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RAHWAY PROGRESS

Serving Rahway and Clark

MARCH 5, 1998

TWO SECTIONS

THIS WEEK

NEWS

Disputes dumped... The Union County Utilities Authority and the Bergen County Utilities Authority are claiming victory in a legal game of hot potato. The U.S. Supreme Court decided it has no jurisdiction in deciding a contract dispute between the two. See Page B1.

Special delivery... A 28-year-old Colombian resident was arrested at the Roselle Post Office when he picked up a package containing more than \$100,000 worth of high purity heroin. See Page B1.

THE ARTS

The royal scene... To celebrate yourself about this Royal Show, visit the Crossroads in Garwood tonight for a performance. See Page B3.

SNOW ALERT

Schools superintendents will use our Infocore hot line to alert parents to school closings during inclement weather. In Rahway, parents can call (908) 686-9898 and enter Selection No. 7006. For Union County College, parents can call (908) 686-9898 and enter Selection No. 7013.

NEW MEDIA

News updates... Get local updates throughout the week. Call our Infocore hot line at (908) 686-9898, Selection 7515.

Web site... Visit our site on the World Wide Web, which can be accessed at http://www.localinfocore.com/

WEATHER

Friday: Rain and mild, 46° Saturday: Rain and mild, 51° Sunday: Mostly sunny, 48°

For the most up to date reports, call (908) 686-9898, Ext. 1790.

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Board approves \$33 million school budget

Public hearing scheduled for March 26

By Philip Sean Curran Staff Writer The Rahway Board of Education approved its tentative budget valued at \$33,304,165 during a special meeting Feb. 25. The budget must go before county and state education officials and receive final Board of Education approval before residents can vote on it next month on school election day. Higher than the current version by 3.2 percent, the tentative budget calls for a \$1,057,264 increase, said Superintendent of Schools William Petrosino. As a result, taxes are slated to increase \$6.50 on the average home assessed at \$133,000. Petrosino said the "increments are not attributable to things far removed from the students. Approximately 32 percent of the budget is marked for the regular program account, which includes funding for teachers' salaries, textbooks and supplies and instructional aides. Money was allocated to hire four new teachers who would be transferred to three of the district's elementary schools. Two would go to Franklin School, one to Madison and the other to Roosevelt School. Cleveland School would not receive any faculty additions. While he said reducing classroom size is not a panacea to the district's academic woes and "not likely to affect achievement," Petrosino said creating smaller classes would certainly help. Recent test results, in three core academic areas, revealed that Rahway students were ranked among the lowest statewide. Scores on the High School Proficiency Test have steadily declined the last three years, and results from the 1996-97 year fell to their nadir. Only 71.3 percent of Rahway High School juniors, who must take the test to graduate, passed the test's reading section, and 78.8 percent passed the math section. The Early Warning Test, administered to eighth-graders, produced disturbing results. Students from the intermediate school scored well below state average in mathematics. About 70.4 percent of Rahway students passed that section compared to a state average of 84.4 percent. To fix that problem, Petrosino proposed leasing new computers to reduce the computer ratio in all the district's schools and build a new one in the intermediate school. The district's athletic teams had more money — \$42,259 — allocated to them. That will be used to pay for seven additional assistant coaches, equipment and supplies and league memberships. Also, the board will look to add a new feature, voice mail, throughout the district, Petrosino said. Any tax increase is considerably offset by state and federal financial assistance. Rahway receives \$8.252 million from the state this year, that number, according to figures released by the state Department of Education, is slated to increase by \$691,750. However, state Treasury officials admitted making serious calculation errors when state aid was distributed, giving too much to some districts and too little to others. Some 30 districts lost money as a result, and in Union County, seven municipalities received less money than they had in the previous year. The Board of Education has scheduled March 26 at 7:30 p.m. at the Intermediate School for a public hearing on the budget.

BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

- Total budget is \$33,304,165.
- Represents a 3.28 percent increase over current year's spending plan.
- Reflects a tax increase of \$66.50 on a home assessed at \$133,000.
- Public hearing is scheduled for March 26 at Intermediate School.
- Voter approval scheduled for April 21.



Students mark the end of Black History Month with a celebration at the JFK Community Center.

Celebration ends Black History Month

By Philip Sean Curran Staff Writer On Saturday afternoon, Michael Jordan talked with visitors at the JFK Community Center in Rahway about being the New York Knicks. Just down the hall, Martin Luther King Jr. told of writing his famous "I Have a Dream Speech." Not to be unknown, Thurgood Marshall explained his ascent to the U.S. Supreme Court and being the first black man to wear the robes of Supreme Court Justice. While none of those famous men actually attended the Black History Extravaganza, their stories, and those of other famous black inventors, entertainers and public figures, were on vivid display. Local children played the roles of those famous men at Saturday's event, which culminated a celebration of Black History Month and included cultural dancing and dramatic readings of black literature. That event, however, is part of a larger program, "The Mr. Rogers 'Say No' Program," geared to encourage and educate young black men, said 4th Ward Councilman David Brown. Started by Wendell Rogers, a Michigan man who saw too many young black men either in prison or on drugs, the program bearing his name is led by black businessmen and professionals who want to help the younger generation find its way out of the ghetto and into the Ivy League. Every Saturday afternoon during the school year, members from the group meet with local boys — bringing in guest speakers, taking them out on field trips and stressing the value of an education. "I have a burning desire to see my race, male and female, get a share of the good life in America, the good things that can happen in America," Brown said. "Education is one of the keys to the success of the African American." East Jersey State Prison, which stands nearby, is an ominous reminder of where life's wrong turn can take them. "If you look at the jails today, we see that the majority of them are filled with young black men," said Clarence Higgard, the group's leader. "The younger we can get them, the better off they will be." To foster that ideal, the group invited Kean University to come and help the boys with their education. Cynthia Garnett, who teaches early family and child-study studies at Kean, brought about 17 students from her school to the center, tutoring the boys in math, English or other areas where they need help. See CENTER, Page 2

Reward increases in Zebrowski case

By Michelle Rango and Sean Doherty The Zebrowski family of Rahway is still searching for their son Kevin, still paying for his safe return nearly two months after his disappearance from a Maine nightclub on New Year's Eve. Maureen and Ken Zebrowski have raised their reward to \$25,000 for information leading to the return of their 21-year-old son, who was last seen at Judson's Sugarloaf Motel and Conchita Lounge in Maine's Caribou Valley. "People back home have no idea how vast it is up here," said Ken Zebrowski, Kevin's father. "They think if a guy disappears from a bar, somebody must have seen him but that's not so up here." The Rahway residents have been staying at their son's apartment in Farmington, Maine, as he's drive south of Judson's, where Kevin, a University of Maine student, was last seen. The \$25,000 reward money is being offered as an added incentive to jog anyone's memory who might know what happened to Kevin, who was listed as missing on New Year's Day. The Zebrowskis have been trying to find out what happened to their son. In addition to the increased reward money, the man's parents have endeavored to establish a confidential hot line to the hope that some leads will turn up. The number is 1-888-778-KEVIN (5384). Next week, Caribouasset police will start administering polygraph tests to a number of individuals who were with Kevin on New Year's Eve. "We have done polygraphs throughout the investigation, but they have not turned up any suspects or leads," said Caribouasset Valley Police Chief Ron Moody. Moody did not want to comment on who had been administered the lie-detector tests. Kevin's parents are still clinging to the hope that there will be some good news to report soon. During a press conference in Woodbridge Feb. 26, excerpts of a statement from Kevin's mother were read by Kevin's uncle, Larry Johnson II. "We need to know if Kevin is still alive," wrote Kevin's mom. "However, even if he is not alive, we still need to find him so that we no longer will be tormented by the unknown. If an accident occurred — or whatever other incident might have caused Kevin's disappearance — we still need to locate him and have him returned to us." Neighbors of the Zebrowskis and friends who are eager to help the family and the community cope with Kevin's mysterious disappearance have engaged in a blue ribbon campaign, prominently displaying blue ribbons and showing their solidarity and commitment to keeping the plight of the family in focus. "Search your minds and hearts and put yourselves in our position," said Kevin's mother, Maureen. "If you know anything that may in any way relate to the disappearance of Kevin Zebrowski, please advise either the Caribouasset Valley Police at (207) 237-3200 or the Maine State Police at (800) 228-0857 in Maine or (207) 657-3030 elsewhere." More than 2 feet of snow has blanketed the region in the last two months. Zebrowski is pleading for the mystery of her son's whereabouts to be solved. "Would you want to have to wait until spring in order to resume searching for your missing child?" she asked. "What we have basically is a missing persons case and there is nothing — nothing — to suggest otherwise," said Moody.

