WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2001 - SECTION B

Classified

Real Estate

Automotive

http://www.localsource.com

Dream makers

Ricky Badillo's smile was even a little broader than normal Sunday afternoon. The Roselle Park councilman, with his son at his side, was carrying two autographed portraits of baseball's most famous duo, Bobby Thompson and Ralph Branca. Those joining Badillo at the 65th annual anniversary banquet of the New Jersey Sports Writers Association also had a lot to smile about.

There was an anticipation that the presence of Branca and Thompson, meeting for the first time since relevations about sign stealing, got wide coverage.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

The Wall Street Journal reported in great detail last week that through the use of a telescope and electronic buzzing system, the miracle Giants had cheated in baseball's most famous pennant race of the century. Even though the New York Post broke the story a decade ago, and Branca found out in 1954, the coverage this week including CNN was pretty intense.

Most amusing was the line of autograph seekers for the ex-ball players the vast majority of whom weren't born by Oct. 3, 1951, when Thompson hit his home run off Branca. But come they did for their touch of fame.

Badillo got one set for his own substantial baseball collection. The other potrait will be auctioned off during the spring baseball tournament Badillo helps to organize in his hometown.

Branca quipped that but for his pitch and the home run, neither of the famous duo would probably still even be remembered. But they are a link to our past love of the

Current baseball star Jeffrey Hammonds, a native of Scotch Plains, another honoree used his microphone time to praise his family and coaches. But he gave me my new favorite quote that he got from Thompson, "In the end you still have to stand up at the plate and hit the ball."

Another honoree, Kelly Kulick of Union, was acknowledged for skill which has made her a professional bowler. Joining her on the dias was former basketball scoring machine from Rutgers. Kristen Somogyi, who currently coaches and teaches physical education at Rahway Middle School. The 20 or so athletes from all different sports and their fans, got together for a few hours to bond.

Those that make possible the connection between fans and participants fare a special group. Spotting Joe Miller, the ex-Yankee farmhand from Roselle, motivated me to plow through two tables for a few words.

Miller's "spring spectaculars" to raise funds for Roselle Catholic with sports collectibles shows are known statewide. The 13th annual show will take place April 28 at the school.

But this year, he has snagged among a crowd of ex-stars, one of my childhood favorites, though less well known, the slick-fielding Yankees reserve infielder Joe DeMaestri. My plan is to repeatedly kiss up to Miller over the coming months so that I might gain a private audience with DeMaestri.

But last Sunday the crowd listened to pitcher David Cone and New York Giant star Tiki Barber say a few words about their sport and how happy they were to be there. The crowd loved the attention.

Dr. Emery Konick, president of the Sports Writer's Group, asked the rhetorical question where would we be without sports. The answer is I don't know and I don't care to find out.

The Master of Ceremonies for the event, Matt Laughlin of Westfield, moved things along during the speeches. On this day, he was working so that the rest of us could See GRATEFUL, Page B2

Fee increases proposed for county park system

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

The Board of Chosen Freeholders has proposed the second fee increase in the county park system within the last year. Freeholders last spring ratified a hike in various fees at the county's golf courses and horseback riding and boarding at the Watchung Stables in Mountainside.

Now the board is considering another increase in green fees and horseback riding in addition to hikes at the Warinanco Skating Center in Elizabeth, swimming lessons at county pools and programs at the planetarium at Trailside Nature & Science Center in Mountainside.

The freeholder board is expected to approve the fee hikes in an ordinance scheduled for public hearing and final adoption Feb. 15. Prior to last year's fee hike, there was no increase in fees in five years, according to Director of Parks and Recreation Charles Sigmund Jr.

The increases were recommended by the Department of Parks and Recreation, Freeholder Alexander Mirabella said, "to be more in line with other counties. We'd like to keep it as affordable as possible."

Union County is at the lower end of golf fees compared to other counties "given the county's investment in its golf courses the last several

years and the quality of play," Sigmund said. Union County golf courses have undergone several million dollars' worth of renovations in recent years.

"Other counties really haven't brought their 2001 fees to the table."

Last year several fees at the golf courses and the stables jumped by \$2 across the board. Green fees rose by \$2 for weekday and weekend play, senior citizens, county residents and non-county residents. If the new ordinance is approved, it would cost \$18 for county residents to play on the weekends. Last year at this time it would have cost \$12. The proposed \$2 increases again affect fees across the board at the golf courses.

Fees for weekday outings at golf courses will rise from \$21 to \$24 and outings with a shotgun start will increase from \$30 to \$40.

Out-of-county players will pay an additional \$4 in 2001, and out-of-state duffers will pay \$100 on the weekends versus the \$50 they paid last year. Green fees for weekday play will remain \$50 for out-of-staters.

The revenue generated from the fee hike, like all golf revenue Sigmund said, will depend on weather conditions. "This time last year people were playing golf," he said, but this year the courses have been snow covered since the New Year. He estimated the increases could generate anywhere from \$200,000 to \$300,000. One hour of horseback riding will cost \$22 on the weekends as opposed to \$20 last year for a county resident and \$14 for a half-hour versus \$12 in 2000. The only increase at the stables for out-of-county residents is the half-hour riding

from \$16 to \$18. Out-of-county residents will be hit with the only increases in boarding horses, with monthly fees proposed at \$510, up from \$485, and \$385

for a tie stall, up from \$370.

time on weekdays, which is proposed to rise

Summer riding camp will cost \$20 more this summer and last, \$240 for county residents. Weekly horse rentals, mount troops — both junior and senior, and spring and fall - are expected to go up, as are troop horse shows and private instruction.

The fee hikes at the skating center affect skate rental, reserved ice time and school 50/50 programs.

Renting skates would cost \$3 instead of \$2. A \$25 increase, from \$175 per hour to \$200 per hour, has been increased for reserved ice time and from \$65 per hour to \$70 per hour for school ice hockey programs weekdays from 5 to 9 a.m. Out of county programs would pay \$75 per hour and \$250 per hour, respectively.

Four high school hockey teams — Summit,

Union County Republican Committee

State Republican Committee

Thomas and Roberta Ferguson

Friends of Donald DiFrancesco

Arthur L. Johnson, Cranford and Westfield play their home games at Warinanco in addition to Kean University "to a lesser extent" and as many has half a dozen local traveling hockey club teams. Several hundred youngsters use the rink for practice and games on one or both weekend days, Sigmund said.

Instead of \$0.50, admission and skate rental would be \$1 each for school 50/50 programs, which run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on school days

Swimming lessons at the county pools will rise by \$5 for group lessons and private lessons to \$55 and \$30 per person, respectively. Red Cross lifesaving classes, CPR and First Aid, are proposed to increase from \$200 per person to \$225 per person while the refresher course would rise from \$35 per person to \$50 per

Fees at Trailside Nature and Science Museum would rise for programs for pre-first graders by \$5, from \$20 to \$25, and \$2 for Scouts, from \$20 to \$22 and from \$25 to \$27 for geology classes. General admission to the planetarium would see an across-the-board increase of \$0.25. The adults speaker fee would rise by \$5 from \$50 to \$55.

Group room rentals at Trailside also are expected to go up.

Top Contributors, 2000

Union County Democratic Committee

\$50,000 Middlesex County Democratic Committee	\$43,955	
\$30,500 Business and Governmental Insurance Agency	\$25,000	
\$30,000 Quail Ridge Associates	\$15,575	
\$30,000 Corzine 2000	\$11,750	
\$30,000 Election Fund of Bob Janiszewski	\$10,000	NJ
\$30,000 Jon Corzine	\$6,000	
\$30,000 Joanne Corzine	\$3,000	4
\$30,000 IBEW Educational	\$2,825	ne de la faction de la company. La company de la company d
\$26,250 State Democratic Committee	\$2,575	
\$25,000 DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Gluck	\$2,250	
\$25,000 Union City Democratic Committee	\$1,775	
\$24,500 Highview Planning	\$1,500	
\$15,035 Committee to Re-elect Joanne Rajoppi	\$1,500	
\$12,000 The Musial Group	\$1,335	N
\$11,000 Orin Kramer	\$1,110	4. 194
\$10,500 Schneck, Price & Smith	\$1,100	
\$10,000 R.A.M. Insurance	\$1,000	
\$10,000 The Connell Company	\$1,000	
\$10,000 Joseph Gutman	\$1,000	
\$10,000 Byron Trott	\$950	Ар
\$439,785 Top 20 Total	\$135,200	
\$21,990 Top 20 Average	\$6,760	

Overall Total \$199,816

Election Fund of Richard Bagger J Republican County Chairman's Assoc. Phillip Morris USA Committee to elect AI Dill Citizens for C. Louis Bassano Friends of Alan Augustine Ron Frigerio Dr. Eric Munoz Election Fund of Kevin O'Toole Senate President's Committee New Providence Republican Committee William Palermo Lum, Danzis, Drasco & Positan Public Affairs Management Group Election Fund of Joel Weingarten Betancourt for Council pruzzese, McDermott, Mastro & Murphy

Top 20 Total Top 20 Average

Overall Total Source: New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission

Expansion of psych unit garners state approval

The state Department of Community Affairs has granted final approval of Union County's construction plans for the expansion of psychiatric care at Runnells Specialized Hospital by an additional 24 beds.

\$849,198

"We are very pleased to have reached this important step in the process of better serving the people of Union County," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon.

"Additional capacity at Runnells is consistent with New Jersey's longrange plan to better serve the mentally ill by providing care closer to home, family and friends. Not only has the need been documented but also Runnells has an excellent reputation in the community. Our staff at Runnells has the demonstrated expertise to provide this care."

Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella joined Scanlon in heralding the DCA approval. "We have the space available at Runnells," he said. "Once the construction contract is awarded, we anticipate work to be completed by the end of this coming summer. If all goes well, we can expect to have this service admitting patients before year's end."

Scanlon, who serves as liaison to the Runnells Board of Managers as well as chairman of the freeholders'

Finance Committee this year, noted the positive economics of the expansion. "The current estimate for the cost of renovations is approximately \$825,000. Once the service is brought on line, we estimate generating signicant new revenue."

"We're especially grateful for the unanimous support we've received from a whole cross section of people and organizations throughout this process," said County Manager Michael Lapolla, "From local mental health agencies to Union County's legislative representatives, we thank them all for their unwavering support of this project."

Runnells, located in Berkeley Heights, has been offering treatment for mental illness since 1973. When the facility was relocated in 1990 to a completely new, state-of-the-art building, the hospital included a 20-bed psychiatric care unit called Cornerstone. At the time, there was also a 30-bed unit for the treatment/ rehabilitation of alcoholics, ARU

The ARU became increasingly costly to operate. By the early 1990s, few, if any, patients had any medical coverage and the resulting drain of county tax dollars led the Union County freeholder board to close the

unit in 1993. Since that time, the administrative staff of the facility has evaluated the benefits of converting that space into additional psychiatric

beds. State regulations require a hospital interested in expanding or adding a service to await the state's Department of Health issuance of a call for a Certificate of Need. Once that call is issued, those facilities interested in filling that need may make application.

A call for psychiatric beds was eventually issued by the state in 1999. In January 2000, Runnells was granted the required certificate of need. That Department of Health call also included an available need for nine beds to serve Middlesex County residents. To develop a successful application, Runnells included that service in their application and has been developing a memorandum of understanding with Middlesex County.

The 18,000-square-foot wing will be redesigned to serve 24 patients. Today's building requirements for psychiatric care differ from those governing the prior use of the space when first built. Some of the renovations needed include the installation of a security system, the creation of a

secure outdoor courtyard area and the renovation of bathroom facilities to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.

Since being granted the Certficate of Need, Runnells' staff has been finalizing architectural and construction plans, and negotiating approval with the DCA. To avoid delays, bid specifications were simultaneously prepared and issued. The deadline for bids is the end of February.

In addition to Cornerstone Psychiatric Care, Runnells offers skilled nursing care, both long- and shortterm, including hospice care; and the Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Center.

The facility is located on a picturesque 45-acre hill top track of land, which offers breathtaking views of the Watchung Mountains. Staffed by physicians and professional nurses 24 hours a day, Runnells offers an activity therapy department with daily social, physical and congnitive recreation; professional, licensed social workers; on-site dental and personal care, and pastoral care. Private, landscaped, accessible courtyards designed for resident use offer an opportunity to enjoy garden planters at wheelchair height.

Friends plan bird walk

The Friends of Lenape Park, in cooperation with the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, will host a winter bird walk on Feb. 17 beginning at 9 a.m.

Many bird species over winter at Lenape Park, and the lack of foliage makes it easier to find the birds feeding on seeds, berries, burrowing bugs and even other birds. Nuthatches, finches, hawks and more can be expected.

A limited number of binoculars will be available for use. The walk will begin at the Trap & Skeet Range parking lot located off Kenilworth Boulevard in Cranford. Rain or heavy snow cancels.

Also on Feb. 17, Friends of Lenape Park will kick-off Project Bluebird for 2001. Volunteers are needed to renovate and expand the bluebird trail established last year at the park.

Last year, the trail consisted of five nest boxes which were monitored from March until July. As many as five more boxes will be added depending on the number of volunteers available to monitor the nests. Bluebirds are expected to arrive in our area by mid-March.

Friends of Lenape Park is an organization dedicated to protecting and enhancing native biodiversity at Lenape Park, an important wetland and oasis of wildlife in Union County.

To date, Friends of Lenape Park, with assistance from the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation, has established a bird inventory for Lenape Park including over 200 species, erected and maintained a bluebird trial, and begun removal of foreign invasive plant species from the park, replacing them with native plants and shrubs. Future projects include an inventory of reptiles and amphibians, and continued removal of non-native plants.

Contact Friends of Lenape Park at lenapepark@aol.com, Friends of Lenape Park, P.O. Box 289, 16 South Ave. West, Cranford, 07016, or call (908) 687-2169 if you have questions or for more information.

Check out Friends of Lenape Park on the web at their new web site http://hometown.aol.com/Lenapepark 1/Main.html.

United Way marks month

United Way of Union County has joined the celebration of Black History Month by distributing 5,000 keepsake bookmarks to public and high school libraries throughout Union County.

Printed on a heavy card stock, the commemorative bookmarks feature several lines from James Weldon Johnson's poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" describes the struggle of the African-American in America and his optimistic hope for a better future. James' brother John Rosamond Johnson later added music to the poem.

