Hazlet is hit with $20M suit
PBA charges township with violating its civil rights, union-busting

BY CINDY HERRSCHAFT
Staff Writer

The Hazlet police union has followed through on a notice of intent to sue the 1995 Township Committee for $20 million in damages.

The Hazlet Township Policemen's Benevolent Association, Local No. 189 claims that the committee last year violated its civil rights and has filed a civil RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) claim, charging that the committee is engaged in union-busting tactics.

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court, Freehold, Nov. 13. Since the township is a public entity, it was notified of the intent to file the suit on Nov. 20, 1995. “They are trying to destroy the PBA,” Continued on page 44

Board votes 5-4 for Century 21
It also gives approval for related Route 35 south jug handle

BY CINDY HERRSCHAFT
Staff Writer

Midddletown residents living near Crestview Drive may appeal a Planning Board decision to allow construction of a three-story discount department store on Route 35 north.

After six months of heated debate, the board voted 5-4 last week to give Century 21 Inc. preliminary approval to construct a 165,822-square-foot building.

Residents are looking into the possibility of appealing the decision and hiring an attorney,” Al Bevacqua, Danemar Drive, said.

Despite the urging of many of the residents attending the Dec. 4 meeting to deny the application, board members Mayor Raymond O'Grady, Township Committee member Rick Brodsky, board Vice Chairman John Connolly, Carolyn Sue Self and Paul Linder voted in favor of the plan.

Board Chairwoman Judith Stanley and members Anne Prewett, John Deus and William Warters opposed the application and wanted to spend more time reviewing traffic and safety concerns.

If the board did not vote by the Dec. 4 deadline, the application would have been automatically approved, since Century 21 would not give the board another extension to review the plans, explained board Attorney Peter A. Carton III.

The board also voted 6-3 to allow Century 21 to construct a jughandle on Route 35 south, in front of Union Square Mall.

Prewett, Warters and board alternate Mary Lou Strong, who sat in for Stanley after Stanley left the meeting, cast the dissenting votes against the new jughandle.

While a final plan still needs to be developed, the new jughandle would remove about 29 spaces from the Union Square Mall parking lot.

Throughout the last six months, residents have raised concerns that the department store will increase traffic along Danemar and Crestview drives and pose a safety hazard to local children.

Stanley, who wanted to give township consultants more time to review the traffic mitigation plan, agreed. "We just have too much traffic," she said. "I think it's Continued on page 44
## Drug Emporium

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Price</th>
<th>Quantity Limit</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pepsi 12-Pack</td>
<td>$2.99</td>
<td>2 per customer</td>
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<td>Aleve 100 ct.</td>
<td>$7.99</td>
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<td>Advil 750 ct.</td>
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<td>No nonsense</td>
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<td>Zantac 75</td>
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<td>4 per customer</td>
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New Matawan mayor takes oath of office

MATAWAN — With several family members present, Republican Robert D. Clifton was sworn in Dec. 3 as the borough’s new mayor.

Clifton was chosen by the borough Council to replace Robert W. Shuey, who resigned the position almost three months ago, after serving nine years.

He will serve as mayor until the end of 1997, when voters will elect a mayor to complete Shuey’s current term, which doesn’t expire until the end of 1999.

Clifton, 27, and recently married, also currently serves as chairman of the Matawan Republican Committee, but has said he is considering resigning that position in order to "see the party and the governing body kept separate." Among the family members present to witness the swearing in were the mayor’s brother, Bill Clifton, a borough councilman; his wife, Tracy; his mother, Joan, and his wife, Tracy. "I’m very proud of him," his wife said, adding that she is already accustomed to her husband’s dedication to public life. "He’s been in politics since I’ve known him. I support him." Clifton’s uncle, Bill Clifton, a borough resident since 1949, said he and other family members "are happy for him and for the town.”

Taking his place in the mayor’s seat, which has been occupied since Shuey’s resignation by council President Esther Rinear, Clifton thanked the all-GOP council for its support. "I look forward to serving with them over the next 12 months," he said, although Rinear, who lost a re-election bid, will be replaced Jan. 1 by Democrat Jim Shea.

Among the topics discussed at the meeting was a petition from 33 residents of the Mill Road area, expressing concern about a recently completed bridge on Mill Road.

The 38-foot county bridge, which is located at the midpoint of the road, between Routes 34 and 79, was under construction from April to November. It replaces a 1956 bridge.

According to the petition, residents of Mill Road, Overbrook and Sapphire lanes are worried that, with the wider and sturdier bridge, the Mill Road will “become a speedway” and that “heavy trucking will be permitted to intrude into our residential neighborhood.”

The petition asks the borough to install signage warning drivers of children, curves along the road and “all other appropriate warnings” and to use radar during morning and afternoon rush hours “on a regular basis.”

The residents also oppose increasing the speed limit along the road, which they say serves as a walking route for school children and the elderly, as well as a school bus route.

Officials said there are no plans to increase the speed limit along Mill Road, and Councilman Jack Shepherd offered assurances that, while speeding cars are a problem along many streets and roads in the borough, “radar is periodically scheduled around town.”

— Beverly McGee
Police salaries approved by township

By the year 1999, the salary range will be $30,000 to $66,106

BY CINDY HERRSCHAFT
Staff Writer

MIDDLETOWN — After more than a year of uncertainty, local police officers will know what they will earn until the end of the century.

The Township Committee unanimously approved an ordinance Dec. 2 that establishes a pay scale for members of Police Benevolent Association Local No. 124.

The new scale includes an academy step and steps 1-6.

The academy salary and step one will remain $27,500 and $30,000, respectively throughout the contract.

Step two salaries for 1996-99 are $35,641, $37,245, $38,921, and $40,477, respectively.

The highest, step six salaries are $58,206, $60,826, $63,563, and $66,106, respectively, for 1996-99.

Il will now take an officer six instead of five years to reach top pay, said PBA President Cpl. Robert Morrell, who noted the move saves taxpayers money.

Pay raises are granted annually once the officers pass through the academy, or six-month step.

The pay scale reflects the annual 4.5 percent increase for 1996-98 and a 4 percent increase for 1999 approved by the union and the Township Committee last month.

The four-year police contract also creates some reductions in vacation and sick time accruals.

Even though officers are entitled to 15 sick days each year, they can only cash in up to 15 unused sick days when they.

1996 Christmas Seal program under way

The American Lung Association of New Jersey has launched its annual Christmas Seal Campaign to raise funds for Camp Superkids, a summer camping program for children with asthma, pulmonary research, smoking prevention, and education, smoking cessation clinics and other community services.

More than seven million sheets of seals are being mailed to homes and businesses throughout the state.

If you didn’t receive your Christmas Seal letter or would like additional sheets of seals, contact the American Lung Association of New Jersey at 1-800-LUNG-USA.
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EAST BRUNSWICK
Petitioners favor AT&T expansion

Hearing on the Laurel Avenue application will continue tonight

BY CINDY HERRSCHAFT
Staff Writer

MIDDLETOWN — Thousands of residents have their fingers crossed tonight as the Planning Board continues to consider the proposed AT&T expansion at 200 Laurel Ave.

More than 50 supporters, including residents, business owners, and local, county and state government officials, presented Middletown Mayor Raymond O'Grady with a 3,000-signature petition Dec. 2 at town hall in support of plans to triple the size of the office complex.

“(AT&T) is extremely crucial to Middletown,” said Joseph McNamara, co-chairman of Middletown Residents for Good Corporate Neighbors, which presented the petition, and a member of a state task force, Business Retention, Expansion and Export Opportunities.

“This is an important economic stimulus to this town,” he added.

The expansion proposal calls for increasing the present 850,000-square-foot facility to 2.5 million square feet in three phases over the next 15 years.

The expansion is expected to generate 2,000 construction jobs and another 6,000 permanent AT&T jobs, McNamara said.

About 3,500 people are currently employed at the existing facility.

The project is also expected to generate tax revenues of nearly $8 million per year when completed in 2009. Some $3.8 million of that total would go to the Board of Education, McNamara said.

“The state has made a commitment to technology in education,” said Superintendent of Schools Dennis M. Jackson, who was present at the petition presentation.

“(AT&T) would certainly help all of us. The opportunities are limitless.”

Residents living on Holland Road and in the Beau Ridge development on Laurel Avenue in Holmde have hired attorneys to tackle concerns about the expansion.

“We are also concerned about traffic,” McNamara said. “We are confident this will work out.”

The board continues to scrutinize the project, which would increase the impervious surface area on the 270-acre tract of land by 3.5 percent to 18 percent.

Tonight’s meeting is the fourth on the project.

“It seems painfully slow, but (the planning process) is a necessary evil,” Mayor Raymond O’Grady said. “We don’t want this started with problems we can’t live with.

Meanwhile, government officials wait with bated breath to see the largest project in municipal history approved.

AT&T has warned that it would leave Monmouth County if Middletown rejects its expansion plan.

This is a great project for Middletown and the state,” Robert Zielinski, head of the Monmouth County Economic Development, said.

“We strongly support this project for the economic base it provides for Middletown and the county,” Bea Duffy, a Matawan councilwoman and director of the Monmouth County Department of Economic Development, said.

“We need you, we want you, we must have you,” former Middletown Police Chief Joseph McCarthy said. “They have been a tremendous help to the local community.”

Eugenia W. Pitts, executive director of the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council, said, “Let’s welcome them with open arms and let them know that we want them here.”

Business leaders also look forward to the economic boom it would create.

“The Planning Board should use the same vision and commitment as the township’s elected officials and approve this project,” Robert Zielinski, head of the Bayshore Business Association, said.

“We need you, we want you, we must have you,” former Middletown Police Chief Joseph McCarthy said. The Port Monmouth resident noted that the expanded facility also would create many needed blue collar jobs for local residents.

Others noted that AT&T has been a formidable member of the community in that 13 years.

“They have been tremendously good neighbors to our town,” O’Grady said. “They have been a tremendous help to the local community.

“We can be a good neighbor to them and they can be a good neighbor to us,” Township Administrator Joseph P. Leo said. “I know the Planning Board will do the right thing.”

Revenues generated by the expansion would also “go a long way” to pay for most, if not all, of the potential residential tax increase that would occur if voters approve a $78.4 million school bond referendum Dec. 10, McNamara said.

Like opponents of the project, supporters also recognize there are traffic issues that need to be resolved.

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Main Street Holiday Festival set for Sun.

Matawan downtown coordinator sets new goals and takes stock

BY BEVERLY MCGEE
Correspondent

MATAWAN — After more than six months as Matawan's downtown coordinator, Lee Deedmeyer has taken stock of what has been accomplished in the borough's shopping district and identified several objectives for its future.

Deedmeyer was hired last May by the Borough Council to help breathe new life into the business area along Main Street. Since then, he has been working steadily to attract new businesses to the area and to encourage the proprietors of existing businesses to become more involved in the Main Street community.

In the months since he was hired, Deedmeyer has gathered volunteers and organized cleanups of both the shopping area and nearby Lake Lenerts. The spring and summer months saw plantings along Main Street and the painting of empty storefronts by art students from Matawan-Aberdeen Regional High School. He has worked to improve both traffic signage and parking problems.

Getting area merchants to lend their support, however, has not always been easy.

Recently, the borough's Downtown Merchants Association disbanded, replaced by the Borough of Matawan Downtown Community Committee. The committee counts as its members not only merchants, but residents, property owners, members of local government and students as well. Its mission is "to improve the quality of life by strengthening the downtown as the center of the community," says the committee's mission statement.

This Sunday, the Matawan Downtown Community Committee will do its best to draw shoppers away from the malls and into the downtown by sponsoring a Holiday Festival along Main Street.

Taking place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m., the celebration will include free hot chocolate and cider, a bake sale, caroling and a menorah and tree lighting ceremony at 2:30 p.m. near Matawan Drugs, across downtown as the center of the community and the Borough Council.

Recently, the borough's Downtown Community Committee has been working to improve both traffic signage and parking problems. Getting area merchants to lend their support, however, has not always been easy.

Deedmeyer is also at work on a video about living wills that will be released as the end of the year.

The biggest goal ahead is to rally the community and the municipality to assess a vision, set goals and proceed with a work plan. I am one man, I cannot do it by myself."
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RT. 34, COLTS NECK
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Hazlet will address Middle Road flooding

Township requested stream encroachment permit, but was denied

BY CINDY HERRSCHAFT
Staff Writer

HAZLET — Recent flooding has prompted the Township Committee to improve Hazlet’s drainage system.

Meetings have been scheduled with the Monmouth County Engineering Department to discuss the installation of new storm sewer drains along Middle Road near a bridge over the Monasunk Creek near the municipal building.

The road has a depression near the bridge which causes water to pool, explained Committeeman John Bradshaw, who said county engineers will be visiting the site to survey the problem.

Shortly after an Oct. 19 storm, public works’ crews went into the creek to clear debris from the area. The debris can create blockages that disturb the flow of water and can cause flooding, he said.

However, the Oct. 19 storm that flooded much of the town and sections of surrounding municipalities was not the average storm central New Jersey faces.

“It was quite an intense storm that affected virtually every stream in the region,” he said.

It was a combination of heavy rain, the timing of the tide, the northeast wind and the fallen leaves that clogged storm drains that caused the flooding, officials had said.

“Recognizing there will be times when such storms approach, it behooves (all municipalities in the area) to take every precaution so there are no blockages,” he said.

Municipal Administrator Margaret Margiotta will file a request with the Monmouth County Mosquito Control Commission to dredge the Monasunk further downstream to clear any blockages, Bradshaw said.

It is possible to request the commission’s assistance since blockages in streams cause stagnate water which breeds mosquitoes, he explained.

A retention basin constructed by National Amusement Inc. at the Hazlet Multiplex Cinemas site on Route 35 and Hazlet Public Works projects eliminated much of the flooding problem. Run-off water would enter the creek at a much slower and controlled rate, explained Bradshaw.

“It had eliminated much of the difficulty,” Bradshaw said. However, “we and various agencies need to do things to stop the blockages.”

Meanwhile, residents appear at township meetings periodically seeking relief from soil erosion and flooding when the creek overflows its banks.

Hazlet had requested a stream encroachment permit to mitigate these problems but it was denied.

“We will never be able to get a permit to dredge that creek,” Bradshaw said.

“The people in Trenton and at the state Department of Environmental Protection are more concerned with the streams than the properties that surround the stream,” he said.

Stream encroachment laws also prohibit the use of rip rap along the banks of streams to prevent erosion. “They view soil erosion as a natural phenomenon,” he said.

IN BRIEF

House-decorating contest set in Hazlet

Hazlet’s annual holiday house-decorating contest will take place Dec. 16 through Dec. 20.

Residents are asked to make sure their lights are on for judging.

For information, call (908) 739-0653.

Chiropractic office is collecting toys

Alexander Chiropractic offices will again participate in the U.S Marine Reserve “Toys for Tots” program. New unwrapped toys may be dropped from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or 7-9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays or from 3-7 p.m. on Tuesdays or on Saturday mornings at 875 Poole Ave., Hazlet.

Gymnastics offered for Hazlet children

A 16-lesson gymnastics program for girls and boys is being offered by the Hazlet Recreation Commission beginning Jan. 6. It will be held in the Cove Road School gym.

Instruction for ages 6 through 8 is given from 5:40 - 6:40 p.m. or 6:50 - 7:50 p.m., and, 8 - 9 p.m. for ages 9 and up, on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The cost is $55 and is offered to Hazlet children only. Proof of residency is required at registration. Registrations will be taken from Dec. 16 through Dec. 20, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Recreation Office located in the James J. Cullen Center on Union Avenue.

Registrations are limited and will be taken on first-come, first-served basis. $5 will be charged for late registrations.

Proper attire for classes is shorts, T-shirts, leotards, white socks, or bare feet; no jewelry; mid-length hair must be tied back.

For information, call (908) 739-0653.
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Resident receives award

Effie Rogers of Holmdel Nursing Home, Holmdel, was recently honored by the N.J. Association of Health Care Facilities (NJAHCF), Trenton, as its 1996 Resident Better Life Award recipient. NJAHCF is a statewide trade association representing New Jersey's licensed nursing homes, subacute care, adult day health care, assisted living and residential health care facilities. NJAHCF's annual awards program recognizes nurses, volunteers and residents for their outstanding commitment and dedication to serving residents living in the state's long-term care facilities.

Rogers was recognized for her outstanding efforts to enhance the lives of her fellow residents at Holmdel Nursing Home. A cerebral vascular accident left Rogers, 61, speechless and paralyzed on her right side. Unable to speak, Rogers reached unthinkable goals by learning to express herself by singing. Rogers captured the judges' vote when they learned of the tremendous difficulties she has overcome to be able to socialize in this fashion and bring joy to others through song.

In recently accepting her award, Rogers rendered an all-time favorite, "Amazing Grace," for which she received a standing ovation. A mother of six children and grandmother of seven, Rogers enjoys gardening and crocheting. She remains committed to further developing her singing and hopes to one day speak again.

According to James E. Cunningham, NJAHCF president, "This awards program not only recognizes dedicated volunteers, nursing staff and residents, but also fosters good will and encourages people to make a difference in the lives of residents living in New Jersey's long-term care facilities."

Learn about farm machinery Saturday

"Simple Machines on the Farm," a program sponsored by the Monmouth County Park System, will be presented 12:30-2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Longstreet Farm, Longstreet Road, Holmdel. Youngsters with developmental disabilities, who are between the ages of 10-16, will learn about simple machines, make chicken feed and press cider. Fee is $20.

For more information, call (908) 842-4000; TDD (908) 219-9484.

Old-fashioned sweet treat for youngsters

"Adventures in Gingerbread," a Monmouth County Park System Program, will be presented 1-3 p.m. on Saturday at Longstreet Farm, Longstreet Road, Holmdel. Youngsters ages 8 and up will enjoy an old-fashioned tradition as they make gingerbread houses. The program fee is $20.

For more information, call (908) 842-4000; TDD is (908) 219-9484.

Knights to host pancake breakfast

The Knights of Columbus, St. Benedict Council 11349, Holmdel, will sponsor a pancake breakfast 8:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday at the school cafeteria. Cost for adults is $3 and $1 for children. Pictures with Santa will be available at $2 each. Proceeds will be donated to St. Benedict's Parking Lot Renovation Fund. Call (908) 583-4602 for information.

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Amy Ingram Bergh & Pamela Monyer on Saturday, December 14, 1996.
Expanded BRSA facility rededicated

New plant cost $54 million; was financed by low-interest loans

By Cindy Herrschaft

By Cindy Herrschaft

UNION BEACH — While every resident uses the facility, very few come to visit the office in Union Beach.

Over the past 28 years, the Bayshore Regional Sewerage Authority (BRSA) has been treating sewage from all or parts of Hazlet, Holmdel, Keansburg, Keyport, Marlboro, Matawan and Union Beach.

The BRSA rededicated its newly expanded facility located at the end of Eighth Street in Union Beach during a ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 5.

“This plant expansion gives us the capacity to meet the increasing needs of our service area for the next 18 years,” BRSA Executive Director Gary Marshall said.

The authority began planning for the expanded facility in 1989, when it was clear the old facility did not have the capacity to provide service for the increasing number of businesses and residents in the service area.

The authority has also begun accepting sewage from Aberdeen, officials said.

The expansion, which more than doubles the plant’s original 6 million gallons per day capacity to 16 million gallons per day, cost $54 million, which was financed through low-interest loans from the N.J. Wastewater Trust Fund (NIWTT) and bonds issued by the authority.

The construction, done by Allans Construction Co., Stamford, Conn., took four years to complete.

Customers are paying a 25 percent increase in service fees to pay off the authority’s debt service until the year 2012, according to BRSA officials.

However, the price tag would have been about $8 million higher without the aid of the Wastewater Treatment Trust Fund, Executive Director Dirk Hoffman said.

The trust fund was created about a decade ago to offer lower interest loans to help communities and authorities tackle critical health and environmental infrastructure problems, NIWTT Chairman Ellis S. Vieser, Middletown, said.

