

Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountainside

SPRINGFIELD N.J., VOL. 75 NO. 18

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003

TWO SECTIO

Walton waits for Santa

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

As a week-long vacation highlights the holiday season at the end of each December for school children everywhere, students at Edward V. Walton Elementary School in Springfield talked about what else they'd be looking forward to during this festive time of year.

"People are coming to visit from Italy," said Vittoria Iellimo, who smiled as though she couldn't wait to see her family.

"I'm going on a ski trip," said Andrew Bernstein, who looks forward to taking advantage of the early snowfall and cold weather.

Others, however, hope to use the vacation to leave that same weather, vacationing south.

"I'm going to Florida and Disney World," said Dylan Judit, who was then echoed by classmate Jordan Rudolph, who also plans to travel to Orlando.

Some students were excited to simply see their family and spend the holiday with their relatives.

"I'm going to my grandma's house to celebrate Christmas," said Kylie Francis.

Namitha Mathew is expecting an early surprise this Christmas, saying that her cousins will be giving her presents before the big day comes this year.

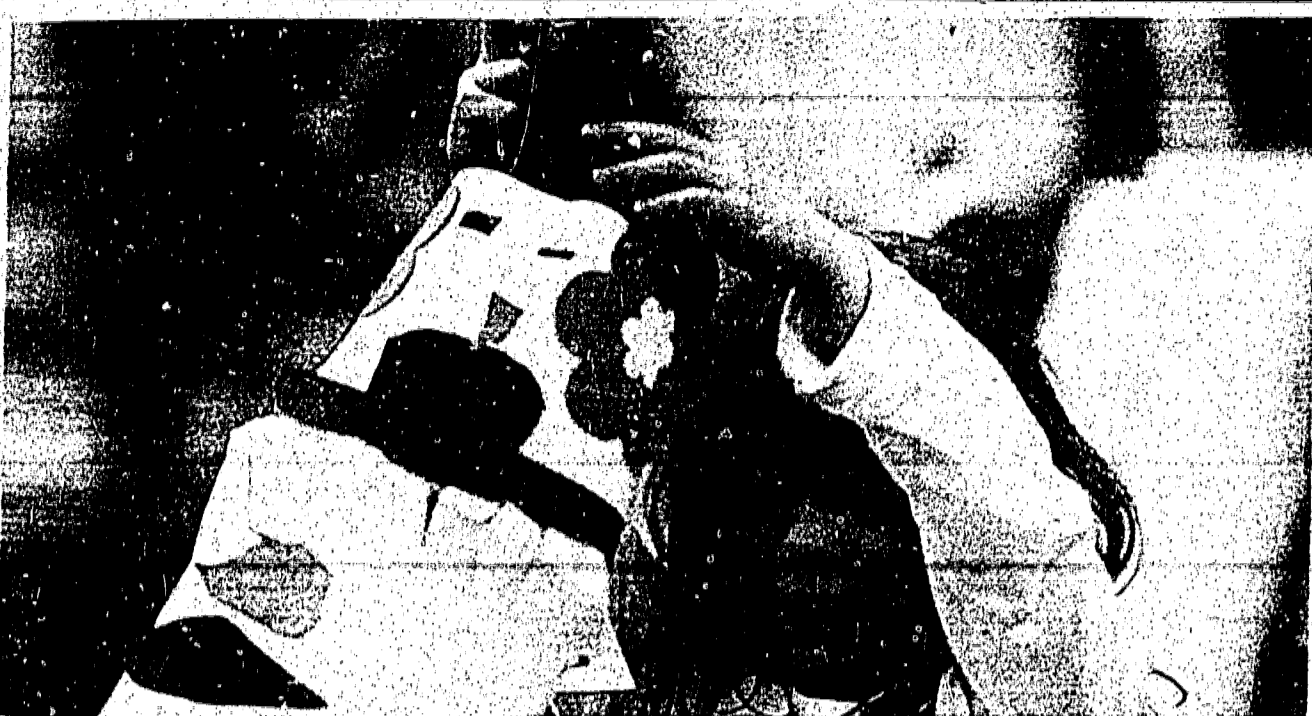


Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Kylie Francis shows off her finished snowman wind sock she learned to make in the kindergarten class of Allison Placca at the Edward V. Walton Elementary School in Springfield. The children are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa Claus on Christmas Eve.

Of course, there is no holiday season to most children without the presents, and these 5- and 6-year-olds were no different.

Along with the ski trip, Andrew looks forward to getting a television for Hanukkah.

"I got the new Hess truck," said Ben Henschuber, proving that traditional toys have retained popularity during the holidays.

While Drew Meyerhardt and Max Strauss reiterated the appreciation of the same gift, Jordan added that he got a New York Yankees watch already.

As usual, what would be a

kindergartner's holiday without getting the most well-known action figures available?

"I'm getting a Power Ranger doll," said Nick Anagnos.

Riley McGregor, however, was looking forward to appreciating the art of classic theater.

"I'm getting 'Annie' the movie," she said with a smile.

For those who haven't begun to celebrate Hanukkah and are awaiting Christmas, sitting on Santa's lap seemed to be a big concern.

When one student said he still had to go visit Santa and tell him what he wanted, several students

were quick to say that they've already sat on his lap and told him what they think they deserve for the holiday.

Whether it's spending time with family, receiving gifts, or taking time off from school, the children in Allison Placca's class seemed filled with the holiday spirit.

As they finished talking about the holidays, the children simultaneously completed their paper snowmen, just one of a few fun things school children get to find satisfaction in during this time of the year.

Center enters the planning stages

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

When it was brought up 10 years ago and politicized with what current Mayor Robert Vighanti calls exaggerations and lies, a community center seemed to at least become a topic that should be addressed in the near future.

A decade later, Borough Engineer Mike Disko has been appointed by the Borough Council to begin an engineering study that will include a topographic map and an outline of where wetlands on the potential property are located.

The center, which will be built on the Barn's Tract between the 7-11 and the community pool on Mountain Avenue, will feature a full-size gymnasium, craft rooms, a physical fitness room and a Police Athletic League office, along with other areas that are still being discussed.

According to Vighanti, the center will also be home to the Recreation Department and will coordinate senior citizen events.

While the mayor said the study will take a minimum of six months, he hopes construction can start by the summer.

"Realistically," said Vighanti, regarding the completion of the building, "I've been told three years."

The borough received \$10,000 from a Community Development Block Grant fund that will be used toward the project, including \$4,000 to \$5,000 for the preliminary study being conducted by Disko.

According to Vighanti, this is just one of many funds that the borough hopes to apply for and receive to help pay the costs of the massive project, which Vighanti estimated to be between \$3 million and \$5 million.

"We'll look for additional funding on the state and federal level, too," he said. "I also plan on looking for private contributions and donations."

According to Vighanti, the funding will be raised by committees, as this is a huge part of the process.

"This is a major task force that I'll put together," he said.

Vighanti added that there were no other places within the borough that were considered for building upon, as the borough owns the land the center will be located at, and with such size, everything can be done attractively and will "blend with the neighborhood."

Vighanti said that 10 years ago, exaggerations about the cost of such a project led to a referendum being rejected.

"The town is changing tremendously," said Vighanti. "There's a need for recreation programs more than ever."

For now, however, the center is just a vision that can be looked forward to in the future as a centerpiece of the borough, allowing people access to the tennis courts, ice rink, Borough Hall, and playing fields.

"It's still in the genesis stages," said Vighanti, adding that the borough hasn't even interviewed architects yet.

County moves forward with plans to create new trail at quarry

By Joshua Zalt
Staff Writer

Union County is moving ahead with plans to create a new trail system in the Houdaille Quarry in Springfield that might be completed by 2007.

The Springfield Environmental Commission has been advocating for the trail for the past seven years.

"We feel it's interesting because it's a piece of land that was very altered that is in the process of going back to nature," said Eleanor Gural, a former member of the Springfield Environmental Commission who had served for 10 years.

Basalt — a hard, black volcanic rock — was once mined in the Houdaille Quarry and crushed to produce gravel for road construc-

tion and asphalt. The mining dramatically altered the quarry's appearance.

The quarry's land has been regenerating through natural succession, Union County Environmental Specialist Betty Ann Kelly said.

For the past six years, the Springfield Environmental Commission has conducted annual tours in the quarry. The success of those tours has prompted the county to create the new trail.

"When we had these tours, everybody was so enthusiastic and would ask when the next one was," said Gural.

The county is applying for a \$25,000 Federal Recreation Trails Program grant, administered by the state's Division of Parks and Forestry. The county would match the grant

with \$5,000 for labor, equipment and technical assistance.

The funds would provide for the installation of steps along a steep section of the trail, trees and shrubs to screen nearby Route 78, foot bridges, signage and trail blazes, trail maps, fencing and educational kiosks with information on the natural history of the area.

The quarry, which would be entered from Mount View Road, would most likely be open from dawn to dusk, with a locked gate when closed.

While walking the trail, visitors will be introduced to the leaf composting operation there, which is currently run by a private concessionaire. The county leases some of the property from the state's Department of Transportation, which used the land when Route 78

was constructed.

Visitors to the site will also have the opportunity to learn about past land use practices and the natural succession and reclamation of a disturbed area.

"We're going to tell them about past land uses and the quarry process," said Kelly.

Several safety issues have to be dealt with before the trail can be completed. High cliffs and old quarry equipment are the main obstacles in the trail's way.

"The safety issue is real because there is a very steep cliff," said Gural.

The county anticipates beginning work on the trail in the spring.

Even if the grant is not obtained, the county plans on going ahead with plans for the trail, Kelly said.

For more than two years, Councilmember Sy Mullman has proposed putting windmills in the quarry, which, he projects, would generate enough electricity for Springfield as well as neighboring municipalities.

"They could put the track around the windmills so it wouldn't affect it at all," said Mullman.

Gural said the Springfield Environmental Commission does not have a formal stance on the windmills. However, the commission is in favor of anything that saves energy, she added.

Mullman said the trail would be good for open space and recreation.

"It's a wonderful thing," said Mullman. "It's about time the county did something constructive."

Detainee's father sets up fund

By Rick Klittich
Staff Writer

When Springfield native Jimmy Yee was first arrested on suspicion of espionage in September, his lawyer was informed by a prosecutor that his client could face the worst — the death penalty.

Since then, however, it's become clear that while Yee is still considered to have possible links to terrorism, the charges and slow speed of the process have dulled the explosiveness of the issue when it was first reported.

A preliminary hearing held earlier in the month was halted when military prosecutors were unable to produce key evidence, due to the fact that intelligence officials had not determined whether the documents Yee was caught carrying were actually classified.

If convicted on all six charges, which include adultery to wrongly transporting classified documents, Yee would face up to 13 years of detention.

At the hearing, Navy Lt. Karyn Wallace, the leading witness of the prosecution, testified that she and Yee had had an affair that lasted for two months.

While the hearing has now been postponed until Jan. 19, Yee will try to enjoy the holidays, spending time with his family out west in Washington.

Yee's father, Joseph Yee, said that he spoke with his son by phone last Thursday morning.

"He's on the West Coast on leave right now," Yee said. "He was released before Thanksgiving and assigned to Fort Benning in Georgia. I don't think he has many duties, though, because the charges are still pending."

The confusion surrounding the case now lies in why the military

'We're hopeful. We're thinking positive.'

— Joseph Yee

would launch a hearing without knowing beforehand whether or not the evidence could be admitted.

