

COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

A winning battle

Studies show that more than 9 million American children and adolescents are overweight — triple the number identified in 1980. Approximately 25 percent to 30 percent of school-age children in the United States are overweight or obese, which puts them at a high risk for heart disease, diabetes, high cholesterol, sleep apnea, asthma, orthopedic problems, hypertension and other health problems.

Poor eating habits and inactivity are known to be the root causes of childhood obesity. The average American diet is high in calories and fat, and busy schedules prompt many families to eat out or eat on the run, often partaking of foods in larger portions with a higher caloric intake. To make matters worse, many of today's children lead largely sedentary lives, occupying the bulk of their spare time with home computers, video games and television.

Healthcare providers have convened numerous conferences about this growing epidemic in recent years, to try to counteract the related health and social consequences that often continue into adulthood.

In New Jersey, a new health initiative called the "Shape It Up" program has been designed to bring obesity intervention workshops to public elementary schools. With lessons designed by certified teachers and tailored to meet the requirements of the New Jersey Core Health Curriculum, "Shape It Up" seeks to increase awareness of healthy eating habits and exercise patterns in our communities.

Working in conjunction with the Ernest Mario School of Pharmacy at Rutgers University, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey's World Class Clinical Quality healthcare initiative has developed the "Shape It Up" program to provide age-appropriate, educational lessons that focus on exercise, healthy eating and obesity. "Shape It Up" is being introduced in 150 schools across the state. It will include obesity intervention workshops and an interactive curriculum with handouts for children and parents.

While there's nothing wrong with learning how to prevent obesity in a classroom setting, the most effective tool in tackling the problem is taking immediate action by using lessons that involve actual exercise and reinforcing healthy eating habits at home and at school. Physical education needs to be an essential part of every student's school day. The recent Jump Rope for Heart event at Deerfield School in Mountainside was one example of a great way to raise awareness of the dangers of heart disease, while keeping children active.

Offering more nutritious lunches in cafeterias and replacing the junk food found in school vending machines with healthy snacks are two more ways to promote weight loss and overall good health. If junk food isn't easily available to students on a regular basis, they will be less likely to eat it.

Likewise, parents can fight the obesity epidemic at home by promoting healthier eating habits in their children and making sure more nutritious foods are available to them on a regular basis. Biking, taking walks, or playing active, outdoor games together is another way families can fight obesity and discover the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

It's important to note that obesity is preventable and combating it is a battle that can be won. Best of all, it can become a challenge that brings the entire family closer together.

Continue the fight

After a long winter with large amounts of snow, many people are looking forward to the month of March as a time to celebrate the first day of spring.

There is, however, something else to honor and celebrate throughout the month. March is Women's History Month, a time to honor the achievements of women.

The tradition began in 1978 in Sonoma County, Ca., as "Women's History Week."

In 1981, Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., co-sponsored a joint Congressional resolution proclaiming the week containing March 8, International Women's Day, to be "National Women's History Week."

In 1987, Congress expanded the celebration to include the entire month of March.

With the theme "Women Change America," Women's History Month "honors and recognizes American women in culture, history and politics as leaders, writers, scientists, educators, politicians, artists, historians and informed citizens," according to the National Women's History Project.

This month is a time when we as Americans should look back and honor the great strides women have made toward equality, such as the successful fight for women's suffrage and the creation of the Equal Rights Amendment, which was passed by Congress in March 1972.

While March should be a time to reflect on the successful strides women have made, it is also a time when women should look ahead to the work that needs to be done to ensure that all men and women are treated equally.



Photo By Joseph A. Bertorello

SPECIAL SPEAKER — Ernie Green talks to students at St. James the Apostle School in Springfield last week during Black History Month. Back in the 1950s, nine African-American students at Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas faced an incident of racial segregation. Green was one of the nine students involved in that incident and came to talk to St. James School about his experiences dealing with racial prejudice.

Medical marijuana: Why wouldn't we do this?

Since the introduction of Senate Bill 2200, I have heard many stories from citizens who had experienced unbearable pain and wanted to thank me for introducing this legislation.

My bill would have New Jersey join with 12 other states to protect people with debilitating medical conditions from arrest and prosecution for the use of medical marijuana.

I believe my bill is a common sense approach to ease pain and suffering. My question to those who would oppose this legislation is "why wouldn't we do this?"

As a prosecutor, I deal first hand with the detrimental effects of recreational marijuana. I reject any arguments to weaken the current criminal penalties for that conduct.

At the same time, as a lawmaker, I want seriously ill people to be given every possible option for treatment and pain relief.

S-2200 establishes "New Jersey Compassionate Use Medical Marijuana Act" and it makes a clear distinction between medical and non-medical use of marijuana.

In order to be lawfully entitled to the limited use of marijuana, patients must first obtain written certification from a prescribing physician, with whom they have a bona fide relationship; other avenues of treatment must be tried first.

Then they must register with the state Department of Health and Senior Services. This registry will be kept confidential.