Vo-Tech's FBLA chapter competes in conference

- Students from the Union Conty Vocational-Technical High School recently honed their business and leadership skills at a conference that brought together students, educators and business leaders throughout northern and central New Jersey.

Thirteen students from the Union County Vo-Tech chapter of Future Business Leaders of America attended the Jan. 5 conference at Mercer County Community College along with more than 750 other FBLA members from the region. The conference was sponsored by the North-Central Regional Competitive Events of New Jersey Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda.

Two Union County Vo-Tech students, Tehyma Jackson of Union and Sophia Brown of Hillside, won awards at the competition. Jackson took fourth place in the Word Processing I competition, while Brown placed sixth in the Technology Concepts competition. Both are now eligible to compete in the state FBLA

competition scheduled for March. The conference was designed to promote competent, aggressive business

leadership skills for local members. The competitions were judged by New Jersey business leaders and educators who volunteered their time for the event.

Other student representatives from Union County Vo-Tech included Alejandra Vargas of Summit, Maria Gutierrez of Linden, Hillside residents Sarah LaRue, Clarissa Griffin, Loren Allen and William Silva, Marissa Eagles of Scoth Plains, Tarita Murray of Rahway, Jennifer Delpeche of Roselle, Erin Walsh of Cranford and Tara Rhodes of Union. Andrea Mullarkey, advisor of the Union County Vo-Tech chapter of Future Business Leaders of America. accompanied the students at the conference.

FBLA-PBL helps students make the transition from the classroom to the business world by providing real-life opportunities to learn about business, and by developing their leadership skills. In 1999-2000, more than 6.900 students from 148 secondary and post-secondary schools in New Jersey were FBLA members.

Registration scheduled

Spring weather is just around the corner and Union County's Watchung Stable is busy preparing for the beginning of riding lessons.

"Horseback riding in the Watchung Reservation is a real treat," said Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella. "Our lesson program at the Watchung Stable is a great way to learn how to ride. The Union County riding classes have been in existence since 1935. I am proud to say that more than 40,000 boys and girls have participated in this wonderful program."

All applicants must be at least 9 years of age, or older. Assignments to classes are based upon riding ability as determined by the stable management. Applicants with previous experience may be asked to demonstrate their riding ability in order to be place in the appropriate class.

Classes are available at a variety of times, Tuesday through Saturday. Required uniforms and helmets must be provided at the student's expense.

The stable also features adult lessons, for people age 18 or older, beginning the week of March 25. Classes are available Sundays at 12:45 p.m., Tuesdays at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. for Intermediates at Beginners, and Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. for Advance riders and Advance Begin-

All registrations and fees must be submitted in person at the Stable, 1160 Summit Lane, Mountainside. Office hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1

For more information and to obtain registration materials, call (908)

Sell it with a classified ad, 1-800-564-8911.

Grateful for dream makers

(Continued from Page B1)

enjoy a trip down memory lane, both recently and in a more distant

Guys like Laughlin and Miller are the tour guys for our visits They allow me to smile and feel young for a brief moment and for that I am grateful.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Women offer tax help

Women for Women of Union County Inc. suggests you get a head start with your tax preparation this year with the help of Meira Findel, experienced professional accountant and tax-preparer. Findel is available to offer tax help to Women for Women's members and friends. There is no cost for the service, but a donation according to your means is

For more information, call the office at (908) 322-6007, or visit the site www.women-for-women.org

'Infertility and Adoption'

As part of its ongoing Community Education Program, Women for Women of Union County Inc. will present "Infertility and Adoption," to be presented by Denise Lauria-Costa on Monday at their offices, 1801 E. Second St., Scotch Plains. Lauria-Costa will address the complex medical, emotional and family issues surrounding infertility and adoption.

Through this workshop, she will contribute her first-hand professional and personal experience to help clarify some of these multifaceted challenges. Lauria-Costa has six years of experience in reproductive medicine in clinical and research capacities on staff with an internationally renowned clinic, as well as her own personal life

Since 1997 Lauria-Costa has been providing counseling and educative therapy working with adoptive couples. This work includes adoptive homestudies, post-adoption supervision, and administration of necessary court reports. Lauria-Costa has also been involved with the DES Action Inc., an organization, acting on behalf of women with infertility and other related issues linked to being DES exposed while in utero.

"The administration of this drug," said Lauria-Costa, "was provided as part of their mother's prenatal care. Millions of women know that they are exposed, and there are many more that don't know." Lauria-Costa also is affiliated with other adoption and social-work related agencies.

Due to space constraints, Women for Women encourages anyone wishing to come to this event to preregister well in advance to guarantee their seat.

Women for Women of Union County's headquarters was recently relocated to 1801 E. Second St. in

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KAWASAKI SYNDROME

Kawasaki syndrome most often strikes children aged five and under. The child becomes feverish then symptoms progress to include a rash, swelling and redness in the extremities, red eyes changes in the lips and mouths, including dry lips and a strawberry tongue, and enlarged lympi nodes. Kawasaki syndrome was first documented in the 1960s in Japan. While still most common in Japan, thousands of U.S. children are stricken each year. The most serious complication is heart disease, occurring in ten to forty percent of cases. The most serious of all potential heart complications is damage to the coronary arteries.

If treatment is started before the 10th day of illness, heart disease can be prevented. All the more reason to have your child's symptoms diagnosed by their pediatrician in a timely manner. At NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, we are committed to providing thorough, accessible pediatric care. We offer day and evening office hours, and provide urgent care on Saturday momings. For an appointment at our offices; located at 2780 Morris Ave., Suite 2A, in Union, call 908-687-3300.

P.S. Children typically make a full recovery from Kawasaki syndrome if the coronary arteries are not involved.

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COUNTY NEWS

• Ray Nierstedt, judge advocate served in the Army 82nd Airborne, 187th regiment.

Scotch Plains. A nonprofit agency,

Women for Women offers counsel-

ing, legal consults, referrals, peer sup-

port and social opportunities for

women and families regardless of

The agency soon also will feature a

new reference library with a variety of

informational books and pamphlets

that visitors may check out or use on

the premises, as well as Internet-

connected PC resources. Challenging

volunteer opportuntities are also

If interested in joining, to register

for workshops, or to obtain more

information, call the office at (908)

322-6007, or visit the web site at

The Joseph Nugent Sr. Association

of Union County will sponsor its

annual membership social on Sunday

at the Knights of Columbus Council

253 on Union Ave. in Elizabeth from

The Eamon Ryan Band will pro-

vide entertainment. Admission is \$15

per person, which includes food, soda,

beer, wine, coffee, desert and tea. It

also includes the 2001 membership

Founded by Joseph Nugent Sr. in

1933, the Nugent Association is the

oldest independent Irish-American

For information call Maureen

The Union County Korean War

Veterans at its regular meeting Jan. 25

at the Rahway Yacht Club elected the

Richard Alexander, president,

• J. Bruce Cowper, first vice presi-

John Stonaker, second vice presi-

George Malsam, secretary/

treasurer served in the Navy under

commander naval forces Far East,

dent served in the army, 704th AAA

served in the 8th Army, 2nd Division,

dent served in the Army 9th Corp.,

38th Regiment, H. Company.

101st Signal Batallion.

Gun Batallion.

Yokosuka, Japan,

Dowling at (908) 464-9074 or Kevin

organization in the state.

Dowling at (732) 594-1763.

elect new officers

following officers:

Korean War veterans

www.women-for-women.org.

Membership social

3 to 7 p.m.

their financial means.

- George Smith, chaplain served in the Navy on the USS Lindenweald
- Joseph Del Grippo, trustee served in the 1st Marine Division, 11th Regiment.
- Ken Murray, trustee served in the 8th Army Kcomc.

Plans were discussed for a bus trip to the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C. in October.

A scholarship of \$400 was awarded to Kristin Larson for her work at the veterans Christmas Party at the Veterans Hospital, Menlo Park.

St. Patrick's Day parade gets freeholder donation

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is helping to sponsor the fifth annual Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade by donating \$7,500 to help the Parade Committee defray expenses for this year's celebration of all things Irish.

The parade will proceed eastward along Morris Avenue in Union Township from Commerce Avenue to Union Center on March 10 beginning at 1 p.m. The parade reviewing stand will be located at the intersection of Morris and Stuyvesant avenues

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey will conduct the following blood drives:

- Friday, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Galloping Hill Road, Union.
- Sunday, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Fatima Church, 403 Spring St., Elizabeth.
- pe Monday, 4 to 8 p.m., Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Park and Randolph roads, Plainfield.

For more information call (800) BLOOD-NJ.

On the lookout for **Miss Union County**

The search has begun to find the girl who will represent Union County at the Miss New Jersey finals in June and hopefully be on her way to Atlantic City to become Miss America.

Executive Director of the Miss Union County Pageant, Susan Dougherty, said she is looking for "young women from the age of 18 to 24 who are poised, physically fit, intelligent, talented and passionate about an issue that could change the world." The winner of the local Miss America preliminary wins a \$500 scholarship and various prizes.

The areas of competition are the same on the local, state and national level: swimsuit, evening wear, talent and interview.

The upcoming pageant will be at Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark on Feb. 17 with one rehearsal the night before.

Young women who are interested in learning more about this scholarship opportunity can call the diretor at (732) 382-0910 during business hours only.

There is no sponsorship fee or entry fee for this contest.

Rainbow Pageant Feb. 16

The Union County College Foundation, in cooperation with Barbizon School of Modeling and Acting, Jersey Gardens Mall, Burger King franchises Odyssey Foods of New Jersey and Dominate Food Services. and radio station Z-100, will host a Rainbow Talent and Fashion Pageant on Feb. 16 at 8 p.m. in the Roy Smith Theater at Union County College's Cranford campus. Wanted for the pageant are young men and women ages 6 to 21 to compete for the title of Ms. or Mr. Rainbow 2001 on that evening.

The event is called the Rainbow Talent Pageant because Union County's young men and women have so many talents and represent so many different backgrounds. The pageant is a chance to show off talents, model the latest fashions, and to possibley even win a scholarship to Union County College and the Barbizon School of Modeling and Acting.

Each contestant will participate in fashion modeling and talent production numbers. Each contestant also is expected to sell tickets at \$10 each, to solicit ads for the journal, and to find sponsors. Rehearsals begin Monday. For more information call (908)

709-7505 ог www.uccfoundation.org.

American Cancer Society sells daffodils as gifts

The American Cancer Society in Essex, Hudson and Union counties will offer daffodils - the flower of hope - in boutique, planters, and vases that make special gifts for your friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.

A donation for the daffodils will support lifesaving research, as well as cancer education, prevention, treatment and programs for cancer patients and their families in the community.

Advance orders will be taken until March 9. Daffodils will be available for pickup and delivery during the week of March 26.

Residents can participate by taking orders for daffodils from friends, family and coworkers. Bunches of 10 daffodils cost \$7; potted plants are \$8: one-half box of daffodils, 25 bunches, can be purchased for \$175; and a full box of daffodils, 50 bunches, will sell for \$350. Vases are sold separately for \$8 each.

Daffodils may be picked up at local American Cancer Society offices located at 767 Northfield Ave., West Orange; 507 Westminster Ave., Elizabeth, and CSI, I Enterprise Way. Secaucus Drive.

Delivery is available for orders of more than \$200.

Adopt-a-park

All groups, organizations, businesses and families interested in improving the environment in their community are invited to get involved with Adopt-A-Park, a new program sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Volunteers who are interested in making a difference in their neighborhood and receiving a sense of pride and ownership in their community are needed now.

"Union County is a rich and diverse region that features 26 parks spanning more than 5,500 acres," said Freeholder Deborah Scanlon. "The Adopt-A-Park program encourages people to become a part of the county's continued commitment to excellence by helping to maintain and care for green space in our community.'

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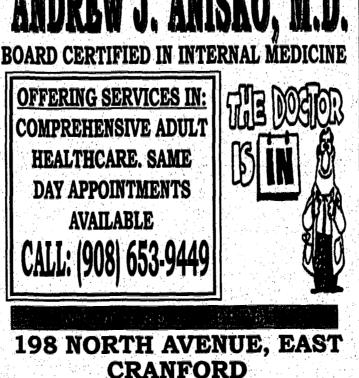
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Doctor finds healing powers in medicine and music

By Bea Smith Staff Writer

Serena J. Fox, a medical doctor and an activist who loves to write poetry and sing in a choir, will sing with the Keshet Chorale, a Washington, D.C.-based Jewish Community Center Choral Group, March 11 at the Wilkins Theater at Kean University, Union, when the Elizabeth Hadassah stages its annual program.

"It's nice to do a project again with my mom, Annita Fox, who is president of the Elizabeth Hadassah, and who, with my dad, has done so much for humanity," said the doctor, who grew up in Hillside and Elizabeth. "When we heard about the program, the choir and I got enthusiastic about doing something with the Hadassah - as a way of supporting the work that the people in Hadassah do. The organization is not political; it benefits everyone. Really, it's beyond politics and religion. It has to do with one basic sense of what one owes to humanity."

Dr. Fox continued, "Their programs are very important. They look at the entire needs of the whole person. It's an impressive group of people who do all this volunteer work but at a very high level, using local people."

She joined the Keshet Chorale -"Keshet means rainbow in Hebrew" - three years ago "and I stayed with it." It will be featured at the March 11 program along with the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra, conducted by Lorraine Marks of Warren, a public school music teacher in Cranford, and soloist Allison Brewster. The chorale was founded in April 1998 and "is comprised of men and women from the greater Washington, D.C./Maryland Jewish community. The 'rainbow' reflects the varied backgrounds and professions of the members of the choral group and the colorful spectre of their repertoire of Jewish music. It includes choral arrangements of modern and tradi-

tional Israeli, Hassidic and liturgical songs." The chorale has performed at the Kennedy Center, the Israeli Embassy and other places in the greater Washington, D.C. area, and is led by Cantor Aaron Marcus, its founder.

Dr. Fox, who was born in Manhattan, was raised in Elizabeth. She graduated from Hillside High School, Yale University in 1975, where she had a double major in "the arts and letters, biology and history, and I received bachelor of arts degrees in both." She graduated from New York University School of Medicine in 1979 as a medical doctor.