Questions remain regarding how Yee could've been held for more than two months in a South Carolina brig when the papers he was caught carrying were not reviewed yet to determine their importance, including whether or not they compromise security.

Joseph Yee expressed frustration regarding the fact that the military has not been prepared for the case to progress at a regular pace.

Prior to the trial's beginning, Yee and his lawyer had sent a letter to the president in which he spoke about the way he was being treated and the slow pace at which things were moving along.

"We don't get into much discussion about the case," said Joseph Yee about his phone conversations with his son. "We don't know what the military is looking at."

Joseph Yee, whose son was a former wrestling star at Jonathan Dayton Regional High School in Springfield, did note that coverage of the case has changed.

"We're hopeful," Yee said, regarding the resolution of the case. "We're thinking positive," said Yee, who added that the media's coverage of his son's misfortune has changed in a positive way, or at least much better than when things began.

Jimmy Yee's former pastor, the

Rev. Remo Madsen of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Springfield, felt that the holiday season is important for not only Yee, but everyone.

"Everyone needs to be able to come home for Christmas, regardless of the circumstances," said Madsen. "If at all possible, families need to be together and nurture each other. Our hearts go out to all people who aren't in that circumstance," he continued, adding that the church also participates in the "Angel Tree" program, which extends help and comfort to children of prisoners.

"We look forward to him, his friends, family and church, being able to come to a clearer place," Madsen said of Yee. "We're thankful that he's been out of confinement and can deal with the charges at a much better place to operate from. It's emotionally better for his wife, child, and parents."

When asked when he could see the proceedings bringing a resolution to the situation, Yee only said, "I'd like it to be tomorrow."

For now, the delay in the proceedings will allow officials to conduct a "classification review," which is a process that determines the label of documents, including whether they are secret, top secret, or allowed to be made public.

Until the time comes for that evidence to be used and for the case to reach a point of significant progress, Joseph Yee has set up a fund to help pay for the defense of his son.

"The way things are going," he said, "we don't know what it'll cost. It's really dragging out."

Contributions can be sent to Chaplain James Yee Defense Fund, P.O. Box 1226, Springfield, 07081-5226.

At your command



Photo By Reena Rose Sibayan

Marc Marshall, commander of Emergency Management for Springfield, stands by the new mobile command post vehicle, which was unveiled at Fire Headquarters last week. The vehicle is designed to support multi-agency emergency operations within Springfield, providing secure facilities for on-site incident command.

Offices closed for upcoming holidays

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Thursday and Friday in observance of Christmas. We will reopen Monday.

We also will be closed Jan. 1, 2004, for New Year's Day, and reopen on Friday, Jan. 2, 2004.

This newspaper will be published one day early next week, on Wednesday, Dec. 31. Our normal deadlines and schedule will return for the Jan. 8, 2004 edition.

The deadlines for the Dec. 31 edition are as follows:

• Legal advertising — Monday, 10 a.m.

• Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Today, noon.

• Letters to the editor — Today, 9 a.m.

• What's Going On — Today, 4 p.m.

• Display ads — Today, 5 p.m. for Section A and noon for Section B.

• Sports news — Today, 9 a.m.

• General news — Today, 5 p.m.

• Classified advertising — Monday, 3 p.m.

We wish all of our readers and advertisers happy holidays.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Mountain Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company.

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system to better serve our customers.

The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$260.00.

Missing newspaper: If your Leader did not get delivered please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

Back issues: To purchase back issues of the Echo Leader please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation.

News items: News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication the following week.

Story reprints: For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Cavanaugh at 908-686-7700.

Letters to the Editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor.

Facsimile transmission: The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax.

Public notices: Public notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers.

Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Mountain Community Newspapers, Inc.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings.

Friday: The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Out of This World Travel Video Series with "Great Festivals" at noon.

Monday: Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., sponsors the Mother Goose Group, from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. with nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs, and activities for toddlers ages 1 1/2 to 3 years old.

Tuesday: Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Lunch Me Video Series, "Mark Iwan," at noon.

Wednesday: The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School on Mountain Avenue at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday: The Mountain Side Board of Education will convene in the media center at Deerfield School, 302 Central Ave. at 8 p.m.

Friday: The Springfield Board of Health will meet in the Annex Building, 20 N. Invelt Ave. at 6:30 p.m.

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School label collection continues

During the past 30 years, Campbell's Labels for Education program has delivered more than \$1 million in free merchandise to schools nationwide.

Under New Ownership Your Holiday Decorating Headquarters Table Centerpieces • Mantlepieces • Swags • Garland

We Grow Our Own Poinsettias Fresh Cut Trees ~ Wreaths ~ Grave Blankets BRING NEW LIFE TO YOUR HOME, SHOP OUR GREENHOUSE - OPEN ALL YEAR

Home for the Holidays Juniper Village at Chatham Juniper Village at Chatham is home for the Holidays, welcoming guests seeking temporary Assisted Living accommodations for overnight, weekend or longer stays.

Still no opening set for firehouse

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer: As the two-year anniversary of the new Springfield firehouse's contract for construction...

After missing three previous dates that were set and announced as openings of the new firehouse, Springfield officials have been careful to predict just what is happening as far as the building's progress is concerned.

When asked if he had any idea when the construction would commence and workers would move in, Township Administrator Rich Sheola said, "I have no idea. I'm not going to guess."

Sheola also refused to address the possibility of litigation, which would be due to the contractor, Silcon Inc., taking longer than expected, without being granted proper extensions.

On top of the past delays and problems, Steve Larena, the firehouse's project manager, resigned from Silcon Inc. on Dec. 31, leaving a void that was immediately filled by Peter Silvestra, who has been involved in the project previous to Larena's exit.

While Larena did note that his resignation was for reasons that didn't involve the firehouse, he also said that there was "very poor" communication between the architect and the owners of the firehouse.

N.J. Devils score with patients

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer: Three members from the Stanley Cup Champion New Jersey Devils hockey team decided to voluntarily spend some time in a hospital Dec. 8.

Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside, the nation's largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital, welcomed the likes of Devils players Jeff Ensen, Turner Stevenson and Colin White to their in-patient unit, hoping to bring smiles to about 100 children who, for the most part, call the hospital "home."

The New Jersey Devils, who were in Ottawa on Dec. 7, but didn't play again until they were back home Dec. 10, showed up at the hospital around luncheon and passed out autographed jerseys, team calendars and magnets to kids from the hospital, siblings, and even parents that attended the highly anticipated event.

According to Fred Feiner, a spokesperson for Children's Specialized Hospital, Devils players have made visits to the hospital about one time each year during the past six years, including appearances by Bobby Holik, Scott Niedermayer, Brian Rafalski, Patrick Elias and goalkeeper Martin Brodeur.

"It was a great day for the kids," said Feiner. "It's something that they look forward to and they really have a ball seeing the celebrities, the guys they see on television and look up to."

The hospital provides specialized care for children with chronic illnesses, as well as evaluation and treatment for common childhood developmental concerns at 10 sites located around the state.

Children's cares for patients from birth to age 21, providing an array of medical, developmental, educational and rehabilitative services.

The hospital offers specialized centers concerning brain injuries, spinal cord dysfunction, educational rehabilitation technology, respiratory care and ambulatory services.

Amy B. Mansue, who has a long line of experience with disabled children and hospital work, and was named Children's President and CEO just a couple of months ago, felt that the event was a rewarding one for everyone involved.

"The Devils really made an impression on our patients," said Mansue. "Devils players have visited the hospital several times over the last few years and they provide patients with a

welcome diversion from their therapy sessions. Our patients truly admire the players and it makes the patients feel special to know the Devils are taking time out of their busy schedule to spend a few minutes with them."

Overall, it seemed as though this is one hospital visit the hockey players don't mind making, even in the middle of a long and tiring season.

Van serves senior needs: The Mountainside Senior van is providing transportation service Tuesdays and Thursdays for borough seniors ages 60 and older. It is available for trips to doctors, dentists, shopping, hairdresser appointments, and other destinations.

The van goes to Summit on Tuesdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Westfield, including the Greenwood Shopping Center on Thursdays between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. To make a reservation, call 908-232-2400, Ext. 5, weekdays mornings.

For free ad advice, call 908-686-7700.

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BOE hopes to counter reading, writing problems with program

By Rick Klittich Staff Writer: The Mountainside school district may counter reading and writing problems among first-graders next year by implementing the international "Reading Recovery" program, which has proven to be effective for almost a decade.

Originating in Australia and New Zealand, the Reading Recovery program helps young children who struggle with reading and writing by implementing one-on-one sessions into the ordinary school day.

Angela Cosimano, who is in her second year as the curriculum coordinator and supervisor of Mountainside schools, presented the possibilities of the program in front of the school board at its meeting last week, calling it a very "targeted" program.

"It's a very effective short-term intervention for helping low-achieving first-graders," said Cosimano.

Cosimano added that she surveyed Mountainside classes, speaking with teachers about the program, and concluded about 10-12 kids could probably benefit from the lessons.

According to Cosimano, teachers said that there were at least a few kids in each class that could use help with reading and writing.

The way the program works is unique in that it pulls children out of class for a 30-minute session each day with a trained Reading Recovery expert. When they achieve the level of their peers, the children are placed

back into the classroom setting with everyone else, making room for other students to enter the program.

The children would focus on a familiar story and eventually progress to writing a letter about another story, setting up a new beginning for the process to continue.

"They lack strategies to help with reading," said Cosimano. "Poor readers generally think everybody gets it the first time," she explained, adding that it's important to teach children that most children do, in fact, need to go back and re-read, sometimes.

The program originated in 1984 and calls for its instructors to be trained.

For Mountainside instructors, the training would come from the Bridge-water-Rantau district. The head training center goes through the Rutgers Graduate School of Education in New Brunswick.

According to Chief School Administrator Gerard Schaller, the program would start next year, and there still needs to be a decision made whether the district would pull in already trained Reading Recovery experts, or train their own from the school system.

Schaller explained that training consists of five to 10 intense days during the summer, and then one session each week during the entire school year.

By beginning the program early in the year, the children can be targeted and put back with their peers as soon

as possible, said Schaller, because the children shouldn't have the mindset that the program is permanent.

The costs for the program include \$400 for tuition to train teachers, \$650 per year for continuing education development, and \$125 for materials. The school board would provide funding.

Board member Mary Beth Schaumburg noted the importance of the program being implemented at such a young age, saying, "At some point, you're reading to learn instead of learning to read."

According to a presentation given by Cosimano, numbers concerning the effectiveness of the program have steadily risen since it began.

More than 85 percent of the children involved don't need remedial help again and continue to make progress in the classroom.

In fact, close to 60 percent of those who don't complete the entire program can read or write on at least an average level.

Another gain of the program is that those who are unsuccessful may be seen as candidates for longer-term programs, and Schaller noted that these could've been children who "slipped through the cracks" and were never found to have problems.

Catching the problems at an early age, he explained, is extremely important.

In 1984-1985, 110 children completed the program. In 2001-02, 149,018 students were successful.

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Theresa Craddock-Ponce and Hollie Karaban, science teachers at Florence M. Gaudinier School, will lead students on a simulated space mission. The teachers attended a one-day teacher workshop at the Buehler Challenger & Science Center in Paramus to prepare students for an upcoming field trip at the center.

