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Waiting for the call

I asked Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage what it's like to wait for a call from the vice president as he did last week.

Bollwage acknowledged that despite the numerous requests with the vice president's call, Bollwage and his staff were expected to be notified by the end of the week. The call was good news as Vice President Al Gore announced a new round of funds to expand light rail from Newark to Elizabeth for the Union County is getting

Left Out

By Frank Capace

It's a regular part of this travel. I'm a few weeks' age, he announced a major initiative for dredging the Elizabeth River.

I got to thinking about networking and its values. Our US Senators, Frank Lautenberg and Bob Torricelli are both accessible. In fact Torricelli showed up at the county freeholder reorganization meeting in January. Assemblyman Joe Saffo and Freeholder Donald Gonsky are frequent visitors to the power halls of Washington. Last year Gonsky's brought celebrity Congressman Patrick Kennedy to host a fundraiser.

A few years ago and with no fanfare, Walter McNeil, now a freeholder and now the administrator of Plainfield, had a set-down meeting with two other officials and the president to discuss urban issues. On the Republican side, the late Congressman, Bob Morgan from Roselle Park was on a first-name basis with President Gerald Ford. If you want to network with state Senate President Donald DiFrancesco all you have to do is drive to Scotch Plains.

The subject of networking has its yearly remedy last week. The 62nd annual Chamber of Commerce trip brought with it the 62nd annual brew of critical news stories from the daily press. Critics call it the capital of the nation. Supporters call it the valley of networking.

My network, somewhat in the middle. Corporate executives and lobbyists who think that digging down in Washington on that train accomplishes anything really are outdressing themselves. Elected officials do get the benefit of meeting with their counterparts. Knowledge and contacts are stuck and trade investments by the political community.

The criticism of the train ride is also the criticism of the train ride. League of Municipalities goes on in Atlantic City. It's a good bet that some poll or news editor will take the easy way of attacking the trip as a junket. They are wrong. In fact the daytime seminar and the networking with officials around the state is a great investment for residents back home. If the officials party at night, who really cares?

Have the nagging doubt that the bureaucrats who make the formulas for distribution of state funds are the real power people. Never mind the power people. I'd pay to watch the meeting with the mayors of Clark, Hillside and Winfield with the people who determine that only their communities should be privileged on property relief. For networking, local priority is important. A great story in our state concerns the time when Gov. Richard Hughes simultaneously got calls from President Lyndon Johnson and East County political boss Dennis J. Hughes. He explained to an amused reporter why he first took the other call. Johnson was required to remark that Hughes had the priorities correct.

The rewarding impact of contact is always debatable. I just can't help but thinking that I don't know for certain what we get with them, but I still believe that where we would be without them.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capace is an attorney.

Municipal aid bill gains unanimous senate approval

State assembly expected to give approval next month

By Mark Hryniak Regional Editor

The state Senate gave its unanimous approval last week to a bill that would increase annual state aid to municipalities by at least the rate of inflation. The bill now moves to the Assembly where it is expected to be released from the Appropriations Committee and approved next month.

The Senate Bill, S-10, sponsored by Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, R-Hunterdon and Kevin Robertson, R-Foxcroft, received bipartisan support with a 60-0 vote. The bill also was cosponsored by a number of senators, including Republican C. Louis Bassano of Union.

According to figures released by DiFrancesco's office, many municipalities throughout the state have not received an increase in the amount of state aid since 1991. On the whole, Union County municipalities are expected to receive \$110.3 million in state aid in 1999. Using an annual 2-percent increase for inflation, Union

County would receive \$111.8 million in 2000, \$122.9 million in 2001 and \$134.4 million in 2002. By 2003, Union County municipalities would receive \$167.2 million, an increase of \$55 million over this year.

Staff members from the senator's office said figures for individual towns were not available because the bill would affect this year's state aid allocation, which has not been finalized.

The legislation would provide an inflation index for the Consolidated Municipal Property Tax Relief And Program Beginning July 1 and for the Jersey Tax Deferral And program in 2003. At the same time, it would determine the municipal cap, ratify the Implicit Price Deflator for State and Local Government Purchase of Goods and Services.

DiFrancesco said that by adjusting the CMPTA and Jersey Tax Deferral and program for inflation, S-10 would provide local elected officials with a valuable budgetary tool, one

which would enable them to craft budgets with a higher degree of predictability and reliability than is presently available.

"Legislators clearly that the additional dollars municipalities receive through this program must be used to reduce the property tax burden on residents. It cannot be used to increase spending," said DiFrancesco, who has been mentioned as a potential candidate for governor in 2001.

Each year, state aid means less for a municipality because of inflation, said Robertay Mayor James Kennedy, a Democrat. "This is a step in the right direction in terms of funding. What's not funding level a town is allowed to receive at least an increase that covers a rise in the cost of living," he said. "It's a shame, but Kennedy said, state aid is critical to the viability of a community, which can penalize some towns while rewarding others. Since 1992, Kennedy said, his town has strengthened its community economically, but not last

Elizabeth Mayor Christian Bollwage said he was supportive of DiFrancesco's measure when it was first introduced during a recent press conference.

"For five years, state aid has been frozen," said Bollwage, a Democrat. "Inflation and other rising costs, such as pension costs, dictated by the state and state mandates, have driven costs up. The pension crisis increased 44 percent this past year."

Bollwage believes the new measure will at least address structural problems with state aid.

The Assembly version of the bill, A-244 and A-283, likely will be combined and considered by the Appropriations Committee at its March 4 meeting, according to Committee Chairman Richard Bagger, R-Union. Bagger is a sponsor of A-244, and the measure should come before the full Assembly for a vote next month.

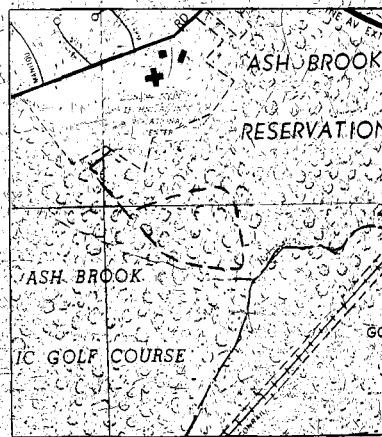
Once approved by the Assembly, the bill would go to Gov. Christine Whitman for her approval.

Bagger, said he expects the Assembly bill to be approved with bipartisan support as its Senate counterpart did. Over time, he said, state aid has dwindled. Expenses have increased for municipalities while aid has been steady, said Bagger, so the bill would increase aid proportionately.

Assemblyman Joel Weingarten, R-Elizabeth, chairman of the Appropriations Committee, believes this is the "right direction" for the state to move in "in order to provide property tax relief."

The state should be undertaking all efforts within its power to reduce the heavy burden of property taxes on our residents," said Weingarten, and, "As such, to the degree which we're providing municipal aid, I am fully in accord with providing an annual inflation adjustment because in state aid for municipalities because I believe this will help mitigate the effect of taxes on our residents."

Staff Writer Anthony Puchta contributed to this report.



Preliminary engineering work on the proposed Ash Brook Nature Trail, represented on this map by the dashed lines behind the Union County Vocational School, is expected to begin shortly.

Outside firm to begin work on Ash Brook trail

By Mark Hryniak Regional Editor

An outside engineering firm will be hired by the county for \$73,500 to conduct preliminary work on a nature trail in Ash Brook Reservation, behind the John H. Stander Police Academy on Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. Due to the complexity of the project an outside engineering firm, The Alamo Group of Mount Holly, was needed, said Dean Talcott, principal engineer for the Union County Division of Engineering.

Once The Alamo Group completes its work, the county should have a estimate on the cost of the entire project, said Armand Ferlazzo, director of the Department of Operational Services. The Alamo Group will perform work which includes soil borings to properly design boardwalk and landscape pier, obtaining permits, and other plans and specifications.

The Board of Union Freeholders is expected to approve the contract at its meeting tonight and Talcott said the preliminary work may be done in about six months, but any timelines are dependent on receiving permits and responses from the state.

Talcott first approached the freeholders about the nature trail with a presentation in August 1998. The project also was presented before the Union County Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Freeholder Lorraine G. Myrland in March 1998.

The Ash Brook Nature Trail project calls for a roughly 1.5-mile trail, 1.5 miles long beginning in front of the police academy on the right side. Sixteen miles of the area is a swamp, a 4,000-foot-long loop will require a boardwalk, said Talcott, similar to the boardwalk at the Great Swamp in Morris County.

A footbridge will be needed to cross Ash Brook, which flows into Robinson's Branch of the Raritan River and that will lead to an "overlook" at the edge of the swampy area.

The Ash Brook trail, said Talcott, would be suitable for all ages as well as a destination for field trips where school children could learn about nature, wetlands and local history. Parking should be available, he said, at the Union County Vocational School.

Other amenities suggested for the trail included a bulletin board at the beginning of the trail giving rules and other information; an interpretive trail map that might describe historical, geological and environmental features; construction and installation of suitable bird houses, such as wood ducks and construction of a raised observation area.

The Ash Brook Reservation consists of approximately 300 acres behind the Scotch Plains Park border. The land is swampy, mostly with the 100-year flood plain of the Robinson's Branch of the Raritan River and that situated is a wetland by the National Wetlands Inventory.

The area where the police academy is located is called "red soil," said Talcott. It was used by the Indians and artifacts have been found there. In the general vicinity, the "Banks of Ash Swamp" area, which is 25-30 feet deep, when a person foraging had looked at a swamp.

Executive director appointed for UCIA

By Mark Hryniak Regional Editor

The Union County Improvement Authority's annual reorganization meeting Tuesday night witnessed a series of changes within the agency's structure.

The board approved the creation of an executive director for the authority. "I think Brook Place will begin the duties as director Tuesday night. Financial Administrator Bruce Linger will remain until April 1 for a six-week transition period. The executive director's salary will be \$40,000."

Plaza, a native of Roselle Park, is currently chief of staff for state Sen. Robert Kaso (D-Union), and has worked for Democratic gubernatorial candidate and former state Sen. Jim McGreevey.

A new chairman was elected, Dennis D. Carmo, who succeeded Republican Greg McDermott of Westfield. Paul DeVeno was elected vice chairman.

"The concept of a 'new vision' for the UCIA and a commitment from the freeholder board, is being more process through the authority. This is the first time I've seen a real commitment from the freeholders, similar to that of other counties, like Mercer and Middlesex."

After the last year's work, there is a freeholder vision that is really pushing county economic development, said Freeholder Vice Chairman Dan Sullivan, the freeholder liaison to the UCIA. "The freeholders have played an active part in economic development and we want the improvement authority to be, which is something that has been lacking the last few years."

