

UNION COUNTY NEWS

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1996

SECTION B

From The Editor's Notebook

By Tom Canavan
Editor in Chief



Mary Lou O'Connor attended a Planning Board meeting in her hometown of Mt. Olive to voice her objection to a 10-house subdivision that was proposed in her neighborhood.

Readers may not think twice about the previous sentence because either they too have attended public meetings and voiced objection about a development project, or they think it is not out of the ordinary for any resident to express an opinion about a project in their neighborhood. After all, a Planning Board meeting is an open public meeting, and residents within 200 square feet of the proposed development receive notices in the mail about the proposal. Those notices even state that residents can attend the public hearings and voice their opinions.

But Mary Lou O'Connor received another notice once she voiced her objection. She discovered that she was named in a lawsuit by the developer because she questioned the project during the public hearings. The Planning Board had rejected the project.

Mary Lou O'Connor is not in a unique situation.

She is part of what is called SLAPP, which means Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation, and there have been at least 500 of these cases since 1980.

A resident attends an open meeting of a town's governing body and speaks out against a proposed development. If the plans for the project are rejected by the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Adjustment, the developer in these cases not only sue the board that rejected the plans, but they also include in the lawsuit the residents who spoke out against the proposal.

Not only is this tactic a clear violation of a person's First Amendment right to Freedom of Expression, it is also a way to stop other people from voicing their opinions during public meetings.

A University of Denver professor said judges dismiss most SLAPP lawsuits, but on the average, he said, it takes about four years. All that can do is make the average citizen think twice about speaking out at public meetings.

In our coverage area during the last year, there was a great deal of vocal opposition to a proposal that would allow for a Pathmark to be located at a busy intersection in Union Township. Many citizens of Union attended the Planning Board hearings and lined up, one after another, to voice their objection. Our newspaper's Speak Out contained 80 column inches of opposition to the proposal. Could those residents, those who attended the meeting to voice their objection as well as those whose opinions made it into print, be included in a lawsuit by the developer whose proposal was rejected by the Planning Board?

Anyone can be sued, but judges must realize how frivolous these suits are and dismiss them immediately.

Washington state was the first state to adopt anti-SLAPP legislation in an effort to have these cases dismissed more easily. An effort to pass anti-SLAPP legislation in New Jersey several years ago never made it through the Legislature.

Our Assembly and Senate representatives must re-examine that proposed bill and bring it back to a committee for review. In the meantime, residents who are afraid to speak out during public meetings because they fear being named in a lawsuit must understand that that's the purpose of these lawsuits — to intimidate citizens.

By giving in and not allowing yourself to be heard, you would be just as responsible for the deterioration of your First Amendment rights as these developers who think they can take them away from you.

What's your opinion about this topic? Call our InfoSource hot line at (908) 686-9898 and enter Selection 8002. We'll publish your responses.

Surrogate service



Union County Surrogate Ann Conti praises one of her employees, Scotch Plains resident Maryann Pacific during a recent meeting of the freeholders. Pacific has been employed by the county for 25 years, and now is the supervising docket clerk in the Surrogate's Office. Rear, from left: County Manager Ann Baran, Freeholders Linda Stender, Frank Lehr, Dan Sullivan and Walter McNeil. Front, from left: Pacific and Conti.

Tree-lighting ceremony planned

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Division of Parks and Recreation have announced that the county's annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony and Charity Drive will be Dec. 6 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Watchung Stable, Summit Lane, Mountainside.

"There is a lot planned for this festive evening," said Freeholder Chairman Ed Force. "In addition to illuminating the light on a beautiful 20-foot tree, there will be a holiday sing-along, a petting zoo, demonstration by the K-9 unit of the Sheriff's Office, a mounted drill team presentation by the Watchung Stable, a visit from Santa Claus, and refreshments."

Making the announcement of the program with Force was County Manager Ann Baran, who added, "We are asking that members of the public who attend, bring along an item of dry or canned food, or a new, unwrapped toy in lieu of an admission fee. It is important for each of us to remember those who are less fortunate all year-round, but especially in the holiday season. All the items we collect will be distributed to Union County charities."

Further information about the tree lighting ceremony may be obtained by calling the Division of Parks and Recreation at 527-4900. In the event of rain, the program will be presented Dec. 7, same time and place.

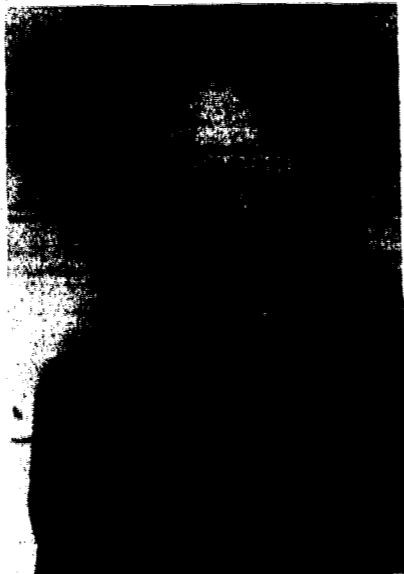
Freeholder named to national policy committee

The vice chairman of the Board of Chosen Freeholders has been appointed to a national committee charged with making environmental and other related policy recommendations to the federal government.

Freeholder Henry Kurz, of Roselle Park, was named to the Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee of the National Association of Counties by Michael Hightower, the organization's president for 1997.

The freeholder will be the New Jersey representative on the committee.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," said Kurz, explaining that he will focus on passing Congressional legislation that allows counties — such as Union — with built and bonded resource recovery systems to designate where municipalities can dispose of their waste.



Henry Kurz
Of Roselle Park

"I will use my position to ensure that the voices of Union, the 20 other counties in New Jersey and their citi-

zens are heard in Washington," he added.

Hightower, who has adopted the theme "Counties: the local solution" for his term, said he appointed Kurz to provide leadership on the committee that will focus on the control of air, water and noise pollution, solid and hazardous waste management and disposal, the preservation and proper use of water resources, energy, and the use of land in the areas of planning, coastal zone management, growth management, energy facility sites and recreation.

The committee, one of 13 that form the policy-making arm of NACO, is comprised of county officials from around the United States who meet several times a year to examine issues critical to local government. Its recommendations on legislative policies and goals are presented during

UCUA director to resign post

Callahan plans move to Colorado

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

The UCUA will lose its executive director in the near future.

Jeffrey Callahan has announced that he will resign his position before February.

When asked to explain why, Callahan said, "I just have a wonderful opportunity to move to Boulder, Colo. in a similar position, and I just couldn't pass up the opportunity."

Callahan is to become executive director of the Boulder County Recycling and Composting Authority in 1997. He has not said when he will be leaving the UCUA but added, "I intend to work as much time here at the authority during the transition time as much as possible."

According to Callahan, no replacement has been named for him. The Personnel Committee of the UCUA was to meet on Tuesday after this newspaper had gone to press.

"I feel that we're losing a valuable person with his background," said Bill Ruocco, chairman of the UCUA.

According to Ruocco, there has been no pressure from the UCUA to have Callahan resign his position.

"As a member of the Utilities Authority, I supported him to the best of my ability," he said. "We need someone with the background that he had."

But members of the Union County Concerned Citizens, a group critical of the UCUA's incinerator in Rahway, have speculated that there may be another reason for Callahan's departure.

"I wonder if Jeff is getting out while the getting is good," said Bob Carson of the UCCC who also is Rah-

way's representative to the UCUA.

According to Carson, both the UCUA's position and Callahan's have become more precarious of late.

Carson said that, since Callahan's position is a "political appointment," his future with the UCUA could be in doubt when the Democrats take over the Board of Chosen Freeholders on Jan. 1.

He added that New Jersey has "reached a turning point with incinerators." This is because of the recent rejection of the Mercer County incinerator by the voters and a federal court ruling earlier this year that will let municipalities choose cheaper alternatives to the UCUA for garbage disposal.

When asked what he expected from Callahan's replacement, Carson said, "I expect about the same. I expect the situation to get more critical because it's getting harder for them to get garbage."

Callahan said that his leaving was not a portent of major changes in the UCUA.

"There's nothing about my leaving that would affect the authority," he said. "The leaving was completely mine — to respond to an opportunity."

He added that he was not leaving because of an audit of the UCUA's management structure by the state Department of the Treasury. The first report of this audit, which was requested by the freeholders, is due in December. "In fact, I'm looking forward to them," he said.

"I don't think there will be any repercussions," he added. "I think we'll get through the audits."

'I will use my position to ensure that the voices of Union, the 20 other counties in New Jersey, and their citizens are heard in Washington.'