Project takes class on space mission

Theresa Craddock-Ponce and Hollie Karaban, science teachers at Florence M. Gaudinier Middle School in Springfield, will lead a project of students on a simulated space mission.

The teachers attended a one-day teacher workshop at the Buehler Challenger & Science Center in Paramus to prepare students for an upcoming field trip at the center.

The Buehler Challenger & Science Center offers students the next best thing to actual space flight with two flight simulators, a mission control room designed after NASA Johnson Space Center and a space station laboratory.

In this environment, students work in teams using principles of science, mathematics and technology to complete their tasks.

Students will become scientists and engineers as they explore one of three different missions: a "Return to the Moon," a "Voyage to Mars," or a " Rendezvous with Comet Halley."

The Challenger Center for Space and Science Education, founded in 1986 by the families of the seven Challenger 51-L astronauts, aims to carry on their mission of exploration, and education, while inspiring a new generation of children to pursue the fields of science and technology.

The Challenger Center, a nonprofit organization, is host to space camps, public tours, scout activities, holidays parties and more than 700 class field trips a year.

For information, call 201-262-0984 or visit www.bccc.org.

Medical career club helps students explore options

A new club for medical careers has started at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield and is gaining strength quickly.

At its first meeting, there were more than 50 attendees.

The club's major purpose is to explore and see first-hand the opportunities that arise in the medical community.

Heading up the MCC is JDHS teacher Irene Omrovic.

As a five-year biology teacher at the school, she has discovered that many students have a high interest in medical careers.

"Most members of the MCC are those likely to major in a field of medicine or who simply enjoy learning about life. However, for juniors and seniors, it is decision-making time for college, and for many students, it is a difficult task to choose a major. This club will allow them to determine their likes and dislikes out of the many branches of medicine.

One of the club's major goals is to raise funds for the Myelin Project. This charitable organization has raised millions of dollars for people who suffer from myelin diseases such as Adrenoleukodystrophy, or ALD.

Last year, the school raised more than \$1,000 in a short time for the Myelin Project. This year, participants are eager to surpass that total with a combination of car washes, lunch collections and company donations.

The majority of members' time together is split into two parts. Each alternating month the club will have either a guest speaker or an out-of-school field trip. The first field trip is to UMDNJ in Newark. There, the club will tour at least five departments of the center such as the medical school's gross anatomy lab, the morgue, Northstar heliocenter, clinical laboratories, and the ER. Another trip they are hoping to attend is to Liberty Science Center for their "Cardiac Classroom."

This special classroom is set up for a viewing of an open-heart surgery via closed-circuit television, enabling the students to directly converse with the physicians and nurses in real time.

Many other opportunities can arise from being a member of this club. The option is available, if a student wishes, to "shadow" a physician or nurse for a day.

These seven workshops are designed for children who have mild neurological, physical or social challenges that prohibit them from participating in similar community programs. The workshops will offer instruction and assistance making crafts such as mosaics, sponge painting, tie-dyeing, mask making, sculpture clay and bead and sand art.

This is an informal program where peers are encouraged to interact with each other while they are busy creating. Siblings are welcome. The registration fee is \$65. Class size is limited and the registration deadline is Jan. 5.

Library seeks donations: The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome would be magazines within a year's date and costume jewelry.

Library hours are: from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Hospital has rec. programs

The Recreation Department of Children's Specialized Hospital, 150 New Providence Road in Mountainside, offers community winter recreation programs designed to provide leisure opportunities for children with special needs.

To register for any of the following programs, call 908-233-3720, ext. 5273.

The following programs are offered this winter: Jan 16 - March 6, 2004 Adaptive Aquatics takes place Fridays, from 6:15 to 7 p.m., for ages 4-6.

Saturdays, from 2:30-3:15 p.m., for ages 4-6. Saturdays, from 3:30-4:15 p.m. for ages 7-9.

The Children's Specialized Hospital Physical Therapy Pool will also be offered.

This is a beginner instructional swim program for children with physical disabilities, and/or developmental disabilities. Parent participation in the pool will be encouraged.

The registration fee is \$75. Class size is limited, and the registration deadline is Jan. 4. Please note the class will not be offered Feb. 6 and 7.

Jan 6 - Feb 17, 2004 Martial Arts will be offered Tuesdays, from 5 to 6 p.m., for ages 5-8, and Tuesdays, from 6 to 7 p.m., for ages 9-13.

In auditorium A of the hospital, classes will be offered for children with ADHD, neurological impairments, and/or problems with balance, coordination and body awareness.

The class will provide instruction on basic martial arts techniques and listening skills. Coordination of movement, balance and thought are incorporated. Class size is limited and the registration deadline is Jan. 5. The registration fee is \$75.

Jan 6 - Feb 17, 2004 An Arts and Crafts Workshop will be offered Tuesdays, from 5 to 6 p.m., for ages 6-12.

Workshops will also be conducted in the teen recreation room of the hospital.

These seven workshops are designed for children who have mild neurological, physical or social challenges that prohibit them from participating in similar community programs. The workshops will offer instruction and assistance making crafts such as mosaics, sponge painting, tie-dyeing, mask making, sculpture clay and bead and sand art.

This is an informal program where peers are encouraged to interact with each other while they are busy creating. Siblings are welcome. The registration fee is \$65. Class size is limited and the registration deadline is Jan. 5.

Library seeks donations: The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels. Also welcome would be magazines within a year's date and costume jewelry.

Library hours are: from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday.

Brightening up Brighton Gardens



Webelos from Patriots Path Council in Mountainside, Pack 177, decorated the Brighton Gardens Senior home in Mountainside for the holidays. From left, Jonathan Schmedel, Peter Goggi, David Perasso, Nicholas Trimarco, Sean Hammer and David Jennings visited and talked with the seniors as part of their Parvolei Dei award for the Cub Scouts.

May all our good wishes to you snowball.



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RELIGION

Christian-minded social group forms

Wings, a new social group for ages 35-60, has formed in Springfield. The group's mission statement is to form a group of Christian-minded members who have found themselves recently separated, divorced or widowed and need nurturing, companionship and want to have some fun, too. These individuals will have a need for companionship with other singles, but are not ready to begin dating. They are in a transitional stage of regrouping and want to embrace life rather than hide from it, yet do not have the proper room. They may be new to the area or find that all of their friends are married or otherwise involved, so that they still feel as if they do not fit in. Call 973-921-0277 for a weekly schedule of events.

Their plans for fun will include going to the movies, the beach, flea markets, antique shows, dinner, Broadway shows, having yard sales together, fund-raising events and more. Their support and resource offerings will include needs for men and women in need of new clothing, a grooming shelter and even helping women to move to a new place.

Join others and learn how to take pleasure in grouping together and enjoying activities, supporting each other and networking resources while exploring one's new found wings.

Jewish Seniors sponsor lecture series on history

The Jewish Seniors of Springfield is sponsoring a fall/winter lecture series, "Topics in American History." The lecturer will be professor Eugene Leeber.

The lectures began at 1:30 p.m. with blood pressure screenings available 1 p.m. at Temple Shalom Synagogue, 2300 Springfield Ave., Springfield.

The lectures will be held Mon. days and the topics to be discussed are "American Business History," Jan. 5, "American Immigration History," Jan. 19, "American Labor History," Feb. 2, and "American Labor History," Feb. 16.

For information, call 973-379-5387 or go to the Web site, www.shateeq.org.



Sue Kalem of Springfield has been named 2003-04 Springfield Hadassah Woman of the Year. Kalem will be honored at The Venetian in Garfield on Jan. 25, along with other women from state Hadassah chapters.

Hadassah names Kalem next Woman of the Year

Sue Kalem of Springfield has been named 2003-04 Springfield Hadassah "Woman of the Year." Kalem will be honored at The Venetian in Garfield on Jan. 25, along with other women from state Hadassah chapters.

A longtime active member of Hadassah, Kalem initially joined the Midtown Hadassah after she and her husband, Dan, moved to Springfield in the 1950s from New York City. She switched to the Springfield chapter after it was formed.

Kalem was born in Kassel, Germany, and as a child, experienced the horrors of the Nazis. Her sister and brother were able to leave for England in 1939 prior to World War II, via the famous Kinder Transport, which rescued a number of German Jewish children.

Her mother and her maternal grandparents were subsequently able to follow. Her father had died in 1933 of a heart problem.

In 1940, Kalem, her siblings and her mother came by British convoy to Halifax, Canada, on the way to New York City. That was a further experience since she, her siblings and mother, and other German Jewish refugees were taken to a "sandy tract" and "confined" in a "sandy camp," as German citizens.

Kalem graduated from Mt. Sinai Hospital School of Nursing. It was there that she, as a nurse, met her husband-to-be, who was a patient of the hospital.

The Kalem's have three daughters. A fourth daughter, a teenager, unfortunately died of a cerebral aneurysm.

Kalem is a life member of Hadassah and her husband is an associate member.

First responder courses offered

The first responder classes are being offered at the Mountaineer Rescue Squad at Borough Hall, 1388 Route 22 East. You can give to your community by joining the Rescue Squad. If you are 16 years or older, you can be trained in classes instructed by squad members.

New classes will be starting in January. For information, call 908-234-6338 and leave a message.

EDUCATION

E.V. Walton School registration begins

Registration for children eligible for the 2004 AP pre-kindergarten program in the Springfield public schools, as well as for those children eligible for kindergarten in September 2004, who are not currently enrolled in the Walton School Early Childhood Center Pre-kindergarten program will be held on the following days according to the student's last name.

Jan. 15, A-E, 10 to 11 a.m. or 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 16, F-K, 10 to 11 a.m. or 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 20, L-Q, 10 to 11 a.m. or 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Jan. 21, R-Z, 10 to 11 a.m. or 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration will be at the Edward V. Walton School Early Childhood Center. Parents are requested to call the school at 973-376-1304, if necessary, to schedule an alternate registration session.

Lifesaving skills course schedule released

The Westfield Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross has announced their December courses in lifesaving skills.

An Adult CPR class will take place from 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Monday. Class participants learn how to deal with choking, breathing and cardiac emergencies in adults. This class also includes training in AED (automated external defibrillator) use.

Community First Aid and Safety which offers training in infant, child and adult CPR plus training in first aid will be offered from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. Participants who wish to only attend the CPR portion of this class may do so from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

A Child CPR class takes place from 9:15 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Jan. 2. This class covers breathing with emergency for children ages 1 to 8. For individuals who want both Infant and Child CPR, combination classes will be held in January and February.

CPR for the Professional Rescuer (infant, child, adult, two-person CPR and AED) will be held Jan. 2. Both classes will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This course is intended for individuals who have a duty to respond to emergencies, such as firefighters, emergency medical technicians and health-care professionals.

The chapter will also be offering these classes and more during the month of January and February. Call to receive a schedule.

All classes are held at the Westfield/Mountainside Chapter, 321 Elm Street in Westfield. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

To register or for information, call the Chapter at 908-232-7090 or email johntm1@aol.com.

Senior service project planned for Dayton High

A senior service project is being proposed at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield.

The purpose is to have students self-initiate a senior project that offers them an opportunity to conclude their high school educational experience and requirements by providing service to the Springfield district and community. The program is a privilege, not a right and must be approved by the school.

The program would begin in May, at the conclusion of Advance Place-

EDUCATION

Sudomoin completes training

Cadet Daniel Sudomoin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joel Schwartz of Springfield, successfully completed six weeks of comprehensive new cadet training at Valley Forge Military Academy and College in Wayne, Pa. The new cadet was member of C Company.

