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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2000 - SECTION B

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It's broke; fix it first

State Senate President Donald DiFrancesco is a busy man these days. When you're planning a run for governor next year, you have to have an answer to the voters' question of, "What have you done for me lately?"

Gun safety, transportation funding and open space preservation are among the major items the Senate president introduced and is trying to gain approval before the Legislature goes on hiatus for the summer.

My Two Cents

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Earlier this month, the Senate failed to pass a component of DiFrancesco's "21st Century Congestion Relief and Transportation Trust Fund." The plan to establish the fund was approved, but Senate Democrats did not vote on dedicating the funds via a constitutional amendment that would appear on November's ballot.

The bill would reauthorize the state fund and provide \$1 billion to the Department of Transportation.

State Sen. Bernard Kenny of Hoboken, D-33, introduced important amendments to DiFrancesco's plan with more specific goals for the Department of Transportation as well as prioritizing bridge repair. Even more importantly, an amendment would limit new highway construction, prohibiting them in rural areas or those protected by Green Acres, and be "consistent with the State Plan."

A similar bill, with similar amendments presented by Democrats, has been introduced in the Assembly.

DiFrancesco's plan, while identifying a stable source of funding for the Transportation Trust Fund, does not seem consistent with his hopes to preserve open space through different legislation he introduced last month. His "Conservation Action Fund" would create a \$5-million pool that could purchase land in danger of development faster than the Legislature could.

Without Kenny's amendments, the Transportation Trust Fund concerns groups such as the New Jersey Conservation Foundation and the Tri-State Transportation Campaign. Even an agreement reached last week between DiFrancesco and Assembly Speaker Jack Collins does not please the anti-sprawl groups. While the program is more pay-as-you-go with less debt incurred, the issue of sprawl is not directly addressed in the legislation.

According to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a nonprofit, anti-sprawl group, state highway spending per capita is from 1998-2000 was highest in Atlantic, Somerset, Mercer and Hunterdon counties, all far ahead of the rest of New Jersey. The figures may be deceiving because Atlantic County has the casino tunnel but still, the next closest counties — Passaic and Hudson — were less than half in per-capita spending. Per-capita spending in other urban counties such as Union was a fraction of what it was in more rural areas.

Although the per-capita spending may be skewed by densely populated urban counties versus the sparsely populated, rural counties, it still raises a valid point. What's wrong with this picture? Suburban and rural areas of the state should not be leading the way in terms of highway spending. Once highways are built, new development soon follows, gobbling open, green spaces; there's no debating it.

Those new highways have always been an invitation to gargantuan office parks in the suburbs, where no serious mass transit exists, requiring more motorists to use the highways. Now we have sprawling corporate parks adding congestion to roads that were never meant for the volume of traffic they

See **FIX**, Page B2

Recommendations on open space forthcoming

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

A committee formed to study the impact of an open space trust fund in Union County has submitted its recommendations to the Board of Freeholders. Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan said board members will receive the recommendations at tonight's meeting. Should a presentation be scheduled before the freeholder board, it would not take place until next month's meeting, probably the work session on July 13, he said. Much of it depends on the timing of when freeholders must vote on the recommendations.

The freeholders established the bipartisan committee last summer to study the feasibility of an open space trust fund — an additional tax dedicated to open space and recreation. Any such tax would require voter approval through a ballot question in November's General Election. The deadline to place a public question on the November ballot is Aug. 25.

The ad hoc committee is chaired by Union County Alliance President Hank Ross of Branchburg and comprised of Summit Councilman Henry Ogden, Westfield Councilman Carl Salisbury, former Hillside Mayor Ralph Milreer and attorney Elizabeth Brody of Roselle.

Union is one of only four counties in New Jersey without an open space trust fund. An open space tax of \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value in Union County is expected to generate approximately \$3.2 million. Most county trust funds range anywhere from \$0.01 to \$0.04 per \$100 of assessed value.

Municipalities also may create open space trust funds. Scotch Plains voters narrowly approved a tax last fall while Cranford officials are contemplating the idea this year.

A Union County Open Space Trust Fund might be a method to fund the county's 10-year, \$46-million Open Space and Recreation Master Plan. The plan, introduced last year and adopted in January, makes numerous recommendations for improvements throughout their county's 26 park facilities.

William Fidurski, chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission, said the concern of environmental commissions throughout the county is inadequate provisions in the master plan for acquiring open space. In addition to recommending improvements to facilities, the master plan recommends acquiring more than 90 acres of open space.

Fidurski said the sentiment during a joint meeting of environmental commissions last week was that in view of pressure on county parks for recreational use, there should be an effort to acquire open space to avoid creating recreational space at the expense of natural parklands.

Dennis Miranda, chairman of the Arthur Kill Coalition, said the coalition is excited and enthusiastic about an open space trust fund in Union County. He plans to attend tonight's freeholder meeting to extend "a hand in partnership in order to promote the passage" of the trust fund. "We look forward to helping Union County in a public education campaign" to get voters out in support of the trust fund come November.

The Arthur Kill Coalition is made up of local, regional and statewide civic and community groups dedicated to strategizing to preserve open space and promote the improvement of water quality and seeking partnership with leaders to do the same.

In the past, the coalition, Miranda said, formed partnerships with mayors in Edison and Clark. It also has helped to establish an open space trust fund in Edison as well as preserving open space there and in Clark.

Miranda sees Union County as a "common denominator" to increasing the acquisition of open space.



Photo by Barbara Kokkalis

VO-TECH GRADS — More than 350 students were awarded diplomas at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools' 33rd annual commencement exercises Friday on the Scotch Plains campus. Above, cosmetology graduates, from left, Danielle Garcia of Kenilworth, Ka-Mesia Brown of Plainfield, Carissa Bowden of Clark and Kristen Bennett of Roselle are all smiles. Below, adult high school graduates, from left, Payal Majumdar of Rahway, Jackie Callahan of Elizabeth, Nikki Caponegro of Union and Jackie Cruz of Linden gather after the ceremony.



Retired U.S. Navy Commander Paul Munz describes the attack sub USS Providence to three of his students, from left, Alana Davis of Union, Ashley Biscardi of Rahway and Aashish Goawami of Hillside. Munz is now a Dodge Fellowship-winning teacher of mathematics. Most of his 22 years in the naval service were involved with the nuclear submarine fleet.

Magnet teacher goes from subs to math

Students in a mathematics class at the Union County Magnet High School have something in common with the United States Navy's nuclear-powered submarine fleet. It's their teacher, former Commander Paul D. Munz, who, in 1999, retired after 22 years in the Navy, most of them spent within the "Silent Service." During his naval career, Munz participated and played leading roles in the design, construction and maintenance of a wide variety of nuclear subs and surface warships.

Each year, hundreds of professionals decide to leave business and industry to pursue teaching careers in New Jersey public schools. Most of these individuals were not specifically trained as educators but came to

teaching with relevant technical skills and "real world" experience.

The Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation annually confers Dodge Fellowship Awards on 25 outstanding first-year teachers as they enter the profession through New Jersey's alternative licensure program. Munz was one of those selected and named a Dodge Fellow.