— Freeholder Henry Kurz
on being named to NACO

the association's annual conference. If approved, the recommendations become part of the American County Platform, which is the basis of NACO's efforts in representing counties before Congress and the White House.

Kurz said county input is crucial in shaping federal legislation.

"The role of county governments in shaping of legislation is important because the uncertainties of the federal budget will likely result in the con-

tinued return of programs and power to state, county and local governments," he said. "That is why it is important that county governments have a say in how legislation will affect their citizens."

NACO, the only national organization representing county governments, acts as a liaison with other levels of government, presents county positions on national issues and advances public understanding of the roles of counties.

Surrogate's Office wins statewide services-award

The first guardianship monitoring program in New Jersey has earned the Union County surrogate and award from an organization charged with looking after the interests of vulnerable adults.

Surrogate Ann P. Conti, of Mountainside, received the Meyer Schreiber Advocacy Award from the New Jersey Coalition for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults for the three-year-old Union County Guardianship Monitoring Program during the organization's recent 20th Annual Conference on Adults Protective Services.

The award recognized Conti and the program for improving service delivery to vulnerable adults in the areas of administration, legislation and judicial policy.

"It is wonderful to be recognized personally with such a prestigious award," Conti said, adding that six other counties have since started monitoring programs. "But credit must also be given to the staff and volunteers who work hard to make sure that vulnerable adults are receiving proper care and guidance."

Union County Freeholder Chairman Edwin Force lauded the program. "This program is proof that Union and other counties can effectively and efficiently administer services on their own for the benefit of their citizens," he said. "I cannot think of a better example of government, the courts and volunteers in Union County working on behalf of county citizens who need them most."

Nine trained court visitors — volunteers from the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program under the direction of Program Coordination Bert Schneider — have reported on more than 200 cases in Union County involving adults who have been declared by the court as incapable of handling their affairs and those assigned to look after them.

After meeting with wards and guardians, the court visitors present their observations to Conti, who, with a coordinator, may make recommendations for more assistance. In rare instances, the court will be approached.

"The whole point of the program is to make sure that adults who have declared incapable of handling their affairs are receiving proper care and guidance from their court-appointed guardians," Conti said. "We owe it to the most vulnerable in society to see that they are not being taken advantage of."

Day of the dead



Fanwood resident Jennifer Jimenez, a freshman at Jersey City State College, participates in JCSC's 'Day of the Dead' observance. The day is a Mexican holiday wherein spirits are welcomed by their family and friends. From left: JCSC President Hugo Morales, graduate student Jose Lowe, Jimenez and art professor Jose Roderio.

COUNTY NEWS

Horseplay for all

The Watchung Stable, Mountain-side, offers two programs, in addition to its fall and spring series of lessons, which are designed to introduce the sport of horsebackriding to all.

For Girl Scouts, there is a program designed to allow them to earn a Horse Lover Badge. This one-time session is appropriate for Junior Level Scouts and addresses the requirements as set forth in the badge handbook.

Pre-schoolers, youth and scout groups, senior citizen clubs and organizations for people with disabilities, will enjoy the stable's one-hour tour of the barn and its facilities.

Both programs can be arranged at date and time convenient for any group. There is a \$20 fee per hour; horsebackriding is available at an additional cost.

Contact Jean Jacobus at (908) 789-3665 for further information.

The Watchung Stable is a facility of the Union County Division of Parks and Recreation and is located at 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside.

'How to' course planned

On Dec. 21, from 9 a.m. to noon, the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County 4-H Program will con-

duct a workshop on "Building a Cookie and Candy Holiday House."

This is a model house made of cardboard and frosted and decorated with cookies and candies. It will brighten a home or office during the holidays and, if properly stored, can be used again for next year's holiday season.

The workshop will be held at the Rutgers Cooperative Extension auditorium, 300 North Ave., East, in Westfield. This workshop is open to all children, seven years of age or older, accompanied by a parent.

The \$10 fee is for supplies; but, as additional supplies will be required, registered participants will be notified as to what materials to bring with them.

Advance registration with payment is required. The deadline for registration will be Dec. 13. To register, make checks out to: New Jersey Cooperative Extension in the amount of \$10 and mail to: Rutgers Cooperative Extension 4-H Office, 300 North Ave., E. Westfield, N.J. 07090; Attention of Karen Cole.

When registering, indicate child's name, address and phone number. For more information, call the 4-H office at 654-9854.

Holiday show scheduled

The Roselle-Cranford chapter of Hadassah will present its annual gala Hanukkah show on Dec. 10, at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth-El, 338 Walnut Ave., Cranford.

The cast includes many local residents.

A special "Men's Night" invitation is extended for this event. Refreshments will be served.

Advent services

On the first Sunday in Advent, Dec. 1, at 4 p.m., the 17th annual presentation of a procession with carols will be celebrated at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Galloping Hill Road and Park Avenue.

The service is patterned after those of European cathedrals in the 18th and 19th centuries and derives its name from the choir's liturgical procession from the main doors to the principal altar, while singing antiphons and responsories.

As the procession reaches appointed stations, the choir offers traditional and contemporary carol-anthems reflecting the six Advent lessons.

The choir is composed of singers from St. Paul, Elizabeth, St. Peter, North Plainfield, and Christ Church,

Union, and is under the direction of Carol Capor of Toms River, St. Paul parish musician.

Healing Circle

A Healing Circle will be held Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at the YM-YWHA of Union County.

This month's theme is "Wishing Well." Participants should wear loose comfortable clothing and bring a towel or mat.

The circle is open to all. It is free to Y members, there is a \$5 fee for others, but no one will be turned away.

The Circle meets the first Tuesday of every month. Participants will learn how to ease tension and pain and discover their own inner guide to health and well being.

For further information, call (908) 289-3584.

The Y is located on Green Lane in Union.

Help wanted

The Retired and Senior Volunteer Program of Union County, RSVP, a program of Catholic Community Services, is accepting applications for volunteers who wish to serve with Travelers Aid of New Jersey.

Travelers Aid has been operating at

the International Terminal B of Newark Airport since 1992. New volunteers will be assigned to Terminal C, handling domestic flights. Training and parking are provided by Newark Airport and Travelers Aid. For more information, call Jo-Ann Croteau, RSVP director, at (908) 709-2152 or 709-2150.

Craft fair

On Saturday, Union Catholic Regional High School is sponsoring an indoor craft fair and holiday gift market from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the school, located at 1600 Martine Ave. in Scotch Plains.

More than crafters will display a variety of seasonal, decorative and functional crafted and new gift items.

There is ample parking, and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Photos with Santa will be available between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

For additional information, call (908) 889-9475.

Teen Arts

The Union Center National Bank, at 2455 Morris Ave. and 2003 Morris Ave. in Union, will host the Union County Teen Arts Touring Exhibit through Friday.

The exhibit consists of 26 pieces of art selected from the 513 visual artworks shown at the 1996 Union County Teen Arts Festival held in March at Union County College. The annual event is sponsored by the Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Division of Parks and Recreation.

Home repair training

The Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County will hold a fall training series for the volunteer-based Master Home Repair Program.

Participants receive technical training in simple home repairs and air quality. After training, volunteers are asked to donate 40 hours of community service.

Each training session consists of a lecture and hands-on experience. Classes are from 7 to 9 p.m. at 300 North Ave. East in Westfield on Monday and Dec. 9, and Jan. 6, 13, and 27, 1997.

The cost is \$40, which includes the cost of supplies and a manual. Registration is required. For more information, call Elizabeth Levin at (908) 654-9854.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

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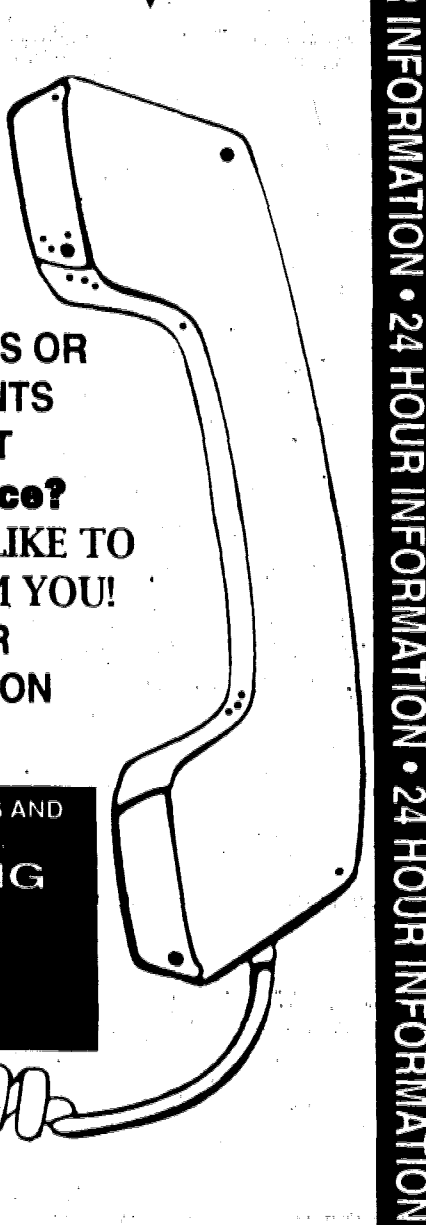
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Mayor Bollwage 'peeps' into the Elizabeth Playhouse

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

Since opening three years ago, The Elizabeth Playhouse has been a training ground for budding thespians. Their current production, "Dreamgirl" is no exception to this rule. The highlight of the run, however, will be tomorrow evening as Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage makes his acting debut as "Peeping Tom" in a benefit performance for The Center For Hope Hospice.