School President RADM Peter A.C. Long U.S. Navy Retired, personally recognized Cadet Sudomoin for his achievement.

Cadet Sudomoin joined nearly 100 other new cadets who swore to uphold the Cadet Regiment during a Recognition Day ceremony conducted Oct. 4 on campus.

At the ceremony, he was recognized as a full-fledged cadet and was awarded his cap shield. The day is one of the proudest moments for a young cadet, acknowledging that he has successfully learned to place the concept of duty above his own personal desires.

'Good Neighbor Award' nominations sought

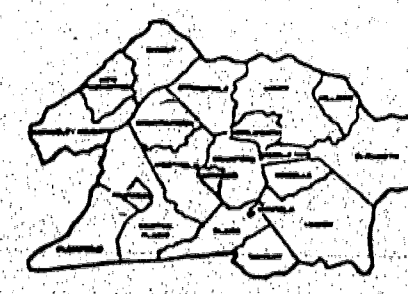
Nominations are being accepted for the annual Mountainside Good Neighbor Award. The award, given in honor of Mabel Young, was established in 1982 and is given annually to a deserving individual.

Young was a third grade teacher and an active member of the Community Presbyterian Church. She was a contributing member of the Women's Club, the United Way, the PTA, the Senior Citizens Club, the AAUW, Meals on Wheels, the Mountainside Music Association and many other organizations. In her spare time, she served as a library volunteer.

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Union County

- News
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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2003 - SECTION B

<http://www.localsource.com>

Holidays & humbugs

Such a big list, let's get started.

- Happy holidays to Anthony and Cathy Boccabella of Summit. Their advocacy on behalf of the New Jersey State Opera alone should guarantee them a place in heaven.
- Humburg to the Union County Democrats. Their overwhelming wins at the ballot box means there can be no Oake Award for politicians adept at playing on both sides of the political fence. There are the usual suspects, but with no deceit, what the heck, honey, dear, aren't we all Democrats.

Left Out

Happy holidays to Edward Tisk Jr., Elizabeth's acting fire chief, who followed in his father's footsteps, competent firefighter, good husband, nice guy.

Humburg to tough guy County Engineer Jeffrey Sias. After being hired on the full-time county engineer earlier this year, he saw no conflict in still staying on moonlighting on Cranford projects. Still in Cranford conflicts never exist anyway.

Happy holidays to Stella Stanos. This Union Township track star and freshman is already breaking records. She is the real deal. It will be fun watching her improve over the next few years.

Happy holidays to Norman Whitehouse Jr., the incoming mayor of Winfield. He came to the town as a child at its inception in 1941. He will serve as chief executive in 2004.

Humburg to Summit Attorney Harry Osman and Springfield special counsel Kathleen Estabrooks for pursuing the argument that part of the Rahway Valley rail line had been abandoned prior. Raising false hopes is bad stuff.

Happy holidays to the entire Union Township Planning Board for the stand-up efforts to oppose monster billboards in their community.

Humburg to Edward Davenport and the crew at TV-35 in Cranford. On election night they include as the GOP commentator Ed Robinson, who moved out of the county almost a decade ago, when there are so many local Republicans with current knowledge. Davenport could do better.

Happy holidays to the Rev. Elaine Wing, pastor of the Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, for the wonderful Blue-Christmas service last week.

Happy holidays to St. Theresa's School in Kenilworth for preserving quality education for each of her students.

Happy holidays to Barbara Bilger, who will be appointed as mayor of Cranford Jan. 1, the job stolen from her last year. Here's hoping she comes quickly to realize that while county in government is nice, the real test is the substance of the decisions made.

If the township really desires to streamline, Ms. Bilger as chief executive should look to her left and right in terms of success rather than stifling residents.

Happy holidays to Betsy McPherson of the Summit Education Foundation. Since 1988 this group has made sure that multi-cultural and writing skills flourish. There should be a movie of the week here somewhere.

Happy holidays to Ted Nevins of Rahway, President of Merchants and Drivers Tavern Association for his work in preserving this landmark.

Happy holidays to Joan Lennon of Cranford. Think how many of our kids over the years have started education under her strict, loving care at Brookside School. Her year-end lemonade parties for the kids are wonderful. The council should declare her a town treasure, and put a plaque on her lawn.

Humburg to state transit honcho Jack Letourneau, ever present at photo ops — we have a lousy advocate for mass transit needs. See HOLIDAYS, Page B9



Gov. James McGreevey speaks to local residents about property taxes during a visit to the Huck Finn Diner in Union last week.

Governor talks diner politics

Patrons at the Huck Finn Diner in Union were treated to an extra surprise along with their lunch specials last week as Gov. James McGreevey visited the establishment on Morris Avenue to dine with local school officials, politicians, homeowners and PTA members as they discussed ways to reduce property taxes.

Part of what I want to do today is talk a little about the school and town property tax base and how to save money," said McGreevey while munching on french fries.

Typically, a resident's property tax bill is split three ways, with the local school system comprising 50 percent and municipal and local government each responsible for 25 percent.

McGreevey said that one of the reasons New Jersey has such high property taxes is because of the number of local governments and local school districts.

"We have more local governments per square mile than any state in the nation," he said.

The governor offered suggestions to help relieve the property tax burden.

One of his ideas was to create a cap on municipal budgets, similar to the cap placed on a school budget which can only increase 3 percent each year.

"It would say that the school district and the municipalities, together, could not go over a certain point," McGreevey said.

The governor said the cap would force school officials to share a medical practice with his wife Judy. He graduated from Yale.

Legislative delegation split on stem cell bill

A bill permitting stem cell research was approved by the state Senate and the Assembly as legislators wait for the governor, who has pledged his full support to sign the bill into law.

The governor believes that stem cell research is vital to our state. It's going to save lives. It has the potential to save lives, said Gov. James McGreevey's press secretary, Micah Rasmussen, explaining that the governor most likely will sign the bill into law early next month.

Bill S-1909 permits human stem cell research in New Jersey.

"The legislation is one of the most significant acts that I will ever do in my lifetime," said Assemblyman Neil Cohen, D-Union.

Cohen said once the legislation is approved by the governor, it will be one of the most important laws of the 21st century.

"It will aid in the treatment and cure of the most profound illnesses that afflict our citizens," he said.

Stem cells can be found in a variety of sources including human embryos, adults, umbilical cords and placenta.

It is believed that stem cell research may lead to the development of a cure or more effective treatment of diseases, conditions and disabilities affecting more than 128 million Americans who suffer from cancer, Alzheimer's diseases, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury, stroke, diabetes and arthritis.

The bill contains several provisions, such as allowing voluntary donations of embryos that would otherwise be discarded; authorization of somatic cell nuclear transplantation, commonly known as therapeutic cloning and not to be confused with reproductive or human cloning, which would be banned under the bill. According to the bill, a person who engages or assists in the cloning of a human is guilty of a crime of the first degree and is subject to 10 to 20 years in prison or a fine up to \$200,000, or both.

Bill S-1909 was approved by the Senate in December 2002. The Assembly, which substituted the Assembly bill for the Senate bill, approved it on Dec. 15.

Back in 2002, the Senate approved the bill by

28-0 vote, however, 15 senators did not cast a vote.

In the Assembly, the bill was approved by a 47-12 margin, with several abstentions.

Legislators seemed to vote among party lines, with Democrats in favor of the bill's passage.

Locally, this held true. Republicans in the county's only Republican district, District 17, voted against the bill. State Sen. Thomas Kean Jr., who was a member of the Assembly in 2002 when the Senate approved the bill, was unable to cast a vote. However, Assemblymen Jon Bramnick and Eric Munoz voted against the bill earlier this month.

Union County's two other legislative districts, Districts 20 and 22, have solely Democratic representation, each of which voted in favor of the bill.

Cohen said he was surprised that the bill's fate was decided based on party lines.

"Traditionally in the Legislature, on issues of conscience, such as stem cell research, abortion and the death penalty, every legislator is free to vote their conscience as opposed to other types of bills where you take a party position because it's a policy issue," said Cohen.

This was the first time that Cohen can remember where a political caucus directed its party to take a party position on a matter of conscience.

Munoz's vote against the bill might seem even more surprising considering he is one of only two physicians in the Legislature. The assemblyman said that although stem cell research might one day find a cure for cancer and diabetes it is his opinion as a physician that it is unlikely to be the miracle cure Democrats are touting it to be and he does not want to give false hope to his constituents.

"Will we find a cure for diabetes? You're going to find that it's not very likely," he said.

Munoz said he is not against stem cell research but that research is already happening on a national level.

"Will incremental research result in all these additional findings? The answer is probably not," said Munoz.

The federal government has said it will not provide any additional funding for stem cell research other than what it is already providing. Therefore, New Jersey's bill must rely on private funding. Munoz said it will be interesting to see

Two dozen fugitives nabbed in early raids

Through the combined efforts of eight law-enforcement agencies, Union County Sheriff's officers arrested 24 fugitives during two surprise pre-dawn raids last week.

Union County Sheriff Ralph Froehlich compared the interaction between the agencies to the coherency of a winning baseball team, where everyone must work together in order to be successful. The raids took place on Dec. 17 and 18 and were conducted throughout the county with the cooperation of Union County Sheriff's officers, the New York/New Jersey Regional Fugitive Task Force, New Jersey and New York state police, New York City Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the United States District Attorney's Office, the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office, as well as other law-enforcement agencies.

Most of the fugitives were wanted on drug-related charges, while others were sought for charges ranging from attempted murder to parole violations.

"This is where the utilization of other agencies and resources come in," said Froehlich. "These people are fugitives which means they don't want to be found."

In many instances, the sheriff explained, a fugitive will commit a violation in Union County and then move on to other counties and commit further violations.

"All of a sudden you got multiple warrants for this guy so there are multiple agencies looking for him," said Froehlich. "By combining the resources of all those agencies it really gives you manpower to go out on specific raids and zero in on certain geographical areas."

Under the command of Sheriff Froehlich and Capt. William Malcolm, 12 officers from the Union County Sheriff's Warrent Squad took part in the raids. The majority of the fugitives lived in Elizabeth and Plainfield. Two of the fugitives were from Union, while two fugitives were from Roselle and Newark, respectively.

Aside from drug-related charges, the fugitives also were wanted for being parole violators, bail-jumpers and individuals who failed to appear for a court proceeding.

Dems back Dean

Locals follow governor's endorsement

Democrats throughout Union County have endorsed former Vermont Gov. Howard Dean in his bid to become president of the United States.

Union County Democratic Chairwoman Charlotte DeFilippo and Sen. Raymond Lesniak have endorsed Dean, as well as Democratic Assembly members Neil Cohen, Jennifer Cryan, Jerry Green and Linda Stender.

Freshholder Nicholas Scutari, a Democrat who will represent District 22 in the Senate next year, has also endorsed Dean.

Union County Democrats are following the lead of Democrats from all over the state who have endorsed Dean, including Gov. James McGreevey.

So far, 14 of the state's 21 Democratic county chairmen and 11 legislators have announced their endorsement of the former Vermont governor and would like to see him square off against President George W. Bush in November's presidential election.

Cohen said that ever since former Vice President Al Gore lent his support to Dean, the former Vermont governor has pulled ahead of the Democratic field, which also includes Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry, Connecticut Sen. Joseph I. Lieberman, Gen. Wesley Clark, North Carolina Sen. Jon Edwards, Missouri Congressman Dick Gephardt, Ohio Congressman Dennis Kucinich, the Rev. Al Sharpton and Ambassador Carol Mosley Braun.