We're ready to see a full-time executive director to advance the county's economic agenda with the

full support of the freeholder board, said Sullivan.

Plaza stressed marketing the authority in a "best way" to entice municipalities to utilize the authority. "It's important for these two to have a coalition and in the improvement authority, they will have a coalition."

However, not everyone shared the same vision Tuesday night. UCIA Commissioner Wayne Shiffert, one of two Republicans on the board, said there is no need for an executive director. "I don't see enough of an increase in business" to warrant the position, said Shiffert.

The UCIA board also saw a new commissioner take his position. The Board of Freeholders approved the appointments of George W. Devanney Jr. and Walter Borough of Scotch Plains at its Jan. 28 meeting. Borough was reappointed after serving one year on the board while Devanney was appointed to replace Republican George Jaffe of Plainfield.

Devanney also serves as director of the Union County Department of Economic Development and largely county manager. The question remains whether a conflict may arise should the county approach the improvement authority for funding.

Freeholder Chairman Nick Scarano said he sees no conflict with Devanney being on the UCIA board in addition to his position with the county. UCIA commissioner is a volunteer, non-paid position, said Scarano. The county goes to the UCIA to bond and financing should arise. Scarano said the freeholders would seek advice from the council of both boards.

UCIA Attorney Bruno Genova said he has not had "the opportunity to investigate it, but it is an open question. Freeholder Stephen Caputo could not be reached for comment by pressing.

Sullivan said Devanney's appointment is "a good thing in terms of continuity between the UCIA and the county."

The UCIA is an autonomous agency which has the power to acquire, construct, operate and install public facilities through the issuance of bonds, notes or obligations to finance the work.

UCIA appointments: "I don't know, commissioners were expected to be sworn in at the Union County Utilities Authority's reorganization meeting last night in Rahway. Democratic James Kennedy, the mayor of Rahway, was expected to be re-elected chairman of the UCIA board for a second year.

Linden City Councilman Charles Trace and Clifton J. Peoples Jr. of Union were unanimously approved by the Democratic Board of Freeholders Jan. 28 for five-year terms on the UCIA board.

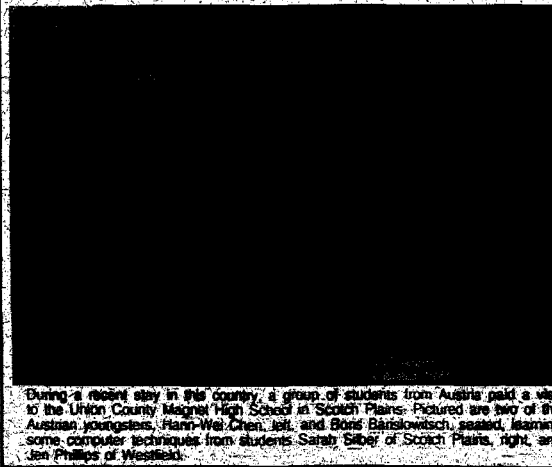
The UCIA is an autonomous agency which acquires and disposes without bonding and disposal within Union County.

Trace, a Democrat, has represented the city of Linden on the Linden City Council for the past five years and is up for re-election this year. He is chairman of the council's Finance Committee and the Airport Committee, which is heading up redevelopment of the Linden Airport.

Trace is council speaker pro-tem of the Linden City Council, which means he is acting mayor when Mayor John Gregorio is out of town. He also served 10 years as chairman of the Linden Planning Board.

Caputo and Richard Hunt, both Republicans, who were both appointed to five-year terms in 1994. Rucovsky was chairman of the UCIA Board of Commissioners in 1994.

Hands across the C's



During a recent stay in the county, a group of students from Austria paid a visit to the Union County Magnet High School in Scotch Plains. Pictured are two of the Austrian youngsters, Hans-Wolfgang and Gons Barzowitsch, seated, learning some computer techniques from students Sarah Eiber of Scotch Plains, right, and Jan Phillips of Westfield.

COUNTY NEWS

Women business owners feature success stories

Union County Success Stories will be the featured topic at the New Jersey Association of Women Business Owners...

Presented in a panel format, featured NJAWBO members will share their stories about the triumphs and obstacles they faced in building their businesses...

The meeting, which is open to the public, begins with networking at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:45 p.m.

The fee is \$25 for members with an advance reservation and \$35 for non-members...

Further information can be found at the Union County NJAWBO website...

Further information can be found at the Union County NJAWBO website...

County violet society to meet in Scotch Plains

The Union County Chapter of the Violet Society of America meets today at 1 p.m. in the Scotch Plains library...

Cancer society sponsors event in Roselle Park

The American Cancer Society, Union County Unit invites residents to a 24-hour telephone hotline...

The purpose of the event is to let people know about the relay and how they can be involved in the event...

For more information, call the American Cancer Society at (908) 354-7474...

County blood drives aim to combat shortages

The Blood Center of New Jersey will sponsor blood drives throughout Union County...

- Friday, 3 p.m., Union Hospital, 1040 Gallatin Hill Road, Union
Saturday, 3 p.m., Union Hospital, 1040 Gallatin Hill Road, Union
Monday, 3 p.m., Union Hospital, 1040 Gallatin Hill Road, Union

Donors should be 18 years old, Seventeen-year-olds may donate with parental permission...

People with cold or flu symptoms should wait until they are feeling better before donating...

Freelancers to meet

The Union County Board of Chosen Freelanders will meet Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. in the freetrader meeting room...

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news, Church, club and social, Entertainment, Friday Sports, Monday Sports, Letters to the Editor, Monday and General, Monday.

spouse volunteer training sessions each Thursday from Feb. 18 through May 6 from 7:00 p.m. at the Westfield Presbyterian Church...

Callers to Contact We Care may be looking for jobs such as assembly, meat, refrigeration, etc. about bottom, second or advertisement...

Contact volunteers needed the agency's 50-hour training program. They learn how to actively listen and deal with a broad range of human needs.

For more information, or to register for the Feb. 18 training session, call (908) 890-4140. Contact We Care is a United Way agency and an affiliate of Contact USA and LifeLine International.

County chamber to host networking social Feb. 25

The Union County Chamber and Regional Business Partnership Sponsor a joint networking social at the Holiday Inn Select, 36 Valley Road, Clark, on Feb. 25 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Advance reservations are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members, \$25 at the door. Respond by Feb. 19 to Union County Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 300, Hightstown, NJ 08520-0300 or call (908) 352-0900 or fax (908) 352-0865.

Correction policy

It is the policy of this newspaper to correct all significant errors that are brought to the editor's attention. If you believe that we have made such an error, please write Tom Canavan, editor, 1291 Myrtlewood Avenue, Union, NJ 07083-0701, or call (908) 790-7000, weekdays before 5 p.m.

Holton named director

The Arc of Union County has named Carolita Holton as director of resource development and public relations. The not-for-profit organization, which provides support, advocacy service and programs annually to 700 people with developmental disabilities and their families, is celebrating its 50th year.

An award-winning journalist, Holton, a Milltown resident, has a solid media background in newspapers, magazines, public relations and teaching. Her list of public relations clients includes SAGE, The Inheritance Hospital, The Newark Museum, The Newark Museum, The Newark Museum, The Newark Museum and The Newark Museum.

Holton has worked as a contributing writer for The Jersey Weekly, editor of The New York Times and as a staff writer for The Daily Journal, The Newark Times and The Independent Press. In addition, she served as editor of Morris County Magazine and free-lance for numerous publications including the

Star-Journal and American Benefactor Magazine. In 1998 she was conferred the "Woman of Excellence Award" in the journalism/public relations category by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women in conjunction with the Union County Board of Chosen Freelanders. She has won more than 50 journalism and public relations awards from the New Jersey Press, Women's Association, for which she served as a past vice-president, and in 1997 received two awards from the National Federation of Women for Business and feature articles.

She also is the recipient of the 1991 Award for Excellence in Advertising and Reporting from the American Heart Association's New Jersey Affiliate for a series of articles in The New York Times.

Holton, who earned a master's degree in humanities with a specialization in literature and writing from Kean University, has served as four



Carolita Holton, director of resource development and public relations at the Arc of Union County. Holton, who also taught English composition and journalism at a number of the College of Saint Elizabeth and English departments at the College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station.

Job training office hours extended

The Union County Board of Chosen Freelanders, has extended the office hours of the county's Job Training Partnership Act and Workforce Development Program to better serve the needs of Union County residents. The new hours for the program's office in Parsippany and Plainfield are 8:15 a.m. until 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

We hope to attract more applicants who are not available to visit the office of the county's free job training program during regular business hours," said Freetrader Chairman, Nick Nigro. "In addition, higher levels of training among the workforce in Union County will improve our standing as a gateway to the global economy."

The Union County JTPA and Workforce Development Program looks eligible applicants with local training centers, including Union County College, the Union County Vocational Technical Schools, and various private training schools. The first step in training people for the challenging labor market is locating those who are in most need of the

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Seniors

Throughout life, we learn to appreciate the wisdom of foresight and planning. One way of reducing the stress on family members at a time of loss is to plan a funeral in advance of need. Such foresight affords families time to engage in more appropriate activities, such as mourning and overcoming grief.

Why Pre-Plan a Funeral?

Pre-planning also allows one to make final decisions now and not leave the choices to someone under emotional stress who might not remember your wishes.

Pre-planning now affords the choice of whether you'd prefer to pay with insurance or through the New Jersey Prepaid Funeral Trust. A review of the facts and the finances strongly suggests that the trust, which does not entail the commissions that insurance plans involve, is the more prudent choice.

A funeral planned and paid for today also offers protection against rising prices and increased costs that are certain to occur in the future.

For more information, with no obligation whatsoever, please complete and mail the coupon below.

Form for requesting a free booklet titled 'Why Pre-Plan a Funeral?'. Includes fields for Name, Address, City/State/Zip, and Phone. Contact information for Haerle & Barth Funeral Directors, 1100 Pine Avenue, Union, NJ 07083-0666. Also lists Smith and Smith Funeral Directors and Brough Funeral Home.

UP TO THE MINUTE SKI REPORTS. Call Infosource 908-686-9898. Enter the 4 digit selection number. Lists ski resorts in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont. Includes Midweek and Weekend rates.

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Going To The Movies? Call (908) 686-9898. and enter a four digit selection number below to hear the movie times at these theatres. Lists movie times for Cineplex Odeon Cranford, Linden Fiveplex Cinemas, New Park Cinema, Union Theatres, Loat Picture Show, General Cinema Blue Star, and Lorraine Cinemas. Includes Moviesource logo.