"He fell in love with the whole idea," said Marlow Ferguson, Playhouse co-founder and director of "Dreamgirl." "He's got his lines — line," Marlow quipped. "He's working very hard on it and he's full of fun, and he loves the theater."

Marlow described the Mayor as an avid Playhouse patron, missing only two shows since the theater opened, once for his honeymoon and recently during the election.

"But other than that, he's always been here with a bunch of friends. He's been a real supporter of the theater."

According to Marlow, combining the cameo appearance with the hospice benefit was the Mayor's idea. Both Marlow and wife Karon were pleased to conduct the benefit for The Center For Hope in Elizabeth, a foundation which provides round-the-

clock care for the terminally ill. The Playhouse has sponsored similar events previous seasons, including a benefit for the YWCA shelter for battered women and one for victims of the Columbian plane crash.

"We don't have much, but we share it," said Marlow.

What the co-founders of Playhouse do have in abundance is a love of acting and a desire to teach what they've learned. According to Karon, the two combined have 45 years of professional theater experience, which they use to produce quality, out-of-the-ordinary plays to delight theater crowds, and to help each cast, ranging in experience from experts to complete ingenues, reach their potential as actors.

Marlow functions as director, and as he put it, "Karon directs me." He joked, "I'm the rocketship and she's NASA Headquarters." Between the two of them, there is a wealth of knowledge behind each production.

According to Marlow, "Dreamgirl" — "not 'Dreamgirls,'" he corrected me at first — was written by playwright Elmer Rice as a present to his wife, actress Betty Field. The play opened on Broadway Dec. 14, 1945 and ran for 369 performances.

"In that era when they were doing over 2-3,000 plays a year, to get a run of over a year was remarkable."



Mayor Christian Bollwage

Marlow described Field as a daydreamer, as opposed to her down-to-earth husband.

"And he wrote this play about the 'Dreamgirl,' where everything that happens to her instantly turns into a daydream, and every daydream instantly happens right onstage. And it's a daydream full of self-delusion, self-pity, and great heroics all wrapped into one. It's an absolutely delightful play."

"Dreamgirl" is the most technically difficult production ever attempted at the Playhouse. Marlow furrowed his

heavy brow as he elaborated on the challenges cast and crew have encountered.

"Well, put a play on a small stage, which has 14 actors, 4 techies, 26 characters, with a lighting board complicated enough to light a phone booth and maybe an easy chair, and a sound system which was patched together by borrowings from here, there and another place, and borrowed and donated sets, with everything painted the colors that were from donated paint, and actors who range in age from 16 to 75, who have anywhere from 0 to 100 plays under their belt, with a script that most of the actors were not born, nor were their parents born when this play was originally done," he paused for effect, "this posed one or two minor problems."

"However," Marlow said with a gleam in his eye, "if you don't have challenges, why be alive?"

The director grew more serious. "The biggest challenge to me is always the acting. And what I try to convince my actors is, if they are alive to that audience, if they want what they want and they really want it, without camp, without fakery, without imposing, then that audience will care. This is the most critical element in the theater. And if you violate this ancient craft of acting, if for instance,

(See Local, Page B5)

First Night Summit

First Night Summit is looking for visual artists to display their work at First Night Summit, held annually on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31.

Work, both two- and three-dimensional will be shown in downtown storefronts and in the Summit Middle School. All work will be lighted and secured, either in store windows or under the supervision of a First Night volunteer.

For additional information and to sign up, call Diane Gallo at (908) 522-1722.

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DINING REVIEW

November 27, 1996

Joy Food House
A joy to eat in or take out

Union's newest addition, Joy Food House, features excellent Chinese cuisine to eat in or take out, and free delivery with a \$10 minimum order. Call in your order at (908) 688-5275/5276, or stop by the restaurant with the red, white and blue flag waving in front, located at 1296-1298 Stuyvesant Avenue.

and \$35 gets a free order of General Tso's chicken. The restaurant is located at 1296-1298 Stuyvesant Avenue in Union, and can be reached by telephone at (908) 688-5275/5276. This column is intended to inform our readers about dining opportunities in the area

By Jacquie McCarthy
Associate Editor

It is a joy to describe the excellent cuisine at Joy Food House, conveniently located on Stuyvesant Avenue in Union. As it is situated almost directly across from the Union Leader building, it has become a favorite lunch spot for everyone who works for this paper since its opening two months ago, and not just because of accessibility.

The savory smells of Chinese food waft from the lunch room on a daily basis, followed by generous compliments from staff members. It was no different the day that my lunch companions and I sat down to take in the fare from Union's newest restaurant.

My meal was the House Special Mei Fun, such a generous portion for \$7.50 that I shared it with my companions. The dish was filled with pork, chicken, beef, vegetables, and several kinds of seafood, tossed with light and airy mei fun noodles. Everything was fresh and tender, cooked to perfection.

We also shared a pint of vegetable fried rice, which one associate described at "a meal in itself." Not many Chinese restaurants are as successful with this seemingly simple dish as Joy Food House. Lightly-cooked and tasty rice is mixed with big chunks of broccoli and a wide assortment of vegetables — juicy, fresh peas, carrots, water chestnuts and onions, to name a few — and steamed just right.

Owner Christina Yeung has established quite a following in the short time Joy Food House has been open. In addition to the great food, patrons are attracted by the pleasant atmosphere and friendly service. The restaurant specializes in Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine, although they also make Hunan and Hong Kong style. The menu includes the usual Chinese fare, and offers lunch specials, combination platters and chef's specials, both spicy and mild.

Joy Food House is open 7 days a week — Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 10:30 p.m. The restaurant offers free delivery with a \$10 minimum purchase. Any purchase over \$10 gets a free can of soda, over \$20 gets a free order of fried chicken wings

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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Local theater is a training ground for actors

(Continued from Page B4)
you mug, or you ring false notes, then the audience unconsciously will back out of the play. They won't even know why, you can't even ask them why. And they shouldn't have to know why. I don't ask my accountant how he figures out my taxes. I just pay them," Marlow laughed.

The Fergusons are passionate about tutoring the inexperienced.

"It's teaching this craft, this ancient craft, that matters very much to me," continued Marlow. "As with all teaching, you would like to sometimes open a head and pour in knowledge, but you can't do that. You have to wait until it dawns.

He spoke of the actors in 'Dreamgirl,' especially "one poor gal who is scared to death." He said it will be the first time she has ever been on stage. "But she's trying her heart out," Marlow said firmly.

He related an experience which helped shape his attitude toward his pupils. In his youth, Marlow worked for an opera house run by Teddy Parisi. Another young man who worked there was an accident waiting to happen.

"I mean, the kid was awful. He talked too much and he went too fast

and he broke things, and he just was wrecking the place."

Marlow complained about the young man to his boss. "And old Teddy put his arm around my shoulder and he said, 'Hey, look, look how hard he tries! He tries, he's going to get it!'"

"It was an epiphany for me. And thereafter, I never fired anybody who tried, because 'If he's going to try, he's going to get it!'"

So what do the Fergusons hope the audience will get out of a play performed by people trying their best to entertain?

"A good laugh. Just enjoy it. It's just fun. The great plays of the time that dealt with the great issues of the time are all forgotten the minute the issue is solved. And the plays that were written which were just romances and bits of fluff, and just stuff that touched people's hearts, these plays live on and on and on."

"So, relevance, I think, is a quality that you don't want when you do a play, because if it's relevant, it's like the newspaper headline. Once that's solved, it's not relevant anymore. There are eternal things that you write plays about, and these are the plays that last, like 'Dreamgirl.' It's an eternal piece of fluff, and wildly funny."