Munz graduated Villanova University with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering. In 1977, he was commissioned an Ensign in U.S. Navy then going on to earn a master's degree in mechanical engineering with distinction and the professional degree, mechanical engineer, from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif. After more than two

decades of service, Munz has now set sail on a new career that he is finding to be equally enriching and rewarding.

When asked why he became a teacher, Munz replied, "I feel a strong need to find significant meaning in my personal and professional lives. Serving our country as a naval officer satisfied my need for meaning — I believed with my whole heart that what I was doing was making a difference, both for our nation and the people I was assigned to lead."

"I realize that teaching is an extremely comparable form of service. Teachers make incredibly meaningful contributions to society as a whole along with directly affecting

See **NAVY**, Page B2

Member resigns in protest

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

A member of the Deer Management Subcommittee resigned earlier this month, citing what she believes is a failure on the part of the county to fully investigate alternatives to the Watching Reservation deer hunt.

Linda Niedwiske of Westfield, a member of the Union County Deer Management Subcommittee since it was started in 1994, was a representative of the New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance. The subcommittee consists of approximately 20 members and includes animal rights advocates, wildlife experts and sportsmen.

Since the inception of the committee, Niedwiske said "there has never been any true intention to fully evaluate the Watching Reservation so as to preserve it for future generations."

"There have never been any good faith efforts to investigate alternatives to hunting or to properly evaluate the actual impact of the deer on the reservation as compared to other factors like mountain bikes or the seepage from the horse barn housed in the reservation," she said in her resignation letter. "The committee was really a subterfuge for those who wanted to institute hunting in Union County."

"Years have now been devoted to killing. It seems only reasonable that time can be devoted to not killing and a complete exploration of the reservation."

Niedwiske cited a letter from the subcommittee's chairman, Pat Thomas, that the subcommittee must provide a long-term plan to the Board of Freeholders for maintenance of the deer herd. She believes this changes the focus of the subcommittee's meetings from exploration of alternatives to the "imminent need of providing the freeholders with a long-term maintenance plan."

Thomas said the subcommittee had discussed many different options, "unfortunately, there just are not many viable options for controlling deer."

Evidently, he said, Niedwiske is

"not happy with the majority decision."

As for the deer maintenance plan, Thomas said there are any number of ways to maintain deer. The subcommittee likely will evaluate the size and condition of the herd annually, but not automatically take action one way or the other without first analyzing data.

Daniel Bernier, head of the Division of Park Maintenance, said Niedwiske had some valid concerns but the tone of her letter "makes it difficult."

He said the subcommittee met 29 times before recommending to the freeholder board the long-range plan to hunt deer. "I don't think anyone has studied this as much as Union County."

He declined to discuss details of this month's subcommittee meeting because he had not yet submitted his report to the freeholder board. His report will be rather comprehensive, he said, and will mention Niedwiske's resignation in addition to a report on the meeting and other items, including an infrared survey of the deer population taken in the spring.

The subcommittee was appointed by the Board of Freeholders in 1994 to study potential solutions for thinning the deer population and in 1995, the board adopted a five-year plan to reduce the herd from 180 per square mile to 20 per square mile by means of a controlled hunt.

The subcommittee agreed at its December meeting to kill 18 deer in the spring in order to maintain the herd at acceptable levels, Niedwiske said, but the county went ahead and eliminated 53, "completely counter to what the committee wanted."

"This exemplifies that the Parks and Recreation Department is flagrantly doing what it wants."

While the goal was 18, there was no upper limit and Parks and Recreation officials said they would remove as many deer as safely presented themselves.

COUNTY NEWS

Radio operators set to go around the clock

On Saturday and Sunday, Tri-County Arts Radio Association's amateur radio operators will work around the clock in the Loop area of Union County's Wachung Reservation to set up a field radio communication station, get on the air and contact thousands of other operators in the U.S. and Canada in the American Radio Relay League's Field Day. The annual event challenges hams to make contact under conditions that simulate the aftermath of a disaster.

"It is a chance for our operators to get out of doors and have fun under difficult conditions," said Tri-County Radio Association's President David Sawyer.

"We practice and fine-tune our emergency communications skills. We use generators and battery power, and we set up antennas in the field. The idea is to put together a self-sufficient, working station quickly and begin making contacts under simulated disaster conditions."

The site will be manned around the clock by amateur radio operators. Rain or shine, the Tri-County Radio Association field day operations will begin at 2 p.m. on Saturday and run to 2 p.m. on Sunday in the Loop Area in Wachung Reservation, just off W.R. Tracy Drive. The public is encouraged to attend.

Training center offers computer seminars

Since the computer systems in school classrooms are now more complex than ever, the Union County Educational Technology Training Center is offering teachers, as well as other interested individuals, the opportunity of better understanding the technology and how to use it.

Windows NT Server & Workstation will be at the training center on June 27, 28 and 29. According to Lisa Greenberg, coordinator of the ETTC, the three-day, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. seminar will be hands on, mixing lecture and exercises, to ensure participants understand the material.

The seminar fee, normally \$1,195, has been reduced to \$750 for this offering. Those wishing to register should call Greenberg at (908) 889-3810.

The Technology Training Center is located at the Union County Magnet High School's Mancuso Hall on 1776 Raritan Road campus of the County Vocational-Technical Schools.

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey is appealing to community members to donate a pint of blood for someone in need.

The Blood Center will conduct the following blood drives:

- Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 1034 Jeanette Ave., Union.
- Sunday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., St. James Church, 45 S. Springfield Ave., Springfield.
- Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m., Masonic Atlas Pythagoras Lodge, 1011 Central Ave., Westfield.

'Developing Confidence for the Job Interview'

With the economy still at a peak and many companies expanding their staffs, Union County College is offering a first-step opportunity for employment seekers this month by presenting two single-session workshops in resume writing and effective interview techniques. Participants can choose to take one or both workshops as needed.

"Developing Confidence for the Job Interview" will enable participants to develop strategic selling skills for the employment marketplace. The college will conduct the seminar from 7 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday at its Cranford campus.

For more information call the college's Division of Continuing Education and Community Services at (908) 709-7600.

Navy commander moves into classroom

(Continued from Page B1) the growth and development of each individual student. What could be more meaningful than that?"

"Mr. Munz's classroom, respect is demanded at all times — not only from student to teacher but teacher to student, as well," said Ashley Biscardi of Rahway, a 10-grade geometry student at the magnet school.

"He has often proclaimed to us, 'It is a privilege to have you as students.' After such an enjoyable math year, I can return the compliment and say it is indeed a privilege to have Mr. Munz as our teacher," Biscardi said.

One of Munz's most vital assignments during his two decades in the armed forces was as Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair in Groton, Conn. He served as Trident Class Submarine Waterfront Coordinator, Division Head and participated in the construction, testing, sea-trials and delivery of the first three submarines capable of firing the Trident II, D-5, strategic weapons system.

Following his retirement, Munz had multiple offers of teaching positions. He expresses deep satisfaction for having joined the faculty of the Union County Magnet High School for Science, Mathematics and Technology.

"What a wonderful school," he said. "We are new, still quite small

but culturally diverse. The thing I enjoy most is how each student is treated as an individual and given personal attention. This makes a world of difference in each youngster's success and progress."

