747 (v) 610
Senior VP, Operations: Joseph Gioniso 908-574-5459
Controller: Margaret M. Gerke 908-782-4747 (v) 610
Production Manager: Linda Zetserberg 908-574-6110

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Letters to the editor

Railroads would benefit communities

To The Chronicle:

Restoring the Rahway Valley/State Island Railroad as the M&E operated Rahway Valley (RV) will benefit every Union County resident as well as the region and the state.

Economic development will save existing industry, which also saves jobs and tax revenues. The real estate tax has a portion going to the county, so any town's tax increase helps every resident. Rail service will attract new industry and distribution which will increase jobs and tax collections. More jobs means more entry level employment, which decreases welfare, another savings.

Rail freight cars carry as much as five trucks, which is actually ten trucks in the context of round-trip travel. There is no fact of the road user charges, truck or auto, which allows road taxes to county or town roads and bridges. Hence, everything moving by rail takes pressure off local streets, which are fully paid by your "too high" real estate taxes. Maryland DOT dynamometer tests showed a legally loaded 18-wheeler put as much pressure on roads as 9,000 autos. Even on the NJ Turnpike, a truck lobbyist admitted trucks put 6,000 times the pressure on roads as autos. Hence, bringing freight nearer destination by rail saves real money.

HAZMAT moves by trucks with no real paper work, and many a load of garbage went west in the truck my Frosted Flakes came back in with a mere hose washing. When freight moves by rail,

there is a paper trail. And garbage moves in specialized sealed railcars. Trucks leak garbage juice all over roads and waterways. The M&E has already indicated a willingness to work with NJ Transit to provide passenger service. For more than 30 years, a plan to provide trains over the State Island to the ferry has been in discussion. Sept. 11 proved without a doubt rail is the only real way to move people. This plan has stability and State Island wants north shore service as well. Service linking the Rahway Valley at Cranford to the M & E/Gladstone at Summit will save travelers over an hour versus going into Newark and busing to Broad Street. The response that "they can drive" is elitist snobbery at its best. One in four people do not drive due to age, health, economic status or fear of road rage, and that number increases as active seniors age.

As a rail marketing professional I have not heard one legitimate argument against restoring this rail, only the vested interest of NIMBYs pumping for hidden agendas of groups such as the Teamsters, who never explained away their tenuous relationship with the Mafia. Did the Teamsters handle this poorly? Yes, only because they tried to talk sense into the NIMBYs. But NIMBYs with agendas never listen to reason. I am retired and can never work for another rail line, so my interest is in the environment and mobility for all.

WILLIAM R. WRIGHT
Cranford

Election system needs improvement

To The Chronicle:

Aug. 20, 2003, was the 83rd anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. This is, therefore, a particularly appropriate time to reflect on voting rights, progress but also on areas that need improvement. In view of the dismal turnout in recent elections, the League of Women Voters strongly believes that we must begin to give people reasons to return to the voting booth rather than sit out an election.

Last year, Congress passed the Help America Vote Act but delivered only 70 percent of what was promised. This year the President proposed even less — \$500 million out of a promised \$1.1 billion.

The new federal Election Administration Commission, also promised in HAVA, is still not up and running.

Negative campaign rhetoric is turning voters off. Other problems plaguing our system include inaccurate voter registration lists and voting machines in need of updating.

The League, founded by women suffragists after passage of the 19th Amendment, has been a voice for citizens and a force for change. League members across the nation are continuing the fight to improve and reform our election system.

MILLIE LEWIS
Cranford Voter Service Committee
Union County Council, League of Women Voters

Township's priorities are off base

To The Chronicle:

There are two town issues that I recently read about in the paper which bother me. The first is about the problems plaguing the library expansion. I don't even know why there has been a library expansion. Why did the town government even begin a library expansion project on a building and a service that is deemed so unimportant that it is not even kept open on Saturdays during the summer? I would like to see the money first spent on having the building open and used before expanding it.

It also sends a message to the people in the town that the library is only needed to be used by students and other groups of people who don't work during the summer months. I, as a teacher, am among that group. However, I am sure there are many others who can't get to the library during normal working hours and would appreciate not being discriminated against.

I would also think the town would like to look as if they really support education all year long and extend it to all people. My question is, if you can't afford to keep it open on Saturdays all year long, why bother to spend the money on an expansion?

The second issue that I recently read about in the Cranford Chronicle is the sudden ban on consuming wine or beer at our own eating establishments and the giving of citations to these establishments. This is ludicrous since it has been going on since

we've had outdoor dining, not only at these establishments, but many others. Most other towns in the area allow patrons to enjoy some wine with their meals, al fresco. It gives pleasure to the diners and helps the towns draw people to their restaurants where they will spend their money. This hastily-made decision may keep some customers away from the dining establishments, will definitely hurt the restaurant owners financially, and in the end will hurt the town financially. I don't think we need any more empty storefronts in town than we already have.

If the town government is probably going to allow it anyway for next year, as the article led us to believe, then how silly to cut it off now and ruin some people's pleasure and finances for the sake of what? Maybe two more months. It seems like a case of the government making a hassle out of something that has not been a hassle. Perhaps it's a control issue? I don't know. However, I think it's a petty decision as well as a financially unsound one for the town, and in light of the financial debacles that have occurred in town due to poor decision making in the last few years, I don't think we need another one.

SUZANNE DUMONT
Cranford

Editor's Note: The ban on consuming wine or beer at sidewalk cafes was not new, as the letter indicates. However, it had not previously enforced, according to township officials.

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

Another summer comes to a bad end

Another summer has come and gone.

It never seemed like summer. The weather was atrocious when it should have been beautiful. The Labor Day weekend was typical, one beautiful day sandwiched between two awful days. That was the ratio for the three months between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Now in the sad days of September, when the world returns to business, I look back with disappointment over all the things I wanted to do this summer but didn't.

For example, I wasn't chosen to be on a "reality" television show. Of course "reality show" is a misnomer because none of these shows is in the same universe as reality. Do they ever have to visit the Division of Motor Vehicles to have their registrations renewed? They live in a fantasy world where the rudiments of life are no problem so they're allowed to indulge every self-indulgence and sink to the lowest common denominators of the human condition — greed and lust.

I suppose these shows perform a valuable cultural function by allowing us to click our tongues over the lack of shame the participants on these shows display. After all, the toughest criticism we have of our moral revulsion and a re-enforcement of all those basic values we hold dear. Yet, some of us have this inexplicable wish to be on these shows. If only so we can forget the demands of everyday life and enjoy our brief moment as a celebrity. After all, isn't that the dream of every American to be a star?

Another disappointment of the summer was the lack of hitchhikers. Long time ago, when the country wasn't plagued by irrational fears, everybody used to hitchhike, especially during the summer. In Europe, hitchhiking is still considered an acceptable rite of passage, the proper means to see the world during your *wanderjahr* when your fancy is still free. Do you remember the scene in "It Happened One Night" when Clark Gable it was 1934 when newspaper reporters were portrayed in the movies by Clark Gable and Claudette Colbert were forced to hitchhike and they only got a ride when Colbert showed her gams?

But nobody hitchhikes anymore. You would think with the high price of gas and the lack of adequate public transportation, people would be hooting it home, but I saw only one hitchhiker this summer. It's a disturbing commentary on the level of distrust and suspicion in our culture that nobody picks up hitchhikers anymore. Like school shootings and postal workers going berserk, bizarre tales of dangerous hitchhikers were exaggerated by a news business that cannot afford to cover stories of substance. These random acts of violence receive too much attention in the media; they are also subject to brainless analysis that a single incident could somehow be indicative of a society headed to Hades in a hand basket. And every special group exploits these isolated incidents to prove that they alone can save the country from falling ever deeper into a sewer of decadence.

The act of hitchhiking for both parties was once an expression of the democratic brotherhood of this country. Now it's become emblematic of the atmosphere of suspicion and distrust that already had taken hold before Sept. 11 but has now become institutionalized.

End of rant. Worst of all, I didn't have my typical summer love affair. This is the 15th summer in a row that I haven't had my typical summer love affair. There were no love letters in the sand, adventures under the boardwalk, midnight rides under an aphrodisiac moon and the lascivious scenes of devouring barbecue ribs. Absent was the carefree passion that makes me feel as if I were 40 again.

