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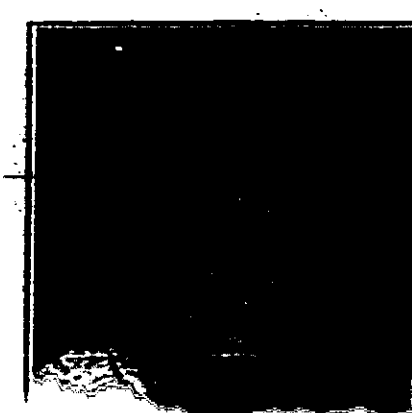
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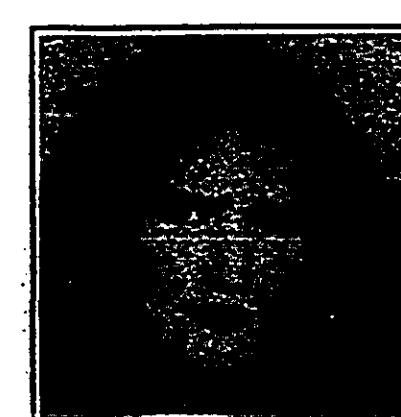
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RAHWAY PROGRESS

Your Best Source For Community Information

RAHWAY, N.J., VOL. 10, NO. 25 THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2000 TWO SECTIONS

City tavern loses liquor license after drug arrests

By Robert Coakley
Staff Writer

City officials have revoked the liquor license of The Rahway Inn as a result of charges that it was the center of a drug operation. The owners of the tavern are seeking to fight the ruling, according to their attorney, maintaining that they are the victims of a police investigation they requested in the first place.

David J. Jolani, the license holder of the Rahway Inn, was served with an order March 9 from the Rahway Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission that stated the license for his establishment was not renewed. The order was served by Detective Sgt. Christopher O'Neill without incident and the bar was closed.

The order was a result of charges filed by the Rahway ABC against the Rahway Inn for violations of ABC laws.

The inn on St. Georges Avenue had been the focus of a four-month joint undercover operation between the Rahway Police Special Investigations Unit and the Union County Prosecutor's Office Narcotics Strike Force.

The operation resulted in the arrest of five people in January 1999 for the distribution of controlled dangerous substances inside the bar, said Police Capt. Kevin White. A bartender was among those charged.

Charles Sapiezka, the deputy director of the state ABC regulation bureau, said Jolani filed an appeal for the township's denial of the renewal of the license.

"The license holder also asked for interim relief, that he be allowed to stay open while his appeal is pending," Sapiezka said. "That appeal was referred by the director of the Division of ABC to the Office of Administrative Law as a contested case."

I expect that the license holder's attorney will make an application to the Office of Administrative Law for the interim relief of being allowed to stay open while his appeal is pending, and that there will be some hearing on that at the Office of Administrative Law, said Sapiezka.

The Office of Administrative Law is located in Newark, and when the appeal hearing will be scheduled by the office, the time will depend on when the license holder's attorney makes a formal application, Sapiezka said.

City officials are standing by the decision to revoke the license.

The actions taken by the Alcoholic Beverage Commission were clearly supported by the evidence which was presented over two nights of hearings. City Attorney R. A. Gaudin said. "We fully believe the actions will be upheld."

Jolani of Jolani and Son Inc. was unavailable for comment. His attorney, Joseph J. Jolani, said his main concern is to get a date to appear before the Office of Administrative Law to request that the Rahway Inn reopen pending the outcome of the appeal.

Depa believes the action taken by the local ABC was arbitrary, capricious and against the weight of the evidence that was presented to them. The evidence was testimony by officers concerning alleged drug activity in the bar.

"My clients' position is this: We are not alleging that there wasn't some illegal activity going on; we are alleging that officers did not know about it," Depa said.

"We suspect, although none of the officers have been willing to admit it yet, that the drug investigation originated by complaints from my client. They said to various members of the Rahway Police Department that they needed help. The kind of customers they were getting were changing, and it is a changing area and certainly not getting any better," he added.

Thomas Gramby, 29, of Pine Street in the Colonia section of Woodbridge, was charged in January 1999 with overseeing a drug ring at the Rahway Inn. According to Regina Canfield of the Union County Prosecutor's Office, Gramby also has been indicted on a charge of murder for the death of Constantine Cosgrove, 37, of Rahway.

According to the Prosecutor's Office there also have been indictments against Gramby for possession of a controlled substance, tampering with evidence, hindering apprehension and prosecution, and distribution of controlled dangerous substances. These drug-related crimes allegedly took place at the Rahway Inn.

Gramby was supposed to be the "ringleader" of this drug ring, Depa said. Jolani complained to the Rahway Police about him and that he started to hang out there. Gramby was not an upstanding citizen, so the Jolani wanted the police's help to come in and help clean up the bar, Depa said. It seems that right around that time the

Photo By Jeff Gould

City library director takes Roselle post

By Robert Coakley
Staff Writer

The director of the Rahway Public Library, who announced in September he was resigning his position after disputes with city officials about restoring the damaged facility, has accepted an offer to be the director of the Roselle Free Public Library.

Kath McCoey spent six years as director of the library, but announced in November he would resign. McCoey disagreed with Mayor James Kennedy and the City Council over the amount of money the library would receive to restore services and reopen the facility, which was heavily damaged during Tropical Storm Floyd in September.

Library services were split up after the storm heavily flooded the building. The administration office was moved to Rahway City Hall; the Children's Library was moved to the Rahway Recreation Center and periodicals were made available at the Rahway Senior Citizen Building. While city officials are planning a new library, most of the library staff was laid off while the main facility is closed.

The adult section of the library has remained closed and the books put in storage. A deal between the city and SDI Technologies is in the works, which would provide a new building behind City Hall that would house both the library and office space.

McCoey will start his new duties in Roselle on April 10.

"Basically, they hired me because I've got lots of experience with public libraries, and believe I've gone into libraries where the director has retired after a long tenure and become director," McCoey said.

In Roselle's case, the library director, Shirley Schell, died last summer. The current acting director in Roselle is Terrence Blackburn.

The interim director in Rahway will be Ed Beckerman, the retired director of the Woodbridge Public Library, where he worked for 30 years. He also has been working with Rahway as the building consultant for the new library, according to McCoey.

"The Rahway library hired him last summer before the flood, when they were looking at an addition to the building," McCoey said.

Beckerman has been working for the library, writing and doing the needs assessments for their building facilities.

"I have been working on a building program for the library," he said. "I guess the library people knew I had been their interim director a couple of times before, so they asked me if I would be interested."

Beckerman will be serving as a building consultant for the project and has already written a program. He will be working with the architect. Kennedy has appointed a group to work with the architect to get some feedback as the plan develops, so Beckerman will be working with that group.

"A corporation will be occupying part of the building, as will the library," said Beckerman. "I think that we will probably be looking for a permanent location."

See LIBRARY, Page 9

Making college preparations



More than 70 juniors at Rahway High School were recognized March 16 as Rahway High School/Kean University Scholars as part of the Kean University Admissions Program. Petra Knox of the Kean Admissions Office answers students' questions during the event. The program is designed to prepare youths for college. Another photo on Page 4.

Detective receives county police award

White's diligence in the 41-year-old Bernoskie murder case is cited

By Robert Coakley
Staff Writer

Rahway Detective William White III was given the Municipal Police Officer of the Year award for 1999 last week at a special ceremony at the John H. Stamler Police Academy in Scotch Plains.

Elizabeth detectives James Ponto and Julian Hileagos also were presented with the award.

"These are fine officers, detectives with insight, drive and determination that makes them more than worthy to be given this honor," said Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan.

Family members, co-workers and the members of the Union County Police Chiefs' Association were in attendance.

White, who joined the Rahway Police Department in 1980, has worked in the Patrol Division and in the Juvenile Section, but has also worked on and cleared some of the most complex and difficult major crimes in the city, said police officials. He was a lead investigator in the arrest last year of two men for the decades-old murder of a Rahway police officer.

"He exhibits the kind of dogged tenacity that let's him pursue all kinds of leads in the case, yet still maintains a sense of compassion for the crime victim," said Lt. Kevin White, his supervisor, who is no relation.

White became a police officer in 1974 with the Newark Police Department. After 280 cops were laid off in 1978, White had purchased a house in Rahway and applied for a job as a police officer in 1980.

From 1980 to 1983, White was part of the Patrol Division. In late 1984, he was appointed to the Detective Bureau.

White, who has been married to his wife Janet for 30 years, has received the department's Medal of Merit and has seven departmental commendations for his outstanding police work.

"He's got close to 20 years here, and he had four years with the Newark Police Department before he came here," Rahway Police Chief Edward Tilton said. "He was caught up many

"He exhibits the kind of dogged tenacity that lets him pursue all kinds of leads in the case, yet still maintains a sense of compassion for the crime victim."

— Lt. Kevin White

years ago in a big layoff in the Newark Police Department. Their loss was our gain. We were fortunate enough to get him."

White was awarded the Medal of Merit for his work on the Charles Bernoskie murder that occurred 41 years ago. White turned up a suspect, arresting him, and turning up a second suspect that also has been charged with the murder. The case is ongoing, and will be going to trial soon.

Former Linden resident Robert Zarinsky was indicted for the murder of Bernoskie earlier. Zarinsky's cousin, Theodore Schiffer, pleaded guilty in the case earlier this year after being arrested in Pennsylvania. White received information on the case from Judith Sapa, Zarinsky's sister.

White was the case detective on the Bernoskie case, assigned to him 1994. Various leads had come into the Police Department, and they turned out to be dead ends before Sapa came forward, White said.

Tilton said White was a hard working individual while in uniform, and did a marvelous job for the city when he subsequently moved into the Detective Bureau.

"I cherish this type of award," White said. "It has to do with investigating work, interviewing, the type of police work I always wanted to be involved in."

"I really appreciate it, and I thank everyone for giving it to me. I have another year and three months before I am eligible to retire, and to go out with this feels very good."

The award praises White for consistently good work as a police officer, both in investigating crimes and providing testimony at trial.

Manahan brought the municipal police officer award program back

last year to commend the work of law enforcement officials in this area. Manahan at last year's presentation, DeRose was one of the first recipients of the award at the time. He has since become Roselle's police chief following the retirement of Wayne Garrison.

The reputation of local police had been tarnished in 1998 due to highly-controversial cases, such as Linden police officer James Sosinski, who was convicted in late 1998 of fondling two teen-aged girls and taking nude photos of one during a community service project in July 1997. Sosinski was released from jail in June pending an appeal.

"I am reinstating this award for the first time in many years," said Manahan at last year's presentation. "It goes back to 1978 and it is a wonderful way to highlight the efforts of a few individuals who are selected from among the 1,850 law enforcement officers in the county."

Photo By Barbara Kishala

Rahway Detective William White III displays his Municipal Police Officer of the Year award, presented to him by the Union County Prosecutor's Office.

Photo By Robert Coakley

Tom Burnham plays the bagpipes Friday during St. Patrick's Day festivities in Rahway.

Welcome to the RAHWAY PROGRESS

How to reach us:
The Rahway Progress is published every Thursday by World Community Newspapers, an independent, family-owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Skyway Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. five days a week. Call us at one of the following numbers:

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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 8 section must be in our office by Monday at noon. An advertising representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising department.