The authority did face opposition to expanding the facility and constructing a new incinerator.

However, “we felt this was the best thing to do economically, financially and environmentally,” Marshall said.

The expanded plant costs $10 million annually and takes 30 employees to operate, Marshall said.

The new plant is highly automated with state-of-the-art controls and odor-control equipment. All five primary settling tanks have been covered with fiberglass covers with ducting for odor control.

All air from the covered tanks flows to another building dedicated solely to odor control. The unpleasant gases are treated with a liquid mixture containing sodium hypochlorite, which is designed to remove 99 percent of the sulfides which causes the odor before it is released into the air.

The waste water is also disinfected using sodium hypochlorite to kill any pathogenic organisms in the sludge.

Once water has been separated from the sludge, it is burned in the new incinerator built on the 14-acre site.

The incinerator is designed to burn 2,250 pounds of dry solids an hour and has air pollution control equipment to remove acid gases and submicron particles from the gas that is released into the air.

The remaining ash is trucked to a landfill, and the treated water is piped to the nearby Bayshore Outfall Authority and released into the ocean.

Some 30 years ago, the sewage was simply dumped in the Raritan Bay, noted BRSA Chairman Joseph A. Morales of Hazlet.

The authority has two commissioners each from its original three service towns of Hazlet, Holmdel and Union Beach.

Later, customers towns were mandated by the state Department of Environmental Protection to lie in.
Officials say if it passes, school property taxes expected to increase

BY LAUREN JAEGE
Staff Writer

ABERDEEN — A new state education funding bill currently under review by the two Senate committees will drive school property taxes even higher in middle-class communities, to make up for a shortfall in state aid, some officials are saying.

With that in mind, taxpayers, administrators and school board members from all over New Jersey met recently at a statewide rally held at Matawan Regional High School to address school property tax inequities.

The bill, S-40, and a companion Assembly bill, A-20, are designed to replace the Quality Education Act (QEA).

The QEA was ruled unconstitutional two years ago by the state Supreme Court because it places an unfair tax burden on middle-class property owners to compensate for the loss of state aid.

On average, the state funds roughly 40 percent of school costs locally, according to the N.J. School Boards Association (NSBA), a federation of more than 600 local boards, which co-sponsored the Nov. 26 meeting.

The other co-sponsor was the Foundation Aid Districts Association, a 300-member association of school districts which pay above-average property taxes to compensate for a lack of state funds.

The associations believe the state should fund property taxes at a minimum per-pupil cost of $8,064 for high school students and $6,720 for elementary school students.

Although the bill provides $241 million to defray property taxes in "low-wealth, high-tax rate" districts, the core curriculum aid, which is based on a formula of local property values and income, has been reduced by $101 million.

Dr. Robert E. Boose, the executive director of the NSBA and the meeting’s moderator, said that this does not address the middle-income towns which pay much more than the average property taxes.

Like other middle-class districts around the state, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District went from having a budget funded 31 percent by state aid six years ago, down to about 16 percent, despite escalating operating costs.

Last year, the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District was forced to cut 31 positions to get down to the state-imposed cap of a 3 percent budget increase.

“We may have to double or triple the people cut,” said Mike Klavon, superintendent of the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District, who gave a detailed slide presentation on the detrimental effects of the loss of state aid.

He said later that residents of Matawan and Aberdeen may end up paying about a dime more per $100 of assessed property valuation if the bill passes.

Along with the loss of state aid, he said at last week’s rally every school district is now mandated to comply with a newly imposed core curriculum, which establishes statewide standards for education.

Matawan-Aberdeen had a 1995 estimated school tax rate of $1.91, while the increase in state aid next year is projected at 1 percent, or $124,000.

By contrast, the wealthy community of Saddle River, in Bergen County, had a 33-cent property tax rate in 1995, and has a projected 50 percent increase in state aid, or $100,000 more.

Dr. Kenneth D. Hall, president of the Foundation Aid District Association and former superintendent of the Matawan-Aberdeen Regional School District, said changing the formula has not worked at all.

“We still have not made a great deal of progress,” Hall said. “The S-40 is a ridiculous bill, punitive and regressive in nature.

“We need to go back to the drawing board,” he said, noting that an equitable state funding formula is now a 25-year old issue.

“In that time, we let our cities go down the drain,” he said. “Now, it seems, the state wants to make suburban communities suffer the fate of the cities.”

In addition, the NSBA said that the new bill, released in May and formally titled the “Department of Education’s Comprehensive plan for Educational Improvement and Financing,” does not address high property taxes, provisions of health benefits, building maintenance and tenured reform.

Bruce M. Quinn, assistant superintendent of Red Bank Public Schools, proposed that the state eliminate altogether the use of property taxes to fund school systems, like Michigan did recently, but “we probably won’t see it.”

“Prior to 1975, aid was on a per-pupil basis,” Quinn explained.

“This formula doesn’t work,” Quinn said. “The district with the lowest income pays the highest property tax and the lowest property tax are those with the highest income.”

Residents from all over the state aired their anger.

Warren Timm, Waretown, president of the tax association of the Ocean Township School District, said that in his town, school taxes rose 44 percent this year.

“Businesses are leaving and homes are for sale on every single block of our town,” he said, noting that based on his calculations, his district would have a surplus if it was located in neighboring New York, Connecticut or Michigan instead of New Jersey.

“One house in Avalon worth $145,000 pays $1,300 a year in property taxes,” he said.

Continued on next page
Aberdeen awards garbage contract

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK  Staff Writer

ABERDEEN — Starting in March, residents of Aberdeen will have a new garbage collection schedule.

At the Dec. 2 meeting, the Township Council voted 3-0 to award Meadowbrook Carting Co. Inc., Neptune, the lowest of three bidders, a five-year, $2,441,750 contract to collect the township's garbage and recyclables.

Councilmen Owen Drapkin and Dennis Devino were absent.

Meadowbrook will replace Freehold Carriage Inc., Freehold, effective Jan. 1.

"The new plan, in addition to being more efficient, will save us $20,000 in costs over the life of the contract," Township Manager Mark Coren said.

Coren believes Meadowbrook was the right choice because the company has been "innovative in the marketplace," he said.

Some council members were concerned, however, about awarding a five-year contract, instead of the customary three-year contract for this type of service.

"I wouldn't recommend a three-year contract because of the rapid changes in the market," Van Anda said.

"I've seen the detrimental effects," Van Anda said. "All I've been hearing is the fight against the QEA and the new funding plan.

Boards Association said. "All I've been hearing is the fight against the QEA and the new funding plan."

"I've seen the detrimental effects," Van Anda said. "All I've been hearing is the fight against the QEA and the new funding plan."

"I resent that this hits us as the holiday approaches," Roberta Van Anda, president of the Monmouth County School Boards Association said. "All I've been seeing is the fight against the QEA and now the fight is against the comprehensive plan and the new funding plan."

"This bill is turkey and it needs restuffing," Van Anda said.

Education funding bill

Continued from previous page

while a $150,000 house here pays $5,000." Anthony McKenna, a Matawan resident, said, "Avalon is a resort town. What we have is politically correct for rich people."*

"I've seen the detrimental effects." Janice Gall, a Matawan resident said, "The state is mandating dancing and foreign language for the children without allowing an increase in a cost-per-pupil spending.

"This is the only budget voted upon by the public, The formula places an unfair burden on them."

Jonathan Paucker, Aberdeen, a father of three, said: "Someone fell asleep in the presentation takes place, officials said.

IN BRIEF

Holiday train to roll on Saturday

The Middletown Township Department of Parks and Recreation and the Northern Monmouth Chamber of commerce will host a "Holiday Train Ride" on Saturday. The NJ Transit train will depart at 10 a.m. from the Middletown Train Station and will travel to Bay Head. The train returns to Middletown at noon. Activities on the train include caroling, visits by Santa, clowns and other performers. Children will receive goodie bags containing little gifts.

The winners for ages 10 through 12 are: Melanie Ondrzej, first place; Ashley Maresca, second place; and Erica Fisher, third place.

The winners for ages 8 and 9 are: Juan Vazquez Jr., first place; Stephanie Hueston, second place; and Richard Moore, third place.

The winners for ages 6 and 7 are: Shannon Smith, first place; Brett Maresca, second place; and Colin Tracy, third place.

The winners for ages 1 through 5 are: Richard Elsner, first place; and Jeremy Moore, second place.

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Board of Education expects will go out to bid this February

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK

HOLMDEL — The school district overcame one hurdle by passing the school facilities referendum. The next is to get the job done.

Representatives from the district’s architectural firm, Educational Technology Consultants, Concord Engineering Group, and construction management team made a presentation to the Board of Education Dec. 5.

Residents approved the $19.5 million referendum to refurbish the district’s four schools May 14.

The district anticipates going out to bid on the project in February and to award contracts in March.

The expansion is slated to begin in Summer 1997, with a target completion date of Fall 1998.

Superintendent of Schools Susan LeGlise said the district is planning a groundbreaking ceremony in April to kick off the construction.

Before major construction of the buildings begins, the district plans to make parking improvements at Indian Hill School, Holmdel Road.

LeGlise said it is necessary to expand the parking lot so construction vehicles can have access to the property.

David R. Fraytak, district architect, told the board that after meeting with teachers and principals, the site plans were upgraded and modified, but no substantial changes were made.

He said in some instances it was a matter of just moving storage rooms. No rooms were eliminated or their purposes changed.

“The refurbishments support our programs’ needs,” LeGlise said.

Fraytak will be sending the final plans to the state Department of Education next week for approval.

The largest chunk of the referendum money, $13,597,000, will be used at Indian Hill School, where 24 new classrooms are planned.

The district anticipates the school will be ready for use by September 1998.

Once the classrooms are completed, Indian Hill will change from a grades 4-5 to a grades 3-6 facility.

Holmdel High School, Crawford Corner Road, will get a common science wing and the commons will be expanded, at a total cost $5,033,800.

The high school also will get other repairs that are not part of the referendum, including a new roof and upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

The William R. Satz School, which is adjacent to the high school, had a new roof installed last summer.

The funding to pay for the Satz and high school roofs is from a monetary settlement the district received last year, stemming from a law suit the district filed against various parties who were involved with the installation of roofs on the two schools in 1987.

Additionally, the high school will be converted from electric heating to gas heating.

“Almost one year ago, our company was commissioned by the board to do a conversion study for the high school,” Michael T. Frischette of Concord Engineering said.

He said the high school is heated 100 percent by electric and it is very expensive.

Satz’s conversion from electric to gas was completed in Fall 1993.

The conversion of the high school is the final phase of a referendum passed in the early 1990s to convert both schools to gas heating.

For $278,500, Satz will be restructured from a grades 6-8 to a grades 7-8 building.

The science wing and science equipment will also be upgraded.

Village School, located on McCambridge Road, will change from a K-2 to a K-2 school.

In addition to restructuring grade levels at Village School, nine classrooms vacated by the third grade will be used for a library addition, special education classrooms, a first- and second-grade classroom, a physical and occupational therapy room, a resource room and a nurse’s office. The project will cost $590,000.

All four schools also will be wired for the latest available technology.

Robert A. Wurzburg, of Educational Technology Consultants, said, “The district will be fully connected for high-speed technology for the next 15 to 20 years.

He said he examined the present wiring of the schools, cable jacks and the physical electronics before deciding on the needs of the district.

LeGlise said approximately $450,000 of the referendum will be used toward wiring.

The district will have to fund an additional estimated $432,000 to complete the wiring at the new construction, renovated and existing spaces at the schools.

James P. Rowan, vice president of Wagner, Hohns, Inglis Inc., the district’s construction management team, displayed graphics showing each step of the construction process and depicting different milestones.

He said representatives from his firm will be on site when the construction phase begins.

To inform parents and staff members of the progress of the construction, a fact sheet will be sent home monthly with students and each of the four schools will have building plans for their school on display.

In addition, the board unanimously agreed to spend an additional $35,000 for Fraytak to draw up design alternate.

The referendum bids could come in lower than expected, which could give the district additional funds to do more work, board member Brian G. McMullen, who is also on the building and grounds committee, said.

“You would have the drawings forever and they could be used later on if the bids don’t come in favorable,” Fraytak said.

If there are surplus funds available after bids are awarded, the district is looking into adding two classrooms at Indian Hill to accommodate the third and fourth grades, additional furniture for the Satz science wing, air conditioning for the wing shared by Satz and the high school, and creating four classrooms and storage areas at the high school.

LeGlise said the additional four rooms would be available after the current science rooms are vacated for the new science wing.

Assuming a 1.5 percent annual growth in the township’s tax ratable base, the referendum will cost the owner of a home assessed at $300,000 an average of $262 per year until the debt is paid off in 22 years.

Resident is hit by car

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK

ABERDEEN — An Aberdeen resident was struck by a car last week while attempting to walk across Route 35.

The accident occurred at 3:15 p.m. Dec. 4.

The victim, James Hamilton, 40, of Ken Garden Apartments, Matawan Avenue, was air lifted to an area hospital. Further information about his condition could not be obtained.

Aberdeen First Aid Squad District
Four new courses will be available next year

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK
Staff Writer

HOLMDEL — Holmdel High School and Satz School will have new course offerings next year.

Various administrators discussed several significant changes to the curriculum during the Dec. 4 Board of Education meeting.

Eighth-grade students at the Satz School will now have the opportunity to take a full-year course of Chinese.

At the eighth-grade level, world languages at the district are offered as an elective.

Chinese will be offered as a pilot program and will need an enrollment of 15 students. The program will offer Mandarin, the official language of China.

The curriculum will highlight units on learning Pin Yin (Mandarin), the Chinese people, a Chinese family, calligraphy and painting, calendar and Chinese zodiac, money and food, free market and school.

The district offers language courses in French, Latin, Italian, Chinese and Spanish. At the high school level students can also take Japanese and Russian.

Eighteen students are enrolled in Japanese and no one registered to take Russian, Maureen Lally, director of curriculum and instruction, said.

Students are introduced to world languages at the fourth-grade level, Spanish is offered in the fifth grade, three weeks each of Latin and Italian in the sixth grade, and French and Chinese in the seventh.

Officials said the expansion into a full-year Chinese course was a natural progression from the seventh-grade curriculum.

"I think this is an enormously important language and even if we fall short of students, it still should be done," board member Frank Pento said.

He called the addition of Chinese "a very important issue. Asia is growing very rapidly; Europe is not."

Frank said the economy of China is about to supplant Germany's as the third largest in the world, and said, "It will not be more than a decade before it passes Japan."

Another curriculum change at Satz will be the the in the study of U.S. history. It will expand the study of U.S. history to two years, with the discovery of America to Reconstruction in the sixth grade and Reconstruction to the present in the seventh grade.

Sixth-graders previously spent their year studying ancient civilizations.

The high school will see new electives in science and two additional technology courses.

Next year, students will be able to choose earth and space science:

"Currently our science electives are biological in nature," Sharyn Evans, supervisor of math and science for grades four to 12, said.

She said it was positive to study the planetary systems and it would also allow for the current study of scientific theory.

The course will be available to juniors and seniors after completing biology, chemistry, or physics requirements.

The high school will also see additional courses added to technology.

Students will be able to select a course in interactive Internet and design technology.

Valerie Baker, coordinator of computer science and technology for the district, explained with the interactive Internet, students will be able to research different areas, do on-line projects, virtual tours of different web sites and design web pages.

She described the course as a "classroom without walls."

"It's a great start, but the real challenge is to integrate it into other traditional curriculum courses," board member Frank Pento said.

During the one semester design technology course, students will think creatively and critically and apply knowledge to real world situations.

Before developing new courses, "We looked at other schools, got feedback from parents, students and colleges, and looked at the New Jersey core curriculum standards," said Lally.

SPREADING JOY — The Girls' Ensemble & Praise Team from St. John's United Methodist Church in Hazlet shares holiday spirit during the fourth annual "Lights of Love" tree lighting ceremony sponsored by the Bayshore Community Hospital Foundation Dec. 5 at Bayshore Community Hospital in Holmdel.

(Photo by Brian J. Berman/Greater Media)
Toys needed for 2nd annual charity drive

Excel Travel in Middletown will participate in their second annual "Toys for Tots" program. New unwrapped toys may be dropped off at Ventura Plaza, 1275 Highway 35, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon-5 p.m. Sundays. Toys will be accepted until Dec. 20. For more information, please call (908) 671-2223.

IN BRIEF

**YMCA to expand area programs**

**BY LAUREN JAEGER**

**Staff Writer**

MATAWAN — A local survey reveals that YMCA programs are in demand more than ever in the northern section of Monmouth County, even though there is no central building to house them.

Until a full-service facility, with a large gymnasium and pool structures similar to those in Red Bank and Freehold, is built here, Maureen Fitzgerald, the executive director of the Arrowhead Branch which operates the YMCA Children's Center at Matawan on Church Street and Camp Arrowhead in Marlboro, wants to get the word out that the programs will be held at various places.

However, she said, the YMCA still needs several places to meet, and would appreciate any donations of halls, basements and other meeting rooms.

The Arrowhead Branch is part of The Community YMCA which includes the Red Bank facility and Bayshore Youth Family Services.

More than 500 people responded to the survey, which was distributed in August. The Children's Center, the Old Bridge Library and two local banks undertook the cost.

Responses indicated that the number one program interest is computer courses, followed by swimming lessons, first aid, aerobics, weight loss, stress management, nutrition class and in-line skating.

Several respondents suggested art classes, a walking club, ballet, piano and similar classes, a sick room for children of working parents and an ice skating or hockey program.

As a result of the survey, Fitzgerald has arranged for an adult CPR class in January and children's safety courses, such as Karate class.

Computer classes will be planned after the agency gets enough computers, she said. "We are asking companies to donate computers," Fitzgerald said, in hopes of offering evening computer courses.

Also in response to the survey, the agency will offer a backyard swimming program at private homes with swimming pools next summer. Ten-day lessons will be offered for $280 to groups of a maximum of six children.

Joanne S. Finegan, Aberdeen, chairwoman of the Arrowhead Branch Board of Managers, said the need for community programs is growing as more and more people are moving into the county.

"More families have two parents working and the children need to be in constructive care, as well as child care," she said, pointing to the popularity of the Matawan Children's Center.

A large facility would be ideal, Finegan noted.

"We are working diligently on it. We are trying very hard to get something into the area. A place in Matawan would be centrally located," Finegan said, but she said they are looking into many different areas, including Old Bridge, and that "anything is possible."

Candy Kadimik, a Matawan parent who was tired of commuting to the Red Bank facility, brought up the idea of a more central building two years ago this month.

"It's going slowly, but we need to get the word out," she said. "We need a lot of local support and until we get the word out that the Y is willing to expand, we are at a hiatus."

Currently, a new facility may be put on the back burner. The Community YMCA wants to raise $2 million to renovate the Red Bank facility and Camp Arrowhead, which needs new locker rooms and additional shelter.

In three years, the YMCA Children's Center of Matawan, which began with 12 children, has grown tenfold.

Out of 106 children enrolled, 46 are from Matawan and 22 are from Aberdeen.

"This proves to us that we are providing a service to the community," Fitzgerald said. "There is a curriculum that each class follows, such as science, arts and crafts, math, dress up."

The kindergarten is for those who have only half-day classes in the public schools, while the parents may work all day.

All teachers have an early childhood education degree or a preschool degree.

The YMCA offers financial assistance for those in need, Fitzgerald said.

"No one is denied access to buildings, facilities or programs," she said. "We run the annual Reach Out to Youth campaign (for this purpose) and this year's goal is $130,000."

The Arrowhead Branch will get $19,000 to be awarded for scholarships and other financial needs.

Based on a sliding-scale fee, 30 percent of the enrollment receives scholarships.

The six-week camp, operated by volunteers, starts in January.

Finegan is optimistic that they not only will meet the goal, but that they will exceed it.