In a sense, every play is a challenge for the Elizabeth Playhouse. As good as they are at nursing fledgling performers, it is easy to forget that the theater is a fledgling endeavor in itself. The constant attention the couple has paid to the restoration of the building where the Playhouse makes its home, a big, beautiful old church in midtown Elizabeth, has definitely paid off. Renovations, however, have ceased once again due to lack of funds.

In spite of financial concerns, the Fergusons find ways to make each show a success. Donations come in many different ways, one significant one being the donation of a set from Warner Brothers, which will arrive early next year.

But the most significant contribution, according to Marlow, is the Playhouse's silent partner, wife Karon.

According to Karon, Marlow's description of her as "Supreme Overseer" is a lot closer to the truth. She finds time between earning a master's degree and writing children's books, a textbook on playwriting and a screenplay to do costume research, graphic art, promotions and fundraisers for the theater. Her most recent fundraising idea is a penny well in the lobby of the theater, where patrons

may rid themselves of those oft-times annoying coins for the benefit of the Playhouse.

But Karon enjoys her work. "It's been a lot of fun," she said. "And it's really good to see that many people come together on so many different acting levels. To actually see people getting along in that kind of situation, with no pay," she laughed, "you wonder why all of us are here."

But the Fergusons know exactly why they are there.

"I feel good about it," said Karon. "because people can come and forget their troubles for a couple of hours and watch the actors grow."

Tomorrow night, in addition to the cast of 'Dreamgirl,' the audience will have the pleasure of seeing Mayor Bollwage grow as an actor. I'm sure Teddy Parisi would agree that "He's going to get it!"

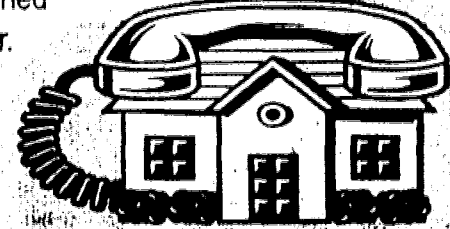
'Dreamgirl' continues through Dec. 22, with performances Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. General admission is \$8, \$6 for seniors and students. Tickets for tomorrow's benefit performance are \$15.

The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 East Jersey St. in Elizabeth. For information and reservations, call (908) 355-0077.

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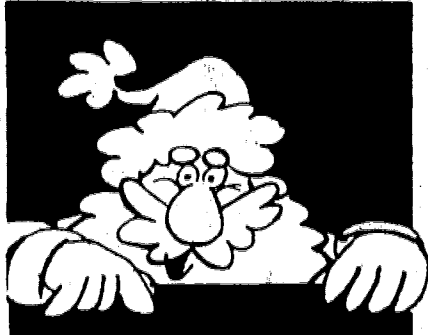
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Oh, what fun it is to SHOP!

Debt collectors offer holiday credit advice

'Twas the month before Christmas and all through the mall, the smell of burning plastic filtered through the hall. The shoppers were charging their gifts with delight and no concern of pending financial plight.

Millions of holiday shoppers will dust off their credit cards and hit the malls this month, happily charging everything from toys to tinsel. Unfortunately, many a shopper's holiday glee will become holiday gloom once their January credit card statements arrive.

The American Collectors Association, Inc., the trade association for professional debt collectors, offers the following advice to help consumers avoid post-holiday payment shock.

- **Limit spending.** Determine how much you can afford to spend on holiday gifts before beginning your shopping excursion. Stick to your budget.
- **Make a list and check it twice.** Create a list of people for whom you need to purchase gifts and how much you will spend on each one, making sure not to exceed your allotted budget. As you shop, record each gift and its cost next to the receiver's name, then add up your expenses so your credit card bill won't take you by surprise.
- **Use cash whenever possible.** If it is necessary for you to charge a number of gifts, put them all on one credit card, so you won't be juggling several bills in January. Look into applying for a special holiday card with a credit line that equals what you have to spend, and that can be destroyed after the holidays.
- **Be interest-conscious.** Be wary of department store cards and cards offering deferred payment plans since most charge hefty interest rates. Use a deferred interest card only if interest will not accrue until the first payment is due, and if you will be able to pay off all or most of the bill immediately.
- **Be a savvy shopper.** Take advantage of outlet malls and holiday sales. Rather than buying expensive wrapping paper, ribbon and bows from department stores, pay cash for those items at a dollar store. Also, consider giving gifts that are easy on the pocketbook such as an enlarged snapshot capturing a memorable event or a goodie basket filled with homemade treats.
- **Prepare for next year.** Start a holiday savings account and add to it each month. Then, throughout the year, hit retailers' clearance sales — you'll find great deals on gifts and, by buying a little at a time, you'll avoid last-minute shopping next year.

Consumers who are experiencing problems paying their holiday bills should contact ACA for information on working through their financial difficulties. For a free informational brochure, write to Solving Payment Problems, American Collectors Association, Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 39106, Minneapolis, MN 55439-0106.

Trailside center will host annual nature boutique

Trailside Nature and Science Center will host its annual Holiday Nature Boutique on Dec. 8 from 1-5 p.m.

Visitors will be able to purchase hand-crafted gifts made from natural materials or having a natural theme. Among the many crafts for sale will be wreaths of many different types; baskets, country and Victorian jewelry; dolls; pottery; stained glass; hand painted wood and stone; rocking horses; log reindeer; herbal soaps; wildlife carvings pressed flowers; honey; jellies and vinegars; wooden puzzle boxes; toys; stocking stuffers; and more.

Children will have an opportunity to shop for friends and family at the Kid's Gift Shop. Crafts of all kinds will be available for purchase to kids while they shop in a "hassle-free" environment, assisted by staff and volunteers.

All items in the Kid's Gift Shop will be priced at \$3 and under.

The planetarium show "Festival of Lights" will be held at 2 and 3:30 pm for \$3 person and \$2.55 for senior citizens. Light holiday refreshments will be sold, and Santa is expected to stop by with candy canes for little shoppers.

Admission to the event is a suggested donation of \$1 which includes doorprize tickets for chance to win donated craft items. Some of these items include a silver bracelet; a pressed flower paper weight; a raffia wreath; semi-precious earrings; wooden reindeer; candles; a basket; homemade apple jelly and spoon; and many more items.

For more information about the Nature Boutique or to volunteer, call Trailside at (908) 789-3670. Trailside is a facility of Union County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Dress up your house this season

When it comes to getting the house ready for the holidays, a few special touches are all you need to capture the spirit of the season. Create a feeling of warmth by grouping candlesticks of all shapes and sizes for a cozy glow, fill simple, country crockery with clove-dotted oranges and use greenery to add color whenever you can. These suggestions and more, from the home designers at Velcro USA, manufacturers of Velcro brand fasteners, will help get you started.

- Intertwine garlands of fragrant evergreens with gauzy red and gold ribbons to frame exterior and interior

doorways. Use Velcro brand Sticky Back tape instead of hooks and nails. Attach tape to surface and ribbons; press together firmly to attach.

- Create new family traditions by helping kids make their own ornaments. Cut out silhouettes of Christmas trees, Santas, angels and stars from foil and colored paper. Attach several like-silhouettes together by placing the Velcro Sticky Back coins in the center, front and back, of each cutout and pressing them together to create a three-dimensional ornament.
- Layer your table with contrasting

cloths, a solid atop a pattern and gather the top layer at each corner to reveal the cloth beneath. Accent with a sumptuous bow affixed with Velcro Sticky Back tape.

- Cozy up sofas with decorative pillows of gaily patterned fabrics that you can make yourself. Keep things simple by eliminating zippers and use Velcro brand fasteners for pillow closures.

For a free holiday booklet of quick and easy holiday crafts, write to Velcro USA, P.O. Box 6441, Dept. H., Riverton, N.J. 08077-6441.

Inspired by heat, Chinos make for cool gift

British Lt. Harry Lumsden could never be accused of being a slave to fashion back in 1846. Perhaps a slave to comfort, but not to fashion.

The resourceful soldier, based in India where the sun was unforgiving, pitched his official red felt uniform in favor of something more suited to the climate. He pulled from his steamer trunk cool cotton pajamas and, taking a tip from the natives, dyed the natural cotton with a tawny-colored plant extract called mazar. From that day on, Harry Lumsden would be best known as the inventor of the khaki. In 1884,

khaki dye was patented in Manchester, England.

The romance with khaki gained momentum at the turn of the century when foreign war correspondents donned these cool, durable and inconspicuous cotton pants for their dangerous work reporting in the trenches. Years later, Teddy Roosevelt got hooked on Khaki in the form of "safari" jackets that blended into the bush for his hunting expeditions to East Africa.

By the 1940s, Hollywood caught wind of this newest fashion statement

that had become synonymous with adventure and courage and quickly added a manly khaki jacket to the wardrobes of romantic leads. Leading ladies also got into the act, Deitrich and Katherine Hepburn sporting khakis on and off-screen.