To place a classified ad:
The Progress has a large, well-read classified advertising section. Advertisements must be in our office by Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept VISA and MasterCard. A classified representative will gladly assist you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular business hours or call 1-800-554-8811, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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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 1-800-554-8811, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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City revoke inn license

(Continued from Page 1)

investigation started, and Depa says it was from the complaint that his clients needed some help.

Rather than help the bar owners, the police said they were not running the bar the way they were supposed to and were not going to help them.

"I've got myself involved in a cash 22 situation," Depa said. "They go to the police to try to get help to get the people out of there, and the police say, 'We're not going to help you.'"

Then the undercover officer who worked most of the operation was interviewed. He said that the bar was a very large, multi-story building, and that the operation was very successful.

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Two charged with assault

(Continued from Page 1)

Two city men were charged with assaulting police officers Saturday during a party along the 1900 block of Main Street.

Police were dispatched at 12:18 a.m. on a report of shots being fired. Approximately eight to 10 individuals were in the area and were deemed by police.

A man identified as Steven Little, 29, of West Scott Avenue in Rahway, was charged with aggravated assault, resisting arrest and obstruction after allegedly punching Lt. Joseph Milazzo in the head while attempting to interfere with Johnson's arrest.

Both were taken to Union County Jail in lieu of \$45,000 bail each. Woodbridge and Union County police were summoned to assist due to a large crowd gathering from a house party. Approximately 30 to 40 people were dispersed.

Mikajlo and Tilton both injured their left hands. Neither required medical attention.

Three spent gun casings were found in the area.

In other police reports:

Two city teens were arrested on drug charges March 16 at 11:02 p.m. at Flanagan Field at the corner of Wall Street and East Millon Avenue. Officers Marcus Giannetta and James Crowell conducted a motor vehicle stop and observed a dark plastic bag containing a small amount of money and eight smaller zip-lock bags containing suspected marijuana.

A woman identified as Elizabeth Kennedy, 18, of Rutherford Street, and a 17-year-old male juvenile from Rahway were both charged with possession of less than 50 grams of marijuana with intent to distribute within 500 feet of a park. After processing, Kennedy was released on a summons and the juvenile was released to a parent.

A burglary was reported March 15 at 6 p.m. to a business along the 400 block of West Millon Avenue. The garage door and roof skylight were damaged. A metal bar was discovered. Nothing was reported missing.

Approximately 3470 was stolen Friday at midnight from a deli along the 2100 block of St. Georges Avenue.

A DeWalt saw kit valued at \$300 was stolen March 13 at 9 a.m. from a 1996 GMC pickup along the 1000 block of Bryant Street.

Two cartons of cigarettes valued at \$70 were stolen March 13 at 8 p.m. from a business along the 1900 block of Route 1.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Rahway Progress to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community event the public, please mail your notice to P.O. Box 3100, Union, N.J. 07083.

Friday
• A fish and chips dinner will be from 5 to 7 p.m. in the St. Mary's parish auditorium, 244 Central Ave., Rahway. The cost is \$10 per person. Reservations are available. Call 388-6100 for more information.

Monday
• A school budget information session will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the high school, 1012 Madison Ave.

Tuesday
• The Rahway Chapter 697 of the American Association of Retired Persons, is offering a session of its 55-Alive Mature Driving Course. The eight-hour course will be held at the hospital's Education Center, 865 Stone St.

The hospital is hosting the classroom to help community members 55 years old and older improve their driving skills and prevent accidents. The fee for the course is \$8. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. The registration is \$10. Call 908-686-7700 for more information.

Wednesday
• The Rahway Chapter 697 of the American Association of Retired Persons, is offering a session of its 55-Alive Mature Driving Course. The eight-hour course will be held at the hospital's Education Center, 865 Stone St.

The hospital is hosting the classroom to help community members 55 years old and older improve their driving skills and prevent accidents. The fee for the course is \$8. Light refreshments and snacks will be served. The registration is \$10. Call 908-686-7700 for more information.

Upcoming
March 31
• Applications for the Rahway Hospital Auxiliary are due by this date to the hospital, 865 Stone St. The auxiliary is offering scholarships to graduates of the Class of 2000 who are pursuing careers in health care. The scholarships will be a one-time payment toward the first year's tuition and will be paid directly to the student's school. To obtain an application, call 600-6008.

April 4
• A school budget information session will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the high school, 1012 Madison Ave.

April 5
• A school budget information session will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the high school, 1012 Madison Ave.

April 6
• A school budget information session will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the high school, 1012 Madison Ave.

April 7
• The Rahway Chapter 697 of the American Association of Retired Persons will hold a trip to Atlantic City. Departure is at 9:30 a.m. from the Senior Citizens Building, 1306 Easternbrook Ave., with return at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$16. Participants should part their cars in the lot. For more information, call 600-7700 or 388-3041.

April 7
• The Union County Minority Task Force on Aging will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Rahway Senior Citizens Center, 1306 Easternbrook Ave. Kara Kaldavi of Rahway Hospital Geriatrics Specialty will speak on "Maintaining Independence for Senior Citizens." For more information, call 381-9384.

STORK CLUB
Ryan Palmer
An 8-pound son named Ryan Montgomery and measuring 20 inches was born Feb. 10 at Rahway Hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Allan Palmer Jr. of Rahway.

He joins a brother, Zachary, and two sisters, Heather and Alissa. Michelle Palmer is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sammond Jr. of Avenel. Her husband is the son of Allan Palmer Sr. of Rahway.

The maternal great-grandmother is Irene Sammond of Rahway. The paternal great-grandmother is Dominick Rosella of Rahway.

Diabetes lectures planned at hospital
Rahway Hospital's Diabetes Lecture Series is designed to help diabetic and their families better manage this perplexing disease.

Two six-session series classes are being offered on Tuesdays, May 9 through June 13, from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Rahway Hospital Conference Room 1.

Rahway Hospital is located at 865 Stone St.

Pre-registration for the series is required and enrollment is limited to allow for personal attention and interactivity.

For fees, more information or to register, call 499-6175.

DERMATOLOGY & LASER CENTER
Patricia C. McCormack, M.D., FAAD
Academic Dermatology Associates
Chairperson, Department of Dermatology
Senior of Charles Medical Center

NOT JUST FOR ADOLESCENTS
Most people associate acne with the teen years, but the skin disorder is becoming increasingly common among adults. According to a British study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology, acne affects about 12 percent of women and 3 percent of men over age 25. Yet, only about one percent of adult acne sufferers seek treatment, in spite of the fact that there have been recent advances in drug therapy. There is no evidence to suggest that cosmetics or diet directly affect susceptibility to acne, but some research indicates that oral contraceptives containing progesterone may play a role.

Uniquely skin conditions such as acne are common no matter what your age. Discuss your skin conditions with a dermatologist. Be sure you understand the benefits and limitations of the recommended procedures. My office is conveniently located at 822 North Wood Ave., Linden (908) 925-8877. Office hours: By appointment.

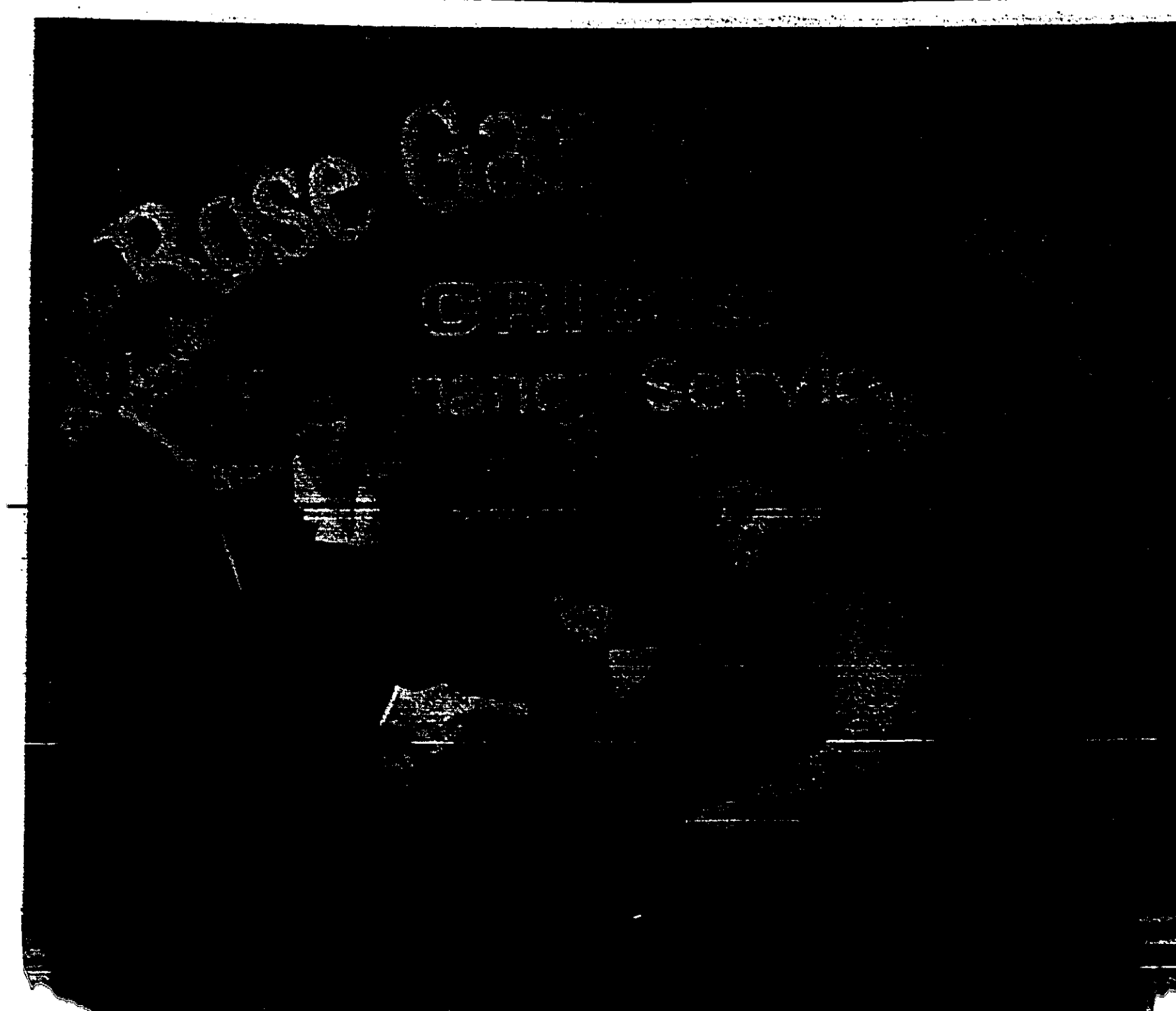
P.S. Because scarring tends to worsen the longer that adult acne persists, it is best to seek treatment as early as possible.

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Academic Dermatology Associates
Chairperson, Department of Dermatology
Senior of Charles Medical Center

NOT JUST FOR ADOLESCENTS
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Representatives from NJ SHARES met recently with Rose Garden Home officials, a crisis pregnancy agency located in Rahway, to announce its participation in the state utility relief program. Shown here, from left, Lawrence Savitsky, NJ SHARES executive director, Kathleen Yarnes, a NUFG representative, and Rose Garden Home officials.

Rose Garden joins state program

Officials with NJ SHARES, the Statewide Housing Assistance and Referral for Energy Services in High-income areas, announced the addition of its newest member, a group of 100 low-income households in Rahway.