Fix roads before building anew

(Continued from Page B1) The DOT has spent more on highway construction than on repair the last five years, according to the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, despite a maintenance backlog that has reached nearly \$6 billion.

Last week's agreement between Assembly and Senate leaders is being hailed as anti-sprawl. The deal incorporates "language from the Assembly bill that would require any new highway to be authorized by law, a provision designed to restrict the DOT's ability to contribute to sprawl."

A study by the New Jersey Institute of Technology and The Foundation of New Jersey Alliance for Action estimates traffic congestion costs the state almost \$5 billion annually in lost time, operating cost and fuel consumption.

Funds should be funneled toward repairing roads and bridges already in existence — such as the vital urban corridor — before laying new pavement. Route 22 always seems to be in the process of being "studied" as to how to improve it, while Routes 1&9 have among the highest volume of truck traffic in the nation — and it shows.

Roads in the urban core deserve their fair share for much needed improvements. It would promote the redevelopment of cities and improve public transportation versus perpetuating New Jersey's reputation of suburban sprawl.

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First Night of MaplewoodSo. Orangehttp://www.munimunity.nj.com/firstnight-soma

Forest Hill Propertieshttp://www.rent.net/direct/foresthillproperties

Grand Sanitationhttp://www.grandsanitation.com

Holy Cross Churchhttp://www.holycrossnj.org

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paper Mill's 'Pippin' appeals to all ages

A completely new, bouncing, colorful, sensuous concept of the musical production of "Pippin" pounded the stage, the ears and the hearts of the patrons at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn Sunday afternoon in a successful, successful overhaul of a 28-year-old award-winning Broadway play.

The revisions that composer Stephen Schwartz and librettist Roger O. Hirson brought to their reinvention of a gem of a musical — that won five Tony Awards in 1973 and was one of the longest-running shows on Broadway — and the completely new stupendous choreography by Rob Ashford have turned it into a rip-roaring slice of entertainment rarely seen in New Jersey.

If Bob Fosse, back in the early 1970s, had his own great ideas about directing a musical in the era of the eighth century about a father and son relationship, Paper Mill's Artistic Director Robert Johanson drew them all out and started from scratch. And the excitement and the comedy and the musical excursions onstage about a boy who searches the world for fulfillment against the exciting scenic designs created by the exceptional Michael Anania, have turned Paper Mill's "Pippin" into a spectacular offering that will appeal to audiences everywhere.

Jack Noseworthy, the plain-looking young man in the title role, searching desperately to fulfill his empty life as the son of King Charlemagne, is a fine singer and dancer and has a keen sense of comedy. He is surrounded onstage by a cast of Players — all exceptional — and as far as this reviewer is concerned, all stars. And to add icing to this tremendously appetizing production is an exceptionally talented, exceptionally versatile, veteran actress, singer, dancer and comedienne, Charlotte Rae, as Berthe, Pippin's grandmother. Perhaps the public has tended to forget that this red-haired, frail-looking ball of fire has a wonderful stage voice and that years ago she starred in "The Threepenny Opera" because she had been so successful as Mrs. Garrett on television's "The Facts of Life." When she sings on the Paper Mill stage and dances "No Time At All," in no time at all, she just takes over the entire production. Rae is utterly fantastic!

On the Boards

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Although the entire cast is marvelous — especially Jim Newman, who portrays the Leading Player, who directs Pippin's life — Ed Dixon, magnificent as Charlemagne, and Sara Gettelfinger as Fastrada, Pippin's wicked stepmother, who resembles Joan Crawford in her heyday, it is the splendid Natascia A. Diaz, who truly shines as Catherine, bringing love and fulfillment to the restless Pippin. Davis Kirby as Pippin's physically appealing brother, is properly cast.

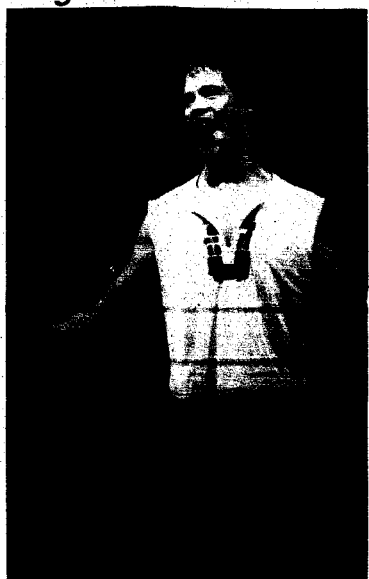
The men and women in the chorus of "Pippin" are among the most handsome and beautiful and talented performers to appear on this or any theatrical stage. Roxane Barlow, a tall, shapely, red-haired dancer, a Rita Hayworth look-alike, thoroughly sexy in naughty flesh-colored costumes, leads the line of fascinating dancers-stars.

And such musical numbers to thoroughly entertain any Paper Mill audience and tell the tale of "Pippin" include the opening, "Magic To Do," "Corner of the Sky," the humorously appealing "With You," "Morning Glow," "Kind of Woman," "Extraordinary," and "Love Song" — marvelous between Pippin and Catherine.

There are all kinds of props brought onstage including a bed for two and a brief ballet scene to indicate intimacy between Pippin and Catherine. The opening number costumes created by Gene Meyer and the other sparkling costumes, thanks to Kirk Bookman, glitter with originality. Greg Bookman is to be congratulated on the lighting design.

"Pippin" as enacted — or, shall we say, re-enacted — at the Paper Mill, truly appeals to all ages. It is actually an unforgettable musical experience for all theatergoers. Once more, we tip our hats to the inventive man who has made it all happen — with great success — Angelo Del Rossi, the theater's president and executive producer.

'Magic To Do'



As the title character in 'Pippin,' Jack Noseworthy shares his desperate need for fulfillment in 'Corner of the Sky,' one of many exciting musical numbers in the Paper Mill Playhouse production.

Reworked 'Pippin' outdoes its magic

Not many musicals lend themselves to reinvention. Imagine, for example, "My Fair Lady" in the hands of Bob Fosse, or "Hello, Dolly!" reworked by David Mamet.

And then there are shows like "Pippin," those musicals whose stories can be communicated in a variety of interpretations.

The Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn opened "Pippin," its last show of the season, Friday night to a packed house and thunderous applause. Described as a "Pippin" for a new millennium, the revised 1972 Broadway hit resonates with grit and power, eschewing the standstill, aloof sensibilities of Fosse's original concept in favor of a raw sexuality and a contemporary edge, both of which secure the piece exquisitely.

Composer Stephen Schwartz and librettist Roger O. Hirson have worked with Paper Mill Artistic Director Robert Johanson to bring this landmark musical to a new generation. Not only are the Fosse-isms completely absent, but the score and book have been tinkered with, making the impact of the story that much more palpable. Having known this particular show since seeing the original Broadway production in the '70s, this reviewer was moved to tears more than once last Friday night, fully understanding for the first time the universal truths of Pippin's journey.

In a nutshell, the story revolves around Pippin, son of Charlemagne, and his 8th-century search for fulfillment in a world of empty promises. He tries war, wanton sexuality, the church, the arts, and finally finds his purpose in the simplest of life's experiences.