But it was in the fall of 1945 that khakis really made their transition into civilian life. Khakis, also called chinos, made from military cotton twill fabric, were seen that season on college campuses around the country as young men returned from the war. Chinos remained popular with the

collegiate crowd throughout the '40s and well into the '50s. In the '60s, women adopted chinos into their wardrobes and have continued to embrace them for comfort, versatility, and style.

Today, chinos are a seasonless staple that can be worn all week long. "Women no longer need two separate wardrobes for work and weekends," said Irene Wilson, fashion director for Spiegel catalog. "With 70 percent of major companies offering at least one dress-down day, women want clothes that work a lot of different ways."

Spiegel addresses this with its fall '96 catalog, which offers lots of fashion options for flexible wardrobes, including chinos by CK Calvin Klein, Polo Jeans Co., Lizwear, Lee and Levi's Dockers. The catalog presents great ideas for dressing up or dressing down with chinos. Here are just some suggestions:

Dressing Up Chinos.
Pair chinos with a brightly colored jacket and matching turtleneck for a pulled together look for the office. Accessorize with high heeled black oxfords.

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Camera center expands due to high demand

By Chris Suswal
Staff Writer

Community Camera Center in Rahway offers much more than any of the local camera stores. There is also a Community Camera Center located in Colonia as well.

Steve Cuttler, owner of both stores, indicated that the center was able to expand because of the high demand of customers that branch out into the Edison, Woodbridge, and Colonia areas.

"We are not just your ordinary corner camera store," he said.

Community Camera Center offers state-of-the-art photograph processing as they sell equipment for every price range. The merchandise includes a wide variety of digital camera equipment that cannot be found at every camera store in the area. Community Camera Center sets itself apart by offering cameras like the Kodak DC-20. This particular camera includes film developing capability that many area sports teams, news media companies, and police departments rely on.

The Kodak DC-20 comes priced

under a few hundred dollars as the more advanced cameras could sell for far more. Their full gamut of equipment lets Community Camera Center operate among the camera business elite.

"We have some heavy hitters as our customers," Cuttler said. "People rely on us to contribute for their catalogues and evidence gathering equipment. The digital photo production can be hooked up into the more advanced computers to allow broadcasters to relay news photos instantly to their destinations."

Community Camera Center does offer traditional type gift items and equipment. They offer an assortment of camera bags, frames, albums, tripods, straps, and other gift items.

"We will assist our customers and let them be as creative as they want to get. We have everything the photo enthusiast could want," Cuttler said.

Community Camera Center locations are 1489 Main St. in Rahway and 572-9 Inman Ave. in Colonia.

Cuttler has been the owner since 1969 and has continued to build a reputation for good service as well as

a large and continually growing clientele. Community Camera Center's major customers include the New York Mets Baseball Club. They provide services for the team's photography department in all aspects. They are involved in production of promotional materials as well as the team's yearbooks. The store even offers a graphics department and can make poster-size prints up to four feet large.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

Rushing through shopping can be hazardous

During the holiday season, at last minute shoppers hurry to complete their gift-buying or return their gifts later on, shopping becomes an increasingly serious undertaking.

Navigating your way through a mall or store is also serious business — especially with coats, bags and boxes in your arms as you use crowded escalators and elevators. Schindler Elevator Corporation has developed some "rules of the road" so holiday shopping stays festive and safe.

Escalators:

- Don't overload your trip. If your hands are full, take the elevator. Placing packages on the steps or balancing them on the handrail may endanger

you or other passengers. Shopping carts, strollers, or wheelchairs should never be taken on the escalator.

- Watch children. Never allow children to use an escalator unattended. When traveling with a small child, hold his or her hand, and help children to step onto and off the escalator. No matter how tempting it is to make that distinctive "squeaky noise," do not let children drag their feet along an escalator's side. A shoe can become caught between the step and the side panel, causing serious injury.

- Never sit on the escalator. Serious injury can result if clothing, shoelaces or fingers get caught between the closing stair steps, between the esca-

lator step and side panel, or in moving parts at the top and bottom of an escalator. The best way to ride an escalator is to stand squarely on the center of the step, facing forward, with feet slightly apart and without touching stationary sides.

- Hold the handrail. The handrail can provide stability and balance for passengers. Always hold the handrail when riding the escalator. When boarding or exiting an escalator, step — don't slide on and off. After exiting, move away from the end of the escalator to leave room for other exiting passengers.

Elevators:

- Don't try to force or pry the elevator doors open. Press the "door

open" button to keep the doors open. It can be hazardous to use your hand, briefcase or even an umbrella to prevent the doors from closing.

- Passengers closest to the doors exit first. Don't worry about gender or age. If the elevator stops before your floor, step aside to let other passengers enter or exit easily and safely.

- Watch your step. When you enter or exit the elevator, make sure the elevator is level with the floor and step over the threshold. Be especially careful if you are wearing high-heeled shoes.

- Stay calm. In the unlikely event that an elevator stops between floors, use the alarm button or the elevator's

telephone or intercom to request assistance. Never attempt to climb out of a stalled elevator. Unless a trained emergency crew assist you, the safest thing to do is wait for help.

- In case of fire, take the stairs. If there is a fire or power failure, do not use the elevator. Leave the building by way of designated emergency exit.

Most elevator and escalator accidents can be prevented by proper riding. For a free copy of a brochure on elevator and escalator ridership guide lines, write to Schindler Elevator Corporation, Mail Stop UL305, P.O. Box 1935, Morristown, NJ 07962-1935.

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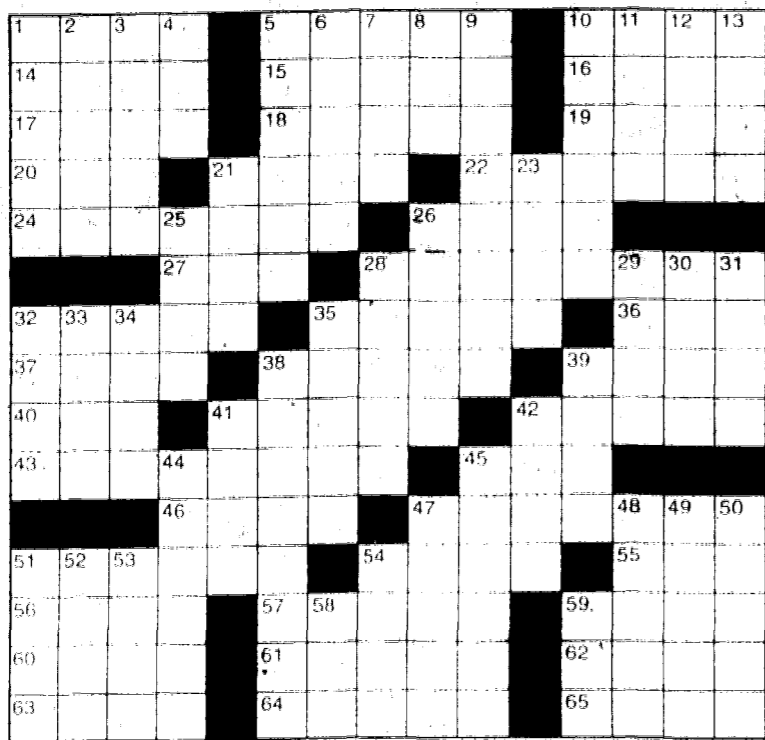
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ACROSS

1. Courts
5. First public appearance
10. Low-down, informally
14. London's Admiralty, e.g.
15. Wed on the sly
16. Seabird
17. Position
18. Three troy grains
19. Lingerie trim
20. Ballerina's pointer
21. Spy Han
22. Author Joseph
24. Weave
26. Brazilian soccer great
27. Mel the Giant
28. Jean Harlow's last film
32. Voice a view
35. Interlaced
36. Matrix component
37. Duct opening
38. Said "moo"
39. Skid row resident
40. Noah's craft
41. Used a miter box
42. Inch
43. Eased
45. Calendar abbr.
46. Oater actor Alan
47. Moisture
51. Excite
54. Cameraman's maneuvers
55. African worm
56. Beowulf's beverage
57. Gal pursued by Brutus
59. Bonded servant
60. Pennsylvania's third-largest city
61. Rent again

DOWN

1. Detritus
2. Celestial hunter
3. Singing group
4. Elle, in Manhattan
5. Pour out
6. Please greatly
7. Adriatic wind
8. ___ tree
9. Tied up
10. Fuel for newfangled wood stoves
11. Thermometer type
12. ___ in Love With Amy
13. Look intently
21. Pipsqueak
23. Vivacity
25. They ___ Believe Me

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

26. Laid concrete
28. Scattered seeds
29. Garfield's friend
30. Past
31. At the acme
32. Ellipsoid
33. Father, in France
34. Writing fluids
35. Impressed
36. Rent recipient
39. Architect Christopher
41. Good Housekeeping reward
42. Cold
44. Post-vacation presentation
45. Beliefs
47. Fluttered
48. Actress Verdugo
49. Classifies
50. Fireproof coffers
51. Govt. agents
52. Long lunch?
53. ___ On Entebbe
54. Accumulation
58. Actor Majors
59. Baglike part

Keitel portrays the man you hate to love in "Imaginary Crimes"

Harvey Keitel has played dozens and dozens of characters in films and, like most other constantly working actors, he tends to be typecast. His "type" is usually a hard-edged gangster or tough guy who's either in trouble with the law or out to kill someone. In "Imaginary Crimes," Keitel takes a break from this mold to play Ray Weiler, a dreamer whose relentless pursuit of the get-rich-quick scheme sends his wife and two daughters down a road of heartache and misery.