"I had decided when I was a little kid that I would be a doctor," she recalled with a smile. "I had a doctor kit and candy pills. I was about six or seven when I knew what I was going to do with my life. It was the influence of my parents, Sheldon and Annita Fox, whom I respected greatly. I still do. They were both so involved in helping people with their common sense and integrity. I believed that was the most noble thing I could do. It was my worthwhile goal to help make people feel better. I felt I had been given so much, and this was my way of giving back to the world at large, really, a sense of returing the gifts that were given to me."

It was at the age of 10 when Dr. Fox "began writing poetry. And once I started, I knew I could never give it up." She grinned. "I even won a poetry award in a Declamation Contest given by the Hamilton Junior High School in Elizabeth. Actually, writing is a big part of my life. I wrote essays for school newspapers. It was my way of explaining to myself the kind of things you see - in medicine, crisis and paradoxes."

Dr. Fox mentioned that "until 10 years ago, I worked at Bellevue Hospital in New York City in the Emergency Room, then I moved to Washington, D.C., to do surgical and internal care. I just left Columbia



Dr. Serena J. Fox

Hospital for Women in D.C., and now I'm working at the Washington Hospital Center in D.C.

"I work for a group called Physicians for Human Rights," she said. "I work with people who are seeking asylum in this country, and I believe America was founded on the hopes of helping people who are being persecuted for their politics and beliefs and principles."

Dr. Fox said, "I do consultations in medical ethics. I believe we have the responsibility to use everything in our

means to allow people to heal. But there's a corresponding responsibility to know when not to harm people by intervention. Now you can see why I like to sing. Monday nights I go to choir at the Jewish Community Center in D.C. Most of the songs have Biblical references. We have about 40 people in our chorale. It just fills me with happiness. Music is beautiful. I love the familiar prayers and the joyfulness.

"And the cantor is fun and inspiring and so optimistic. He got us a spot on the Kennedy Center Millennium stage. There are two small stages at each end, and local groups perform throughout the year. You know," Dr. Fox mused, "I hadn't been in a synagogue choir since I was a child. It makes my whole world. I manage to fit it around my medical schedule." Dr. Fox has traveled with the group

to the Israeli Embassy in Washington. She also "traveled with a group to Macedonia to refugee camps from Kosovo. We went with Patch Adams - a doctor and a clown. We entertained thousands of kids and delivered medical supplies."

Dr. Fox explained that "I'm happy doing what I'm doing. And I'm looking forward to hearing the other orchestra in the program March 11 and showing my group mom's Hadassah group. It's nice to be with my parents again. I hope to be doing something like this again in the

Dr. Fox admitted that to do something like this is a real "mitzvah" — a good deed, a blessing.

Volunteers are sought for Teen Arts festival

Do you like working with artists, teachers and students? The Union County Teen Arts Festival provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved.

The Union County Teen Arts Festival, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Divison of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, is a two-day celebration of the arts held annually at Union County College in Cranford. The event, scheduled for March 14 and 15, is open to all students from public, private and parochial middle and high schools in the county.

"At the festival, 3,000 students participate in performances, critiquing seminars, master classes and workshops with a staff of 50 professional artists in every discipline - visual art, music, creative writing, theater and dance," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

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

If you are interested in any of these activities, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, at (908) 558-2550. Relay Users call (800) 852-7899. E-mail may be sent to kleary@unioncountynj.org.

Paper Mill prepares Wilde comedy

From the author of "The Importance of Being Earnest," the lavish world of London artistocracy at the turn-of-the-last-century comes to life as Paper Mill Playhouse presents an all-star cast headed by Stephanie Beacham, Fiona Hutchison, George S. Irving, David Ledingham and Daniel McDonald in Oscar Wilde's "An Ideal Husband."

Directed by James Warwick, "And Ideal Husband" begins performances Wednesday, and runs for five weeks through March 18.

Written with the wit and style expected of Wilde, this romantic comedy centers on a rising British politican, Sir Robert Chiltern, whose marrriage and career is threatened by the scheming seductress Mrs. Cheveley, who will sell anyone or anything to the highest bidder. Is he an ideal husband or will the secrets of his past destroy his entire existence?

Making the Paper Mill debut is Stephanie Beacham as the scheming Mrs. Cheveley, Beacham is best known to American audiences as Sable Colby on TV's "Dynasty and "The Colbys," the title role in "Sister Kate," the doctor on SeaQuest," and Luke Perry's mom on "Beverly Hills 90210."

Daytime Emmy-nominee Fiona Hutchison, also making her Paper Mill debut, plays Lady Chiltern. Soap opera fans know Hutchison from her roles as Gabrielle Medina on ABC's "One Life to Live," Jenna Bradshaw Cooper on CBS's "The Guiding Light" and Celia Fraser on "As the World Turns." Returning to Paper Mill is Tony Award-winner George S. Irving as the Earl of Caversham. Irving will be remembered by Paper Mill audiences for his performances in. Fanny," "The Roar of Greasepaint," "My Fair Lady" and "Oliver!" David Ledingham returns to Paper Mill, after playing Heathcliff in "Wuthering Heights," as the ideal husband Sir Robert Chiltern. Fans of daytime television will remember Ledingham as the mysterious rebel-poet "Suede" on "One Life to Live." Theater World Award-winner Daniel McDonald plays the womanizing, party-loving Lord Goring. McDonald starred on Broadway as C.K. Dexter Haven in Cole Porter's "High Society" and Bill Kelly in Kander and Ebb's "Steel Pier." Television audiences have seen him on "All My Children," "Sex and the City," "Law and Order," "Murder, She Wrote," "Columbo," and "Madigan Men," among others.

Director James Warwick starred as Sir Robert Chiltern in Sir Peter Hall's 1997 production of "An Ideal Husband" on Broadway.

The performance schedule for "An Ideal Husband" is Tuesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; and Saturday matinees at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$37 to \$60 and may be purchased by calling (973) 376-4343, or directly online at www.papermill.org. Visa. Mastercard and Discover are accepted.

In keeping with the season, Paper Mill will offer "A Sweetheart of a Deal" Feb. 14 to 18. Patrons who purchase on full-price ticket will get a second ticket at half-price.

'Jazz' falls short of past works narration into a pre-conceived notion

Ken Burns deservedly came to public attention with the television documentary "The Civil War" on Public Broadcast television. It was a huge undertaking, made keenly personal by the letters and words of the soldiers themselves and Mr. Burns' unique episodic style of presentation.

Burns followed that landmark television documentary with "Baseball," which not only looked at the professional game so many of us love dearly, but focused on the players and the sociology of the century they mirror. The exclusion of the black man from the sport culminating with the breakthrough of Jackie Robinson was not only a great baseball story, but a signal moment in the Civil Rights struggle of the century. Ken Burns got the story of baseball and its significant

exactly right, I think. Following these triumphs, Burns turned this attention to the women's rights and suffrage issue in "Not for Ourselves Alone." He told the remarkable story of Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, with their different personalities and lifestyles, working together in central New York state, and then nationwide to join the struggle for equality for women. While perhaps not the same On the

By Jon Plaut

mcga hit at "The Civil War" or "Baseball," this documentary followed the same Burns' episodic style and had a validity built on the great breadth of presentation encompassed by these two very forceful women who helped shape contemporary life.

So, it is with deep disappointment and real reluctance that I report that Ken Burns' documentary on PBS this winter, "Jazz," falls far short of his past work. That it is too detailed with minutiae and cannot musically sustain its length, except for the aficionado, is self-evident. It is very hard for even the dedicated jazz enthusiast to keep focused. "Jazz" is simply too ponderous. Much of the narration is pretentious and delivered in a hushed reverence and with unnecessary hyperbole.

My argument is not with jazz music, as chopped up as it is by unending lessons delivered by talking heads, but with the too facile fitting of the

that it matches the history of the century. No amount of manipulation by Burns sovles this problem... Even more serious to my lack of

confidence in the material is the hype. Jazz is terrific as an art form and the struggle by black artists for recognition certainly is compelling. But the great explosion of 20th-century classical music in the concert hall and for ballet houses is never explored. Tin Pan Alley and Broadway seem afterthoughts too, at best, and the phenomenally popular country music which also emanated from the South is hardly seen as a cousin.

The overstatements on behalf jazz are insultingly simplistic. One example: A narrator tells us adoringly that Duke Ellington is America's greatest 20th-century composer. The statement is made in a hushed, admiring voice. Hey, what about Aaron Copeland or George Gershwin or Stephen Sondheim or Leonard Bernstein, or Scott Joplin for that matter? I'm afraid that Ken Burns too often presents propaganda for jazz in "Jazz." He is not even close to the superb level of his earlier documentary works.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.

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Leisure The Pottong Bench Experts take the guesswork out of season's new plants

Copley News Service

Well, it is a new year and that means there will be new catalogs in the mail that have new and fantastic plants. How do you know which plants are good enough for you to plant in your yard? One way is to have the help of people who have tested the plant against other plants in their own garden.

The rose-tesing organization is called the All-America Rose Selection and it is a non-profit organization set up to research and promote roses. It has been testing roses since 1938 in gardens all across the United States. They are tested for 15 different traits, including color, disease resistance, hardiness and growth habits. Each rose is tested in the gardens for two years before the scores are graded.

For the year 2001, there were only three roses to meet the demanding standards. The first one is a grandiflora type called "Glowing Peace." It has both yellow and orange on the several dozen petals that open to a 3-inch flower. The flowers give off a slight tea fragrance. The leaves are a deep glossy green that turn burgundy in the fall.

The shrub grows to three or four feet tall and wide.

The second rose is an orangebloom florinbunda that grows to three feet tall and wide. The flowers are three inches across with about 25 petals and bloom all through the season. The leaves are olive-green and satiny.

The third winner is only the fifth miniature rose to win an AARS award. It is called Sun Sprinklers and it has 2-inch bright yellow flowers with 25 to 30 petals. The flowers have a moderate spicy fragrance. The leaves are a dark glossy green. The plant only grows to two feet tall, making it a good plant for in front of larger shrubs that have lost their lower leaves. It can also be grown in containers where it will flower all all sea-

Another non-profit organization that uses extensive independent evaluation is the All-American Selections. They test both flowers and veg-

etables. They have nine winners for the new year. AAS Trials have been conducted every year since 1932. There is an AAS Gold Medal award reserved for a breeding breakthrough. Gold Medal Awards have been rare, only given once or twice a decade. The other AAS Award recognizes a flower or vegetable for significant achievements, proven superior to all others on the market.

A network of almost 200 AAS Display Gardens in the United States and Canada provides gardeners with opportunities to view the most recent AAS winners. These gardens are open to the public throughout the growing season and may charge a small fee. Many are located near large cities. Check out the web site at ww.all-americaselections.org for a state-by-state list of sites near you.

Trial gardens evaluate entries looking for desirable qualities such as novel flower forms, flower colors, flower show above foliage, fragrance, length of flowering season, and disease or pest tolerances or resistance. Vegetables are judged looking for such traits as earliness to harvest, total yield, fruit taste, fruit quality, ease of harvest, plant habit, disease and pest resistance.

The winners this year are "Avalon Bright Pink" which is a 1-foot Nicotiana or flowering a tobacco. It has star-shaped bright pink flowers. The "Forever Blue" Eustoma looks like a very bushy petunia. Both plants are good for containers or for bedding plants.

Dwarf, disease-resistant, freeflowering plants are what most consumers want and that is what they are getting with the new AAS plants. "Magarita Rosita" portulaca is a good ground cover or hanging basket plant. It has dark pink semi-double blooms about two inches across. "Profusion White" zinia is one foot tall by two feet wide, with 2-inch, daisy-like flowers. "Ring of Fire" sunflowers reach to more than four feet tall. The flower petals surrounding the seed disc start out dark red and blend to orange and then yellow. All three do well in full sun and are droughttolerant plants, but the sunflower will produce more seeds if it gets more

The remaining four plants are vegetables. The "Super Star" white onion produces 1-pound, mild, sweet onions in only 100 days. The "Giant Marconi" green peppers are eight inches long and designed for grilling. "Jolly" cherry tomatoes weigh 11/2 ounces, are peach shape and have a point on the end. The vines are indeterminate growers, which means they do not stop growing until the frost gets them. "Honey Select" sweet corn is designed for fresh eating. It has both sugary enhanced and supersweet kernels. The supersweet kernels slow the conversion of sugar to starch, resulting in a sweeter tasting ear of corn. It also does not have to be isolated from other com pollen, making it easier to plan your garden.

Also of interest to home gardeners are new plants that are being released by nurseries.

Just because a plant is new does not mean it is better in enough ways to make it a good plant for your landscape. As we have discussed in the past, new plans are somewhat easy to create, but often slow to produce in quantities large enough to make them economical to sell.

Plants grown from seeds naturally have a wide variety of characteristics. Some are tall, some are wide. Some flower better or have better fall color. They may also have worse characteristics than is normal for the other plants of the same species. They may be less tolerant of some disease or of very cold winters.

Before a plant is introduced for sale to the public, it should undergo several years of testing in several locations. This should prove whether it is not only better for some good characteristics, but also not bad in other important characteristics.

If a plant is produced as a clone, it will have the same characteristics as the parent plant. In most cases, the original plant will have been around for many years. Cuttings from the first plant are rooted and the new plants are the same as the old one, except for

GARDENTIP

New this year...

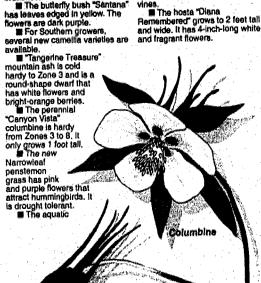
III A mate giritop tree named "Solden Globe" is a fast grower and has dense branches.

III The "Don Ego!" Chinese redbud is more of a shrub than a tree, its bude completely cover the branches.

branches.

The butterfly bush "Santana" has leaves edged in yellow. The flowers are dark purple.

For Southern growers, several new camellia varieties are available.



oanna "Hailtuchallon" has pastal-pink flowers. Hardy to Zone B. It can grow even in standing water. If Clematis "Memm" is hardy to Zone 3 and has double petaled white flowers that hang down as 3-inch-wide belts from the 10-foot-tall stops.

GARDENTIP

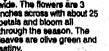
This year's top roses



Ill Three rose plants were chosen for the 2001 All-America Rose Selection awards. Roses were tested for 15 different traits, including color, disease resistance, hardness and growth habits.