"Last year, we set a goal of $13,000 and we raised $17,000," she said. "The year before that, we set a goal of $10,000 and got $18,000. Each year it gets easier and the programs get better."

She said that the most generous contributors tend to be area businesses.

Others on the board of managers include: Andrew Draxler, Highlands; Candy Kadimik, Matawan; Jay Anderson, Fair Haven; Andrew Bott, Farmingdale; Virginia Christinat, Matawan; Don Cahn, Rumson; Rick Geffken, Holmdel; Marie Grubb, Wickatupk; Abe Phillips, Marlboro; Toni Bell and Dan Predpall, West End; and Dorene Sefack, Jack Sherman and Tom Tassin, all Matawan.
ATMUA objects to 2 ordinances again

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK

ABERDEEN — The sewer authority has once again filed objections to two ordinances adopted by the Township Council concerning the dissolution of the authority.

The objections were filed last week in Superior Court, Freehold, according to Francis V. Czarnecki, vice president of the Aberdeen Township Municipal Utilities Authority (ATMUA).

The Township Council unanimously adopted three ordinances to dissolve the authority last month.

The council was ordered by Superior Court Judge Lawrence M. Lawson, sitting in Freehold, to adopt both ordinances, one to dissolve the ATMUA and another to establish a sewer authority a second time because the ordinances were invalid.

A third ordinance to refinance the ATMUA’s $17 million debt did not have to be reintroduced.

The ordinances did not include a “purpose synopsis” when they advertised in the newspaper.

“It truly seems to be illogical and inappropriate expenditures of the taxpayers’ money,” Township Manager Mark Coren said during the Dec. 2 council meeting.

“Enough is enough,” Coren estimated the township has spent approximately $60,000 on the dissolving of the authority.

He said new members who will be appointed to the authority next month should take a look at the ordinances and be involved in the dissolution.

The township is expected to take over the 30-year-old authority Feb. 1.

The authority filed the objection because they believed the ordinances were incorrect in some areas.

The township wants to take charge of the authority before the bonds are reissued for the authority’s $17 million debt, Czarnecki said.

In addition, the authority believes the township is borrowing $2 million more than it needs to take over the authority.

IN BRIEF

Knights to host pancake breakfast

St. Benedict’s Knights of Columbus Council 11349 will hold a pancake breakfast on Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to noon at St. Benedict’s Church, 165 Bethany Road, Holmdel. The breakfast will have a Christmas theme, featuring a visit from Santa Claus.

The menu includes pancakes and sausage, along with coffee, tea, orange juice and extras. The cost is $3 for adults and $1 for children.

Pictures with Santa will be available for $2 each.

Door prizes will be given out after the 8:30 and 9 a.m. masses.

The net proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the St. Benedict’s parish parking lot renovation fund.

This issue has already been discussed, Coren said. He said the township would borrow less money but the amount would not exceed $17.25 million, the figure authorized by the bond ordinance.

During a September council meeting, Bill Mayer, the township bond counsel, said he was aware of the ATMUA’s $2 million and was not aware of any violation of the law.

He has said that the $2 million can be used toward the authority’s outstanding debt or for capital improvements.

Although the ATMUA has filed the objection, Czarnecki said, “The authority is not objecting to the dissolution at all.”

In addition, the ATMUA nor the council has made any further moves to severing the Woodfield section, bordered by Routes 516 and 79.

Authority Engineer Thomas K. Rospos and Township Engineer Timothy W. Gillen met for the first time Nov. 11 to go over the revised plans for the Woodfield section.

The authority was forced to revise the plans to comply with a court order.

Originally the authority had intended to use a smaller 4-inch pipe, but switched to an 8-inch pipe to accommodate the future growth of the Freneau section. The original plan was just to install sewer in Woodfield, which has had serious septic tank problems.

However, in order to install a larger pipe, the cost of the project would increase by $250,000.

Czarnecki said the authority sent two letters last month to the council asking who was going to pay for the additional money.

He said they have received no response.

“I have not heard the letters but have not had a chance to discuss it with the council,” Coren said.

The authority said they will not make any further revisions of the plans until the funding question is answered.
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**WINTER STORAGE** — Donna Colasacco of Hazlet (above) gives a helicopter ride at the Keansburg Amusement Park a new coat of paint in preparation for winter storage. Below the park can be seen beyond a deserted row of parking meters, both waiting for next year's visitors.

*(Photos by Bonnie Ardita/Greater Media)*
Holmdel district starts foundation

Establishment will award mini grants to school teachers

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK
Staff Writer

HOLMDEL — It won’t be long before the Holmdel school district begins seeing rewards from the newly established educational foundation.

The foundation formally announced its formation Dec. 2. Ken Grounds of Educational Foundation Consultants (EFC), Williamston, Mich., which also has offices in New York, helped ground work for the foundation. He said that the establishment of such long-term funding sources

Grounds, who met with the Board of Education in January, will work with the foundation over an 18-month period. Superintendent Susan LeGlise said it would cost about $19,500 to set up the foundation.

"I did a lot of research with other districts which have worked with EFC and many people told me it was well worth it because the foundation raised a great deal more than the start up fee in its first year," she said.

The foundation will be run by a board of trustees comprised of 19 community members.

LeGlise said the trustees were selected by reaching out to people who work in fields that include banking, real estate and public relations.

The board also contributed names of people who they believed were worthwhile candidates, she said.

LeGlise said that a design team made up of herself, board President Normana Toback and Principal Ed S. Alster made the final recommendations for trustees.

Donna Myers, a board trustee who works in the public relations field, said the foundation will be awarding mini grants in January for staff members to enhance the curriculum.

The grants will be used to supplement existing projects and programs, such as providing specialized computer software, equipment and supplies for science projects, and assisting with a wide variety of other creative ideas suggested by teachers and staff, according to a foundation press release.

"The teachers are very excited and enthusiastic about the grants," she said. She said they will be kicking off their major fund-raising event with a direct-mail campaign in March seeking donations.

The funds will be raised through alumni, current and former staff, foundations and individuals remembering the foundation in wills and other bequests, according to district officials.

Myers, who has lived in the township for 30 years, said she became involved with the foundation because, "I think our standing scholastically is a big attraction on why people move into the district.

"If I believe the foundation will be met with a great deal of success," she said. "There's a tremendous amount of enthusiasm by the members and the group is so diverse that it will be able to reach into many areas."

According to EFC representatives, a foundation can become fully operational in four to six months, and is usually successful within a year.

The amount of money raised depends on the district, but the average foundation can attract an excess of $60,000 annually, EFC said, and many organizations have $1 million or more pledged in planned or deferred giving.

The foundation will focus on five areas to raise funds. They include: technology, arts, scholastic enhancements, such as a course in public speaking, professional development for staff and also cultural enrichment.

She said for cultural enrichment, the foundation hopes to award scholarships for seniors to work in different areas such as the United Nations.

Task force arrests 28

Twenty-eight people have been arrested on various charges stemming from narcotics, alcohol violations, and outstanding warrants by the Bayshore Task Force Underage Drinking Unit.

The Bayshore Task Force Underage Drinking Unit consists of police officers from 10 Bayshore towns. This unit will operate periodically throughout the year.

The unit was formed by the Bayshore chiefs of police for the purpose of targeting and enforcing underage drinking violations. The unit started its operation in November and has worked on three occasions.

On Nov. 15, eight people were arrested. Seven were adults and one was a juvenile. Out of the eight arrested, two were arrested for narcotics violations.

On Nov. 23, 11 people were arrested. Seven were adults and four were juveniles. Out of the 11 arrests, four were for narcotics and one arrest was for an outstanding warrant.

On Nov. 30, nine people were arrested. They included six adults and three juveniles. Out of the nine arrests, two were for narcotics violations.

Local foundation honors nurses

The Bayshore Community Hospital Foundation recently honored the recipients of the Harry M. Popnick M.D. Nursing Scholarship for 1996. The recipients are: Kim Carter-Blind R.N., BSN, Janine Trembley R.N., and Lisa Kelly R.N. The scholarships are awarded annually to nurses at Bayshore Community Hospital to help them pursue their educational course work. A scholarship committee consisting of the Popnick family and nursing administration select the recipients. To make a donation to the Harry M. Popnick Memorial Fund, please contact the foundation office at Bayshore Community Hospital at (908) 739-5944.

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Local actor hoping to produce movie

Michael J. Fox double is raising money for his own screenplay

BY EILEEN KOUTNIK
Staff Writer

ABERDEEN — For 33-year-old Robbie Bryan, making his screenplay into a movie will be a dream come true. Bryan, along with his partner, Daniel Margotta, and their production company, 2nd Team Productions, based in New York City, are in the process of trying to raise $800,000 for Bryan's screenplay, The Stand-In.

The Stand-In is the story of a young man who is guided by an angel to follow his dream of becoming an actor. Bryan will play the young man.

"It's a movie that a 6-year-old or 60-year-old can enjoy," he said. "So many movies today are action packed or either a man's or a woman's movie."

Bryan decided to have an angel guide the main character because, "we live in such crazy times, and I think people need something more positive."

He also said the female character, named Jennifer, is not the typical role. "In so many movies, women are given roles of being the dutiful girlfriend," he said. "It's a disservice. In the movie, the girlfriend does not follow her boyfriend's dream, but her own, being a lawyer."

He has already received letters of interest from actors Lou Myers, David Ogden Stiers and actress Ruth Buzzi, to do the film once the money is raised.

Vanessa Williams and Judd Hirsch are also interested and awaiting an offer, he said.

He wrote the screenplay four years ago, but "almost gave up on it," he said, noting, "This screenplay has had many lives."

When he first decided to do the movie, Bryan had to form a company in accordance with state laws governing fund raising. The company is limited to 32 investors.

So far, the company has $50,000 for the movie.

"I wish I had my own money to put into the project," he said. "But there is very little middle class in the film industry."

The movie will take five weeks to film and be shot in New York and New Jersey, he said.

No amateur when it comes to acting, Bryan said he wanted to do his own movie because he would have control over every aspect of it.

So many times, writers sell their screenplays to movie companies and lose control over how it is produced and the script is altered, he said.

"I don't want it to happen to my movie," he said. "The higher a movie budget, the more control you lose."

Bryan, who began acting at a young age, decided he wanted to pursue a career in acting after graduating from college.

He was a semester short of a receiving a degree in marketing from Rider College, Lawrenceville, when he realized it was not what he wanted.

The realization happened during a preview show of his college's theater production of Godspell.

"We were doing a performance for the senior citizens, when a woman approached me after the show with tears in her eyes," he said. "She told me her husband had recently died, and it was the first time she had been out and that my performance made her forget about her problems."

"It was so incredible to know you could have such an impact on people," he said.

After graduating with his degree in marketing, he took acting classes in New York City at Stella Adler Conservatory and HB Studios.

In the future, Bryan hopes to get his screenplays, Binding Ties, which deals with the AIDS epidemic, and Sooner or Later, a romantic comedy, to film.

"I love comedy and also hope to do a sitcom one day."

Monmouth Civic Chorus to perform

The Monmouth Civic Chorus, with Artistic Director Mark Shapiro, will open its 1996-97 Subscription Series with two performances of choral selections by Bach, Poulenc, and Respighi. The Saturday performance will be at the First Presbyterian Church, Harding Road, Red Bank, at 8 p.m. The Sunday performance will be at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Maple Place, Keyport, at 5 p.m.

The suggested donation is $15 for the general public, and $12 for senior citizens and students. Group rates are available.

To order tickets, send a check to the Monmouth Civic Chorus, P.O. Box 16, Red Bank, 07701. Tickets will also be available at the door at each performance.

For information, call (908) 933-9333.

IN BRIEF

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For information, call (908) 933-9333.
Imagine That! to collect coats

Imagine That! Discovery Museum, Route 35 north, Middletown, will participate in the annual Coat for Kids event. Coats for children and adults will be accepted at the museum throughout December.

Donated coats will be distributed to families, elderly and those in need living in New Jersey and New York. Call (908) 706-9000 for information.

VFW to host flea market Sunday

The Middletown Township Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a flea market, fair and arts & crafts fair on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the post, 114 Veterans Lane in Port Monmouth.

Tables are available for $10; dealer set-up is at 7 a.m.

For information, contact Pat at (908) 495-2244.

Video dance party slated for Dec. 27

The Middletown Township Department of Parks and Recreation is sponsoring a video dance party on Dec. 27 at the Middletown VFW Post 2179, 114 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth.

The first session is for grades kindergarten through five, and runs from 1-4 p.m.

The second session is for grades six through nine and runs from 6-9 p.m.

The admission fee is $2 per person. Tickets will be on sale at the door. No advanced registration is needed.

Parents are welcome to attend, but no younger siblings, please.

Refreshments will be available for sale.

The dance is for Middletown residents only.

For information, call (908) 615-2260.

VFW to host New Year’s Eve party

The Middletown Twp. Post #2179 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is hosting a New Year’s Eve party on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. at the post, 114 Veterans Lane, Port Monmouth.

Music will be provided the Nilelife. Refreshments will be available for sale.

The admission fee is $40 per person. Parents are welcome to attend, but no younger siblings, please.

Tickets are $25 per person or $50 per couple, and includes a deluxe roast beef dinner, dancing and open bar.

For information, call (908) 615-2260.

St. John Vianney to host competition

St. John Vianney High School, Holmdel, has been chosen as the site for the 1996 Greater New Jersey Cheerleading Qualifier Competition to be held at 9 a.m. Sunday.

Cheerleading teams from the area are invited to compete for a bid to the 1997 CANAM International Cheerleading Championships in Myrtle Beach, S.C., next March.

Teams and/or individuals wishing to compete may call Cheer LTD headquarters to register for the Holmdel competition at 1-800-477-8868.

Body conditioning classes offered

Hazlet Recreation is sponsoring a four-day session of body conditioning for adults, beginning Tuesday.

Classes will be held Dec. 17, 19, 31, and Jan. 2 from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at the James J. Collesee Center in Veterans Memorial Park on Union Avenue. Sneakers and an exercise mat or towel are required.

Registrations will be taken at the Recreation Office at the center through Dec. 16.

The cost of the program is $15. There is a $5 charge for late registrations.

RHS assembly to recognize students

Raritan High School, Hazlet, will hold its first Renaissance assembly on Dec. 19 to recognize students with outstanding academic performance.

Eleventh- and 12th-graders will be recognized at a ceremony starting at 8:55 a.m., followed by 9th- and 10th-graders who will receive their awards at 12:35 p.m.

Music program is set for Dec. 21

The Monmouth Civic Chorus will present a program of Christmas music and carols, under the direction of Mark Shapiro, at St. John’s United Methodist Church, 2300 Florence Ave., in Hazlet, on Dec. 21 at 8 p.m.

Suggested donations for the concert are $7 for adults and $5 for senior citizens and students.

For information, call (908) 933-9333, or the church at (908) 264-1236.

Organization is sponsoring sale

Golden Opportunities Outreach is sponsoring a 50% off store-wide sale and regular clothing at $3 a bag sale at Sacks Thrift Shop, located on 36 W. Front St., Keypoint.

The sale ends Dec. 31. For more information, call (908) 739-1724.

Reserve now for New Year’s Eve

The Men’s Club of Temple Shalom invites you to welcome the New Year at Temple Shalom.

The temple is located at 5 Ayrmont Lane, Aberdeen. Festivities begin at 8:30 p.m. on New Year’s Eve.

Cost is $40 per person.

There will be hors d’oeuvres, dinner, music and dancing.

Come with a partner or alone. Tables of 10 may be reserved.

Reservations require a check payable to Men’s Club Temple Shalom and should be mailed to: Ted Ronn, 9 Rustic Lane, Matawan 07747.

For more information, call (908) 566-5464 or (908) 679-1251.
Computer system will aid in planning

County takes next step in developing informational aid

BY DICK METZGAR
Staff Writer

Monmouth County's freeholders have approved taking the next step to develop an ultra-modern planning tool that should benefit the county's 53 municipalities and various utilities.

The tool is a county-wide, computer-based Geographic Information System (GIS) used to capture, store, analyze, display and plot the geographic locations of people, places and things. It is grounded in the digital conversion of aerial maps of a region, which in turn is used in a computer to develop layers of informational maps based on the original aerial map.

Using the original map, layouts of the road, sewer and water systems can be plotted on a series of overlapping maps. In addition, topographical, storm water runoff systems and watershed conservation maps can be developed, each on a regional application in planning future development throughout the county.

The freeholders approved going ahead with the GIS project at a recent workshop after listening to a progress report from the GIS Advisory Group, comprised of members of the County's Emergency Management Department, Park System, Central Data Processing Department, county Board of Health and the county Planning Board.

Freehold Township is already preparing its own GIS, according to the GIS representatives.

Members of the advisory group have been working with Freehold Township in preparing a model for display to other municipalities. While Freehold Township began preparing its GIS before the county, it has agreed to work with the county in the development of the county-wide system because of the financial and planning benefits of a regional approach.

The advisory group also suggested a funding mechanism for the $2 million project.

The group recommended that the freeholders finance the development cost of the GIS, with the 53 municipalities and about 20 utilities paying approximately one-half of the cost. Municipalities will be able to get back all or some of their costs by selling portions of the GIS to developers and engineering firms.

Government agencies, including several county and state departments, will have direct access to the system through either a direct dial telephone network or the Internet.

A formula, based on the size, population and assessed value of each town, will be developed as a cost-sharing measure. The minimum fee will be $5,000. A similar formula is being developed for the various utilities.

The GIS can be utilized in more efficient management of infrastructure, emergency management, public safety, public works and engineering, environmental reviews, planning and subdivision review, facility management, tax records, tax maps and school bus and snow removal routes, according to the GIS advisers.

Public utilities will use GIS to map current and future water, sewer and gas services.

Current data is used as the basis to create computerized planning models. As development actually occurs, developers will be required to update the GIS in a digital format as part of their submissions to local planning agencies.

In the past, local towns could only afford to have these maps prepared every 10 to 20 years. And at best, the maps were snapshots taken of individual towns at different times in their development. In many cases the maps were updated with some difficulty.

Earlier this year, the state Department of Environmental Protection praised the freeholders for pioneering the concept of a county-wide GIS program as opposed to the traditional local approach developed individually by each municipality.

Once final details have been completed, the freeholders and the GIS Advisory Group will invite officials from each town to attend a series of briefings on the new system.
Local business collects for charity

Gail Maund, owner of Sacks, a thrift shop on the corner of W. Front and Main streets, in the former Bayshore Stationers, Keyport, and her friend, Carol Hammessey, East Brunswick, are collecting household goods and food for their Golden Opportunities Outreach, a non-profit organization created to help others get back on the road to becoming self-sufficient.

The women are looking for someone to volunteer a van, which will pick up and deliver items, and additional volunteers to help them out.

The charity will take donations of cars, boats and even real estate, all tax deductible.

Golden Opportunities Outreach headquarters is located at 133 French St., New Brunswick, and a collection site is at 1249 Bryant St., Rahway. For more information, call (908) 388-7994.

Register now for music classes

Registration will begin on Dec. 9 and continue until Jan. 3 for Hazlet Recreation’s musical instrument lessons for children ages 6-17.

You may register your child for “Basic Piano” classes held either 9-10 a.m. Saturdays beginning Jan. 4 or 3:30-4:30 p.m. on Mondays beginning Jan. 6, or you may register your child for “Basic Guitar” classes held either from 10-11 a.m.

Saturdays beginning Jan. 4 or 4:30-5:30 p.m. Mondays beginning Jan. 6.

All classes will be held at the James J. Cullen Center, Union Avenue, and will continue for 10 weeks. Cost of the program is $25. An additional $5 is required for all late registrations. For more information, call (908) 739-0653.

Playtime Nursery School has openings

There are a limited number of openings in Hazlet Recreation’s Playtime Nursery School for 3- and 4-year-olds.