Eight to seek seats on board

By Philip Sean Curran Staff Writer Two incumbent members of the Rahway Board of Education said they would not seek re-election when board elections are held in April, but a third said he would. Eight candidates in total will seek three seats, school officials said. Keith Slinger and Robert Polhemus, both elected in 1994, cited a desire to do other things and enjoy their retirement years rather than serve another three-year term. "I need to move on and let the younger people do it," Slinger said. Polhemus said, "I'm retired and want a little free time." Reflecting on his service to the district, Slinger, 62, said the more memorable accomplishments occurred when Rahway reformed a student discipline problem that plagued the schools. In his first year, Slinger said seven expulsion hearings came before the board; none have occurred since. "We've got the district running smoothly. The superintendent is doing a fine job," Polhemus said. Frank Cicarelli, who ran with Slinger and Polhemus in 1994, said improving the district's lagging academic performance is his chief concern. That could be accomplished by making sweeping changes to the district's standards, he said. The High School Proficiency Test and the Early Warning Test produced alarmingly low math and English scores among Rahway's eighth and 11th graders. While there is no one panacea, Cicarelli, who works in the Elizabeth school system, said parents must help their children by fostering a learning environment at home. "It's a cooperative thing with the parents, he said." "I think Rahway is ready to push forward," said Mary Ellen Segal, another candidate. "Saying the low test scores concerned her too, Segal believes that Rahway's students are steadily improving and have become the target of some unfair press coverage. "Every year it gets better because we have a tutorial program" in the intermediate school, she said. "I truly believe in the school system," she said. Also running is John C. Ludington III, who works in the Rahway Division of Water. "I thought this was a good time to get involved," said Ludington, who has three sons in the school district. "I had the support of my family." He served on the board from 1989 to 1995. Ludington said school funding is his key issue because property taxes are proving to be a poor way to support school districts. The other five candidates are: George Becker, John Boston, Deborah Bridges, Lewis Demeter III and Gerald Thomas. Besides improving the students' academic performance, the board must fulfill a state mandate to have full-day kindergarten for all the district's children. However, there are not enough classrooms to accommodate a dramatic increase in enrollment.

The lucky ticket

Madison School first-grader Anthony Carvalho stands next to the television he won for participating in the school's annual candy sale. All students who participated received a ticket for each box of candy sold. A drawing was held and Anthony had the lucky ticket.

RAHWAY PROGRESS

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Voice mail:
Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a recorded message will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call will be answered by an automated recorded message.

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If your Progress did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

Back issues:
To purchase back issues of the Progress please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges may apply.

News items:
News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week. Pictures must be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editor.

Story reprints:
For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper, you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

Letters to the editor:
The Progress provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should be typed, double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and clarity.

e-mail:
The Progress accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is WNCN@localsource.com. e-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

To place a display ad:
Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Progress must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m. for publication that week. Advertising for placement in the B section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-564-8911. Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To place a public notice:
Public notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. The Progress meets all New Jersey State Statutes regarding public notice advertising. Public notices must be in our office by Tuesday at noon for publication that week. For more information, call 1-800-564-8911 and ask for the public notice advertising department.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Rahway Progress to inform residents of various community activities and governmental meetings. To give your community events the publicity they deserve, mail your schedule to Rahway Progress, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Pre-school registration
Registration for preschool and kindergarten for the 1998-99 school year is now open. Parents may contact any school for registration information. Registration will be conducted daily between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. today.

Rahway Hospital will offer a bereavement group that will meet for seven consecutive Thursdays beginning March 5. The group will meet from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the hospital, located at 865 Stone St., Rahway. There is no fee to participate, however, pre-registration is required. The group will be for those who have lost spouses only. For more information or to register for the sessions, call Rahway Hospital Hospice at (732) 499-6169.

Family Math will be held in the Intermediate School library from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Friday.

All their general membership monthly meeting, members of the Rahway Women's Club will be entertained by Dr. Gordon R. Vincent, portraying Albert Einstein in vintage style of dress when he lectures to the club in the Second Presbyterian Church hall, New Brunswick Avenue off Main Street, in downtown Rahway. The business portion will be conducted by club President Fran Karmann before the program, which begins at 1:30 p.m. For guest attendance, call (732) 388-5371, 381-9217 or 388-8256.

A fish and chips dinner catered by Argyle's will be held at the St. Mary's auditorium, 232 Central Ave., Rahway, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person, which includes refreshments and desserts. Take-out orders are available. For tickets or information, call Eileen at (732) 388-8010 or Kathy at (732) 634-6162. The event is sponsored by the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Mother Seton Regional High School will sponsor its annual event at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. General admission is \$5. Advanced tickets at \$4 may be purchased at the school office any weekday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. or at a Bingo on Saturday and Sunday evenings. For more information, call the school at (732) 382-1952.

Monday
The Grand Centennial extended an invitation to an indoor craft show at the Grand Centennial, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be crafts from throughout New Jersey many with Easter items. Food and beverages will be available for sale. For additional information, call (732) 382-1664.

The Rahway PAL Baseball Club/Men's League Show will be held at the Rahway Senior Center, corner of Milton and Eastbrook avenues, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$1. Children younger than 7 years of age will be admitted free. For dealer information, they Deigo at (732) 827-2094.

Monday
A family science program will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Franklin School cafeteria for Franklin School fourth-grade students and Roosevelt School fifth-grade students.

A family math program will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Roosevelt School cafeteria for Roosevelt School fourth-grade students.

The Rahway Board of Education's Education Committee will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 105 of the Intermediate School.

The Rahway City Council will meet in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the council chambers of City Hall, City Hall Plaza, Rahway.

Tuesday
The Early Warning Test will be administered to all eighth-graders in the Rahway School District.

The Rahway Board of Education will meet in caucus session at 7:30 p.m. in the Intermediate School cafeteria.

Wednesday
The Early Warning Test will be administered to all eighth-graders in the Rahway School District.

A family technology program will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cleveland School, Room 11, Computer Lab, for Cleveland School fifth-grade students.

The Rahway High School Parent-Teacher Organization will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Center events mark end of Black History Month

(Continued from Page 1)

The students' work is part of a course that education majors take, giving them first hand experience working with students. In Gannett's words:

She said that even after the course work is done, students continue to help. "Many of our students who work with the kids want to continue and work with them," she said.

"The university is here to give them support," Gannett added.

"The Mr. Rogers" program has drawn raves from local school officials, who said it has helped students improve academically.

"It's another support system for the community to reach out to the children who might fall through the cracks," said Paula Breton, principal at Franklin School.

Coming events
March 12
The Early Warning Test will be administered to all eighth-graders in the Rahway School District.

A family reading program will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Franklin School library for Franklin School students in grades kindergarten to two.

A family math program will take place from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Intermediate School library for Intermediate School students.

The Roosevelt School Parent-Teacher Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Roosevelt School cafeteria.

The meeting of AARP Chapter 607 Rahway will be at 12:30 p.m. at Senior Citizen Center, 1306 Eastbrook Ave. There will be a St. Patrick's Day dinner served at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call (732) 382-1856. There will be an executive board meeting at 11 a.m.

The Rahway Alcoholics Beverage Control Board will meet at 6:30 p.m. in City Hall.

The Rahway Environmental Commission will meet at 7 p.m. in the second floor conference room of City Hall.

March 13-15
The high school play, "Goldspiel," will be performed at the Union County Arts Center.

The Franklin School PTA will hold its annual Spring Festival/Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 1809 St. George Ave. Rahway. Proceeds will be used for playground equipment and programs for the children. Any questions, or to reserve a table, contact Gene Andre at (732) 396-8010.

March 26-29
The Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Eastbrook Ave., will present a special guest speaker from Truist Museum in Mountaintop at 1 p.m. The program, "Gardening in the Shade," will include a slide presentation and a question and answer period. The event is open to all Rahway seniors and will be held in the main hall of the senior center. For more information, call 827-2016.

March 28-29
Boy Scout Troop 40 of Rahway will be selling Girl Scout Cookies at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church, 244 Central Ave., off all Muses. For more information, call 388-8869.

April 7
The Rahway Health Department will conduct a free blood pressure screening for Rahway residents at the Rahway Public Library from 3 to 6 p.m. Blood pressure screenings are offered on the first Tuesday of every month.

Rahway bank donates to PAL

Rahway Savings has been a supporter of the Rahway PAL program since its inception.

In December 1997, the Rahway Savings Institute donated \$2,000 to the Rahway Police Athletic League. Executive Director Gene DeCarlo accepted the check from Thomas G. Hill of Rahway Savings.

The money will be used toward equipment and uniforms for all of the PAL-sponsored sports programs.