NJ SHARES is a non-profit energy assistance fund targeted to low-income households who are experiencing a financial crisis and need one-time assistance to pay their utility bills.

With the addition of Rose Garden Home, a crisis pregnancy agency, NJ SHARES now has 38 local social service agencies throughout the state that determine applicant eligibility and distribute relief funds.

"NJ SHARES is pleased to add Rose Garden Home to our network of agencies," said Lawrence Savitsky, executive director. "NJ SHARES was formed to assist a sector of the population that is not likely to be eligible for other types of assistance. Grants are distributed on the basis of need, not income."

To qualify for a NJ SHARES grant, a household must be facing a financial crisis and not be receiving welfare.

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Diabetes Self Management Center at Rahway Hospital
The Diabetes Self Management Center at Rahway Hospital meets the needs of community members who are living with diabetes, the third most prevalent diagnosis in the nation affecting more than 11 million Americans. It is estimated that approximately 8 million more Americans have diabetes and are not yet diagnosed.

Early detection and proper management of diabetes can help prevent chronic complications such as eye disease, kidney disease, nerve damage, etc.

The Diabetes Self Management Center at Rahway Hospital is certified by the American Diabetes Association. We offer a full range of programs from counseling and group classes to a free support group to help you manage diabetes. Let our professionals show you how to live a healthy life with diabetes!

Diabetes Lecture Series
A 6-session series. Topics include: nutrition, the importance of exercise, diabetes management, potential complications, and changing behaviors and feelings.

Diabetes Support Group
Share your experiences and feelings with others who face this perplexing disease. A psychiatric clinician and a certified diabetes educator facilitate this group.

Dates: Tuesday's, May 9, 16, 23, 30, June 6, 13
Times: 1 to 3 p.m.
Place: Conference Room #1
Fee: Call for information
Call: (732) 499-6175

Golden Gloves Boxing April 7

The Rahway Police Athletic League will host the final bouts of the 2000 New Jersey Golden Gloves Boxing Competition April 7 at 8 p.m. at the Rahway Recreation Center.

This is the fifth consecutive year that the PAL will be host to Golden Gloves Boxing, and Detective Sgt. Gene Pizzuto, PAL executive director.

The event is always highlighted by the attendance of celebrities from the political and sports arena. Former World Heavyweight Champion Larry Holmes will be in attendance this year.

Former boxers, such as Joe Piazzi, Michael Sparks, Jake LaMotta, Gerry Cooney, Shannon Briggs, Buddy McPhee and Pay Mercer, as well as NJ Boxing Commissioner Larry Harard, have been big supporters of the Rahway PAL-sponsored event.

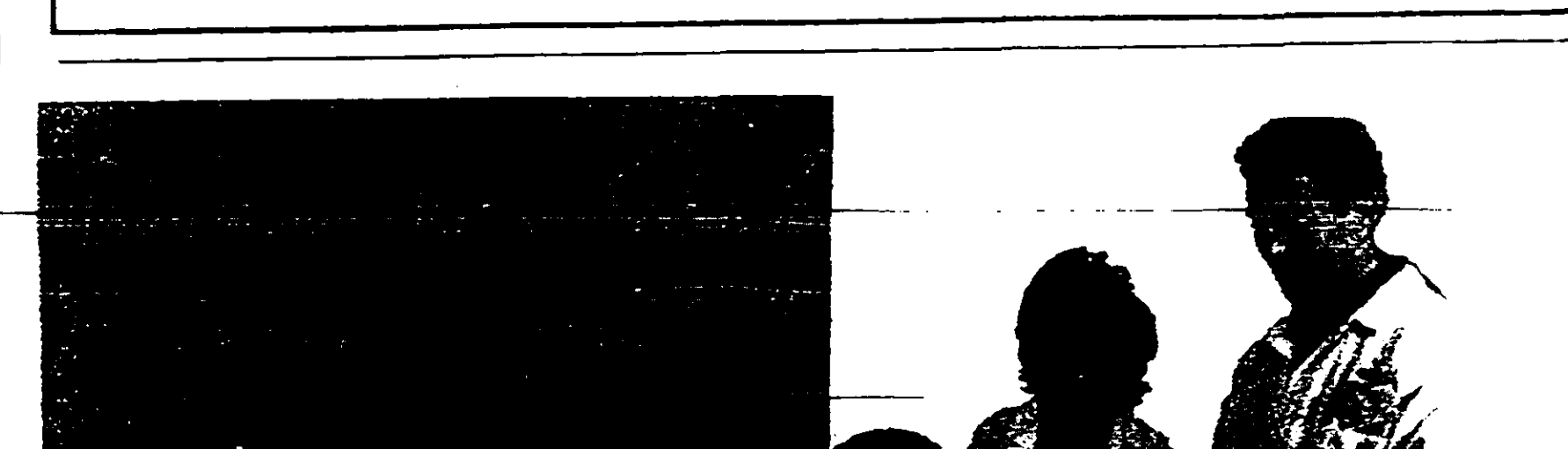
Other sports celebrities that have appeared for this event include 1991 Super Bowl MVP O.J. Anderson, NFL football star Andre the Giant, and former boxer Mike Tyson.

Culinary course at Rahway Hospital
Rahway Hospital will offer a culinary course for nurses beginning April 24. The three-session course will be held Tuesdays, April 25, May 2 and 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the hospital's Occupational Therapy Suite. The fee for the course is \$50 and includes materials. A luncheon will be served at the end of each session. For more information, call 499-6175.

Eagle Scout award
Philip Tobias receives a commendation last week from Rahway City Councilman James Jones, left, for earning the Eagle Scout rank. His work included a pet food drive. Also on hand were his parents, Roxanne and Philip Patrick Tobias, and Scoutmaster Robert Huntley.



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Dates: Tuesday's, May 9, 16, 23, 30,

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Police work worthy of recognition

We congratulate Rahway Police Officer William Whit III for receiving the Municipal Police Officer of the Year award last week at the Union County Academy in Scotch Plains.

During his 20 years in the Police Department, Whit has worked in the patrol and juvenile divisions in the police section.

He was honored by Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan for his work in clearing the 41-year-old murder of Rahway Police Officer Charles Henricks. Theodor Schiff for was arrested last year in Pennsylvania and has placed his family in the murder case. Officer Whit was instrumental in the case.

Break up of districts is correct choice

When state Education Commissioner David Hespe supported a ruling in January by an administrative law judge in favor of the Winfield Board of Education's request to move its students from Rahway High School to Scotch Plains, he made the correct decision.

Hespe and Judge Thomas Vena in Newark did not support the Rahway Board of Education's argument that the move would have a substantial impact on the local middle school.

Only 37 of the 924 students at Rahway High are from Winfield, so the school would retain approximately 88 percent of its students. Slightly more than half the students are minorities.

The financial impact will not be too great, since the loss of tuition payments from Winfield will be offset by new savings for Rahway.

Winfield school officials have had complaints with Rahway and believe a smaller school district, such as Scotch Plains, would better serve township students. Since this district is dissatisfied with the sending-receiving relationship, why should we do nothing else to block the dissolution. The Winfield students will be phased in during the next four years, with the incoming freshman class starting in 1999, so it shouldn't be too disruptive to the students.

It is time for the two school boards to go their separate ways.

Participate in the census count

Census Day is April 1. This month, the Post Office will be delivering census questionnaires to every household in the country. We urge residents to complete and return the Census 2000 questionnaire on or before Census Day.

In late April and June, census takers will visit housing units that did not return the questionnaires, and on Dec. 31, the apportionment counts will be delivered to the president.

Why is it so important for all households to fill out completely and return their census forms? According to the Census Bureau, the federal government uses census numbers to allocate billions of dollars in federal funds annually for community programs and services, including education programs, housing and community development, health care services for the elderly, job training, and many other projects.

In addition, state governments use census information for planning and allocating funds for new school construction, public buildings such as libraries, highway safety, public transportation systems, new roads and bridges, and among other important projects.

The U.S. Congress uses census information to determine how many seats your state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Legislature uses the figures to create legislative districts.

If residents are overlooked or left out of the census count, their communities will miss out on their fair share of government funding. We urge all residents to take part in the census.

"If your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon."
—Tom Stoppard
Brüsh playwright 1988

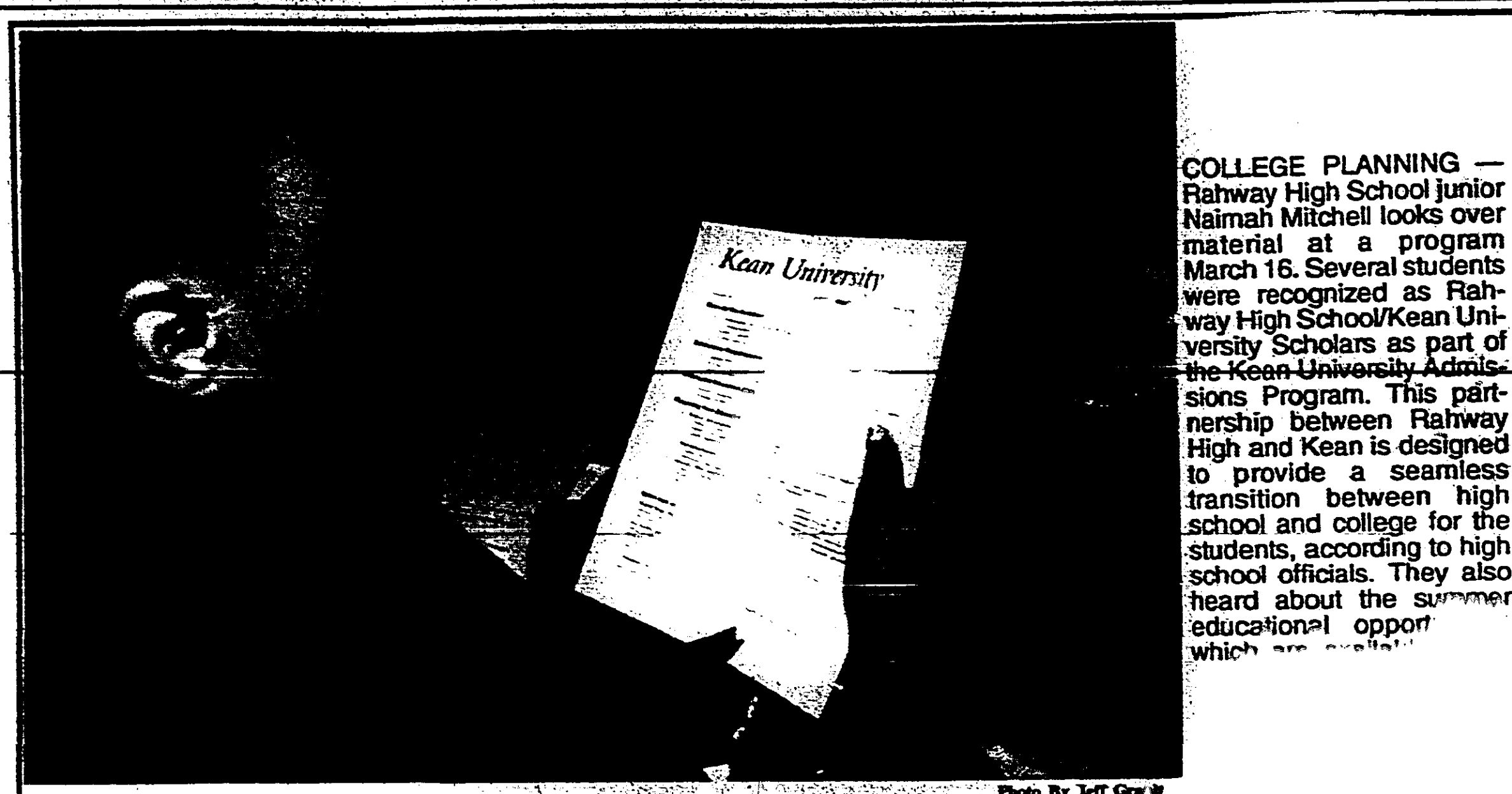
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Published Weekly Since 1980

Published By
Winfield Community Newspapers, Inc.
1291 Stuyvesant Avenue
Union, N.J. 07083
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COLLEGE PLANNING — Rahway High School junior Michael Mitchell looks over material at a program March 16. Several students were recognized as Rahway High School/Kean University Scholars as part of the Kean University Admission Program. This partnership between Rahway High and Kean is designed to provide a seamless transition between high school and college for the students, according to high school officials. They also heard about the summer educational opportunity which was offered.