If The first winner was a grandiflora called Glowing Peace, it has both yellow and orange on the several dozen petals that open to a 3-inch flower. The flowers have a tea fragrance; leaves are a deep plosey green — burgundy in the fall. The shrub grows to 3 or 4 feet tall.

If the second, Marmalade Skies, is an orange blooming floribunds that grows to 3 feet tall and wids. The flowers are 3 inches across with about 25 petals and bloom all through the season. The leaves are olive green and





The third winner is a miniature. Sun Sprinkies has 2-inch bright-yellow flowers with 25 to 30 petals. Flowers have a moderate splcy fragrance; leeves are a dark glossy green. The plan only grows to 2 feet tall. It can be grown in containers. in containers

SOURCE: www.rose.org

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

their own roots. Knowledge about the original plant's ability to grow in specific climate conditions also applies to the baby clones.

Our first tree out of dozens being introduced is a new gingko variety named "Golden Globe." It is a faster grower than most other male gingkoes and has an unusually dense branching habit that gives it a full crown of branches. Most gingko trees are very sparse looking for many years as they mature, but this tree was discovered in 1990 as a seedling and looks different from the very beginning.

The "Don Egolf" Chinese redbud is more of a shrub than a small tree, like our native redbud. It has flower buds that completely cover the branches, so when it blooms it is an eye-catcher. It is hardy from zones six to nine and grows in the same sun and soil conditions as our redbud.

From the shrubs being introduced, there are several that have variegated foliage. The buddleia variety "Santana" has light green leaves edged in creamy yellow. The flowers are very dark purple. It will grow six feet tall and is hardy to zone five.

For the southern growers, we have several new camellia varieties, including the "Sarrel" sasangua camellia. discovered in 1978 by Robert Green. It has ruffled pink petals that fade to lavender as they mature.

"Tangerine Treasure" mountain ash was discovered in the wilds of northem Alberta, Canada. It is cold-hardy to zone three. It is a round-shaped dwarf that only grows six feet tall and four feet wide. It has white flowers and bright orange berries in the fall.

For perennials, it normally takes several decades to produce enough divisions before you can go to market. The perennial "Canyon Vista" columbine is produced from seeds and is hardy from zones three to eight. It is a dwarf that only grows one foot tall, making it good for small gardens.

The new Narrowleaf penstelmon grass was originally collected from plants near the four corners area of New Mexico. It has pink and purple flowers that attract hummingbirds. Once established, it is drought tolerant, needing only about 10 inches of water per year.

The aquatic canna "Hallucination" has pastel pink flowers held above light green leaves. It grows along shorelines and can get to more than three feet tall. It is hardy only to zone eight, but can be easily overwintered in pots indoors. It can grow in very wet soil or in water as deep as six inches over the soil.

Clematis "Memm" is hardy to zone three and was originally propagated in Karla, Estonia. It has double-petaled white flowers that hand down as 3-inch wide bells from the 10-foot tall vines.

census is Feb. 16-18 Residents can partake in annual web-based bird

By Jeff Rugg Copley News Service

Seeing a vermilion-colored male cardinal on an evergreen, glowing in the sunlight after a fresh snow, never fails to make me stop my snow shoveling. He will nervously flit and chirp as he hops from branch to branch seemingly knowing he is the brightest object in the area. He is also the most easily frightened bird sitting at my bird feeders.

If anyone walks into the room where the feeder can be seen, he will be gone in a second. The female cardinal will grab a seed before she, too, flies off. The finches and chickadees will wait until someone gets right up to the glass before they leave. Unfortunately, the starlings don't leave even when I pound on the window, I have to start to open the door before they leave.

The cardinal has been known as a southern bird for many years, but its range has been expanding north and west. It has been released in Hawaii along with many other exotic birds that do not belong there. Technically, it is known as the Northern Cardinal, because of other related cardinals in Central and South

They have been expanding their range with the help of people. They do well in the mixed habitat of suburban landscapes. They nest in dense shrubs, evergreens and undergrowth. Along the Gulf Coast, they may raise four broods a year, while in the northeast, they may only raise one.

They have a diet of insects, seeds and fruits. The variety of shrubs in urban areas provides a variety of food, but bird feeders have a greater impact. Feeding backyard birds began in earnest in the 1950s. Today, at an estimated expenditure of more than half a billion dollars, one-in-three North American households makes available an average of 60 pounds of supplemental seed each year.

Cardinals come to almost 70 percent of the bird feeders nationwide. Only six bird species are more common. The dark-eyed junco is the most common, coming to around 85 percent of feeders. In second through sixth place are the mourning dove, downy woodpecker, house finch, blue jay and goldfinch. To round out the top 10, we have the black-capped chickadee in eighth and then the white-breasted nuthatch and house sparrow.

The effect that bird feeding has on the survival, population stability and migration patterns of our birds is uncertain, but ornithologists speculate that if handouts were to stop tomorrow, there would be neither species extinctions nor major population declines, although some recently enlarged ranges would contract and there might be detectable decreases in some regions.

Besides the cardinal, the tufted titmouse, re-bellied woodpecker and mourning dove are all birds that come to feeders and are expanding their ranges northward. In a number of areas where supplemental food is plentiful, some species, such as the morning dove, no longer migrate.

Feeding may pull many birds, especially weak individuals, through the extremes of winter. Birds increase their visits to feeders in harsh weather, particularly after snowfalls and ice storms that make natural foods inaccessible. During extreme cold spells, juncos, finches and other winter residents unable to find sufficient food before sunset often will not survive the night.

Much research still needs to be done on how bird feeding and effects of weather, habitat changes and many other local and regional influences, change

Now, people of all ages and backgrounds can help monitor bird populations, including several species that are declining in numbers, by participating in the fourth annual Great Backyard Bird Count Feb. 16 to 19.

Begun in 1998, the count has engaged more than 100,000 people of all ages and skill levels in the effort to keep common birds common. A project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society with funding provided in part by Wild Birds Unlimited and Ford Motor Co., the Great Backyard Bird Count combines high-tech web tools with "citizen-science" tions of birds. The GBBC asks families, indivduals, classrooms and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeder, local parks, schoolyards and other areas during any or all of the four count days.

Participants enter their observations at BirdSource — www.bird-source.org - a user-friendly, state-of-the-art web site developed by the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

Quail are easy to identify and are representatives of brushland habitat. Loss: of this haibitat and the results of some land management practices are the primary reasons for declines in quail numbers. In suburban areas, predation of these ground-dwelling birds by cats in also a serious concern.

Visitors to the GBBC web site can learn more about all six species of North

The Cornell Lab and Audubon are also asking participants to pay special attention to several species of woodpeckers and the northern flicker, which are showing signs of serious population decreases. The web site will include several features relating to these species in need of special attention.

Instructions for participating can be viewed by going to www.birdsource.org and clicking on "Great Backyard Bird Count." There is no fee or registration

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg ut agreenerview@altavista.com.

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ADVERTISEMENT MEDICAL NEWS **Arthritis Pain Mystery Solved**

Horse Liniment is the secret!

OCALA, FL. -- An ingredient used to treat inflammation in thoroughbred racehorse legs, is now recognized as safe and effective for human use. The ingredient has been formulated into a product called ARTH-Rx™and comes in a strength designed for humans. Researchers are excited and say the formula can relieve arthritis pain for millions.

Developed by the Phillips Gulf Corporation, ARTH-Rx is a breakthrough in the treatment of painful disorders ranging from minor aches and pains to more serious conditions such as arthritis, bursitis, rheumatism, tendonitis, backache and more. Scientists suggest that ARTH-Rx works by intercepting the pain messenger substance that sends pain signals to the brain. Although the mechanism is not totally clear, pain is relieved in the affected area be-

cause the pain signal actually disappears. ARTH-Rx is the only product on the market with Neurocaine and is available in a convenient, pleasant scented roll-on applicator without a prescription. According to a spokesperson for the company, ARTH-Rx is available in pharmacies, nutrition stores, and even some feed stores. ARTH-Rx can also be ordered by calling 1-800-729-8446, @2000PGC



Or at your local:

SOUTHWOOD PHARMACY 937 Southwood Ave. • 862-4444 • Linden

Cranford Dramatic Club prepares to go 'Barefoot in the Park' The 2000-01 season at Cranford field as the Telephone Repair Man, Winans Ave. in Cranford off Centention to CDC, Pells has also performed including his most challenging role as ty of the show required Pells to continuous control of the show required Pells to control of the s

Dramatic Club continues with the Neil Simon comedy, "Barefoot in the Park."

Performances will be at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Friday through Feb. 24. All tickets are \$15.

Bob Pells of Cranford is director, assisted by Stage Manager Ken Leonowicz of Cranford.

The cast includes Carolee Ashwell-Pross of Metuchen as Mrs. Banks, Amy Watson of Fanwood as Corie Banks, Alan Niebuhr of Belleville as Paul Bratter, Stan Kaplan of West-

field as the Telephone Repair Man, Joe Nierle of Westfield as Victor Velasco, and Art Kusiv of Cranford as the Delivery Man.

The original Broadway production opened at the Biltmore Theater in 1963, directed by Mike Nichols, with a cast including Robert Redford as Paul Bratter, Kurt Kaznar as Victor Velasco, Elizabeth Ashley as Corie Banks, Herb Edelman as the Telephone Repair Man, Mildred Natwick as Mrs. Banks, and Joseph Keating as the Delivery Man.

The CDC theater is located at 78

Winans Ave. in Cranford off Centennial Avenue and just minutes from Exit 136 off the Garden State Parkway. For reservations and further information, call (908) 276-7611.

After more than a quarter century of acting and directing, Pells has the unique opportunity to direct Neil Simon's classic comedy, a show in which Pells starred at Paul Bratter when Simon's ink was barely dry.

Pells has involved himself in community theater in more than 40 plays, as an actor or director, including dramas, comedies, and musicals. In addition to CDC, Pells has also performed at Neil's New Yorker in Mountain Lakes, The Shawnee Playhouse in Pennsylvania, and The Lyn Dinner Theater in Elizabeth. He has demonstrated his versatility by playing young Charlie Brown in "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown", as well as a 79-year-old man, reluctant to sell his automobile, in "Used Car for Sale." Pells feels his experience has given him a much clearer perception

into directing.

He has even acted in and directed at the same time, in several plays,

including his most challenging role as the would-be actor, Mr. McKeever in "Solid Gold Cadillac," where a sevenminute monologue required some intensive coaching from his equally involved wife, Sandi.

Pells has directed "The Mousetrap," "The Marriage-Go-Round," "South Pacific," "Camelot," "The Pirates of Penzance," "Dial M for Murder," "Pinocchio," "Sleuth," and "The Dining Room" by A.R. Gurney, with numerous set changes for 15 different rooms, and six characters each playing multiple roles. The complexi-

ty of the show required Pells to come out at the beginning and describe to the audience what was going to happen.

Pells has also involved himself in

the administrative duties in CDC. CDC presents "Barefoot in the Park" for three weekends starting Friday. Tickets and information about "Barefoot in the Park" may be obtained by phoning (908) 276-7611.

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



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA ANNIVERSARY (1910)

WHAT IS BOY SCOUTING?

The Boy Scouts of America was incorporated to provide a program for community organizations that offers effective character, citizenship, and personal fitness training for youth.

Specifically, the BSA endeavors to develop American citizens who are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit; have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness; have personal values based on religious concepts; have the desire and skills to help others; understand the principles of the American social, economic, and governmental systems; are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand our nation's role in the world; have a keen respect for the basic rights of all people; and are prepared to participate in and give leadership to American society.

BOY SCOUT PROGRAM MEMBERSHIP

Boy Scouting, one of the membership divisions of BAS, is available to boys who have earned the Arrow of Light Award or have completed the fifth grade, or who are 11 through 17 years old. The program achieves the BSA's objectives of developing character, citizenship, and personal fitness qualities among youth by focusing on a vigorous program of outdoor activities

VOLUNTEER SCOUTERS

Thousands of volunteer leaders, both men and women, are involved in the Boy Scouting program. They serve in a variety of jobs everything from unit leaders to chairmen of troop committees, committee members, merit badge counselors, and chartered organization representatives.

Like other phases of the program, Boy Scouting is made available to community organizations having similar interests and goals. Chartered organizations include professional organizations; governmental bodies; and religious, education, civic, fraternal, business, labor, and citizens' groups. Each organization appoints one of its members as the chartered organization representative. The organization is responsible for leadership, the meeting place, and support for troop activities.

WHO PAYS FOR IT?

Several groups are responsible for supporting Boy Scouting: The boy and his parents, the troop, the chartered organization, and the community. Boys are encouraged to earn money whenever possible to pay their own expenses, and they also contribute dues to their troop treasuries to pay for budgeted items. Troops obtain additional income by working on approved money-earning projects. The community, including parents, supports Scouting through the United Way. Friends of Scouting campaigns, bequests, and special contributions to the BSA local council. This income provides leadership training, outdoor programs, council service centers and other facilities, and professional service for units.

AIMS AND METHODS OF THE SCOUTING PROGRAM

The Scouting program has three specific objectives, commonly referred to as the "Aims of Scouting." They are character development, citizenship training, and personal fitness. The methods by which the aims are achieved are listed below in random order to emphasize the equal importance of each.

IDEALS

The ideals of Boy Scouting are spelled out in the The Scout Oath,
The Scout Law, the Scout motto, and the Scout slogan. The Boy
Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to
improve. The goals are high, and as he reaches for them, he has

some control over what and who he becomes. PATROLS

The patrol method gives Boy Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. The patrol method allows Scouts to interact in small groups where members can easily relate to each other. These small groups determine troop activities through elected representatives.

OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Boy Scouting is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoor setting that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with one another. In the outdoors the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose. Being close to nature helps Boy Scouts gain an appreciation for the beauty of the world around us. The outdoors in the laboratory in which Boy Scouts learn ecology and practice conservation of nature's resources.

ADVANCEMENT

Boy Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps in overcoming them through the advancement method. The Boy Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he meets each challenge. The Boy Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a Boy Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.

ASSOCIATIONS WITH ADULTS

Boys learn a great deal by watching how adults conduct themselves. Scout leaders can be positive role models for the members of the troop. In many cases a Scoutmaster who is willing to listen to boys, encourage them and take a sincere interest in them can make a profound difference in their lives.