Dean took over as Vermont's governor in 1991 following the death of then-Gov. Richard Snelling.

Dean is a physician who previously shared a medical practice with his wife Judy. He graduated from Yale University in 1971 and received his medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City in 1978. Dean served in the Vermont Legislature from 1982 to 1986 and was elected lieutenant governor in 1986.

"The leadership of New Jersey have determined that Dean appears to be the candidate who will win the primary and have the best chance to engage President Bush," said Cohen.

Traditionally, because New Jersey's primary comes so late in the year, the Democratic presidential nominee is usually decided by the time state residents cast their votes.

"Because of the lateness of our primary in order to have some significance to the endorsements it was important to make it early," Scutari said.

However, not all Democrats in Union County are aboard the Dean endorsement train.

Rahway Mayor James Kennedy has lent his support to Kerry.

"I think he's the sharpest of all the candidates," Kennedy said. "I think John has a great sense for international affairs and I believe he is the person who can lead the United States to prosperity."

Kennedy said it's unfortunate that New Jersey's primary rarely has any effect on who receives the Democratic nomination but said he doesn't feel that Dean's endorsement throughout the state will have a bearing on Kerry's chances in New Jersey.

Plainfield Mayor Al McWilliams, who is also the city's Democratic chairman, has not come out and endorsed any candidates yet.

"It's kind of early in the race right now," said McWilliams.

The governor believes that it's the right way to go

— Micah Rasmussen

The legislation is one of the most significant acts that I will ever do in my lifetime," said Assemblyman Neil Cohen, D-Union.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

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 HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 973-376-1304

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 THE PARISH OF ST. JAMES
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Santa Claus made a special visit to Warnanco Skating Center in Roselle over the weekend before his busiest night of the year tonight. Marlon Colon of Elizabeth gets a candy cane from St. Nick as dad Olmes looks on.

IT ALWAYS HAPPENS TO SOMEONE ELSE. THAT IS WHAT WE THINK.

Alcohol-Related and Unrestrained Fatalities: Thanksgiving to New Year's Eve 2002* 2,464 Fatalities

*National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

DRINKING & DRIVING

Driving while either intoxicated or drunk is dangerous and drivers with high BLOOD ALCOHOL CONTENT (BAC) are at increased risk of car accidents, highway injuries and vehicular deaths. Prevention measures evaluated include license suspension or revocation, impounding or confiscating vehicle plates, enforcing open container bans, increasing penalties such as fines or jail for drunk driving, mandating education for young people, and lowering legal BACs. Also discussed are safety seat belts, air bags, designate drivers, and effective practical ways to stay sober.

THE PROBLEM

Every single injury and death caused by drunk driving is totally preventable. Unfortunately, over twenty percent of all traffic fatalities in the United States each year are caused by drunk drivers. Thus, drunk driving remains a serious national problem that tragically affects thousands of victims annually. It's easy to forget that dry statistics represent real people and real lives.

THE FACTS

Most drivers who have had something to drink have low blood alcohol content or concentration (BAC) and few are involved in fatal crashes. On the other hand, while only a few drivers have BACs higher than .15, many of those drivers have fatal crashes. The average BAC among fatally injured drinking drivers is .17. Almost half of fatally injured drinking drivers have a BAC of .20 or over (which is twice the legal limit in most jurisdictions). High BAC drivers tend to be male, aged 25-35, and have a history of DWI convictions and polydrug abuse.

THE SOLUTION

Drunk driving, like most other social problems, resists simple solutions. However, there are a number of actions, each of which can contribute toward a reduction of the problem: Automatic license revocation appears to be the single most effective measure to reduce drunk driving. Not only is license revocation effective, but we should remember that driving is a privilege, not a right. Just as we do not license those who lack eyesight, we should not hesitate to revoke the licenses of those who lack the good judgment not to drive drunk. Automatic license revocation along with a mandatory jail sentence appears to be even more effective than just automatic license revocation. Passing mandatory alcohol and drug testing in fatal crashes would promote successful prosecution of drunk and drugged drivers.

IF YOU MUST DRIVE AFTER DRINKING, STAY COMPLETELY SOBER

- Don't be fooled. The contents of the typical bottle or can of beer, glass of wine, or liquor drink (mixed drink or straight liquor) each contain virtually identical amounts of pure alcohol. When it comes to alcohol, a drink is a drink and are all the same to a breathalyzer.
- Eat food while you drink. Food, especially high protein food such as meat, cheese and peanuts, will help slow the absorption of alcohol into your body.
- Don't participate in "chugging" contests or other drinking games.
- Use alcohol carefully in connection with pharmaceuticals. Ask your physician or pharmacist about any precautions or prohibitions and follow any advice received.



IT ALWAYS HAPPENS TO SOMEONE ELSE

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

NJ Movie Makers bestow awards

The New Jersey Movie Maker's Network, a nonprofit statewide service organization representing New Jersey-based professionals in the film industry, held its first annual Prime Awards for Excellence and Support in Movies and Television, held Dec. 5 at the Robert Treat Hotel in Newark.

The Prime Awards were bestowed on individuals that are New Jersey-based or from the state in recognition of outstanding achievement in the fields of film, video, education or the media. This year's award recipients included actor Joe Piscopo, Michael B. Jordan and Leon, as well as screenwriter Richard Wesley and music producer Horace Ott, among many others.

The Prime Awards are also dedicated to honoring outstanding educational achievement. The award for educational excellence was given to the Jersey City Board of Education's Snyder High School Media Team, under producer Patric Fharah, for their outstanding efforts providing state-of-the-art equipment and instruction in film, video and television production to Jersey City students.

"No one foresaw a snow storm arriving the same day as the program," said organizer Hiram DeRose. "Hazardous weather conditions made it impossible for many to attend, but the event went on anyway. Many hearty souls managed to brave the storm to pick up their award or attend to be part of history on the making."

One attendee, Janet Foster of Janet Foster Media, said, "I sure am glad I attended. The snow storm created great drama for your first awards program 'Bravo!' Awardee Diane Raver, founder of the Garden State Film Festival, traveled from Asbury Park.

Members of the entertainment industry and other New Jersey residents were entertained by comedian Willie Asbury who acted as master of ceremonies and Hip Hop One On One, a dance group spearheaded by Montclair State University dance major Hakka. The awards themselves were designed by Bloomfield College student Dadi Dulose. The Irvington Restoration Coalition provided volunteers from Irvington High School who escorted guests to their tables and several adult volunteers worked to keep the event rolling. The network's board members who were not snowbound: Henrietta Parker, Robin Richie Carpenter, Carol Spann, Bertha Freeman and director Hiram Dulose ran the event to perfection.

The New Jersey Movie Maker's Network was established in March of 2003 by Bertha Freeman, Hiram Dulose and James Taliaferro with the intent to provide New Jersey-based movie makers — film, video, shorts, music videos, animation — with information to help move their projects forward, an opportunity to network with others in the industry, create connections between them and the business community and to encourage educators and students to view the industry as a source of viable careers. Professionals, novices, students and movie-lovers are welcome to join the network and attend programs.

To date, six workshops have been held that focus on timely information: "Financing Your Project," "Screenwriting: Developing Strong Characters," "The Art of Digital Movie Making," "Negotiating Film Festivals," "Getting Your Movie Made," and "Music and Movies: Securing Rights." Panelists have included screenwriter playwright Richard Wesley, producer Clarence Ali; producers Marylou Tibaldo Bongiorno and Jerome Bongiorno; Steven Gorlick of the New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission; Marc Jacobson and C. Anthony Mulrain from the law firm Greenberg, Traurig, Raheim Grimsley of ASCAP, John, Columbus, founder and director of the Black Maria Film Festival, and others. In 2004, the first two workshops will be "Financing Your Project II" in February and "Working with 16mm Film" in March.

The 2004 Prime Awards gala will take place in October for information about the network and upcoming events, check the Web site at www.njmoviemakers.org or send e-mail to njmoviemakers@aol.com.

Award Recipients
The New Jersey Movie Maker's Network Prime Awards for Excellence and Support in Movies and Television

Actors
Joe Piscopo, "Saturday Night Live," "Wise Guys," "Dead Heat"
Joe Morton, "Terminator II," "What Lies Beneath," "Bounce," "Dragonfly"
Michael B. Jordan, "The Wire," "Hardball," "All My Children," "The Sopranos"
Leon, "The Five Heartbeats," "Waiting to Exhale," "Oz," "Resurrection Blvd."

Screenwriter
Richard Wesley, "Fearless," "Native Son," "Deacons for Defense"

Musician
Arranger/producer/conductor Horace Ott, "Kill Bill," "The Bangers Sisters," "Gordon's War"

Producers
Marylou and Jerome Bongiorno, Emmy Award nomination for documentary "Mother-Tongue"
Thomas Rondinella, editor for feature films shown on Showtime and HBO, producer of "Charming Billy"
Hariz Fard, Best Documentary Award from the New York Independent International Film Festival for "A Pillar of Salt"

Media and support
Diane Raver, Garden State Film Festival
Dorithan Kirk, WJZO-FM
Bibi Vansant, Worrall Community Newspapers
Sue Moore, Bloomfield Life
Barbara Kukla, The Star-Ledger
Steve Gorlick, New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Commission
Drana L. Janos, JVC of America
Dr. Loretta Long, Susan on "Sesame Street"

Education
Snyder High School Media Team, JC-TV, Jersey City Board of Education, producer Patric Fharah

'Tearrooms' continues at NJCVA

NJCVA enters 'Tearrooms' The show will be on exhibit through Dec. 29 in the first floor Frances DeMaio Mucielago will be exhibiting her new series of prints, public titles "Tearrooms, Temples, and Cerem..."

The prints draw on interests and ideas inspired by the artist's recent trip to Japan, and her longtime regard for Japonisme. Depictions of simple tearrooms, shoji rooms bordering on the abstract, and worn-wood surfaces are suffused with a very particular palette, one that imparts a curious dual response — at once peaceful, but accompanied by a maze like intensity.

Happy Holidays
Our wish for you this holiday season - Peace, Joy and Prosperity

All offices will be closed New Year's Day.
On New Year's Eve all offices will close at 3 pm. THE WALK-UP/DRIVE-IN WINDOWS WILL ALSO CLOSE AT 3 PM.
For your convenience, the Cranford office will be open Tuesday evenings, December 30 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm

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Famed Israeli artist Eli Serfaty stands beside two of his paintings. The renowned artist's work is currently on exhibit through January at the Les Maimot Art Gallery in Union Public Library in Union.

Serfaty's work on exhibit at Malamut

Renowned Israeli artist Eli Serfaty will present an exhibition of paintings, "Color and Texture," in the Les Maimot Art Gallery in the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., Union, through Jan. 21.

Born in Paz, Morocco in 1942, his family left there to migrate to Israel by way of France and included a forced detention in Cyprus before arriving in Israel in 1948. He served in the military as an airplane mechanic but soon became the local artist.

In 1962, he prepared and painted the set for a performance by Frank Sinatra at his military base. He then studied graphic art at the famous Bezalel Art Academy in Jerusalem. There he met and married a fellow student, Erlele, who is also a designer. While a student at the school, he joined an international mission to Venice to save the art treasures that were damaged there during the catastrophic floods of 1964.