However, this is no straight-forward piece of storytelling. We are welcomed to the show by the Leading Player and his cohorts who, upon addressing the audience directly and acknowledging our role in the proceedings, bring us metaphorically onto the stage with them. From there, this dynamic company of actors has us in their hands.

Johanson's vision for "Pippin" owes much to Broadway's "Rent" in terms of the raw edge and urban grit. Rob Ashford's choreography is fluid and sensual, used judiciously to further the emotional experience of the piece. Michael Anania's powerful set design perfectly conveys the seamy side of life, and is beautifully complemented by Kirk Bookman's evocative lighting.

Schwartz's modifications to the score are electric and galvanizing: "War is a Science" is no longer a soft-shoe, but rather an homage to house music, complete with today's dance moves, brilliantly executed by the company. And the tango sequences added to "Speed a Little Sunshine" were both hilarious and sexy.

As the Leading Player, Jim Newman creates perhaps the most androgynous and sexual narrator since Joel Grey crooned "Wilkommen, bienvenue, welcome" in "Cabaret" more than three decades ago. Siney and seductive, Newman radiates danger and allure simultaneously; even though we suspect this guy is trouble, we can't help being drawn under his spell.

On the Boards

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

Jack Noseworthy brings a freshness and rambunctiousness to the proceedings as Pippin, playing him as more of a loose-cannon boy next door than is usually seen. His "Love Song" with Natascia A. Diaz's Catherine was one of the most movingly tender love songs this reviewer has seen on stage in some time.

In the supporting roles, Ed Dixon is a delight as Charlemagne, strutting his stuff with pomposity and charm. You half expect him to look at the audience and smirk, "It's good to be a king!" Diaz creates an absolutely entrancing Catherine, vulnerable yet strong, eager yet hesitant. Her repeated near-misses with Pippin early in the show, a stroke of genius on Johanson's part, makes their ultimate union that much more fulfilling and rapturous.

Special mention must be made of Sara Gettelfinger who, as Pippin's stepmother Fastrada, is simply a wonder to behold. As drop-dead sexy as a runway model and as lethal as a cobra, this Fastrada is like none this reviewer has ever seen. You practically want her to get away with her machinations just to see more of this amazing performer in action. Bravo!

At Friday's performance, Charlotte Rae made a star entrance as Berthe, Pippin's racy grandmother, and from there it immediately went down hill. Even with eight preview performances under her belt, this veteran star of stage and television had trouble getting through her one scene, and delivered not one verse of her song — one of the best in the show — lyrically in fact. This reviewer could only assume that the applause she received on her exit was out of relief that the grueling moment had ended. Let's hope she takes a little time looking over her script.

Some of the changes did not serve the piece as well as others, most notably the extravagant finale in which Pippin is tempted to end his life in a magician's trick. Replacing the cynical, no-frills wooden crate usually seen at this point in the show was a huge contraption lowered onto the stage from the flies, complete with flashing lights and steam pouring out. While visually dazzling, the moment lost the crudeness necessary for the scene to work. This gimmick was downright attractive — who wouldn't climb in, even if it is for one last performance in life?

Theater is never more exciting than when it takes chances. Fans of the oft-replicated Fosse version of "Pippin" may be put off by the changes, but devotees of the story itself will revel in this creative, gutsy retelling.

Simply put, this "Pippin" is not to be missed.

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

County College offers summer arts classes

The Union County College Office of Continuing Education has many opportunities available to enhance your skills and knowledge in the areas of art, music or dance.

One of the newer classes, "Exploring Major Schools of Art," provides the opportunity to study many areas of art at one time and to try create original compositions using a variety of media including watercolor, acrylics, and crayons. This course begins July 11.

Other courses being offered in the area of art include "Drawing and Sketching," "Oil and Acrylic Painting," "Watercolor," "Portraiture/Figure Drawing," "Photography Fundamentals," "Black and White Photography," and "Color Photography." All these courses are being offered in both summer sessions.

Courses offered in the area of music include piano and guitar at both beginner and intermediate levels. These courses both began June 8. A course on Classical Indian — Hindustani — Music is being offered at 7 and 8 p.m. beginning June 20.

For more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at (908) 709-7600.

Children's Hospital exhibits work of three local artists

Children's Specialized Hospital is hosting an exhibition of the works of three New Jersey artists in the months of June and July.

Photographer Elaine Schnoor of Boonton represents a variety of subject matter in her work. She relies on intuition with a lot of her photographic pieces. "This is why I can't say, 'OK, today I'm going to take pictures only of people, or only of flowers, or water,'" notes Schnoor. She says she wants the overall experience to entertain her and keep her working.

Schnoor's undergraduate background is in photography, printmaking and textiles. These three disciplines are best represented in her photographic collages. Schnoor says that she loves to layer images because visually, these pieces represent her actual process.

A self-taught mixed media painter, Lydia R. Watson of Plainfield focuses on creating positive artwork from the perspective of her African-American experience. According to Watson, she works and expresses art in mixed media that are not only fun, but that are recycled in the process. Textural effects are obtained through the use of these media.

Watson's works have been featured in numerous group exhibitions including the Atrium Gallery in Morristown and the African-American Festival in Holmdel. She has also been awarded a HEART Grant by the Union County

Board of Chosen Freeholders and a Mini-Grant by the Plainfield Cultural and Heritage Commission.

Rita Keiper of Convent Station creates small watercolors that capture fragments of nature. She interprets these into larger and more abstract visions. Of Keiper's work, Nacie Sany of the *Daily Record* wrote, "The progression from lovely, lyrical scenes to cool experimental abstractions reflects her constant searching and growth."

Keiper, a recipient of many awards, has exhibited at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, at Drew University, with the New Jersey Watercolor Society, at Lever House in New York City, and at an invitational show at the Morris Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The exhibition is open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily, at Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Visitors are requested to enter the hospital through the Ambulance Entry.

The artists' works are offered for sale. A portion of the sale proceeds will benefit the hospital.

Bill Van Sant, Editor
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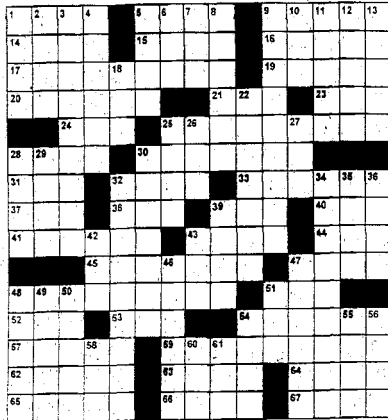
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BACKWARD



ACROSS

- 1 Movie swine
- 5 Meadows
- 9 Pressed
- 14 Brazilian parrots
- 15 French river
- 16 Characteristic quality
- 17 Under-the-table
- 19 Debraud
- 20 Soap ingredient
- 21 Request
- 24 Stable
- 25 Reversed
- 28 Monks' variety
- 32 Dole, of a kind
- 31 Links position
- 32 Garlic good
- 33 Government service
- 37 Total
- 38 Garden pest
- 39 Soap case
- 41 According to
- 42 valuable diamond?
- 43 Electrical units
- 44 Gibbon
- 45 Soviet region
- 47 Slip
- 48 Guts
- 51 French article
- 52 Manner
- 53 A rose — rose
- 54 Far
- 57 Awkward
- 59 Behind the scenes
- 62 Exclamation
- 63 Russian sea
- 64 Vegetable var.
- 65 Letters
- 66 Auctioneer's finale
- 67 Pell