PERSONAL GROWTH

As Boy Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Boy Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. Probably no device is as successful in developing a basis for personal growth as the daily Good Turn. The religious emblems program also is a large part of the personal growth method. Frequent personal conferences with his Scoutmaster help each Boy Scout to determine his growth toward Scouting's aims.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Boy Scout program encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Boy Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership role of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.

UNIFORM

The uniform makes the Boy Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Boy Scouting is an action program, and wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Boy Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Boy Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals. The uniform is practical attire for Boy Scout activities and provides a way for Boy Scouts to wear the badges that show what they have accomplished.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY CHANCERY DIVISION UNION COUNTY

ONION COUNTY
DOCKET NO. F-10688-98
(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:
LILLIAN THURSTON, HER HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND THEIR OR ANY OF THEIR
SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND
INTEREST

INTEREST

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon Donald E. Williams, plaintiff's attorney, whose address is 3 West Third Street, Bordentown, New Jersey 08505, phone #609-291-7800, an answer to the Complaint/Amended Complaint, Amendments and Orders, if any, filed in a civil action, in which First Union National Bank, National Association, as Custodian and Collateral Agent, is plaintiff, and (Archie Thurston) Lillian Thurston, her heirs and personal representatives and their or any of their successors in right, title and interest, et als.; are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, within thirty-five (35) days after the day of publication of this notice, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint/Amended Complaint, Amendments and Orders, if any, You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may contact the Lawyers Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4618.

This action has been instituted for the

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may contact the Lawyers Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4615.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing a tax lien dated March 7, 1995, assessed to Thurston, Archie and Lillian purchased by GTL Investments, L.P. recorded April 5, 1995 in Book 5590 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0323; Assigned to First Fidelity Bank, National Association, as Custodian and Collateral Agent, recorded in the Union County Register's Office on April 17, 1997 in book 0969 page 0115. First Fidelity Bank, National Association, as Custodian and Collateral Agent is now known as First Union National Bank, as Custodian and to recover possession of said lands and premises commonly known as Block 111, Lot 32, 636 West Third Street, City of Plainfield, New Jersey, County of Union and the State of New Jersey.

You, LILLIAN THURSTON, HER HEIRS, DEVISEES AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES, AND THEIR SUCCESSORS IN RIGHT, TITLE AND INTEREST are hereby made a party defendant to the foreclosure action because you have or may claim to have some right, title, lien or other interest affecting the real estate being foreclosed, by virtue of ownership, inheritance, descent, intestacy, devise, dower, curtesy, mortgage, deed, or conveyance, enter of judgment or other legal or lawful right. The nature of which and the reason that you and each of you are joined as defendants is set forth with particularity in the complaint, a copy of which will be turnished to you on request addressed to the attorneys for the plaintiff at the above mentioned address.

Danald E Phalan

Dated: February 2, 2001
Donald F. Phelan
Clerk of the Superior Court
U3726 WCN Feb. 8, 2001 (\$66.00)

Clerk of the Superior Court
U3726 WCN Feb. 8, 2001 (\$66.00)

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS
(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:
WINSOME H. CHARLES
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND
REQUIRED to serve upon FEIN, SUCH,
KAHN & SHEPARD, plaintiff's attorneys,
whose address is 7 Century Drive, Suite
201, Parsippany, New Jersey 07054, telephone number #(973) 538-4700, an
Answer to the Compiaint and Amendment(s) to Complaint, if any, filed in a civil
action, in which SOVEREIGN BANK is
Plaintiff and KEN CHARLES, et al., are
Defendants, pending in the Superior Court
of New Jersey, Chancery Division, UNION
County and bearing Docket No.
F-18054-00 within thirty-five (35) days after
February 8, 2001 exclusive of such date. If
you fail to do so, Judgment by Default may
be rendered against you for the relief
demanded in the Compiaint. You shall file
your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court,
Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with
the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.
This action has been instituted for the
purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage
dated March 25, 1997 made by KEN
CHARLES as mortgagors to SOVEREIGN
BANK recorded on 04708/97, in Book 6217
of Mortgages for UNION County, Page
0185, et sed, SOVEREIGN BANK is the
holder of the Mortgage, and (2) to recover
possession of, and concerns premises
commonly known as 623 EAST SIXTH
STREET AKIA 621-623 EAST SIXTH
STREET PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060.

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may
communicate with the Legal Services

If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340 or the legal services office of the county of your residence if you reside in New Jersey. If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may call or communicate with attorney; you may call or communicate with the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of Venue at 908-353-4715, or at the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of your residence if you reside in New Jersey. If there is none, contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the editorest results.

one, contact the Lawyer Referral Service of an adjacent county.
YOU; WinsoME H. CHARLES, are made party defendant to this foreclosure action for any interest, lien or claim you may have with regard to the premises being foreclosed upon herein by reason of a Judgment entered against, KEN CHARLES. Said lien was entered in the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey on December 3, 1999, Judgment No. J-286778-1999, in the amount of \$1,113.00; plus interest and costs of suit. Said lien is subordinate to the lien of the Plaintiff herein.
Dated: February 2, 2001

DONALD F. PHELAN Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey U3727 WCN Feb. 8, 2001 (\$52.50)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
In accordance with N.J.S.A. 39:10A-8 et
seq., the following auto repair facilities will
soil the following motor vehicles to the highest bidder, subject to the outstanding lier
due and owing the respective auto repair
facilities as outlined below. The bidding for
each vehicle shall start at the outstanding
lien amount of the respective auto repair
facility. Each auto repair facility has already
placed a bid on the respective vehicle in an
amount equal to its lien.

All vehicles can be inspected at the
respective repair facility. Any interested
parties may contact the respective repair
facility for further information.

Sale Date February 23, 2001 © 10:00
am

am 5403 1992 cadillac deville 4dr white vin# 1G6CD53B1N4208502 lienor: car world of nj 300 e st george ave linden nj (908) 925-8600 auction price \$27739.00 February 1, 8, 2001 U3587 WCN (\$39.00)

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY

February 10th, 2001 EVENT: FLEA MARKET/CRAFT FAIR PLACE: St. Thomas Center, 1407 St. George Avenue, Rahway TIME: 9:00AM-3:00PM

PRICE: New and used items. Vendors

ORGANIZATION: St. Thomas the Apostle Byzantine Catholic Church

SUNDAY

February 11th, 2001 EVENT: Flea Market, Craft and Collectible Show. Indoors and Outdoors PLACE: Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Avenue (off Raritan Road) Clark

TIME: 9am-5pm PRICE: Featuring over 75 quality dealers selling a variety of new and used merchandise. For information call ORGANIZATION:St John's Rosary

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for nonprofit organizations. It is prepaid and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday, Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyresant Ave., Union. For more

February 17th, 2001,

(snow date 24th)

PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church,

PRICE: New and used clothes, shoes, records, housewares, books, jewelry, etc. Tables available for \$15.00 (per

table). For information call 973-372-0084

ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran

134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ TIME: 9:00AM-2:00PM

EVENT: FLEA MARKET

UCAC to present 'Unforgettable' one-man show Sunday afternoon

"Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story," a new musical based on the incredible life and music of a phenomenal talent, comes to the Union County Arts Center Sunday at 3 p.m.

"Unforgettable" is the story of Nat "King" Cole. The son of an Alabama preacher, this soft-spoken jazz pianist became a worldwide singing sensation and a beloved superstar, and his appeal transcended the boundaries of race, culture and geography. In "Unforgettable," author Clark Peters, best known for writing the Broadway hit "Five Guys Named Moe," joins with Larrington Walker and uses Cole's music to journey from his piano-playing days in dives and honky-tonks to his breakthrough contract with Capital Records. Interwoven are the incredible songs for which Cole is famous; hit songs like "Mona Lisa," "Route 66," "Straighten Up and Fly Right," "Too Young," "Besame Mucho" and many more.

Monroe Kent III headlines "Unforgettable" as Nat "King" Cole, his beloved valet Sparky, and a host of other characters. Star of London's "Five Guys Named Moe," his stellar reviews in the West End production of that show won him the role in the United Kingdom and Far East tours. Of his performance in the Ameican premiere of "Unforgettable," National Public Radio said, "Backed by a delicious trio, Monroe Kent III is a consumate performer and will make you feel for two solid hours that Nat Cole is back - and magnificent as ever." For more information regarding tickets to this musical, call (732) 399-8226.

Union County Arts Center is a regional performing arts venue. Its wide array of offerings include theater, music, film, dance and headliner entertainment. The Westfield Symphony Orchestra performs regularly at

"Car Accident Victims Get A Crash Course On Their Rights"

recently been released that reveals information every car accident victim hould have before they speak to anyone Research shows even a "fender bender can cause pain, headaches, even arthritis Many car accident victims worry more about their car than they do their rights. I you have been involved in an auto accident listen to the 24-hour toll-free recorded message by calling 1.888.216.9972. The call is free and so is the report.

the arts center under its designation as resident orchestra of this vaudevilleera theater claimed by many to be the most beautiful theater in the state.

information call 763-9411.

As a non-profit organization, the arts center is supported in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/ Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts. The arts center is also supported by the Merck Company Foundation and Comcast, sponsor of the Family Fun Series. The following organizations and institutions are also contributors to the Union County Arts Center: The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, The City of Rahway, The Rahway Savings Institution, Liberty Bank, Schering-Plough Foundation and NUI/Elizabethtown Gas.

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DOWN

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Belmont

Paper Mill auditions children

Paper Mill Playhouse will conduct children's auditions for the spring/ summer production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Carousel" to be held at the playhouse Saturday.

Being sought are 25 to 30 children and teenagers between the ages of 6 and 16 years old who sing and move well to play roles in the ensemble of the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical. Directed by Robert Johanson, with choreography by New York City Ballet

principal dancer and choreographer Robert LaFosse, and musical direction by Tom Helm, "Carousel" runs for seven weeks from May 30 through July 15. Auditions will be held at the theater, with callbacks that same day. Children whose last name begin with letter A to L can sign up at 9 a.m. in the theater lobby, while those whose last name begin with letters M to Z can sign up at noon. Music from the show and accompanist will be provided. A simple move-

ment combination will be taught; wear appropriate shoes. For more information, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2278

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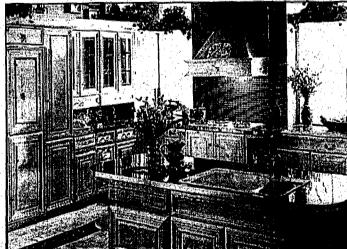
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REUNIONS

· Westfield High School Class of 1976 will conduct its 25th reunion March 30. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000

• Hillside High School's Florida Alumni Reunion will take place Feb. 25 at noon at the Holiday Inn Catalina, 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, Fla. Admission, through advance registration only, is \$35 per person. For information, contact Marvin Kaleky at 466 Briarwood Circle, Hollywood, FL 33024, or call him at home at (954) 967-0199 or at work at (954) 967-8500. He may be faxed at (954) 967-0890 or contacted via email at hhaafla@yahoo.com or emkay18@yahoo.com.

• Union High School Class of 1991 will conduct its 10th reunion April 28. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.

Jonathan Dayton Regional High

School Class of 1956 will conduct its 45th reunion May 5 at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. For information, write to Class of '56 Reunion Committee, 26 Orris Ave., Piscataway, NJ

• Union High School Class of 1966 will conduct its 35th reunion May 5 at the Woodbridge Hilton. For information, call (908) 964-5477 or send cmail to jwsip@aol.com.

• Union High School Class of 1951

will conduct its 50th reunion June 15 at the Kenilworth Inn. For information, call Kay Coats Macrae at (908) 232-0283 or Phyllis Daniel Lang at (908) 688-2394.

· Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Class of 1976 will conduct its 25th reunion Thanksgiving Weekend. Classmates are currently being sought. For information, call Nancy Frischtman at (908) 580-0878 or send e-mail to murrayco@idt.net,

HOROSCOPE

For Feb.12 to Feb.18

ARIES (March 21-April 19); Feel your energy shift into higher gear this week. When your ruler Mars slips into Sagittarius, it's full speed ahead. Follow the green lights.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): There is heavy emphasis on career pursuits. Income tends to be the motivating factor. Play your cards right and walk away with a much deserved raise. GEMINI (May 21-June 21): A strong desire for travel and adventure permeates your mind this week. Toss some vacation ideas into a hat and pick one. Ask your partner to come along. CANCER (June 22-July 22): Put a limit on spending other people's money or avoid going into debt just to "keep up with the Joneses." Focus on

the concept of cash-and-carry.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): It's important not to let your professional endeavors interfere with or destroy a personal relationship. Share your goals and ambitions with a partner or mate. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Changes on the job, although disruptive at first, have a purposeful and positive outcome. Complaining gets you nowhere. Bite your tongue and go with

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Socializing with friends should be high on your list of priorities this week. Have fun planning activities that are creatively and intellectually stimulating. SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Emotional issues demand your attention. You'll be forced to think about your feelings and make a decision concern-

ing a family member. It helps to face the facts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Communication is your key word this week. Take advantage of an opportunity to present your thoughts and opinions to peers or co-workers.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Realize you're personally responsible for your current financial status, good or bad. If you're not happy where you are fiscally, come up with a plan for

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't make any quick or rash decisions about a domestic matter. Take your time and weigh all of your options. Join a friend for dinner or a movie this

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Idealistic best describes your mood during

this period. Look for and expect only the best from those close to you. Pay attention to intuitive or subconscious

If your birthday is this week, obstacles and restrictions that block your forward progress must be eliminated. Stay away from depressing or discouraging people and situations during the coming year. Instead, turn your attention to positive communication and getting to know your loved ones on a much deeper or meaningful level. Channel a renewed or strong flow of energy into creative and productive activities.

Also born this week: Abraham Lincoln, Charles Darwin, Chick Yeager, Susan B. Anthony, Galileo, Ice-T, Cybill Shepherd and Molly Ringwald.

Classmates are sought for Jonathan Dayton reunion

Jonathan Dayton High School Class of 1951 will conduct its 50th reunion at the Somerset Holiday Inn. Somerset, Oct. 6.

The Reunion Committee needs help in locating the following missing

From Kenilworth: W. Chapman, M. Chester, A. Ciemiecki, S. Dempsey,

D. Easton, K. Golcher, E. Izzo, G. Laskey, J. Lobenthal-Missiner, D. McKenna, A. Rizzi, and N. Roberts. From Clark: R. Ehresmann, L. Miller, C. Snavely, and M. Stringham.