Let The Bible Speak. Jesus said, "Have You Not Read?" Who is a True Christian? The name Christian has been applied to so many people, and things that its true meaning has been obscured. It has been applied to nations, homes, institutions and almost every class of religious people. The name Christian CANNOT be given to any individual who claims to be religious, for there are certain conditions one MUST meet in order to be just a CHRISTIAN. The Bible clearly teaches a Christian is an individual who HEARS, BELIEVES and OBEYS the Gospel of Christ. Repented and Baptized for the forgiveness of sin. Thus being saved the LORD WILL ADD YOU to HIS CHURCH and you will be called simply CHRISTIAN. (Acts 2:36-47, NK 16:16, Heb. 5:9) nothing else. For example: The Bible clearly teaches "If anyone suffers persecution as a CHRISTIAN," NOT Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Mormon, Lutheran, Methodist, Adventist, Etc. BUT AS A CHRISTIAN ONLY (1 Pet. 4:16, Acts 17:26, Acts 26:26) let him not be ashamed but GLOIFY GOD. Therefore for one to "wear any other name to glorify God is ABANDONING" (unscriptural). Of course from the beginning Satan teaches blasphemy (Gen. 3:6, 2 Cor. 11:3-15) and, Jesus warned he will not be DECEIVED, God is not MOCKED. Failure to discern the truth from error is FATAL. THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (Matt. 16:18, Eph. 5:22-24, Col. 3:18) Millburn Mall Suite 6, 2633 Vauxhall Road, Vauxhall, N.J. Sunday 10 A.M. Bible Study, 11 A.M. Worship Service & P.M. Evening Service, Wednesday 7:30 P.M. Bible Study. We offer BASIC BIBLE STUDIES. A full-time Bible teacher, Pastor Carl (908) 686-6200. "Bible Fellowship" Evangelist.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Opera couple remembers singing for their supper

By Jacquie McCarthy, Associate Editor.

Operas are musical stories, and Summa boasts two opera singers with many tales to tell. Bill and Jean Dembaugh of Stony Hill Players have spent a lifetime singing opera and appreciating all forms of theater and each other.

Currently, residents of New Providence, the couple met while attending a high school in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pa., where Jean had just moved.

"We had leads together in the HMS Pinafore," she said.

"We'd rehearse at people's homes, and I remember Jean came out of her house and she had this for us, and I thought, 'Gee, that's the gal for me.'"

Both attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa., and majored in music education.

"I had a minor in math, which said couldn't be done," Bill said. "I did it anyway."

The couple was married which Bill graduated from left college early, finishing up his degree years later at Kent College in Ann Arbor. When Bill was drafted into the service during the Korean War, the couple lived in Williamsburg, Pa., and worked as soloists at an Episcopal church (Cathedral Williamsburg).

Sundays and weekends, things were always centered around music and the church," Jean said.

"After I was out of the army a little bit, about two months, I went to the coast, stayed in Connecticut," Bill said. "One year, the average age of persons in the church was 71, and this was sort of tough, to be a choirboy at 71, so the next year they decided to get some local people who were younger. One of the people at the conservatory taught a course in the repertoire of the opera." The couple auditioned, tenor and soprano, and attended, while maintaining church singing jobs.

"We did a lot of traveling over the country, singing with various opera companies and symphonies," Jean said. "We sang with the Cincinnati Symphony. We sang opera in Boston."

With Sarah Caldwell, she was very interesting," Bill teased.

"The Dembaughs have been listed for their international performances. One grateful patron arranged for cabarets of them at an outdoor reception, and they were invited to the

French embassy. "The French ambassador kissed my hand," Jean said.

"Next stop was New York," where they both auditioned for Metropolitan Opera. Bill was hired, Jean wasn't. They both maintained church singing engagements.

"Used to be, I don't know if it is anymore," Jean said, "when singers would come to New York they would try to get jobs in churches and synagogues. That's how you paid your rent. You bought your food while you were looking."

The couple remained in New York for two years, making a side trip to Keenebunkport, Maine.

"I didn't want to sing in the chorus all the time. I wanted to do leads," Bill said.

Bill and Jean sang several leads in "The Barber of Seville" in a Keenebunkport summer stock opera theater, alternating in the chorus.

"Singing in a chorus is a full-time job, people don't realize," Jean said. "I was singing every day, you sing every night."

"We didn't have a piano in our very small apartment, and we didn't know the opera, so we learned it with a pianist. Which is quite a thing, to learn an opera with a pianist," Bill said.

"But we learned it well," Jean said, and the couple laughed.

"We made friends," Bill recalled. "We sat with them."

The Dembaughs returned to New York City, where Bill was used to appear on a regular tour with 27 people from when community concerts used to be. We sang all over the country, it was very successful," Bill said.

"Concerts were a big thing then," Jean added.

The itinerary of traveling for singing engagements had only just begun. Bill's next audition took the Dembaughs to Switzerland.

"I had a number of leads there, just a lot of work," Bill said.

"It was this engagement that introduced the Dembaughs to 'Tales of Hoffmann,' which will be presented by Stony Hill Players in May? Bill sang the lead role of Hoffmann, Jean sang in the chorus, and the couple performed in many other operas there.

"It was nice, you know, to work in the theater together. We were expecting our first child there," Jean said. While singing the part of a man in "Le Trouvère," "The director called me over and said, 'Don't you think you're

getting a little too big to be a nun'?" she added, laughing heartily.

The Dembaughs returned to the United States after the birth of their oldest daughter, Erika. Bill went back to work in the Met chorus to make ends meet. He was there four more years, and also sang at New York City Opera, where he worked with then-conductor Beverly Sills.

"I did a lot of singing with Beverly Sills, which was fun," Bill said. Sills sang the role of Donna Anna in Bill's Don Otavio in "Don Giovanni." "She's just like she seems on the tv. She's wonderful, she bubbles, all the time."

"We had two children by that time," Erika and younger daughter, Greta. "Bill was making quite good money, but he didn't have many jobs. Even if you're a head at the City Opera, your season was very short, and you only got paid when you sang. He only did one or two operas, and it was very hard to make a living with that. I worked some, but I had two children, and with the baby it was harder," Jean said.

Since both were verified to teach, the Dembaughs eventually moved away from the opera scene and settled in New Jersey, first in Elizabeth for nearly seven years, and finally at their current home in New Providence. Bill taught middle music at New Providence Middle School, while Jean directed a church nursery school program in Jersey.

"I liked teaching. I enjoyed it," Bill said. "I like math better than music, actually, because I can't do music myself."

Bill also directed musicals with the nursery school children. "Show Whitey" and "Alice in Wonderland." "It was fun. They did a good job."

Bill and Jean joined Stony Hill Players nearly 10 years ago, when the theater company was located in New Providence, down the street from the Dembaughs' home.

"I decided I would like to try being in a play, so I went over and I auditioned," said Jean, who also has performed at Cullman Playhouse and Cranford Dramatic Club. "I didn't get



Jean and Bill Dembaugh

anything then, but I said I would help work with costumes, and then I was in the next two plays. And, you know, they need somebody to help with the set, or help with that, and it just sort of grew." Jean's favorite Stony Hill role was Mrs. Annaba in Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth." "It was a great part. I really liked the part."

"I don't do plays," Bill said, laughing heartily. "I've taken my form," as Stony Hill board president. "Because I'm sort of retired, so I have time to help out with the scenery and the painting and moving the furniture and everything. It takes a bit of time. It's not easy, but it's worth it."

"It's a good group," Jean agreed. "About four years ago," Bill said, "we decided we would try to do an opera. 'Amahl and the Night Visitors' was the first thing we did. Jean directed it."

"Amahl" was a success, and the next season's production of "Die Fledermaus" even more so.

"Die Fledermaus" was the most successful thing Stony Hill's ever done, with numbers of people and money that came in, so that was very gratifying," Bill said. "It gave Bill a chance to sing opera, which he doesn't do anymore. Jean directed. I would not probably sing roles in the opera anymore."

Stony Hill's next two operas were "Hansel and Gretel," in which Bill sang the role of the father and "The Marriage of Figaro," both productions directed by Nathalie and Steven Yale. This season, Bill and Jean have decided to produce "Tales of Hoff-

mann," with Jean directing and Bill singing.

"Yeah, if I could direct kindergarten, I could direct anything," Jean said. "Hoffmann" is a very difficult opera to sing.

"Hoffmann is a poet," Bill said. "He's been in love a number of times, and something has happened each time in his love life, and he tells a story. He says, 'I'll tell you the story of five different loves. One was a magical puppet and he thought she was alive. One was a classy lady of the streets, and the third one was a...'

Very nice young woman, on an island," Jean finished. "In each of these, there's a villain. The villain is four different men: He's the one that causes the problems all the time, in each of the stories. And Hoffmann has a young friend who travels around with Hoffmann, and sings the melody."

"It's a marvelous opera, just marvelous," Bill said.

"I love the music," Jean added.

"I'm singing the villain," Bill said. "I get to be nasty for the change. It's so hard, because I know the other part. I remember it in German, but we're doing it in English, which I prefer to do because my English is better than my German."

"In Switzerland, we sang everything in German, because that's what they do there. We're doing Hoffmann in English so more people can enjoy it," Jean advised. "It's a good story."

"I don't see how people can see reality," Bill said.

"It's just amazing how many people are so talented," he added. "Wait-

til you hear some of the people in Hoffmann."

"People come from New York, and you know, we don't pay them. It costs them to come and do anything. But with opera, they don't get a chance to do it," Jean said, with Bill adding that one singer came all the way from Baltimore, Maryland for the "Hoffmann" audition. "I did choose a couple of people from New York, but I tried to choose people from New Jersey, because we are in New Jersey," Jean said. "They are good singers."

"And we get to do things together, which is nice, too," Bill added.

"I think it's great," Jean began, "to have somebody you can talk up," Bill finished. "She's tough," he teased his wife.

"When there's a rehearsal, we understand how it is. You've got to go, and that's the important thing."

Jean said of working with her husband: "We had a bridge date, and suddenly a rehearsal came. A lot of spouses wouldn't like that or understand it, but we understand that. That's how it is."

"It's not just like you're doing a job, you feel part of something. You sort of transcend yourself. That's not an ordinary, mundane thing. It's something special. The trouble with a lot of people," Bill said, "they don't have anything special they do. They sit in front of the tv and that's the only thing they know about."

The Dembaughs feel fortunate that they are able to share their musical interests, especially after 47 years of marriage.

Elizabeth Arts Council discusses spring members' exhibit

By Jacquie McCarthy, Associate Editor.

The regular monthly meeting of the Elizabeth Arts Council convened Feb. 10 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Elizabeth.