DOWN

- 1 Small cake
- 2 Inland sea
- 3 Part of a football team
- 4 Glacier ridges var.
- 5 AKA Asud
- 6 Time
- 7 Dav's cousin
- 8 Ice omphalos
- 9 Hinterlands
- 10 Loaf from Peru
- 11 Contractor's equipment for short
- 12 Correct
- 13 Pansexual people
- 18 Untrustworthy
- 22 Winter sporting
- 25 Vegetable
- 26 Yearly income abbr.
- 27 Belgian commune
- 28 Winged
- 29 Roofing material
- 30 Sir Arthur Wing a
- 32 Slanders
- 34 Sasses
- 35 Turkish regiment
- 36 Soap ingredient
- 39 Whites
- 42 Pungent bird
- 43 Cereal grain obs. var.
- 48 Amphibious fish of Asia
- 47 Meles
- 46 Coarse fabric
- 49 Japanese aborigines var.
- 50 Teams
- 51 Spanish article
- 54 Predecessor of the KGB
- 55 Fields U
- 56 A Marlin
- 58 Patty
- 59 Nitrogen prefix
- 61 Mountain pass

See ANSWERS on Page B10

HOROSCOPE

For June 26 to July 2

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Being emotionally centered and at peace makes you a great candidate for dealing with relationship issues. Set a good example for your loved one. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Communicate with siblings or neighbors about a cultural experience. Double-check important correspondence, and make sure it goes out on time. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 21): Money continues to be a major focus. Review, revise or update your budget according to your current income and expenditures. **CANCER** (June 22-July 22): Your week is filled with lots of enjoyable activities. Do your best not to spread

yourself too thin. Welcome a visiting relative with open arms. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't compromise a dream for immediate gratification. Expect the unexpected this week. Your intuition is your best guide through a dilemma. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Host a dinner party for a few close associates. Keep an open mind, and reserve passing judgment on a friend until you have all the facts. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Make your mark on the world in some special way. Bucking the system could backfire in your favor. Try a more traditional approach. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): The sky is the limit when it comes to how high you can climb up the ladder of suc-

cess. Set goals for yourself that are sure to take you there. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): The information shared in financial clubs or investment circles can be very helpful or valuable to you. Listen closely, and pick up a few tips. **CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can stand up for your independence, but also feel good about going out of your way to help someone in trouble. **AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An honest talk with co-workers helps to clear the air this week. Get the ball rolling on a new and exciting project and enjoy working together. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Creative endeavors are highlighted. Make your own special contribution to the world of art or literature.

Paper Mill salutes high school 'stars'

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Shouts and shouts and ear-splitting whistles abounded throughout the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn on the evening of June 13 at its gala fifth annual Rising Star Awards ceremony. There also were tears and hugging and a team loyalty that was filled with laughter and emotion.

The word "STAR" signifies Student Achievement and Artistic Recognition.

Among the 95 high schools represented, Union High School, which led with 10 nominations, received the Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group for The Ballplayers in "Damn Yankees." The Ballplayers also performed onstage. Patrick Weaver received a Student Achievement Award as technical director for "Damn Yankees" for Linden High School, which also performed onstage.

There were nominations in 21 categories, and the Fleet Bank supported the event with crystal star awards furnished by Tiffany and Co. The Rising Star Awards recognized excellence in high school musical theater and honored students and staff, performers, directors and designers, for their work in producing musicals in New Jersey high schools, representing more than 25 percent of all public and private schools in the state. Following an extensive judging process, 56 different schools received nominations in one or more of the 21 categories.

The show within a show at the Paper Mill included such dignitaries and stars as presenters, such as Eddie Bracken and Charlotte Rae, in addition to Angelo Del Rossi, president

and executive producer; Roy Miller, associate producer; Susie Speidel, director of education; Robert Johnson, artistic director; and Vicki Carter, resident associate conductor of the newly-formed Paper Mill Community Chorus. When the Union High School performers came onstage to receive their awards, and to thank Yvonne Rago, Rae reached up and gave hugs and kisses to all the players, then went on to say, "There's so much wonderful talent here in the New Jersey schools. They're really all winners — all of them!"

Scholarships were offered, and among the winners were students who performed "The Pirates of Penzance" at Gov. Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, attended by both Berkeley Heights and Mountaineer residents.

Northern Valley Regional High School ran away with many of the awards for its production of "Big." The nominations for Union High School's "Damn Yankees" included "Outstanding Overall Production of a Musical," "Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group," The Ball Players; "Outstanding Achievement in Musical Direction," Yvonne Rago, Ronald Rago and Terron Singleton; "Outstanding Achievement in Direction," Teacher or Outside Director Yvonne Rago, who also was nominated for "Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design," "Outstanding Achievement in Scenic Design," Peter Avagliano, who also was nominated for "Outstanding Achievement in Lighting Design," "Outstanding Achievement in Graphic Design," and "Outstanding Achievement in Lobby Display."

The nominations for Linden High

School's "Damn Yankees" included Musical Production: Leading Role Actress, Renee Marino as Lola; Leading Role Actor, Jason Annuziato as Joe Hardy; Ensemble Group, The Ballplayers; Choreography, Barbara Jude Greco; Direction, Gerard Lorenzetti, and Scenic Design, Peter Sep. The nominations for Gov. Livingston High School's "The Pirates of Penzance" included Musical Production: Leading Role Actress, Kassy Casullia as Mabel; Supporting Role Actor, Christopher Vassili as Major General Stanley; Ensemble Group, The Police; Chorus; Musical Direction, James Campodonico; Achievement in Direction, Judith Teitelbaum, who also was nominated for Costume Design; Hair and Make-Up Design.

Summit High School's "Grease" received nods for Chorus, Orchestra and Jeff Stone's Lighting Design. For Glen Ridge High School, the nominations included Supporting Role Actress for "Smile," Julia Hanekle and Brenda DiCarlo-Frenkelander. For Nutley High School, Ensemble Member for "Guys and Dolls," Ed Gesumarina as Arvid Abemahly. For Verona High School, Ensemble Member, "Damn Yankees," Ben Liebert as Rocky. For Columbia High School, Maplewood, Orchestra, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying." For West Orange High School, Ensemble Member for "Crazy For You," The Cowboys, and Scenic Design, Tony Minelli.

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Tickets now on sale for: Spring Dance Concert 2000

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area.

Stepping Out

reception will take place June 30 from 8 to 11 p.m.
Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For information, write to Union Music School, P.O. Box 3566, Union, NJ 07083-1695; call (908) 851-6467; fax to (908) 687-7332; or send e-mail to jerry9355@aol.com.

For information, call (908) 899-5269 or (908) 899-4751.
KISMET SINGLES will sponsor a "Single Professionals After-Work Social" Friday from 6:30 to 10 p.m.

(973) 376-4343; for groups of 20 or more, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2438.