The Rahway PAL was formed in 1995 under the direction of Mayor James Kennedy and Capt. Edward Tilton of the Rahway Police Department. The executive directorship has recently been turned over to Sgt. Gene DeCarlo of the Juvenile Bureau. The PAL, sponsored both a basketball and baseball program, and its success is largely due to donations such as the one Rahway Savings recently provided.

A future goal of the PAL is to start a track program in conjunction with the Rahway Recreation Department.

Voice for HEALTH

Dr. Edmund J. Nickel
PATIENTS PAINTED EXPRESSIONS

Approximately 30 million Americans suffer from chronic pain on any given day. Chronic pain is the second most common reason for the common cold for patients visiting doctors. Explanations for this very common condition are not always clear and can be frustrating to both patient and doctor. Chronic pain is a complex condition that can be caused by many factors, including physical injury, surgery, infection, and emotional stress.

Dr. Nickel is a board certified pain management specialist with over 20 years of experience. He is the medical director of the Rahway Pain Management Center, which is a part of the Rahway Hospital. Dr. Nickel is also a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Pain Management Specialists.

Dr. Nickel is currently accepting new patients for consultations and treatment. He can be reached at (732) 388-8010 or (732) 388-8011.

Judge modifies temporary restraining order against club

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

Their dances are pretty. Their dances are sexy. But don't touch.

In effect, that is what Judge Edward Beglin told the Razzle Dazzle Runway, a Routes 1&9 go-go club, on Monday.

Beglin modified a temporary restraining order against the club that had been issued by the judge in the case of a woman who claimed to be a victim of sexual harassment by a club patron.

The judge's decision was a victory for the club, which had been ordered to close its doors for a period of 30 days. The judge's decision was based on the fact that the club had not been found to be a public nuisance.

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Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday noon.

Entertainment - Friday noon.

Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

General - Monday 5 p.m.

Rahway On-line

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Council hires firm to build city's new recreation center

By Sean Daily
Staff Writer

The city has hired a firm to build a new recreation center behind City Hall.

The firm is Hall Building Corporation, which was approved at a special council meeting on Tuesday. Two other important pieces of legislation were considered at the pre-meeting conference immediately after this special meeting.

An earlier round of bids two weeks ago was rejected at a similar special council meeting because they were all too high. Ruggiero said that Rahway saved \$14,000 by going back to bid on this project.

Originally, Amer had estimated that the center would cost \$4,852,000 to build. There were several additional costs, also, including: school-bus parking, \$5,830,000; \$5,230,000 in municipal bonds; according to Chief Financial Officer Frank Ruggiero, the city can cancel the bonds that it doesn't use in this project.

Hall Building Corporation brought in a low bid of \$5,178,000 for the construction of the new recreation center. This was with a bid of \$5,178,000, including \$5,230,000 in municipal bonds; according to Chief Financial Officer Frank Ruggiero, the city can cancel the bonds that it doesn't use in this project.

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Diabetes is a complicated disease that affects more than 10 million Americans

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects more than 10 million Americans. It is a complex condition that can be caused by many factors, including genetics, lifestyle, and environmental factors. Diabetes can lead to serious complications if it is not properly managed. The purpose of this event is to allow patients, their family members, and caregivers the opportunity to meet with product representatives. Participants will be able to ask questions, compare their current meters and/or supplies with others, and make the best decision as to which is appropriate for them. This event is for demonstration and educational purposes only.

March 19
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Rahway Hospital Conference Room #1
No fee

Diabetes Lecture Series
Topics during this 5-session series include: nutrition, the importance of exercise, medical management, potential complications, and changing behaviors and feelings. The course is taught by a team of Rahway Hospital professional educators.

Tuesdays, April 14, 21, 28, May 12, 19
7 to 9 p.m.
Rahway Hospital Education Center
Fee: \$50

To register, call (732) 499-6175

Pre-registration required for all community outreach activities.

Rahway Hospital * 865 Stone Street, Rahway, NJ 07065 * (732) 381-4200

Advice from the seafood man



The Gorton's Fisherman stopped at the ShopRite in Clark on his tour of area supermarkets to promote the Gorton's brand name foods. Here, he stops for a moment with resident Jackie Schroeder and her children, Clinton and Brittan.

Mortgage Rates are coming down

Now may be the time to refinance

If you're sitting with a high rate mortgage, you could save thousands of dollars in interest by refinancing your loan. Compare our current mortgage rates... they're the lowest they've been in years. For Example:

TERM	RATE	POINTS	APR	\$ PER \$1000
15yr fixed	6.875%	0	6.880%	\$8.92
30 yr fixed	7.250%	0	7.253%	\$6.82

Mortgage rates, which are subject to change without notice, are for single family, owner occupied homes with a 20% down payment. APR does not reflect interest rate lock-in. Application and all other bank related fees \$35. Adjustable rate plans are also available at slightly lower rates. Call for details.

You may be able to refinance with a low rate, no fee Home Equity Loan. Ask for details.

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"Ralph Waite delivers a moving performance." In Theater
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VITAMIN FACTORY

Enter C 1000 mg. Reg. \$14.95	1099	Calcium 1200 mg. Reg. \$14.95	1399
Calcium Citrate w/ Magnesium Reg. \$17.95	449	St. John's Wort 150 mg. Reg. \$7.95	599
Brain Food Reg. \$14.95	1099	Siberian Ginseng 400 mg. Reg. \$14.95	499
Order Modified Citrus 1250 mg. Reg. \$7.95	599	Potency for Men Reg. \$21.95	799
Lipid Plus Reg. \$12.95	999	I.C. Complex Reg. \$12.95	999

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Ginseng Power Max 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$14.95	899
Ginseng Biotin 60 mg. Reg. \$14.95	1199
Saw Palmetto Power 320 mg. Reg. \$29.50	1599
Brown Spot Cream 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$9.95	699
Tea Tree Oil Mouthwash 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$9.95	395
Occasional Plus 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$44.95	3395
Diet Fuel 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$15.95	1099
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Hot Stuff 100% L-ALANINE Reg. \$44.95	3899

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COMMUNITY FORUM

Deserving of award

Hank and Helen Dombrowski of Rahway are examples of the faith we can have in people.

The couple was honored last weekend by the Center for Hope Hospice for the work they have done on behalf of the center. The award, which is given annually, is named after the late Father Charles Hudson, a co-founder of the Center for Hope Hospice, an organization that cares for terminally ill patients.

The Dombrowskis also help others, having raised \$16,000 for the Make-a-Wish Foundation, in addition to holding fundraisers for other charitable causes.

What makes the work for the hospice significant, though, is the couple knows that the patients they are caring for are preparing to face the end of their life. It takes people of remarkable strength to help others deal with this sad time in their life, and it is a testament to the Dombrowskis' character.

We offer our congratulations to the Dombrowskis for their efforts to assist others in need. They are deserving of the award.

Heads should roll

Whether or not the school aid fiasco is resolved this week and the school districts can recalculate their budgets based on any new numbers before adopting the tentative spending plans, someone in Trenton must be held accountable for the errors that will surely have an impact on every school district in the state.

Last week, when most local school districts were planning to introduce their budgets and schedule public hearings before finally adopting them, the state Department of Education announced that it had miscalculated its funding formula to about 30 districts and that it may have to draft the aid numbers that have been promised to all school districts in the state.

This means that if one district received an increase in aid from the amount it received last year, and school officials in that district calculated that figure into this year's spending plan, that district will have a deficit. Budgets if the aid figures actually represent a loss in money from last year.

We have to wonder who is running the state Department of Education and how it can be so incompetent that it can use a post office Zip Code as a way to measure the wealth of a community and thereby determine how much aid should be given to that community's district. Towns sharing postal Zip Codes are impacted by this method of distributing aid, and it has been discovered that they are receiving an incorrect amount of aid.

Because of this, other school districts are waiting, wondering if the state is going to take some of the promised funding away from them. These are the same school districts that have been following state guidelines regarding budget introduction, public hearing and adoption, before, in most cases, presenting the spending plans to the public on school election day.

Will the state be held accountable for paying local school officials for the time they spend revamping their budgets, if that is the case? Will some school districts be forced to cut more programs this year because they calculated their budgets based on promised aid figures, only to learn that they will lose that aid? What about the taxpayers who have been attending budget hearings and are perhaps satisfied with the school budget as introduced? Is the state requiring these taxpayers to endure another round of budget hearings because the numbers weren't accurate from the beginning?

We also wonder why the state, in its infinite wisdom, chose this year to change the method of funding school districts? This is the year when the state Supreme Court is ordering more funding to the state's special-needs districts, a move that has almost guaranteed a loss of funding to many school districts in the state.