I blame it on the weather. If there's no heat in the atmosphere, why should there be any heat in my soul? Well, there's always next summer.

WHICH CELEBRITY WOULD MAKE THE BEST GOVERNOR FOR NEW JERSEY?



EVAN SMITH
Westfield
Bruce Willis: He's pretty rich and he will to Montclair State, so maybe he can help New Jersey get its act together in public education.



CHERYL TARNOFSKY
Westfield
Adam Sandler, because he's Jewish.



ALEX MASEL
Westfield
(Phish guitarist) Trey Anastasio, because he's a very wise man.

Letters to the editor

County tax increases unreasonable

To The Chronicle:

Your Aug. 21 editorial stated, "Most people are willing to accept property taxes for... county government." Based upon what has happened to property tax bills in Cranford over the past five years, it appears that our docile acceptance of Union County property taxes should end.

Since 1989, assuming no change in assessed value, a Cranford property owner has seen municipal and school taxes increase by 15.6 percent and 18.2 percent, respectively. During the same period

county taxes increased by 27.4 percent, and if you include the "open space" tax the increase was 32.6 percent.

Obviously, the time has come for our local officials to join with those of other similarly affected Union County communities in attempting to persuade our Freeholders to moderate the taxes they are inflicting on our property owners... and we could probably use some help from the local press.

JOHN M. DURYEE
Cranford

Police on the lookout for video store shoplifter

Cranford

Police Log

Police are searching for an unidentified shoplifter who allegedly stole about \$200 in merchandise from Blockbuster on South Avenue and injured the store manager who tried to stop him, said Detective Stephen Wilde.

According to Wilde, a 19-20-year-old male attempted to leave the store without paying for several videos and games at about 12:05 p.m. Friday when the manager tried to stop him. The shoplifter reportedly ran, jumping into a waiting green minivan. The manager tried to hold on to him in vain and was dragged along the ground for a short period.

Anyone with information about the incident is asked to contact the Cranford Police Department.

Richard Lozano, 18, of Cranford,

Story and Crafts Hour set at the Torah Center

The Union County Torah Center will be presenting a Pre-Holiday Jewish Story and Crafts Hour for children ages 3-5. The programs will be 3:30-4:30 p.m. Sept. 21 at the Center, 418 Central Ave. in Westfield. Children will listen to a story, learn about the holidays and do related arts and crafts project. The fee is \$5 per child.

Said Rabbi Levi Block of the Center, "This will give a chance for children who are not yet in Hebrew Schools to learn about the upcoming important holidays in a fun and entertaining way."

For more information and to reserve a space, please call (908) 789-5252.

THE BIGGEST MISTAKES WOMEN INVESTORS MAKE AND HOW TO IDENTIFY THEM

THE FINANCIAL SEMINAR FOR SERIOUS WOMEN INVESTORS

Hosted By: Stewari A. Rittter
Senior Vice President-Investments
When: Wednesday, September 17th, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.
Where: The Westwood
438 North Avenue
Garwood, NJ 07027

Admission is free, but space is limited. For tickets, please call Rosie DeSimone at (908) 789-7827 or 800-265-5736

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Book helps buyers get an edge

Cranford — A new book by township resident Robert E. Tevis, "Keep Your Hands Out of My Pocket," published by iUniverse, Inc., is now available at all major book outlets.

Most books on negotiation strategies target the professional salesperson. These people are professionals because they take their business of selling seriously and take the time to learn strategies that give them the edge on the buyer.

The average, everyday buyer, on the other hand, spends his or

her hard-earned money as though the salespeople are out to do them a favor. "Most people fail to prepare themselves when shopping for a car, for example," said Tevis. "They go in expecting to get the best deal by accident. These same people wouldn't consider trying their favorite weekend sport skills against a professional, and yet they go up against the professional car dealers without a clear idea on how to get the best deal."

"Keep Your Hands Out of My Pocket" is designed to give people the negotiation skills they need to become expert shoppers. It takes simple, everyday actions and focuses them into powerful negotiation tools. It shows you that you have the skills already to get the best deal; you just need to know how to put them into practice.

The author holds an MBA in Management for Managers of Technology. He has spent almost 25 years in business working for both IBM and in management for Siemens.

Group offers support for grieving

Cranford — They teach, listen and provide support from the "inside out." Patti Williams, R.N., and Certified Pastoral Bereavement Counselor and Dr. Virginia Waters, Ph.D., psychologists have both experienced the loss of their spouses and family members and are walking the journey toward wholeness every day of their lives.

Through their knowledge and first-hand experiences, they offer genuine empathy and unique insight, as they lead the grief and loss support group every Sunday night from 7-9 p.m. located in the Mettman Lounge of the First Presbyterian Church at 11 Springfield Ave.

The focus of the support

group is to equip those who have suffered loss or change within their lives with useful tools for the daily walk toward the journey toward wholeness and to face the loss and toward self-empowered healing. The ongoing support group meets every week, and ongoing new members are welcome at any time.

A one-week seminar is offered twice a year in the fall and the spring; the next seminar begins Sept. 21. Among the areas covered are, "What is grief and how do we grieve?" Topics include taking on grief and redefining yourself, how to take care of yourself and cope with loss, how to make choices and handle the holiday and special occasions, creating a meaningful memorial, and examining yourself spiritually.

The last session will include a special remembrance service and opportunity to walk the labyrinth at the church. This enriched seminar has helped many people from the community and surrounding area in coping with their grief and journeying on to find meaning and joy in their lives. This seminar and support group was created by Patti Williams in response to the concern demonstrated by her late husband — First Presbyterian Pastor Bruce Williams — for those who have suffered loss.

Williams and the trained facilitators remains very dedicated to this ministry. To register for the seminar or for information about the seminar or support group, call Patti Williams at (908) 709-1341 or Virginia Waters at (908) 276-2226.

Fax us your news! (732) 574-2613

The Deirdre Shea School is now accepting registration for our 2003 class schedule.

Fall Registration

NEW BEGINNER CLASSES
Tuesday 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm
Saturday 10:00 am

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Gabriel Jugan

CRANFORD — Gabriel E. Jugan, 69, died Aug. 24, 2003 at his home.

He was born in Hazleton, Pa., and had lived in Cranford since 1967.

Mr. Jugan was an Army veteran and once owned the Cranford Gulf service station on North Avenue East. He joined JMK Motor Sales in Springfield in 1986 and was a quality control worker until his retirement in 2002.

He was a member of Elks Lodge 2006; the Moose lodge in Linden; and Monsignor Walsh

Council 5437, Knights of Columbus, in Garwood.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Anne Frye Jugan; two daughters, Denise Tredinnick and Christine Hudack; and five grandchildren. A funeral Mass was held Aug. 27 at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to Center for Hope Hospice, 176 Hessa St., Linden, NJ 07036, or Alzheimer's Association, Greater New Jersey, 400 Morris Ave., Suite 251, Denville, NJ 07834-1365.

Grace Elizabeth Nies

CRANFORD — Grace Elizabeth Schou Nies, 82, died Aug. 27, 2003 at Rumlens Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

She was born in Bayonne and had lived in Cranford since 1957. Mrs. Nies was a member of the Cranford Sisterhood Lodge 84 and the First Presbyterian Church.

Surviving are her husband of

57 years, Allen; a son, Allen J. Jr. and wife Irene of Middlesex; two nieces and a nephew.

Services were held Friday in the chapel at the First Presbyterian Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Gray Memorial Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Cranford First Aid Squad.

John E. Stevenson

CRANFORD — John E. Stevenson, 60, died Aug. 31, 2003 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

A native of Newark, he lived in Cranford and Colonia before moving to Iselin in 1983.

Mr. Stevenson was an Army veteran and for 10 years an industrial electrician with Federal Business Centers in Edison.

His mother, Dorothy, and a brother, Benjamin Jr., are deceased.

Surviving are his father, Benjamin H.; his stepmother, Raisa; a niece and a nephew.

Services will be 10 a.m. today at the Gusselin Funeral Home, 660 New Dover Road, Edison. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, Hillsdale.