From Mountainside: D. Davighi, M. Gonnella, and G. Salvatoriello-

From Springfield: L. Berner, P. Bowman, B. Clark, R. Colby, R. Franklin, J. Keller, F. LaFond, V. Leone, D. McCory, J. McNee, R. Powell, J. Preston, C. Reddington, L. Rodriguez, J. Ruscansky, J. Shotwell-Finney.

If anyone can provide a current address or phone number on any of the above or would like more information, call John J. Mozart at (732) 477-1577 or send e-mail to bnjzart@netzero.net.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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GRAND OPENING

TALLA SKIN CARE AND DAY SPA, 25 North Ave. W., Cranford Serves clients with regular Facial Treatments, such as deep pore cleaning, collagen, paraffin, seaweed and glycolic exfoliation. Skin care specialists successfully cure many skin disorders such as teen and

severe acne, blemishes, pigmentation spots, etc. These skin conditions do not need to be serviced by dermatologists. In most cases,

reatment and advice for home care from experienced estheticians is all you need. Talla massage center has been extended by new varieties of body massages. In addition to Swedish, reflexology and aromatherapy, it is now offering sports massage shiatsu and reiki.

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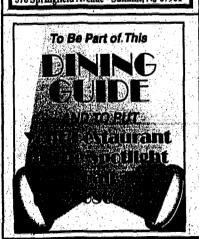
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Community Dining Guide"

The Hunt Club Grill at the Grand Summit Hotel

Staff Writer

Upon entering the Hunt Club Grill at the Grand Summit Hotel, one is immediately greeted by a knowledgeable and courteous staff and comfortable, elegant surroundings, giving you an idea of the exquisite meal in store.

My dining companion and I began our meals with the jumbo lump crab cakes and the Caesar salad, both of which featured ingredients so fresh you could taste it. Each was the perfect beginning to what proved to be excellent main courses.

For our main courses, we dined on the coriander-crusted duck breast and orecchiette pasta with grilled shrimp and lobster.

The duck, cooked to perfection, was accompanied by delicious scallion buckwheat noodles, julienne leeks and snow peas, but it was the reduction sauce that made the meal, a rich Madeira reduction perfectly complemented the duck, enhancing the natural flavors of the meat while, at the same time, adding something special not usually found in the dish.

The orecchiette pasta was a new treat for this reviewer, and was deliciously prepared with arugula and tomatoes in a white wine garlic broth, and topped with shaved asiago. However, it was the shellfish that made this dish! The shrimp and lobster were plump and flavorful, each retaining the integrity of their own flavors while being enhanced by the broth and each other.

, For dessert, we splurged and shared three different selections. The apples in the apple cobbler were so fresh, you could practically hear them crunch with each bite, and the rice pudding was delicious and equally fresh. But it was the creme brulee that really stole the show. Deliciously rich with the requisite crisply broiled crust, this dessert was the star of our table! The accompanying cappuccino was strong and full-bodied.

Our dining experience was enhanced by the gracious and informative attention of our server, Laura; manager Hanna Keryakous, and assistant manager David Ruas. Executive Chef Charles Burke and Executive Sous Chef Michael Rolchigo also joined us briefly to answer our questions about ingredients and preparations, making us feel more like guests in someone's home than patrons at a business.

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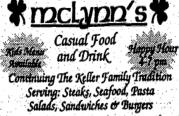


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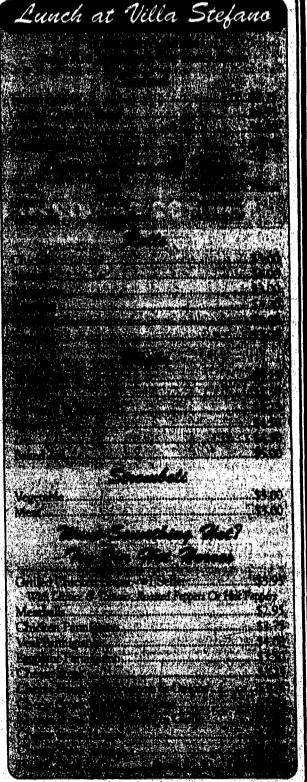
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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information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

ART

OUR VIEW: A UNIQUE PERSPEC-TIVE on Life in Union County, a traveling exhibit sponsored by Community Access Unlimited, features the work of 10 adults with developmental

The exhibit will tour the county. For information on the reception, call (908) 354-3040, ext. 304.

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART will exhibit paintings by American artists of the mid-1800s to the mid-1900s.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursdays until 7 p.m. Summit Frame and Art is located at 465 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8665

ARTIST RON HEDRICK will have his work on exhibit at Evalyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. The gallery is located at 549 South Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-0412.

INTERNATIONAL IMAGES OF STRUGGLE AND DIGNITY 1977-2000 will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through today.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

ARTIST WOJTEK GILEWICZ WIII have his works on exhibit at the Skulski Art Gallery of the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark through Friday.

Gallery hours are Tuesday to Friday, 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Polish Cultural Foundation is located at 177 Broadway, Clark. For information, call (732) 382-7197. VIETNAM: LIFE IN SPITE OF WAR will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Sunday through March 9. An opening reception will

take place Sunday. Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.; and by appointment. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

THE BOUND BROOK CYCLE by artist David Ambrose will be on exhibit at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth McKay Library on the Cranford campus of Union County College through Feb. 22.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday to Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. UCC's Cranford campus is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) :709-7155.

TEEN ARTS TOURING EXHIBIT, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, will be on display at the Elizabeth Public Library through Feb. 27.

Gallery hours are regular library operating hours. Elizabeth Public Library is located at 11 S. Broad St., Elizabeth, For Information, call (908) 558-2550.

LANDSCAPES, the work of Elizabeth artist Dario Scholis, will be on exhibit through Feb. 28 in the Freeholders Gallery, on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Thursday evenings. The Union County Administration Building is located at Elizabethtown Plaza on Rahway Avenue in Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 527-4100.

FROM PARAFFIN TO BEESWAX, the work of Francesca Azzara, will be on exhibit at the Les Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library through Feb.

Gallery hours are regular library operating hours. Union Public Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call (908) 851-5450.

A PORTFOLIO PROJECT Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Art Students League of New York will be on exhibit at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield through Feb. 28.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Swain Galleries are located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

OVERCOMING HATRED/CREATING COMMUNITY, an exhibit of artwork and photography, will be on display in the Tomasulo Art Gallery on the Cranford campus of Union County College Feb. 26 through March 1.

Gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays, 1 to 4 p.m.; and Tuesday through Thursday evenings, 4 to 6 p.m. UCC is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, For information, call (908) 709-7505.

PROBING THE NAKED PERSONAL-ITY, the work of Barbara Petitto, will be on exhibit in the Members Gallery at

Stepping Out

the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit Friday through March 8. A reception will take place Feb. 18 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit.

SEA SERIES: REVELATIONS, recent work by Bonnie McKee Tortora, will be on exhibit at the Kent Place Gallery in the Kent Place School in Summit, Monday through March 9. A reception will take place March 2 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, or by appointment. Kent Place School is located at 42 Norwood Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-0900, ext. 332. INTERNATIONAL JURIED SHOW 2001 will be on exhibit at the New

Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through March 14. Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays, noon to 4 p.m.; Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays, 2 to 4 p.m. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St. in Summit. For information, call (908)

AUDITIONS

273-9121.

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will conduct auditions for the children's chorus of "Carousel" by Rodgers and Hammerstein Saturday at the playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn, Children whose names begin with A through L sign up at 9 a.m. in the theater lobby; names beginning with M to Z at noon. Auditioners should prepare music from the show; an accompanist will be provided. For information, call (973) 379-3636, ext. 2278.

MYSTIC VISION PLAYERS of Linden will conduct auditions for the New Jersey premier of "The Teachers' Lounge" Feb. 26 and 27 at 7 p.m. at the Linden Presbyterian Church, Orchard and DeWitt terraces. Show dates are May 4 and 5. For information, call (908) 925-9068 or send e-mail to mysticvp@aol.com.

CARNIVAL PRODUCTIONS of Rahway is seeking resumes and title submissions from directors for the 2001-02 season. Submissions may be sent to Carnival Productions at 733 Jefferson Ave., Rahway, 07065-2615. For information, call (732) 388-4921 or send e-mail to cptickets@aol.com.

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATION-AL ORCHESTRA is accepting applications and will conduct auditions for instrumentalists for the 2000-01 season. For information, call (908) 709-0084 or (609) 208-0029.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB will welcome student and adult male singers for its 76th season. The Glee Club rehearses Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m., in the choir room of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-0673.

ROOKS

SPRINGFIELD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor its Great Books Discussion Series in the comina months. The group meets at 10 a.m. in the library meeting room.

Feb. 15: The Book of Job, The Bible March 15: "Utilitarianism," Mill April 19: "Caesar and Cleopatra,"

May 17: "The City of God," St. Augustine

June 21: "Symposium," Plato July 19: "Of Experience," Montaigne

The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY SERIES Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark today at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month through January to discuss books by Stephanie Barron, skipping the month of December. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

AUTHOR URSULA PAWELL will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to sign copies of her book, "My Child is Back." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3535.

AUTHOR PAUL B. WISE will appear at the Town Book Store of Westfield Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. to sign copies of his book, "Rubin 'Hurricane' Carter and the American Justice System." The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3535.

AUTHOR PETER KALELLIS will appear at Barnes and Noble of Springfield Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. to discuss and sign copies of his book, "Restoring Relationships: Five Things to Try Before You Say Goodbye." Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. The group, led by Kevin Muller, will meet the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP at

Barnes and Noble in Clark will meet Feb. 28 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month to read. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN, a book discussion group at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, will meet March 7 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS will meet at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The group, which meets monthly, will resume in March. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for its Music Studio. Les-

concert "Meet the Orchestra" series. The Suburban Community Music

Center is located at 570 Central Ave. in Murray Hill. For information, call (908) 790-0700. THE LETTERMEN will be presented in

concert Saturday at 8 p.m. at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway. Tickets are \$17 to \$24. UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226. .CALVARY CHORALE will appear in

concert Sunday at 4 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church, 31 Woodland Ave., Summit. A free-will offering will be taken. For information, call (908) 277-1547.

BARNES AND NOBLE in Clark will present musical performances throughout the winter. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section.

Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, including a concert schedule, call (732)

MUSIC IN THE CAFE in Barnes and Noble in Springfield will feature free • March 9

8 p.m.: "Chinatown" March 16

8 p.m.: "Touch of Evil" A VIP Pass, for \$65, includes one ticket to each of the 10 screenings, an invitation to the Opening Night Reception with James Earl Jones, three complimentary tickets to be used for friends and family during the tour, and a souvenir program. Individual tickets are \$5 each.

UCAC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226 or visit the web site at www.ucac.org.

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch in the coming weeks. All films begin at 10 a.m.

The Main Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library is located at 11 S. Broad St. For information, call (908) 354-6060.

<u>Kids</u>

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union



'KATHY' AND 'KEVIN' are among the works by Barbara Petitto in 'Probing the Naked Personality,' on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit Friday through March 8. For information, see the 'Art Shows' listing on this page.

sons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginner through advanced classes. Additional courses include art classes for children and toddlers, the Westfield Fencing Club and the Drawing Workshop. Classes take at 150-152 E. Broad St., West field. For information, call (908) 789-9696.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts.

Beginners, Intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focuses on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are

The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION will offer classes in visual arts in five-week segments on Wednesday evenings. The sessions are as follows:

 Wednesday, already in progress • Feb. 21 and 28, and March 7, 14

• March 28, and April 4, 11, 18 and

 May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. Classes meet at the Sunnyside Recreation Center, Melrose Terrace at Orchard Terrace, For information, call (908) 486-1408.

UNION MUSIC SCHOOL is accepting registration for the summer 2001 session - June 26 to July 27, 9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. daily. To receive a brochure of course offerings send name and mailing address via e-mail to unionmusicschool@hotmail.com, via fax to (908) 687-7332, or call (908) 851-6470.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN in Westfield offers various music classes to children between the ages of 10 months and 8 years old. For information on class offerings or to reserve a space at either open house, call (908) 232-4881.

CONCERTS SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC

CENTER in New Providence will present its "Sundays at Three" concert series in the coming weeks. All concerts are at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$6 for senior citizens and students.

Sunday: Violinist Elena Kvares The "Meet the Orchestra" series will take place Sunday at 2 and 3:15 p.m. for 3- to 8-year-olds, featuring the New Jersey Youth Symphony. Tickets are \$5 per person, or \$15 for the four-

musical performances in the coming weeks. All concerts will take place in the coffee lounge area of the store from 8 to 10 p.m.

Friday: Kevin Brooks Saturday: Soully Strings Feb. 17: Ginny Johnston Feb. 23: Christopher Hoyle

Feb. 24: Andrew Kessler

Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

DANCE

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will meet Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at The Connection in Summit. Upcoming meetings are Friday, Feb. 23, and March 9 and 23, when Greek Independence Day will be celebrated. Fee is \$2. For information, call (973) 467-8278.

DISCUSSION

WESTFIELD ART ASSOCIATION will present artist Will Coombs in a demonstration on the topic of "Oil Tricks" Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Community Room of the Westfield Municipal Building, 425 E. Broad St. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 687-2945. THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRI-TERS CIRCLE will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Monday at 7:30 p.m. The Writers Circle meets the second Monday of every month and new members are always welcome. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

HILM

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway will be the site of the Library of Congress Film Preservation Tour from Feb. 22 to March 16. Oscar-nominee James Earl Jones will deliver the keynote address Feb. 22.

6:30 p.m.: Opening reception 7:30 p.m.: "Big Business," and "Dr. Strangelove: Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb" • Feb. 23

8 p.m.: "What's Opera, Doc?." "Yankee Doodle Dandy"

• Feb. 24

3 p.m.: "What's Opera, Doc?," "Gertie the Dinosaur," and "Duck Soup" 7 p.m.: "On the Waterfront" 9 p.m.: "The Great Train Robbery," and "Raging Bull"

• Feb. 25 3 p.m.: "The Great Train Robbery,"

and "Safety Last" 7 p.m.: "Jammin' the Blues." and "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre"

March 2 8 p.m.: "Shadow of a Doubt" for Kids the first Friday of each month through May at 7 p.m. in the Student Commons at the Cranford Campus, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is free, For information, call (908) 659-5189.