Photography equipment it develops faster time

These days it seems as though everybody has a camera, and what a variety of cameras there is. Now you can get one that takes pictures and records them on a computer disk. You can send them worldwide as soon as you can get to your computer.

You don't even need any film with that style of camera, although a color printer is needed if you want any prints on paper. You don't need a darkroom either, nor any chemicals to develop the images.

Just think of what an old-style photographer of the Civil War period had to do to produce the photos we see today in books and magazines. His camera was no little, light-weight, hold-in-your-hand item. It needed a three-legged stand just to hold it. After the photographer had his camera aimed in the general direction of his subject, he then had to put a large black cloth over his back and his head so that he could see the image that appeared on the ground glass screen on the back of the camera. At this point, there was no light-sensitive material in the camera and he could focus and frame the image of his subject.

Focusing was easy because the camera had an adjustable bellows and the lens was mounted in a frame that could be moved back and forth by means of a rack and pinion and knob. When the artist was satisfied with the image on the screen, it was time to load the camera. This was no simple task. There was no film in those days, and this wartime cameraman had to make his own light-sensitive emulsion on his portable darkroom set up inside a horse-drawn wagon. Here he mixed his chemicals and coated a glass plate with them. He inserted the plate into a light-tight plate holder and hurried out to the waiting camera. After slipping the holder into the back of the camera, he then pulled out the protective slide from in front of the plate. Now he could make the exposure that would record the image on the coated glass plate. This exposure might take a couple of seconds, as there was no fast emulsion at that time. After replacing the slide into the plate holder, he removed the holder and ran back into his darkroom to process the image.

The early plate cameras were modified with longer bellows that allowed close-up work, and variable lens mounts permitted corrections to the distortion caused by perspective. View-finders were added that eliminated the need to see the image on a ground glass screen, although that

With this growing interest in photography, the manufacturers began to make great improvements in the camera themselves. Roll film made it possible to make box cameras that could be loaded by the user and could be sold for only a few dollars. Some photographs demanded more than just a box, however.

Properly mounted on a card, the effect will be 3-D when seen through the stereoscope.

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

Our policy on letters and columns

The *Rahway Progress* welcomes submissions from its readers. 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 city and Union County.

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.

For publication, all letters and essays must be received before 9 a.m. Monday at 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, 07083.

The *Progress* also accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mail. The address is WCN22@localnet.com.

Letters and guest columns must be received by 9 a.m. on Mondays to be considered for publication in Thursday's edition.

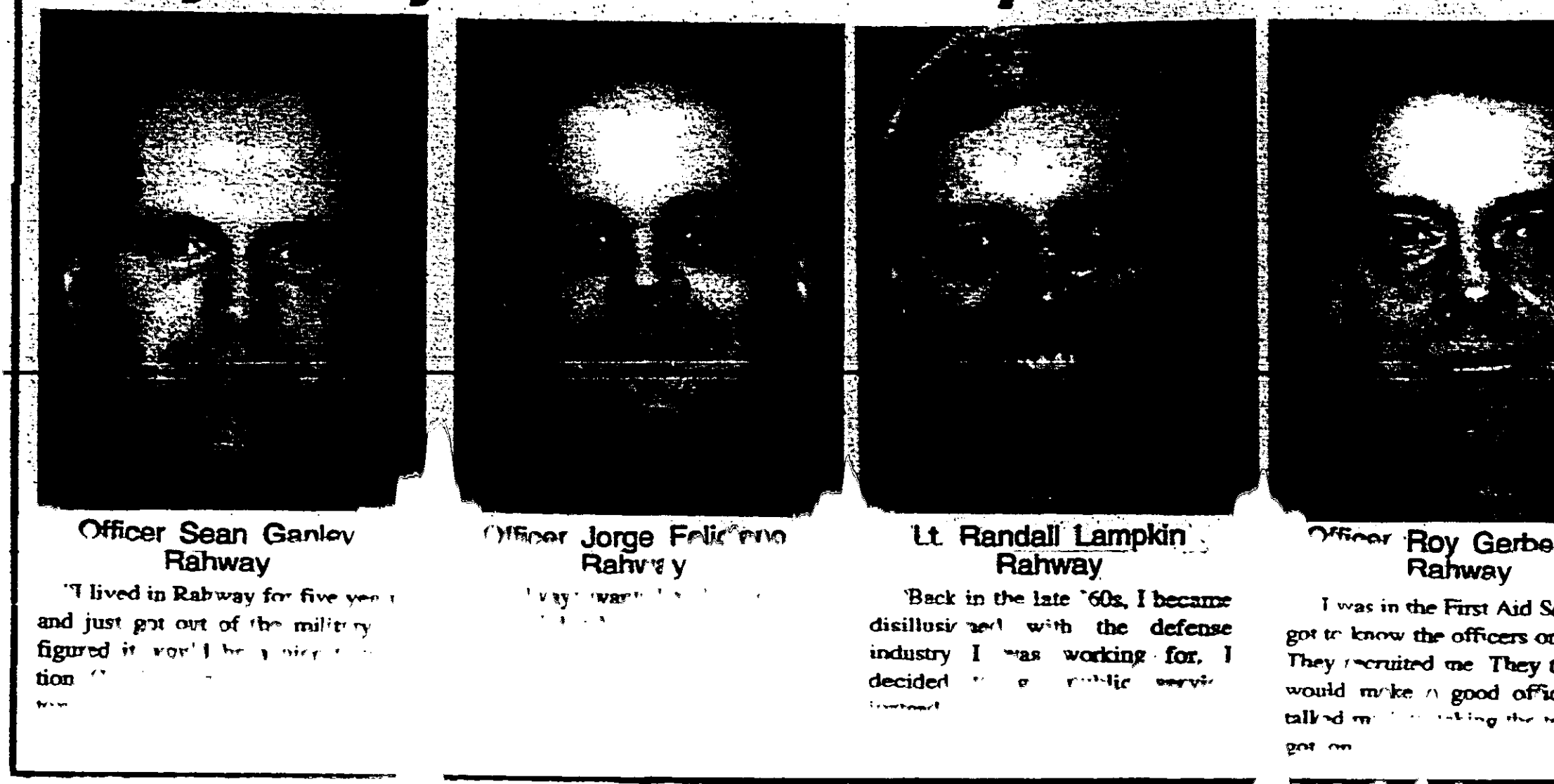
Letters received via e-mail must be on topics of interest, preferably in response to content that appeared in the newspaper. For purposes of verification, all letters must include a name, address and daytime telephone number. Advertising and news releases will not be accepted by e-mail.

How to contact your local elected legislative officials

Mayor
Mayor, James Kennedy, Democrat: 422 Elm Ave., 827-2009.
City Council
First Ward, Robert Rachlin, Democrat: 2215 Allen St., 499-7389.
Second Ward, Frank Janusz, Republican: 604 W. Scott Ave., 396-3524.
Third Ward, Jerry Sattum, Democrat: 315 Alameda St., 381-1595.
Fourth Ward, David Brown, Democrat: 353 E. Stearns St., 388-6245.
Fifth Ward, Deanna Tilton, Democrat: 1135 Jacques Ave., 381-5308.
Sixth Ward, Donald Andersen, Democrat: 1146 Kline Place, 381-2427.
At-Large, James Jones, Democrat: 247 Elm Ave., 396-1348.
At-Large, Sal Mione, Democrat: 1434 New Church St., 574-1328.
At-Large, Nancy Saliga, Democrat: 1103 Milton Blvd., 574-3188.

SPEAK OUT
Concerned about an issue facing the governing body or Board of Education in your town? Is your street in disrepair? Our readers can use our InfoSource hot line to speak out about any issue whether it is a question, comment, suggestion or opinion. That way, by telling us, you can tell everyone in town.
Call anytime, day or night. Please speak clearly into the phone when leaving your message. Callers can remain anonymous.
CALL 908-686-9898 ENTER SELECTION 8015

We're asking Why did you become a police officer?



Officer Sean Ganley: "I lived in Rahway for five years and just got out of the military. I decided to become a police officer." Officer Jorge Frick: "I was born in Rahway and I love it here." Lt. Randall Lampkin: "I was born in Rahway and I love it here." Officer Roy Garberville: "I was born in Rahway and I love it here."

OBITUARIES

Martha Spiridis
Martha Spiridis, 96, of Rahway died March 15 in the Clark Institute and Nursing Home.

Born in Greece, Mrs. Spiridis lived in Rahway for many years. She was a custom fabricator at Millwright Shop, New York City, and retired in the 1950s. Mrs. Spiridis was a member of the Philopoi of St. Demetrios Greek Church.

Surviving are a son, George; grandchildren; and a great-grandchild.

Nicholas Riggi
Nicholas Riggi, 76, of Rahway, a hump player and entertainer on early television variety shows, died March 18 in Rahway Hospital.

Born in Elmira, N.Y., Mr. Riggi lived in Elizabeth before moving to Rahway 38 years ago. He was a captain with Wells Fargo Security Co., Rahway, for 15 years and retired in 1987, and a school crossing guard in Rahway for 10 years. Before that, Mr. Riggi worked for Wakefern Food, Elizabeth, for 10 years.

He was a Navy veteran of World War II, serving in the Atlantic with the USS Stewart. Mr. Riggi was a member of Our Lady of Consolation Priory Group in Staten Island and the Lions Club in Elizabeth.

Susana Pires
Susana Pires, 22, of Rahway died March 17 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Born in Elizabeth, Miss Pires lived in Rahway for seven years. She was a paralegal for the law firm of McGee & McDermott in Livingston. Miss Pires was a 1999 graduate of St. Peter's College, Jersey City, and she had been accepted to Rutgers University School of Law and was to begin in September.

Surviving are her parents, Jose and Francis Cascarelli, 49, of Elizabeth, formerly of Linden, died March 20 at home.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Cascarelli lived in Linden before moving to Brick Town two years ago. She was a seamstress with the International Ladies Garment Workers Union 144.

Surviving are his wife, Marie, a son, Daniel; a daughter, Renee; his mother, Bronislawa Blizniak; two brothers, Edward and Sylvester, and three sisters, Sophie, Anna and Kazimierz.

Register now for Linden summer camps

The Linden Recreation Department will have registration for summer programs Saturday from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St.