Obituaries

Walter J. Schultz

CRANFORD — Walter J. "Mickey" Schultz, 80, died Aug. 26, 2003 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born in Chicago, Ill., he lived in Cranford and Scotch Plains before moving to Fanwood in 1959.

Mr. Schultz was with Western Electric in Kearny for 42 years, retiring in 1985 as a systems analyst. He also was from 1960-80 a professor of economics on the Newark campus of Rutgers University.

He earned two degrees from the Newark campus of Rutgers: a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1953 and a master's degree in economics in 1955. Mr. Schultz was a parishioner of St. Bartholomew the

Apostle Roman Catholic Church in Scotch Plains.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Mona C. DeYoung Schultz; three sons, John, Robert A. and Edward A.; three daughters, Gerri Anne Mason, Amy Shelton and Terry Szczecina; 12 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held Saturday at the Memorial Funeral Home, Fanwood, followed by a funeral Mass at St. Bartholomew the Apostle Church. Burial was private.

Donations may be sent to

Rutgers University Foundation, 7 College Ave., New Brunswick, NJ 08901, earmarked for the Alexander Library.

Lena Daniele

CRANFORD — Lena Frieda Daniele, 82, died Sept. 1, 2003 at Union Hospital.

A native of Newark, Mrs. Daniele lived in Linden before moving to Cranford.

Her husband, Pasquale R., and a daughter, Lucille Banton, are deceased.

Surviving are two daughters, Agnes J. Fehman and Patricia A. Wojtowicz; two sons, Amato J. and Joseph A.; 10 grandchildren

and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services will be 9:15 a.m. tomorrow at the Werson Funeral Home, 635 N. Wood Ave., Linden.

A funeral Mass will follow 10 a.m. at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Roman Catholic Church, East Blauvelt Street, Linden. Entombment will be in the Woodbridge Memorial Gardens mausoleum.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. today at the funeral home.

James C. Rugg

KENILWORTH — James C. Rugg, 85, died Aug. 31, 2003 at Fawcett Memorial Hospital in Port Charlotte, Fla.

Born May 12, 1918 in South Amboy, he lived in Kenilworth before moving to Port Charlotte in 1986.

Mr. Rugg was with Exxon Corp. for 32 years, retiring as a mechanic supervisor and trainer for the heavy rescue team. He was an Army veteran of World War II.

For 50 years Mr. Rugg was a member of Azuro-Masada Lodge 22, Free & Accepted Masons. He also was a member of Tall Cedars of Lebanon Forest 6 in Elizabeth and the Exxon Quarter Century Club.

Surviving are his wife, Evelyn L. Goldie Rugg; a daughter,

Karen Panza of Somers Point; a son, LeRoy of Moon Township, Pa.; a stepdaughter, Kay Clark of Naples, Fla.; a stepson, Richard R. Merz of Manassas, Iowa; a sister, Dolores Bott of Long Branch; four grandchildren, four step-grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, of which Mr. Rugg was a member. Burial with military honors was in Restlawn Memorial Gardens, Port Charlotte.

Arrangements were by the Robinson Funeral Home in Port Charlotte. Donations may be sent to Port Charlotte United Methodist Church, 21075 Quesada Blvd., Port Charlotte, FL 33952 or a favorite charity.

Salvatore Grasso

CRANFORD — Salvatore Gerardo Grasso, 82, died Aug. 30, 2003 at his home.

He was born in Newark and had lived in Cranford since 1956.

Mr. Grasso was with the Reichold Chemical Co. in Elizabeth for 22 years, retiring in 1986 as a chemical supervisor. He was a member of the Cranford Democratic Committee, the Elks lodge in Cranford and the Destroyer Escort Sailors Association.

As a Navy veteran of World War II he saw combat in northern Africa, southern France,

Sicily and Normandy. Mr. Grasso was awarded the French Liberation Medal and four battle stars.

Surviving are his wife, Carmela Montalbano Grasso; a son, Frank G.; two sisters, Antonette Carugno and Rose Della Valle; and two stepgrandchildren.

Services were held yesterday at the Mastapeter Funeral Home, 400 Raintree Ave., Roselle Park, a division of the Roselle Memorial Park, Linden.

Donations may be sent to the Paget Foundation.

Charles Perkosky

KENILWORTH — Charles J. Perkosky, 88, died Aug. 31, 2003 at Union Hospital.

He was born in Simpson, Pa., and had lived in Kenilworth since 1949.

Mr. Perkosky was a diesel mechanic and from 1956-76 owned the Singler Bus Co. in Newark. He also owned the Stanton Garage in Newark from 1956 until his retirement in 1998.

Surviving are his wife, Amelia Kazlowksi Perkosky; a son, Charles J.; a brother, Ann Lundess; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Services will be 9 a.m. today at the Mastapeter Funeral Home, 400 Raintree Ave., Roselle Park, a division of the Roselle Memorial Park, Linden.

Arrangements were by the Stanton Garage in Newark from 1956 until his retirement in 1998.

John Soney

GARWOOD — John Soney, 79, died Aug. 30, 2003 at JFK Medical Center in Edison.

A lifelong Garwood resident, Mr. Soney retired in 1991 as a machinist with the Accurate Bushing Co. in Garwood. He saw combat with the 93rd Bombardier Squadron of the Army Air Corps in the Pacific during World War II.

His wife, Julia, died in 2001. A son, Gary, died in 2000.

Surviving are a daughter,

Debbie Cancelliere, and a son, John, both of Garwood; four sisters, Mary Blahot, Susan Rakacs, Terry Dickinson and Elizabeth; five grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

A funeral Mass was held Tuesday at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church. Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, Westfield.

Arrangements were by the Dooley Funeral Home in Cranford.

Cleora 'Pat' Dick

CRANFORD — Cleora M. "Pat" Orbyck Dick, 92, died Sept. 1, 2003 at the New Jersey Eastern Star Home in Bridgewater.

A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Mrs. Dick lived in Bayonne before moving to Cranford in 1959. She had resided in Westfield since 1982.

She retired in 1998 after 11 years as a part-time secretary in the pharmacy department of Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountlake. Until she was 65 Mrs. Dick was the private secretary to a plant manager of Best

Feeds Co. She began her career with Seelye Vacuum Oil Co. in Manhattan.

Mrs. Dick studied computer courses at Union County College while she was on the Children's Specialized Hospital staff. She organized bus trips for the Cranford Senior Citizens Monday Club.

For 57 years Mrs. Dick was a member of the Azuro-Masada Lodge 22, Free & Accepted Masons. She taught Sunday school classes at Calvary Lutheran Church and sang in her church choir.

Her husband, William, died in 1959.

Surviving are a daughter, Arlene King and husband Wayne of Cranford; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be 10 a.m. today at Calvary Lutheran Church, 108 Eastman St., Burial will be in Ocean View Cemetery, Staten Island.

Arrangements are by the Dooley Funeral Home. Donations may be sent to the Activities Department of the New Jersey Eastern Star Home, 111 Finkbine Ave., Bridgewater, NJ 08807.

Dorothy Anne Valenti

GARWOOD — Dorothy Anne Sachsel Valenti, 82, died Sept. 2, 2003 at the home of a daughter, Christine Shock of Holliston, Mass.

Born Feb. 15, 1921 in New York City, she was a daughter of the late Irene and Rudolph Sachsel.

Mrs. Valenti lived in Garwood before moving to Germany in 1952. She returned to the United States in 1954 and lived in Scotch Plains before returning to Garwood in 1959.

She was retired from Lincoln Federal Savings & Loan Association in Westfield, where Mrs. Valenti was a manager in charge of certificates of deposit. She was in the first graduating class of Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield in 1939. She attended Syracuse University and Douglass College of Rutgers University.

Mrs. Valenti was a religious education teacher at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church. She also was a volunteer secretary in the parish rectory and worked with Food for the Poor.

Her husband, Daniel, died in 1998.

Also surviving are three daughters, Laura Valenti-Studwell of Westfield, Maria of Gloucester, Mass., and Anne of Aurora, Colo.; two sons, Daniel A. of Iselin and Richard of Floyd, Va.; a sister, Barbara Farrell of Garwood; two brothers, Gerard Sachsel of New Providence and retired Air Force Gen. Arthur Sachsel of Riverside, Calif.; and eight grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be 10 a.m. Saturday at St. Anne's Church, 325 Second Ave. Burial will be in Graceland Memorial Park, Kenilworth.