Upon graduation from art school, Serfaty developed a technique to etch creative images on brass. His art objects were sold throughout the world and given by Israeli officials to foreign dignitaries including President Anwar Sedat of Egypt.

Several of these artworks will also be on display at the gallery. In his current work, he employs a special technique to produce unique surface textures to convey both figurative and abstract themes.

Serfaty has received numerous awards for poster and product designs. He has exhibited in group shows in Hadera, Israel, and Siegen, Germany.

He was invited by the Jewish Community of Cincinnati to be the Israeli Artist of the Year exhibitor in 1986. The Museum of Cincinnati bought some of his paintings for permanent exhibition.

The gallery is open during regular library hours, Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For information, call the library at 908-851-5450.

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

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

TEAROOMS, TEMPLAS AND CEREMONIAL SPACES, works by printmaker Frances DeMasi Muccillo, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Monday.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at Swan Galleries in Plainfield through Tuesday.

BOURAS GALLERIES in Summit will exhibit the works of the Mt.aintain Galleries Artists through the end of December.

CONTEMPORARY TAPESTRY, works by Archa Brennan and Susan Martin Maffei, will be on exhibit at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Jan. 4.

COLOR AND TEXTURE, works by Eli Serfaty, will be on exhibit at the Les Milamut Art Gallery in Union-Plainfield to Jan 21.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the works of Jerry Winick and members of the "New Jersey Photography Forum" through December 31 and January 4.

PORTFOLIO, the works of photographer Barbara Wirkus, will be on exhibit through Jan. 30 at the Pearl Street Gallery in the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

AN EDGE IN SPACE SPACE IN TIME, will be on exhibit at the Arts Guild of Rahway from Jan. 11 to Feb. 6. An opening reception will take place Jan. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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BOOKS WE LIKE, a reading group featuring staff recommendations, will meet the third Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group meets the third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark to read a Shakespeare play out loud.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP meets the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CLASSES

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CLASSES offered at duCret-Center for Art, Plainfield Day and evening courses are offered on a full- or part-time basis. Classes meet once a week for three to four weeks. The spring semester begins Jan. 19 and ends May 14. For more information and course availability, call the school at 908-757-7171, fax 908-757-2626 or visit www.ducret.edu/

DANCE "THE NUTCRACKER" will be presented by the New Jersey Ballet Company and Paper Mill. The Suite Theater of New Jersey through Sunday. Schedule of shows is Friday at 2 and 7 p.m., Saturday at 2 and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 1 and 6 p.m. There is no performance on Christmas Day. Dec. 25. Tickets are \$24 to \$54. Paper Mill is located on Brookside Drive, Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343 or visit www.papermill.org.

SINGLES DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant. The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts as well as football-themed nights. Every Sunday Live comedy, fun and poetry. Every Monday, Open Mic Night. Happy Hour all night. Every Tuesday Jazz Jam. All pints at \$2 all night. Every Wednesday, Hi-Fi Wednesdays with G.L.O. with DJs and musicians. Corona. Cuentos Margantias. \$2 all night. Every Thursday, Rolling Rock beer. \$2 all night. Saturday Tom Vella, Cranford. Dec. 31. New Year's Eve with Brother John Brown. For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.xxroads.com.

THE INTERNET LOUNGE in Fairwood will present Open Mic Karaoke Night on Jan. 4 at 7 p.m. Cover is free. The Internet Lounge is located at 250 South Ave., Fairwood. For information, call 908-490-1234 or visit www.theinternetlounge.com.

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEEHOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" format of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are served. Admission is \$4. Talent is sought for future dates. For information, call 908-928-0127 or send e-mail to info@secondsatursdays.org.

VAN GOGH'S EAR, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesdays," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mic participants sign up at 7:30 p.m. and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Thursdays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

SUNDAY THE GINNY JOHNSTON BAND Tuesday, The Establishments, 8 to 9 p.m., Get Roy, 9 to 10 p.m. Jan 4 The Peter Kikados Band. For information, call 908-810-1844.

FROM THE ROCKIES TO THE PACIFIC, works by photographer Mane Burns, will be on exhibit in the Wisner House at Reeves-Read Arboretum in Summit from Jan. 6 through March 8. An artist's reception will take place Jan. 25 from 1 to 4 p.m. Exhibit hours are weekdays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Reeves-Read Arboretum is located at 165 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8787 or visit www.reeves-readarboretum.org.

AUDITIONS **SUMMIT CHORALE** will conduct auditions for all voice parts — SATB — on Jan. 6 and 13 by appointment at Drew University in Madison. Call 908-698-0995 to schedule an appointment for Jan. 6, call 732-698-1433 to schedule an appointment for Jan. 13. Rehearsals are Tuesdays at Drew. Upcoming concert dates are March 6 and May 1.

BOOKS **COFFEE WITH CONSCIENCE CONCO SERIES** in Westfield and Springfield will present a series of artists through June at two locations through June. Jan. 17, Stephanie Corby and Chris Rosser, Westfield. Feb. 14, Songwriters in the Round, hosted by acoustic duo Open Book, Springfield. March 20, We're About Nine, with opener Devon Sproule, Westfield. April 17, Caroline Aiken, Westfield. May 8, Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Rita Henn, Springfield. May 15, Sonia/Disappear, Fear, with opener Chris Glenn, Westfield. June 12, Songwriters in the Round, hosted by Jessica Owen, Springfield. June 19, Zoe Lewis, Westfield.

CLASSICS BOOK CLUB meets the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CLOAK AND DAGGER READING GROUP will meet the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

AFRICAN-AMERICAN INTERESTS meets the second Thursday of the month at 8 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

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New Year's Eve Special Menu 2004

9:00 Seating Only

APPETIZERS

- 1/2 Pineapple w/ Fresh Fruit • Shrimp Cocktail • Mozzarella Sticks
- St. Mushrooms w/ Crabmeat • Clams Casino • Fr. Calamari

SOUP OR HOUSE SALAD

All Entree Prices Include Choice of Appetizer, Soup or Salad, Dessert, & Coffee or Tea

Entree Choices \$40/person

- Chicken Francise w/ Scampi
- Penne Chicken & Broccoli w/ Pink Vodka Sauce
- Broiled Filet of King Salmon

Entree Choices \$50/person

- Stuff Filet of Sole w/ Crabmeat • Broiled Deep-Sea Scallops
- Veal Parmesan or Marsala • Lobster Tail & Ravioli Combo
- Shrimp Scampi • Rigatoni Pasta w/ Shrimp & Scallops

Entree Choices \$60/person

- Rack of Lamb • Filet Mignon • King Prime Rib

THE CHATEAU SPECIAL \$65/person

Gentlemen's Delight • Br. Shrimp, Scallops, Filet, St. Mushroom, Lobster Tail and 7oz. Filet Mignon Steak

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Order from regular menu from 3:00 pm - 7:00 pm. Special fixed price menu from 7:30 pm...

<p>ANTIPASTO Insalata di Baccalà (Baccalà infused with extra virgin olive oil, lemon, olives)</p> <p>Fruiti di Mare (Seasoned salad)</p> <p>Calamari Fritti (Fried Sacciento calamari)</p> <p>Peperoni Arrostiti e Mozzarella (Roasted peppers and mozzarella)</p> <p>ZUPPA Lenticchie col Cotichino or Tortellini in Brodo</p> <p>Caffè Americano Espresso Cappuccino</p>	<p>PRANZO (Choice of)</p> <p>Pappardelle fatte in casa con Ragù d'Angonello (Home made pappardelle with lamb ragout)</p> <p>Giallinella al Forno Ripiena con Patate Aglietto (Roasted Cornish game hen stuffed with rice and mushroom served with garlic potatoes)</p> <p>Aragosta alla Frà Diavolo con Linguini (Lobster served in a mildly spiced light tomato sauce with linguini)</p> <p>Gamberoni alla Griglia con Grigliata di Verdure (Grilled jumbo shrimp with grilled vegetables)</p> <p>Vitello Saltimbocca (Tender veal with prosciutto e mozzarella)</p> <p>DOLCE Struffoli (Classic Italian dessert: fried dough with honey) Cannoli Tiramisù</p>
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Full Dinner

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- noisemakers & hats
- champagne at midnight
- \$95 person
- gratuity not included

Party at Bar

- complimentary pass - arounds
- open bar 9:30 - closing
- dancing to "REWIND"
- noisemakers & hats
- champagne at midnight
- \$60 person
- gratuity not included

Reservations suggested as space is limited.
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Seasonal greens tossed with grilled shrimp, sliced tomatoes, cheese en croute, with vinaigrette dressing

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Potato & Vegetable Rolls & Butter Special NYE Dessert
Coffee • Tea • Decaf
Champagne Toast Served at Midnight

FIVE HOUR DELUXE OPEN BAR INCLUDED

Platters of Fresh Fruit & Ruggalach
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8:30 PM to 1:30 AM \$115.00 per person

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Discover the unique, cozy atmosphere of Cafe Z. Homemade entrees and desserts at reasonable prices.

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ACROSS

- Awful actor
- At the summit
- Squirrel away
- At ... disagreeing
- Arrived
- Concrete mixer
- Singer Falana
- Chesterfield, e.g.
- To any extent
- Controlling position
- Soap ingredient
- Harsh
- Rank
- Poorly placed
- Baden-Baden, e.g.
- Abstainers
- Secular
- Tabloid
- Lead burner
- Eventually
- Part of HRH
- Scarcity
- Old Hebrew bushel
- Molts
- Versos' opposites
- Drop
- Information barrier
- Lavender hue
- Bath powder
- Cinders, of comics
- Yankee Stadium, e.g.
- Old railroad name
- Not shallow
- Corruptly, et al.
- Ordinary, et al.
- Last year's jrs.

DOWN

- Clamps
- Think the world of
- Ovid's 1,554
- Grown by being added to

LINKS LINGO?

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73

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By Charles Preston

5 Southwest art colony
6 Bovine stomachs
7 ... out/ dwindle
8 Spreading utensil
9 Make dollies
10 Date's shape
11 Depend
12 Perry tales author
14 Passbook user
21 Middle of QED
22 Shake, to a pham.
26 Supermodel
28 A Saarnier
30 Adam's third son
31 Sea eagle
32 Boris Godunov, e.g.
33 Silt/thered
34 Glazier's insert
35 Verdi lass
37 Hellenic T.
38 Grimm villain
40 Mongrels
44 Morally right
45 Oscar winner
46 Evergreens
47 Sooner, Ger.
51 Chewed the scenery
53 Isolator
54 Entrap
56 Yams
57 Houston lineman
58 Crisp cookies
59 Belgrade native
60 Yorkshire river
61 Secluded valley
62 What barbers do

See ANSWERS on Page B22

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY January 4th, 2004
EVENT: FLEA MARKET, CRAFT & COLLECTIBLE SHOW
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Ave., Belleville, NJ (Off. Jordan-memo.com)
TIME: 9am-5pm, Indoors & Outdoors
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage tag sale section. For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by BHS Chevrolet

SUNDAY December 28th, 2003
EVENT: Flea Market and Collectible Show, Indoors & Outdoors
PLACE: Clark Municipal Building, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark
TIME: 9am-5pm
DETAILS: Great items including new merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and a garage tag sale section. For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by Clark Lions

Dec. 29-Jan 4
ARIES (March 21-April 19). A business venture shows a lot of promise, but will require major adjustments to succeed. Get back to the drawing board.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Avoid a lengthy debate or argument. Do your homework, back up your point of view with facts and your opponent will not have a leg to stand on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Self-knowledge and understanding can be tremendously motivating. Look deep into your heart and soul to discover what drives you.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Show your partner or mate just how dependable you can be. Stay on your toes and be there when it really counts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Some of your most offbeat or unusual ideas are right on target. Investigate a job-related problem and find a creative solution.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Get involved in cultural or social activities that are relaxing and enjoyable. If given the chance to meet fences with an old friend, don't hesitate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Plan on spending quality time with friends and family. Join in and do what you can to help enhance a special celebration.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You can be very persuasive and convincing when you need to be. Find the right words to convey what you are thinking and feeling.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Money comes to you in unusual ways. Follow a hunch to a pot of gold. Seek clarity of purpose and live your dream.