This beautifully written character study is told from the point of view of Sonya, Ray's 17-year-old daughter, played perfectly by Fairuza Balk, most recently seen in "The Craft" and "Things To Do In Denver When You're Dead." Sonya watches as her father goes through a string of misfires as he tries to make millions off inventions and real estate schemes, only to bring his family closer and closer to ruin.

Through flashbacks we see Ray's character revealed as he sells his wife's gold-etched dishes to finance a bogus gold mine. His wife Valerie, played by Kelly Lynch, patiently puts up with Ray's endless dreaming, hoping her dream of someday living in a house, any house, instead of their one bedroom basement apartment, will come true.

Sonya remembers her childhood summers spent in Canada with only her mother and her sister, Greta, as being her mother's happiest days. She was in her hometown, away from Ray, and would walk the beach with her high school sweetheart. Sonya would watch her mom and her old boyfriend laugh and smile and think to herself, "If he was my father it would have changed everything."

In Sonya's 12th year, her mother is diagnosed with cancer and slowly fades away. This again is told in a flashback, with Sonya voicing over the scene. The screenplay is always poignant and memorable. A young Sonya stands in the doorway as her father kneels at the mother's bedside.

The Video Detective

By Jim Riffel

"I was too young to understand that her eyes were closed forever and I would never hear her voice again."

All of these changes don't change her father's desire to score big in the cash department. His next venture is buying a couple of lots in the mountains to mine for gold. He, of course, needs investors, and cons Vargis, a well-to-do business man willing to take a risk. Vargis comes through with a large amount of capital, but Ray uses the money to pay rent and send his daughter to Edgemont, the elite school his wife attended. This act characterizes Ray perfectly. He is a con man and acts selfish at times, but he does try to take care of his family, however illegal his actions may be. This one saving grace makes you feel sorry for him rather than despise him and makes Sonya find a place in her heart to forgive him.

Harvey Keitel facts: Keitel was born May 13, 1941 in Brooklyn, N.Y. After high school, he had a stint in the Marines and then began acting in plays in New York City. He became friends with Martin Scorsese and the two have worked together on and off ever since the mid-60s. During the 80s, Keitel made more than 15 films in Italy.

Video Detective Trivia: What was Harvey Keitel's feature film debut?

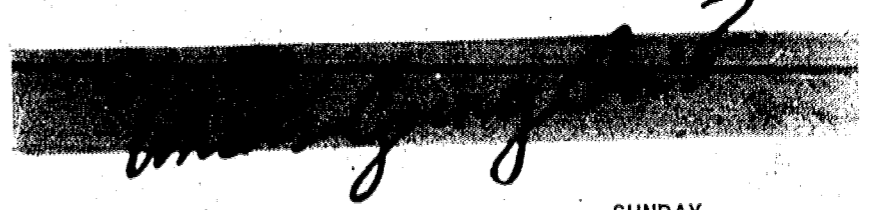
Answer: "Who's That Knocking On My Door?," Martin Scorsese's NYU thesis film.

New on video: "Independence Day," action; "The Phantom," suspense.

A resident of Mountainside, Jim Riffel is the author of "The Video Detective's Guide to the Top 100 Films of All Time."

Union band concert

The Union Municipal Band will present their second concert of the season Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Burnet School in Union. For further information about the concert, contact Leonard Galley at (908) 277-3433.



FAIR

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1996
EVENT: Fifth Annual Holiday Gift Fair
PLACE: Our Lady of Sorrows School Gymnasium, Academy Street, South Orange, NJ
TIME: 10:00am to 4:00pm
PRICE: Admission Free. Cafe O.L.S. serving lunch. Numerous vendors with all kinds of gifts. Any questions call 201-763-5352 after 6pm
ORGANIZATION: Our Lady of Sorrows School, Caritas Association.

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1996
EVENT: Big Indoor Flea Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School, Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1996
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington
TIME: 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
PRICE: Great buys: clothes, jewelry, books, housewares. New sample wedding & formal gowns.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church. Tables available for \$15. Call 372-0084 (between 9am and 6pm) or 373-3281.

CRAFT

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 30, 1996
EVENT: Sugar Plum Tree Holiday Craft Fair
PLACE: Saint Elizabeth School, 170 Husa Street, Linden, NJ, 908-486-2514
TIME: 9am-4pm
ORGANIZATION: Saint Elizabeth Youth Ministry

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1996
EVENT: Annual Craft Fair
PLACE: Mother Seton Regional High School, Valley Road, Clark. (Garden State Parkway, exit 135 across from Holiday Inn).
TIME: 9am-4pm
PRICE: The Peppermint Boutique will include over 150 crafters.
ORGANIZATION: Mother Seton Parents Guild

SUNDAY DECEMBER 8, 1996
EVENT: Holiday Crafts and Bake Sale
PLACE: St. Theresa School, 540 Washington Avenue, Kenilworth, NJ
TIME: 10am-4pm
PRICE: Free Admission. 50/50, gift baskets, raffles, refreshments available.
ORGANIZATION: St. Theresa Home School Association. For information call 908-276-7220.

WORKSHOPS EDUCATIONAL

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1996
EVENT: Can't Face The Day and Not Sure Why?
PLACE: The Psychoanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey, 769 Northfield Avenue, #LL2, West Orange, NJ
TIME: 3:00pm to 4:30pm
PRICE: Free. Come check out your blues at a free depression screening and assessment
ORGANIZATION: The Psychoanalytic Center of Northern New Jersey, 769 Northfield Avenue, LL2, West Orange, NJ 07052 201-736-7600

OTHER

SATURDAY DECEMBER 7, 1996
EVENT: Holiday Boutique
PLACE: Elmora Presbyterian Church, 980 Magie Avenue, Elizabeth
TIME: 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.
PRICE: Free Admission. Exclusively handcrafted items, baked goods, photos with Santa (10am to 2pm), music, lunch available.
ORGANIZATION: Elmora Presbyterian Church

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is pre-paid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:30 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, 265 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 763-9411.

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Speedy Car Wash outshines the rest

It's located in an industrial area on Lehigh Avenue — not exactly the kind of place you might expect to find a car wash, but somehow the Speedy Car Wash has managed to do quite nicely over the past 20 years.

According to Gene Rooney, who has operated the business for the past 20 years, the customer receives the best possible service at a reasonable price.

At Speedy Car Wash, an exterior wash goes for about \$2 less than the average car wash, a competitive price in a business where customers can be charged \$7 simply for an exterior wash, not to mention amenities such as hot wax.

In addition, the Speedy Car Wash offers free, self-service mat washing equipment, something many other car washes dispense only for an extra charge. Speedy also offers coin-operated, self-service vacuum cleaners.

Rooney always keeps his equipment up to date, replacing washing equipment as part of an ongoing commitment to giving the best wash for the money.

At Speedy Car Wash, Rooney's employees take time to wash off excess dirt from every vehicle before it even enters the conveyor — and the workers must greet each customer courteously because it is their job to do so.

When the car wash is not operating, Rooney is still busy keeping all equipment in working order.

"We've really done a lot of maintenance on our equipment," he said. "I think that our assemblage of equipment is superior to most other car washes in the area."

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HOROSCOPE

For The Week Of December 1-7

ARIES March 21-April 20

You're in for a good week. Old friendships blossom again, new ones take root. Profit potential is there but take care not to overextend yourself.

TAURUS April 21-May 21

Watch investments closely. Keep an eye on the details. A potential ally is waiting in the wings for the proper moment. Don't ignore exercise and diet.

GEMINI May 22-June 21

Play the waiting game. Don't get caught up in the crowd. Study situations before acting. What is in the background will gradually become clear.