Visitation is 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. tomorrow plus 9 a.m. Saturday at the Dooley Funeral Home, 218 North Ave. West, Cranford.

primetime!

September 4 & 5, 2003

BEST BETS

'Broadway with a Twist' at Temple Emanu-El

The Westfield Chapter of Hadassah will host "Classic Broadway with a Twist," a program featuring pianist and speaker Nina Deutsch 7 p.m. Sept. 8 at Temple Emanu-El in Westfield. The public is invited to this admission-free event.

Deutsch is a graduate of Juilliard and Yale University and has studied piano with Rudolf Kerkiras and Rosina Levine. She has appeared as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, the United Nations, and on many television and radio shows. Her repertoire ranges from Bach to jazz and modern popular music.

This Horizons Speakers Bureau program is offered by the New Jersey Council for the Humanities, a State partner of National Endowment for the Humanities.

Choral Art Society invites singers to join

The Choral Art Society of New Jersey invites singers of all voices to join its ranks. Rehearsals are held Tuesdays, 8-10 p.m. through May and take place in the choir room of The Presbyterian Church in Westfield at the corner of Mountain Avenue and East Broad Street.

The group plans the following performances: the annual "Messiah Sing," Dec. 12; "Haydn's Mass in Time of War" and four motets by Anton Bruckner, Jan. 19; and *Sinfonia Sacra* by local composer Sabina Pauten, May 8.

The Choral Art Society now in its fifth season under musical director James S. Little is a non-profit community chorus whose members come from Union, Somerset, Bergen, Hudson and Middlesex counties.



Greek festival at St. Demetrios

This week's 26th annual Greek festival at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Union will feature, alongside many food and craft vendors, authentic Greek dances by children. Festival hours are as follows: Sept. 4-5, 6 p.m.-midnight; Sept. 6, noon-midnight; Sept. 7, noon-8 p.m. Admission for adults is a \$1 donation. Children accompanied by an adult will be admitted free. Free parking is available all around the church grounds at 721 Railway Ave. For additional information, call either (908) 964-7957 or (732) 381-3681.

Book examines poet's influence

Nineteenth-century poet Emily Dickinson has provided more than a life's work for Westfield resident Marianne Garbowski.

Garbowski has recently published her second book on the poet. Entitled "Double Vision: Contemporary Artists Look at the Poetry of Emily Dickinson," the book takes the reader behind the scenes and reveals the artists' thinking about the poet and her inspirations on their art.

Among the artists included, along with the color prints of their work, are Will Barnet, Eric Aho, and Lesley Dill. Based on interviews and conversations with 17 artists, Garbowski explores the sources of their creativity and shows how Dickinson's poems

provided a springboard for the artists' imagination. The artists, whose work ranges from painting to printmaking to sculpture and book arts, live throughout the United States and continue to find inspiration in Dickinson's poetry.

A full time English professor at the County College of Morris, Garbowski has served as assistant chairperson of the English Department and as arts editor for the Emily Dickinson International Bulletin.

Her first book, "The House without the Door," published by University Press in 1989, was a study of the poet and the illness of agoraphobia. "Double Vision" is available at the Town Bookstore in Westfield.

what to do!

Theater

NOW PLAYING

CROSSROADS THEATRE
9 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick
(877) STATE 11;
www.statetheatre.org

"Dreamgirls," 80's musical and a baroque-disguised history of Motown greets *The Supremes*: 8 p.m. Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13; 3 p.m. Sept. 7, 14. Admission \$25. Saturday, Sunday: \$20. Friday, Group rates available.

PLAYS-IN-THE-PARK
Roosevelt Park, Edison
(732) 518-2884; www.playsinthepark.com

"Song & Dance in the Park," revue with local singers and live music: 8 p.m. Sept. 4-6 (rain date Sept. 7). Adults \$3, under 12 free; bring lawn chairs for seating.

COMING UP
GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE
9 Livingston Ave.
New Brunswick
(732) 246-7717; www.georgestreetplayhouse.org

"Wilderness of Mirrors," world premiere of drama by Charles Everett, Sept. 9-Oct. 5. Admission \$22-\$28; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE
Brookside Dr., Millburn
(973) 376-4343;
www.papermill.org

"The Improvables," 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 6. Watchung Arts Center

"Ain't Misbehavin'," revue drawing on the Fats Waller catalog: Sept. 10-Oct. 19. Admission \$61-\$30; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

Events
COMPUTER SHOW
New Jersey Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison
(800) 631-0262;
www.pcshow.com

Exactly as it says, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sept. 13, 14. Adults \$10. Saturday, \$8. Sunday: children 2-12 \$3.

Concerts
TONY BENNETT
7:45 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 14
Commerce Bank Ballpark
East Main St., Bridgewater
(866) 468-7619; www.park.co.somerset.nj.us

Crooners whose career went from "Rags to Riches" in the 50's. Admission \$75-\$30.

THE IMPROVABLES
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Watchung Arts Center

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WCP readies for coming fall season

Tickets on sale now at box office

The Westfield Community Players (WCP) membership drive for their 2003-2004 season is now underway with a four-show season price of only \$10, a savings of 30 percent off the price of individual tickets.

Kicking off the theatrical season 8 p.m. Sept. 13 will be a special premiere event of three one-act plays titled "Encounters." Written and directed by Naomi Yablonsky, familiar to theatergoers for her past work at WCP and the Cranford Dramatic Club, these intertwined stories will present their unique take on life and love.

The WCP box office at 1000 North Ave. West is now open and can be reached at (908) 232-1221, with all tickets for this special event at \$10.

Individual season subscriptions can be obtained for \$35 each with checks payable to Westfield Community Players, sent to Letty Hudak at 409 Harrison Ave., Westfield NJ 07090. Interested subscribers can call the theater at (908) 232-1221 and leave a message. All shows open on a Saturday night and run Friday and Saturday evenings for three or four weeks, making it easy to have a local night out to experience live theater.

The first show of the upcoming season is "Murder among Friends" by Bob Barry. This murder mystery presents a cross and double-cross within the love triangle of wife, husband and lover that will keep you guessing until the last

act. The season finale is Gore Vidal's political drama "The Best Man," about a president in failing health having to decide whom he will support in the upcoming election. Will it be the man he trusts, or the candidate he thinks will win the election? Show dates are May 8-22.

Westfield Community Players, founded in 1934 is one of the oldest continuously operating community theaters in the State of New Jersey and has brought to life over 190 comedies, dramas and musicals in a 150-seat theater in Westfield. With four productions for the upcoming season, the Players continue to be a vibrant part of the cultural scene in Union county.

For more information, call (908) 232-1221 or visit the website at www.wcptheatre.org. Tickets are on sale now at the box office.

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back-to-school



35 years young, and still caring for kids

The Westfield Day Care Center is celebrating its 35th anniversary. As summer came to a close, center students Sarah, Stephanie and Connor enjoyed the beautiful outdoors during the Day Care's Summer Fun Program. Located directly next to Westfield's picturesque Mindwaskin Park and housed in the Presbyterian Church's Christian Education Building, the non-profit, non-denominational Westfield Day Care Center is open all year round and serves children aged 2½ through kindergarten. Westfield Day Care Center is in the process of renewing accreditation with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and looks forward to an exceptional year of fun and learning. The fall program begins Sept. 3. Registration is ongoing. For more information call (908) 232-6177.

Many factors to consider when choosing a child-care facility

By PAMELA J. RADEL
CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL

One of the most difficult decisions facing parents today is whether or not to enroll their child in a childcare center. A major part of the hesitation is that parents don't know what to look for in a quality center.

For some families, their child will be in that center five days a week for 10 hours a day. Choosing a center is a very serious consideration which parents should not take lightly. Speak first with friends or other people whose judgment you can trust in recommending a center.