In attendance were Council cofounders Paula Borenstein and Paul Russell; Robin Elinger of Elizabeth's Special Improvement District; Teya David of Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs; and her husband, visual artist Angelito David; Father Vincent Paskowski of St. Anthony's Parish in Elizabeth; musician Dan Pagnon and wife Gini Pagnon; a visual artist, Catherine Craig from Boxwood Hall museum in Elizabeth; John McDermott, English as a

Second Language professor at Union County College; Elizabeth Campbell, poet; visual artist Ram Brown; concert pianist, Betty Kauffman; poetry and jazz promoter Douglas Geddes; and Joan Gross, publisher of "The Informer," of Elizabeth. Also present were Susan Open, director of Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, headquarters in Elizabeth; and her husband, Alan Open, resident of Elizabeth; and Dr. Fred Neudorfer, pastor of St. Paul's.

Borenstein welcomed all present, stating that attendees has been "gathering momentum" since the Council's inaugural meeting in October. The meeting agenda

included discussion of a spring members' exhibit art exhibition, still in the planning stages.

"She is singing for May," Borenstein said. She requested volunteers for a committee to research the exhibition site, and advised that performing artists will be considered for additional entertainment for the exhibition's opening reception. Russell, also a musician, performed an original vibraphone, studio study (for consideration).

Susan Open suggested that the arts-research committee include a visual artist, and also asked that the Council consider ways to combine art projects with historical projects to promote Elizabeth's cultural resources.

Margaret Fontana of Function Ten production company made a presentation about her organization. Formerly in residence at Queen's Presbyterian Church in Clark, Pafferton Ten is now in residence at St. Paul's, and will present "In Ninety-Nine, You're Still Our Valentine," original musical revue, tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday.

Fontana explained that Function Ten was named for the F10 key on personal computers, to "save and go on." "And that's what we do," Fontana said.

She announced that Function Ten, in addition to Fontana's original musical, also is available to produce other artists. The group is planning a May recital at St. Paul's, which will

showcase the artwork of Elizabeth resident, Richard Neidige; and will perform, Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" in August, "every last word," according to Fontana.

Father Paskowski, who introduced himself as "Father Vince," advised the council that, as youth minister at St. Anthony's, he has established a drama company at the parish just a year-and-a-half.

"For the young people involved, it's a tremendous education," Paskowski said. "We're trying to keep the kids off the street, give them a sense of direction."

Last season, the group presented "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," and this season's pro-

duction of "Pippin" is in rehearsal at St. Mary's church in Elizabeth and St. Anthony's. Paskowski directs and produces the shows.

Organizational structure of Elizabeth Arts Council was discussed. Borenstein reiterated the Council's intent to move the meeting sites around Elizabeth.

"We really want to be a group that encompasses all segments to the city, that's our mission," Borenstein said. "I think it's time for Elizabeth to have its own organization."

The Council has established and maintains ArtLine, a telephone calendar of arts events in the Elizabeth area, (908) 820-4122.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Union County Arts Center does justice to award-winning 'Fiddler'

The citizens of the tiny fictitious village of Anatevka would agree that many people's lives are built on tradition. On the other hand, without change it may be difficult to realize what makes those traditions special, and in the process, create new ones for future generations.

The winner of 10 Tony Awards, "Fiddler on the Roof," which ran for more than seven years on Broadway with its story of tradition and change, is currently being performed at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway.

Following the story of Jewish dairyman Tevye as he marries off his two eldest daughters during the swarming days of Czarist Russia, "Fiddler on the Roof" is a humorous and emotional musical that carries a message of faith, trust and community. With its depiction of the trials and tribulations of a close-knit family coming to terms with the prospect of change and growing older, "Fiddler" could very well be the story of any thomom-day family.

When Tevye, looking only to make his daughter happy, breaks the long-time tradition of arranging marriage and allows Tevye to marry for love, other aspects of his family's life take a non-traditional turn.

The production is directed by UCAC Executive Director Joseph A. Mancuso, who has been at the arts center for two seasons. Mancuso is the former executive director and co-founder of Shoestring Players, and has directed projects in New York at the American Stage Company and George Street Playhouse's second stage, among others. In addition,

Theater View

By Toriann Antonelli
Staff Writer

Musical Director Mark George returns to the arts center after the 1997 production of "La Cage aux Folles," and award-winning choreographer Patrick Staraga, whose credits include UCAC's production of "Once on This Island Jr." is responsible for the coordination of the "energetic dance numbers."

The production stars Danny Dyer as Tevye, Joan Barber as his wife Golde and Gerard Lebeda, who is returning to UCAC after the 1996 production of "Pirates of Penzance," as the timid tavern Mogel Kamzool.

Dyer, who has portrayed the witty and lovable dairyman on two other occasions, also adds to his credit the role of Jaques in "As You Like It" and the Narrator/Mysterious Man in "Into the Woods," as well as Shogun's Mother in "Pacific Overtures." Dyer's performance consistently held the attention of the audience as he took patrons with him on a roller coaster ride of emotions ranging from humor, to heart wrenching. As Tevye, his periodic conversations with God and interpretations of sayings from "The Good Book" left audience members anxiously awaiting his return each time he left the stage. Dyer brought warmth and a dry humor to the role that can be matched only by Zero

Mossel, who portrayed Tevye in the original Broadway version of "Fiddler."

Barber's Broadway credits include "Man of La Mancha," "Beauty and the Beast," "Big" and most recently, "The Sound of Music." The seasoned actress brought a tremendous amount of life and energy to the performance as she portrayed a Jewish mother, who, in her own straight-forward and witty way, was the driving force behind the family's traditions and success despite poverty.

Lebeda has recently been seen at Lincoln Center, the McCarter Theatre, George Street Playhouse and the Two Rivers Theatre Company. Newcomer to the arts center are Jessica Hillman, who portrayed Tzeitel, Colleen M. Marcelli, who played Hodel, and Laura D. DeGiacomo as Chava, Hillman, who played Chava in "Fiddler" one year ago, did a tremendous job as Tzeitel. Her unique stage presence seemed to grab the attention of the audience and made her an attribute to the performance.

Also commendable were the performances of Joe Canino as Perchik, the radical teacher who falls in love with Hodel, and Robert Zingra as Fiedla, the Russian soldier who enters into a forbidden relationship with Chava.

The principal company is rounded out by Stuart Haskover as Lazar Wolf, the butcher, and Darlene Yaffe as Yente the matchmaker. The full company, which reports to 36 actors, is the largest the arts center has ever seen.



Danny Dyer as Tevye and Joan Barber as Golde as each other. Do You Love Me? in "Fiddler on the Roof" at Union County Arts Center through Sunday.

In fact, we've had to build a major expansion onto the stage in order for everyone without seeming crowded. Said Mancuso, adding that the orchestra pit is among the largest ever used by UCAC for a musical.

Some of the highlights of the performance included the cast rendition of "To Life" as well as the ending of Motel and Tzeitel, which included a skillful ballroom dance performed by various men on the cast.

Some audience members also recalled familiar songs such as "Matchmaker, Matchmaker," "If I Were a Rich Man" and "Sunset Boulevard."

Despite the professional quality in the sound system, the performances of the actors and musicians under Mancuso and George's direction was out-

standing. The efforts of those who designed the colorful sets and clever lighting should also be commended. The musical is one that should be viewed by audience members of all ages, as the mix of the story shows undoubtedly that, while times and circumstances may lead to change, a life without tradition is not necessarily "as shaky as a fiddler on the roof."

'Sunset Boulevard' proves only adequate production

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical extravaganza, "Sunset Boulevard," extended its way to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center's Prudential Hall last week and left a weak impression. Not that the production wasn't glitzy and, at times over the top, it just didn't generate much emotional involvement on the part of the audience.

"Sunset Boulevard" is a musical version of the old Gilda Swanson-William Holden chestnut, a 1950s film about a legendary, over-the-hill silent movie star named Norma Desmond and her involvement with Joe Gillis, a multi-millionaire, Hollywood scriptwriter, whom she enlists to orchestrate her return to the silver screen.

Even in the '50s Swanson's performance was considered campy, and Holden was the quintessential cad. Lloyd Webber preserves the film's story line but sets most of the dialogue to music, much as he did in "Evita" and "The Phantom of the Opera." To this, he added fantastic scenery and glitzy costumes for Norma, all of which provided a sumptuous feast for eye and ear.

Would that the performances at NJPAC matched the scenery and costumes! The queen of 60s pop music, Perla Clark, appeared as Norma Desmond, a role which she played for a year and a half in London's West End. Clark has a strong voice, although she had some trouble hitting

Theater View

By Ruth Ross
Insider Correspondent

The high notes in "With One Look" during the first act. Her rendition of "Everything's As If We Never Said Goodbye," sung when she returns to the movie sound stage to prepare for what she believes will be her come-back, was magnificent.

Unfortunately, Clark's acting skills didn't match her voice. Because she tended to deliver all her lines at the same decibel level, the personality of her Norma Desmond was more tiresome than sympathetic. She floundered around the stage in elaborate gowns with long jackets and trains, at times taking so long shifting around that one wanted to holler "Get off the stage already!" Clark's singing skills were especially evident in the final scene when an argument between Norma mistakes the police coming to get her for the great director, Cecil B. De Mille. Instead of a broken old woman, clearly out of her mind, Clark's Norma seemed much the dutiful old bag in the first act.

The supporting actors fared little better. Although Lewis Cleale as Joe Gillis was strong of voice, one never got the impression that he regretted

his liaison with Norma or that he felt anything for Betty Schaefer, the young woman who loves him. Sarah Linné Berry, as Betty, also possessed a fine voice, although her role didn't call for much acting. The scene when she recounted her childhood on the back lot was touching. As Max von Mayerling, Norma's butler, nurse and erstwhile husband, Allen Fitzpatrick was a bit too wooden, even for a German director. His voice, too, was strong.

Perhaps the weaknesses were inherent in the material of "Sunset Boulevard" itself. The play is not known for subtle nuances of emotion; everything is "out there" in your face. Lloyd Webber's use of recurring melodies was annoying after a while, and the general lack of dialogue meant that emotion had to be communicated mostly in lip music and lyrics, which were sometimes lame. To top it all off, the sound system made sure that all was delivered at peering-decibel levels, because everyone was miked; every voice was equally as loud, no matter where on the stage the actor was positioned. Giving the good acoustics at Prudential Hall, the sound level could have been turned down a bit without losing a thing.