Deadline nears for NJPAC

The deadline for free registration to earn an audition in the fourth annual New Jersey Performing Arts Center "Young Artist Talent Search" is just around the corner.

Applications postmarked on or prior to Jan. 1, 2004 are free. A \$15 application fee must accompany application forms postmarked between Jan. 2 and Feb. 1, and a \$20 fee must be included with applications postmarked between Feb. 2 and March 1.

Addition applications may be obtained online at www.njpac.org or by calling the Talent Search Hot Line at 973-353-8000.

Initiated three years ago, the weekend event conducted by NJPAC's Arts Education Department provides artistically talented young people with opportunities to audition for more than 225 openings in any of its five arts training programs. Auditions will take place March 27 and 28 at the Lincen Technologies Center for Arts Education on the NJPAC site. Last year, more than 500 young artists from every corner of the state auditioned over the two-day weekend.

The Talent Search, made possible through the generosity of the Independence Community Foundation and the NJPAC Women's Board Association, gives students the opportunity to audition for *The Star-Ledger* Scholarship for the Performing Arts, Jazz for Teens, Jeffrey Carollo Music Scholarship, and Summer Youth Performance Workshop. Also, a preliminary audition will be held for the NJPAC Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theater Summer Musical Program.

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For those people interested in antiques, it can be argued that there is no better place on earth to be than central New Jersey, conveniently located in such a way that many of the largest antique centers are all within an easy morning's drive. One such location is the beautiful town of Red Bank, New Jersey. In this idyllic water front community you will find countless shops, restaurants and cafes to relax in and explore. The main draw, however, remains to be the abundance of truly special antique shops both large and small. This is a treasure hunter's paradise.

The centerpiece of the Red Bank antique market is aptly named "The Antique Center of Red Bank." Housed in what seems to be an enormous two-story red barn, this continues to be the focal point of much attention for day-trippers visiting the area. In business now for over 36 years, this is the place to be if you want that certain something that's not to be found in any strip mall. In fact, you would have to go to garage sales from sun up to sun down for the next twenty years before you could begin to have the same sort of selection that they have here.

Can't find what you're looking for? The long time owner, Guy Johnson, can usually be found behind the counter and is happy to assist any and all people in need. His ability and knowledge of the current antique market is amazing. It is obvious that he really enjoys his job. In fact, his success has also given him two more antique markets that are both just right across the street.

While many people have gone through a phase of antique hunting in their own homes, nothing will ever replace the satisfaction of holding a treasured antique or collectible in your hands. The thriving antique market of Red Bank is proof of this. We highly recommend spending an afternoon here, but remember to bring extra money because you will surely find something that you can't live without, even if you plan on "just looking."

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"1" Leading Center For High End Antiques (See Listing)

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"Modern Design"
40'x 50'x 60' Modern Decorative Furniture & Accessories
"Downtown"
The Original "Hutter's" Paradox "Vanities," Canteen, Cigar, Locket, Tobacco & More
34 & 25th Main St. & 9-17 Division Street Somerville
Open 7 Days 973-734-0900

TO PUT YOUR ANTIQUE BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT CALL CONNIE SLOAN 908-686-7700

Wirkus' work is highlighted

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the opening of an exhibit by photographer Barbara Wirkus of Kenilworth in the gallery space at the offices of the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, located at 633 Pearl St. in Elizabeth.

The exhibit in the Pearl Street Gallery is titled "Portfolio" by award-winning photographer Barbara Wirkus. "I'm excited to share my work with the community," said Wirkus. "I'm proud to display my inspiring work."

Wirkus was awarded first prize in the Union County Senior Art Show. Her many awards include prizes from the City of Marlton, the City of the Union Township Festival on the Green, the Roselle Park Art Festival, and the Millburn Camera Club. Her photographs have been exhibited extensively in galleries, museums, and libraries throughout New Jersey.

"Scenepics and garden flowers, children and aging buildings, all become challenges for my camera," Wirkus said of her work.

"The world around us is wondrous, and documenting it is a priority in my life," she continued. "Each of these photos holds a special meaning for me. I seek to have the viewer respond with a memory or emotion of their own."

Mrs. N.J. being sought

Applications are now being accepted for the title of Mrs. New Jersey International 2004, an official preliminary to the Mrs. International Pageant, which will be held at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts Theater in Chicago, Ill., with television host Bob Eubank and Star Search super model Debbie James as the celebrity hosts. The dates are July 19 to 24, 2004.

Married women between the ages 21 and 56 living in New Jersey who are interested should call Mary Richardson, national executive director, at 540-982-5992, or send e-mail to MRISNT1.PAG@aol.com.

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Talk centers on property taxes

(Continued from Page B1)

and municipal officials to work together to increase shared services and cut costs.

Former Union Township Board of Education member Jim DiCiovanni said the proposed cap might not be a bad idea. He pointed out that if school districts or municipalities still needed more money, they could hold a bond referendum asking voters to approve more funding.

Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, D-Union, said the cap would force consolidation. Cryan said in the short term it would be beneficial for buildings and grounds but ultimately it would cause problems with the municipalities' public safety department — such as police and fire — which composes nearly 50 percent of the budget when including salaries, wages and benefits.

Cryan said municipalities would have to look at creative ways to gain more revenue or ask voters to approve bonding referendums like DiCiovanni suggested.

McGrevey also suggested that school systems become regionalized, where students from several municipalities become part of the same school system.

The governor said the state is spending more and more money on education yet the large percentage of that money is not used in the classroom to educate children.

Less than seven years ago, six municipalities in Union County were part of a regionalized school system. However, the Union County Regional School District was disbanded in 1997 after voters approved dissolution in a special election.

Clark Mayor Sal Honacorsco said his township has been in big trouble financially since the regional district disbanded.

Under the regional school system, students from Springfield, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Clark, Garwood, and Berkeley Heights, attended four high schools. Typically, Springfield and Mountainside students attended Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield. Kenilworth students went to David Breatley High School in Kenilworth. Berkeley Heights students went to Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights and Clark and Garwood students attended Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark.

However, students were allowed to attend any of the high schools to take classes in specialized fields such as automotive maintenance instruction.

Honacorsco said after deregionalization Clark received a regional high school building that needed \$19 million in repairs, which his township was responsible for fixing.

"The problem was not funded to before the break-up of the school district," he said.

Aside from the financial implications, Honacorsco said his township is losing programs in its schools.

The specialized programs that were offered in the regional school district are no longer available.

"That becomes very troubling to me," he said.

McGrevey suggested that services, aside those offered in a school system, could also be regionalized among neighboring municipalities.

The Union School District shares its facilities with the township. Superintendent of Schools Theodore Jakubowski said.

"Our recreation department uses our school fields," he said. "Our schools, at the same time, can use community fields."

Jakubowski also said that Union's school system and municipal government share paper products and garbage collection.

"We really do quite a bit of things together," he said.

Stem cell research bill approved

(Continued from Page B1)

of the private sector is willing to invest.

"If this is such a hotshot thing, then by capitalism we'll find large investments going into it," said Munoz.

Munoz said that most of the money used in medical research comes from the National Institute of Health, which is funded through the federal government.

"The free market will tell us whether these proponents of the bill are truthful or misrepresenting to the public," said Munoz.

Cohen said private investors will take a great interest in the research, especially pharmaceutical companies.

"Essentially it's medically unlimited," said Cohen, explaining just how important stem cells will be to the medical field.

Rasmussen said that a large part of New Jersey's economy is stimulated by pharmaceutical and biotechnological research.

"In terms of the human value of stem cell research, in terms of the lives that it's going to save, and in terms of the economic impact of the state, the governor believes that it's the right way to go," said Rasmussen.

Holidays, humbugs to everyone

(Continued from Page B1)

Happy holidays to Randy of Perle's Centered Baseball Cards in Roselle Park. For a little while on Saturdays, he gives me a trip back to childhood.

Happy holidays to Ava and Robert Janish, two of Cranford's newest residents and my second cousins once removed. Something about reeling in the years.

Humbug to the entire City of Hoboken for luring so many Union County kids to live there.

Happy holidays to the Union County Arts Center in Rahway especially for its January tribute to RKO movies.

Happy holidays to the small cadre of obnoxious individuals who live to insult the county freeholders at meetings. They remind us how sacred is the First Amendment, wars and all.

Humbug to my former eye doctor on Galloping Hill Road in Union. No compensation about getting me wait 45 minutes for a scheduled appointment. This was one patient who lost his patience.

Humbug to Republican state Senate Candidate Martin Marks of Scotch Plains. Sadly, a mean-spirited style and lack of grace defined his campaign.

Happy holidays to Peggy Monagle, president of the Clark Kiwanis Club, for the generous efforts to just make her town a better place.

Happy holidays to the Hillsdale Police Department for the graceful way they handled the recent tragedy in their community. Lately, the most dangerous spot is to be standing between a microphone and county law enforcement. This group is a pleasant exception.

Humbug to Lea Bonanno of Hillsdale, Connie Sullivan of Elizabeth and my mother-in-law, Mary Dianno of Cranford for their misguided rooting for the Yankees. Opening day in April will find the White Sox in town with their new manager Ozzie Guillen. A new order shall come to be.

Happy holidays to Pfc. Michael Kenny, currently of Golf Company 2nd Platoon, hunting for a certain string bean in Afghanistan.

Preserving Michael resided on Ridge Street in Cranford and shovelled his driveway when it snowed. Come back soon and safe. Please God.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

COUNTY NEWS

Counselors association selling '04 books

The Union County School Counselors Association is selling Entertainment '04 Books to fund high school students in Union County.

Students who have made significant contributions in their communities and in helping others in need are chosen by guidance counselors throughout the county to receive these monetary awards in recognition of their good deeds.

Entertainment Books offer discounts for fine dining, casual dining, special attractions, hotels, airlines, movies, dry cleaning, and car washes to name a few. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New Jersey at costs of \$20 and \$30.

To obtain books, call Carmine Venes, president of UCSCA, at 908-233-1086.

Dean Meetup Jan. 7

Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced that its next regularly scheduled Union County Meetup will be Jan. 7 at Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, from 7 to 8:45 p.m.

Agenda items will include voter registration, outreach activities, and the latest information regarding the campaign. There will also be a discussion of community activities for "Generation Dean." Whether to volunteer or just to learn more, all are invited to attend.

For more information, call Fran Middleberg at 973-912-4309. Further information can be found on the Web at <http://dean2004.meetup.com>.