Some centers have required a waiting list strictly through "word of mouth" and do not need to advertise. Once you have established which centers you would consider, make an appointment to tour the facility. A great time to visit is 10 a.m., as the program should be engaged in group activities. During the visit, observe the size of the class, staff-to-child ratio and interaction between the staff and the children, and determine if the activities are age-appropriate.

Bring a list of questions to ask the teacher and/or program director. The first question should be to make sure they are licensed by DYS. The state agency thoroughly examines their centers, and inspectors make unannounced appearances to ensure compliance with regulations.

Also, always ask about class size and the staff to child ratio. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) publishes standards

online at naeyc.org.

During the tour, notice the interaction between the staff and the children. Does the staff provide a loving, nurturing environment for the children, and do they praise the children for a job well done? What is the education of the caregivers? It may not be required that staff have college degrees, but do they have experience working with children and some background in early childhood education? You need to feel a comfort level when speaking to the people that will be caring for your child. Do they seem genuine, or do you feel they're giving a sales pitch?

Is the environment child-friendly and bright? Does the center provide areas for quiet and active play and enough space for the children to move about? Are there windows to provide sunlight? Are the toys and materials in the room easily accessible to the children?

Is the art work child-centered, or does each look like a carbon copy of the other? They should look varied as no two children are exactly alike in creativity. Does the center seem clean, and are the floors appropriate for crawling? Check the tables and bathrooms as well. Do the caregivers wash their hands to prevent the spread of infection? Are diaper areas clean and away from food?

Once you have checked out the environment, it's time to ask questions about the center's policies. Is there a discipline policy that explains how to redirect inappropriate behaviors and is it posted for all to see? Is there security in the building, and is it noted somewhere who is allowed to pick up the child? Can people walk right

in, or must they sign in and be asked for identification?

Can parents visit at anytime? Quality centers will have an open door policy that allows parents to visit at anytime. Some centers may offer an alternate approach to observing, such as a room with a two-way mirror or on-line viewing.

Is anyone on staff trained in CPR/First Aid? There should be a staff member in the building at all times who is trained. Is there a written sick policy with guidelines for keeping sick children at home? DFYS has a copy in their licensing manual that you can ask to see. Are fire drills conducted on a regular basis? Are the emergency exits clearly marked and free to exit?

Ask to see the playground. Is there enough room for the children to run? Are there shaded areas for hot days? Is the equipment resilient so if the children fall, they will be somewhat protected?

These are just a few things to keep in mind during the search for appropriate childcare. Consider the amount of time you spend researching the purchase of a new car. Our children's lives are so important. It only makes sense to thoroughly research the childcare centers in your area before making that final decision.

The author manages "A Special Place," Children's Specialized Hospital's child care center for the children of hospital employees and the surrounding community. The hospital also provides childcare for children with developmental delays as well as children who are considered medically fragile. For more information, please call (888) CHILDREN (244-5373).

Tips on handling the morning crush

School bells are about to ring! And that brings with it all too familiar complaints: "I don't know where my homework is!" "I forgot to give this to you!" and "I didn't have time." Jamie Novak, professional organizer, knows exactly how frustrating this can be. Novak has been working with families since 1990.

Three of her best tips are: 1) Prepare children now that there is a schedule change coming. Consider hanging a chart or checklist of the steps needed to get ready in the morning. 2) Prepare the night before. Have everyone pick out what to wear and what they need and put it in one place. 3) In the morning get yourself ready first. Then stagger wakeup times of the kids by 15 minutes. This allows each member of the family to get ready and out the door on time.

Contact Novak at jamie@life4love.com to request a free copy of her "Get Out The Door" checklist so kids have what they need each day. Novak will present her popular class, Conquer the Chaos and Clutter in 3 Easy Steps, through the Scotch Plains Recreation Department. No more "Mom, I forgot my lunch" or "Dad, I have to be at practice in five minutes!" Imagine a day when everything runs smoothly and everyone in the family can find what they need when they need it. It can happen! Stop rushing and start living.

Bring your child(ren) and join Novak for this one-night, entertaining and interactive workshop and learn simple ways for the family to handle the overload of incoming paper, schedule kids practices, store kids art projects, organize their desk/dressers, have everything they need for homework, and get your kids out the door with everything they need. The class will be conducted 7-8:30 p.m. Sept. 18 at the Scotch Hills Country Club. Call the Scotch Plains Recreation Department for more information or to register (908) 322-6700.

Sports

Ready to take the next step

Cougars anxious to pick up where they left off last season

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

If the Cranford High football team got its foot in the door last year by qualifying for the state playoffs for the first time in 27 years, this is the season the Cougars plan on kicking it down.

With eight starters returning on offense and seven back on

the defensive side the Cougars have the talent and experience to make a run at a state title. After eight months of thinking about what could be this year, Cranford is chomping at the bit to get on the field and begin finding out.

"I think we're all a little anxious," said senior captain Chris Venditti. "There is a lot of anticipation. Everybody is looking forward to getting back into it and seeing exactly what this team has."

"(A state championship) is the whole goal of this team. That's definitely what we're looking for. We want a state title."

Cranford will finish the preseason today when it travels to New Brunswick, a Central Jersey Group II finalist last year, for the final scrimmage of the season at 7 p.m. The Cougars open the regular season Sept. 12 in Newark against Shabazz, the team that knocked them out of the playoffs last season.

The road to the state title seems to be a bit easier with Cranford moving down to Group II this year, but qualifying is going to be just as hard as it always is. The change in state classification hasn't changed the regular season slate, and the Watchung Conference should prove to be as tough as any other year.

"We still have to get in," said Head Coach Chris Hull. "Our schedule hasn't changed a lick. We're just focusing on taking it one game at a time."

The Cougars have the athletic ability, muscle and experience to be as good as any squad they'll face. Paving the way will be an experienced offensive line, led by three returning three-year starters, left guard Steve Carbone, right tackle Mike Eisert and Venditti at center. Senior Chris Belsky, who started after Eisert was injured last year, will be at left tackle. Senior Jamie Porres and junior Steve Coda are battling for the starting job at right guard. Junior Steve Caprio is back at tight end.

Senior Paul Brannagore has worked himself into the rotation with an outstanding summer and is joined by juniors Sean Gerrity and Nate Thompson.

Seniors Dan Lortian, Ryan Byrnes, Rob Plankowski and Milver, juniors Dillon Miller, Chip Weiss, Brian Mahoney and Kevin Mahoney and sophomore Josh Hanke are all vying for the seventh spot in the starting lineup.

"We had some big losses from last year," said Head Coach Hull. "Our five top guys were all seniors. But I like this group. We have a real nice summer and I like where we are. What they need is experience."

Brian Brown will lead the team, and will look to run with in front with the top runners on the opposing squads. White believes the rest of the lineup should be able to form a tight pack in behind him and edge out the opposition on depth, which has been the key

to the Cougars success the past few seasons.

"Brian is going to be a notch out in front of everyone. He's looking very good," said White. "The other five are all very close. It looks like the makings of a good pack."

"High school cross country is 90 percent mental. The biggest thing is they just need a little confidence."

—Ray White
head coach

COUGARS' 2003 SCHEDULE

Fri. Sept. 12 at Shabazz, 7
Sat. Sept. 20 at Westfield, 1
Fri. Sept. 26 at Morris Knolls, 2
Fri. Oct. 3 vs. Linden, 7
Fri. Oct. 10 vs. Scotch Plains, 7
Oct. 17 vs. East Side, 7
Sat. Oct. 25 at JFK Memorial, 1
Sat. Nov. 1 BYE
Fri. Nov. 7 vs. Irvington, 7
Fri. Nov. 14 State Playoffs
Thurs. Nov. 27 vs. Kearny, 10 a.m.

The line should be able to open holes for an explosive backfield, which returns three starters from last year. Junior Chris Drechsel is back at quarterback. Junior Ingram, a threat to go the distance anytime he touches the ball, will be back at right halfback. Junior Lester Manuyag returns to fullback after rushing for 1,091 yards and nine touchdowns last year. Seniors Bryan Giannechini and Bobby Timms and sophomore Chris Brown will all see time at left halfback.

Sure-handed senior captain Mike Porter is back at split end, after splitting time with Mark Bostell in the starting lineup last year. Senior Will Singer and sophomore Tom Beldin will also lineup at receiver.