Derek McLane's scenery was truly terrific. Because a traveling company must exchange such complicated things as hydraulic stages that go up and down, McLane had to be more inventive. The swimming pool could go up and the "old Norma" could be lowered by a crane director. The only objectionable was the movement of three pipes painted to look like trap racks; often, they moved into place without being related to the action. Peter Kazanovich's lighting was, for the most part, bright, except for the pool and patio scenes.

Even on Broadway, "Sunset Boulevard" received mixed critical notices. While Glenn Close couldn't sing as well as Perla Clark, she was a better actress and made the audience feel like they "saw" her know as Norma Desmond. The production while big, wild and glamorous, was more verifiable than "Sunset Boulevard" coming to the title of a wonderful "Evita." It was disappointing for more rewarding experience. Rent the film, at least you won't be annoyed by the music and poor acting and can adjust the brightness on your television set.

Ruth Ross is a resident of West Orange.

Summit celebrates centennial

In conjunction with the celebration of the Summit Centennial, also sponsored by the Centennial Committee, Summit 2005 Heritage Festival will feature the music, dance, food, arts and crafts representing Summit's diverse population — and also present the 2005 of the Fest 31 to celebrate Summit's rich history and its contribution to making the State of New Jersey's premier communities. Those wishing to participate in the Festival and/or its planning should contact Mike Anderson and/or Jesse Butler at the Summit 2005 office, 277-4400.

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Truffaut's 'film noir love letter' is restored and re-released

Francis Truffaut's "Mississippi Mermaid," 1969, has recently been re-released at the Film Forum in New York City. This is a restored version, which contains at least 13 minutes of footage which was inextricably cut from its original U.S. release. It also happens to be one of Truffaut's least-known films, made while he was under the spell of another master director, Alfred Hitchcock, on whom he had recently published a major critical study, "Truffaut on Hitchcock." Truffaut had, of course, already been an admirer of Hitchcock, but it was specifically during the period between the mid- to late 60s where his work had become particularly Hitchcockian, ranging from films such as "The Soft Skin" (1964) to "Fahrenheit 451" (1966) to "The Bride Wore Black" (1968).

The film opens with Jean-Paul Belmondo awaiting the arrival of a "mail-order bride" who is supposed to be on a boat called the Mississippi. She's not on board, or at least he doesn't spot anyone coming off the boat who resembles the woman in the picture that she sent him. That's because she was never on board in the first place, or so we're led to believe.

The woman who recognizes him and greets him explains that she's as shy as he is to send her own photo, so she sends a friend's instead? Why, she would be shy is indeed amazing, because the beautiful creature who now stands before Belmondo is none other than Catherine Deneuve, who, incidentally, turns out to be not so feminine after all and is very, but very, far from what we would expect her to be. She is, in fact, not who she says she is, and after the wedding and rather joyless honeymoon, she proceeds to flee him in the spring and business accounts and takes off with the money.

Belmondo hires a private detective to track her down. He does so in tandem with the recently arrested sister of the woman he was supposed to have

Fade In

By Jonathan Franklin Staff-Writer

met in the first place, who they also suspect to have been murdered (Belmondo, nonetheless, decides to go look for her himself after picking up a clue as to her recent whereabouts upon finding her, he finds that he can't bring himself to be angry with her, and that he in fact will love her.

When it first appeared in New York in 1970, New York critics were apparently dismayed by Belmondo behaving like such a chump — a mild personality has no problem being a chump for Catherine Deneuve, Deneuve, of course, is as beautiful and stunning as always and Belmondo is no slouch, but instead of the French class and the bound-to-be jacket, something I rarely see any more, all say nothing of the screen charms which most have made him one of the international superstars of this time, despite his broken nose, or perhaps because of it.

The vulnerability that he expresses here is touching. At one point in the film he likens Deneuve's face to landscape, comparing her nose to small hills and points and her nose to a small hill. This film is like a film noir love letter to Deneuve, made while Truffaut was very much in love with her.

One scene in particular, which was cut out entirely from the original U.S. release, involves Deneuve sitting along inside of a booth making a spoon word recording on a vinyl disk where she expresses her love for Belmondo. Griffiths and a series of clips did this quite often during WW II, where often the record would be shipped to the loved one overseas. It's a tender and touching moment.

REUNIONS

- A luncheon for Union High School alumni is scheduled for March 27 at Holiday Inn, Boynton Beach, Fla. For information, contact Jack Jordan at 561-966-8585.
- Former crewmen of USS Kennedy (D. Bailey) will have a reunion in the spring of 1999 in Jacksonville, Fla. For information, contact Robert Lewis at 313-279-3366.
- Coast Guard veterans of the USCGC Ambriz will have a reunion in the spring of 1999 in Lancaster, Pa. For information, contact Mike Neenan at 561-283-0545 or David Spill at 419-738-1782.
- If you served with the 168th Infantry Regiment, contact Jim Schilling at 816-279-6533 about a spring 1999 reunion in Nashville, TN.
- Former crewmen of USS Fargo will have a reunion in April 1999 in Hialeah, NC. For information, contact Fred Huntington at 754-494-3076.
- Former crewmen of USS Pawcatuck will have a reunion in April 1999 in Biloxi, MS. For information, contact Richard St. Jean at 413-566-5294.
- Former crewmen of USS Purdy will have a reunion in April 1999 in San Antonio, TX. For information, contact Larry DiPasquale at 610-434-5727.
- Former crewmen of USS Tarawa will have a reunion in April 1999 in Hickory, NC. For information, contact Cliff Gardner at 401-539-1149.
- Former crewmen of destroyer USS Gurke will gather in Norfolk, Va. in April 16-18, 1999. For information, contact Walter and Helen Heston at 252-382-2669.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1989 reunion is scheduled for April 26. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-9000.
- Men stationed in Hialeah, Fla. as part of 805th AF, 51st SFGA 15-1 Det. 52nd Sig Svc Bn are planning a reunion for April 22-25 in Nashville, TN. For information, contact 3131-082-9460.
- Batin High School Class of 1949 is planning a reunion in April 30-May 1. Contact Joan Gleason Abell, 3 Westminister Drive, Livingston 70309, (202) 992-8456.
- Batin High School Class of 1949 reunion is scheduled for May 1 at Waldham Hotel, 901 Spring St., Elizabeth. A meet-and-greet is scheduled for April 30 at 7 p.m. at the hotel. Breakfast will be served May 2 at 9 a.m. at the hotel. Deadline for registration is March 1. For information, contact Liz Ray at 609-241-5990.
- Crewmen of USS Bryce Canyon will meet in early May in Charleston, SC. For information, contact Sam Marsh at 704-361-8170.
- Former crewmen of USS Westford will meet May 20-23 in Norfolk, Va. Contact Ernest Wassigant at 757-684-4099.
- Former crewmen of USS Gadsden will meet May 26-28 in Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert Bingham at 757-655-5415.
- Crewmen from USS Trenton will meet in May in Virginia Beach, Va. For information, contact Tom Kelly at 757-288-4951.
- Former crewmen of USS Roanoke will meet in May in St. Louis, MO. Contact Neil Long at 571-644-9339.
- Former crewmen of USS Wilford Keith, years 1950 and earlier will meet in May in Newport, RI. Contact Charles Kinkorbocker at 609-872-1255.
- Westfield High School Class of 1979 reunion is scheduled for July 1. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1974 reunion is scheduled for July 1. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth, Class of 1949 is planning a reunion for October in Atlantic City. For information, contact 732-617-1000.
- James Caldwell High School Class of 1978 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 20. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1974 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 21. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1981 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 21. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- James Caldwell High School Class of 1978 reunion is planned for Nov. 27. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.
- Golden High School Class of '63 reunion is scheduled for Dec. 21. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at 732-617-1000.

'E.T.' child star makes out-of-this-world movies

Remember Henry Thomas, the little boy who befriended the back-alley alien in 1979's smash "E.T.?" He may have dropped out of sight for a while, but Thomas is now a hard-working, multi-talented actor and has illustrated pictures now hitting home video. One "Savage Kingdom" has him as a member of a group of young men who kidnap a Mafia boss. The other "Nagata: Nagata" is a bizarre love story about two families upstate New York. In pictures, he also depicts a "Road Trip to Canada."

The Video Detective

Thomas plays "Seth" in a six-movie, hard-core-gangster-outcast who lives at home with his abusive father. He likes to stay out of the house, but is being groomed in his home by dependable (and naive) "the" who likes to stroll through department stores and pull his dirty pocket, both habits which are appealing. During these busy business negotiations, he runs across Marcy, played by Robin Tunney, who is a best actress award at the Venice Film Festival. In her role, an off-centered girl who's the same penchant for stuffing shell items into her clothes. She like Seth has a problematic home life. She receives a love note from her fish parents and lives at a renovated, hippest school by a five-hundred-year-old farm home and "daddy mansion."

He has been in a few other things, the multi-faceted actor, who played Marcy's dad, went to the 1998 African American ceremony of the film "Barbie" but he has had no luck. She suggests she travel north of the

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

Call 714-948-1144, classified ad, a w/ 561-5911

Barbershop chorus sponsors youth outreach programs

The Railway Valley Chorus of Westfield sponsors a Youth Outreach program available to any chorus director in local schools, according to the Youth Outreach Coordinator, Joseph Weiss of the Jerseyans. To find out more information about this program, call 908-486-5218.

The Youth Outreach program is designed to encourage and actively promote the joy of participation of singing four-part harmony among men in the Mid-Atlantic District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

It fosters the establishment of groups of harmony singers in area schools as an integral part of the school curriculum, to provide an outlet for performance and/or competition for singers and to develop a sense of singing as a rewarding lifelong activity.

Barbershop music has been recognized by Musical Educators National

Conference as an American musical art form.

Harmony Explosion has been endorsed by MENC (a national) to keep young people singing despite decreasing music budgets in public schools.

This program provides young men with some new "positive" ideas about music, time singing. It basically is an acoustic ballad created by SPEBQSSA. To interest and involve high school and college aged men in four-part harmony, Harmony Explosion teaches barbershop fundamentals that are arranged especially for the young male singer.

Anchor Aelienes International has similar programs for girls which can run parallel to Harmony Explosion.

The Railway Valley Chapter funding has been made possible in part by the NJ State Council on the Arts, Department of State through a grant administered by the Union Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Cable station offers intern opportunities

TV-90 Communities in Cable Inc. is a local nonprofit cable access television station serving Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Millburn, Springfield and Summit. TV-90 is offering a class in the basic skills of video production. The fee for this course is \$75 for adults and \$45 for seniors and students. Upon completion of this class, students are eligible to work with other volunteer programs produced by TV-90. Contact Station Manager Ginger Mosby at 908-277-6310 or e-mail: 9936scv@worldnet.att.net

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HEALTHY LIVING

Patients can 'Ask the Doctor' without leaving home

The explosion of on-line services has prompted another way to connect with health care systems. The Medical Society of New Jersey has opened the door for the public to post their comments/questions directly to MSJ physicians on the new line called "Ask the Doctor," found at www.msni.org. MSJ plans to use this new link to provide the opportunity for the public to ask relevant medical questions of qualified physicians without leaving their homes.