We doubt that someone in Trenton will be held accountable for this school aid fiasco. Government employees seem to be untouchable, no matter how much they harm the taxpayer. If this crisis does nothing, we hope it reveals that the state is being run by people who seem to have no idea what is going on at the local level and, sadly, we're the ones paying them to do their jobs.

"We have lost our ability to express our own opinions in public, lest we offend someone within earshot."

—Jim Etweia
Acton, Mass. 1994

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Published Weekly Since 1980

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Publisher

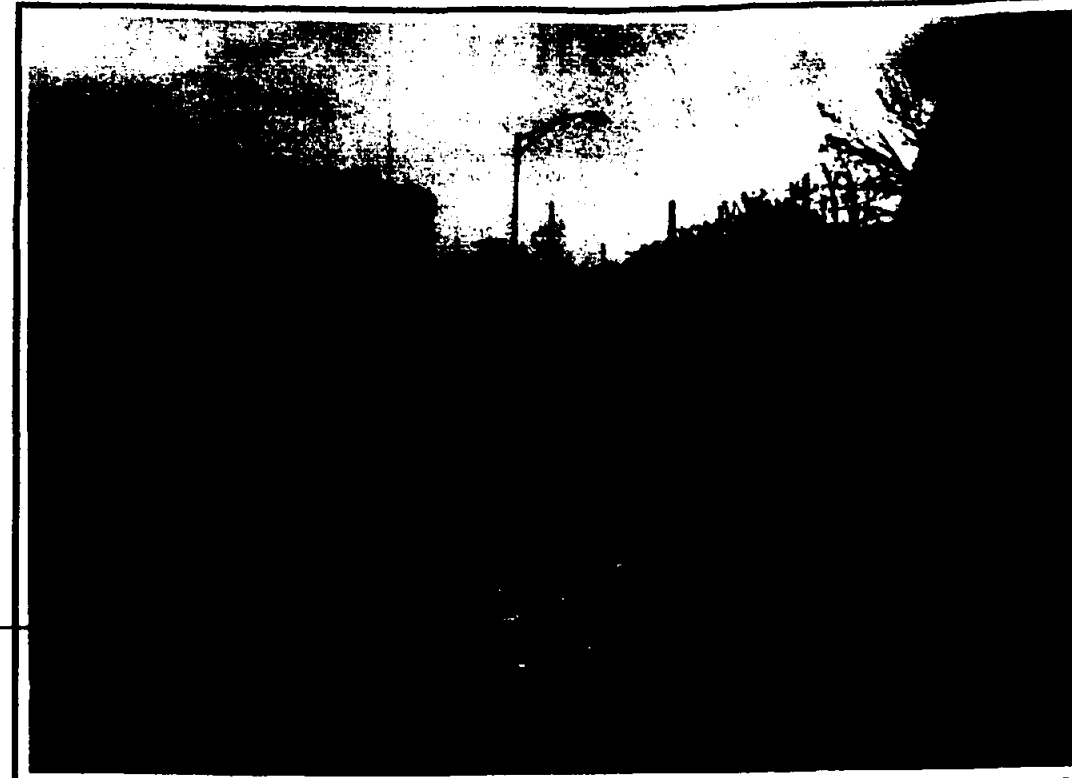
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REALIGNMENT — This intersection at Irving Street, is being considered for a realignment as part of the downtown rehabilitation efforts by the city.

Challenge asks residents to be informed

About Our Schools

By William Petrino

There was a widely held perception that our schools were declining academically, morally and physically. At the end of the monitoring visit, the monitors commended the achievements of our fourth-graders and reported the achievement of our eighth-graders, with the exception of mathematics, to be indicative of satisfactory progress toward the attainment of the rigorous standards of the High School Proficiency Test. An evidence of that progress, the monitors reported that graduates of Rahway High School meet all the expectations for academic competence established by the state Department of Education. Hardly the picture of an academic wasteland as portrayed by some.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 25, the Rahway Board of Education adopted a tentative budget for school year 1988-89. It is a picture of the opportunities to improve, which to some extent are identified in the State Report Card and monitoring reports, that the budget for school year 1988-89 is being prepared.

Did you know the average value of computers is three to five years? Many of our computer labs have computers that are five years old. Did you know that when you replace computers in a lab a few at a time, the resulting mixture can cause problems running the software? The

budget proposes to address these problems by leasing computer equipment to replace the computers in each elementary and high school lab. Have you ever noticed that the students in our elementary schools and high school have greater access to technology than our Intermediate School students? The administration has, and that is why it has proposed a new computer lab for the Intermediate School to address the needs identified through the results of the Eighth Grade Early Warning Test.

Have you wondered how time or time of day affects the quality of education in a particular grade will fit into only two or three classes at the next grade level? Our elementary principals have and that is why they have recommended a budget which includes four additional teachers to address that need.

Have you ever thought that some of our buildings need to be brightened with new lighting or paint? Perhaps you have noticed dirty auditoriums that need to be fixed or curtains that appear to be "original equipment" that need to be replaced? How many times have you thought that some of the sidewalks around the schools needed to be repaved? Just how long will the Intermediate School gym floor go without repair? These and other routine maintenance projects have been neglected for a long time in Rahway, not because no one recommended doing these things, but because in tight budgets, with competing priorities, tough decisions have been made.

The proposed budget includes the opportunity to address these and other improvements to the quality of education and thereby improve the quality of life in Rahway. The cost of these improvements would be considerably higher were it not for an increase in state funding and prudent fiscal management. The proposed budget includes the allocation of \$200,000 from the anticipated free balance of the current budget.

A recent cartoon in The School Administrator depicted parents visiting their local school superintendent. The parents say, "Here's our daughter. We trust you'll give her day care, two full meals a day, nurse care, education, discipline, responsibility, and we're out of your hair."

As we approach the school election of April 21, I challenge every citizen to learn more about schools and become an informed voter.

William Petrino is superintendent of the Rahway School District.

"About Our Schools" appears monthly in the Progress. Petrinio works on the Rahway public schools at P.O. Box 42, Rahway, N.J. 07065, or wpetrinio@nj.net.

Unlike Olympics, we created our own rinks

The Way It Was

By William Frolich

Our favorite spot in our street, where the skaters hang around our necks by lightly flicking the laces together. At these times were permanently fastened to high stools, there was no danger of a skate becoming loose while in use. When we arrived at the rink, we sat on the ground at the front water's edge and changed our shoes for the skates. Of course, there was the problem of what to do with our street shoes while we were enjoying the skating, but life was easier in those days, and we just left those shoes sitting on the ground next to the ice. They were always there when it was time to go home, although you might have had to search around a little if you had left your shoes exactly where you had left them.

There were several games that we played while we were skating, such as a game of hockey, or tag, or crack the whip. If we were skating on a river, the banks formed the sides of the hockey rink, and a couple of hand-ymen laid on the ice formed the goals. Sometimes we even had a real puck, but a flat stone or even a hockey puck would suffice, if necessary. Hockey sticks were sold in some of the stores, and could be purchased for 25 cents, and we were careful not to break them, as quarters were not easy to acquire.

A game of "tag" was better played on a pond—where there was more room to roam around in, and more non-playing skaters to hide behind. That game could be played with teams of skaters, where you could tag only a member of the opposing team, and it was not always easy to know who was tagging the skater, but life was easier, suddenly that question was answered because that was you.

"Crack the Whip" needed a large area and was usually done on a lake, such as Union Lake on North Avenue near Union. In this activity, we started by having the leader skating backward and grasping a second person arm to arm. Then the rest of the players lined up in a long chain while the leader would make a sharp turn and crack the whip. If we were skating on a river, the leader would make a sharp turn and stop, brace himself and send the rest of the skaters flying across the ice and shattering the chain. Then we would get together, link up and do it all over again, and we got tired.

William Frolich is a resident of Roselle and member of the Union County Historical Society.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Rahway Progress welcomes submissions from its readers. Either letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

This opportunity also is open to all officials and employees of the borough and the County of Union.

The Progress reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification.

Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can let everyone in town.

Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Callers can remain anonymous.

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SPINOUT

We're asking

Megan's Law gives residents security

By Philip Sean Curran
Staff Writer

"Megan's Law," the controversial measure that informs residents when a convicted child-sex offender moves into their neighborhood, survived its first legal challenge last week when the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear arguments from its opponents.

The court's decision came last Monday.

During the last few years, other states copied New Jersey's law, adopting versions of their own in an attempt to prevent future tragedies from happening.

Named after a 7-year-old Hamilton girl who was murdered by a convicted offender who lived in her neighborhood, the New Jersey law came under intense scrutiny of late when a local newspaper printed a flyer that listed the name and address of a sex offender who moved into Rahway.