Even with game-breakers on the offensive side defense has always been the Cougars' key to success. Last year Cranford held its opponents to just 6.3 points over the final six games of the season, winning five of them.

That unit will be heavily relied upon again this year, but there are still some question marks. Matt Howard and Matt Costello have big shoes to fill at the two middle linebacker spots, taking over for Brendan Small and Dennis Rasmussen, who combined for over 250 tackles, 14 sacks, 43 tackles for a loss and nine fumbles last season.

"We've had some good linebackers (in the past)," said Hull. "Coach (Don) Zask does an excellent job with them. He's taken players that were good and made them great. Those guys have to step up for

us to be as good defensively as we were last year and our linemen have to be able to free up our linebackers. It all has to work together."

Caprio will start for the first time at left outside linebacker, with Manuyag the only starter back at right outside linebacker.

Occupying blockers up front and allowing the linebackers to run free is a strong, experienced defensive line. Carbone will be at left end, Nick Downey at right tackle and Eisert at right end. All four started last year, with Downey being inserted into the lineup when Eisert was injured.

Ingram and Giannechini will start at corner and Drechsel will be at safety.

Coda and Belsky will provide needed depth up front with Chris Brown expected to see time at linebacker and Porter able to play all three defensive backfield positions.

"Defense has always been what we've hung our hat on," said Hull. "That's where we spend the bulk of our coaching. When you play good defense you're always putting yourself in a position to win."

"As talented as we are our strength is going to be our work ethic," said Hull. "We have to be willing to outwork everybody. We haven't won anything yet."

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

	Manuyag	145 carries	1,091 yds	9 TDs
Drechsel	742 yds passing	63% comp	6 TDs	
Carbone	64 tackles	6 sacks	9 TFL	
Eisert	49 tackles	6 sacks	15 TFL	
Ingram	39 tackles	3 INT	16 PD	
Drechsel	48 tackles	3 FR	1 INT	

TFL: tackles for loss
FR: fumbles recovered
INT: interception
PD: passes defended

PHOTOS BY NICOLE DIMELLA/THE CHRONICLE
Lester Manuyag (left) and Jamar Ingram will carry the load offensively for the Cougars this season after sparking Cranford to a 6-4 record last year. Cranford will have its final scrimmage 7 p.m. today when it travels to New Brunswick and will open the regular season Sept. 12 against rival Shabazz.

Confidence the key for Cougars' cross country squads

By DANIEL MURPHY
THE CHRONICLE

Last year the Cranford High boys cross country team was able to rely on an experienced, senior-dominated club to win the Watchung Conference, Union County and North Jersey Section 2 Group 3 titles.

As is often the case, after a season led by seniors comes a season dominated by underclassmen. But, despite the drop in experience level, the Cougars expect to still be in the hunt in the conference, county and section again this season.

Senior Brian Brown leads the way and could challenge the top runners in the county, followed by his brother, sophomore Kevin Brown. They are the younger brothers of former Cranford star Ben Brown.

"Rounding out the Cougars' top three is junior Glen Brown, the younger brother of another former

star for the Cougars, K.C. Brown.

Senior Paul Brannagore has worked himself into the rotation with an outstanding summer and is joined by juniors Sean Gerrity and Nate Thompson.

Seniors Dan Lortian, Ryan Byrnes, Rob Plankowski and Milver, juniors Dillon Miller, Chip Weiss, Brian Mahoney and Kevin Mahoney and sophomore Josh Hanke are all vying for the seventh spot in the starting lineup.

"We had some big losses from last year," said Head Coach Hull. "Our five top guys were all seniors. But I like this group. We have a real nice summer and I like where we are. What they need is experience."

Brian Brown will lead the team, and will look to run with in front with the top runners on the opposing squads. White believes the rest of the lineup should be able to form a tight pack in behind him and edge out the opposition on depth, which has been the key

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—Ray White
head coach

conference, where they've won the last three titles, will come down to gaining race experience and the confidence that goes along with it.

If the team continues to improve the way White expects, a Group 2 championship is within reach.

"High school cross country is 90 percent mental," said White. "The biggest thing is they just need a little confidence. Once you have the talent and work ethic, what you need is the confidence."

Cranford will look to gain that confidence during Saturday invitational meets. It will run in the Catholic Conference Meet Sept. 20, the Stewart Memorial Meet Sept. 27, and the Shore Conference Coaches Meet Oct. 4 and will go head to head with Scotch Plains Sept. 30. The season begins Sept. 16 when

the Cougars take on Union, Plainfield and Linden.

"We're ready to race. We're looking forward to the season."

GIRLS
The girls squad is in a similar position as the boys team, looking to rely on one senior to set the pace for a young, but talented squad.

Mallory Harlin put in a strong summer's work of work and should be among one of the top runners in the county this season after finishing fifth in the county and 58th in Group 3 last year. She is currently running right along with the top-six on the boys squad.

"She had a terrific summer. She has a shot at the county," said White. "She could go very far in the states. She was very determined this summer."

"I think she could break 20 minutes at Warminster. She just needs to get her confidence back. She's never given up on herself. I think she'll have a break out season."

Sophomore Kristen Ford and Shannon Killiee are both coming off strong freshman campaigns and are poised to make significant drops in their times this year.

"I think you see the most improvement from ninth grade to 10th grade," said White. "I think they are both going to have a nice season."

Seniors Katie Piwowarczyk and Julie Doty will add solid depth to Cranford's lineup and the Cougars will be looking to another trio of freshmen again this season to have a strong impact. Laura Gallo, Jennifer Hanke and Amanda Sanzone will all be in the starting lineup and should contribute.

Westfield will again be the team to beat in the county, but Summit, Union and Scotch Plains will be nipping at their heels along with the Cougars. White is hoping the Cougars can continue their string of top-three finishes in the county and conference meets.

Dodd, Hutchins lead Patriots to win over Road Warriors

BRIDGEWATER — Left-hander Robert Dodd fired a complete-game five-hitter and outfielder Norm Hutchins went 3 for 5, including a home-run-scoring double, as the Somerset Patriots routed the Atlantic League of Professional Baseball with 12 games left on the schedule.

Luis Lopez and Edgard Clemente, both of whom doubled in games scheduled for 7:05 p.m. tomorrow and Saturday and 2:05 Sunday afternoon.

Patriots 8, Pennsylvania 5 — Starter Brett Jodie gave up one run in six innings. Jodie ripped a bases-filled triple to highlight a five-run seventh inning Saturday night as 4196 fans looked on at Commerce Bank Park.

Jodie (10-5) permitted five hits

and no walks while fanning three batters before Kirk Griffin replaced him, allowing four hits and four runs during the next two innings. Clemente and Hutchins had two hits apiece for Somerset.

The Patriots scored three times in the sixth for a 3-1 lead and added five runs in the next stanza to grab a commanding 8-1 margin. Nettles, Hutchins and Warner singled to lead the bases in the seventh and Martins came through with a triple to center before Escandon drilled an RBI single and Lopez hit a sac fly.

Nashua 6, Patriots 3 — The Patriots scored five runs in the fifth and sixth innings off starter Jason Dickson (10-5) and Cam Smith Friday night to prevail in front of 7038 fans at CBP.

Dickson gave up five hits, three walks and two runs (both earned) while striking out 10 in five innings and Smith walked four and permitted three runs in just one-third of an inning. Nashua scored three times on bases-filled walks.

Somerset's Ryan Radmanovich went 3 for 4 including a double and his 16th homer of the year and Clemente ripped his sixth homer, a solo shot.



Diamonds show commitment

The Cranford Diamonds U-16 softball team had a strong summer season, finishing with a 7-3 record and taking third place in the league. For more on the squad see Page C-2. Front row, from left: Tara Scaramuzzi, Julia Friet, Amanda Becker, Meghan Wischusen, Sarah Capodice, Alyse Augustine, Deanna Lotard. Standing: Jenny Bayak, Charlie Wischusen, Katrina Lawrence, Christie Stolte, Jillian Berkowitz, Drew Carollo, Allison Carollo, John Friet, Jess Egan, Jim Scaramuzzi.