"Ask the Doctor" is almost accessible. It's a new service that will educate citizens to a vast amount of practical knowledge," said Dr. R. Gregory Sachs, MSJ president. "We hope this service will make it easier for the public to ask questions or post comments that they might otherwise be unwilling to do in a doctor's office. MSJ physicians practice in all areas of medicine and are fully qualified to answer any question to improve one's health."

Among other areas, MSJ physicians will provide answers about the challenges in the medical industry, new

science, and where people can find help for drug-abuse, smoking, and drinking. Physicians will also be equipped to answer all medical-related questions from procedures to types of insurance plans.

Along with having the opportunity to post questions for physicians, the "Ask the Doctor" link also provides the top 10 most frequently asked questions, the tip of the month, and a chance to search the site for questions and answers on the same medical category of your choice. Unlike

depending on going to see a doctor in person or consulting medical books, the "Ask the Doctor" link is user-friendly, free and as easy as clicking a button.

The MSJ Web site, along with the "Ask the Doctor" offers many other innovative medical links. The site includes the MSJ monthly journal, New Jersey Medicine, and the Physicians' Finder, a link that provides information on any MSJ physician in the State. Many other products and services are also available from MSJ at www.msni.org.

Drug abuse council offers Web site

Accurate information on drugs and other harmful substances, and a one-of-a-kind national database of more than 1,200 treatment programs are featured on <http://www.drughelp.org>, a new Web site operated by the American Council for Drug Education.

The user-friendly site offers information on the composition, patterns of use and effects of more than a dozen harmful substances, including alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, cocaine and crack, heroin, LSD, amphetamine and ecstasy. Text and graphics also examine such critical issues as "Drugs, Alcohol & the Workplace," "Drugs & Pregnancy," and "Talking To Your Child About Marijuana."

Web material available to millions of adolescents, parents, educators, and adults and others who use the Web as a major source of information, said Martha Gagne, director of ACDE. "It is also extremely important to offer accurate drug education and prevent drug material to counter the unfortunate growth of pseudo-drug sites on the Web."

The one-of-a-kind referral database includes telephone and telephone numbers for more than 1,200 treat-

ment programs located across the country. It can be searched by state and locality. There are also listings for nearly 1,800 self-help programs, support groups and crisis centers, bringing the total number of entries to more than 3,000.

"Having this vital information at the disposal of Web users improves referral services," Gagne said. "The confidentiality and anonymity of the Internet is particularly helpful in this sensitive area."

The colorful Web site also has sections on signs of drug use and intervention measures for family, friends and others seeking help for someone they suspect is having a drug problem.

By using this feature, adolescents and adults can learn about symptoms and behaviors which indicate that a family member might be experiencing a drug problem," Gagne explains. Guidelines on speaking to a friend about a drug problem also makes it possible for visitors to the site to help others.

Developed by ACDE staff, the site can be accessed by all Web browsers. Founded in 1977, the American Council for Drug Education produces and distributes a wide range of scienti-

fically-based drug education and prevention materials for schools, the workplace and the general public. ACDE reaches more than 200 million people annually through print, broadcast media and film. The council operates a 24-hour, toll-free, confidential drug help and referral service (800) Drug Help, To Learn More, visit ACDE online at <http://www.acde.org>.

Since 1995, ACDE has been an affiliate of Phoenix House, the nation's leading non-profit substance abuse treatment and prevention organization. Phoenix House treats more than 10,000 people a year, providing strengthening families and communities.

Make a difference this year!

Offer the gift of listening & make miracles happen.



the 24-hour telephone helpline and crisis intervention service for people who need volunteers to staff the phone line.

The next volunteer training class begins February 18.

Call: 908/688-4140 for more information or to register. A member of The United Way, CONTACT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Public television goes 'metro' with the arts

Television subscribers in 27 regions of Connecticut, Long Island, New Jersey, Westchester, Putnam and Rockland counties are now receiving MetroArts/Thirteen, a highly acclaimed, non-profit, not-for-profit cultural and community programming from public television station, Thirteen/WNET. MetroArts/Thirteen, which airs on the Cable's main 30, MetroArts/Thirteen Channel, is an exciting new outlet for the innovative, award-winning productions that have made Thirteen/WNET a household name with quality television programming nationwide. MetroArts/Thirteen features several series, including "City Arts," "Set in Stone," "Great Performances," and "American Masters." In addition, Thirteen/WNET is creating new original programs with the help of a newly formed Foundation, which will help fund the production of new works by local artists and writers. MetroArts/Thirteen is also producing a series of new works by local artists and writers. MetroArts/Thirteen is also producing a series of new works by local artists and writers.

Each week of MetroArts/Thirteen is hosted by a local state-area personality, such as composer Martin Handberg, actor Kirby Deo and Oscar Davis, and Kitty Carlisle Hart, who introduce and provide cultural commentary for the evening's offerings. The program and your participation about the arts in and around New York City are reflected in the work and the neighborhood," says Michael A. Fogel, executive producer of MetroArts/Thirteen. "We want to help the viewers see themselves reflected in the arts, as well as feel they have a voice in a cultural dialogue from everywhere."

Thirteen/WNET in New York is one of the preeminent and most progressive producers of programming for public television, bringing such awarding and a classified series as "Great Performances" and "American Masters" to audiences nationwide. Thirteen/WNET is also the flagship public broadcaster serving the tri-state area of New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut, with approximately 550,000 to state area viewers tune in to Thirteen/WNET's programming each week. A not-for-profit organization dedicated to education and community service, Thirteen/WNET is the creator of innovative educational projects like the National Teacher Training Institute and the publisher of teacher and viewer guides that enhance the educational value of Thirteen/WNET productions. As broadcast and digital media converge, Thirteen/WNET is also leading training in the creation of Web 2.0, CD-ROMs, educational software and other cutting-edge products. More information about Thirteen/WNET programs and projects, including schedule information, can be found at WebStation at <http://www.wnet.org>.

To place a classified ad call 1-800-564-8911 by 1pm Tuesday

WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

The Union Leader, The Leader, Summit Observer, The Echo Leader, The Gazette Leader, The Spectator Leader, Rahway Progress, Clark Eagle

DINING REVIEW

February 11, 1999



By Tomjan Antonelli, Staff Writer
There's a reason why Irish eyes shouldn't be smiling if their owner has sampled the fare and been subjected to the friendly atmosphere of Shenanigans Pub, a division of the Lyon's Manor located on Yale Avenue in Hillside.
Shenanigans has all the makings of a traditional Irish pub from the green-accented decor and live Irish music each week to the large assortment of beer, ale and homemade made Irish liquors, as fitting as the "regulars" of the pub know, Shenanigans is a place where one can go to relax and unwind while they satisfy their hearty appetites with selections from the pub's diverse menu.
Patrons of the pub can enjoy their meals seated comfortably around the large circular bar that fills the room bathed in soft light. As they relax, customers can begin by enjoying one of the pub's appetizers. I began my meal with the beer-battered onion rings which were quite possibly the best I've ever tasted. The onions were soft and crispy while the crispy golden baf-

ter with each bite. And like most onion rings, these tasty treats were not as greasy as one might expect, leaving no choice but to finish the entire basket.
As my companion nibbled on a basket of warm Portuguese bread, I decided to try the chef's homemade Irish onion soup. The rich broth was bolstered with mushrooms and cubes of bread, and was topped with generous amounts of melted mozzarella and parmesan cheese. Other selections from Shenanigans' "Great Bogganings" menu included personal pizza, chicken sticks, nachos, buffalo wings and more, tartare sticks.
As if we weren't nearly full already from the wonderful appetizers, my dining companion and I then ordered our main courses. He decided to take the traditional route, ordering a deluxe cheeseburger that was big and juicy enough to satisfy a hearty appetite. It was accompanied by golden french fries and coleslaw. At the owner's recommendation, my selection, the blackened shell steak, came from the best of daily specials which are prepared from scratch by the chef's team.

LYON'S MANOR

Casual cuisine, warm smiles



Lyon's Manor is located at 334 Yale Ave., Hillside. For information, call (908) 688-8910.

day through Friday. The tender, juicy beef was cooked to perfection in a blackened onion sauce. The generous portion was extremely delicious and a challenge to finish on one sitting. The steak was accompanied by a baked potato and green beans as well as a salad with a special house dressing.
This column is intended to inform our readers about dining opportunities in the area.

Stepping Out

(Continued from Page 16)

VALENTINE'S

CRAFT HOUR will feature Valentine's today at 6:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

The book store is located at 240 Route 22 West Springfield for information call: 973-376-8544

CREATIVE CARDS will be made tomorrow from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at Ruyter's Read-A-Bookstore in Summit. Registration is \$2. The workshop is scheduled at 102 Mount St., Summit. For information call: 973-376-8544

FIRST BOOK signings will have a Valentine's theme at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

The book store is located at 240 Route 22 West Springfield for information call: 973-376-8544

FUNCTION TEN will present in the church the Valentine's Day Luncheon. Saturday and Sunday at St. Paul's Evangelical Church in Elizabeth.

Tickets are \$9. The church is located at the corner of Galsburg Hill Road and Park Avenue in Elizabeth. For information call: 908-317-9296

DINNER/DANCE will take place tomorrow at Green Centurions in Clark.

Costs is \$30. For information, call 908-1664.

KING OF HEARTS Pageant will take place tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at Abraham Clark High School in Roselle. Tickets are \$5.

GIFTS FOR PETS will be made Sunday at 2 p.m. at Traditions Nails and Science Center in Mountainside.

Trade is located at 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. For information call: 908-789-3670

HISTORIC VALENTINES will be presented Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Cary House Museum in Westfield.

Admission is \$2, \$60 for students. Children under age 6 are admitted free. The museum is located at 614 Mountain Ave., Westfield. For information call: 202-276-776

LOVE LETTERS will be presented Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. at Paderborn M.P. Playhouse.

The playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Mountain. For information call: 973-376-4343

ELIZABETH LIBRARY will present Arts & Crafts School Entrance of Newark on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. Also, Pat Hol-

mes of Plainfield will present a series of monologues portraying famous African-Americans.

The library is located at 11 S. Broad St., Elizabeth. For information call: 908-354-6060.