To successfully gain a registration card, the patient must demonstrate the presence of a chronic or debilitating disease or medical condition or its treatment that produces wasting syndrome, severe or chronic pain, severe nausea, seizures, or severe and persistent muscle spasms. This includes AIDS, cancer, multiple sclerosis, Chron's disease, and glaucoma. Marijuana use has been shown to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by these horrible diseases.

As background, a diversity of states including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Vermont and Washington have authorized the use of marijuana for medical purposes.

Most of these states have legisla-

Point

By Nicholas Scutari

tion that is very similar to my bill.

The controls and restrictions in the bill make this a fairly conservative measure. I have not seen any evidence that this type of legislation has increased illegal drug use in these states.

Certain medications are currently available to treat the debilitating medical conditions that this legislation targets; however, they do not work for many people.

There are also medications that come in pill form that contain tetrahydrocannabinol, but research demonstrates that ingested forms of marijuana are not as effective "for everyone as smoked marijuana."

We allow doctors to prescribe Oxy-Contin, Percocet and many other extremely addictive drugs without allowing them for public use. The side effects for these drugs are much more severe than for those of marijuana.

There are a number safeguards in S-2200.

My bill specifically forbids operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of medical marijuana. It also bans use on any form of transportation, on school grounds, correctional facilities, parks and beaches or recreational centers.

I understand that my bill, if wrongly branded, is controversial. It is important to express that this legislation does not provide slack for recreational use of marijuana. This is not a stepping stone.

Medical marijuana is not the first option for treatment, but an appropriate additional option.

Research for better medication will not stop because of this legislation.

It is my intention to have a committee hearing held on this bill to see out the restrictions and limitations, listen carefully to concerns and modify as again, why wouldn't we do this?

A Democrat, Nicholas Scutari of Linden represents the 21st Legislative District in the State Senate.

There are other options to ease pain, suffering

The line dividing recreational drugs from legitimate medical drugs has grown increasingly blurry over the past few years. At the center of this translucent divide has been the debate over the legalization of medical marijuana. Nine states have removed criminal penalties for, use, possession and cultivation of marijuana for medical reasons; however it still remains a federal crime.

While at the heart of this issue is federal authority versus states' rights, there is also the significant matter of weighing risks versus benefits. I believe that they don't and I do not support the medicinal use of medical marijuana.

Contrary to some people's beliefs, marijuana is not safe. It is an addictive drug with significant health consequences. Short-term effects include memory loss, distorted perception, loss of motor skills, decrease in muscular strength, increased heart rate and anxiety.

There are also numerous long-term effects. Marijuana contains more than 400 chemicals, including most of the harmful substances found in tobacco smoke. Harvard University researchers also report that the risk of a heart attack is five times higher than usual in the hour after smoking marijuana.

Proponents of legalized medical marijuana say that these effects do not have much of an impact on a terminal ill patient's decision to smoke marijuana. However, smoking marijuana also weakens the immune system and raises the risk of lung infection.

A Columbia University study found that a control group smoking a single marijuana cigarette every other day for a year had a white-blood-cell count that was 39 percent lower than normal, thus damaging the immune system. This finding is particularly important because patients who are deemed to be off the most from smoking marijuana, such as cancer and AIDS patients, already have a compromised immune system and therefore could become sicker by smoking marijuana.

If medicinal marijuana did become legal, additional social problems could arise. Marijuana would become more acceptable and be viewed by many as a soothing medicine rather

Counter Point

By Thomas Kean Jr.

than as a dangerous drug. It would also become much more readily available.

Unlike other prescription medications that are used to treat pain, yet are considered dangerous, such as Oxy-contin and hydrocodone, these can't be grown in someone's backyard or basement. Also, while the initial intention may not be to decriminalize marijuana completely, that is certainly a legitimate path. This should be a cause for great concern with more than 200,000 Americans entering substance abuse clinics in 1999 primarily for marijuana abuse and dependence.

The active ingredient in marijuana, according to advocates is THC, Tetrahydrocannabinol. This ingredient is already available by prescription and it is called Marinol. Marinol is synthetic THC, which has been found to relieve the nausea and vomiting associated with chemotherapy for cancer patients and to assist with loss of appetite in AIDS patients. It comes in the form of a pill and is also being studied by researchers for suitability via other delivery, such as an inhaler or patch.

It should be noted that there are no FDA-approved medications that are smoked as it is difficult to administer safe, regulated dosages in smoked form. Furthermore, the harmful chemicals and carcinogens that are byproducts of smoking create entirely new health problems.

No compassionate human being wants to see another person suffer and this is not the intention of those who oppose the medicinal use of marijuana.

Simply put, marijuana is a dangerously addictive drug that poses significant health risks. Studies have continuously shown that marijuana has no medical value that can't be met more effectively with legal treatment options.