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Real Estate

An old investment tool grows in popularity

By JAMES M. WOODARD
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

As more people decide to invest in real estate rather than stocks and bonds, the popularity of often-overlooked real estate investment trusts is growing.

Congress created REITs in 1960 to make investing in large income-producing real estate possible for the average investor. REITs became a viable way for people of middle income to invest in a large-scale commercial property in much the same way they invest in and benefit from owning shares of a corporation by buying stocks.

A REIT is a company that owns and usually operates income-producing real estate, such as apartments, shopping centers, offices, hotels and warehouses. Some REITs also engage in real estate financing. The REIT shares are often traded on major stock exchanges.

Each shareholder of a REIT earns a pro-rata share of the income produced through the commercial real estate ownership. REITs offer valuable benefits to individual investors, such as providing a greater diversification through investing in a portfolio of properties rather than a single building or commercial property. REIT-owned properties are usually managed by

experienced real estate professionals.

To qualify as a REIT, a company must annually distribute at least 90 percent of its taxable income to its shareholders. It must have a minimum of 100 shareholders. It must invest at least 75 percent of its total assets in real estate, and it must derive at least 75 percent of its gross income from rents, real properties or interest on mortgages held on properties.

Those are a few of many REIT requirements.

There are about 180 REITs registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission with assets totaling more than \$300 billion. There are many REITs that are not registered with the SEC.

Some people confuse REITs with limited partnerships. REITs are not partnerships. The corporate provisions of a REIT are generally believed to be far superior and more secure than those of a limited partnership. It is a somewhat complicated form of real estate investing. But REITs can be solid investments and offer unique long-term benefits for certain investors. Discuss REITs with your accountant or financial adviser to be sure they meet your financial needs and objectives.

Q: To what extent are rising mortgage

rates pushing down home sales?

A: With interest rates going up you might think that home sales would slump. Not so. Sales are up in most markets nationwide. Experts predict home sales will remain strong at least until the end of 2003.

"We now think the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage will stay below 6.5 percent for the balance of this year," said David Lereah, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors. "That's still very favorable when you look at where rates have been over the last four decades. Home sales may not be robust during the second half of the year but the market will remain strong."

The NAR projects a record 5.7 million existing-home sales this year. That's up 1.5 percent from 2002. New home sales should rise 1.9 percent. Housing starts are forecast to rise 0.4 percent this year.

As the economy improves during the second half of 2003, the unemployment rate should decline to about 6 percent in the fourth quarter and edge down to 5.8 percent for 2004, the NAR predicts. Inflation-adjusted disposable personal income should grow 2.9 percent this year, while the consumer confidence index should rise significantly during the fourth quarter.

Skylights are an easy way to bring light into any room

By PAUL BIANCHINA
HUMAN NEWS FEATURES

Adding a skylight is one of the quickest and easiest ways to make any room of your home lighter and brighter, adding an open and airy feeling. There are two basic types of skylights for residential use — flat glass and domed acrylic — and each have some advantages.

Domed acrylic skylights are less expensive than glass, and their convex shape tends to let the rain wash accumulated dust and dirt off a little easier. The acrylic dome is mounted in an aluminum frame, which is in turn mounted on a 2x6 box called a "curb." On the hole is cut in the roof to the manufacturer's specifications, the curb is constructed on-site to raise the skylight above the level of the roof sheathing. Site-built or factory-supplied flashings are used to seal the roofing around the curb.

Domed skylights are available in clear, smoked, bronze or other tints. Most are double- or triple-glazed in order to achieve the level of energy efficiency required by the building codes. Several sizes are available, with the most common being 2x2, 2x4 and 4x4 feet.

Flat glass skylights come mounted in a wood or integrated rubber and metal framework, and require no additional curb construction. After the hole is cut, the skylight frame is simply attached to the roof sheathing with L-brackets; then, the installation is completed using the factory-supplied flashing kit. Ease of installation, superior insulating qualities, less tendency to scratch and a cleaner finished appearance all add to the popularity and somewhat higher cost of glass skylights.

Glass skylights also have a greater number of optional accessories. These include tempered, laminated or wire glass; shades and blinds for light control; glass tints for heat retention or to block sunlight; and the ability to open fully or partially for ventilation.

If the room you intend to illuminate with the skylight has an open ceiling with no attic space above, you can install the skylight without needing to construct a light shaft. This is by far the simplest installation, and it offers the maximum amount of light and a view of the sky.

For ceilings with an attic space above, a light shaft must be constructed that connects the skylight to the room. Skylight shafts take one of three forms:

— Straight, in which the shaft drops vertically from the roof to the ceiling and is the same dimension as the skylight itself. This type is the easiest to construct, but because of its offset angle relative to the skylight, offers the least amount of light.

— Angled, where the shaft is parallel to the pitch of the skylight. It, too, is the same dimension as the skylight, but its straight-in angle offers more light than a straight shaft. Angled shafts also are used to connect two locations that cannot otherwise be aligned. This occurs when the skylight must be installed in a particular spot — between two trusses, for example — and the shaft opening is likewise limited to a particular location on the ceiling that is not directly under the skylight.

— Splayed, or pyramid, in which the ceiling opening is larger than the skylight opening in width, length or both. This type, although a little harder to construct, is the most popular, simply because it allows a smaller skylight to illuminate a larger area.

After the skylight is installed, you'll need to position and mark the opening on the ceiling. Take into consideration the size of the room and the amount of light you wish to bring in, and select the size and position of the hole accordingly. Once the skylight is installed and the ceiling hole is cut, it's then a matter of connecting the two with the shaft, which is constructed from 2x4 or 2x6 lumber. The angles involved typically require some tricky framing, and is probably best left to an experienced carpenter.

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RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

Restoring oil paintings? It can be done, but use great caution

By GENE GARY
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: My aunt left me a couple of lovely oil paintings which had been stored in an attic for a period of time. I need to clean off an accumulation of dust on the surface. A friend suggested she had heard that olive oil would do the job. I am unsure. What would you recommend?

A: If the oil paintings are worth a lot of money or simply valuable to you, I strongly urge that you have the cleaning done by a professional. However, if you prefer doing the job yourself, here are some home treatments that might work.

Try dusting with a very soft brush, such as a make-up dusting brush or an artist's soft bristle brush. If the painting requires deeper cleaning, use a damp cloth and wipe an obscure spot in the corner to see if it will resist water. If the color comes off, don't attempt the job yourself. If not, use a small amount of a pure, neutral soap on a slightly moist cloth.

Using a circular motion gently rub the painting with the cloth. Be very careful in this process. Even a soft dust cloth can snag on a piece of raised paint and cause a chip. When the entire surface has been covered, take up the soap and dirt with a soft, clean cloth moistened with clear, tepid water. When the painting is clean, shake off any remaining water; don't wipe it off. Then stand the painting at an angle in a warm, airy place to dry naturally.

I have never heard of using olive oil as a cleaner. However, one recommendation to restore oil paintings after washing is to use balled lineded oil. It restores the oil that washing has removed. Gently rub the oil on the painting allowing it to soak for a few minutes; then, very gently rub it off. You should never leave oil on the surface, as it absorbs dust. If your painting is not too soiled, the oil treatment without the washing may be all that's needed.

Q: We have some Plexiglas curtain coverings (the type that roll down) for an indoor/outdoor covered patio. They have become dull with dirt and some stains. How can these be cleaned?

A: For general cleaning, I recommend a solution of distilled white vinegar and water, using a very soft cloth, such as a cotton diaper to apply the solution. When still moist, wipe with another dry soft cotton cloth. Do not use terry cloth or even paper towels, as they are too rough and can scratch the surface. Even a soft cloth can cause scratching on a totally dry surface.

Liquid dishwasher detergent mixed with water is also a good cleaner, applied in the same method, then rinsed and wiped dry while still moist. A furniture polish, such as Pledge, applied with a soft cloth can clean and polish, helping to keep the plastic pliable (test first in an inconspicuous area to assure that the oil does not leave a visible film on your particular plastic curtain).

Another suggestion is to try a pet store for a cleaner recom-

mended for fish tanks. Motorcycle shops also carry products for Plexiglas windshields. Clear nail polish can be used to fill tiny nicks. However, once scratched, the Plexiglas will have to be replaced.