SENIOR TEA will take place Sunday at 2 p.m. at Centennial celebrations.

Admission is free. Tea will be served in the Community Room, 12 Chestnut St. in Summit. For information call: 908-277-9343.

MENTAL HEALTH PLAYERS will perform Tuesday at 8 p.m. at Temple Beth El Mikor Chayim in Garfield.

The synagogue is located at 338 Walnut Ave., Garfield. For information call: 908-277-9231.

WORKSHOPS

JOURNAL WRITING course will be presented Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. at Doris B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Library.

Bring looseleaf notebook, pen, and glue stick, stickers, scissors, magazines, old photos and colored markers. The library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information call: 973-378-8992.

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

NJCVA hosts international exhibit

After an extensive and detailed selection process of art from all over the world by Luc Demontion, curator, director and chief curator of the Cuggenheim Museum in NYC, the 13th Annual International Juried Show at New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will run through March 10. The center received over 1700 entries. From artists throughout the world, 107 artists were chosen to exhibit. This special event will be taped and aired on Channel 36 television.

NJCVA provides New Jersey culturally diverse residents with an opportunity to view contemporary art from all over the world by bringing it to Summit.

The center was established in 1993 by a group of local artists. The nonprofit NJCVA is a full-scale art center with two interior galleries and an outdoor exhibition space/sculpture garden. NJCVA is regional and is the largest of its kind in the state. It is specifically devoted to contemporary art.

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Alexis Steakhouse in Mountainside

Alexis Steakhouse

Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern, home of the original 24 ounce Delmonico and New York sirloin steaks for only \$11.95, great burgers, overflowing sandwiches and other delights, is open for dinner in Mountainside and Diarte, and for both lunch and dinner in Clifton. The menu also offers chicken and seafood entrees and specials, soups and salads, an array of appetizers and desserts, and both domestic and imported beer and wine.

How can Alexis offer such good food at such low prices? A manager explained, "Our goal is to offer better quality, quantity service and prices than other restaurants. Why pay more somewhere else and get less for your money?"

Low prices, high quality food are not the only reasons for Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern's popularity. There are many more, all made easy-going, high-quality family restaurants. The atmosphere is always light and cheery with families, groups and couples enjoying themselves. Eating here is believing.

Every meal starts with complimentary bowls of pickles, acidity peppers and fresh hot health salad. After a choice of tasty appetizers and soups, here are the specialties of the house - the enormous 24 ounce Delmonico Steak or the 24 ounce New York sirloin steak - cooked to your perfection with Alexis' special seasoning. Each has generous helpings of homemade french fried potatoes or other vegetable. Other selections include baked or blackened swordfish, lobster, bar-b-que ribs, Chicken Alexis and special.

Alexis sandwiches are made in themselves. The juicy hamburgers made tender with various trimmings, are a full 8 ounces of fresh ground beef. Heavy onion soup is a cup full of fresh onions topped with melted cheese and bits of Swiss cheese. New England style chowder is a creamy mix of scallops and chunks of potato.

Appetizers include house specialties like Alexis onion flower, a colossal onion carved into a blossom and deep fried for a sweet-tasting treat. The hot buffalo wings are tangy.

Happy hours are all day on Sunday and Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday feature \$1 mugs plus half price appetizers.

Alexis Steakhouse & Tavern

West Area Pub, Steakhouses

\$11.95

24 oz. NY Sirloin Steak
24 oz. Delmonico Steak

Happy Hour & Party Room

1230 Route 22 West
Mountainside
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Over 150 Items Weekly Over 95 Items Daily

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And To Put Your Restaurant in the Spotlight

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The Hunt Room Sunday Brunch

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Breakfast Buffet - scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, pancakes, french toast & hash browns

Omelet Station - prepared to your specifications

Fruit Displays - an assortment of fresh fruit, baked salads and various cheeses

Salad Station - large assortment of fresh salad choices

Pasta Stations - with freshly prepared sauce & pasta choices

Carving Station - chef's choice of two roast, sliced by order.

Hot Buffet - delicious & varied, prepared by our chef and served in silver chafing dishes

Dessert Stations - international delicacies

Assorted breads, muffins, pastries, complimentary cocktail and appetizers

Served from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm • Live jazz 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

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Late Night Cocktails & Appetizers

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Maplewood, NJ 07040

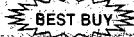
Offices where ads can be placed in person

ESSEX COUNTY
463 Valley Street, Maplewood
170 Scotch Road, Orange
266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

UNION COUNTY
1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union

RATES

CLASSIFIED RATES
20 words or less \$16.00 per insertion
Additional 10 words \$4.00 per insertion
Display Rates \$25.50 per column inch
Contract Rates Available
Blind Box Number \$12.00 per insertion



CLASSIFIED COMBINATION RATES
Ad appears in all 18 newspapers
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Additional 10 words \$6.00 per insertion
Display Rates \$47.50 per column inch
Contract Rates Available

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Please have your card and expiration date.



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Clark Eagle • The Leader
Reading • The Reporter • Garden Leader
The Advance • Progress • Summit Observer

ESSEX COUNTY
The Journal • The Star • The Orange Record
The Orange Chronicle • East Orange Record
The Journal • The Star • The Orange Record
The Journal • The Star • The Orange Record
The Journal • The Star • The Orange Record

DEADLINES

Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
Display "Space reservation 3 PM Friday
Ad Copy 12 Noon Monday
In-column 3 PM Tuesday

ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments - We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears, should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. shall not be liable for errors or omissions in best of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, re-arrange or re-classify any advertisement at any time.

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25 words \$21.00 or \$28.00 combo
Garage Sale signs, price stickers, balloons, helpful hints, inventory sheet and Rain Insurance

ECONOMY CLASS

20 words \$7.00 or \$11.00 combo items for sale under \$100.00 One item per ad price must appear.

AUTOS FOR SALE

20 words - 10 weeks \$31.00 or \$44.00
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Photo of your car plus 20 words
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Call now 1-800-564-8911

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REAL ESTATE



Carmen Imgrund, left, receives a plaque as Realtor of the Year for Greater Union County Association of Realtors from Gloria Woodward, 1999 president of the New Jersey Association of Realtors at the recent convention in Atlantic City.

Imgrund named top Realtor

Carmen Imgrund has been selected 1998 Realtor of the Year for the Greater Union County Association of Realtors, according to 1998 President Roger Luce. She was recently honored at the New Jersey Association of Realtors convention in Atlantic City.

Imgrund is currently chairman of the Realtor Community Service Committee and serves as co-chair in 1996 and 1997. She assumes the leadership role again in 1999. Under her guidance, the GUCAR committee won first place in New Jersey among Realtor associations for its community service projects and projects in 1998.

Imgrund also is vice chairman of the New Jersey Association of Realtors Community Service Committee, having been on the committee for several years. She was recently named to fill a vacant position on the Board of Trustees for the Bobby Fund, the foundation created by the local Board of Realtors that helps chronically or terminally ill children.

The three-foot drive, one of the most successful of the Community Service projects, was developed by Imgrund. She is always searching for new projects and new organizations to receive the items gathered by the committee throughout the year.

In addition to her local and state-association community service committees, Imgrund serves on the Board of Directors for Women for Women, which provides support and counseling for women in crisis.

Candidates for Realtor of the Year are judged on Realtor spirit, their activities at the state, local and national associations, their business accomplishments and involvement in humanitarian and community services.

Imgrund is identified as a Realtor with Century 21 Taylor & Love in Westfield.

Saraiva, Curto join RE/MAX

André Saraiva and Victor Curto have joined RE/MAX 2000 in Elizabeth as sales associates. They specialize in the listing and selling of residential properties and new construction in the Elizabeth area.

Prior to joining RE/MAX, they were affiliated with Alliance Realty. "I am very excited about joining the team of top professionals at RE/MAX," Saraiva said. "I look forward to many successful years associated with RE/MAX."

A proponent of higher education, Saraiva, a resident of Newark, is in the process of completing the Graduate Realtor Institute designation. The GRI designation is held only by 3,000 Realtors in New Jersey.

"I joined RE/MAX to expand my business opportunities and work with the top professionals in the industry," said Curto, a resident of Elizabeth. "I am enjoying the benefits of the internationally recognized RE/MAX name."

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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

APARTMENT TO RENT

BLOOMFIELD, large 2 1/2, 3 rooms, \$625 and up, all utilities paid. Owner changing HOA fees. Heat, gas and taxes. \$72,900. 8441

IRVINGTON 3 BEDROOMS Normal dining room living room eat-in kitchen! Heat transportation. \$850. Pat. own utilities! Call 908-687-4571. 11111

IRVINGTON 2 BEDROOMS apartment! Newly renovated! Bathrooms! Heat/hot water included! \$525 monthly! 111. Home security! Average! March 1st. 973-274-7831

NEWARK-WERUQUAN AREA STUDIO 1 AND 2 BEDROOMS

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APARTMENT TO RENT

ORANGE 466 HIGHLAND Avenue. Extra large 1 bedroom \$450 month. \$1600 \$600/month. wood floors, tile baths, heat/hot water included, parking available. See Supervisor \$109 or call 908-822-0186

SOUTH ORANGE Walk to NEW YORK TRANS Large apartment ideal for New York professionals. \$1100/month. Call 973-262-2269

UNION 4 ROOM apartment, first floor of two family. Business opportunity. No pets. No smokers. \$750 plus utilities. Available March 1st. 908-264-7912

UNUSUAL AVAILABILITY

1 bedroom available at this charming, quiet, well maintained building.

Select units freshly renovated including tile bath, cabinets, brand new kitchen appliances and modern built-in features.

Short walk to public transportation convenient to I-95

Parking and storage facility on-site. Rent includes heat/hot water.

546 Westmontary Avenue. 908-385-3913

UNION MAPLEWOOD 2 bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, 4 rooms. Basement, carpeting. \$1100 per month. 1 1/2 month security. Call 973-762-0643

UPPER IRVINGTON efficiency apartment. Heat/hot water included. \$717. \$667 available at once.