That flyer, distributed to residents by local police and law enforcement authorities, found its way on the front page of the *Honolulu Tribune*, and confirmed suspicions that the law's opponents held — that it might unduly impinge on the privacy of those offenders who

are not violent.

"We feel safer to know. You can be more careful and be more cautious," said Corrie Greshko of Clark.

"It's just nice to know that if someone did move, you could at least be warned," said Louis Dias, who operates a garage in Rahway.

Dias, who supports the law, added that being aware of the information makes him feel comfortable about letting his children play in the area.

One woman from Rahway, Mar-

Mois, said she has eight grandchildren and also endorses the law. "And I think about them and what it means," she said.

"Why should those innocent children be victims?" she said.

However, the law did not generate universal support with some worried about violating someone's right to privacy.

Susan Moskowitz of Clark likes the law from the perspective of being a mother, but feared it would engender vigilantism.

She said, "I just get very concerned about that type of law. What else are we going to keep out of the neighborhood? I'm afraid of people taking the law into their own hands."

Moskowitz's view was in the minority, though. Other residents said sex offenders lose their right to

privacy when they sexually abuse a child.

"If you do something to a child, you should pay for it," said Delores Hayward of Clark.

She and a friend, Rosalind Hayward, work at Rahway nursery school. Both women, who have children of their own, support the law.

"I think it's great," Hayward said.

Without the law, parents would be oblivious to who moved into their neighborhood, putting children and families at risk, Hayward said. "How do parents know the faces of the offenders?" she said.

By disseminating the flyers, police give parents information they need, Hayward said.

During the afternoon, Hayward and Hayward walk with the preschool children through Rahway.

Allan Kapphowski from Clark said, "It's necessary if it prevents a tragedy."

"Parents and everybody should know about their neighbors and the town," said Sarah Choy of Rahway.

A Rahway resident, Joan Andre, said she supports "Megan's Law" because, like her, I have kids, and want to keep them safe."

Clark police are looking for a 5-foot-tall white male wearing thick glasses after he robbed a local liquor store on the afternoon of Feb. 24.

The man, who is described as between the ages of 25 and 30, current residence is the Bradley and 254 p.m. and pointed a rifle at the two employees, police said.

Two other employees handed over close to \$1,800 in cash, said police authorities, and then fled the store, which is located in the Bradley and Marshall shopping center off Central Avenue.

Police said the man had a scratch face and was last seen wearing blue jeans and a blue hat.

Anyone with information about the robbery should contact Det. Allan Schreier at the Clark Police Department.

On Feb. 24 at 12:29 p.m., Clark police arrested an Orange resident for shoplifting at Shopko in Central Avenue. He was processed and released on his own recognizance pending his trial date.

On Feb. 26 at 9:52 a.m., a report was taken of a theft of items from an automobile at a Gloria Street residence.

On Feb. 24 at 8:56 p.m., a report was taken of criminal mischief in which a sign at the Bartel Park was defaced.

On Feb. 24 at 11:35 a.m., Clark police responded to the scene of a motor vehicle accident at Raritan Road and Clinton Drive. There were no injuries.

On Feb. 24 at 11:35 a.m., Clark police responded to a fire alarm at Shopko at 75 Central Ave. There was a system malfunction.

Also on Feb. 24 at 2:56 p.m., they responded to a car fire in the parking lot of U.S. Green. The engine compartment was engulfed in flames when firefighters arrived.

On Feb. 22 at 12:28 p.m., fire officials responded to a fire alarm at the Holiday Inn Select. A pull box was maliciously set off, they said.

On Feb. 26 at 3:03 p.m., firefighters responded to a hazardous waste report. Apparently, an oil drum appeared on the Rahway River by Central Avenue. The oil had no label, color, source, and county authorities are investigating the matter.

Also on that day at 3:40 a.m., fire officials responded to a mattress fire outside of an apartment on West Grand Avenue. The resident whose mattress was on fire had already

been arrested for a robbery on Feb. 24.

On Feb. 25, police investigated a burglary at a West Cherry Street apartment at 12:34 p.m. Nothing was taken, but there was criminal damage done to a window.

Also on Feb. 25, police investigated a burglary to a Campbell Street home at 12:07 p.m. Police said the front door was kicked in and the burglar was taken from a purse inside. It is unknown if anything else is missing at this time.

Also on Feb. 25, police investigated a robbery on West Scott Avenue at 11:17 a.m. The suspect, a black man with a grey ski mask, robbed the 161 Food Market with a black flat pistol, getting away with \$971. He then fled on foot north on Oliver Street.

The suspect is described as 6 feet tall and weighing 160 pounds, with a thin build and dark complexion. In addition to the ski mask, he had a black jacket and black or blue pants.

On Feb. 24, police investigated a theft from a Honda Civic on Routes 160 and 162 at 8:57 p.m. The car, belonging to a Port Antonio resident, was left in the Granite Plaza parking lot for two hours with locked doors.

Someone broke the driver's side rear door window and stole a Pioneer Stereo, worth about \$250, a Kodak box stereo system worth about \$120, a Jansen amplifier worth about \$100, and a black tape case with 20 tapes worth \$200. The value of the broken window was put at \$200.

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Also on that day at 3:40 a.m., fire officials responded to a mattress fire outside of an apartment on West Grand Avenue. The resident whose mattress was on fire had already

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been arrested for a robbery on Feb. 24.

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RELIGION

World Day of Prayer

The Rahway area Church Women United will observe the international and ecumenical event of the 11th World Day of Prayer on Friday at Zion Lutheran Church, corner of Elm and Eastbrook avenues, Rahway, at 11 p.m. Parking is available.

The 1998 service, part of a global celebration observed by Christian communities throughout the world, has been prepared by the Women of Madagascar World Day of Prayer Committee and is titled, "Who is my neighbor?"

Local women from Second Baptist Church, Ebenezer AME Church, Friendship Baptist Church, Trinity United Methodist Church, and Zion Lutheran Church formed the coordinating committee for this year's event. Rahway area Church Women United president is Audrey O'Brien of Ebenezer AME Church.

The 11th annual World Day of Prayer will unite Protestant, Roman Catholic, Orthodox and other Christian women and men in 170 countries and regions in the world in "informed prayerful action."

From priest to Jew

John Scalimonti, the only known U.S. priest to have jumped from being a priest to an observant Jew, will discuss his spiritual odyssey when he keynotes the March general meeting of the Temple Beth O'Beith Torah, 111 Valley Road, Clark, on Saturday.

The program is set for March 16 at the temple, 111 Valley Road, Clark, beginning at 8 p.m. The program is open to the public at no cost. Author of "Outlanded to a Jew," which recounts his spiritual journey, Scalimonti will sign copies of the book at the program. The book will also be available for purchase.

At age 27, Scalimonti fulfilled his childhood dream by being ordained into the Catholic priesthood. Five years later, he lost his faith in the Church and his Christian beliefs and turned to Judaism. Scalimonti began learning about the Jewish heritage, traditions and customs after falling in love with a Jewish woman, Diane, to whom he is now married. He completed his Orthodox conversion in 1972. The now 34-year-old convert and his wife have four children, all being raised as Orthodox Jews.

For more information about the March 16 program, call the temple at (732) 381-8403.

Bertha Stachowicz

Bertha Stachowicz of Rahway died Feb. 23 in Rahway Hospital. Born in Elizabeth, Mrs. Stachowicz lived in Rahway for 28 years. Surviving are two brothers, Wojciech and Jozef Zelenko, and a sister, Teresa Zelenko.

W.M. McCarthy Sr.

William M. McCarthy Sr., 69, of Rahway died Feb. 24 in Elizabeth General Medical Center, Elizabeth. Born in Elizabeth, Mr. McCarthy lived in Rahway for 33 years. He was a certified public accountant and a partner in Davies & Davies, New York City, where he worked for 40 years before retiring in 1991. Mr.

Eleanor Mushett

Eleanor Mushett, 88, of Clark died Feb. 23 at home. Born in Rahway, Mrs. Mushett lived in Clark since 1940. She was an executive secretary with Menck & Co., Rahway, for 15 years until leaving in 1946. Mrs. Mushett was a graduate of the Newark Institute of Art.

Knights celebrate Mass

The Knights of Columbus Bishop Justin J. McCarthy Council 5503 of 27 Westfield Ave., Clark, will hold a Mass, Communion and dinner on Saturday.

Temple celebrates 40

Temple Beth O'Beith Torah, the dynamic regional Conservative synagogue in Clark, will celebrate its 40th anniversary, as well as the 50th anniversary of the synagogue's founding, on March 10 and 11.