Registration will be accepted for the following programs: Kiddie Village Day Camp, First-, Second-, Third- and Fourth-Grade Day Camps, Fifth- and Sixth-Grade Sports Day Camps and the Summer Crafts Program.

All registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Proof of residency is required. No mail-in registration will be accepted.

The Kiddie Village Day Camp Program is open to youngsters entering kindergarten in September. The program will be at the Gregorio Recreation Center and run for eight weeks, Monday through Friday, from June 26 to Aug. 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Enrollment is limited to 24 children. The registration fee is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and insurance.

The Day Camp Program is open to youngsters entering first, second and third grades in September. The program will operate from June 26 to Aug. 17, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This program is offered at five locations: At Kalla Park, limited to 100 children; Veterans Memorial Park, limited to 50; Dr. Martin Luther King Park, limited to 35; St. Mark's Park, limited to 30; and McCullough Park, limited to 15.

The registration fee is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and insurance.

The Fourth-Grade Day Camp Program is open to youngsters entering fourth grade in September. The program will operate at McManus Park from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, June 26 to Aug. 17. The registration fee is \$30 and includes a t-shirt and insurance. Enrollment is limited to 35 participants.

Folk sounds

Folk singer Roger Deltz performs March 10 at The Arts Guild of Rahway. He played on the guitar and banjo.

Reconciliation begins with God. It's never too late to come home.

For more information, call 1-877-Y-NOT-CALL Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

A priest will answer. Join us for Reconciliation Weekend, April 7-8. The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Newark.

Visit our Website: www.rcan.org/comehome

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Charter school cost draws board fire

By Brian Gooney
Managing Editor

The approval of a tuition payment for a Linden student attending a charter school reignited an ongoing controversy at the city Board of Education last week.

While the payment was approved, some board members complained that major and charter schools were draining the local district's resources.

"I believe these types of schools are a separatist effort on behalf of the people of the state of New Jersey," said board member William Motley. "I cannot support paying tuition to a charter school when we provide a quality education in Linden," he added.

The \$4,500 tuition payment to the Elyson Charter School of Hoboken was approved Monday and board member Barbara Kudak voted against the payment.

While he also was opposed to charter schools, board member Alvin Coplan said they were supporting this payment since the student has been attending this charter school for three years. "There were no other options," he said.

Board President Maryanne Dorin said the New Jersey School Boards Association was planning to establish such a fund to help pay the cost of charter and magnet high schools.

The state has tied the hands of local school districts to charter schools, according to board member William Motley. "I cannot support paying tuition to a charter school when we provide a quality education in Linden," he added.

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The state has tied the hands of local school districts to charter schools, according to board member William Motley. "I cannot support paying tuition to a charter school when we provide a quality education in Linden," he added.

The \$4,500 tuition payment to the Elyson Charter School of Hoboken was approved Monday and board member Barbara Kudak voted against the payment.

While he also was opposed to charter schools, board member Alvin Coplan said they were supporting this payment since the student has been attending this charter school for three years. "There were no other options," he said.

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children under 12. Checks and donations may be made payable to the "Linden Knights of Columbus."

Advance registration is requested.
For tickets and donation information,
call 486-2099, 486-4368 or
486-8365.

Las Vegas trip will benefit Hope Hospice

The Center of Hope Hospice and
Palliative Care in Linden is sponsoring
a fund-raising trip to Las Vegas
from June 17 to 22.

The cost is \$660 per person for

The trip includes a round-trip nonstop flight from Newark on Continental Airlines; deluxe accommodation at the Imperial Palace Hotel and Casino; all taxes, gratuities and service charges; and full buffet breakfasts and dinners.

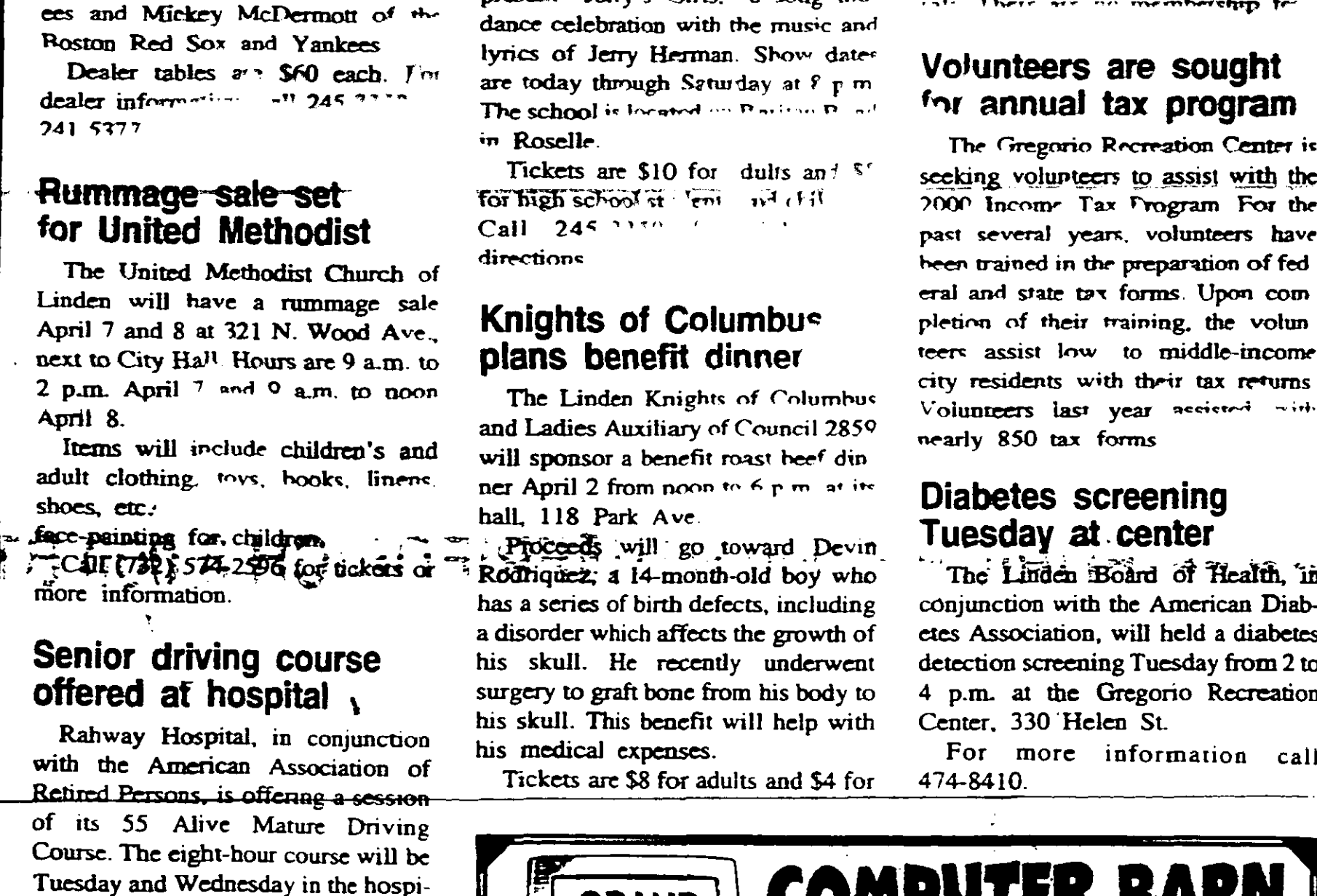
All balances are due **9/24/90**.

Call Sophia Concavag for more information.

Networking group meets regularly in Linden

DESTINY - Daring Entrepreneurs Sharing Together In Networking Your business - is a networking group in the Linden area. Meetings are the fourth Wednesday of each month's from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Tri-City Center for the Arts in Linden.

neurs, business owners or those with home based businesses who want to



The course covers age-related physical changes, declining perceptual abilities, and the effects of aging on memory and learning.

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• Auto Clean Filter with 24-hour Back-up
• Commercial Step
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PVC2020
20" Diag. Mono TV / 2-Head Mono VCR Combination

4-Head VHS Hi-Fi Stereo VCR

Main Features:
• Multi-Function Remote Control
• Auto Clean Filter with 24-hour Back-up
• Commercial Step
• Multi-Function Clock Display

Dimensions: 14 1/2" x 14 1/2" x 14 1/2" (ca 115V)

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PVC2540
25" Diag. Mono TV / 4-Head Mono VCR Combination

4-Head VHS Hi-Fi Stereo VCR

Main Features:
• Multi-Function Remote Control
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• Commercial Step
• Multi-Function Clock Display

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Union County

- News
- Arts
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It really ain't so

A wire service story last week reported a troubling survey from Major League Baseball about a continuing decline of interest by young people in America's pastime. Between strikes, World Series games starting late at night and ridiculous salaries, there may be some logic to that report.

But it is spring and that is supposed to mean the annual discovery of the wonderful magic that occurs when a child's bat connects with the ball, or the first time a glove is pounded with a fist. One can't help but dispute the so-called trend, when kids are already playing ball around the house.

Left Out

By Frank Capace

For 24 years, Joe Petrosky has been coaching kids in the Roselle Park Youth Baseball League. From the two players who started with him, and later became all-state players, to all the rest, he keeps alive his "love of the game" as passed down to him by his father.

From Petrosky's vantage point, "baseball continues to grow in Roselle Park. It will always be a part of our community, as long as we have the necessary number of adults to guide the kids, coach and keep the program alive."

Meanwhile, next Saturday up in Bergen County, in Garfield, the Amateur Athletic Union will have "outlets for exceptional 12-year-old baseball players for AAU Summer League." But, it isn't the outstanding stars, rather the vast number of average kids who need the program to continue.

Clark Councilman Marty Ferraro is another example of the adults who spend so much of their time providing opportunities for access to our kids. A coach of girls' softball for over 12 years, he has watched the program grow. He also doesn't agree that there is a waning of interest. He says the program is "on the upswing."

Ferraro points to the 300-plus girls who participate in the Clark League. There is a pipeline of kids from his program directly to the high school varsity program. The difference over the years from his view is "the method of coaching." He advocates even in the last month, Salamea expects the fact-finder to authorize a recommendation by the end of the month after each side submits its proposals.

Members of Local 494 United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America, which represents 110 employees in the Department of Parks and Recreation, have been without a contract since December 1997 while the county police's last contract expired at the end of 1999.

Like his Roselle Park counterpart, Ferraro doesn't see the competition from soccer and other activities as hurting the softball program.

Roselle Park Youth Baseball Chairman Ken Marciano points to the 500 kids, ages 5 through 11, who are in his borough's program. "The trend is for kids to come back to baseball." In the eight years he has served, including five as president, he acknowledges "the growing ethnic diversity in the program. But kids are still kids and it's still America's game."

If there is a problem, Petrosky points to the need for more adult participation. The Roselle Park program calls for a parent for each child participating to put eight cents in the program. But with 300-plus games, fields to manage, and concession stands to run, there is one big shortage of adults to help out in the program.

I started thinking about an episode of the '60s show, "Mr. Novak," where the teacher talks about the handling over of that which we love most — our kids — to teachers. I would also add the effort of the coaches who help foster the love of the game for our kids.

This season, stop by at least once as a kids' game. Make sure to thank the coaches and, maybe, even umpire at third base.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capace is an attorney.



Linda Maloney, right, and Diana Lobozzo, on the television, interact with one another as an example of interactive television classes. The Union County Educational Services Commission hosted a two-day workshop earlier this week for special education teachers throughout the county.