CANCER June 22-July 22

Make time for yourself, but be careful. A little extravagance could cost more than anticipated. Keep your work and

play in perspective. Finish what needs to be done before taking time off for yourself. Share your concerns with your mate. He/she can provide a fresh perspective.

LEO July 23-August 23

Stick to a routine. Set priorities and stick with them. Don't be overwhelmed by the pressure of conflicting duties and desires. Your natural abilities shine through if you're in front of an audience. Catch up on your reading.

VIRGO August 24-September 22

You're on a roll—get your thoughts and ideas down on paper so you won't forget. Education matters require attention. Don't get caught up in little things. Try to see the bigger picture. Working hard and staying focused is the key to success.

LIBRA September 23-October 23

Let others take the lead. Wait and watch for the proper moment to make your move. Don't try to always be right. Letting others come out ahead now could pay off later. A domestic situation will improve if it is given time. Avoid scattering your forces.

SCORPIO October 24-November 22

Take time to reflect on past performance. See your strengths and weaknesses realistically. Try to stay positive and upbeat. Keep health resolutions—proper rest, diet are essential now. Avoid extremes. The middle-of-the-road course is best.

SAGITTARIUS November 23-December 21

Hit projects hard now for best results. Don't let work pile up—keep on top of it and you'll get ahead. Changes for travel, romance are highlighted. The right question at the right time could lead to a surprising answer.

CAPRICORN December 22-January 20

Avoid unnecessary expenditures, now is the time to watch your pennies closely. What seems to be a bargain could prove costly in the long run. Look, listen, stay on the sidelines. It may be hard, but this is not the right time to make a move.

AQUARIUS January 21-February 18

Tie up loose ends, including romantic entanglements. Your partner is willing to help if you allow it. The situation may not change, you may have to decide if you can live with it or be better off without it. A unique source can provide funds for special project.

PISCES February 19-March 20

Look on the bright side, things could be worse. Help a family member with a problem. Comfort when you can. Increased activities and demands require a healthy outlook. Proper rest and diet are essential. A partner's support is needed for a special project to be successful.

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Table with 4 columns: Horoscopes, Daily Updates, Inforsource, and It's Free! listing signs like Aquarius, Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Pisces.

Orchestra volunteers needed

The Westfield Symphony Orchestra has opportunities for volunteers to assist with a wide variety of activities, from poster distribution and ushering at concerts, to assisting with mailings and research.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor

Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

Benefit art auction

The YWCA of Eastern Union County will hold a Benefit Art Auction on Dec. 13 at the Elizabethtown Gas Company, Liberty Hall Center, 1055 Morris Ave. in Union.

There will be a Champagne Preview at 6 p.m. and the auction is from 7 to 9 p.m.

Admission is free. Visa, MasterCard and American Express accepted for auction purchases.

Large advertisement for 'Connections' featuring 'FREE Personal Ad FREE Voice Greeting FREE Message Retrieval' and '14 New Ads'.

HOLIDAY DEADLINE SCHEDULE. Christmas Week: Newspapers will publish Friday, December 27, 1996. Display Advertising - Space & Copy, Friday, December 20, 1996, 12 Noon. Classified In-Column - Friday, December 20, 1996, 3 P.M. Public Notice Advertising - Friday, December 20, 1996, Noon. What's Going On - Friday, December 20, 1996, 4 P.M. Our offices will close at 12 Noon, Monday, December 23, 1996 and will reopen Thursday, December 26, 1996 at 9 A.M.

GALA CHANUKAH PROGRAM. SUNDAY, DEC. 1ST • 12 NOON-4 PM. We would like to take this opportunity to say Thank You. It's been another busy year, and we want to thank you, our advertisers and readers for your support this year. Best wishes to you and yours!

SHOPPING/GIFT BOUTIQUE SPECIAL VIDEOS CHANUKAH REFRESHMENTS BOOK FAIR (thru Dec. 10th) MAGIC by MAURICE - 1PM TRIXIE THE CLOWN - 2 PM COOKIE FACTORY - 3 PM. COME AND CELEBRATE WITH US! FREE GIFT WRAPPING! \$1.00 DONATION SUGGESTED. YWCA OF UNION COUNTY 501 GREEN LANE • UNION (908) 289-8112

HEALTH/FITNESS & MEDICINE

Center awarded for knowledge of the 'A-B-C's' of diabetes

The Joslin Center for Diabetes at Saint Barnabas "Diabetes A to Z" outpatient education program available at Livingston/West Orange has been awarded the prestigious Certificate of Recognition from the American Diabetes Association for the second time. Recognition was first achieved in 1992, prior to the establishment of Joslin's satellite NJ divisions. The current award has also been presented to the Joslin Divisions in Toms River and Princeton.

The ADA Recognition Program, begun in the fall of 1986, is a voluntary process which assures that education programs have met the National Standards for Diabetes Patient Education. Programs that achieve recognition have a staff of knowledgeable health care professionals who can provide state-of-the-art information about diabetes management for participants.

Patient education is an essential component of diabetes treatment. The participant in an ADA Recognized Program will be taught self-care skills that will promote better management of his or her diabetes treatment plan. Approved programs cover general facts, psychological adjustment, involvement of the family, nutrition, exercise, medications, relationship between nutrition, exercise and medication, monitoring, hyperglycemia and

hypoglycemia, illness, complication prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, hygiene, benefits and responsibilities of care, use of health care systems, and community resources.

Assuring high quality education for patient self-care is one of the primary goals of the recognition program. The support of the health care team and sound knowledge about diabetes will help to ease the patient's burden that comes with assuming a major part of the responsibility for diabetes management. Through patient education, unnecessary hospital admissions and some of the acute and chronic complications of diabetes may be prevented.

"The process gives professionals an national standard by which to measure the quality of services they provide," commented George P. Gerwitz, M.D., Joslin's System-wide Medical Director. "As a national affiliate of the Joslin Diabetes Center of Boston, the Saint Barnabas Health Care System's statewide network of Joslin Centers focuses on patient education and multidisciplinary team care — concepts pioneered by Elliott P. Joslin, M.D., Joslin's founder."

For more information about the Joslin Center for Diabetes at Saint Barnabas, or the next "Diabetes A to Z" program, call (201) 325-6555.

Hospital director introduces new medical technology

Steven Wozniak, CNMT, RT, of Bedminster, has been appointed director of Radiology and Biodiagnostics at Union Hospital, Union, NJ.

In his new position, Wozniak will be supervising a staff of sixty-five employees in a variety of areas, including bio-diagnostics, nuclear medicine, CT scan and diagnostic x-ray, as well as several others. Wozniak will also be responsible for overseeing the complete renovation of the department and the upgrade of various pieces of equipment utilized by the department.

Wozniak is extremely enthusiastic about his new position and the changes which are taking place within his department. "By the end of the year we should have a new mammography suite up and running. We are also enlarging the size of nuclear medicine, relocating and renovating our 'hot lab' — an area in which we make and store radioactive materials, and making many more fantastic and necessary changes," said Wozniak.

Wozniak approaches his job with a strong emphasis on team work. "I truly love nuclear medicine," said Wozniak. "I believe it is important to work together and develop strong relationships with others. I prefer to work in my scrubs in order to stay in touch with my employees and continue to practice nuclear medicine. If you do not continue to practice nuclear medicine you will lose the skills you require."

Prior to his new position, Wozniak worked as Chief Nuclear Medicine Technologist at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Union Hospital's affiliate. Wozniak is certified in nuclear medicine technology and is a member of The Nuclear Medicine Technology Certification Board, The American Registry of Radiological Technologists, and holds a State of New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection Nuclear Medicine Technology License.

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managed care programs include an HMO, also called HMO blue, a point-of-service plan, Blue Choice, and a preferred provider organization, Blue Select.

The plan's HMO Blue health maintenance organization has been the fastest growing HMO in the state, with 228,000 members.

The NCQA process evaluates how well a health plan manages all aspects of its medical delivery system and the extent to which it continuously improves health care for its members, as well as its relationships with medical providers.

To earn one-year accreditation, HMO Blue met NCQA's quality and service criteria in six evaluation categories including: quality management and improvement, members' rights and responsibilities, provider credentialing, preventive health services, utilization management, and medical records.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 3 p.m. Tuesday.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield awarded for managed care

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of New Jersey announced that its managed care organization, HMO blue, has received one-year accreditation status from the National Committee of Quality Assurance, the nation's premier quality monitoring group for health maintenance organizations and other managed care plans.

NCQA accreditation has become the industry standard by which managed care organizations are measured. One-year accreditation means HMO blue is in "significant compliance" with NCQA's strict quality and service criteria.