The winter session will begin Jan. 3. Three-year-olds attend twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from either 9:15-10:45 a.m. or from 12:15-1:45 p.m.; 4-year-olds attend three times a week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from either 9:15-11:15 a.m. or from 12:15-2:15 p.m.

The cost of the program is $70 for Hazlet 3-year-olds, and $140 for Hazlet 4-year-olds per 10-week session; non-residents pay $140 for 3-year-olds and $280 for 4-year-olds per 10-week session.

Documents needed at the time of registration include the child’s birth certificate, up-to-date immunization records, doctor’s note, and two proofs of residency.

For information, call (908) 739-0653.

Help school by collecting box tops

The Ravine Drive School of Matawan is collecting all General Mills cereal box tops to support its computer program. Anyone who purchases General Mills cereals and would like to donate them to the school may drop them at the school office or mail them to: Ravine Drive School, Ravine Drive, Matawan 07747.

The program will run through March.

Theater group to see ‘Victor-Victoria’

St. Mary’s Theater Group is sponsoring a trip to New York on Jan. 21 to see the musical Victor-Victoria, starring Liza Minnelli, for $90.

Price includes front mezzanine seats, transportation and all taxes and tips.

The bus will leave from the Mater Dei High School parking lot on Cherry Tree Farm Road at 6 p.m. and return at approximately 11:30 p.m.

For reservations, which must be prepaid, call Pat Thompson (908) 615-9088, or Rita Young at (908) 787-9138 before Dec. 14.

St. Mary’s planning trip to ‘Chicago’

St. Mary’s Theater Group of New Monmouth is sponsoring a trip to New York on Feb. 25 to see Ann Reinking, Bebe Neuwirth and Joel Gray in the new musical version of Chicago.

The $85 price includes orchestra seats, transportation and all taxes and tips. The bus will leave from the Mater Dei High School parking lot on Cherry Tree Farm Road at 6 p.m. and return approximately 11:30 p.m.

For reservations, which must be prepaid, call Pat Thompson at (908) 615-9088, or Rita Young at (908) 787-9138 before Dec. 16.
IN BRIEF

Big Brothers/Big Sisters need cars

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Monmouth County has started a Cars for Kids’ Sake campaign to raise money for needy children in Monmouth County. If you’ve decided to get rid of a car, the group would like you to consider donating it to them. The Cars for Kids’ Sake program will make it possible for car owners to see their car go to improve the lives of youngsters served by Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

If you are interested in participating, call (800) 859-6526 for more information.

Community Relations seminar offered

The second Police/Community Relations Information Seminar and Discussion Forum will be held on today from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Western Monmouth County Library, 125 Symmes Drive, Manalapan. There is no charge, and light refreshments will be provided.

The sessions will promote communication between police officers and the communities that they serve.

The event is co-sponsored by the Monmouth County Human Relations Commission, The National Conference — New Jersey region, and the Monmouth County Police Chiefs Association.

For information, call (908) 291-4257.

RHS placed third in math contest

The Raritan High School Math League won third place in the Joseph W. Andrushkiw Annual Mathematics Competition at Seton Hall University in South Orange Nov. 23. It competed against 28 teams. Brian Seaman, a sophomore, placed fifth out of 193 students.

Animal shelter asks for holiday donations

The Monmouth County SPCA’s shelter for abandoned, lost and unwanted animals needs your help this holiday season. Needed are old towels, blankets, quilts, sheets, and rugs to use for bedding in the animal cages.

Please also consider a gift of cat or dog food (both canned and dry), as well as cat litter.

All gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The shelter is located at 260 Wall St., Eatontown.

New teacher receives award

First-year teacher Nicole Petrina has been named Raritan High School Teacher of the Month for November.

Petrina, a drama and English teacher, is new to Raritan this year, but has already demonstrated her commitment through extra time she gives to her students.

As Raritan’s Teacher of the Month, Petrina receives a commemorative plaque, a reserved parking place in front of the school, and dinner for two at the Macaroni Grill in Holmdel.

The image also includes an advertisement for Bare Necessities and an ad for Frank’s Nursery & Crafts.
Shoppers must take precautions

As the busiest shopping season of the year shifts into full gear, shoppers need to take precautions against would-be thieves.

While this is the season for giving, unfortunately, it is also a time when thieves are on the lookout for easy targets.

Law enforcement officials recommend some basic safety tips to avoid becoming one of those targets.

At shopping malls, avoid parking in poorly lighted areas. Also keep your car locked at all times, and when possible, park facing forward.

If possible, shop with someone else and don't carry a purse. If you do carry a purse, keep it inside your coat. Keep your wallet in your front pants' pocket.

Avoid displaying large sums of money or valuables in public and wait for other people to exit the store or mall before you enter the parking lot.

Also, don't overburden yourself with heavy packages. If someone who looks suspicious gets too close or attempts to enter your car, honk your horn to attract attention.

If you carry pepper spray, make sure it's in your hand until you are safely in the car. We want everyone to have a safe holiday season, so don't forget to take precautions.

Middletown needs to understand facts

As Sgt. Joe Friday of the television series Dragnet used to say with regularity, "Just the facts, Ma'am, just the facts," I believe it is time for the people of Middletown, particularly the silent majority, to learn the facts about the Middletown Township school system.

I believe after reading these facts, they will be very proud of the education that the children of Middletown are receiving and hopefully will press the Board of Education to settle its contract dispute with the teachers' union in a fair and deserving manner.

The facts in this letter are not supplied by the union or the board, but by the Monmouth County Superintendent's office in Freehold.

- **Fact No. 1** — Cost per student spending: Middletown — $6,893!!
- **Fact No. 2** — Teacher salary: Thorne Middle School: $42,150 with a bachelor's degree.
- **Fact No. 3** — Teacher salary: Middletown Township: $7,713; Hazlet Township: $7,718; Holmdel: $7,718; Keyport: $8,922; Red Bank Regional — $9,854; and Middletown — $6,893!!

Conclusion — Middletown spends from $300-$3,500 less than the aforementioned districts. Incidentally, the state average is $7,711, so Middletown spends $818 less than what districts statewide spend! Why?

- **Fact No. 2** — standardized test scores: (Since some districts are K-8 and some secondary, I will use the state eighth-grade Early Warning Test results, which all eighth-graders in the state must take.)

The numbers represent the percent of students passing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Middletown</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>95.7</td>
<td>90.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>90.3</td>
<td>80.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>99.1</td>
<td>88.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What conclusions can an educated reader derive from the above facts? Middletown teachers are exceptional in educating their students as evidenced by state standardized test results. Despite low cost per student spending, aging buildings and misinformed about salary, Middletown teachers are proud of their profession and continue to do exemplary work with their students.

Middletown teachers are well deserving of a fair and reasonable contract and have only asked for the state "average," though based upon the facts the education in Middletown is far above average! Incidentally, that's "Why!"

Donald Padden is a teacher at Thorne Middle School.
Letters

MTEA member criticizes resident

Jeanie L. Anderson's letter in the Nov. 20 issue of the Independent, decrying allegations against her by Mr. Azzolina, was and remains most disturbing. Ms. Anderson has not made any comments or allegations against me. So, I can only assume that the letter was an attempt to defame my character, and it is an attempt at intimidation.

I have not written to the Independent because I do not have a subscription, nor do I know how to contact the editor. However, I have read Ms. Anderson's letter and find it to be a prime example of the type of behavior that she has been accused of.

Frankly, I think Ms. Anderson's letter is a prime example of the type of behavior that she has been accused of. It is an attempt to defame my character and to intimidate me. I am not afraid of her, and I do not think she is afraid of me. She is just a pathetic individual who is trying to make a name for herself by making baseless accusations against people.

Reconsider Plum Lane for station

Emergency service building for the north side of Holmdel: I want to set the record straight on this subject. The opposition to the construction of a new emergency service building in the Plum Lane area is not against it. There are only two new Plum Lane residents, namely A. and B. who oppose it, and this does not constitute the entire street.

1. The original Plum Lane residents wanted and still want the emergency service building. Why pay twice for such a facility against it? There are only two new Plum Lane residents, namely 14 A and 14 B, who object (is) and this does not constitute the entire street.

2. Fast driving. Some one mentioned the volunteers could drive over the (speed) limit and carelessly getting to the building. Come live on Plum Lane. Watch the young people (use) it as the right on target! However, if the Independent will print it, in its entirety, my "Speaking Frankly" (letter) and this does not constitute the entire street.

3. Noise. Live on Plum Lane after midnight. The young people race the street with their boom boxes blasting as loudly as possible, into the early morning hours.

4. Heavy trucks. The township's dump trucks short cut using Plum Lane, the school buses from other towns short cut using Plum Lane, the cement trucks of Foodtown and ShopRite, and in the summer, the vehicles with trailers hauling their boats. The list goes on, but this is just an example.

5. Children. With all the above mentioned, I have not heard of any accidents with children, or any accidents at all. 6. Narrow streets. If Quality Electric can use Plum Lane for its heavy trucks without any problem getting in and out of the driveway, then I am sure that the People's Gas Company will have no problem. If the residents would park all their vehicles in their driveway, then the road would not be narrow and a danger.

7. Extra room. At the first meeting, I mentioned there could be a small room in the building for the service, and this is an idea that is not out of line for more than an hour, that is by being used to determine the damage the mayor is doing is reversible. Why did this have to happen? The other members realized that the judge may work except that the mayor and Rick Brodesky, who claims to be a good father and concerned resident, allowed the approval even though the other four members felt it was the resi­dents' right to have adequate time to review the new plans.

I hope the township will be able to handle the four years we have ahead of us with a good plan and the damage the mayor is doing is reversible. Why did this have to happen? The other members realized that the judge may work except that the mayor and Rick Brodesky, who claims to be a good father and concerned resident, allowed the approval even though the other four members felt it was the resi­dents' right to have adequate time to review the new plans.

Frank D' Alessandro
Co-chairman of group supporting Plum Lane for station

Resident upset by building approval

I am a resident of Middletown, and recently my neighbors and I have been attending meetings of the Planning Board regarding a 165,000 square-foot, three-story building. I am appalled with the outcome of these meetings, as some of the most pressing concerns were traffic and safety for the children in our area. Not only did Mayor O'Grady not care, he looked into the eyes of my 5-year-old daughter and OK’d this building, putting its safety in question. We were confronted with revised plans that were submitted at a meeting held on Dec. 4 and were not given adequate time to have the opportunity to voice our concerns. We tried to hire a consultant and give input to the safety of the new plans. I don't know why Mayor O'Grady thought it was acceptable to approve this plan. I hope it wasn't because any lawsuits will be slapped with if anything happens. I have heard of no accidents with children.

I hope the township will be able to handle the four years we have ahead of us with a good plan and the damage the mayor is doing is reversible. Why did this have to happen? The other members realized that the judge may work except that the mayor and Rick Brodesky, who claims to be a good father and concerned resident, allowed the approval even though the other four members felt it was the resi­dents' right to have adequate time to review the new plans.

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Frank D' Alessandro
Co-chairman of group supporting Plum Lane for station

Board controlling public comment

With the point of a finger, "that one over there," whispered the mayor to the "general." "He should be next," the mayor said. The finger continues to point, first to the right and then to the left. This is a Middletown Township Board of Education meeting. The whispering "little man"? Dennis Jackson, superintendent of schools. The "general"? Philip Azzolina, veteran of the Middletown Township Education Association.

I began to faithfully attend Board of Education meetings during the infamous deficit period, circa 1989. I became accustomed to standing in line and waiting my turn to address the board. Then there was an unusual number of people who wished to address an agenda item; board presidents suggested extending the time to allow the people to have the opportunity to take place. The board was invoking a historical principle?

If you can control the flow of public information, you can control the flow of information, which is what I believe is the right thing to do. However, this does not mean that the people who wish to have their voices be heard will not have the opportunity to do so. Our voices will be squelched.

BETTE J. SHREIBER
First Vice President Middletown Township Education Association

Former teacher angered by raises

As a former school teacher, I have been watching raises by the current teachers sickens me.

When I taught years ago, the salary of a teacher was the lowest paid profession. I loved my job, helping the students, so that salary was not the top consideration. Today teachers are getting anywhere from $40,000 to $70,000 and are still begging for more. Every time they get a raise in this town, it is substantial, and then for three years in a row yet. It is a compounded lot of money.

Also, there is the short school year and many holidays and summer vacation.

How can they justify the taxpayers being robbed? I see all the raises that have been given. How outrageous! The cycle has to stop somewhere, and this is it. No more raises, for them, the secretaries, or administrators. They are getting more than enough per hour; if they don’t like it, quit. How dare they use taxpayers like this? Then they say they “love” their jobs. What baloney.

G. SENNA
Middletown

Lighting ceremony proves a success

The Keyport Chamber of Commerce and Keyport Partnership Inc. would like to extend their sincere thanks to Mayor Kevin Graham and Linda Greco (Santa and Mrs. Claus), Art Rooke and the Keyport Police Department, Keyport Fire Department, Keyport High School, Keyport Key Club, Girl Scout Troop No. 777, Mike Shaw and KIP and Chamber volunteers for their assistance with our annual Holiday Lighting and Ceremony.
AUDITIONS

Today
- Aberdeen/Matawan Repertory Theatre (ART) will hold auditions at the Aberdeen/Aberdeen’s Blake Spirit from 7:30 p.m. Auditions will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Matawan. Technical people also needed. Rehearsals start in January. (908) 583-1093.

Thursday
- Jewelbox Theatre, Seaview Square Mall, Ocean Township. Will hold auditions for David J.V. Meenan’s audition appointment, call (908) 758-8559.

FOR KIDS

Today, Dec. 18 and 21
- The Art of Grinning at Santa Claus: A Magical Elf Musical will be presented by The Meadow Theatre at 10 a.m. and Dec. 18 and 1 and 3 p.m. on Dec. 21 at the River Plaza School on Hubbard Avenue, Middletown. All tickets are $6. Reservations are recommended. (908) 706-9343.

Friday
- “Holiday Bedtime Stories” will be presented 7:30-9 p.m. by Portico, Oak Hill Road, Middletown. Gather in front of a fire to listen to holiday stories. The evening will conclude with cookies and cocoa. Children are invited to wear pajamas, but dress warmly for outside scenes. No sleeping bags. Fee is $5.50 per child or $4 for adult (member). Adults are free. (908) 842-5986.

Saturday
- “Adventures in Gingerbread,” a Monmouth County Park system program, will be presented 1-3 p.m. at Longstreet Farm. Youngsters ages 8 and up will enjoy an old-fashioned tradition as they make gingerbread houses from cookies and candies. The program fee is $20 and preregistration is required. (908) 842-4000; TDD is (908) 519-4284.

LECTURES

Today
- “Children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: Improve Daily Functioning” will be presented 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Aberdeen Library, 41 New Monmouth Road, Aberdeen. Tickets are $12 for seniors and children and $15 for adults. Register by call (908) 842-5966 for information.
- “Making Music for Treble Voices” at 7 p.m. at St. Benedictus Church, Holmdel. Tickets are $10 each. (908) 566-2270.
- “Simple Machines on the Farm,” a program sponsored by the Monmouth County Park system, will be presented 12:30-2-3 p.m. at Longstreet Farm. Youngsters will learn about simple machines, make chicken feed and press cider using the farm’s equipment. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call (908) 842-4000; TDD is (908) 519-4284.

Wednesday
- The Kiwanis Club of Matawan meets weekly at 7:45 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, Matawan. For information, call (908) 583-1093.

Thursday
- The Matawan Rotary Club meets weekly at 7:30 p.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 74th and Stillwater Ave., Matawan. New members are welcome. (908) 583-1093.
- Aberdeen/Matawan Repertory Theatre (ART) will hold auditions at the Aberdeen/Aberdeen’s Blake Spirit from 7:30 p.m. Auditions will be held at the First Presbyterian Church, Matawan. Technical people also needed. Rehearsals start in January. (908) 583-1093.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday
- The Monmouth Civic Chorus is performing at 6 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church, Red Bank. Chorus features have an instrumental ensemble with soloists. General admission tickets are $15 for adults, $5 for senior citizens and students. (908) 933-9333.

Sunday
- The Garden State Philharmonic Orchestra, Chorus and guest soloists are presenting a holiday concert at 3 p.m. at Toms River High School, Old Freehold Road. Tickets are $25 and $35.50 for adults, and $15 and $20 for seniors and students. (908) 349-6277.
- “The Shalom of Aberdeen, 5 Aymont Lane, corner of Church Street, is hosting a ‘Simcha Showcase’ from 6-9 p.m. A pawsome display of cello, rock ’n’ roll, fiddle, mind, and keyboard. Party planners and party will be available for free. A donation is requested. (908) 566-2821.

Tuesday
- The Children’s Opera Chorus and the Women’s Chorus of the Monmouth Conservatory of Music is presenting ‘Holiday Music for Treble Voices’ at 7 p.m. at St. John’s United Methodist Church, 2000 West Main St., Middletown. All tickets are $6. Reservations are recommended. (908) 706-9343.

THEATER

Today through Sunday
- Rockin’ Christmas Carol, a community college’s drama program presents “The Glass Menagerie” on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m. at the Fairfield University Theatre, 200 University Ave., Fairfield. Tickets are $15, $25, $30, and $35 for adults, $15, $25, and $30 for seniors and children. (203) 255-4000.

Thursday through Dec. 22
- The Snow Show, Whiz Kids presents “A Rockin’ Christmas Carol,” an interactive fairy tale by Jade Green, at 1 p.m. at the New Tropicana Theatre, 422 Main St., Ocean Township. (908) 224-2280.
The smell of potato latkes frying in oil seems to linger well past the eight days of Hanukkah. And these very same smells evoke a holiday feeling steeped in tradition and family customs without which Hanukkah would not be complete.

Beginning on the 25th day of Kislev, the 3rd month in the Jewish calendar and approximately December in the Gregorian calendar, during what is called the “Festival of Lights,” families gather together to celebrate the triumph of the Maccabees over the Syrian-Greeks. And what is a family gathering without food?

Traditional Hanukkah fare includes fried potato latkes (basically grated potatoes, onions, eggs and spices) served with apple sauce or sour cream, and jelly donuts. The significance of these traditional holiday foods are found in the very medium in which they are cooked — the oil.

It is said that in the year 168 B.C., a small group of Jews, led by Judah “The Maccabee,” rebelled against Greek culture forced on them by the Syrian rulers. The Maccabees fought a battle against Antiochus IV, King of Syria, who had prohibited Jewish customs and worship and had placed idols in the Temple of Jerusalem. Having won the battle, the Maccabees rededicated the temple to Jewish worship in the year 165 B.C.

An eight-day celebration began. According to Talmudic tradition, only one cruse of pure olive oil, sealed by the high priest and necessary for the rededication ritual, could be found. That one small cruse of oil burned miraculously not one, but eight days. The tradition of eating fried foods like donuts and potato latkes is derived from the miracle of the oil.

In addition to home frying, local restaurants have found themselves up to their fry pans in oil to accommodate those who wanted to partake in the custom but were short on time.

Fred & Murray’s Kosher Deli, located in Freehold, has been doing its best to keep up with customer requests.

Said Andrew Mageros, kitchen manager at Fred & Murray’s, “Just the first night alone we sold well over 1,000 potato latkes. I can’t even guess how many we will sell by the time the eight nights are over.”

At Jesse & David’s Kosher Experience, located in Manalapan, potato latkes are also moving at a frenzied pace. Said David Bloomberg, owner, “I venture to guess that we will sell between 5,000-6,000 potato latkes by the time the holiday is over.”

Although many a child would like to eat their potato latkes and move right on to the donuts, main dishes like chicken and brisket are served as well. Said Bloomberg, “Some families have been ordering fried chicken to further the tradition of fried foods.”

Like all Jewish holidays, Hanukkah is a time when families share traditions as well as their dinner tables. And, when that last candle on the menorah goes out, the aroma of frying oil and all it evokes still lives on in the homes of Jewish families.
Party, gift ideas that have a unique twist

By Ilona Weinerman
Correspondent

It's time to celebrate this holiday season by giving a special gift to someone. But you're tired of flowers, candy and greeting cards. How about some live entertainment — the vocal variety?