At: In Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5666.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during June.

Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Chery Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0265.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present folk guitarist-singer Markus Maltoz every Wednesday at 10 p.m.

HILLTOP CAFE AND GRILL in Summit presents "Live on the Hill" every Sunday at 6 p.m., preceded by an alloy-can-eat dinner from 5 to 6 p.m.

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Tasty Haek in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m.

THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present "Defying Gravity," a play by Jane Anderson dealing with Christa McAuliffe's decision to join the crew of the space shuttle Challenger.

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit American paintings from the mid-18th century and 20th century.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays until 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 465 Springfield Ave. in Summit.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the artwork by Elaine Schnorr, Lydia R. Watson and Rita Kiper throughout the months of June and July.

THE METRO SHOW, a traveling group exhibition curated by City Without Walls, will be on exhibit through today at the Tommaso Art Gallery in the Cranford campus of Union County College.

TERRA - AN EXPLORATION: "Gnomes and Biatoms, Real and Imagined," recent photography by Ross Wagner, will be on exhibit through June 20 at the Jacob Trapp Gallery in Summit's Unitarian Church Community House.

FRATS, FRONTALS AND FLOURISHES: a series of 12 New Jersey artists, will be on exhibit through June 30 at the Swain Galleries.

GALLERY hours are Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

TWO BROTHERS AND A SISTER will feature the work of Dr. K. Johnson, Eugene Johnson and Maureen Lassiter, all of Elizabeth, in an exhibit through July 19 at the Les Mamam Art Gallery in Union Public Library.

GALLERY hours are regular library hours: Mondays through Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE SKULSKI ART GALLERY at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will exhibit the works of two Polish artists, Hanna Mizeracka and Jack K. Zielenka.

AUDITIONS

NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL, a fully accredited fourth-through eighth-grade academic/school choir, will conduct auditions for September 2000 enrollment.

BOOKS

EDITOR ARTHUR HDIMME will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, N.J., on June 22 to promote his new book, "Midnight Follies: A Zigzagged Girl's Story," the biography of his mother, Marcella Earl, the longest performing member of the Zigzagged Follies.

CLASSES

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS will sponsor "Fun With Music" classes Wednesdays from July 5 to 26 in three afternoon sessions — 1:30 to 2 p.m., 2:15 to 2:45 p.m., and 3:30 to 4 p.m.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional courses in the performing arts. Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study.

WESTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL is located at 728 Westfield Ave. Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

UNION MUSIC SCHOOL will offer classes to students in grades Pre-K-12 through June 27 through July 30. Tuition is \$300 per child, with discounts for families.

CONCERTS

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of Saturday afternoon concerts during the month of June.

BROADWAY STAR BRUCE ADLER will be presented in concert by Temple Beth-El Mikva Chayim Synagogue at 4 p.m.

GLENN CAMPBELL will appear in a one-night-only concert at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn.

THEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will conclude its 1999-2000 season with an all-new production of Stephen Schwartz's "Pippin," playing through July 23.

Evening performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m.

The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information and reservations, call

DISCUSSION

LIFE COACH JAMI NOVAK will lead a new women's discussion group — "Take Time for Your Life," based on the book of the same name by Cheryl Richardson — sponsored by Barnes and Noble of Springfield.

KIDS

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m.

CROSSROADS in Garwood presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts.

REUNIONS

Jefferson High School Class of 1940 reunion is scheduled for Saturday at Los Faros Restaurant.

Linden High School Classes of 1959 to 1959 will conduct a "50s Reunion Picnic Aug. 26 at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue.

Union High School Class of 1940 reunion is scheduled for July 9 at Luncheon will be served 11 noon at the Galloping Hill Inn.

Linden High School Class of 1969 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 11.

Summit High School Class of 1990 will conduct its 10th reunion July 29.

Union High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Aug. 19.

information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

Linden High School Classes of 1959 to 1959 will conduct a "50s Reunion Picnic Aug. 26 at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue.

Cranford High School Class of 1974 will conduct its 26th reunion Oct. 14.

Linden High School Class of 1969 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 11.

Rahway High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 18.

information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY June 25th, 2000

EVENT: Giant Flea Market/Craft and Collectible Show

PLACE: Beautiful Yanticaw Park, Park Dr., Nutter by the Center and Chastnut Sts.

TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm

PRICE: Over 100 quality merchandise dealers in a park like setting under the tree-lined oval.

ORGANIZATION: Nicole Fund

SUNDAY July 2nd, 2000

EVENT: FLEA MARKET, OUTDOORS/ INSIDE only if it rains!

PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Stassino Ave. (off Joniamon Street), Belleville, NJ

TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm

PRICE: Over 100 quality dealers selling a variety of union merchandise!

ORGANIZATION: Journalism

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County Freeholders treat residents to an afternoon of 'Blues by the Brook'

The weather wasn't the only thing simmering June 10 at Union County brought "Blues by the Brook" festival to Cedar Brook Park in Plainfield for the second year in a row.

Union County Freeholders Lewis Mingo Jr., Alexander Mirabella and Angel Estrada and Assemblyman Gerard Green joined with the hundreds of concertgoers to enjoy the music, food and fun during the day-long event, which included music by Coffee and Pieces of a Dream.

"We changed the date of the event from July to June hoping to avoid last year's record-breaking temperatures that topped the 100-degree mark. It was still a remarkably hot day, but it did not stop the blues lovers from coming out and enjoying the talents of our performers and all the special activities offered," Freeholder Mingo said.

One of the more popular offerings at the event is the Kids Kingdom, where children can have fun. For eight-year-old Keenan Hayes of Plainfield, winning a \$25 gift certificate was "easy as pie." He dove into a blueberry cream concoction and kept eating until Mingo declared him winner over the 11 other contestants in one of the many pie-eating contests.

His face purple from the berries and cream mixture, Hayes thanked the freeholder for his prize before rug-

ging off to share his triumph with family and friends. "We are happy to provide Union County residents an opportunity where they don't have to drive far or spend a fortune to have a fun-filled day," Vice Chairman Mirabella said.

In addition to being offered at the "Blues by the Brook," Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee is offered four other times during the warm months. It is sponsored by Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Elizabethown Gas, United Way of Union County, IKEA, Toys R Us and Tosco. Sponsored rain or shine, it provides entertainment like the Linden-based Mystic Vision Players' presentation of "School House Rock," pie-eating contests, "M'Zuma and the Mardi Gras Parade," and an arts and craft tent where children can make their own musical instruments. There are clowns, jugglers and cost jesters, pony rides, a hole-in-one golf challenge, face painting, yo-yo demonstrations, amusement rides, refreshments and much more.

"This was the first Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee this year. There is one scheduled for July 9 in Warnanc Park, one on Aug. 13 in the Watchung Reservation and the last will be held at Nomagham Park September 16 and 17," said Freeholder Estrada.

For more information on Kids Kingdom Traveling Jubilee, call (908) 436-2900.



Tyrone Willis, Tyrell Willis, Keenan Hayes, Jaren Elder and Union County Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr. celebrate 'Blues by the Brook.' Hayes was the pie-eating contest winner over the 11 other competitors in one of the many contests.