County College will present Storytime

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4828

POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD, a creative forum for poets, will meet Feb. 23 at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, including meeting date and time, call (973) 376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT will take place at Barnes and Noble in Clark Sunday at 7 p.m. Open Mike Poetry Night is sponsored the second Sunday of every month in the Music Department, Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Raritan Road in Scotch Plains. The group meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of every month. For information, call (908) 241-5758.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 syears old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation Is \$2. For information, call (908) 889-5265 or (908) 889-4751.

I HEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will continue the 2000-01 season with "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde, starring Stephanie Beacham. The show runs Wednesday through March 18 at the theater on Brookside Drive in Millburn.

Evening performances are Wednesdays to 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.

Special performances and events are the "Valentine Sweetheart of a Deal" offer Feb. 14 to 18; the Coversation Series at 7 p.m. in the mezzanine Feb. 22, and March 1, 8 and 15; "Family Week at the Theater" March 3 to 11; the Meet the Artists Symposium, "The

Importance of Oscar Wilde," March 13 at 7:30 p.m.; audio-described performances March 15 at 2 p.m., March 17 at 2:30 p.m., and March 18 at 7:30 p.m., all with sensory seminars 90 minutes prior to curtain; a signinterpreted performance March 18 at 7:30 p.m.;

Tickets are \$37 to \$60. For information, call (973) 376-4343, or buy tickets with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at www.papermill.org.

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will continue its staged readings of scripts under consideration for the 2001-02 season on Sundays at 3 p.m. in the Roy Smith Theater on UCC's Cranford campus, 1066 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Admission is free, and no reservations are required.

Sunday: "Joe Egg" by Peter Nichols Feb. 18: "The Marriage of Bette and Boo" by Christopher Durang

Each reading will be followed by a coffee reception, at which audience members will be asked their thoughts on the day's selection.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "Awake and Sing" by Clifford Odets through Feb. 18. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets Saturdays and Sundays are \$8 for general admission, \$6 for students and senior citizens; Fridays, all tickets are \$5. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information. call (908) 355-0077.

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway will present the one-man show, "Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story," Sunday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18. UCAC is located at 1601 lrving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226.

CRANFORD DRAMATIC CLUB will present "Barefoot in the Park" by Neil Simon Friday through Feb. 24. Shows are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. CDC is located at 78 Winans Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 276-7611.

KEAN UNIVERSITY THEATER SERIES in Union will present "Of Mice and Men," based on the novel by John Steinbeck, In Wilkins Theater Feb. 16 to 25. Shows are 8 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$12 for general admission, \$10 for senior citizens, and \$8 for students. Kean University is located at 1000 Morris Ave., Union, For information, call (908) 527-2337.

V ARIETY

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

day night. The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-6455.

CROSSROADS in Garwood presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Every Sunday is Cornedy Night at 7:30 p.m. Every Tuesday is the Jazz Jam. Every Wednesday is The Juggling Sons. Every Thursday, ladies drink half-price.

Today: Black Dog in a tribute to Led Zepplin

Friday: Royal Scam in a tribute to Steely Dan

Saturday: Barbuda

Feb. 15; Day One Feb. 16: ULU

Feb. 17: Chameleon

Feb. 22: Persun and Shinbone Feb. 23: Crescent City Maulers Feb. 24: Funky Black Widows Crossroads is located at 78 North

Ave. in Garwood. For information, call

(908) 232-5666. FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment at various times throughout February. Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482

Main St. in Rahway. For information,

call (732) 381-4700. VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE in Union will present a series of musical events in the coming weeks. Tuesday nights are "Acoustic Tuesday," with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mike participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday

concerts. Sunday: Electric Breakwater Tuesday: Kiern Kelly Feb. 18: Pat Clare Trio Feb. 20: Ginny Johnston Feb. 25: Steve Minzer Trio Feb. 27: Pat Beubaker March 4: Hal Hirsch Trio

March 6: C9 March 11: Vince DiMura and The George Street Project

March 13: Swampbelly March 18: Ginny Johnston Band Van Gogh's Ear is located at 1017 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union Center. For

THE WAITING ROOM in Rahway will present musical entertainment during January and February. Every Wednesday night is Open Mike Night,

information, call (908) 810-1844.

Wednesday: Fourth annual Quentin Tarantino Film Festival, 8 p.m. The Waiting Room is located at 1431 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner

of Lewis Street. For Information, call (732) 815-1042. THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PUB in Linden will present karaoke and the 100-Proof Duo Band every Saturday

night. In addition, Monday features Football Food Specials, and Thursday is Ladies Night. The Washington Avenue Pub is located at 704 Washington Ave. in Linden, For information, call (908) 925-3707.

Community

1-800-564-8911

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Monday through Friday 9:00 AM - 5 PM After Hours Call 908-686-9898 Selection #8100

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The Independent Press of Bloomfield

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Business Directory 4 PM Thursday Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday Ad Copy 12 noon Monday In-column 3 PM Tuesday

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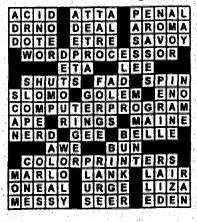
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See PUZZLE on Page B6



HELP WANTED

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Tony D'Agostino congratulates Melanie Selk on becoming president of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors.

Selk to be GUCAR president

Tony D'Agostino, owner/broker of ERA Village Green Realtors, congratulated Melanie Selk on her becoming president of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors.

In addition, Selk will also be recognized by the North Jersey ERA Brokers Council in early April at Mayfair Farms, West Orange, and during the Greater Union County Association of Realtors awards night to be held in March at L'Affaire in Mountainside.

Selk holds a lifetime membership in the distinguished sales club in recognition of achieving the real estate million dollar sales club award for 10 or more

Selk is available to answer any questions you may have with regard to relocating. She is a member of both Garden State MLS and the Middlesex County MLS Systems.

You may reach her toll free at 1-800-864-3681, Ext. 15 or at her office, located just off Parkway Exit 135, ERA Village Green Realtors, 35 Brant Ave., Clark.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Splinter is tops

Cathy Splinter, a consistent top achiever in the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, has been honored as Salesperson of the Month for December, with sales of 3 units sold.

Splinter has received many distinguished awards; she has earned the New Jersey Association of Realtors' Million Dollar Sales Club Bronze Achievement Award in 1997-1999. She has been a real estate professional for nine years, specializing in the Westfield and surrounding areas. Splinter also ranks in the top 10 percent in dollar volume for closed business and in closed units year to date of over 650 Burgdorff ERA sales associates and is a member of the company's elite President's Club for the year 2000.

Judy Sagan, vice president and manager of the Westfield office, said, "Cathy has been a wonderful addition to our office and has taken advantage of our cutting edge training and focus sessions to help her clients and expand her own production. In the time that Mrs. Splinter has been selling real estate, she has amassed a vast knowledge of Union County and at times has amazed the long-time agents and residents with her comprehensive undersanding of the area."

Contact Splinter at her direct line at (908) 233-5508 or e-mail her at Cathy-Splinter@burgdorff.com.

resented without guarantee, and are subject to change.



Cathy Splinter

Biernat joins Weichert

Daria Biernat has joined the Westfield office of Weichert Realtors as a sales associate.

A licensed real estate professional, Biernat brings paralegal experience to her new position at Weichert. She received her bachelor's degree from Columbia University in New York. Biernat, who speaks fluent French and is a member of Weichert's International Division, is a resident of Mountainside.

For real estate transactions, call Biernat at Weichert's Westfield office at (908) 654-7777, located at 185 Elm

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AUTOMOTIVE

Toyota drops RAV4 price tag to boost dwindling sales for 2001

By Mark Maynard Copley News Service

Toyota lowered the price on its redesigned 2001 RAV4 Sport-utility vehicle after sales of the current model tumbled 31 percent this year, according to Bloomberg News Service.

Toyoto reduced the average price of the RAV4 by \$678, or 3.7 percent. The suggested price ranges from \$16,215 for the two-wheel-drive, five-speed model to \$18,665 for the four-wheel-drive automatic.

U.S. sales of the RAV4 in the first nine months of the year fell to 31,698, down from 45,990 in the year-earlier period. Toyota, the fourth-largest automaker in the United States, sold 1.23 million vehicles in the first nine months, outpacing General Motors, Ford and DaimlerChrysler.

Toyota says its Tacoma Double Cab pickup truck will start at \$17,855 for the four-cylinder model, and cost as much as \$21,865 for the V-6.

Sales elsewhere in the lineup are running at a record pace, and the company has raised prices on the 2001 Camry and Avalon sedans, Land Cruiser and 4Runner sport-utilities, the Tacoma pickup, subcompact Echo, Celica coupe and MR2 Spyder roadster.

Carport protection

Car covers are a good idea to protect paint and glass, but a hassle to put on and take off.

As a mechanical engineer and inventor, John McCann of La Mesa, Calif., has designed an alternative type of car cover that he says is just "half a hassle to put on and take off."

His CarporT is basically a car cover without sides, and it's handy for the parking lot at work or overnight.

"Just for day use, you don't need the sides," McCann says. Sun damage and airborne gunk from trees, factories and birds affect primarily the flat surfaces of a car or truck — hood, roof and trunk.

The cover is held in place by shock cords with plastic hooks that secure at each corner of the bumpers. A flexible spar in each end helps tension the cover and contour it to the sides of the vehicle so the cover won't slip and slide in the wind.

CarporT is made of lightweight, breathable, marine-grade SunBloc—acrylic/polyester—fabric that comes in 13 colors and carries a four-year-

warranty.
"It's not for everybody," McCann

says, "but it is a lot easier to use for those who do care about protecting the finish of their cars."

Prices, which include an anti-theft tether, start at about \$100 for small vehicles and rund as much as \$190 for something the size of a Ford Excursion.

For information or ordering, call (619) 660-8321 or visit McCann's web site at www.carportcarcover.com.

No. 1 Z06 Corvette

The National Corvette Museum has just bought the first Z06 Corvette — Vehicle Identification No. 00001 — to come off the Bowling Green production line and put it up for auction.

The fixed-roof coupe is torch red with a black-and-red interior and comes with a 385-horsepower V-8 and six-speed manual transmission.

Prospective buyers can bid in person by calling (800) 53-VETTE. The winner will also receive a private museum tour and detailed introduction to the car.

The National Corvette Museum in Bowling Grenn, Ken., is a non-profit foundation dedicated to educating the public through the preservation of the Corvette's past, present and future.

For details on the Z06 auction, contact Andy Roderick at (800) 53-VETTE.

Auto excellence

The automotive program at Ramona, Calif., High School was selected as the No. 1 high school auto program in the nation in the 17th annual Automotive Awards of Excellence Competition. The competition was sponsored by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence and the Industry Planning Council.

The high school will receive a \$10,000 Automotive Service Excellence scholarship grant and a \$10,000 ADE certificate to purchase Snap-on Tools.

"For a comprehensive high school to win is very significant," says Mike Jordan, automotive instructor and chairman of the department at Ramona High. "All the other high schools were vocational schools."

Jordan says the competition has categories for high schools and colleges, and the judging is based on a huge portfolio of information, including students' success, instructors' credentials of programs.

Readers write electric vehicles

With the recent upholding of CARB's mandate of ZEVs in California, are there any rebates, tax incen-

tives or other enticements to push Joe Consumer—me—into trading in his gasoline-powered vehicle on an electric Ranger or a ElectriRAV?

I am at the point of trading in our '94 Ford Explorer, and could easily be swayed from that snazzy Chrysler PT Cruiser I am salivating over into a Volt-Mobile if the "what's in it for me" ratio were enough to overcome perceived ZEV shortcomings — i.e., cost, range, cost of new batteries in three years, etc.

So, what's in it for me?

- Stan Teliczan, San Diego

MM: What's in it for you? Not much in the way of tax credits or incentives to get you into an electric vehicle, except for that warm fuzzy feeling you get for driving without emitting exhaust pollutants.

There isn't even much in the way of factory-built EVs for sale.

At this time, only the Ranger EV is sold, or leased. It runs \$599 a month for a three-year lease and uses leadacid batteries. You'll also need to budget a charger and the wiring to our garage. Because you return the vehicle after three years, there is no worry about battery life.

The GM EV1 is currently out of production, but some "reconditioned" Generation 1 vehicles will go back on the market some time in the first quarter of next year.

There have been two batches of EV1s built, the first generation used lead-acid batteries and those cars were recalled last year for a problem with fires and the charging system. There are being repaired and will go back to the dealerships for resale.

Pricing hasn't been decided on these used EVs, but they will cost less to lease then a new one.

The Gen 1 EV1 — with lead-acid batteries — was \$399 a month to lease. There were two versions of the second-generation cars. Gen 2 cars with an advanced lead-acid battery leased for \$424 a month and the model with a nickel metal hydride battery was \$499 a month. These prices don't include the cost of a 220-volt charger or the wiring for your garage.

The prices do include all state and federal incentives.

It's not likely GM will produce a

It's not likely GM will produce a third generation of EV1s.

"There is no indication that there is a sustainable demand for these vehicles," a company spokesman said. "Because the state is forcing manufacturers to build them doesn't mean there is a demand for them."

Battery-powered cars are costly to develop and build. Each is sold far below its actual cost, even at a \$500 lease rate.

Manufacturers feel that the mandate for more zero-emission vehicles is a wash or it could even make the air dirtier.

All the cost to develop and sell battery-powered cars will be passed on to the consumer in the form of higher sticker prices on gasoline-powered cars and trucks in California.

As new car prices go up, the rate of turnover for old, polluting cars will be longer. "People on the bottom end will be priced out of the new-car market and keep their old, high-polluting cars," he said.

Some manufacturers have said, off the record, that if the state wants to mandate a law for zero-emission vehicles, it should also pass a law that every second car in a household must be an EV. Then there would be a market.

More practical and much less expensive are the hybrid-electric vehicles, of which there are two: the 5-passenger Toyota Prius and the two-passenger Honda Insight, both costing in the low \$20,000s. Both are Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicles with high mileage, averageing 50—or more — mpg city/highway.