"We are extremely proud to receive one-year accreditation from NCQA for HMO Blue," said William J. Marino, president and chief executive officer of BCBSNJ. "This highly respected and independent designation validates that HMO Blue is performing at high levels in providing quality care and service to our members."

More than 750,000 of BCBSNJ's 1.9 subscribers are in managed care, up from 65,000 in 1990. BCBSNJ's



Steven Wozniak of Bedminster has been appointed director of Radiology and Biodiagnostics at Union Hospital, Union.

Visiting nurses win grant to help keep families healthy

Visiting Nurse and Health Services has been awarded a Healthy Families grant from the New Jersey Department of Human Services Family Preservation and Support Services. This program offers all new adolescent parents residing in the City of Elizabeth some support services, i.e. information and referral, and those families most at risk of child maltreatment and other poor childhood outcomes are provided intensive home visitation services. Family support workers will teach eligible families parenting skills and assist them in accessing appropriate health care services.

"Healthy Families" was first piloted in the state of Hawaii in the late 1970's and has demonstrated significantly lower rates of child abuse and neglect in families that have been screened and for those that were enrolled in the program. Many states have since implemented programs with similar success rates. Nina Chianese, Director of Community Based Services, is very excited that VNHIS is participating in New Jersey Healthy Families Program and is looking forward to the challenge of implementing the program.

Visiting Nurse and Health Services, a home and community health care agency, provides services to the communities of Union, Middlesex, Somerset and Monmouth Counties.

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

Looking better can make you feeling better

Hair growth takes place in the roots and follicles, where healthy cells divide and multiply, pushing the hair strands outward.

Unfortunately, some treatments for cancer inhibit the growth of healthy hair cells. Feelings, especially positive feelings, play a vital role in the restoration of health. The way you think and feel about yourself each day often begins with looking in the mirror. Hair accessories and wigs can become an important aspect of personal appearance.

Horizon Wigs and Beauty Supplies, located at 705 Jersey Ave. in Elizabeth, specializes in wigs and hair pieces for chemotherapy patients.

For a free consultation, call Jackie at (908) 354-9096.

Senior Options

Senior Options, a program sponsored by First Option Health Plan, has scheduled a meeting at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Pavilion Square, Randolph Road and Park Avenue, Plainfield, Wednesday at 2 p.m. RSVP to (908) 668-2825.

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A normally functioning nervous system is vital to good health. All of the structures and cells in your body depend on impulses carried by your nervous system. When these impulses travel uninterrupted, your organs and cells are able to function normally. But when there is interference, either too much or not enough nerve supply, your tissues and organs cannot function properly. This may make your body more prone to disease and other bodily ills.

The most delicate and important organs of the nervous system are located in your brain and spinal column. Although the spine supports and helps protect these vital nerves, any misalignment may cause interference with the flow of nerve impulses. That's why doctors of chiropractic concentrate in this area.

In the interest of better health from the office of **Dr. Donald Antonelli** -Chiropractor- Antonelli Family Chiropractic Center 2575 Morris Ave., Union 908-688-7373

YOUR EYES

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One of the popular misconceptions about the eyes and vision is that if you see "20/20", there is no need for corrective lenses. Strange as it may seem, this is not always true. If the eyes are perfectly normal in every respect, correction may not be needed, but even imperfect eyes may sometimes rate 20/20 when tested.

Young, farsighted people can depend on their strong, near-focusing muscles and flexible lenses to focus on close objects. However, the constant use of the muscles to make this unnatural correction often results in eyestrain, eye fatigue and headaches, especially while reading.

Corrective lenses should help the eyes to focus on nearby objects without strain. To maintain easy, strain-free vision, have your eyes examined periodically.

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TRANSACTIONS

(Continued from Page B13)

Enrique Cuesta sold property at 143 Camden St., to John A. Graziano for \$116,000 on Sept. 13.
Stephen M. and Mary E. Carroll sold property at 512 Amsterdam Ave., to Richard C. Bodmann for \$139,750 on Sept. 16.

Union

Jack Q. and Li M. Shu sold property at 2232 Hobart St., to Esperanza Santocildes for \$200,000 on Sept. 3.
Joseph L. and Gina Parisi sold property at 1121 Richmond Place to Mia L. Chan for \$155,500 on Sept. 4.

Summit

Stephen M. Varley etux sold property at 70 Portland Road to Charles F. Boucher for \$557,000 on Sept. 6.
Barbara Vacciano sold property at 148 Division Ave., to Ebrahim Karkavandian for \$295,000 on Sept. 11.

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APARTMENT TO RENT

IRVINGTON, UPPER Spacious 1 bedroom apartment in well kept elevator building. Credit application required. 201-374-7489 or 201-371-9728.

MAPLEWOOD VILLAGE, Lovely 1 bedroom \$750 and spacious 2 bedroom \$995. Center of town. NY bus, train transportation, shopping at doorstep. Available immediately. Heat, hot water included. References, security 201-378-9521.

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UNION, 1 BEDROOM apartment. Heat, hot water included. Close to shopping and transportation. Call 908-964-4229 anytime.

UNION, 4 room apartment, 2nd floor, 2 family house. \$550, furnish your own gas, electric. Call between 5:00-7:00 pm. 908-687-2499.

UNION, 6-room apartment (3 bedrooms). Nice, convenient neighborhood. \$885 plus utilities, 1-car driveway parking. No pets. Available immediately. Call 908-688-1561.

UNION, BRAND NEW construction. One bedroom. \$650, all utilities included. One block from Union center. Call 908-686-9045 after 6PM.

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Christian couple in early 50's seeking to rent 2 bedrooms, den or family room. Living room and dining room. 201-762-4905.

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Automotive

Acura auto division continues on its trailblazing trend

The Acura automobile division will be featuring the new, open-top NSX-T sports car, the all-new TL Series of luxury sedans and the Acura CL-X concept car which represents a new vehicle Acura plans to produce in America.

"The featured models represent three of the four new automobiles we intend to offer over the next 12 months," said Rich Thomas, Acura's executive vice president and general manager. "These cars usher in an important new era as we near the end of our first successful decade."

The all-aluminum NSX-T is powered by a 270-horsepower, 3.0-liter, VTEC engine and is a showcase of leading-edge technology. Its unique 19-lb. aluminum top is easily stored neatly between the engine cover and the rear glass. The Formula One-inspired SportShift system for the automatic transmission models features a selectable manual shift mode which incorporates a unique steering column-mounted finger-tip shift control allowing either fully automatic or manually-controlled shifts for spirited driving.

Other features include the only electric power steering system available on any production car, an updated Traction Control System, TCS, and drive-by-wire throttle control system.

The new TL Sedan Series will be available in two models, the luxurious 3.2TL, which will offer a 200-horsepower inline 5-cylinder engine. The models were designed as touring luxury automobiles which offer a sporty, youthful alternative to traditional luxury automobiles.

The new TL model feature a full array of luxury appointments including an automatic climate control system, power windows and door locks, cruise control, and a high power AM/FM cassette/CD player. Some of the standard safety features on the TL series include dual airbags, Anti-lock Braking System, ABS, side-impact protection and available Traction Control System.

"The new TL Series will be the first models to adopt an alphanumeric designation in Acura's efforts to maintain focus on the "Acura" brand name," said Thomas. "Each model—with the exception of the NSX—will also adopt an alphanumeric designation at their full model changeover."

The futuristic "Neo-Classic" CL-X concept car integrates futuristic styling with classic luxury sports coupe

design. The CL-X offers a preview of what will ultimately become a new, made-in-America model.

The CL-X was designed exclusively in the USA by a special project team at Honda R&D North America's Los Angeles design studio.

"With the introduction of Acura's U.S.-built model, the Acura division will be the first luxury import automaker to design, engineer, develop

and manufacture an automobile in the U.S.," said Thomas. "This will contribute greatly to the company's expansion strategy here in North America."

Since starting operations in 1986, Acura has sold more than one million luxury performance automobiles in the U.S. The new Acura NSX-T and 2.5TL, along with the Legend and Integra, are now available at nearly 300 dealers across the U.S.

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THE STUNNING CLK — The Mercedes-Benz is an all-new coupe that, like the CLK roadster, is a stand-alone model. In terms of size, the CLK falls between the mid-size C-class and the full-size E-class lines. "Muscular elegance" might sum up the design concept of the Mercedes-Benz CLK, which combines an E-Class-inspired front end with a sleek coupe silhouette. The four headlight lenses are more elliptical and steeply raked than the E-class sedan's. Going on sale in the fall of 1997 in the United States, the CLK will feature an all-new 3.2-liter V6 engine and five-speed driver-adaptive automatic transmission.

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