For more information about the weekend of April 3 and 4, call the synagogue at (732) 381-8403.

Obituaries

Surviving are his wife, Ann; three sons, David P., Thomas C. and Kevin M.; two daughters, Margaret Walcott and Maureen J.; a brother, Robert; and three grandchildren.

William E. Quinn

William E. Quinn, 65, of Clark died Feb. 26 at home.

Christine Davis

Christine Davis, 97, of Rahway died Feb. 27 in the Rahway Geriatric Center.

Surviving are his wife, Ann; three sons, David P., Thomas C. and Kevin M.; two daughters, Margaret Walcott and Maureen J.; a brother, Robert; and three grandchildren.

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NEWS CLIPS

St. Jude benefit

The third annual county-wide dance to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital will be held at the Gnu Comedians, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark, on May 2 from 7 to 11 p.m.

A \$25 donation includes all-night buffet, live entertainment, disc jockey and dance lessons. A cash bar is also part of the evening. Live music will be performed by Sugar Feet.

Tickets must be purchased in advance. For ticket information, call the Sugar Feet hot line at (732) 833-8828 or Paul and Diane Kline at (732) 727-3761, or Ray and Lillian Fleming at (732) 382-7167.

Plans are under way

Plans for Project Greenhouse 1998 are in full swing and it was announced that Footprint of Clark again will donate 1 percent of all receipts dated from Nov. 1, 1997 through June 30, 1998. Receipts are being collected at the Clark Public Library, AL Johnson High School's main office as well as Valley Road, Kumpf and Henley schools.

Seminars set

The Rahway Public Department is sponsoring a series of two-hour seminars relating to the upcoming Law Enforcement Candidate Record examination, examination for police officers.

The seminars will specifically deal with familiarizing the individual with the LECR examination, a basic "how to" format. Included in the familiarization will be general information about the test, sources of additional information to study from, and a list of schools that are dedicated to police testing in all its facets.

The dates for the seminars are: Feb. 27, March 4, March 14, March 24 and March 30.

Each seminar will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will be held in the Emergency Management room in the basement of Rahway City Hall. Attendees should bring a notepad and pencil or pen to take notes.

There is no fee for these seminars and they are open to all Rahway residents.

Call the Community Assistance Team at (732) 827-2179 for more information.

Center marks birthdays

Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy has announced the formation of the Rahway Senior Citizens Birthday Breakfast Club.

The new program is open to all

Awards sponsored

The Borkley Hospital/Clark/Westfield Business and Professional Women is participating in the Career Development Awards sponsored by the New Jersey Federation of Business and Professional Women.

Awards are presented for the purpose of either study, training or research that will qualify the applicant for career development or employment or the purchase of equipment for starting and/or expanding an existing business.

An applicant must be 25 years of age or older as of May 1. Awards are based on financial need. For more information or an application form, contact Elizabeth at (908) 245-1682 no later than Feb. 28.

Recycling program

The Department of Public Works/Office of Recycling announced the initiation of a pilot program for dismantling of consumer electronics. For more information, call Michael Samal, recycling coordinator, at 827-2159.

Banner program

The Rahway City Partnership, in cooperation with the City of Rahway, is initiating a new seasonal banner program as part of a total promotion and marketing campaign to be undertaken by the Partnership. Under this

Audubon programs

The Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Eastbrook Ave., Rahway, will present a series of special programs with guest speakers from the New Jersey Audubon Society and the Tri-State Museum in Washington as part of the Senior Center "Home and Garden Club."

All presentations will be held in the Rahway Senior Center Hall and anyone who is interested is invited to attend.

The schedule is as follows: March 26 — 1 p.m. — "Gardening in the Shade," presented by Tri-State Museum.

April 16 — 1 p.m. — "Butterfly Gardening," presented by Tri-State Museum.

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"We intercepted 25 million dollars in drug proceeds and over 17,000 pounds of illegal narcotics," said Esposito.

"We're doing this to preserve the working environment of our employees and our customers and to an extent, making it possible to protect the postal service from being an unwitting accomplice in drug trafficking," he said.

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"We expect the purity to again be very high, typical of the very dangerous and highly addictive product we're coming across," said Manahan, adding that Assistant Prosecutor Scott Kraus sought a high bail because of the defendant's questionable ties to the area and likelihood of flight.

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Special delivery contained heroin

By Michelle Runge
Staff Writer

Guards at the Union County Jail in Elizabeth were closely checking the mail of a 28-year-old Colombian man who was arrested at the Roselle Post Office Feb. 26 when he picked up a package containing more than \$100,000 worth of high purity heroin.

Union County Prosecutor Thomas V. Manahan said the suspect, who had two sets of identification with him when he was arrested, was charged with first degree possession of a controlled dangerous substance with intent to distribute.

"This man, who we believe only came to this country several months ago with questionable citizenship status, was stopped from getting almost a half pound of high grade heroin that was apparently going to be cut and sold in this area," Manahan said.

Gustavo Leal, who said he lives in Queens but had no address or telephone number, was nabbed by Roselle Detective Kenneth Hagemann and Crawford Detective Anthony Dobbins just as closing time at the post office on Chemung Street. Leal had picked up a package, which contained a book that had been mailed from Ecuador. The heroin was concealed inside the book, Manahan said.

The prosecutor said that the strike force, in which over 30 officers from around the county work exclusively on narcotic cases, has noticed an influx of high-grade heroin from South America.

Hagemann and Dobbins, who are both assigned to the county's Narcotics Strike Force, had stated out the post office based on information that developed in a weekend investigation jointly conducted by the strike force, the U.S. Customs Office in Newark and U.S. Postal Inspectors.

Celebrating reading in Clark

Members from the Clark community gathered at the Clark Library on Feb. 22 to celebrate March 2 as "Read Across America Day," a national celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday to foster increased reading. From left to right are: Sheila Whiting, president of the Hentley School Parent Teacher Association; Diane Rizzo, school librarian at Hentley; Linda Levine, principal of Hentley; Douglas Feltner, director of education; Susan Miksza, assistant superintendent of schools; James Carvillano, principal of Valley Road School; Kathleen Scarola, librarian at Valley Road; and Meg Kolyva, director of the Clark Public Library.

The county government could be getting a \$1 million grant in the near future.

In the grand scheme of things, \$1 million isn't much, especially at the county level, but Freeholder Donald Goncalves hopes that the money will be used to develop a "transportation master plan" for Union County.

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Funds earmarked for transportation

By Sean Daly
Staff Writer

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There is already a transportation master plan in the county, said Goncalves. But this existing plan is out-of-date in several areas.

The Board of Chosen Freeholders unanimously approved an application for this money to the New Jersey Transportation Planning Authority at their meeting last Thursday.

Also approved was a \$36,750, one-year contract to Martin Robins of Transportation Consulting Services in Westfield for "advice and guidance" on this plan.

This approval allows the county government to go ahead with the application process for the money without further intervention from the freeholders, according to Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. He predicted that the application would take several weeks of preparation before it is ready to send in.

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Rahway historian witness to change

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

When the Union County Freeholders were looking for someone to do a presentation on black history, they chose someone who has seen much of it unfold with her own eyes.

Lillian Hamblin of Rahway, 79, has been lecturing on black history for half a century. Her company, State Exhibits/Interpret, installed a display last month in the Superior Court retards in Elizabeth.

The display includes a number of "significant documents," according to Hamblin, including copies of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Much of the display is dedicated to slavery, including a copy of the Dred Scott decision of 1857, a Supreme Court ruling which denied South's claim to freedom, despite having lived in free territory.

There is also a 19th century political cartoon showing Henry Clay and John Calhoun tramping on the head of a black man, supposedly a slave. Both artists "perpetrate the myth of African inferiority to justify slave labor," Hamblin said.

The exhibit showcases some little-known facts as well. Look closely at the painting "Washington Crossing the Delaware." Two of the rowers, the points out, are black.

"My exhibit tells a story, and they are trying to exclude pride in black history in non-blacks," said Hamblin. Here is not the usual Black History Month display. There is no list of black accomplishments, black inventors or black contributions to music.

"Everyone knows that without the black beat to the European experience, we'd all be dancing the Blue Danube Waltz," she said.

Her exhibit didn't feature black athletes, either, "because all you have to do is turn on the television and know that blacks dominate sports."