Bringing technology to special education

UCES hosts high-tech workshop

By Cathleen Tanb
Correspondent

Swam Barr remembers a time when children in special education classes were hidden from view, pushed through the educational system, and then graduated ultimately unable to care for their own needs and unable to go to work. "That's just not true anymore," she said.

Barr is a representative of the Union County Educational Services Commission, a group that serves all 21 municipalities of Union County by both providing specialized instruction in their own schools and by bringing specialized instruction to students at their own schools. This week, the group helped special education teachers help their students by offering a two-day workshop that focused on using technology in the classroom.

The workshop, known as "Tech Tools For Teachers," was held at Westlake School's Westfield campus this past Monday and Tuesday. More than 300 educators came together to hear about the latest in both computer and multimedia technology.

Yet, Barr points out that some people think students in special education programs do not need knowledge of computers. To this Barr raises her eyebrows and responds, "They probably need it more than the gifted kids." To demonstrate this, Barr points out that children who have trouble reading, writing, or computing now have the option to express themselves in different ways.

Software is readily available to help students create their own graphics and animation. Students can create multimedia electronic portfolios that include video clips and snapshots of their activities. These innovations can help students. See TECHNOLOGY, Page B2

Labor contracts settled

By Mark H. Ryan
Regional Editor

The Board of Freeholders last week approved a new contract with the Union County Social Services Local CWA AFL-CIO, a union representing 380 employees within the Department of Social Services.

The three-year deal is retroactive to July 1, 1999 and expires June 30, 2001. The overall average salary increase, according to Director of Administrative Services Joseph Salamea, comes to approximately 2.65 percent per year. That figure does not include an additional \$500 signing bonus for employees at the maximum step of the salary guide.

Starting salaries for entry-level positions were reduced by approximately 10 percent, he said. Most entry-level positions include income maintenance techniques, data entry clerks and clerk-typists.

General wage increases were \$7.00 in the first and second years and \$8.50 in the third. Steps also were added to the salary guide in the second and third years.

The Freeholders last week also approved a new contract with PBA Local 203, which represents three employees in the Union County Division of Weights and Measures. The contract runs from Jan. 1, 1998 through the end of this year. Average wage increases are 2.7 percent in year one, 2.95 percent in year two and 2.9 percent in the third year. Additional steps also were included in the new settlement.

Still without a contract are PBA-499, representing corrections officers; and PBA 73, which represents county police. Both unions are in arbitration with the county, Salamea said. Corrections officers have been without a contract since December 1997 while the county police's last contract expired at the end of 1999.

The corrections officers' union is in the mediation phase of arbitration, with both sides having been scheduled to meet a third time this past Monday. The arbitrator, Salamea said, will continue trying to get both sides to reach a voluntary settlement.

Meanwhile, the county and PBA 73 have been through mediation with the county making its final offer, according to Salamea. He said negotiations appear to be heading toward a hearing.

As for the union representing rank-and-file employees within the Department of Parks and Recreation, the two sides met with a fact-finder for an all-day session late last month. Salamea expects the fact-finder to authorize a recommendation by the end of the month after each side submits its proposals.

Juvenile committee in search of volunteers

How often do you watch the news and hear reports of young adults committing crimes? By intervening at an early stage of delinquency, juveniles can learn that such behavior is detrimental to their future.

You can have an impact on changing things in your own community. The Juvenile Conference Committee is a unique approach to this problem. It is a citizen panel, consisting of six to nine volunteers appointed by the presiding judge of the Family Court.

The panel informally hears matters involving first or second time minor juvenile delinquency complaints that are referred by the court. These include, but are not limited to, offenses such as criminal mischief, trespassing or shoplifting.

The committee is concerned with preventing future misconduct of young people in their community. Union County currently has 22 Municipal Juvenile Conference Committees and one County Regional Committee.

Membership precludes police officers, attorneys who handle juvenile delinquency cases in Union County, judicial employees, and municipal court judges or their spouses. Membership also precludes those who hold or seek any appointed for elected political office, including the Board of Education.

The Superior Court, Family Division of Union County — Family Court — is currently in need of volunteers to fill vacant positions on various Juvenile Conference Committees throughout the county.

If you are interested in volunteering one night a month for this program call the Juvenile Conference Committee Coordinator Nancy Spano Yurek at (908) 659-3360 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., e-mail at Nancy.Yurek@judiciary.state.nj.us, or mail to the Court House Annex, 5th Floor, Elizabeth, NJ 07207.

Retired police, fire association installs officers

The Union County Retired Police and Fire Association Local 3 met at the Linden Knights of Columbus on March 16 to swear in the following officers: President Glenn Owens, Vice President Paul Bierbach, Recording Secretary George Babayk, Financial Secretary and Treasurer George Malsam, Delegate John Zamboni, Legislative Chairman Donald Silvey, Trustees Donald Khim, Thomas Reilly, Howard Thompson and Sergeant-Al Arms Frank Marranca.

Lots of cats in hats



Children in the Vo-Tylius Pre-School at the County Vo-Tech Schools preening with the Cat in the Hat hats as Rachel Martin of Linden, a student in the Child Development Program, looks on. The pre-schoolers created the hats for Read Across America earlier this month.

Special waste collection days set

Union County Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan recently announced that the County of Union will sponsor three "Spring 2000 Household Special Waste Collection Days." These days are scheduled so Union County residents can get rid of unwanted household special waste in a safe, and environmentally proper manner.

The collection days for Spring 2000 are:

- April 1, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Cranford Municipal Pool, Memorial Drive off Centennial Avenue, opposite Wall Street.
- May 6, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Berkeley Heights Municipal Pool, Locust Avenue.
- June 10, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Union Township Public Works Yard, Bayberry Drive off Shalaber Road.

All Union County residents are eligible to participate at no cost. Pre-registration is not required for these special Saturday collections. All residents need to do is drive to the sites with their household special waste and workers at the sites will remove it from their vehicles.

The popularity of the collection program grows each year as Union County residents realize the importance of proper disposal of hazardous items found in the home.

"This is a great opportunity to dispose of old cans and containers that are taking up space in the basement, garage, or under the kitchen sink," said Sullivan. "It's also the responsible way to keep dangerous corrosive and toxic substances from damaging our household environment."

Pasta dinner benefits The Arc

The Greek Senate of Kean University has joined the volunteer group of The Arc of Union County's Recreation Department to host a pasta dinner at The Arc's Roselle Center, 215 E. First Ave., on Monday from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$7 per person with advanced ticket purchase for \$8 per person at the door. Diners may eat in or take out food.

Proceeds from the dinner will go to the Arc of Union County recreation scholarships, which provide individuals with developmental disabilities a variety of enriching opportunities. Joan Bernando, who heads the recreation program, is planning such future events as a food drive for disaster relief and food baskets for Union County's needy families.

The Arc of Union County, with administrative office in Plainfield, provides residential services, transportation, educational services, child care services, clinical services and family support through its 20 residential programs, five work centers, two child development centers, a private school, summer camp, five special needs adult day programs including an adult medical day care program and a wide menu of family support throughout Union County.

For more information about the pasta dinner call (908) 754-2509.

History, trends, politics can aid in predicting Oscar winners

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

It's that time of year again as Hollywood prepares to roll out its red carpet and pat itself on the back. You guessed it, it's Oscar time. This Sunday, filmgoers will witness the 72nd Annual Academy Awards, one of the highest honors in the motion picture industry. However, like any contest involving opinion, this race is as much about politics and sentiment as it is about artistic merit.

A look at past nominees and winners may give us an idea of who we'll see honored Sunday night. In fact, a few years ago even more useful for that office pool than actually having a winner.

Friends in high places
First of all is the big prize, Best Picture. We have a field ranging from a study in American values to a report on prison rape to a supernatural roller coaster. And who'll get the gold? Well, you can rule out "The Green Mile," Frank Darabont's adaptation of Stephen King's six-installment novel. Darabont failed to score a Best Director nod — as he did a few years ago with another King-based Best Picture nominee, "The Shawshank Redemption." The only times in Oscar history a movie has taken top honors without a director nomination were 1931-32's "Grand Hotel" and 1989's "Driving Miss Daisy." The third this year.

With "The Green Mile" goes "The Sixth Sense." In the last several years, an Academy contingent has made its voice heard with Best Picture nominations for really fun movies that aren't necessarily works of art. Witness "Field of Dreams," "Ghost," "Beauty and the Beast," and "The Fugitive." None of these took home the gold, and we shouldn't expect "The Sixth Sense" to tamper with tradition.

It leaves "American Beauty," "The Cider House Rules" and "The Insider." Original Screenplay nominees "The Cider House Rules" and "The Insider" should walk away winners, and for several reasons. First and foremost,

most, it is a well-crafted, compelling and excellent piece of storytelling. But even with that, it helps to have friends, and "American Beauty" has a slew.

Leading man Kevin Spacey, himself a Best Actor nominee, is one of the most popular and well-liked actors within the industry. His nominated leading lady, Annette Bening, is also known as Mrs. Warren Beatty. And the movie was produced by DreamWorks SKG — as in Steven Spielberg, Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, who all have friends.

On Best Director, the first to go is Spike Jonze for "Being John Malkovich." Without a Best Picture nomination to go with it, a director has little hope of finding his name in the envelope. Also rule out M. Night Shyamalan for "The Sixth Sense," leaving us again with Sam Mendes for "American Beauty," Lasse Hallstrom for "The Cider House Rules," and Michael Mann for "The Insider."

With very rare exceptions — last year being one, as were 1989 and 1991, in recent memory — this thing always goes to the Best Picture winner, so we can look for Mendes to be thanking all of his friends.

Writing on the wall
The screenplay awards often prove the most interesting, since this is where the invisible bones are usually to be found, especially for those indie writers who aren't getting to win in other categories. Beginning with Owen Welles for 1941's "Citizen Kane," recent examples are Martin Scorsese for "Good Will Hunting," Quentin Tarantino for "Pulp Fiction," Jane Campion for "The Piano," and Coen brothers for "Fargo," and Neil Jordan for "The Crying Game."

Beating that in mind, and if "American Beauty" takes Best Picture and director, we can expect the Adapted Screenplay award to go to either "The Cider House Rules" or "The Insider." Original Screenplay nominees "The Cider House Rules" and "The Insider" should walk away winners, and for several reasons. First and foremost,

And this year's Oscar nominees are ...

Best Picture
"American Beauty"
"The Cider House Rules"
"The Green Mile"
"The Insider"
"The Sixth Sense"

Best Director
Lasse Hallstrom, "The Cider House Rules"
Spike Jonze, "Being John Malkovich"
Michael Mann, "The Insider"
Sam Mendes, "American Beauty"
M. Night Shyamalan, "The Sixth Sense"

Best Actor
Russell Crowe, "The Insider"
Richard Farnsworth, "The Straight Story"
Sean Penn, "Sweet and Lowdown"
Kevin Spacey, "American Beauty"

Best Actress
Denzel Washington, "The Hurricane"
Annette Bening, "American Beauty"
Janet McTeer, "Tumbleweeds"
Julianne Moore, "End of the Affair"
Meryl Streep, "Music of the Heart"
Hilary Swank, "Boys Don't Cry"

Best Supporting Actor
Michael Caine, "The Cider House Rules"
Tom Cruise, "Magnolia"
Michael Clarke Duncan, "The Green Mile"
Jesse L. Martin, "The Talented Mr. Ripley"
Haley Joel Osment, "The Sixth Sense"
Best Supporting Actress
Toni Goltz, "The Sixth Sense"

Best Adapted Screenplay
"The Cider House Rules"
"Election"
"The Green Mile"
"The Insider"
"The Talented Mr. Ripley"
"Best Original Screenplay"
"The Sixth Sense"
"Topsy-Turvy"

Best Original Screenplay
"The Cider House Rules"
"Election"
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Panel seeks tomorrow's Oscar winners

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced two upcoming artistic opportunities for teenage musicians, composers, videographers and filmmakers through the new Jersey State Teen Arts Program.