Or perhaps it's your turn to throw a holiday party and you've run out of clever ideas. An entrepreneur in Howell may be able to help you out.

Karen Amster's business, Salutations, based in Aberdeen, can arrange a singing telegram from a library of songs on hand, or customize the message for any occasion.

Karen started her business with partner Faith Brenner in May 1990. Writing and music are two skills she says she has loved for years.

"I've been writing song parodies since high school," she says, noting that after graduating from college with a degree in journalism, she found a job at a singing telegram company. To apply for that position, she had to send them a "singing resume."

She liked the work but says the salary was inadequate and after trying her hand at several other careers — script writing, writing children's stories and writing greeting cards — she opened her own singing telegram store.

Prices range from $49.95 for pre-written songs to $69.95 for original pieces. Each telegram lasts anywhere from 3 minutes to 20 minutes, depending on how much the customer wants to say.

The singers who belt these tunes out for your amusement are no ordinary messengers. Some of Amster's employees are open-trained, aspiring actors who have been singing for many years.

She says she met several future employees in somewhat unusual circumstances, including one who was performing at a karaoke bar.

Salutations is developing a wide audience, with requests coming in for everything from songs asking for a raise, to asking someone for a date and a job interview. Birthday, anniversaries and congratulatory messages are always in high demand, Amster says, while Valentine's Day remains the busiest time of the year. Amster says her favorite singing telegram to date has been a pregnancy announcement. Call (908) 972-3366.

Unusual entertainment is yours with the roll of the dice when you call "Deals on Wheels," a party planning business run by Anthony Loggia and Tony Giuffre and based in Howell Township.

If you're too old for clowns, or the three-piece band can't play anything but The Macarena, then this unique setup is worth a try.

According to Anthony, he and Tony started their casino party business in 1992 after a trip to Las Vegas inspired them to become entrepreneurs. They bought their first roulette wheel and starting throwing parties at home for friends.

The parties were such a hit that they decided to go into business, building their own "gaming" tables. "The tables are top quality and very authentic looking, unlike other places where the quality is not the same," Anthony says.

They go to Las Vegas once or twice a year to get supplies and ideas for their business and now own 20 tables — blackjack, craps, money wheels and a roulette wheel. Slot machines, on the other hand, are illegal.

"Deals on Wheels" supplies authentic casino chips, which, depending on the party-thower, can be purchased by the player or just handed out at the party. If everyone contributes money for the chips, the person with the most chips at the end of the party wins the pot, or the winner can receive a prize, Anthony explains.

Variations on this prize theme include putting the guest of honor's picture on the chips and playing cards, and sending out personalized invitations. Parties can be organized around different themes such as the Roaring Twenties.

"We attend and work at every party," Anthony says, adding that their clientele include local companies and community organizations as well as individual customers who learn about them from friends. Call (908) 367-1125 for details.
Almost every adult can remember asking their parents for one particular gift item during the holiday season — a bicycle. In fact, the image of a child waking up on Christmas morning and seeing a shiny new bike under the tree is as American as a Norman Rockwell painting.

“When people think of a traditional Christmas, they can picture a child running down the steps in his or her pajamas, jumping on the bicycle and wanting to go outside to ride it in the freezing temperatures,” says Barry Dicken, owner of Bike Line, located at the junction of Routes 9 and 516 in Old Bridge.

“A bicycle makes a great gift for a youngster because it really is their sole mode of transportation,” Dicken says.

Dicken says a bicycle is one item just about every person has ridden and owned at one time in their lives. He also said that although many adults pedal around for fun and exercise, a bicycle is often a child’s sole major possession. As a result, it creates an identity for them.

“It gives kids personality,” Dicken adds.

Parents deciding on whether or not to purchase a bicycle for the holidays must first consider price. Dicken said a child’s bike can run, on average, anywhere from $139 to $400. He also said the four major brands being sold today are GT/Dino, Mongoose, Haro and Diamondback. The law also requires that children under 14 wear protective helmets.

Of course, some parents may consider purchasing bicycles for themselves. A record number of adults are hitting the streets — and trails — on mountain and cross bikes. Dicken says mountain and cross bikes have replaced 10-speeds as the bicycle of choice over the last 15 years.

Dave Halter, owner of Halter’s Cycles, located in the South Brunswick Square Shopping Center off Route 1 south in Monmouth Junction, explains that adults in the ‘90s are health-conscious and are looking for alternative ways to keep fit.

Riding a bike is the best aerobic exercise a person can do. It’s more beneficial than swimming,” Halter says.

Dicken agrees, noting that riding a bike is good for the body and soul because it reduces stress and makes people feel confident about themselves.

“After a busy week of working 9 to 5, can you think of anything more relaxing than riding a bicycle through a park and, for example, in the fall, looking at the colorful foliage?” Dicken asks.

“It’s extremely pleasurable.”

Bicycle riding also can be a family activity where parents ride along with their children. That’s another reason to consider purchasing bicycles this holiday season.

A quality adult mountain or cross bike can cost anywhere from $200 to $3,000. Of course, only enthusiasts would spend the latter amount on a bicycle. The major mountain bike manufacturers are Cannondale, Trek and Specialized.

Halter says consumers should consider two major factors when picking out a bicycle. The first is that the purchaser receives follow-up service if something malfunctions or goes wrong with the bike — for example, if the gears are not switching properly. The second item to consider is that the bicycle truly fits the rider.

“If the bike does not fit,” explains Halter, “then the person is not going to use it. Rarely does a bicycle purchased right off the floor of a store come fitted to a person’s needs.

“The bike should be set up for the person using it,” Halter adds. “Maybe that requires getting fitted for a seat.”

Halter estimates that roughly 30 per-
How to keep a certain Mr. Frost from nipping at your toes.

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ON ALL DIAMOND EARRINGS & DIAMOND BRACELETS
SPECIAL ORDERS WELCOME

Enter Our Drawing For A Free 14K Gold Colored Stone Bracelet - No Purchase Necessary

Town Square Shop, Ctr, Matawan
GSP Exit 120, at Cliffwood Ave, and
Laurence Harbor Parkway (near Pizza Hut)

583-7373
ALL CREDIT CARDS WELCOME

Sale proceeds boost charities

By The Associated Press

Gifts that provide funding for causes get to the heart of the meaning of the holidays for many. Some of the ones available this season:

- Pink Ribbons for a Cure. Avon Products' Breast Cancer Awareness Crusade expected to reach its $25 million goal this fall and is celebrating by introducing Pink Ribbon earrings to its fundraising line.

The earrings have a heart-shaped silhouettes in pink-enameled-goldtone finish. They are available at $5 with either clip-on and pierced-ear backs and come with an educational flyer about breast cancer. Similar designs for pins and ballpoint pens also are available from Avon's $50,000 sales representatives.

Proceeds will benefit more than 200 community programs across the country engaged in breast cancer information and detection programs.

For purchase and program information, call 1 (800) FOR-AVON.

- Pet Projects. Homeless and needy animals benefit when you buy plush versions of Purrsilla the cat and Fremont the dog, "spokespets" for the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

The toys are appropriate for children 3 years old and up and come in five styles ranging from 10 to 17 inches, costing from $15 to $30. Part of the sales profits will go to support ASPCA's work in helping needy animals. Manufactured by Mighty Star Inc., the items are available from a variety of toy stores and mass merchandising outlets. For information, call 1 (800) 445-8669.

The Purrsilla and Fremont characters appear in a current series of public service announcements, "Pets Are Friends for Life," featuring the voices of Mary Tyler Moore and Matthew Broderick.

- A Tree for Christmas. Instead of chopping a tree down for the holidays, help plant a new one, suggests Forevergreen, an organization which markets gifts to benefit a reforestation project at the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota.

Buy one of the company's recycled power-finish tree ornaments, and a seeding pine will be planted in the forest for the benefit of wildlife, which includes the largest bald eagle population in the lower 48 states. Included in the purchase is a map to the planting site of the tree, which is cared for by the U.S. Forest Service.

Besides the tree ornaments, which cost $13.95, the company also offers a birch bark canoe ornament ($11.50), which benefits river conservation, and loon ornaments ($13.95 or $12.95, depending on design) to preserve loon breeding grounds.

For information and order forms, call 1 (800) 880-5450.

- Holiday Music for Boys & Girls Clubs. The "Notes of Good Cheer" compact disc or cassette, with holiday music played by pianists from Nordstrom, will be available at Nordstrom stores this season to benefit Boys & Girls Clubs of America.

The clubs are a national network of 1,800 community-based facilities serving 2.4 million youngsters, many from disadvantaged circumstances.

The recordings ($12 for the CD, $9 for the cassette) are at the concierge desks at the stores or by phone, 1 (800) 695-8000.

- Spreading CARE. At least 12 companies are marketing "Made with CARE" holiday products to benefit the international relief agency's work with needy people in developing countries.

It might be a coffee sampler from Starbucks, a bath products box from Garden Botanika, or a man's cotton and chenille sweater from Tricot St. Raphael. A portion of the profits will go to CARE.

Participating in the "Made with CARE" program: Berkley Publishing (Children's books), (800) 631-8571; Central Casting (jewelry), (800) 745-1350; Robert Comstock (wool-leather bomber jacket), (208) 363-9000; Garden Botanika (bath products), (800) 968-7842; Midwest of America (ornaments, frames and mirrors), (800) 776-2075; Starbucks Coffee Company (coffee sampler), (800) 776-2075; Starbucks; and Tricot St. Raphael (sweater), (888) 776-2075.

SHIPPING SPREE — Anne Deus of the Lincroft section of Middletown Township eyegifts at the annual Artisans Market Holiday Shop at Forsey Park, Middletown. (Photo by Brian J. Berman/Greater Media)
**Tips on buying stereo speakers**

**By The Associated Press**

Perhaps some of the most important pieces of equipment in any stereo system are the speakers. They are the final link in the chain of dollars of electronics you have purchased and are, in effect, the instrument through which the sounds can be heard. You can have top-of-the-line equipment, yet it can sound like an AM radio if your speakers are not good enough to accurately image (transcribe or translate) detailed signals of subtext and dynamic range from your CD player into sound.

There's not much relationship between price, size and number of drivers (speaker cones and domes). A two-way system, featuring a woofer (low-frequency driver) and a tweeter (high-frequency driver), can cost more and sound better than a three-way system, which includes a midrange driver. However, the opposite also can be true. Some designs will use two woofers and one tweeter.

Speaker design can influence greatly the quality of sound. Cabinet materials and design, as well as ducted ports (tune the lowest bass notes to sound deeper and richer, but may sound “boomy” if not done well), are examples of some features that affect sound.

Without getting into the actual materials used, the real proof of quality is how each pair of speakers sounds to your ears, and only testing them with your favorite CDs can give you the best idea of what to buy.

Keep in mind that when you compare different pairs of speakers, the sound level should be the same. An inferior pair of speakers often will sound superior to better speakers played at lower volumes. You also may want to consider the room you will be using the speakers in. An abundance of soft things — rugs, couches, beds and drapes — will dampen the high-frequency sounds, making your speakers sound dull. An empty room with wooden floors, on the other hand, tends to bounce sound waves off the walls too much, making the sound echo. The ideal room for listening has a balance between soft and hard items. You may want to consider speakers that sound “brighter” if you have a room full of pillows.

Speakers and receivers need to be compatible in power (watts) and impedance (ohms). A low-impedance speaker of 6 ohms needs more power for the drivers than a high-impedance speaker of 8 ohms. Some receivers simply don’t work well with low-impedance speakers. Check with the salesperson to make sure you have the right match.

Finally, never underestimate the importance of quality speaker wire. Thick speaker cable (16 gauge or lower) is better than the thin wire, especially if the cable is going to be long, more than 6 feet.
Visions of sugarplums — or perhaps some comforting bour­guignon, spicy tandoori, or creamy fenugreek — dance in the heads of food aficionados at holiday time. Some of these visions, captured in print, will be gifts your food-loving friends will appreciate.

- For starters, soup. Twelve Months of Monastery Soups (Triumph Books, $25 hard cover), by Brother Victor-Antoine d'Avila-Latourrette, sets before the diner potential soups that might be the meal for many. Brother Victor, a Benedictine monk at Our Lady of the Resurrection Monastery in LaGrangeville, N.Y., has created a calendar of soups, with an eye to seasonal availability of ingredients.

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- For main courses, consider The New Meat Lover's Cookbook (Meredith Books, $25.95 hard cover), by Tish Boyle and Timothy McLaughlin, concentrates on modern pastry elements. The book also lists sources for some of the more exotic ingredients.

- From the West Coast comes El Cocodrilo's Cookbook (Macmillan, $17 paperback), with Julio J. Ramirez and Marie Penica-Ramirez offering samples of the Latin American- and Caribbean­influenced dishes from their trendsetting El Cocodrilo Roisterie and Seafood Grill in Pacific Grove, Calif. There are recipes for chicken breast ceviche with mango salsa, mussels in cilantro and serrano cream sauce, coconut lime rice and other unusual combinations. The book also offers sources for some of the more exotic ingredients.

- Grand Finale: The Art of the Plated Dessert (Van Nostrand Reinhold, $49.95 hard cover), by Tish Boyle and Timothy McLaughlin, concentrates on modern pastry design and offers, according to the publisher, "the authors' philosophical and academic approach to pastry."

- It may have been the very first cookbook you ever had, along with your first apartment. Your mother probably had it, too. And The Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book (Meredith Books, $25.95 hard cover, $15.95 paperback) is still out there in a new red-checked edition, outselling everything on the bookshelves except The Bible and the dictionary. There are at least 600 new recipes and 600 old favorites, all with updated nutrition information. The first version of this title was published in 1930; the new 11th edition pays special attention to low-fat cooking or meals that can be prepared quickly. According to the editors, there is a bit of retro, too. Readers demanded a return of the chapter on table setting, eliminated in the 1980s.

- Fast food doesn't necessarily have to be burgers and fries. Betty Crocker's Good and Easy Cookbook (Macmillan, $25 hard cover), by Janeen Sarlin and Diane Porter, shows how you can work beef, pork and lamb into a health-conscious diet. The authors explain choosing and preparing leaner cuts for both traditional and new dishes.

- From the East Coast comes Vegetarian Times, Vegetarian Entertaining (Macmillan, $27.50 hard cover) addresses the modern dilemma of preparing goodies for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian guests. There are menus and recipes for a meatless Fourth of July picnic, a New England Christmas dinner, a wedding feast and other events. The Visual Food Encyclopedia (Macmillan, $49.95 hard cover) covers more than 1,000 kinds of produce, grains, meats, spices and other edibles. The pictures will help you identify some of the more unusual items that are now stocked in many food stores, and the instructions will guide you through the proper handling.

- Wine writer Jacqueline Friedrich details her vinicultur­al and gastronomic odyssey through France's famed chateaux region in Wine and Food Guide to the Loire (Henry Holt, $27.50 hard cover). A book for serious wine connoisseurs, it not only rates the wines but covers the region, its history, and the people who make the wine and maintain its tables.

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Holiday Music Gift Ideas

**Rock**
- Mr. Happy Go Lucky
- John Mellencamp
- Find Yourself
- Fun Lovin’ Criminals
- Trial By Fire
- Journey
- Rock and Roll Circus
- Rolling Stones
- Best of Van Halen, Vol. 1
- Van Halen
- If We Fall In Love Tonight
- Rod Stewart

**Pop**
- Can’t Be Life
- Wild Colonials
- Love Songs
- Elton John
- Summer of ’78
- Barry Manilow
- Falling Into You
- Celine Dion
- Baja Sessions
- Chris Isaak

**Classics**
- Stardust
- Natalie Cole
- Various
- Andrew Lloyd Weber
- The Moment
- Kenny G

**Alternative**
- No Code
- Pearl Jam
- Recovering the Satellites
- Counting Crows
- Presidents of the U.S.A.
- The Presidents of the U.S.A.
- Mellon Collie & the Infinite Sadness
- Smashing Pumpkins
- Crash
- Dave Matthews Band
- Soundtracks
- The Mirror Has Two Faces
- Barbara Streisand
- Evita
- Madonna
- Preacher’s Wife
- Whitney Houston
- Classic Pop
- The Beatles Anthology, Vol. 3
- Beatles

**Country**
- 10,000 Angels
- Mindy McCready
- Greatest Hits
- Clint Black
- A Place In This World
- Mary Chapin Carpenter
- Everything I Love
- Alan Jackson
- What If It’s You
- Reba McEntire
- R&B/Hip-Hop
- Get The Mood Right
- Johnny Gill
- Secrets
- Toni Braxton
- The Day
- Babyface
- Your Secret Love
- Luther Vandross
- Dr. Dre Presents... the Aftermath
- Dr. Dre

Make the season bright with candles

Does holiday decorating and entertaining make you feel like burning the candle from both ends? Flickering candles are one of the quickest and easiest ways of creating instant atmosphere. Versatile for both formal and informal surroundings, candles are available in a spectrum of harmonizing colors, shapes and sizes, both scented and unscented. It’s just a matter of your own personal taste, decor and party theme.

Annual U.S. candle sales are estimated at $1 billion, according to *House & Garden* magazine. For the third year in a row, department stores and mail-order catalogs are promoting candles and candlesticks as popular holiday gifts.

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- Chai and Star of David, symbols of your spirit...
- In 14K or Sterling.

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Union Square, Route 35 in Middletown
Gifts for pets — from the heart

By Nora Straub
Correspondent

As the holidays approach and shoppers find themselves faced with the temptation to buy everything for everyone, they undoubtedly will be faced with the same temptation to buy a special gift for their pet. The pet who is well cared for throughout the year may awaken on Christmas morning to find a treat such as a flashy collar, rubber booties, or a pair of reindeer antlers to wear for the yearly Christmas family photo. These are all delightful, fun gifts that enhance the lives of pets and their owners.

However, since the holidays are a celebration of an attitude that should be present all year, let's think about the things your pet may really need. Bob Appelbaum, manager of Petco in Gateway Mall in Old Bridge, says the big sellers this year are the Christmas stockings for dogs and cats containing treats and toys. Petco also offers a variety of items carrying the “101 Dalmatians” motif. “Keep in mind the useful gifts,” says Bob. “A sweater or raincoat for a small dog that needs to go outside or a bed to snuggle up in will keep your pet happy and comfortable as well as safe. Don't dump a lot of toys or treats on your pet all at once.

“A dog, for instance, needs a variety of toys all the time to keep his interest and to maintain healthy teeth,” Bob adds. “You might avoid other problems down the line by rotating toys to satisfy your dog's need to chew.” Does your pet get adequate veterinary care throughout the year? Although neither of you may enjoy the experience, the holidays are a good time to offer your pet the gift of good health. Any pet that spends time outdoors should have its vaccinations and be checked for worms. While you're there, you can talk to your vet about any flea problem your dog or cat may have. These little monsters can drive your pet crazy as well as invade your home.

Many products are now on the market for flea control. Choices range from a good quality flea spray to an easy-to-use method (especially for cats) such as “Program,” which is fed monthly in your pet's food, or “Advantage,” which is simply applied monthly to the base of your pet's neck. Remember that flea collars on outdoor cats are a definite no-no; cats have been known to strangle themselves. And always talk to your vet before using chemical products on your pet.

Since the weather is turning colder, maybe the holidays are a good time to reconsider the comfort and safety of the pet who spends time outside. Petco has a “Kitty Condo” that is the furniture-saver from heaven. Your cat will use it to satisfy his natural urge to claw as well as for a place to sleep and play.

As for everyday feeding, what type of food does your canine or kitty eat? Table scraps are out. Dogs fare better with commercial brands than do cats. Generally, if your dog looks good and seems healthy, he probably is doing fine on whatever you're feeding him. On the other hand, cats, especially males, are prone to urinary tract infections caused by improper pH levels in their diet. These infections can be deadly if untreated.