Hamblin grew up in Metuchen. She was a young adult when blacks were finally getting a public voice despite opposition from whites, particularly in the South. Hamblin said she wanted to show her support of

Vets plan dinner dance

Union County Chapter No. 688 of the Vietnam Veterans of America will hold its annual Spring Dinner Dance March 28 from 7 p.m. to midnight at VFW Post No. 7363 in Clark. Tickets are \$20 per person, which includes a buffet dinner, beverages, DJ music and door prizes. Proceeds will benefit the chapter's hospital fund and scholarship program. For tickets, contact Jim at (908) 245-5074, Bill at (973) 467-9185 or Allen at (908) 322-7397.

The Vietnam Veterans of America is a service organization of former members of the Armed Forces of the United States who served during the Vietnam War Era — January 1959 through May 1975. VVA Union County Chapter No. 688 meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at American Legion Post No. 3 on North Avenue in Westfield. All Vietnam-era veterans are invited to attend. For membership information, contact Membership Chairman Bob Clark at (732) 499-7796.

PBA to honor Kolba

Michael Kolba, Treasurer and First Vice President of the Two Hundred Club of Union County, has been selected to receive the prestigious PBA Silver Life Award at the Union County Police Benevolent Association's annual dinner March 21.

Kolba is being honored for his work as scholarship chairman for the Two Hundred Club of Union County, awarding scholarships to children of Union County police and firefighters. Kolba, President of AGS Systems

County News

In Mountaintop, lives in Chatham with his wife, Sonja.

The PBA dinner will be held at The Westwood in Garwood. Tickets are available by contacting Two Hundred Club headquarters in Scotch Plains, (908) 322-3422.

There will be a Megillah reading at 7 and 9 p.m. The Megillah relates the Purim story in which Queen Esther delivered the Jewish people from the threat of annihilation 23 centuries ago.

For more information and to receive a free Purim guide, call the center at (908) 789-5252. Popper directs Access 2000.

An education advocate and community leader from Westfield will direct Union County's initiative of ensuring that every public school classroom in the county is equipped with a computer and state-of-the-art software by the end of the year 2000.

Susan Popper, a former president of the Westfield Board of Education, has been named director of Access 2000.

The three-year, \$3 million partnership between the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the county's public school districts provides matching resources to purchase computers and Internet access and to train teachers. It is modeled after a program in Camden County.

Perpet will work to implement Access 2000 with a committee of superintendents from Union County's school districts, as well as Union

Children with special needs

deserve foster parents right now who can give them the care they require!

Foster parents are needed who can provide the individual attention required by children with special emotional and physical health needs. These children may suffer from disruptive, emotional problems or have medical conditions that require special skills or equipment, such as a sleep monitor, feeding tube or respiratory need. Foster parents work as a team with a child welfare and medical professionals, therapists and counselors.

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TV Personality and best selling author, David D'Arco, will provide you with an action packed, gold mine of vital information that will demonstrate how anybody from any background can build the business of their dreams over the next five years.

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Location: Woodbridge Hilton (Exit 131A off the Garden State Pkwy)
Investment: ONLY \$5.00 in advance, \$10.00 at door

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Call - 973-763-3557

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO PRE-REGISTER, PLEASE CALL

UNION COUNTY UTILITIES AUTHORITY
(732) 382-9400 Ext. 18

Arts & Entertainment



Ralph Waite portrays Willy Loman and Lisa Richards is Linda Loman in Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, 'Death of a Salesman' at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn. The drama will run through April 5.

Waite 'runs the gamut' in 'Death of a Salesman'

The powerful impact of Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award-winning drama, "Death of a Salesman," is presented Sunday after-noon at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, but his audience whirling with emotion, and by play's end, stand and cheer when he has in the production, one need only to think about what took place up on that stage before shadowing in retrospect.

"Myth of the credit of this superb presentation by playwright genius Miller must, of course, be given to the author of "Death of a Salesman," but equal credit must be given to Ralph Waite, one of the finest actors ever to grace the Paper Mill stage. His portrayal of Willy Loman, an aging traveling salesman, who, after many years of traveling, is now too tired to take to the road, or even to lift his suitcase filled with merchandise. Still, he attempts to retain the American dream through his faithful wife and two useless sons. He is absolutely magnificent, and he was applauded with such enthusiasm after the performance that the audience was reluctant to let him walk off the stage.

Of course, he has strong support from a marvelous cast including Lisa Richards as Bill, his Kleptomaniac son and a hapless dreamer; Sean Runnels as Happy, his second lady, succoring son John Payne as Bernard, a friend whose love and assistance to the Loman family are ignored; Joseph Hines as Bernard's father, Charley, a note but caring neighbor and friend.

Theater View

By Ben Smith
Staff Writer

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Volunteers needed at Teen Arts Festival

Like working with artists, teachers and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival offers an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.

The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at Union County College in Cranford. The event, scheduled for March 18 and 19, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in the county.

At the Festival, 3000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline — visual art, music, creative writing, theater and dance," stated Chairman Linda Sander of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

"Volunteers are needed to assist artists with workshops, manage performance sites and staff information stations," she noted. "We appreciate the invaluable assistance of our county residents with this exciting program."

If you are interested in any of these activities, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs at 24-52 Railway Ave., Elizabeth, New Jersey 07202, (908) 558-2550. Relay Users call (800) 852-7899.

'Royal Scam' artists create an almost perfect replica

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

The appeal of any tribute band is getting thence to the live experience of your favorite music, without the inconvenience of standing on line — or on hold — to get overpriced tickets, or the headaches of traveling to large arenas.

But what if the band you're paying tribute to never had a live experience? Then you've got to work even harder, said Mike Caputo, lead singer for Royal Scam, Steely Dan tribute band, to create an authentic experience for the audience. Steely Dan, a 70s studio band with a strong background in jazz, eschewed the touring circuit in favor of devoting more effort to studio creativity, sometimes taking as long as two years to complete an album. The result is what Caputo calls "the cream of the crop" of studio music — albums that are "so good, so perfect" as a few examples of their expertise. He said it was not an easy task to achieve. Dan's level of musicianship.

"It's always been my dream to have a band that sounds like Steely Dan — not Steely Dan live, but Steely Dan on record," said Caputo.

A native of New Jersey, Caputo and fellow Newark native Gino Amato started the band three-and-a-half years ago. They were inspired by the music of Steely Dan in particular, but musicians were tired of "typical" venues, playing Top 40 music, and they wanted to create a Steely Dan tribute band. Caputo, a true tribute to a band of which Caputo speaks with reverence.

"Steely Dan was snubbed by the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame," said Caputo, stating a fact which he seems to take personally. "They were classic rock to the mid-70s and yet they weren't recognized."

Royal Scam does not share Steely Dan's fate. Caputo reports a strong following at what he calls "artistic," "classy" venues, "as opposed to a dance club, where you can't even hear."

"When we go to clubs, they come over and over and over again," he said.

"They are usually 70s survivors, like 45-year-old Caputo, less than thrilled with modern music."

If you grew up through the 70s, with people being very innovative, when you got to the 80s, I don't know what happened," he said, commenting that there are very few modern-day rock or pop groups he would go to the trouble to see live.

Royal Scam audiences also include members of the current generation, according to Caputo. "I do see a lot of young people at our shows."

He credits much of the band's rapport with the audience to a genuine, uncontrived stage presence. Having no live style to emulate, "we are just ourselves on stage. We're very spontaneous," said Caputo. "I don't get up there and gyrate like Mick Jagger because that's not what this is about. Being brought up in the city with that urban swagger helped out a lot," he added. "When I open my mouth, they know where I'm from."

And of course, there is the music.

Find out what's cooking at Miller-Cory House

If you enjoy cooking, becoming a member of the Miller-Cory Museum's cooking committee is a wonderful way to experience the joy of cooking in an early American kitchen. As a cook, you will become a member of the Cooking Committee, meet warm and friendly people, experience baking and cooking many varieties of food over the open hearth and have fun.

No experience is necessary, just the love of cooking. As a new cook, you will be fully trained. Cooking schedules are planned in accordance with your availability and depth of interest. In addition to introducing new and flavorful recipes into your own home, you will also learn about life in early New Jersey.

If you are interested in joining the Cooking Committee, call the Museum office at (908) 232-1776.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Associate Editor Jacquie McCarthy, Worrall Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

ART SHOWS

INTERACTIVE THREADS by Ellen O'Brien will be on display at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts through tomorrow.

The exhibit will hang in the Members' Gallery. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

THE GLOVE PROJECT, an art and sculpture exhibit, will be on display at the Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Music Library through March 12.

The exhibit will hang in the Members' Gallery. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

VESSLS, a pottery exhibit by Phil Holmes, will be on display at Kent Plaza Gallery through March 13. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The gallery is located on the campus of Kent Place School, 42 Newwood Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9000, ext. 249.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will present an interactive art show from Sunday through March 29.