Q: I have several rugs with rubberized backing. Over time, the backings have begun to deteriorate. I am particularly fond of one of these rugs that I use in the kitchen and would like to restore the nonskid surface. Do you know of any way the rubberized backing can be restored, or something applied which will make these rugs skid-proof?

A: Art supply and craft stores sell liquid latex which can be brushed on to restore the backing.

First, be sure that you remove as much of the deteriorating existing backing as possible. Stretch your rugs, upside down, flat on the floor where they can remain undisturbed for 24 hours. If the corners tend to curl, weigh them down with heavy books or bricks. Then

brush on a thin coat of latex. There is also a product on the market called "Stay-Put," which can be sprayed on the back of rugs to keep them from sliding. Or, you can try brushing on a thin coat of pure fresh white shellac.

Another method is to spray the back of the rug with a solution of half-pound chip glue mixed with two quarts water. When using any of these coatings, allow the rug to remain undisturbed until the coating is thoroughly dry. There are also non-slip mats available that can be placed underneath your rugs to keep them in place. Check a closet/bath shop, home center or hardware store for mats or a product such as "Stay Put."

Q: We had our bathroom papered just a little over a year ago. The paper is still in good condition with one exception. There are several areas where it has come loose at the seams. How can these seams be made to adhere to the wall again?

A: The seams of wallcoverings, even those put up by pro-

fessionals, may eventually peel back in one corner or another. The moisture in the bathroom environment contributes to this problem. However, the situation is often easily remedied.

Contact your wallpaper dealer and purchase a tube of seam sealer. This is a squeeze tube of adhesive which lets you easily apply the sealer under loose edges of the paper. Firmly press to adhere the paper to the wall, or overlapping seams (don't use too much pressure or the glue will simply squeeze out from behind the paper).

If the wallcovering has shrunk after installation causing seams to split (this can happen with improper gluing, over stretching of the wall paper panel during installation, or inferior wallpaper), you may find that the paper will not stretch to meet the seam line. You can reglue the paper to the wall, but camouflaging the space between paper panels will be difficult, if not impossible.

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Restoration is great — just not too much of it

Striking a balance between old and the new is key to being comfortable

By ROSE BENNETT GILBERT
COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

Q: My husband and I have always loved the 18th century colonial style. We even bought plans from Old Williamsburg, Va., when we built our house six years ago (and managed to buy mature boxwoods from pots of town that were being razed so the house already looked "old" the day we moved in).

Since then, we've been slowly furnishing the house with reproductions and what antiques we can find and afford. But here's the scary thing: As the house gets more and more authentic, I'm getting less and less comfortable living in it. Last week, someone in my book club said how much she loved visiting our "museum" and that did it! I need help to get out of my time warp!

A: Smart you to realize that it is possible to have too much of a good thing. And the 18th-century certainly offered a seductive abundance of good things: elegant designs from the likes of

Chippendale and Hepplewhite, masterpieces in porcelain from the Orient, exquisite hand-blocked wallpapers from the ateliers of France. Put them all together, and you have a look that has never gone out of style.

Having said that, however, I understand your reaction to too much authenticity. You live in the 21st century, not the 18th, and you need to acknowledge that in your home. One way to get your iconoclastic juices flowing...

Spend an afternoon with a rasical of a book called "Breaking the Rules" by author/TV personality Christy Feyer (Simon & Schuster, publishers). She's all about shaking up tradition and breathing new vigor into your rooms. Upholster a classic love seat in a wild Pucci print, paint the living room of your traditional center-hall colonial a glossy purple, hang Majolica plates upside-down across the kitchen ceiling — you get her drift.

Less radical, but equally effective, the over-sealed wallpaper in the room we show here takes the

too-formal edge off a symmetrical balanced room.

Never mind that the wallpaper pattern itself is a French-inspired classic. In this context, it looks colorful, lively, and very NOW.

Q: What's up in "decorative accessories for the home?" A: A lot, according to industry savants. Seems the economy's vicissitudes have made many American homeowners hesitant to undertake full-fledged decorating projects, so we're investing in minor fix-ups instead: new pillows for the old sofa, new lamps, fun new stuff for the table. According to industry-watchers, our "little" impulses amounted to a whopping \$55 billion to \$63 billion in 2002.

Certainly, the International Gift Show in New York this August displayed a dazzling array of such small "home improvements." Among my favorites: glassware from a California company called Fire & Light. In purples, blues, greens and goldens, their dinnerware

and collectibles are brilliant in more ways than one.

All the glass is recycled, says President John McClurg, a CPA who now runs the enterprise with his wife, a former nurse (this started out as a civic-minded venture in Arcata and grew into their second careers). We're talking a half-million old Snapple bottles, etc., every year, out of the town's landfills and into beautiful new lives on America's tabletops.

See it for yourself at www.fireandlight.com.

Rose Bennett Gilbert is the co-author of "Hampton Style" and associate editor of Country Decorating Ideas. Please send your questions to her at Copley News Service, P.O. Box 120190, San Diego, CA 92112-0190, or online copleysd@copleynews.com.

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Joyce Antone named top Sales Agent

WESTFIELD — Joyce Antone, a top achiever in the Burgdorf ERA Westfield office, has been honored as Sales Agent of the Month for July with four units and a dollar volume of more than \$2 million.

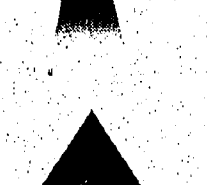
Antone is a member of the New Jersey Association of Realtors (NJAR) Circle of Excellence Sales Award Bronze Level from 1995-1998 and 2000-2001, and the Silver Level Award for 2002. She is also a current member of the Burgdorf ERA Westfield office. Antone's market knowledge and leadership ability have resulted in her success.

George Kraus, vice president and manager of the Westfield office, said, "Joyce is the type of professional who anticipates the client's needs and consistently exceeds their expectations."

Contact Antone on her direct line at (908) 233-3204 or, email her at Joyce.Antone@Burgdorf.com. The Burgdorf ERA Westfield office is a full-service real estate center located at 600 North Ave. West. For real estate assistance, or to inquire about a career in real estate, call the office at (908) 233-0065 or visit on the web at www.burgdorf.com.



JOYCE ANTONE

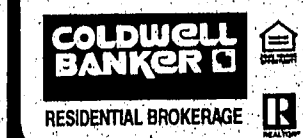


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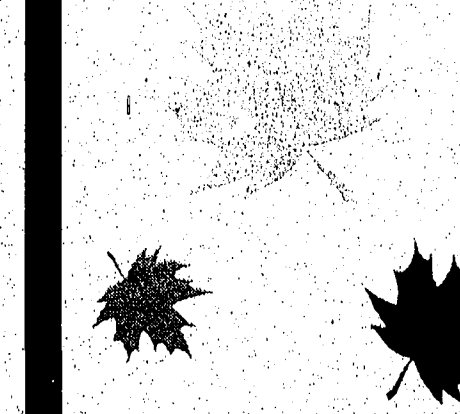


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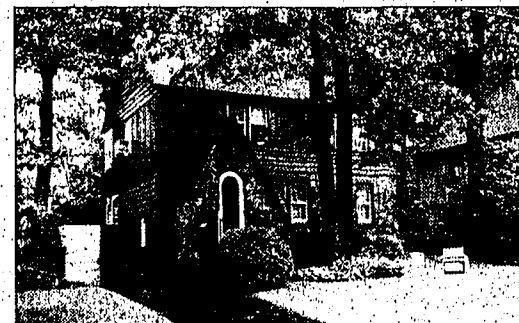
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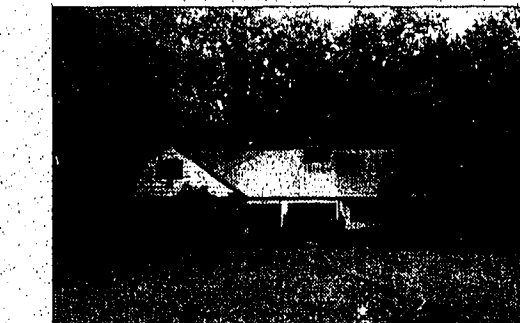
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