Avoid the problem by talking to your vet about a food that is suitable for your cat's age and size. A food purchased from your vet or recommended by him or her may seem to cost more, but since it will be more nutritious for your cat and he will enjoy it more, you will probably notice that it lasts a lot longer than supermarket brands. At the very least, try to notice if the box or can that you buy from the supermarket mentions pH levels and make an effort to buy your pet something a little better than whatever is on sale that week.

All in all, as a holiday gift to your pet, get tough and drag yourself away from the trinkets and doodads that are cute but will only serve to annoy your pet while you take his picture. Ask yourself if your pet (dog, cat, bird, hamster, or whatever) has clean, adequate shelter, good food and clean water, regular veterinary care, and something to keep him busy and alert for the time he must spend alone. If the answer to all these questions is yes, go ahead and buy those antlers.

If you are a responsible pet owner or animal lover and would like to do something for animals in need, you may wish to contact one of the following organizations to make a contribution of time or money as a holiday gift to all animals:

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Membership Service Center
CN 2041
Toms River, N.J. 08754-2041
(877) 962-2300

National Humane Education Society
521-A East Market St.
Leesburg, Va. 20176
(703) 777-8319
Santa's expecting cookies and milk

The American Dairy Association and Dairy Council Inc. (ADADC) is on a grand mission this holiday — to remind children to leave milk and cookies for Santa. Why? Because rumor has it the better the snack, the better the gifts!

All humor aside, the local promotion organization, ADADC, is spending one-quarter of a million dollars during December to air a commercial that shows Santa eating the cookies left for him and then taking back all the gifts because of the great disappointment of finding an empty milk carton in the refrigerator. The last frame of course, asks consumers, "got milk?"

At the national level, the advertising team felt that airing the commercial before 9 p.m. would frighten children because they would not understand the humor.

However, Michele Martens, ADADC's Director of Advertising, disagrees. "ADADC has chosen to begin airing the spot during adult programming, starting at 8 p.m., with the rationale that this is a great ad with a timely message. We just want to humorously remind adults what could happen if they run out of milk for the big guy on his special night."

Other efforts to highlight milk and cookies for Santa include featuring the Norman Rockwell scene of an affable, puffy-cheeked Santa enjoying a milk and cookie break.

In 1968, Norman Rockwell created this painting as the cover feature for Family Circle Magazine's holiday issue. The original painting was later presented by Family Circle to the national office of The American Dairy Association as a tribute to the dairy farmers of America.

For many years, the painting was stored at American Dairy's national office in Rosemont, Ill. During remodeling of the Rosemont facility in the mid-'80s, the painting surfaced and was dusted off for holiday promotions. The painting is now displayed in the board room of the Dairy Management Inc. headquarters, and is currently valued at more than one-quarter of a million dollars.

The image of Santa Claus enjoying milk and cookies on Christmas Eve was a natural scene for Rockwell, as his work is known for depicting warmth of this tradition and have created a photo frame ornament that features Santa with milk and cookies. Lenox China also features a special collectible set just for Santa's milk and cookies.

And on the Internet, many holiday web sites include reminders to leave milk and cookies for Santa.
Decking the halls with ornaments

You know it's really holiday time when your own place is festooned with color and glitter. Old-time baubles for the tree have been making a comeback in recent years, with richly detailed historic designs with plenty of gold and silver encrusted. Among these are the character ornaments from Kurt S. Adler, depicting St. Nicholas with mitre and staff, the Mouse King from the Nutcracker, Pierrot the clown, Merlin the Magician, and the Snowman. KSA also offers sets with antique trains and Egyptian figures like Tutankhamen, Nefertiti, the Sphinx and the Great Pyramid.

Ornaments from Hallmark draw on U.S. cultural icons: Holiday Barbie. It's a Wonderful Life, Nolan Ryan at the Ballpark, 1959 Cadillac De Ville, and Santa's 4X4. The company's long-running Rocking Horse series continues, and there are traditional designs with religious and storybook themes.

The German nutcracker is a fierce-looking holiday classic. Characters portrayed in a series of nutcrackers and smokers imported from Steinbach in Germany by Kurt S. Adler include Robin Hood, the Sheriff of Nottingham, Sir Galahad, Chief Red Cloud, Chief Sitting Bull and St. Nicholas.

Another charming series from Adler portrays Santa (and Mrs.) Claus at home, at work, and at leisure. Designed by Marjorie Grace Rothenberg, a New England artist, you'll find the Claus couple preparing their own holiday feast, Santa skating, stargazing, and feeding his cats. There's also a black Santa with his bag of toys, checking his list.

Permanent holiday wreaths with fabric flowers and foliage don't leave behind needles to be swept up. Natural Decorations Inc. offers a country-look wreath with pine cones, faux fruit and a plaid bow or one with pine cones, Holly, Ivy, Christmas decorations and brightly colored ribbons.

A wistfully appealing porcelain doll in Victorian dress is incorporated into a "Winter Elegance" wreath from the Ashton Drake Galleries, part of the Bradford Exchange.

For a fresh-flower change, there's the Holiday Flower Tree from 1-800 FLOWERS (864-993). The tabletop arrangement is created from fresh cut greens, gold ribbon, garlands, red and white flowers, statice, pine cones, shiny ornaments and decorative fruit.

To advertise in Greater Media Newspapers' Special Sections, call (908) 972-6740
Safe ‘riding’ at mall

While the malls are decked with boughs of holly and holiday sale signs, halls are packed with customers completing their holiday shopping. Whether buying a baseball for little Jimmy or returning the sweater your sister hated, holiday shopping now resembles a Yuletide obstacle course.

Maneuvering your way from clothing store to toy store often involves carrying heavy winter coats, filled-to-the-brim shopping bags and bulky gift boxes. Schindler Elevator Corp. suggests a few safety reminders for using elevators or escalators so holiday shopping stays festive.

**Elevators**
- Don’t force or pry elevator doors apart. Press the “door open” button to keep the doors open. Never stick your hand, briefcase or umbrella between closing doors.
- Passengers closest to the door exit first. Don’t worry about gender or age. If the elevator stops before your floor, step aside to let other passengers enter or exit easily and safely.
- **Watch your step.** When you enter or exit an elevator, make sure the elevator is level with the floor and step over the threshold.
- **Stay calm.** In the unlikely event that an elevator stops between floors, use the alarm button or the elevator’s telephone or intercom to request assistance. Never attempt to climb out of a stalled elevator. Unless a trained emergency crew assists you, the safest thing to do is wait for help. In case of fire, take the stairs. If there is a fire or power failure, do not use the elevator. Leave the building by way of designated emergency exits.

**Escalators**
- **Don’t overload your trip.** If your hands are full, take the escalator. Placing packages on the steps or balancing them on the handrail endangers you or other passengers. Never take shopping carts, strollers, wheelchairs or any other wheeled vehicle on an escalator.
- **Watch children.** Never allow children to use an escalator unattended. Always hold your child’s hand when stepping onto and off the escalator. Don’t let children drag their feet along an escalator’s side. No matter how tempting it is to make that distinctive “squeaky noise,” a shoe can get caught between the step and side panel.
- **Never sit on an escalator.** Clothing, shoelaces or fingers may get caught between the closing steps; between the escalator step and side panel; or in moving parts at the top and bottom of an escalator. Always ride an escalator facing forward with feet slightly apart and head in the center of the step without touching stationary sides.
- **Hold the handrail.** Always hold the handrail for stability and balance. When boarding or exiting an escalator, step — don’t slide — on and off. After exiting, move away from the landing to leave room for other exiting passengers.

**Recent Videos for Holiday Gift Ideas**

- Action/Adventure: Dragonheart, Goldeneye, Independence Day, Mission: Impossible, Twister
- Drama: Braveheart, Get Shorty, Heat, Leaving Las Vegas, Now & Then, The Usual Suspects
- Comedy: Celtic Pride, Father of the Bride II, Grumpier Old Men, The Nutty Professor, Spy Hard
- Romance: The American President, The Bridges of Madison County, How to Make an American Quilt, Sense and Sensibility

**Family**
- The Adventures of Pinocchio, Aladdin the King of Thieves, Flippers, James and the Giant Peach, The Land Before Time IV, Toy Story, The Wizard of Oz

**Gift Sets**
- Beatrix Potter Anthology, Grateful Dead: The Concerts, The Godfather, Jackie Chan, Pride and Prejudice, X-Files, Star Wars Trilogy

**List of Movies**
- The Bridges of Madison County, How to Make an American Quilt, The American President, Spy Hard, Celtic Pride, The Usual Suspects, Gumpier Old Men
- Comedy: The Godfather, Star Wars Trillogies, Jackie Chan
- Romance: Father of the Bride II, How to Make an American Quilt, How to Make an American Quilt
- Drama: The Bridges of Madison County, The American President, Spy Hard

**Gift Certificates**
- Available for the Hard to Buy For Person

**Tire and Auto Repair**

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  - 787-4000
  - 310 Route 36 East, Hazlet
  - Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-5
  - Visa, MC, Disc, Amex

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*Radio Cassette Player*

- ShockWave Personal Stereo Concept
- Wave Reception Design w/ Baggage Double Construction
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- SW 30-TX Plus
- Auto Reverse Playback
- ShockWave Stereo Headphones
- Bcl Clip

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**CQ-RS45S**

*Removable Face Full-Logic Cassette/Receiver w/CDChanger Control & Wireless Remote*

- Full Logic Cassette Mechanism
- Auto Advanced Dual Track Cue
- Programmable Tape Program Switch (TPS)
- 4-Channel High Power 3FV w/ 4-Stored Channels
- Electronic Volume/Preset Tunks/Volume Fader

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**CQ-DPF6600**

*Universal FM-Modulated 5-Disc CD Changer*

- Multi-Stage Noise Shaper (MASH) Technology
- 32x Oversampling Noise Shaper
- Digital Servo Track Management
- Auto Loading
- 4-Channel High Power 30W x 4
- Loudness Control
- Electronic Volume/Bass/Treble/Balance/Fader
- RCA Pre-amp Output

$269.95

Panasonic

**CQ-TC150W**

*25-Channel Cordless Phone*

- 25-Channel Auto Scanning
- 5-Position Battery Life
- 15-Sec Answer Delay

$59.95

Panasonic

**PV-G601**

*VHS Video Cassette Recorder*

- Hi-Tech 4 Video Head System
- Program Director
- Digital Auto Picture
- Studio Display
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$169.95

Panasonic

**PV-A306**

*Panocorder IQ Camcorder*

- 16x Optical Zoom
- Color Viewfinder
- Hi-Speed 4 Video Head System
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Panasonic

**CQ-GP720**

*Removable Face High-Power CD/Receiver*

- Link Multi-Stage Noise Shaper (MASH) Technology
- 32x Oversampling Noise Shaper
- Digital Servo Track Management
- Auto Loading

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Panasonic

**CQ-EL11**

*Fixed DIN Cassette Receiver*

- SW 5.1 Fader
- Tone Control
- Auto Reverse
- Adaptive FM Front End (AFE)
- PM Optimizer (FMO)
- PLL Quartz Electronic Tuning

$79.95

Panasonic

**CQ-EL11**

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- PLL Quartz Electronic Tuning

$79.95
Machines should stay up in smoke

Monmouth County doctors have long been concerned about how easily our young people can obtain cigarettes through unattended vending machines.

In keeping with its own "Reaching Out" campaign to educate the public and improve the doctor/patient relationships, the Monmouth County Medical Society is proud to join with the Unit of the American Cancer Society in participating in Freeholder Amy Handlin's campaign to ban cigarette vending machines in Monmouth County municipalities.

We wish to acknowledge those towns which have already passed ordinances to ban the vending machines and will present each with a certificate of appreciation. They are: Avon, Freehold Borough, Freehold Township, Howell, Keyport, Middletown, Neptune and Spring Lake Heights.

Also to be recognized for their efforts to protect our children are those towns which have ordered locking devices installed on all cigarette vending machines. They are: Manasquan, Marlboro, Ocean and Red Bank.

Several towns have ordinances pending either to ban or lock these machines. The medical society encourages them to pass the ordinances and asks residents to attend their town meetings and support the passage of these important laws.

Other residents are asked to see if their towns are doing anything about banning or locking cigarette vending machines and to encourage them to introduce the necessary ordinances.

VITO GULLI. M.D.
President
Monmouth County
Medical Society

United Way says a special thanks

There is no time to be more thankful than during the holiday season. On behalf of the United Way of Monmouth County, I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks, for all your efforts in helping to make the United Way such a recognized force within the community. The public service announcements, press releases and photos you have so kindly placed in your paper have assisted us in numerous ways.

As a non-profit (organization), with a staff of eight people, we simply cannot compete with the larger entities in securing publicity by financial means, and therefore, the assistance you have given is more helpful than you can imagine.

I wish you all the best during this holiday season and throughout the new year.

Thanks again!

LAURA SCHEMBRI
Director of Marketing and Communications
United Way of Monmouth County

Santa letter will help fight arthritis

The Arthritis Foundation, New Jersey Chapter, will send a special message from Santa to children whose families make a contribution to help people with arthritis.

For a $5 per child donation, the chapter will send a personalized letter and small gift from Santa to any child designated by the donor. Different letters and gifts are available so that children in the same family receive a unique message.

To send a letter and gift from Santa, contributions should be made payable to the Arthritis Foundation and mailed along with the child's name, address, age and sex to: Santa's Village, 496 N. Kings Highway, Suite 222, Cherry Hill 08034-1017.

For more information, call (908) 283-4300 or (609) 482-0600.

Essay contest open to N.J. students

"Keeping Our Streams Clean and Healthy" is the theme for the 1997 Conservation Essay and Poster Contest open to elementary and high school students. The contests are designed to promote a greater awareness and broader understanding of our environment.

New Jersey statewide prizes include $200, $100 and $50 savings bonds. The Freehold Soil Conservation District local prizes include a $30 savings bond and cash awards.

Teachers, youth group and Scout leaders, and students in Middlesex and Monmouth counties should contact the Freehold District at (908) 446-2300 or fax (908) 446-9140 for rules and information.

The contest deadline is Feb. 14, 1997.

It's Time For Holiday Parties And Decking The Halls

During December, the spirit of Christmas and the smell of evergreen fill the air at Dearborn Farms.

You'll find colorful poinsettias and Christmas plants to give as gifts or brighten your own home. We also have plenty of wreaths, garland roping and evergreen blankets to transform your home into a winter wonderland.

If you're planning a holiday party or special Christmas dinner, we have everything you need to make it a success. Taste tempting catered foods, like antipasto and baked pies and much more! You can even order a fresh-killed turkey for Christmas dinner.

Plus, we have all the season's finest produce including artichokes, mushrooms, cranberries and sweet, juicy Rio Star grapefruit from Texas.

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Police files $20M suit against Hazlet

Continued from page 1

PBA Attorney Fred Klatsky, of Klatsky & Klatsky, Red Bank, said, "You can't do that in America."

Defendants received official notifications of the lawsuit last week.

"We don't have a lawyer yet," Municipal Administrator Margaret Margiotta said.

The PBA is seeking $4 million for lost revenues due to the damage of its reputation within the community, $4 million for the damage to the reputation of the PBA and its individual members, $4 million for interference with its ability to seek contributions as a charitable organization and $4 million each for impugning on the reputation of Patrolman Russell Surdi and the reputation of Lt. Robert Mulligan, the internal affairs officer.

Last year's Township Committee, including Mayor Ron Walsh, Deputy Mayor Mary Jane Wiley, and Committeeman John Bradshaw, all of whom are still serving, and former members Marilyn R. Colas and Don Malloy, together with Municipal Administrator Margaret Margiotta, are named as defendants in the suit, both in their official capacities and individually.

The civil suit stems from an ongoing legal battle over control of the Police Department and the department's table of organization.

The Township Committee passed an ordinance in 1995 that would have defined the organization of the department. The PBA maintains only the police chief can determine the department's organization.


The first press release was about a political memo found in the Police Department.

The second claimed PBA Vice President Russell Surdi helped put up campaign signs and that the matter was washed up by the police's Internal Affairs Department.

"Just because you are the mayor (or the administrator) doesn't mean you are the king," said Klatsky. "You serve for the people.

"These people have a Nixon complex," he added.

Century 21 in Mid'town

Continued from page 1

too much."

Century 21 has agreed to fund several road improvements in that area to mitigate growing traffic problems along Route 35.

"This had gone on long enough," O'Grady said, who added the developer has "done everything humanly possible" to satisfy the opposition.

The developer has agreed to lower the building height by 6 feet and to reduce the number of parking spaces to create a larger vegetative buffer area.

An existing jug handle at Crestview Drive and Route 35 north would be moved about 100 feet further south in order to connect Union Square Mall, which is on the southbound side.

While the state Division of Transportation has granted conceptual approval, residents said they still have safety concerns about traffic patterns in the jug handle.

Stanley likened the proposed jug handle to one at the intersection of Route 35 and Laurel Avenue, where Holmdel Towne Center is located.

The applicant also will pay up to $400,000 to make needed improvements at the Route 35 intersections with Chapel Hill and Oak Hill, even though they are only obligated to pay about $40,000.

"The issue is that the intersections are failing now," O'Grady said, noting that without the developer contribution, "we pay for it all. We're talking about an improvement that would be a burden to the taxpayer."

IN BRIEF

Breakfast with Santa is Saturday

Breakfast with Santa will be held on Saturday from 9-11:30 a.m. at the James J. Cullen Center, Hazlet. This is a free program, and visits with Santa will take place.

Photos with Santa will be available for a small fee.

For more information, call (908) 739-0653.
Volunteers are being sought

The Volunteer Center of Monmouth County is looking for the following volunteers:

- Volunteers are needed who can act as mentors for young mothers who are having a difficult time coping with the stresses of motherhood. The volunteer would become a companion and role model and hopefully help the client gain self-confidence and a positive attitude toward parenting.
- Telephone-intake volunteers are needed to help Monmouth County adult neighbors who can’t read. Work from your home and receive information from potential volunteers and learners and process it to the director of the program.
- Bookkeeper needed for Red Bank agency that helps artists. The volunteer would be responsible for doing basic work, including monthly financial statements, prepare checks for bill paying and making deposits for the agency.
- Volunteers are needed to help deliver meals to needy residents of the Bayshore area. The volunteer would pick up meals at a central location, then deliver to approximately seven individuals one day a week.
- Thrift shop salespeople are needed for a Monmouth County agency. Arrange and sort items or work the cash register. Open weekdays and Saturday mornings. The thrift shop provides clients with useful, low-cost items. Proceeds help provide services to this vulnerable population.
- Companion needed for a woman cancer victim. For a few hours a week, become a companion and bring some cheer to her life. Interested individuals for the above volunteer positions may contact the center at 741-3330.

Nominations are now being accepted

Nominations are now being accepted for the Monmouth-Ocean Development Council (MODC) Silver Gull awards.

The awards recognizes individuals, corporations, companies and organizations which have contributed to the advancement of orderly and balanced growth of the bi-county region.

Categories for the awards are as follows: Business Achievement, Industrial-Commercial Development, Community Service and MODC Service.

This year’s honorees will receive their award at the MODC annual Silver Gull Dinner to be held May 1 at the Squires Pub in West Long Branch.

If you would like to nominate someone, please contact the MODC office at (908) 323-6632 for an application. All applications must be submitted by Friday.

Raffle raises more than $4,000

A raffle for tickets to one of Bruce Springsteen’s recent sold-out concerts at Asbury Park’s Paramount Theatre raised more than $4,000 for Monmouth Medical Center’s Child Life Program in Pediatrics, Long Branch.

The first prize winner of the Nov. 22 raffle was invited to spend the day of the concert with Springsteen’s crew and watch the Nov. 25 performance from backstage.

The second prize winner received a pair of tickets to the concert, and the third prize winner got a denim tour shirt and a program autographed by Springsteen.