The first is the opportunity to be a part of the "Young Artists Festival," a grant from the Frank and Emily Berger Foundation, which will take place at Westfield State College in Princeton. The other is the Young Video Competition, funded by a grant from the Tribune News Foundation. The schedules of these events will be announced soon.

Oscar information abounds on net

For movie fans, Oscar night is a holiday. And as the big night approaches, a wealth of related information abounds on the Internet.

A visit to www.oscar.com offers a glimpse at what to expect this year, as well as a look back at last year's ceremony and winners.

This website not only provides information, but various options allow users to send Oscar greetings or party invitations to friends, complete with photography and artwork provided by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Another page features daily trivia quizzes, and even a contest to win a trip to next year's awards.

Also worth a look is the Entertainment Weekly website at www.ew.com, where the in-house critics banding the various news being run, as well as cast their own votes in the top categories.

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Want to test your Oscar trivia?

So, you think you're an Oscar buff? Let's see how well you know Academy Awards history and trivia.

- In 1927, "Tessie" tied two Oscar records. What were they, and what two films previously held these honors alone?
- What dubious Oscar distinction does 1972's "Cabaret" hold?
- Who was the first actor or actress to earn three Academy Awards?
- For what did the Talking Heads' David Byrne win a 1987 Oscar?
- What did Alfred Hitchcock, Deborah Kerr, Peter O'Toole, Greta Garbo, Richard Burton, Glenn Close and Kirk Douglas all have in common?
- How many African-Americans have won acting Oscars? Can you name them?
- During World War II, when metals were in short supply, what were the Oscars made out of?
- How many people have won back-to-back acting Oscars in the same category? Who were they?
- How many times have acting races resulted in a tie?
- Can you name the three movies that have swept the Top Five — Best Picture, Director, Actor, Actress and Screenplay?
- Only twice in 72 years have women been nominated for Best Director. Who were they and what were their films?
- What was the only Best Picture winner that scored no other nominations?
- What was unique about how the Academy honored Barry Fitzgerald's performance in "Going My Way" in 1934?
- What film disrupted the 1974 Oscar ceremony?
- Who is the only person to receive a posthumous Oscar in a competitive acting category?

The answers will appear in the March 30 edition.

Source: "Inside Oscar: The Unofficial History of the Academy Awards" by Maureen Wiley and Dennis Bean; "Behind the Oscar: The Secret History of the Academy Awards" by Anthony Holden.

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Oscars or not, here are the year's Top Ten

With the Academy Awards night around the corner and having finally worked my way through the many year-end movies, here is my Top Ten List. What these films have in common is a uniqueness which not only produces great entertainment, but which affects sensibilities.

To start at the top, the best movie of the year is "The Cider House Rules," which is daring and dramatic, about the need for family as well as the morality of freedom of choice. Michael Caine's brilliant performance is a revelation as the doctor of orphan and women in trouble. John Irving's splendid script from his own novel is in the year's best film.

Close to the top, the best film of the year is "The Insider," which is a film that develops across America's heartland, but is given a living quality by Penn's seemingly casual but intense craftsmanship. And Denzel Washington's powerful acting — "The Hurricane" — is the best of the year.

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[illegible]

pleasant surprise" in making the transition from living alone to joining an assisted living community "because there 'is just so much to do." Assisted living activities should include a variety of social and recreational opportunities as well as frequent entertainments and cultural events.

A free brochure with common questions and answers on assisted living is available as a public service from the Saint Barnabas Health System. Write to "Assisted Living Information," Saint Barnabas Assisted Living Residence, 605 Chestnut St., Union, NJ 07081.

Something to see? Telephone 1-800-564-8911.

HOSPICE OF NEW JERSEY GOES SOUTH!!!

HOSPICE OF NEW JERSEY, with their corporate headquarters in Bloomfield, has become the first licensed hospice in the State of New Jersey to offer its services to the South. They will be expanding their services to central and southern New Jersey.

Midwestern counties. They began serving patients and their families on March 6, 1995. Since that time, they have been able to help over 1000 patients and their families in the Wyke General Hospital in Wyke, New Jersey, contracted with 21 nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living facilities, and other community based organizations, and have services 3,950 patients and their families in various health care settings since its inception.

They are dedicated to providing compassionate and specialized care for terminally ill patients and their families through a 24-hour support system comprised of a team which include a medical director, nurses, social workers, bereavement counselors, clergy, and volunteers. They are available to the terminally ill patient who is no longer under treatment for cure of their disease and in the final stage of life. They focus on quality of life when the length of life cannot be extended.

Michelle Stefanelli, Administrator and CEO of Hospice of New Jersey, says, "I am looking forward to serving the central and southern areas of the state with the highest quality of care and support available, which will be provided by a highly experienced and qualified health care team."

Hospice of New Jersey, which provides health insurance to children of moderate income families, is also available through Hospice of New Jersey.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL HOSPICE OF NEW JERSEY AT 973-893-0818

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League's lunch is set to feature women authors

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainsfield will sponsor "A Literary Luncheon" April 5 benefiting the League's community service projects in Union County, serving women and children in crisis.

The luncheon will feature a distinguished panel of authors who will discuss their literary careers and latest releases, and personally sign copies of their books for guests. The authors' books will be available for purchase at the luncheon. Sale Johnson, a leading educator, from Jacksonville, Florida, research, co-author with her daughter, Casey, and husband, Woody, of the book "Managing Your Diabetes," and recipient of Presidential appointments, will be the "Master of Ceremonies. Fun!" will also be held.

Leanne Fairstein
America's foremost prosecutor of crimes of sexual assault and domestic violence, Fairstein has run the Sex Crimes Unit of the District Attorney's Office in Manhattan for more than two decades. Her first novel, "Final Jeopardy," was published in 1996 to critical and commercial acclaim. "Likely to Die," published in 1977, also achieved international success.

Sylvia Weinstock
For years, legendary baker and cake decorator Sylvia Weinstock has kept a tight lock on her recipe files. Now she finally lets "the cake out of the box" and divulges her secrets in her new book "Sweet Celebrations." Weinstock's exquisite cakes have graced the tables of celebrities such as Whitney Houston, Cindy Lauper, Eddie Murphy, Donald Trump, and many more.

Betsy Platt
Betsy Platt first came to the public's attention when her first novel, "Evergreen," was published in 1993. "Evergreen" became an instant hit, topped the New York Times best-seller list for 41 weeks, and starred as an NBC-TV miniseries starring Leslie Ann Warren. Since then, she has remained at the forefront of contemporary fiction with her books that followed, all of them becoming bestsellers. Her forthcoming novel, "After the Fire," will be released in April 2000.

The luncheon will take place April 5 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cranford, 300 Millburn Ave. in Short Hills. Tickets are \$50 each and are available by calling (908) 709-1177 or at the following locations: The Jumble Store, 110 Walnut Ave., Cranford; The Bookends Outlet, 301 South Ave. in Westfield; and Prudential New Jersey Realty, 215 North Ave. in Westfield.

Proceeds from the event will support the Junior League's mission of assisting women and children in crisis. Current and future LEP projects will benefit from this event, including the Rosemary Cocco-Pediatric Medical Day Care Center, the Eagle Center, an adult day care program, Special Olympics of Union County, and the United Family and Children's Society of Plainsfield.

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainsfield is an organization of women committed to improving their community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Founded in 1923, LEP serves families in need since 1923.

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What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

March 25, 2000

EVENT: Flea Market, Craft and Collectible Show, Indoor and Outdoor
PLACE: Rutgers Park Department, 44 First Avenue, NJ 07030
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Featuring over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of merchandise including new and used items, baseball cards, memorabilia, toys, fashion clothing, jewelry, and more. Free admission. Call 908-686-7733 for more information.

SATURDAY

April 1, 2000

EVENT: Flea Market/Crafts & Collectibles Sale, 18th annual indoor event
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood (between Hightstown/Maplewood Avenues)
TIME: 10am-5pm
PRICE: Free admission 40 quality dealers offer antiques, handcrafted items, one-of-a-kind collectibles, etc. Free admission. Enjoy the famous County Kitchen Corner and a light lunch. Call 908-686-7733 for more information.

SUNDAY

April 2, 2000

EVENT: Flea Market and Collectibles Show, Indoor and Outdoor
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, 60 Woodland Road, Maplewood (between Hightstown/Maplewood Avenues)
TIME: 10am-5pm
PRICE: Free admission 40 quality dealers offer antiques, handcrafted items, one-of-a-kind collectibles, etc. Free admission. Enjoy the famous County Kitchen Corner and a light lunch. Call 908-686-7733 for more information.

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CONCERT-MUSIC

March 25, 2000

EVENT: An Afternoon to Remember
PLACE: YMAA, 201 Green Lane, Union
TIME: 2:00pm
PRICE: An afternoon of singing and dancing featuring the talents of "Maya and Boris." This is their fourth visit with us since coming to the U.S. 10 years ago. Their musical program is thoroughly enjoyed by all. Performances available. Tickets \$5.00 in the club, to be available for 8-10, (paid in advance), call 908-686-7733 for more information.

THEATRE-PLAY

March 17 to 20, 2000

EVENT: The Songs Your Father Loved
PLACE: Seton Hall University Theatre
TIME: 10am-12pm
PRICE: Tickets \$7-\$9 regular, \$10 student/senior, \$12 for non-student/senior. Call 908-686-7733 for more information.