Even the new Honda Civic is certified as an Ultra Low Emission vehicle—one rating below SULEV—and there is the high-mileage HX model that costs \$14,000 and has mileage ratings of 36/44 city/highway with the five-speed manual transmission and 35/40 with the automatic CVT, continuouosly variable transmission.

Tools 24/7

Snap-on Tools has opened shop for consumers at its new web site www.snap-on.com.

Do-it-yourselfers, holiday shoppers and the toolmen among us can purchase Snap-on Tools online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The only way to purchase tools prior to the launch of this site was to have a special tool dealer come to your residence or place of business.

The online catalog holds more than 14,000 products.

Civic prices

Honda recently released prices for its redesigned 2001 Civic.

Sticker shock is modest, about \$60 to \$80 on average between the sedans and coupes, but the EX coupe took the biggest hit with a jump of \$376, mostly due to added equipment such as anti-lock brakes.

All prices include the \$440 destination charge; add \$800 for a four-speed automatic transmission. Side air bags are a \$250 option available on all models and feature a front passenger seat cutoff system that will prevent the bag from deploying if a child or small adult is out of position or leaning into the path of a deploying bag.

The 1.7-liter, four-cylinder engine, used with all Civics, gets an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle rating.

The base DX sedan starts at \$13,400 and comes with the 115-horsepower engine, power steering, adjustable steering column and AM-FM stereo.

The LX sedan, the sedan sales leader, has a base price of \$15,450. Standard equipment includes air conditioning, power windows, power door locks, cruise control and adds a cassette player to the stereo.

The top-of-the-line EX starts at \$16,850 and comes with a 127-horse-power VTEC version of the 1.7-liter engine, a moon roof, CD player, keyless entry system and 15-inch wheels and tires.

The Civic DX Coupe starts at \$13,200; the LX, a new addition for 2001, is \$15,250. The high-mileage ratings of 36/44 city/highway with the five-speed manual transmission and 35/40 withe the automatic CVT, continuously variable transmission.

The Civic GX — not priced yet — is powered by natural gas and uses the CVT transmission.

\$10 Corvette

Here's a chance to get a Magnetic Red 2001 Corvette roadster for 10 bucks.

The National Corvette Museum is holding its annual raffle at www.corvettemuseum.com, which brought in \$262,000 last year for the museum.

The winner will be announced Sept. 2, 2001, and must be at least 18 years old and able to pay all taxes, fees, etc. You need not be present to

win.

Enter early and often.

Road trip

If you and a companion are up for a nine-day road trip through the Southwest in a Mercedes ML430, take a sidetrip to the CarsDirect.com web site.

Its Southwest Dream Journey is a luxury-class sweepstakes.

The winner will motor the route in all-wheel drive control in the V-8 powered Mercedes-Benz ML 430, making overnight stops at The Fetchin Inn in Taos; La Fonda de Sante Fe in Sante Fe; Maswick Lodge at the Grand Canyon; and L'Auberge de Sedona in Sedona.

CarsDirect handles transportation to New Mexico by including roundtrip air fare for two from any major airport in the U.S., with a return flight from Phoenix.

And while you're exploring the Southwest, you also have a pair of two Cannondale F-Series mountain bikes, two Northface jackets and day packs, two pairs of Northface hiking boots, a Yakima bike race and a digital camera for the winner.

Enter the sweepstakes — before Nov. 30 — at www.carsdirect.com and click on "Southwest Dream Journey." Entrants must be a U.S. licensed driver, 25 years old and older. The winner chosen by random drawing, will be announced in December. In addition, a "Winners Travelogue" will be posted on the CarsDirect.com site.

Mark Maynard is automotible editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune. Contact him at mark.maynardatuniontrib.com.

Editorial deadlines

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

Entertainment - Friday noon.

Sports - Monday noon.

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

General - Monday 5 p.m.





Audi hits an SUV homerun with its 2001

By Jerry Garrett Copley New Service

The new Audi allroad plowed along the rutted, rocky trail. It went up one hill and down another. We got the point: The allroad could competently handle this carefully chosen dirt road.

"We ought to take it up there," said my co-driver, pointing to a sharp embarkment, with a crest at the top.

Wrong thing to tell me. I gunned the allroad toward a 10-foot-high wall of mud and rocks. Before he could finish screaming, "I was just kidding," we were on top of the berm.

We looked back at a carload of Audi execs and engineers, sitting there below us, open-mouthed.

"C'mon up!" I yelled to Audi VP Len Hunt.

"No!" he said, shaking his head. "All I need to do is get stuck, and the photographers would have a field day.

You proved the point." We had. The allroad had chugged resolutely up the face of the embankment and nosed diagonally up over the top. As one, two and finally three wheels lost anything to grab for traction, the quattro system transferred traction seamlessy to the last wheel still digging in.

We never downshifted the automatic transmission; it soldiered on until we landed again on all fours. A lowerrange first gear - available on the allroad in Europe - might have helped. but otherwise we were satisfied.

The allroad had conquered the nastiest piece of terrain we would have tackled - not only in the allroad, but in any stock SUV or crossover

People probably will get tired of hearing automotive writers writing this, but Audi has hit another home run with the allroad - yes, that's a small "a," like the "q" in quattro.

Hard to believe that as recently as 1994, Audi was fouling pitches into its own dugout with each new model. Now, it seems, everything Audi birngs to the plate, knocks the ball out of the park.

There's not a clinker in the whole Audi lineup, from the TT to the A8.

With the allroad, Audi moves into a new segment, in search of buyers and ever-larger sales numbers. And even though Audi expects to sell only 10,000 or so allroads this year, the little boost in sales expected after its mid-November debut was projected to push Audi to a record \$80,000 units sold in 2000.

Audi also hopes at least a third of its 300 U.S. dealers now have enough models to offer, to allow them to move into Audi-only show-rooms and away from Volkswagen-Porsche-Audi outlets.

Audi is the latest European automaker to reluctantly concede it needs some sort of SUV-type thing in its lineup - without completely surrending its culturally based revulsion to this seminally American genre.

The result?

"Oh no, not another \$40,000 station wagon!" moaned our editor when he

saw the first photos of the allroad. Yes, at the heart of the allroad is an A6 Avant wagon. But there is a lot more to the allroad than that.

To help justify an \$8,000 bump from the price of an Avant - Audi speak for wagon — the allroad is packed with content: a twin-turbo, 250 horsepower 2.7-liter V-6, the quattro all-wheel drive system, beefed-up underpinnings, and a height-adjustable pneumatic suspension.

Even with pricing in the low- to mid-\$40,000s, the allroad might offer the best-bang-for-Euro in Audi's

The ingenious suspension alone is worth the price of admission.

The system enables the allroad, when on the highway, to enjoy the stability, low center of gravity and safety of a car. Off-road, it will pump you up to SUV-like ground clearance, ride height and suspension travel. But the allroad is not a car/SUV hybrid; it's an "either/or" vehicle.

The allroad's suspension can be raised and lowered by as much as 2.6 inches. At the lowest of its four selectable levels, the suspension is 5.6 inches off the tarmac — for highspeed highway high jinks.

At Level 2, it moves up an inch for negotiating potholes, curbs and speed bumps. Level 3 cranks the car up another inch for construction zones, lawns and flower beds.

At Level 4, the ground clearance adjusts to 8.2 inches, for the Baja 1000, big game safaris or mapping expeditions for National Geographic.

That's more ground clearance than boasted by at least half the 44 base model SUVs now on the market. And the allroad also ups the ante with eight

A lower-range first gear might allow the allroad to tackle even scarier off-roading than we put it through but that's a job better left for professionals.

And almost untouchable among SUVs or hybrids is the allroad's 7.3-second 0-60 time, which drops to a quick 6.8 with the manual.

The standard 6-speed tranny, which is on every auto writer's wish list, will probably stay in fewer than 1,000 of the 2001-allroads to be produced. Too

While the optional 5-speed Tiptronic automatic is completely adequate, the 6-speed wrings the absolute last measure of capability from the allroad package. A tip of the Tiptronic to Audi for even offering it.

For off-roading, the automatic does all right uphill, but tends to select one or two gears higher than needed for downhill. That's one time the manualshift feature of the Tiptronic might come in handy.

Otherwise, the refined quattro allwheel drive system maintains control with a minimum of anixety, on all surfaces. Cornering and direction stability are first-class on pavement; traction and torque are judiciously meted out

A new stability system called ESP - for electronic stabilization program - works with the traction control called EDL — electronic differential

Drive system: All-wheel

optional)

Horsepower: 250 at 5,800 rpm

Fuel capacity: 18.5 gallons

Length: 189.4 inches

Wheelbase: 108.5 inches

Curb weight: 4,167 pounds

Body style: 5-passenger station wagon

Torque: 258 foot-pounds at 1,850 rpm

Cargo space: 36.4 to 73.2 cubic feet

lock - and four-pad ABS disc brakes to automatically correct oversteer or understeer.

Traction is further aided by the development of allroad-specific 17-inch tires with a special tread

The rear suspension, with triangulated upper and lower wishbones, is stabilized by two control arms rigidly mounted to the subframe. Up front, the four-link system is bolted to the body with vibration-damping rubberto-metal bushings. Expect virtually no torque-steer.

The pnuematic suspension is also 'self-levening, as it cycles thorugh its four settings automatically - or manually — for driving needs as diverse as full passenger loads, trailblazing or trailer towing, as much as 3,300

At its lowest setting, the allroad slips through the air with quiet, sedanlike aerodynamics, sipping about one gallon of premium petrol for every 21 highway miles driven. At is highest setting, the allroad bounds along offroad - limited to 22 mph - more nimbly than a BMW X5. In fact, the allroad bests the X5 in ground clearance, center of gravity, turning radius, acceleration, fuel economy and handling - not to mention price.

The similar-priced Volvo Cross Country can't match the allroad's ver-

2001 Audi allroad quattro

Transmission: 6-speed manual (5-speed automatic with Tiptronic

Accelaration: 0 to 60 mph, 7.3 seconds; 6.8 (manual transmission)

Dimensions

Features

Standard equipment includes: Power windows/locks/seats, cruise con-

Safety: Dual power front air bags, front side air bags, curtain air bags,

Engine size and type: 2.7-liter, 30-valve, bi-turbo V-6

EPA fuel economy estimates: 16 mpg city, 21 highway

Front head/leg/shoulder room: 37.5/41.3/58.6 inches

Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 38.4/37.3/56.9 inches

trol, alarm, intermittent wipers and air conditoning.

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satility: neither can the less expensive Subaru Outback.

Safety

The allroad's safety features, where Volvo tries to set the standard, are also unsurpassed: Bolstering strong crash test ratings are dual-stage front air bags, supplemented by side impact and side curtain air bags with special A-pillar protection.

Three-point seat belts feature height adjusters, load limiters, pretensioners and automatic retractors. Child safety seat locations are tetheranchor ready.

Fully adjustable leather seats provide adequate support for the allroad's diverse driving needs. All five seating positions have adjustable head restraints. Four full-size adults and one starving supermodel can manage comfortably.

A rear-facing third seat is available for two children or vertically challenged adults. Maximum cargo area, with rear seats folded, is an ample 73 cubic feet.

and rear fog lights, heated outside mirrors, headlight, washers and jests, a first-aid kit, door reflectors and a warning triangle. Outdoorsy types wil appreciate the

Other noteworthy features: front

heavy-duty roof rack, rear-seat ski pass-through and protective sack, onboard air compressor, cargo nets and auxiliary power jacks.

The allroad's interior is typically Audi, which is to say, gorgeous design, detail function and quality. This includes a symphonic sound system with CD, twin-zone HVAC system, full instrumentation, and power ya da, ya da. Brushed aluminum and light walnut trim provide elegant touches.

Color choices, however, border on the boring — as do the exterior paint schemes: Dull and Duller, otherwise known as dark green and dark gray. Eventually, Audi plans on adding black, silver and beige.

Other nitpicks include flimsylooking aluminum skid plates and exterior trim, handsome but hard-toclean optional wheels, relatively long front and rear overhangs for an offroader, low-speed turbo and tranny lag, and an uninflated but full-size spare tire. Time will tell how well the black, plastic lower body cladding resists abuse.

But if your daily commute includes the challenges of an Autobahn, a poorly laid-out mall parking lot, a crater-pocked moonscape, and the Pikes Peak Hill Climb, this your vehicle.

Jerry Garnett is a free-lance auto writer based in San Diego and a contributing editor for Car and Driver magazine.

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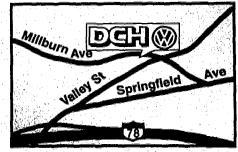
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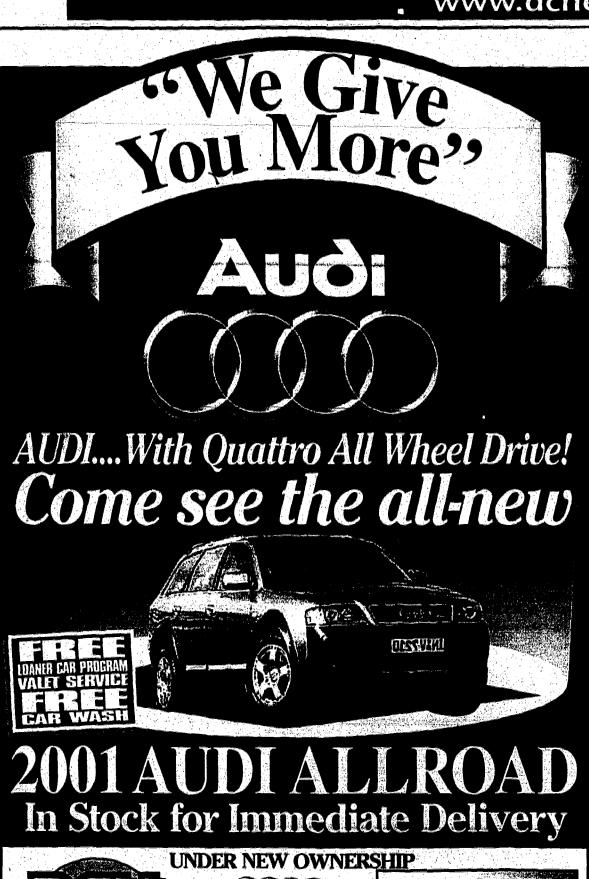


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