The show will hang in the Fred L. Palmer Gallery. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY will display a collection of famous sailing vessels from past centuries by the modeler Manuel Schorff throughout March.

The library is located at 11 South Broad St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 254-0866.

PETER REGINATO SCULPTURE will be on display in the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts outdoor art park through April 1.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL will exhibit the work of its plantar Monica Sato, nature photographer Robert Terfetz, and watercolorists Susan Berry and Doreen L. throughout March. A reception will be held on Sunday at 2 p.m.

The exhibit is open from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily. The hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road in Mountaineer.

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS will feature sculpture by Peter Reginato in the outdoor art park through April 1.

NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

DOMUSOLO ART GALLERY will display works by figurative painter Mary Beth McDevitt through April 9. A reception will be held tomorrow from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Gallery hours are 1 to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and Saturday, and also from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday. The gallery is located at Union County College. For information, call (908) 726-7155.

CELEBRATION OF MEMORIES, an exhibition of paintings, will begin Saturday at Lane Mahan Art Gallery at Union Public Library. The show will continue through March 29.

Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Tuesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is located in Frisberg Park off Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 686-0857.

SWAIN GALLERIES will display "Wendy" by Neil Lewis from Saturday through March 31. A reception will take place on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery hours are weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Saturdays to 4 p.m. Swain is located at 703 Washington Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

CELEBRATING CREATIVITY, a church member's art exhibition, will be on display Sunday and Wednesday at First Congregational Church of Westfield.

The church is located at 125 Elmer St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-2494.

STUDENT EXHIBIT by Kathy Kornish will be on display Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Westfield Community Room. A reception will be held at that time.

The room is located at 425 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 769-4080.

AUDITIONS

CIRCLE PLAYERS will hold auditions for "Suddenly Last Summer" on Monday and Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Needed are five women, ages 25 to 60-plus, and two men, ages 25-40.

Auditions will consist of readings from the script. Crew positions are also open. The playhouse is located at 416 Vista Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (732) 968-7555.

Stepping Out

GEMINI GROUP is seeking camera-men and technicians for filming original works for broadcast on local cable stations.

For information, call Scott Coffey at (908) 654-1054 or write to: Gemini Group, 569 Trinity Place, Westfield, 07090.

RAHWAY VALLEY JERSEYVES barbershop quartet rehearses in the First Baptist Church Hall, 170 Elm St., Westfield, every Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. Men of all ages are invited to stop by. For information, call (908) 233-7189 or (908) 362-8570.

SANGECHOIR men's chorus rehearses Friday evenings at 8:30 p.m. at the Deutscher Club in Clark. New members are welcome. For information, call Manfred Schmidt at (908) 382-4000.

UNION HARMONICA BAND holds senior citizens at the Senior Center Building, Caldwell and Morris avenues, Union, every Friday from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB invites male singers to come and sing at rehearsals on Mondays at 8 p.m. at the Westfield Glee Club, 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield. The tavern is located at 114 Chestnut.

Interested male singers are invited to call Dale Juntilla at (908) 232-0673.

CLUBS

CLUB BEER Dinner Theater show cases popular entertainers on weekends. Dinner-and-show, as well as show-only, are available. Club Beer is located on Route 35 in South Amboy. For information, call (908) 322-8000.

COVE LOUNGE presents live music by alternative bands every Wednesday. The tavern is located at 114 Chestnut.

Interested male singers are invited to call Dale Juntilla at (908) 232-0673.

CAFES

VAN GOGH'S EARLY CAFE presents an intimate atmosphere. Jazz entertainment is presented on Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday from 7:30 to 10 p.m., with sign-up at 7 p.m.

Van Gogh's Cafe is located at 1017 Shuysant Ave. in Union. For further information, call (908) 810-1844.

AMORE DI CAFE is located at 465 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call (908) 568-4366.

BARNES & NOBLE CAFE in Springfield emulates a coffeehouse atmosphere with a literary spin, appealing to young and old alike.

The cafe hosts a wide variety of family-oriented entertainment, ranging from folk singers to jazz ensembles. In addition to other programs, the cafe hosts Open Mic Night every Wednesday on the third Sunday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Barnes & Noble is located at 340 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (201) 376-8544.

MINSTREL COFFEEHOUSE is a coffeehouse/concert series run by the Folk Project, a non-profit folk music and arts organization. The project is located at the Somerset County Environmental Center, 190 Lord String Road, Basking Ridge. Show times are every Friday year-round, presenting folk music in its broadest sense. Coffee, tea and baked goods are served. No alcohol or tobacco are allowed. Admission is \$5. For information, call (908) 766-2488.

MUSIC-BOX CAFE at the Donald B. Palmer Museum is located in the Springfield Free Public Library. Musical and other entertainment is presented on scheduled days.

Those interested in performing at the Music Box Cafe should submit a resume or letter of introduction to Susan Perna, Springfield Free Public Library, 156 Mountain Ave., Springfield, 07081.

CLASSES

SCREENWRITING CLASS will be sponsored by Playwrights Theatre beginning April 2. Beginning/Intermediate Playwriting will be held Tuesday evenings and Advanced Playwriting on Wednesday evenings beginning March 24 and 25.

Also, summer creative dramatics will be held in three two-week sessions beginning July 6, July 20 and Aug. 3, for grades 4-9.

Playwrights Theatre is located at 33 Green Village Road in Madison. For information, call (973) 514-7877, ext. 32.

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION is offering visual arts classes on Wednesdays in the week segments. The schedule is as follows:

March 25, April 1, 8, 15, 22, April 29, May 6, 13, 20, 27.

Classes will be held at Sunnyside Recreation Center, on Morris Terrace at Orchard Terrace, Union. For information, call (908) 496-1406.

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STUDENT EXHIBIT by Kathy Kornish will be on display Wednesday from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at Westfield Community Room. A reception will be held at that time.

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KIDS & PARENTING

Backpacking is big this year

There could be big news for students and their parents. The latest look in backpacks is really big.

"Bigger is better with students this year," said Rhonda Lewis, public relations manager for Jockey, the largest maker of backpacks, "as long as there are compartments and organizers to hold things like computers, disks, sports equipment, games and water bottles."

Two of the company's popular packs include the Big Student Pack, about 25 percent larger than traditional backpacks, and the Lap Top Transit, featuring a padded computer compartment and double padding on the bottom for added protection. For extra strength, these packs are constructed of Duffon Cordura Plus nylon.

At 3.280 cubic inches, the Ultimate backpack from Eaglepak offers oversized capacity, leather grip handles and bottom and extra compartments. Eaglepak's marketing manager, Tim McGuire, says of the Millennium Block backpack, "The reflective stripe is the latest fashion feature for college students. Because they're on campus all the time of the night, the stripe provides a small sense of security that comes from being seen at night by cyclists and other students."

New to the pack market is Timberlane with

the Apex. This large-capacity pack has side water pockets, outside bag straps, inside slash and personal pockets and an outside organizer panel. The Apex comes in earth tones with brass fittings.

Popular packs from Outdoor Products, another leading backpack manufacturer, include the H2O Brewery Pack and the Byepak. The first features a 21-ounce water bottle with an insulated holder and plenty of pockets. The Byepak, as the name implies, is designed to carry a laptop but it looks like a backpack rather than a computer case. This pack has an outside pocket that zips open to reveal an organizer panel with a separate compartment for disks, mouse, pens and pencils. It also has front and side mesh pockets.

Because all these backpacks are bigger than those of the past, they tend to get crammed with even more things and need to be sturdier themselves. That's one reason these manufacturers use bound seams. The YKK self-repairing zippers and durable but lightweight materials such as Cordura Plus.

Says the marketing director of Outdoor Products, Bryan Stewart, "Students want to carry a lot. We're trying to help them carry more without having to worry about the pack falling apart. These packs should last for years."

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Early reading can help kids reach a higher IQ

Can you increase your youngster's IQ? Some research says you can by helping him or her become an early reader. Most educators agree, the sooner a youngster learns to read, the better off he or she is likely to be and the better the child will do in school.

In fact, says educational psychologist Dr. Greg Cynamon, "It was once

assumed that children with higher IQs naturally learned to read sooner.

However, evidence now suggests that encouraging children to develop early learning skills — including reading — can, in fact, help lead to higher IQs."

Here are some hints from experts to help your children read sooner and better.

- Show children you love to read. Read the newspaper, books, magazines, where they can see you. Talk about what you read with them.
- Read to them. This will not only encourage children to read, it can be an enjoyable family activity and very well read.

- Look for toys and games that help teach reading.

One that's popular with parents and children works, parents say, because it's fun. Children play card games, watch videos and enjoy themselves while listening to the sounds letters make and how to use them to read.

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