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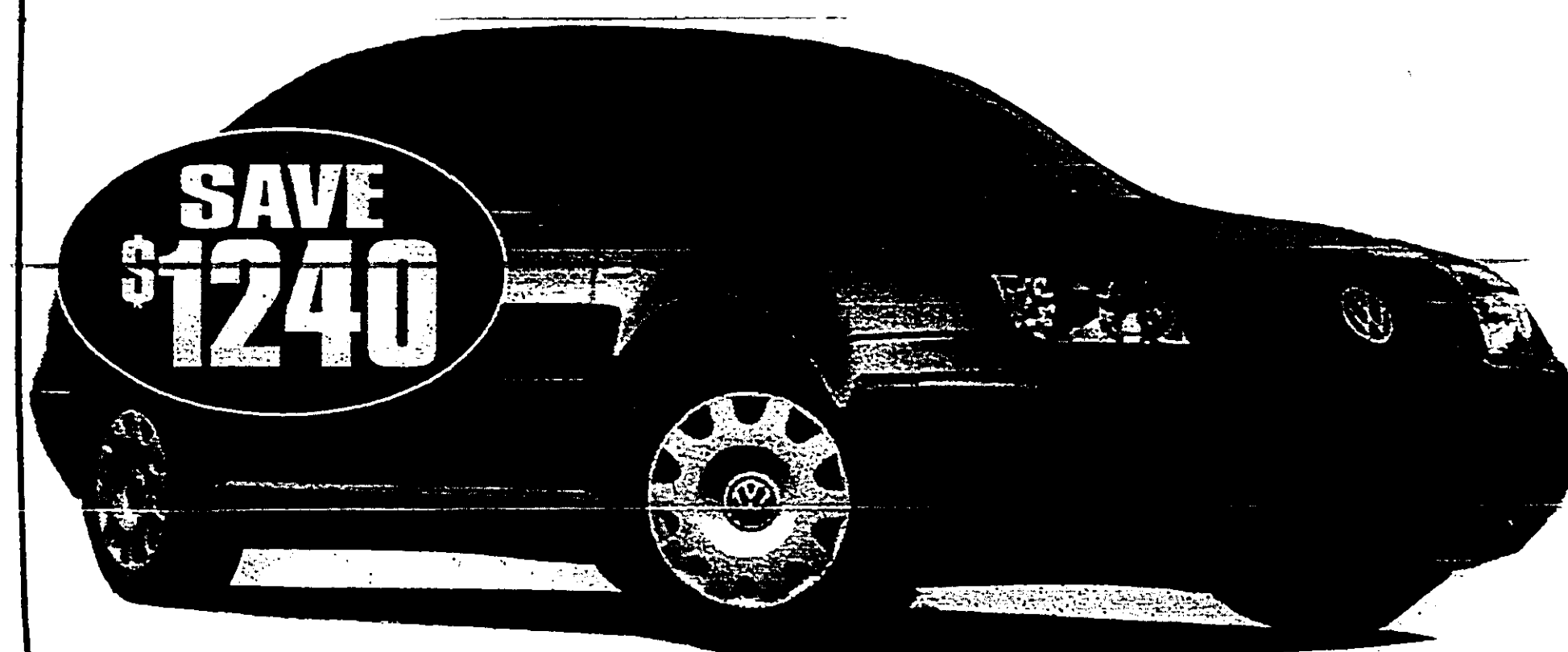
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RAHWAY PROGRESS

"Your Best Source For Community Information"

City breaks ground today on train station plaza

By Robert Conkley

Staff Writer

City officials were expected to have a groundbreaking ceremony today at 9:30 a.m. for the Rahway Train Station Plaza, a part of the overall plan to improve the downtown.

The groundbreaking originally was scheduled for Tuesday morning, but was delayed until today due to the heavy rainfall.

Work has already started on the vacant parcel at Irving Street and East Milton Avenue. Equipment on site and much of the concrete already been

taken out. The plaza is expected to be completed by mid-summer and cost approximately \$600,000.

The Dombrowski Building, located across from the train station, was torn down last year to make room for the plaza. City officials see the plaza as a continuation of the redevelopment of the train station that will help revitalize the downtown business district.

Discussions about the plaza began in 1991 between the city and NJ Transit over the conditions of the existing train station, said Mayor James Kennedy. The importance of the sta-

tion, NJ Transit's investment, and what amenities would make mass transit work better in communities were discussed, he said.

"By 1994, when we were getting closer to the realization of the construction of the community, New Jersey Transit spoke to us about the transportation factor when you come out of the train station," said Kennedy.

The city decided that removing the aged Dombrowski building would make the rebuilt train station more visible, and also not greet people coming out of the train station with a

brick wall, Kennedy said. The city spoke to the owners, and they were amenable to taking the building down, Kennedy said.

"I certainly saw a difference once the building came down," Kennedy said. "The comments that I had received were all positive. I think because visually you can see the station."

"Now we are at the final phase. I am comfortable and confident that when the park is finished, people will see the total logic in the long-term development plans, as opposed to the

short-term promotional side of development," he added.

The plaza will stabilize and have an untangle effect on the area, Kennedy said. City officials are not concerned about the rainwater lost when the bigger redevelopment plan is factored in, since they just added \$78 million in new rainwater into the Rahway sewer system, Kennedy said.

Approximately \$300,000 in bonds were issued for plaza construction. There were some delays in the construction, which was supposed to begin last year, due to the bids coming

in higher than originally expected. "I'm glad to finally see it under construction," said Frank Regan, Rahway's director of building, planning and economic development. "I believe the construction will be completed in a timely fashion. In about three months the project should be done and it will make people forget all that took place before that."

Regan will depart the redevelopment post at the end of the week to take a position with a law firm. See the story on Page 3.

Initially, when the city bid the project last summer, the bids came in substantially higher than the original construction estimate, according to Regan.

"The city didn't have sufficient funds to award the contract, and felt it was in their best interest to rebid the project and see if we could get a better price," said Regan.

In January, the City Council awarded a bid to construct the plaza for about \$600,000 to the Viola Contracting Company from East Orange. The city did not get a substantial reduction, but did save about \$31,000 or \$32,000 — a 5-percent reduction Regan said.

According to Regan, Union County is going to pay about \$100,000 of the construction costs, while NJ Transit will donate about \$75,000. There also is about \$25,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds received through Union County and \$300,000 in a no-interest loan from the State Department of Community Affairs finance board, Regan said.

The basic plan of the plaza includes a pick-up/drop-off section for taxis in front of the train station on Madison Avenue. The present driveway will be eliminated, and there will be a parking area separated from Irving Street by an island, Regan said.

The plaza will contain trees, lights, street furniture, as well as an area where a stage can be put up for concerts or other uses. The entire project is expected to cover about half an acre, and has been designed as a draw for the train station. It is expected to give people coming off the train station something nice to see when they first arrive in Rahway, said the mayor.

Kennedy considers the plaza a great idea in terms of making Rahway a very important transit spot on NJ Transit's line. When people see the finished product they will agree it was a great long-term plan, the mayor said.

"The enhancement in front of the station, once it's complete, will certainly sell itself," Kennedy said. "However, it is one small part in a very large picture of planning."

New Jersey Transit dedicated the redesigned Rahway train station in August 1998 after a two-year renovation project.

The \$12.6-million project included two ground-floor commercial spaces, elevators, heated waiting rooms and ornate corridors.



Two teams square off Saturday during the volleyball marathon Saturday at the Rahway Recreation Center sponsored by The Merck Focus Group.

Volleyball marathon raises over \$30,000

By Brian Gooney

Managing Editor

Approximately 500 people on 48 teams took to the volleyball courts Saturday for a 12-hour marathon fundraiser.

The Merck Focus Group, which has been sponsoring the Children's Hospital since it was founded in 1979, Adults, teens and children were among the participants.

Gregory expects to raise the \$30,000 to \$35,000 needed to cover the cost of a surgical trip for the health care professionals in the organization. He and event chairman Dennis Ziebor will join the medical volunteer organization to the Dominican Republic during the first week of May.

"Our goal this year was to provide a complete trip," said Gregory.

"There is so much volunteerism by the doctors and nurses that the operations cost only a few hundred dollars," he added.

Healing the Children strives to establish "a continuing effort to assist children in need. The children are influenced by the humanitarianism of others — mothers, doctors, nurses and health and inspired to make a positive impact in their societies," according to the organization's literature.

The local chapter, Healing the Children Midland Inc., served more than 1,300 children in 1999 during trips to Kenya, Dominican Republic, Panama and Honduras. In addition, the chapter helped 139 children come to the United States for major surgery.

Teams played for one hour by appointment, said Gregory. Teams of 10 donated \$250 to participate, or \$25 per person, and corporate sponsorships of \$250, \$500 and \$1,000 also were made.

The volleyball fund-raiser is named after Dr. Frank Light, the head of anesthesiology at Rahway Hospital, who helped start the event in 1990 to help Healing the Children, said Gregory. The marathon was originally 24 hours and held at the Rahway YMCA.

"At that time, they were raising a few thousand dollars," said Gregory. The hospital remains one of the main participants in the event, he added.

"Different teams from different

areas of the hospital participate in the marathon," he said.

The Merck Focus Group, which was formed in 1994, became involved in the volleyball marathon. It was scaled back to 12 hours and moved to Rahway High School in 1998. The gymnasium at the new Recreation Center is an advantage, since it allows three games to be played simultaneously, said Gregory.

The Merck Focus Group was started in 1994 at the Rahway-Linden business to help employees of the pharmaceutical firm's plant in Albany, Ga., recover from a massive flood. Approximately \$150,000 was raised in a golf outing.

"It was such an interesting thing, helping people out, that people at Merck really got involved in it," said Gregory.

The group is involved to approximately 50 public-service ventures, such as the Police Athletic League's See GAMES, Page 6

Burglar hits worker, escapes

By Brian Gooney

Managing Editor

Linden police were continuing the investigation at press time Tuesday afternoon of an armed burglar who surprised and assaulted an employee Monday morning at the Staples store near the Linden-Rahway border.

County, Linden and Rahway police were involved in a major search of the building Monday morning for the man who struck a female employee. She discovered him while opening the office-supplies store along the 1800 block of East Edge Road.

The employee, whose name is not being disclosed, came across the burglar at 6:02 a.m. in the cash room near the store entrance, said Linden Police Chief John Milano. The man attacked her as she tried to turn and run. She called out to a male co-worker who was opening another part of the store.

"He struck her on the side of her face near her jaw with a handgun," said the chief.

The two employees ran out of the store and drove to the nearby Exxon service station at Routes 149 and

Grant Street in Rahway and called police, said Milano. Rahway police responded and notified the Linden Police Department.

Since the robber was armed and they were unsure whether he was still in the building, Rahway and Linden police cordoned off the store and closed the state highway to traffic in both directions, according to the police chief. There was an additional danger to passersby from shots since the front section of the store was entirely glass panels, added Milano.

The Union-County Emergency Response Team, part of the Prosecutor's Office, and the Sheriff's Department's K-9 Unit were summoned, according to the Linden police chief.

The Emergency Response Team members, who were dressed in heavy protective gear and helmets, entered the store at approximately 8:15 a.m., said Milano. The K-9 dogs were then sent in to search the building, he added. No one was found.

The suspect apparently fled immediately, said Milano. The witnesses describe him as black, with a medium build, medium or dark brown com-

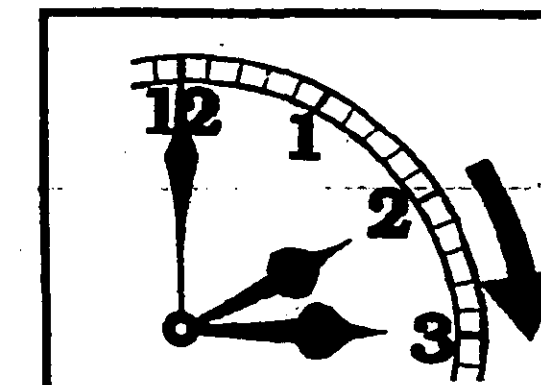
plexion and wearing dark blue pants and a shirt. The make of the gun is unknown.

Traffic was diverted onto St. Georges Avenue and Lower Road in Linden and Rahway. Routes 149 and 169 were reopened at 9 a.m., said Milano.

The female employee declined to be interviewed.

See GUNMAN, Page 2

Television news crews broadcast Monday from the site of the store robbery along Routes 149 and the Rahway-Linden border. Rahway police were originally contacted, and aided Linden and county authorities in closing the state highway and securing the area.



Spring ahead

Readers are reminded to push their clocks forward one hour before retiring to bed Saturday in anticipation of Daylight Savings Time, which begins Sunday at 2 a.m.