The prizes, donated by a Springsteen representative, brought in sales of more than 800 raffle tickets at $5 each.

All proceeds will benefit Monmouth Medical Center’s Child Life Services Program, which assists families and children in making life as normal as possible for children in the hospital.

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LONG BRANCH: 169 Broadway
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- Plainfield • Short Hills • Springfield • Union

Ticket Raffle

Raffle raises more than $4,000

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Non-profit groups and organizations are welcome to submit items two weeks in advance for the Calendar page. Mail to Independent, 7 Edgeboro Road, East Brunswick, 08816, or fax to (908) 254-0486, attention: Roseanne Budsock.
Lori and John Burrows

**Burrows–Mayercik**

Lori Lynn Mayercik, daughter of Mrs. John Mayercik of Old Bridge, was married April 27 to John Robert Burrows, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Burrows of the Lincroft section of Middletown.

Pastor Norman Johnson and the Rev. James Clark performed the ceremony at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Old Bridge, where the bride was escorted by her mother.

Matron of honor was Lisa Platt of Staten Island, N.Y., sister of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Diana Holosz of Manahawkin; Lisa Curry of Long Island, N.Y.; and Melissa Spencer of Old Bridge.

Best man was William Burrows of Lacey Township, brother of the groom.

Ushers were Christopher Gumme of Colorado; William Olsen of Asbury Park; and Kevin Burrows of Leeds Point, brother of the groom.

After a reception at The Old Mill Inn, Spring Lake, the couple left for a honeymoon trip to Italy.

The bride graduated from Wagner College, Staten Island, with a bachelor of science degree in nursing.

She is a registered nurse at CentraState Medical Center, Freehold Township.

Her husband graduated from the School of Visual Arts, New York City, with a bachelor of arts degree.

He is an art director with Group TMC Advertising Agency.

The couple resides in Jackson.

Heather C. MacVicar, daughter of Jane C. MacVicar of Holmdel and Robert E. MacVicar of Boca Raton, Fla., was married Oct. 26 to Kevin Webb, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Webb of Wilmington, Del.

The Rev. Leonard Kempski performed the ceremony at St. Elizabeth's Church in Avon, where the bride was given in marriage by her father.

Matron of honor was Jill Kuipers of The Netherlands, sister of the bride.

Bridesmaids were Christine Irish of Chatham; Maureen Hawkins of Edison; and Doris Webb of Dallas, Texas, sister of the groom.

Best man was Greg Webb of Newark, Del., brother of the groom. Ushers were Scott MacVicar of Point Pleasant, brother of the bride; Rick Orkis of Wilmington; and John Perry of Wilmington.

After a reception at Crystal Point Yacht Club, Point Pleasant, the couple left on a honeymoon trip to Sandals, Ocho Rios, Jamaica.

The bride is a graduate of Holmdel High School and Widener University, Chester, Pa. She is employed by GeriCare Corp./Monmouth Care Center, Long Branch.

Her husband graduated from Widener University and Hahneman University, Philadelphia, Pa. He is employed by American Medical Response Inc., Philadelphia.

The couple resides in Hamilton.

Tina and Paul Richers of Arlington, Texas, announce the birth of their son, Matthew August, Nov. 4 at Columbia Plaza Medical Center, Forth Worth, Texas. The baby weighed 10 pounds, 12 ounces. Grandparents are Denna and Harold Richers of Owasso, Okla., and Ernesto and Gretchen Hendrickson Cruz of Aberdeen. Great-grandparents are Russell McConnell of Clay Center, Kan. and Francisco Cruz of Puerto Rico.

TO OUR READERS

Greater Media Newspapers is happy to share its readers' good news on the Milestones pages.

Forms are available for readers who wish to announce engagements, weddings, births and wedding anniversaries. All submissions must include a phone number at which someone may be contacted during daytime hours.

To request a form, call 254-7000, Ext. 226.

**STORK CLUB**

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Emil Bayersdorfer was killed by gas in a well he was cleaning out on Conrad Gaub's place at Matawan. Bayersdorfer was let down into the well by his son. He was immediately overcome by the gas. His son ran to Gaub's house and George Gaub went to the well with him. Gaub attached a meat hook to Bayersdorfer's clothing. The latter was then pulled out, but life was extinct.

Ankle bangles are the latest device of the young woman bicyclist who wishes to attract attention. One seen on Riverside Drive was a heavy gold band, two inches wide, with a large diamond on the side. Last summer, there were many on the ankles of summer girls, with black silk stockings as effective backgrounds. But these were delicate, chintz-like affairs, different from the ornaments of the bicycle young woman.

Charles Stryker, a stage driver, was killed in a runaway accident at Keypont. A team of horses owned by A. Salz ran away. In turning a corner, the animals dashed into Stryker's stage. The pole of Salz's wagon struck Stryker, killing him instantly.

For several years the boxwood bushes in the dooryards of a number of residents of New Mocombe have been hacked to pieces for Christmas greens. Last year a prize boxbush belonging to Richard Roberts was torn up by the roots and a number of bushes in the yard of Robert C. Fox were similarly treated. This year, a watch is to be kept for the vandals.

Henry Armstrong, aged eight years, was badly hurt on the school grounds at Holmdel during Friday morning recess. He threw snowball at Charlie Hambling. Young Hambling is 13 years old. When Armstrong threw the snowball at him, he ran after him and kicked him. The little boy fell and struck his head against a stone. The schoolteachers, Miss Margaret Beers and Miss Emma P. Polhemus, carried him into W. M. Tilton's house and Dr. Cooke was summoned. The doctor worked over the boy until noon, but without bringing him back to consciousness.

A joint meeting of the Raritan township committee and the Holmdel township committee was held at Holmdel last week to consider annexing part of Raritan township to Holmdel. The territory which is proposed to annex comprises the village of Hazlet and vicinity. Several influences are working for the proposed change. Chief among them is that 43 Holmdel children are attending school at Hazlet. Hazlet is much nearer for these children than any schoolhouse in Holmdel.

A Christmas party will be given on Wednesday night at the Navesink library building. The library will be decorated with holly and greens and a Christmas tree will be lighted with recorded electric lights. There will be a Mother Goose parade and a Russian dance.

The annual Lincroft Christmas party, sponsored by Geraldine L. Thompson and the Lincroft Fire Company, will be held at the firehouse Sunday afternoon. The Hazlet Fire company is sponsoring a Christmas party in the fire house, the first since the war, on Friday evening.
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ABERDEEN

Outdoor Christmas tree lights at a Garden Place residence were vandalized during the early morning hours of Dec. 4. The light strands were cut between 2:40-2:50 a.m.

A rear sliding glass door was smashed at a Lloyd Road residence sometime during Dec. 2.

Windows and a door were spray painted at Matawan Aberdeen Regional High School, Atlantic Avenue, Dec. 1.

A train set was stolen from a Beach Drive residence between 4 a.m. Nov. 27 and 10:10 a.m. Nov. 28. The set was valued at $2,000.

HAZLET

Police are searching for a tall, white male thought to be in his 30s who stole a $1,200 computer on Nov. 28 at 4:41 p.m. from Staples located on Route 35, according to reports.

Ishan Gumbaydin, 36, of 924 Skytop Gardens, Parlin, was charged Nov. 28 with driving while intoxicated on Route 36, according to reports.

Carlos Jentino, 36, of 56 Myrtle Ave., Long Branch, was charged on Nov. 27 at 9:36 p.m. with driving while intoxicated, careless driving, driving with a license in the parking lot of the Ramada Inn on Route 35, according to reports.

Jerry Carlson Jr., 31, of 544 Beachway, Apartment 5A, Keansburg, was charged on Dec. 7 at 1:55 a.m. with driving while intoxicated on Laurel Avenue.

Kenneth Smurtski, 35, of Staten Island, was charged Nov. 14 at 12:53 a.m. with driving while intoxicated, possession of an open alcohol container, possession of a controlled dangerous substance and driving with a revoked license on Route 36 and Stane Road, according to reports.

Liam Christopher McPartland, 37, of 89 Columbus Ave., was charged Dec. 7 with driving while intoxicated at 2:11 a.m., according to reports.

IN THE SERVICE

Army Pvt. Gregory E. Curry has graduated from the light-wheel vehicle mechanic course at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C. During the course, students were trained to perform maintenance and assist in the repair of automotive vehicles and associated equipment. Curry is the son of Mary Rose Cox, of Long Beach, and Gregory Curry, of the Aberdeen section of Cliffwood. He is a 1996 graduate of Long Beach High School.

Army Pvt. Edward J. Marshall, son of Marge McDermott of Cliffwood Beach, recently graduated from basic military training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Philip K. Gumbs, son of Phillip and Rachel Gumbs of Aberdeen, recently participated in William Tell '96, an air-to-air weapons competition. The event was held in Tyndall Air Force Base, Panama City, Fla., and involved top fighter teams from the U.S. and Canadian air forces. Gumbs is an air weapons director assigned to the 623rd Air Control Flight, Kadena Air Base, Okinawa City, Japan.

Barbette R. Weiner-Elder, daughter of Arthur Weiner of Leonardo, and wife of Scott Elder, has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force Reserve to the rank of lieutenant colonel. She is a nurse at Wilford Hall Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas.

ON CAMPUS

Blake DeSimone of Matawan, a junior at Loyola College in Maryland, has been elected to the college’s Honor Council for the 1996-97 academic year. The Honor Council is chosen and entrusted by the student community at Loyola to guard the Honor Code. Blake has also been named an Evergreen Program Coordinator for the 1996-97 academic year. The coordinators are responsible for choosing the student orientation staff for the 1997-98 academic year. They also direct summer orientation programs and the fall orientation events in 1997. DeSimone is a graduate of St. John Vianney, Holmdel.
We wish all our friends Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and A Happy, Prosperous New Year

Natalie Bindler

Cathy Cleveland

Angel Agashe
Bertha Alo
Hermene Baer
Lee Berlitz
Joan Brady
Chuck Charneski
Jennifer Cooper

Elaine Capo
Sarah DeLeo
Adele DeMoro
Donna Duffendace
Patricia DiPierro
Estelle Duman
Harry Ench
Vibha Guatonsle

Art Gargano
Donna Giamattaggio
George Golden
Rita Guntenhoven
Assaf Humaan
Iry B Jacob
Young Kyo Jun
Susanne Kenny

Don Kuby
B.K. Kroner
Colleen McNulty
Michele Nestic
Gilda Pflucker
Rick Rhine
Lisa Romano
Pat Ross

Martha Sabini
Janet Saponara
Mike Sarno
Pauline Schreiner
Julie Segal
Linda Silk
Carol Ann Stevenson
Hondra Strobel

Doreen Vatta
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In Steatmore Specialist Aberdeen Office

Real Estate Spotlight

**Homeowners thinking of selling their house next spring might want to call the Matawan office of Coldwell Banker for free information about lead paint. What it means to the sale of a house. Federal regulations now require that homeowners selling their house must tell buyers if they know about any lead based paint in their house. The brochure is available in English and Spanish at the Coldwell Banker office located at 1082 Highway 34, Matawan.**

**Rollie Davis Realty, Inc., East Brunswick, is participating in a Holiday Food Drive, sponsored by the East Brunswick Chamber of Commerce. The drive will benefit needy families in the East Brunswick area. Donations of non-perishable food items can be brought to Rollie Davis Realty, 288 Summerhill Road, East Brunswick, December 1st through the 15th.**

**Lincor Realty has joined Homeowners Marketing Services and is now offering “One Year Warranties” for existing homes. To buy or sell a house that includes a warranty that covers the major mechanical systems of a home, call Lincor Realty at 908-945-3600 for details.**

**The Monmouth County Association of REALTORS® Public Relations/Community Service Committee is appealing to their membership for a Holiday Donation to benefit the Feed-A-Kid Foundation, a New York-based organization that is dedicated to feeding the hungry of Monmouth County. Your tax deductible contribution (payable to the Feed-A-Kid Foundation) can be mailed or delivered to: Carol Rinchart, Public Relations/Community Service Holiday Donation, Gloria Nilson REALTORS®, 110 Avenue of Two Rivers, Rumson, NJ 07760.**

**James M. Weichert, president, has announced that Susan Raba of Jackson, a sales associate in Weichert, Realtors' Howell office has won the office top listing award for the month of October. She is a member of the New Jersey State Million Dollar Club and Weichert's Million Dollar Club.**

**The Prudential New Jersey Realty 566-0242 x124 908-845-3600**

INDEPENDENT, DECEMBER 11, 1996 51
Lions rout Raiders for state title

BY TIM MORRIS
Staff Writer

Mahaki Burns had some simple advice for his Middletown North Lions teammates before they took on Hillsborough for the Central Jersey Group IV championship at Giants Stadium last Sunday.

"I told the team that record isn't really everything," he said. "Hillsborough was undefeated and that's nice, but if we thought and acted like champions, and played like champions, then we could be the champions."

The Lions then proceeded to do just that as they steamrolled the previously undefeated Raiders, 33-8, to claim their first New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association sectional title since 1986.

Their performance was near-perfect as they outmatched the favored 10-0 Raiders in every aspect of the game. Middletown North, 9-2, simply saved its best game for last.

Coach Mike Galos was most happy for his seniors who have had to battle back from some tough defeats along the way.

"I'm very happy for our seniors," he said. "They have a lot of character. We've never quit all year and have been able to bounce back."

"Our offensive line controlled the line of scrimmage tonight and our defense was super," he added.

The Raiders, whose triple-option wishbone offense had run over teams all year, was stalled by the Lions' defense, and its ball-control offense.

The writing was on the wall on the opening drive when the Lions marched 70 yards on 13 plays consuming 7:25. Burns scored from one yard out, the first of his four touchdowns on the night. It was Burns' five-yard keeper on fourth down and inches that kept the drive alive on the Raiders' 35.

Although the Raiders answered back with a 47-yard TD drive (taided by a face-mask call on fourth down when the Raiders were stopped short), climaxing by a nine-yard run by Chris Hill and a two-point conversion run by quarterback Shawn Mayer to take an 8-6 lead.

"It came down to execution and we out executed them tonight," he added. "This is a great feeling, to win a state championship."

Burns added that playing in Giants Stadium was something special.

"When we first walked out on the field during the week for practice, you could here the echoes of what it would be like to have 70,000 people yelling," he noted. "It was a great experience to play here and win a championship."

Galos pointed to an omen for the Lions. They lost their Thanksgiving Day game to arch rival Middletown South, 13-3, and with it, a share of the A North title.

However, in 1986, the last time the Lions won the state sectional crown, they were also beaten by the Eagles.

Middletown's win kept the CJ IV title at the Shore for the third straight year and for Middletown for the second straight. Marlboro started the run in 1994 followed last year by Middletown South.

WE DID IT — Middletown North's Tony Ciccone lets the Lions' fans know where the team finished this season after beating Hillsborough 33-8 at Giants Stadium on Sunday.

(Photo by Jerry Wolkowitz)
Devaney taking helm at Mater Dei

BY NEIL SCHUMAN
Staff Writer

When Mater Dei begins its boys basketball season later this month, a familiar face will be patrolling the sideline.

Sean Devaney, a 1981 Mater Dei grad, will assume the head coaching duties, replacing Keith Glass who stepped down after last season.

"We always have a little more special when you get to go back to the place you once played," said Devaney.

Last year, Devaney coached at Kean College, Union, after spending the previous four seasons coaching at Holmdel High School.

Devaney inherits a team coming off an 8-13 season that will have to contend with the competition in the Shore Conference's tough Class C North.

"What makes things even tougher that St. Rose and Asbury Park are now in the division," Devaney said. "But that will help make us a better team, because it will make us focus on playing our best. The only way is to play a good team."

Once again, the team will revolve around 6-foot-2-inch center John Tierney. Last year, Tierney led the team in scoring with 11 points-per-game average.

"Right now, John is being heavily recruited for football," Devaney said. "It'll make it tough not having our best player around all the time."

Also back is the Seraphs' second leading scorer, 5-foot-10-inch forward Travis Evernham, who averaged six points per game in 1995-96.

"Travis probably will be recruited as a baseball player," said Devaney.

Rounding out the starting lineup will be two juniors and two sophomores.

Junior forward Sean Dougherty and junior guard John Dougherty aren't related but will spend a lot of time on the court together.

Sophomores Billy Marsh and Paul Marcotte also will receive significant playing time.

"Right now, we're trying to get better every day," Devaney said. "A lot of the guys haven't played together, so playing together as a team is what I'm stressing."

Not the largest or quickest team in the division, which also features Keansburg, the Seraphs must mesh to be successful.

"We will have to depend on each other," Devaney said. "We aren't quick, so we'll have to work hard on defense every day. We're small, so we'll also have to work on rebounding. On offense, we will have to show patience."

"It's dangerous to set number-oriented goals, because if you don't meet them, people might get the impression that the season was a failure even if you accomplished a lot. So our goals will be to get better every night."

Chris Moran will coach this year's junior varsity team, while Rick Stimpson will handle the freshman coaching duties.

"I'm very fortunate to have two great guys on the staff," Devaney said. "Chris and I both played for Rick while we were students here, so it should be a great experience working together."

Eagles contenders for title in A North

BY WARREN RAPPLVEYA
Staff Writer

With four district champions included among 10 returning letter winners, the outlook is bright for the Middletown South High School wrestling team.

A year ago, the Eagles narrowly missed qualifying for the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association's Central Jersey Group IV playoffs as a team, but coach Tom Erbig's grapplers proved a force to be reckoned with bydown rival Middletown North Overall, South was 8-7.

With last year's experience behind them, the Eagles should be a top contender, along with Manalapan, in the Shore Conference's A North Division.

The presence of junior Blair Tugman (119), and seniors Chris Devicola (145), Mike Hocko (152) and Joe McGowan, alone should make South competitive. All four won district titles a year ago, and have moved up one weight class this time around.

While that foursome is a known quantity, Erbig will be counting on several other veterans to bolster the team this season.

They include seniors John Bellezza (130) and Mike Rivera (189), and juniors B.J. Bloom (135), Anthony Marion (140) and Rick Ashkar (160). Rivera, Marion and Ashkar all placed third in the district competition last season.

In addition, junior Ken Hopfensperger, who saw limited action last season after lettering as a freshman, returns to the starting lineup at 112 pounds. Meanwhile, Erbig has selected a talented freshman, Bill Doyle, to compete at 103 pounds, and the 12-year-coach is still deciding who will start at 125 and heavyweight, respectively.

"I expect this to be one of the better teams I've ever had — if we can stay healthy," Erbig explained. "Things are looking pretty promising for us this year. We're a little thin depth-wise, but we have an experienced lineup and we're expecting to pay off for us."

Erbig said he expects his team to contend for division honors, but he cautioned that his team will face stiff competition along the way.

"Most people are expecting Manalapan to be there, and I'm sure they will be because they are very talented," Erbig said.

"Yet our conference is very competitive, so I expect some other teams will emerge as well."

The Eagles will open the season Dec. 20-21 at the Neptune Classic, before returning home to host their own holiday tournament beginning Dec. 27.
BY NEIL SCHUMAN
Staff Writer

Last season, Matawan High School wrestler Justin Haskins lost just one match. Unfortunately, that loss came at the worst possible time, the Regional quarterfinals. And that meant, despite posting a 24-1 record and winning a District championship, Haskins’ season was over.

Haskins, now a senior co-captain, will lead this year’s edition of the Huskie grapplers into the 1996-97 season hoping to get to the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) meet in Atlantic City.

“I believe that Justin will be highly motivated to get to the states this year,” Matawan wrestling coach John Thornton said. “He’s aggressive and is a good-work-ethic type of athlete. He goes out there with the attitude, ‘I’m going to beat you.’ This year, he’s even stronger than last year.”

Last year, Haskins wrestled at 145 pounds. He might end up doing the same this year, but moving up to 152 pounds could be an option.

“I don’t really concentrate on their weights the first two weeks of practice,” Thornton said.