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Healthy Living

School-based health facility aids students

More than 1,600 elementary school students have better access to essential health care services thanks to a comprehensive primary care facility opened at the recently renovated Washington Elementary School in Plainfield.

Operated by Plainfield Health Center, this school-based program serves children at Washington School and provides outreach services as well to the student populations of the neighboring Jefferson, Clinton and Stillman schools. The project was developed in close partnership with the Plainfield Board of Education's School-Based Youth Services Program, with generous support from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care and the Grassman Foundation.

Several hundred community residents recently celebrated the opening of the Washington School. The tour of the school included a visit to the new Health Center site, which gave residents the opportunity to meet the professional staff and learn more about the enhanced access now available to their children. In addition to offering general primary care, the center will emphasize health promotion and disease prevention through well-child care, immunizations, regular screenings, educational initiatives and outreach activities.

"School-based primary care centers have been nationally recognized and supported as a proven vehicle for facilitating access to health care for children, and improving their health status," noted Juliane W. Miller, president and CEO of the Plainfield Health Center. "We are pleased to bring such a valuable program to Plainfield."

"Our vision is that every student will have adequate access to primary care, particularly those without health insurance or those faced with various other barriers to health care," added Dr. Susan Walsh, medical director for the Plainfield Health Center. "We would like every child to be up-to-date with physicals and immunizations. And we want to teach children the importance of maintaining healthy lifestyles, giving them the best possible start for a lifetime of good health."

With these goals in mind, the new program is expected to reduce school absenteeism through timely medical intervention, illness prevention and effective management of chronic diseases. The program will also contribute to the children's academic performance. "When a child has medical problems, cognitive learning is affected. If she can't see, or is feeling badly, she is not as interested in learn-

ing as she should be," explains William Harvey, principal of Washington School. "By overcoming economic barriers and making health care convenient, we can improve the quality of living for students and their families."

The new school-based facility, is administered under the direction of

Dr. Deborah Rana, a board-certified pediatrician and director of Plainfield Health Center's School-Based Programs. It is staffed by a certified pediatric nurse practitioner and a registered nurse case manager. It is currently open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information about PHC's school-based health center at Washington School, contact Dr. Deborah Rana, PHC's Director of School-Based Services, at (908) 236-2530, or Dr. Susan Walsh, PHC's medical director, at (908)753-6401, ext. 151.



Dr. Deborah Rana, right, Plainfield Health Center's director of School-Based Services, monitors the heartbeat of Daquan Holt's teddy bear. The five-year-old is a student at Washington Elementary School in Plainfield and one of hundreds of children who can now access essential health care services thanks to a comprehensive primary care facility available in the school sponsored by Plainfield Health Center. With Rana and Holt is Plainfield Health Center Program Nurse Elaine Williams.

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This column has been presented as a community service by NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SERVICES located at 2780 Morris Ave., Suite 2A, Union, NJ. If you do not have a pediatrician and would like to schedule an appointment, call (908)-887-3300.

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Seton Hall University Book Store seeks full time and part time temporary cashiers and stock clerks. Applicants must be service minded people who possess basic math and English skills. Experience is a plus but willing to train. Accepting applications at Seton Hall Book Store, South Orange, NJ 07083.

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Up to \$18.35 hour Hiring for 2000 Free application! Examination information! Federal hire. Full benefits. 1-800-598-4504, extension 1405 (8am-6pm C.S.T.) 7 days Fax

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UTCAD announces the availability of the following openings:
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REAL ESTATE

Real estate transactions are recorded in the office of the county clerk. *Worrald Newspapers publishes an abbreviated version of all transactions recorded in the 12 Union County municipalities the newspapers cover.*

Clark

Michael J. Murray sold property at 16 Rose Terrace to Anthony and Lynn Penicaro for \$232,500 on Jan. 26.

Cranford

Edith B. Carlson sold property at 99 S. Union Ave. to Joseph F. and Renata Szebel for \$197,000 on Jan. 18.

Hillside

Leon Marowitz sold property at 565 New Brunswick Ave. to NJ Affordable Homes Corp. for \$82,500 on Jan. 11.

Kenilworth

Charles A. Ingra sold property at 328 Roosevelt Lane to Joseph and Mary Balwiczak for \$147,500 on Jan. 31.

Linden

Mary Szakutak sold property at 2300 Orchard Terrace to Paul S. and Charlotte Heteji for \$174,300 on Jan. 3.

Mountainside

Mary A. Cela sold property at 213 Robin Hood Road to Mary Cela for \$217,000 on Jan. 12.

Rahway

Jerry Berzanski sold property at 274 W. Grand Ave. to Chantal Rivers for \$120,000 on Jan. 6.

Roselle

Pasqualina Rosa sold property at 226 W. 28th Ave. to Pasquale Costa for \$75,000 on Jan. 3.

Springfield

Sajida and Fred G. Cochavi sold property at 14 Winfield Way to Lisa Tariq for \$418,000 on Jan. 3.

Summit

Saints Amatacci sold property at 36 Edgar St. to Richard J. and Rosar Montminy for \$263,000 on Jan. 28.

Union

Charles and Esther Whiteside sold property at 980 Roosevelt Ave. to Henry Sisharro for \$72,000 on Jan. 5.

Equity — The ownership interest remaining in property after payment of all liens or other charges on the property.

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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.

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AGENT of the Month

CALL ONE OF THESE TOP AGENTS TO LIST OR BUY A HOME IN YOUR AREA

MARIANNE CHAMBERLIN
 Marianne Chamberlin is a longtime Maplewood resident, married and has 3 children. Before joining Weichert in 1996, she worked as an adjuster for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York for 22 years. Chamberlin is a member of Weichert's Million Dollar Sales Club in 1998, and the NJ Million Dollar Club.

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Susanna Palmaffy
 Susanna Palmaffy has done it again — another banner year in real estate. For the 5th year in a row, she has received the N.J.A.R. 5-10 Million Dollar Award. Susan's attention to detail, Advice, reassurance and supportive ways have gained her continuous referrals. Thanks to all those in the Maplewood-South Orange Area for making this another great year.

151 Maplewood Ave. • Maplewood • 763-0600

ERA Village Green Realtors Adds New Associate to Team

CLARK, NJ, JUNE 19, 2000 — ERA Village Green Realtors recently announced the addition of Valerie life to its team of real estate sales professionals serving consumers in the Union County and northern Middlesex County areas.

While life is new to real estate, she comes with an extensive business and technical background, with advanced degrees in the computer technology fields. Her skills will be fully utilized in serving her clients. As part of ERA Village Green Realtors, life will be able to offer homebuyers and seller a wide variety of valuable technical products and services designed to successfully market and sell houses. These include online listings, home warranty plans, the ERA Seller Security Plan and more.

We're delighted to have Valerie join our winning team," said Anthony D'Agostino, broker. "She brings tremendous experience that will certainly benefit our company and our clients."

ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 25 years experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA Real Estate network includes 2,600 independently owned and operated brokerage offices with more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 19 other countries and territories. For more information, consumers can contact ERA Village Green Realtors at 1-800-864-3681.