Discount prescription drug program available

Union County residents who are 55 years of age or older, as well as qualified disabled residents, of any age will be eligible for discounted prescription drugs under a program announced by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

Discounts can range from 20 percent to 50 percent depending on the prescription's classification as either a brand name drug or its generic equivalent.

Additional Health Inc., a Clinton-based company specializing in healthcare saving programs will administer the plan. To sign up, all it will take is one call to Health's toll-free number, 1-800-733-8546.

Residents will have the ability to fill their prescriptions at neighborhood pharmacies, or a national chain store. There are no income or asset limitations to qualify for the county's program. However, residents who are currently enrolled in state-funded prescription coverage programs may already have maximum discounts on their prescriptions.

The enrollment form must be returned with documentation that includes a clear, legible copy of the applicant's driver's license or utility bill reflecting a Union County residence, and, if handicapped and under age 55, documentation reflecting disabled status. Coverage should begin seven to 10 business days after the application is received and approved.

Only a single card is needed if both husband and wife meet the eligibility requirements. Both names will be listed for just one enrollment fee.

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, of Union County's 522,541 residents, 117,976, or 22.6 percent, are age 55 and older.

Nominations sought for Women of Excellence

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Commission on the Status of Women are accepting nominations for the 12th annual Women of Excellence Awards.

The commission is looking for outstanding women nominees of Union County who have distinguished themselves in one or more of the following categories: Arts and Humanities; Business/Entrepreneur; Community Service; Education; Government, Law, Law Enforcement; Medicine/Health Care; and/or Women's Advocacy.

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on March 12 at 7 p.m.

Recipients of the Union County 2003 Women of Excellence awards were:

- Edith Coogan of Cranford, Women's Advocacy;
- Stephanie Lavacius of Elizabeth, Community Service;
- Carmella Marucci in the field of Business/Entrepreneurship;
- Nancy Prowdar of Plainfield, Arts and Humanities;

Tax volunteers sought

RSVP and AARP both are recruiting seniors 55 and older to volunteer to help prepare tax returns for the elderly, frail, low-income and disabled citizens of Union County.

Tax counseling will be offered at various sites within Union County. A special tax training session will be offered free at Community Access Unlimited for the volunteer tax counselors in early January.

During December and January, men and women volunteers receive

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ARTS CLIPS

Swain is going 'mini'

Historic Swain Galleries, a family-owned art enterprise in Plainfield since 1868, will celebrate "A 135th Christmas Weekend" with a "Christmas Minatures" exhibit of small-scale art by 19 noted gallery artists this month.

The multi-media showcase of "Minatures" features the works of Douglas Allen, Judy Banyas, Kat Block, Nancy Brangaccio, Patricia Brentano, Leslie Delger, Mark deMoss, Andrew Engel, Helen Jacobs, Timothy John, Carroll Lewis, Louis Lanzafama, Nat Lewis, Karen McCormack, Paul McCormack, Richard Nagrodski, Dean Ostrom, John Kelly, and S. Allyn Schaeffer.

"Christmas Minatures" artists: Basking Ridge, Nancy Brangaccio, Caldwell, Nat Lewis, Cathryn John Kelly, Tanwood S. Allyn Schaeffer, Jersey City, Carroll Lewis, Morristown, Mark deMoss, North Plainfield, Leslie Delger, Springfield, Kat Block, Westfield, Louis Lanzafama, Wells River, Louis Lanzafama, Westminster, Patricia Brentano, New York City, Richard Nagrodski, and Dean Ostrom.

The exhibit continues through Dec. 26, Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries, 703 W. Main St., in the historic Crestwood District of Plainfield.

On view will be florals, portraits, still lifes, landscapes, animals and wildlife and more in oils, watercolors, acrylics, gouaches, pastels, cut paper collage, pen-and-ink, colored pencil, calligraphy, and others.

For more information, call 908-786-1707.

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Hospital exhibits artists

Children's Specialized Hospital, the largest pediatric rehabilitation hospital in the United States, will exhibit the work of the New Jersey Photography Forum and pencil artist Jerry Wittek of Little Falls throughout December and January.

Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights and Michael Creem of Summit started the New Jersey Photography Forum in 1995 as an opportunity for professional photographers, photo-educators and serious amateurs to meet and discuss their work, share expertise, advance skills and explore exhibit possibilities. The forum just completed a one-month show at the Watchung Arts Center and the Watchung Arts Center and the Watchung Arts Center and the Watchung Arts Center.

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UCC seeks new plays

There are still a few openings for the monthly playwrights' workshop at The Theater Project, Union County College's professional theater company.

The workshop meets once a month, in addition to a monthly script-in-hand public performance discussion of one of the plays in development. Organizers are particularly interested in writers who can contribute to the process of the other participating playwrights.

Playwrights interested in developing their work through readings and critiques by actors, directors and other writers should submit scripts, self-addressed stamped envelopes with a cover letter, including a brief summary of writing background to Mark Spina, The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, 07016.

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Chorale plans its season

The Summit Chorale has announced its 2003-04 season. Madrigals, art songs and the Dante Requiem will be presented in concert at 8 p.m. on March 6, at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., Summit.

"Brahm's Requiem - Nair's gala farewell concert at 8 p.m. on May 1, at a location to be determined. The chorale will be accompanied by a full symphony orchestra.

Additional information and tickets can be obtained from the Web site at www.summitchorale.org or from 973-762-8486.

Under the leadership of music director and conductor Garth Nair, Summit Chorale is one of the state's most respected choral organizations, now in its 95th year. It is composed of non-professional singers, chosen by audition.

The chorale maintains a reputation for adventurous programming of lesser-known masterpieces in addition to popular works. It is Chorus in Residence at Drew University.

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Filmmakers are sought

The New Jersey Movie Makers' Network is looking for state-based independent producers with shorts or features that they would like to be seen.

Shorts that are 20 minutes or less can be aired on Cablevision's public access show, "Imagine That," produced and hosted by Robin Richie Carpenter.

Carpenter is on the Network's board of directors and would like to show the works of and possibly interview independent producers once a month.

The network would also like to hear from producers with features and shorts longer than 20 minutes. They are preparing to negotiate with a local movie theater that would allow state-based movie makers to take over the theater one day a month and screen their productions.

This will be a great opportunity for public viewings and to have the work reviewed by critics. However, right now the New Jersey Movie Makers' Network has no idea how many people in the state have movies they'd like to show.

Producers should contact the Network by email at njmoviemakers@aol.com or via snail mail at 149 Orange St., Bloomfield, 07003.

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(Continued from Page B13)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Table of public notices for Worrall Newspapers, listing names, addresses, and contact information.

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(Continued from Page B14)

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(Continued on Page B16)

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Table of public notices for the left page, listing names and addresses such as MANLEY, MANNIX, MANSER, MANTON, etc.

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Table of public notices for the middle page, listing names and addresses such as MANNING, MANNING, MANNING, etc.

(Continued from Page B16)

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Table of public notices for the right page, listing names and addresses such as NEWMAN, NEWMAN, NEWMAN, etc.

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Table of public notices for the far right page, listing names and addresses such as NEWMAN, NEWMAN, NEWMAN, etc.

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REAL ESTATE

Market shows strength in third quarter

Industrial real-estate market fundamentals in northern and central New Jersey, despite the challenging economic environment, have shown signs of improvement, according to the latest findings from Cushman & Wakefield of New Jersey Inc.

At the end of the third quarter of 2003, the amount of overall available space had fallen 9.1 percent from the same time last year, to rest at 44.6 million square feet. Leasing activity registered 18.6 million square feet, outpacing the 17.3 million square feet recorded during the first three quarters of 2003. The strength of the industrial market this year also has been illustrated by robust sales activity.

In the following Q&A interview, Cushman & Wakefield industrial specialist Stanley Danzig, executive director, and Frank Caccavo, executive vice president of the firm's Metropolitan Area Financial Services Group, provide their observations and comments on today's most notable industrial market trends.

"Who is generating the stepped-up industrial leasing activity?"

Caccavo: Twelve leases greater than 100,000 square feet closed during the third quarter of 2003. The largest involved Home Depot, which committed to a 711,833-square-foot, build-to-suit warehouse/distribution facility in Cranbury. Others included Able Laboratories, Suppi Fine Paper, Ashlee Furniture, Duane Reade, Inc., North American Van Lines and Yankee Clipper Distribution.

On a smaller scale, the garment industry remains one of the most active tenant sectors in the current, price-driven market. "Lessor-credit users, i.e., not Fortune companies, are taking advantage of decreased pricing to upgrade from B to A facilities. From where are tenants coming?" Caccavo: Most of the deals being done today involve relocations within the state. Among the most notable tenants moving internally in the market, I.W. Grainger will take occupancy at its new build-to-suit in Washington Township in early 2004. Of course, many exceptions exist. For example, Mercedes-Benz has announced that it will enter the New Jersey market with plans for a 650,000-square-foot distribution facility at Exit 7A.

"What does the increased activity indicate? Are companies expanding or are they consolidating to improve their efficiency?"

Danzig: The answer is "both." A large amount of speculative product has been built, so the increased demand is welcomed by the development community. Rents have held steady and are ready to begin heading upward.

This has created opportunistic urgency for companies ready for expansion or consolidation.

At the same time, with today's low interest rates, companies recognize the benefit of making long-term capital decisions.

Many resulting strategic initiatives involve the area of logistics, where the proper balance of space efficiency and strong management systems can help companies extract greater profits to the bottom line without increasing "top line" revenues. As a result, we are seeing user movement to consolidated, more efficient, custom-built properties.

"Investor sales activity involving industrial product has outpaced last year. Will this trend continue?"

Merrin: Industrial space in New Jersey remains among the strongest product types for investment. Plenty of capital and interest still exists in the market, and we expect that to continue. Currently, a lack of available quality product is prompting investors to become creative in their approach. We are seeing more partnership ventures, such as the recently announced IDI Rockefeller Group alliance, to develop industrial projects within Foreign Trade Zone locations.

In the near future, we expect to announce a joint venture between a major New Jersey industrial developer and one of the largest pension funds.

We are also seeing increased investor willingness to take on risk. Many are considering or buying partially filled buildings and properties without strong, long-term tenants in place.

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15 YEAR FIXED	4.50	3.00	5.01	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.13	0.00	
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15 YEAR FIXED	4.13	0.00	5.35	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	4.75	0.00	
30 YR JUMBO	6.13	0.00	6.19	N/P	30 YR JUMBO	5.63	0.00	
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Investors Savings Bank	800-252-8119	Synovest Bank	800-493-3438					
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15 YEAR FIXED	5.00	0.00	5.03	FEE	15 YEAR FIXED	5.25	0.00	
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Kenwood Financial	800-633-6896	Union County Natl Bk	973-688-9500					
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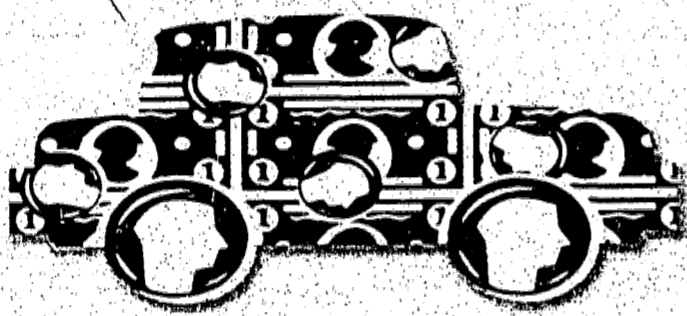
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