Sophomore Shane Wernersbach is Matawan’s other returning District champion. This year, Wernersbach will move up from 163 to 165 pounds.

Ed Smith, another sophomore, finished third in the District last year at 152 pounds. If Haskins moves up to 152, Smith will move up to 165.

The team’s other co-captain is junior Omar Holt, who is coming off a 16-win season. Holt will wrestle at either 135 or 140.

A trio of sophomores, who all had a ton of talent, known as the Big Three — Mike Donovan, Chris Rogers, and Adam Fleischner — will help inside, where he should gel his share of points and boards.

Senior Haskins leads Huskies back to mats
Sport Shorts

The Middletown Spartans, an under-15 girls soccer team, finished their season with two wins over the Brick Emeralds and finished the MOSA fall season with a 7-2-1 conference record. The Spartans are: Meghan Sullivan, Nicki Forehlich, Mary Chorman, Shannon Lang, Maureen McLaughlin, Barbara Pereda, Michelle Glowacki, Mary Jaeger, Donna Occhuzzi, Lauren Cardew, Gen Gsell, Skylar Buchannan, Ali Jarden, Jess Bloom, Kristina Schmelz and Bridgejetta Johnson. The team is coached by Dave Bloom and Steve Schmelz and trained by Dan Manson.

The Middletown Sonic Kixx, an under-11 girls soccer team, went 3-1 at the Bordentown Thanksgiving Tournament to take second place in their division. The Sonic Kixx are: Bruna Cavanaugh, Elizabeth Costello, Tanya Didonna, Michele Fazzari, Ashley Findlay, Erica Fisher, Jamie Gray, Kerry Haley, Sarah Jasai, Kendall Kranz, Kerry McLaughlin and Melanie Ondrejik. The team is coached by Lennie Kranz, Joe Gray and Joan Kranz.

The Aberdeen/Matawan Girls Softball program has slated open registrations at Aberdeen Town Hall, Church Street, on Saturday and Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and today from 6:30-8:30 p.m. The program offers an instructional division for kindergartners and first-graders, a minors division for second- and third-graders, an intermediate division for fourth- through sixth-graders and a majors division for seventh-graders and above. All divisions except majors will be assigned. In the majors there will be a draft. The fee for one child is $40, $55 for two children and $65 for three or more children. For more information, call Pat Reingle at 560-3409.

Katie Tice, 8, of Aberdeen, swimming for the YMCA of Western Monmouth County at the Sixth Annual Turkey Trot Meet in Phoenixville, Pa., took first in the 23 freestyle and backstroke, second in the butterfly and third in the breaststroke. In the freestyle event, Tice set a new meet record.

The Lincroft Little League has slated a late registration for the 1997 season at the Little League Field House, Newman Springs Road, as of Dec. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be open registration for all children born between Aug. 1, 1981 and July 31, 1990. The league also sponsors a challenger division for special needs children between 6-12. The registration fee is $50, a $20 raffle book and a $20 late fee. For more information, call 842-9870.

The Middletown Magic, an under-15 boys traveling soccer team, has scheduled open tryouts Dec. 14 for the upcoming spring season. The team is trained and coached by an experienced USSF and English Football Association licensed coach. Experienced players born between Aug. 1, 1981 and July 31, 1985 and new players seeking to play in state and regional level competition are invited to call Dave Ritter at 671-8701 or 671-43455 for more information.

The Central Jersey Hawks girls 11-year-old AAU basketball team, the reigning national champions, are seeking dedicated experienced players. Girls must be born on or after Jan. 1, 1985. Tryouts are slated for Dec. 15. For more information, call Kevin Kresge at 264-8435.

The Central Jersey Hawks girls 10-year-old AAU basketball team is seeking dedicated experienced players. Girls must be born on or after Jan. 1, 1985. Tryouts are slated for Dec. 15. For more information, call Kevin Kresge at 264-8435.

The Howell Basketball Association's Holiday Hoops Tournament will be held Dec. 26-28, winding up with the championship games on Dec. 30. Entrance fee for the tournament is $150 per team. Each team is guaranteed a minimum of two games. Sites to be announced. For more information, call tournament coordinator Fran Tardio at 908-563-8076.

Middletown's Tom Hall won the St. John Vianney High School All-Star Thanksgiving Day Five Mile Run by just two seconds over James Donnelly of Cambridge, Mass. Hall ran a 28:12. Michael Moore of Colts Neck was third (29:37), but first among SJV alumni. Scott Sutter of Manalapan was seventh (31:13) and Daniel Sutter (32:23) was 10th. Lauren Klags of Rumson won the women's race in 32:28. Freehold runners Megan Bruno (35:18) and Michelle Miller (35:35) were second and third, respectively. Bruno set a new meet record on the SJV cross-country course for the third time and was first among all SJV participants. Holmdel's Karen Hellman (35:59) finished fourth. Middletown's Chris Ditto (41:11), seventh, Old Bridge's Kristen Carlson (41:56), eighth, and Aberdeen's Joanne Toomey (42:27), 10th.

Huskies back on mats

Continued from page 54

Back at 140 pounds will be Phil Furman, a junior, who had a 4-8 varsity record in 1995-96. Another junior who could make a difference is 119-pounder Danny Oliva. "Although Danny had a 4-8 record last year, many of his losses were very close, so he could be a potential sleeper," Thornton said.

Two big seniors who will be mainstays for Thornton will be heavyweight Tom Hunt and 215 pounder Ed Johnson. Johnson is an All-Shore football player.

Once again, Red Bank and Long Branch are expected to be the dominating teams in Shore Conference Class B North. With the presence of St. John Vianney and Red Bank in the division, the Huskies will have their work cut out for them.

"We were very close with St. John Vianney last year, losing by one or two points, so this year, anything could happen here," Thornton said. "Our match with Red Bank was only decided by eight or nine points and that isn't a huge difference in wrestling. We should have a shot at a 500 record this year."

On Saturday, Dec. 21, the Huskies will kick off the season, when they host the First Annual Ice Breaker at the shore tournament, a varsity and junior varsity double elimination event. Participating schools include Keyport, Holmdel, Manasquan, Lower Cape May, Barrington and St. Paul's Prep.

Muwan's dual meet season will officially begin on Saturday, Jan. 6, against Keyport.

After that, the Huskies will compete in the North Brunswick Tournament on Jan. 27.
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<td>Mercury</td>
<td>$10,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'96 FORD TEMPO GL</td>
<td>Ford</td>
<td>$4,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'89 CHEVY CAVALIER</td>
<td>Chevrolet</td>
<td>$11,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'92 PONTIAC GRAND AM SE</td>
<td>Pontiac</td>
<td>$7,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'96 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS LSE</td>
<td>Mercury</td>
<td>$18,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'96 GMC SAFARI AWD SLT</td>
<td>GMC</td>
<td>$23,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'96 LINCOLN TOWN CAR EXEC.</td>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>$25,995</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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If you don't see it here, call us at... 908-264-4006

This ad is a coupon and must be presented at time of sale. Prices include all costs except tax, license & registration fees.
Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow!

BRAND NEW 1997 MERCURY

**MOUNTAINEER**

$372 LEASE PER MO.* 39 MOS.

NO DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED

- All Wheel Drive
- 6-Cyl Eng
- Auto Trans.
- Pwr Windows
- Pwr Doors
- Pwr Mirrors
- Air
- Dual Air Bags
- AM/FM Cass
- 655A Pkg
- Running Boards
- Storage Console
- Floor Mats
- Leather Seat Surface
- Electronic Group

VIN 4VUJ0G4A48

Closed End Lease w/Money Down, $450 Ref Sec. Dep., $415 Bank Fee, 1st Mo. Payment Due At Lease Inception. Total Payments: $14,308, Total Cost: $15,433. Purch. Opt. At Lease End $22,652.60. Total Mls. 39,000 w/$12 Per M.

BRAND NEW 1997 LINCOLN

VILLAGER

NO BANK FEE!

$299 LEASE PER NO.* 24 MOS.

- 5-Cyl Eng
- Auto Trans.
- Pwr Windows
- Power Doors
- Pwr Mirrors
- Air
- Cruise
- Anti-Lock Brks
- Leather
- Cass
- 500A Pkg
- Telescopic Steering
- Large Group
- VIN XV9K25997

Closed End Lease w/$900 Down + $1699 Ref Sec. Dep., $499 Lease, Total Cost: $12,328.80, Total Mls. 24,000 w/$.15 Per M.

BRAND NEW 1997 LINCOLN

CONTINENTAL

NO DOWN PAYMENT REQUIRED

$499 LEASE PER NO.* 24 MOS.

- 8-Cyl Eng
- Auto Trans.
- Pwr Windows
- Power Doors
- Pwr Mirrors
- Air
- Climate Control
- Automatic Transmission
- Leather
- Cass
- 700A Pkg
- VIN XV9K26009

Closed End Lease w/$1000 Cash Down + $600 College Grad Rebate If Qual., $595 Lease, Total Cost: $12,200, Total Mls. 24,000 w/$.15 Per M.

BRAND NEW 1997 MERCURY

SABLE

NO BANK FEE!

$279 LEASE PER NO.* 24 MOS.

- 6-Cyl Eng
- Auto Trans.
- Pwr Windows
- Power Doors
- Pwr Mirrors
- Air
- Cruise Control
- Floor Mats
- Cass
- 400A Pkg
- Telescopic Steering
- Large Group
- VIN XV9R12372

Closed End Lease w/$600 Cash Down + $400 College Grad Rebate If Qual., $595 Lease, Total Cost: $12,200, Total Mls. 24,000 w/$.15 Per M.

BRAND NEW 1997 MERCURY

TOWN CAR

NO BANK FEE!

$499 LEASE PER NO.* 24 MOS.

- 4-Dr, 6-Cyl Eng
- Auto Trans.
- Pwr Windows
- Power Doors
- Pwr Mirrors
- Air
- Cruise Control
- Floor Mats
- Cass
- 500A Pkg
- Telescopic Steering
- Large Group
- VIN XV9R12373

Closed End Lease w/$1000 Cash Down + $700 College Grad Rebate If Qual., $695 Lease, Total Cost: $12,400, Total Mls. 24,000 w/$.15 Per M.

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*Prices include all costs to be paid by a consumer except for licensing, registration & taxes. *Lease approval subject to primary lending institution.
New • 1997 • Mercury MOUNTAINEER

V-8, auto, P/S, P/B, A/C, P/W, P/L, frt. mats, tilt/cruise, all whl. drive, running boards, AM/FM stereo casset., luggage rack & more. Stk. #V313. VIN #VUJ28359. MSRP $30,345. $850 opt. pkg. disc. $400 Coll. grad rebate if qual. $2950 Irwin disc. 36 Available.

Lease For... $295 per mo. $2,910 36 Available

Buy For... $26,995

New • 1997 • Mercury VILLAGER GS


Lease For... $264 per mo. $3,168 36 Available

Buy For... $18,995

New • 1997 • Mercury SABLE GS


Lease For... $223 per mo. $2,676 36 Available

Buy For... $16,895

New • 1997 • Mercury GRAND MARQUIS GS


Lease For... $335 per mo. $4,110 36 Available

Buy For... $19,595

New • 1997 • Mercury TOWN CAR

4.6 ltr., V-8, auto w/od, P/S, P/B, climate cont., trac. assy., leather int., dual air bags, AM/FM stereo casset., cast aluminum wheels, heated door mirrors, loaded. Stk. #VY601525. MSRP $38,603. $1500 rebate. Irwin disc. $3,440.

Lease For... $488 per mo. $5,928 36 Available

Buy For... $32,995

SALES • SERVICE • PARTS • LEASING • RENTALS

Prices include all costs to be paid by consumer, except license, registration and taxes. All 24 month closed end leases, $995 down. Inc. all rebates and incentives. 12,000 miles per year. 15c over. Except Mountaineer: 39 mo. closed end lease, 12c/mile over. © 1996 Mayer & Dunn Advertising. For Leasing Information call 1-800-525-1818.
**Dennis Adams**

**WOODBRIDGE**

**PRICES SO LOW...**

**Even Santa Can't Do Better!!**

**GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!!**

---

**NEW 1997 MERCURY SABLE GS**

$17,288

- 4 dr, 8 cyl. auto trans, power steering, A/C, AM/FM stereo, power windows, locks, tilt, cruise control, tilt, cloth, alloy wheels, 54,000 miles. VIN: 174069.

**NEW 1997 MERCURY TRACER**

$159,945

- 4 dr, 4 cyl. auto trans, power steering, A/C, AM/FM stereo, cloth, cloth, cloth, cloth, cloth, 3,000 miles. VIN: YK970017.

**NEW 1997 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER**

$345,995

- 4 dr, 4 cyl. auto trans, power steering, A/C, AM/FM stereo, cloth, cloth, cloth, cloth, cloth, 3,000 miles. VIN: YK970033.

---

**NEW 1997 LINCOLN VILLAGER**

$18,945

- No payments 'til March

**NEW 1997 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL**

$459,995

- Only $500 down!

**NEW 1997 LINCOLN TOWN CAR**

$499,995

- Only $500 down!

---

**FAMOUS FOR SELLING THE FINEST USED CARS SINCE 1969!!**

---

**Dennis Adams**

*Woodbridge - LINCOLN MERCURY*

119 Route 184 • Woodbridge, NJ (Hopelawn Section)

1-800-320-LINCOLN (1-800-325-4626)

---

**Lincoln**

**Mercury**

---

**JUST 5 MINUTES AWAY FROM:**

- KEYPORT
- HOBOKEN
- BRONX
- STATEN ISLAND

---

**TO TAKE NJ TURNPIKE TO EXIT 11 4 SP SOUTH to EXIT 129 • Follow Signs to Woodbridge, 1/2 mile on Right Alter 2nd light, You're Here! 4 SP NORTH to EXIT 127 • Go R T. 9 NO RTH, Approx. 1/2 mile. Exit at ROUTE 1B4 EAST • 1/4 mile on right.**

---

**Prices incl. all costs to be paid by customer except for tax, etc. A $500 deposit is $500 manufacturer's rebate.**

---

**Purch. op. *150/Mile thereafter. $400 DOWN AND NO BANK FEES. **

---

**Incl. $499 1st mo. & 499 sec dep = $1499 due at lessee.**

---

**(Continental) $1000 manufacturer's rebate, $499 1st mo. & 499 sec dep = $1499 due at lessee.**

---

**Just minutes away from Woodbridge, NJ to Hopelawn, NJ.**

---

**1800-320-LINCOLN (1-800-325-4626) **

---

**Dennis Adams**

---

**Woodbridge - LINCOLN MERCURY**

119 Route 184 • Woodbridge, NJ (Hopelawn Section)

1-800-320-LINCOLN (1-800-325-4626)

---

**Lincoln**

**Mercury**

---

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**(Continental) $1000 manufacturer's rebate, $499 1st mo. & 499 sec dep = $1499 due at lessee.**

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**Just minutes away from Woodbridge, NJ to Hopelawn, NJ.**

---

**1800-320-LINCOLN (1-800-325-4626) **

---

**Dennis Adams**

---

**Woodbridge - LINCOLN MERCURY**

119 Route 184 • Woodbridge, NJ (Hopelawn Section)

1-800-320-LINCOLN (1-800-325-4626)
DODGE DENNIS ADAMS

PRICES SO LOW...

EVEN SANTA CAN'T DO BETTER!!

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES!!

BRAND NEW DODGE NEON HIGHLINE

$10,495

1996-2 dr, 2.0L 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/bkrs, PWR, dual air bags, AM/FM stereo cassette, clock, center console, ckt pref group 220, halogen lamps, trcks, VIN #D000176, MSRP $14,940, incl. $1,600 main. reb.

NEW 1997 DODGE STRATUS

$14,795

'97 PWR, 2.5L 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr strng/bkrs, airbag, PWR, dual air bags, AM/FM stereo cassette, clock, center console, ckt pref group 220, halogen lamps, trcks, VIN #00201008, MSRP $17,960, incl. $1,600 main. reb.

NEW 1997 DODGE INTREPID

$16,395

'97 4 cyl, front wheel drive, 3.3L V6, auto trans, pwr strng/bkrs, dual air bags, PWR, AM/FM stereo cassette, clock, center console, ckt pref group 220, halogen lamps, trcks, VIN #00201003, MSRP $20,995, incl. $1,600 main. reb.

'88 DODGE ARIES WAGON

$2795

'91 MERCURY SABLE LS

$6995

'92 HONDA PRELUDE

$8495

'93 MAZDA MX3 GS

$9295

'92 FORD F 150 XLT LBAT

'93 CHEVY BLAZER S 10

$9995

'95 F 9500 150 DOMINATOR

$11,995

$12,995

$17,995

$21,995

EASY TO REACH: G.S. PARKWAY NORTH EXIT ROUTE 8 NORTH second FORDS next ROUTE 184 WEST. At first light make a light. RT 9 NORTH to RT 184 WEST. Fords same as above. MINUTES AWAY.

FRIENDS 30 min. • MALLAFAR 15 min. • HUNTERTON 10 min. • RED BANK 25 min. • ASBURY PARK 25 min.

PRICES incl. all costs to be paid by consumer except for licensing, registration, doc. & taxes. $400 college grad. rebate if qualified. $750 owner loyalty rebate if qualified. Not responsible for typographical errors. Pictures are for illustration purposes only. If vehicle you purchased from us is advertised for less in the next 30 days, we will give you the difference or $500, whichever is less, excluding Mfr. rebates.
Acres of Bargains Ready to Drive!

**LINCOLN**
- Town Car
- Continental
- Mark VIII

**MERCEY**
- Mystique
- Sable
- Villager
- Grand Marquis
- Cougar
- Mountaineer

**BUICK**
- Skylark
- Century
- LeSabre
- Roadmaster
- Riviera
- Park Ave

**PONTIAC**
- Sunfire
- Grand Am
- Grand Prix
- Firebird
- Bonneville
- Trans Sport

**GMC TRUCK**
- Sonoma
- Jimmy
- Yukon
- Suburban
- Safari Van
- Cargo Van

NEW 1997 MERCURY TRACER LS
- 1997 4-dr w/ 4-cyl, automatic, dual air bags, a/c, AM/FM stereo, power windows, remote entry, 4th with rear defroster & more. VIN #WUV316342. MSRP $18,593. 94 mo. closed end lease at $937 down trade. 1st pymnt & $290 ref sec. cost for total of $1375 & $440 rebate & $400 college grad credit due at signing. Total payments: $8,773. 12,000 miles then 15/mo. buy option at end $6,646.

$179 per mo!

NEW 1997 SABLE WAGON
- 1997 w/ V6, dual air bags, ABS, cellular phone, auto, A/C, interior: cloth, power seat, windows, locks & mirrors, cruise, 3rd seat, cargo cover. VIN #WUV161065. MSRP $23,296. 24 mo. closed end lease with $997 down trade. 1st pymnt & $675 ref sec. cost for total of $1531 & $500 rebate & $500 lease renewal due at signing. Total payments $7,215, buy option at end $10,954. 12,000 miles then 15/mo.

$259 per mo!

NEW 1997 LINCOLN CONTINENTAL
- 1997 4-dr w/ V6, aut, dual air bags, ABS, A/C, stereo, in-coat paint, power heated leather seats, windows, locks & mirrors & more. VIN #WUV316340. MSRP $15,075. 24 mo closed end lease with $997 down trade. 1st pymnt & $450 ref sec. cost for total of $1599 & $1000 rebate due at signing. Total payments $10,776. 12,000 miles then 15/mo. buy option at end $24,900.

$449 per mo!

CALL 908-264-8500

Low LOW FINANCING!
- 0.9% on select models
- 3.9% up to 60 months!

Get Cash Back up to $3000!
- Hard to find models like Century & Regal in stock for immediate delivery!

PLUS GREAT DEALS & SELECTION ON 4-WHEEL DRIVES!

CALL 908-264-4000

Prices include all costs except tax, license & registration fees. Supersedes other offers. Not responsible for typographical errors.