ROMY GALANO
 Romy Galano has a successful top-tier career in the Weichert Realtors' Office in Union. The desire to help others combined with integrity and professionalism in the real estate industry is what motivated her to join. She has been successful in her career, and has been a resident of Union County for almost 12 years. She is actively involved in the community, as well as in her parish. Romy speaks Italian, Spanish, and English. She has been a member of the continuing education program for the past 10 years. Romy's goal for the year 2000 is to continue serving her clients and customers with the same passion and dedication she has always shown.

Professionalism that has earned her the respect and trust of clients and fellow Realtors.
 For Real Estate transaction, Call Romy at 908-687-4800 or 908-687-4800

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PEGGY KNIPFELBERG Broker Associate

Within a short few weeks Peggy has recently listed and sold over \$1,800,000 in residential real estate. She is nationally recognized as a Graduate of the Realtors Institute, holds a degree in Psychology. She also holds the ERA Relocation Specialist Designation. This enables her to better serve her clients. Peggy believes that being a full time Real Estate Professional requires, honesty, integrity, knowledge and dedication. For positive results, you can reach her at 1-800-864-3681, Ext 20

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AUTOMOTIVE

Infiniti QX4 is 'fun-to-drive' image-setter
 By Mark Maynard
 Copying News Service

It takes a boxer and horsepower to motivate the byer of a luxury-class sport-utility vehicle, and Infiniti now has more of both in its 2001 QX4. The mildly redesigned QX has been fleshed out with a new 240-horsepower 3.5-liter V-6, derived from the 3.0-liter used in the I30 sedan.

It's a 70-hp improvement over last year's 3.3-liter V-6, and it lets this 4,000-pound leather lounge accelerate with the authority of a V-8.

Also added for 2001 was a two-wheel drive model instead of just the All-mode automatic four-wheel drive. By unloading the 278 pounds and \$1,400 from four-wheel drive, the 2WD QX4 becomes one of the most fleet-footed SUVs you can buy. I guess that should make it a QX2, but it fits no special badging.

Lux trucks don't have to be fun to drive as much as they have to be push image-setters. But when one comes along that does both, it adds to the enthusiasm of ownership.

With a \$37,000 as-tested price — \$34,975 base — the QX becomes a functional alternative to a sport sedan. The new styling helps quite a bit, too. It is subtle but effective if you eyeball it side by side with a 2000 model. The jutting "godfather-ish" jawline of the front end under a skillful design knife to trim away the bulk — leaving a leaner, cleaner first impression. Also added were fog lights with integrated turn signals, xenon high-intensity discharge headlights and re-sculptured body-side moldings.

Built from the solid foundation of the Nissan Pathfinder, the X isn't as full a statement of luxury as some of the offerings. It's a notch above the Jeep Grand Cherokee or GMC Envoy and more frequently shopped against imports such as the Mercedes-Benz ML320 or Mitsubishi Montero.

The two-wheel drive test truck was simple but classy and nimble without the lumbering heft of larger SUVs such as a Lincoln Navigator or GMC Yukon Denali.

The QX is a clone of a working-class truck, but Infiniti has effectively positioned it to play among the gold-standard of upscale utility.

It is without gimmicky add-ons such as massaging seats and tilt-away steering wheel, but there is room for a fuller embrace of some luxury items.

The standard equipment list includes such as: automatic features with air conditioning with filtration, 5-speaker, 150-watt Bose audio system with in-dash 6-disc CD changer; leather-trimmed upholstery, steering wheel and shift knob; power driver and passenger seats; remote locking; and an anti-theft immobilizer system.

Potential customers who are moving from a luxury sedan are likely to have higher expectations for car features such as:

- Wood trim in the QX, even if it does look real.
- A steering wheel that telescopes, not just tilts to accommodate the driver's seating position.
- A right-hand mirror that dips when backing up so the driver can keep an eye on the curb so as not to scard an alloy wheel.
- Back seat reading lights.
- Three-point seat belts and headrests at all positions. The center rear seat still has a lap belt and no headrest.
- Four-wheel disc brakes, not the current front disc/rear drum combo.
- And since they've straightened the exhaust to exit under the rear bumper — not the side behind the tire — it's time to put on a stainless steel or chrome tip.
- The interior, though ergonomic and comfortable, has too much plastic caryover from Pathfinder. The stainless steel bezel of the analog clock and the sill plates are nice touches instead of chrome, but it would also be appropriate to have metal door handles — not plastic — to add heft and presence.

Infiniti supporters will argue these complaints do not diminish the pleasure of ownership and they would be correct.

Strong selling points of the QX are the quality feel in switches and the refined engineering to the braking, throttle response and on-road stability.

Inside the cabin, there is some air noise at interstate speeds as its blunt shape punches a hold through the atmosphere. However, the steeled wheel on the optional steering wheel.

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More power is on the way for Chrysler's PT Cruiser

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Sportier versions of the PT Cruiser are on the way. Chrysler has tracked concepts for a PT Cruiser Panel Truck and the GT (Cruiser concept) with a turbocharged 200-horsepower engine. Also in the drawing stage are a coupe, pickup and convertible.

Aftermarket customers are also awaiting a change for a more athletic influence. Among them is Performance Vee in Vista, Calif., which invested in PT Brazil at the recent Specialty Equipment Market Association's show in Pomona, Calif.

"The permutations on PT Cruiser will be endless," says Larry Weiner, owner of Performance Vee. He has been building show cars for 30 years, and he evolved into a professional tuner six years ago.

His primary focus is between the customer and the aftermarket while the owner retains it.

Weiner has produced high-performance versions of the Chrysler PT-M sedan, the Dodge Durango community and the Dodge Dakota quad Cab.

This shop will do six or seven different variants of the PT Cruiser this year, including a "killer fender pickup" that will be shown by Truckin' magazine.

No expense was spared for the PT Cruiser, which Weiner calls "a real other variant." To replicate his modifications would add about \$20,000 to the price of a basic Cruiser.

"This concept is high performance but built to be driven on the street. To make it go faster, he added a Kenne Bell supercharger that pushed the stock 150-hp, 2.4-liter four-cylinder to about 210 hp. For those who just can't get enough power, he added a nitrous-oxide injection system.

The suspension was lowered by 2 inches in front and 4 inches in back, and fitted with Bilbach springs, 18-inch high-performance Continental ContiSport tires — P255/SR 2R — on 9½-inch-wide BBS modular wheels.

The exterior is dressed in Chrom-I air ColorShift paint — \$1,100 a gallon — that changes color from lipstick red to magenta to brilliant gold as you walk around the car. It is a special mix

that Weiner named "Bruizer Wild Fire Flame."

Inside, there is a full six-point roll cage, four carbon-fiber racing bucket seats — lightly upholstered and approved by the Federation International d'Automobile — four-point racing harnesses, carbon-fiber dashboard to match the seats, racing gauges, first system fuel coil and a full entertainment system.

To get ready for the SEMA show, Weiner and crew worked on the car for six weeks, for 18 hours a day. But there is more to do, Weiner says, such as a serious four-wheel brake setup.

"With that much power, the Cruiser should be able to stop well and turn corners," he says, "not just go fast in a straight line."

AUTOMOTIVE

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