APARTMENT TO RENT

WILKSBURG 4 BEDROOM 2 1/2 bath floor plan. No pets. \$700 plus one month security. Call 973-262-2269

SOUTH ORANGE Sunny quiet, very private residence! Hardwood floors! No smoking! Pet friendly. Security. Call 973-762-0643

ROOM TO RENT

UNION Room for rent. Perfect for a professional individual. \$100. Call 908-687-2203

SOUTH ORANGE Sunny quiet, very private residence! Hardwood floors! No smoking! Pet friendly. Security. Call 973-762-0643

HOUSE TO RENT

MAPLEWOOD 4 BEDROOMS 3 baths. Garage. Inexpensive! working central air. Immediate occupancy! Grand Avenue. 8am-5pm. 908-264-7911. 908-264-7911

REAL ESTATE

All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

CEMETERY PLOTS

CRUPT For sale! Hollywood Memorial Park. Union. 732-295-9738

HOLLYWOOD MEMORIAL PARK Gentleman's Gardens Mausoleum! Double crypt \$11,800. Call 973-225-9580

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PRODUCT	RATE	PTS	APR	INFO	LIBRARY	RATE	PTS	APR	INFO
Apple National Mortgage	6.00	0.00	6.00	1763	Liberty Bank	7.12	459	7.00	INFO
30 YEAR FIXED	7.00	0.00	7.00	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.84	0.00	6.88	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE
1 YR ARM	5.38	0.00	5.38	\$ 350	1 YR ADJ	5.13	0.00	5.04	\$ 350
Bank of America									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.40	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of Montreal									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of New York									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the Americas									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the West									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the South									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the East									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the West									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the South									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
1 YR ADJ	6.50	0.00	6.10	\$ 100	30 YR JUMBO	6.88	0.00	6.88	\$ 300
Bank of the East									
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	APP	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.75	APP
15 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.50	FEE	15 YR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.30	FEE
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AUTOMOTIVE

MBNA is custom-training Mercedes-Benz auto technicians

Mercedes-Benz of North America Inc. has joined forces with Custom Training Group, a division of Universal Technical Institute Inc., a national technical education training company, to recruit and develop entry-level technicians. The MBNA training program, Entitled Level One Technician Education of ELITE, is designed to prepare technicians to perform service, maintenance and repairs at Mercedes-Benz dealerships across the country.

Up to 15 students are chosen per ELITE class after meeting stringent qualifications — including passing a Mercedes-Benz competency test and all advanced National Automotive Technicians Education (NATE) Program #1 and are trained at a dedicated Mercedes-Benz facility in Rancho Cienega, California. The first class of 12 ELITE technicians graduated with flying colors in August and have all been placed at Mercedes-Benz dealerships. The second class successfully completed the program in December 1997 and 12 of 11 recruits are now employed at Mercedes-Benz dealerships, with an offer pending for the last recruit. The overwhelming success of the program had led to plans to add a second facility in the Orlando, Florida area in 1999.

The program serves many valuable purposes first, our goal is to continue to recruit top-notch technicians to supply customers with the best level of service possible. We facilitate that by training top-caliber people to uphold our Mercedes-Benz standards," said Hal Whitford, vice president of operations at MBNA.

Second, the ELITE program is the right answer to meeting Mercedes-Benz dealership requirements as their capacity expands, while at the same

time, addressing the nationwide shortage of skilled technicians in the automotive industry.

Emphasizing safety and hands-on approach with frequent testing, students are trained in service, maintenance, diagnosis, repair and all electronic Mercedes-Benz special reference and diagnostic systems. Training is held over a four-month period, with classes held five days per week, six hours a day. The training facility consists of two classrooms, a fully equipped shop and Mercedes-Benz trained instructors.

"The program was great — I loved how the class was so small! We got plenty of hands-on attention with three instructors, including more than 30 hours to stop and ask questions whenever we wanted," said Nicolas McCarthy, now a Mercedes-Benz technician at Chambers Motors of Brownsville. "I've already been recommending the program to my friends and former classmates from UTI."

Technicians have also been placed at House of Imports Inc., Buena Park, Calif.; Hatcher Jones, Newport Beach, Calif.; Tysinger Motor Co. Inc., Hampton, Va.; Deberian European Motors, Stockton, Calif.; Chambers Motors of Boston, Somerville, Mass.; Santa Barbara, Calif.; R & B Motors Inc., San Rafael, Calif.; Larson Motor Co. Inc., Washington, Calif.; and Cabanas Motor Cars Inc., Chubbass, Calif.; Park Place, Houston, Texas; Calbar Motors Inc., Chandler, Calif.; Missouri Viejo Imports, Mission Viejo, Calif.; Classic Motors, Melrose, La.; Ken Gaff Imports, Salt Lake City, Utah; Mercedes-Benz of San Diego; San Diego, Calif.; Lyle Pearson Co. Inc., Boise, Idaho; and Foreign Motors West, Natick, Massachusetts.

Involving students pay no tuition fee up front. MBNA absorbs initial training and development costs and is reimbursed \$6,000 per student after a Mercedes-Benz dealership employs a graduate of the ELITE program.

For more information about the ELITE program, contact the technical training department at MBNA at (800) 225-0262, ext. 2654.

GMC sport utility boasts Bose system

The GMC Envoy is the first sport utility vehicle in the world with a sound system featuring the Bose patent (NI) master technology.

The NI speaker contains rare earth neodymium magnets with ten times the energy density of conventional ferrite magnets. Engineered construction makes these speakers much thinner than conventional ones, a key benefit of this new concept NI.

The latest music system includes:

- Eight NI speakers mounted low and forward in the front doors
- 2.5-inch high-output speakers mounted in the dashboard
- 2.5-inch wide-range speakers mounted low and forward in the rear doors

A six-channel power module contains active equalization and special audio processing circuitry that allows the system to be played at low volumes without loss of performance and a maximum volume without audio distortion.

The new system-like all-gather Bose automotive audio systems, is automatically tapered to the interior of each vehicle. With Bose's newly patented NI speakers during the design process, Bose engineers altered the tonal spectra of acoustic measurements to find the Bose system's unique tonal and acoustic signature of the Envoy.

This customized acoustic tailoring delivers realistic musical performance and accurate tonal balance. Voices sound natural and full, drum beats sound realistic and drums are deep and thunderous.

Buick memorabilia on display at Michigan gallery, center

After 95 years of being headquartered in Flint, Michigan, Buick Motor Division moved its offices to Renaissance Center in Detroit Nov. 16, joining other General Motors marketing divisions, Chevrolet, Pontiac, GMC, Oldsmobile and Cadillac there.

But Buick is leaving much of its heritage in Flint. Buick General Manager Robert J. Vitetta helped Flint's Alfred P. Sloan Jr. Museum open a building called the Buick Gallery and Research Center near the museum's 1221 Kearsley St., Flint, Mich. 48903. Buick provided the museum with

any of its archive photographs and video records, and has placed about 50 historic Buicks for long-term loan.

In addition, the museum collection and the Buick collection, the museum will be able to display about 25 vintage Buicks, including a streamer owned by Vitetta before he joined Buick. Anyone wishing to donate Buick memorabilia may contact Steve Germany, director, Sloan Museum, Research Center near the museum's 1221 Kearsley St., Flint, Mich. 48903. Buick provided the museum with a phone 810-760-1169.

Jacque McCarthy, Editor
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Winter driving requires attention to tire quality

Motorists driving in winter conditions should pay attention to where the rubber meets the road, according to AAA.

"Tires are one of the most important safety devices on an automobile," said Marty Koenig, approved auto repair technician for the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park. "The very function of steering and braking depends on the contact between the tire and road."

To prevent a potentially dangerous situation, AAA recommends vehicle owners give their tires a complete inspection, including examining the amount of tread and inflation level.

"Sliding down an icy road out of control probably isn't the best time to recheck your tire needs," said Koenig.

"By taking a few minutes now, you can prevent a dangerous crash later. First, check the pressure to make sure your tires have the amount of air recommended by the vehicle manufacturer — check — and under inflated tires have less contact with the road, which results in less traction. Tires will also wear out prematurely when not inflated properly."

"There's an old theory that taking some of the air out of your tires will increase traction on ice and snow," said Koenig. "This simply isn't true. Tires should always be inflated to the manufacturer's recommended level."

"Next, it's important to check the amount of tread on each tire. Although the legal requirement in most states is 1/16 inch of tread, a tread depth of 2/32 inch or more is recommended for the vehicle manufacturer — check — and under inflated tires have less contact with the road, which results in less traction. Tires will also wear out prematurely when not inflated properly."

"By investing \$5 on an air pressure gauge and tread-depth gauge, motorists can help to ensure safe winter driving," said Koenig. "It's also important to balance and rotate tires on a regular basis to avoid uneven tread wear and shortened tire life."

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Clark, Florham Park, Randolph, South Orange, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial, legislative and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union counties.

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Nissan provides tips on how to enjoy the carpool

Kids On Board: How to Enjoy the Carpool? is a colorful, new booklet from Nissan now available for parents by calling (800) NISSAN 1. Nissan created the booklet to share valuable tips on how to provide fun and safe driving experience while transporting America's most precious passengers — children.

Loaded with carpooling suggestions, from hundreds of carpooling parents from across the country, the booklet also contains advice from Yale University's Douglas Siegel, the "Carpool Doctor," a nationally recognized psychologist specializing in the play and imagination of children.

"Among the tips included in the booklet are:

- Meet with other parents to set ground rules and agree on discipline and safety issues.
- Determine a schedule and stick to it.

- Take only as many kids as there are seat belts, and absolutely never excessive buckle up.
- Use appropriate child restraints correctly.

- Before getting underway, have everyone put their fingers on their noses before you shut the doors. This ensures that no fingers get caught by the door.
- If things get out of hand inside vehicle, pull over to the curb or the nearest possible place to stop, and let everyone cool off before continuing.

Carpooling is a way of life for thousands of families. The average parent spends seven hours in a car with three children every week, yet only travels a distance of 15 carpooling miles in that week. There are many good reasons for carpooling. It helps the environment by reducing emissions and conserving gas. And, carpooling saves money and time.

The results of carpooling can be dramatic. At Nissan's Southern California office, a Commuter Service Program is available to more than 20,000 employees, which helps save more than 100,000 miles per day, or about 37 million miles a year.

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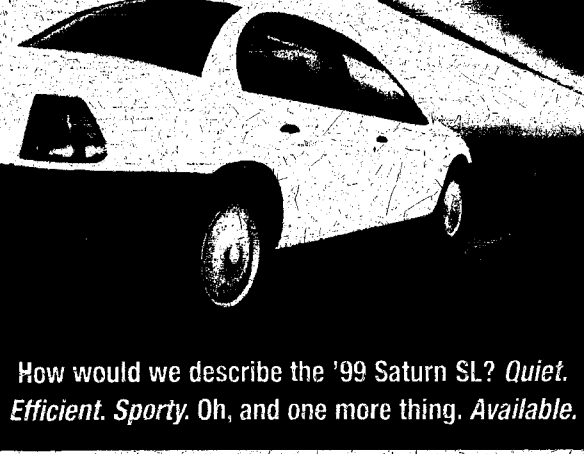
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