A Republican, Thomas Kean Jr. of Westfield represents the 21st Legislative District in the State Senate.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We all should be so lucky

To the Editor:

Worrall Newspapers recently ran a story about former Union County Freeholder Lewis Ming - landing himself a county job. It seems that Mr. Ming, of Plainfield, whose freeholder term expired in December of last year, has accepted a full-time position as confidential aide and director of senior services at a salary of \$65,000 a year. It has not been a secret that he "decided" not to run for another term on the freeholder board because of changes of power within the Plainfield Democratic Committee and, as luck would have it, a position with the county just happened to come available. Luckier still for Ming is that the job happens to be working in an area he says he has an interest, children's and senior issues. What an amazing coincidence.

Of further interest is that he will be concentrating on issues affecting the elderly in the western end of the county. Plainfield happens to be in the western end of the county where he resides and the job is anchored in a Plainfield office.

What a good fortune. The powers that be insist that this job was not created specifically for the former freeholder, yet according to the county government's press secretary and director of communications, Sebastian D'Elia, the job "was fine-tuned to meet the issues of the western end" of the county. And how fortuitous it is that by taking this position and more than doubling his county salary from part-time freeholder to full-time employee, he will greatly increase his county pension upon retirement.

Lewis Ming is quoted in the Worrall Newspapers as saying "it just happened and the timing was right." Oh, that all of us should just happen to be in the right place at the right time like Mr. Ming. He certainly is a lucky, lucky man.

Patricia Quattrocchi Garwood

Editor's note: The writer was a Republican candidate for freeholder last November.

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EVENTS

Maple sugaring program on tap

Over a short six- to eight-week period in February and March, the sap of the sugar maple is collected and turned into syrup.

A program on maple sugaring will be conducted on March 19 at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. View a brief slide presentation exploring the history of maple sugaring from early Americans to present day collection methods.

Participate in a taste test to see if you can recognize the real thing, learn to identify sugar maple trees and see a tap in action. Enjoy breakfast by an open campfire to celebrate and appreciate the sugaring season with pancakes and 100 percent real maple syrup.

The program is for adults, ages 18 and older. Admission is \$10 per person for Union County residents, \$15 for non-county residents. Pre-registration is required.

Trailside is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation. Call 908-789-3670 for information.

St. James plans trip to PA shopping outlets

St. James Roman Catholic Church in Springfield offers a shopping spree at Vanity Fair Reading Outlets on March 28. The bus leaves Knights of Columbus parking at 8 a.m. and returns approximately at 5 p.m.

The cost is \$21 per person. The price includes deluxe bus transportation, bus driver tip, lunch voucher, shopping bag and discount coupon.

For reservations, call Tony Graziano at 973-376-5612.

Comedy show raises funds for rare disease

The fourth annual comedy show to benefit the Weldon F.O.P. Research Fund will take place on Saturday at the Mountainside Elks Lodge on Route 22 east at 7 p.m.

The fund raises money for research on Fibrodysplasia Ossificans Progressiva, a rare and incurable disease afflicting 12-year-old Whitney Weldon from Westfield. Tickets are \$35 per person. For information, call Gary Whyte at 718-442-7522. Seating is limited.

Tables set for book on ER

Tables will be set for a book on Emergency Room medicine. The book is titled "Emergency Room Medicine" and is published by the United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall on Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tables will be set on both sides of the road to put with their white elephants holiday gifts or special collections will be on hand at the "end of winter" book sale.

The United Methodist Women will also have a soup-tap for hungry shoppers' along with an array of desserts. Choose from homemade soups for eat in or take out. All profit will help pay the church's winter heating bill.

Springfield Emanuel invites all persons to join them for worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. or for a host of Lenten Bible studies, and outreach activities.

Call the church office for information at 973-376-1895.

Some tables may still be available for rent at the book sale. Each table costs \$10. Call the church office and leave your name and number for a return call.

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Youth and teen night planned at church

Visions of God Family Worship is hosting a special night of fun for local youth and teens on Friday at Evangelical Baptist Church, 242 Shampite Road in Springfield at 7:30 p.m.

The focus of the program will be to encourage young people to take an

active interest in their future. There will be a speaker, singing, steppers, and refreshments will be served. There will also be admission information from various colleges and financial consultants.

Pasta dinner benefits Project Graduation

The Project Graduation Committee of Governor Livingston High School is sponsoring a pasta dinner in the high school cafeteria.

Governor Livingston High School is located at 175 Watchung Blvd., Berkeley Heights. The pasta dinner will be conducted on March 11 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Proceeds will help fund this June's all-night drug and alcohol free graduation celebration for the entire senior class.

The menu will include pasta with meatballs or marinara sauce or cavatelli and broccoli, tossed salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$5 for senior citizens and children younger than age 12.

Tickets may be purchased at the door or reservations can be arranged by calling 908-771-0186.

The committee invites everyone to enjoy the pasta dinner and then attend the drama club's spring musical production of "Pippin."

Film festival explores perceptions of Jews

Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive in Springfield will host a film festival on March 20 and May 15. These complimentary events begin at 7 p.m.

The first permanent Jewish settlement in North America was established in 1654.

Beginning this past September, Jews across America began a yearlong celebration of the 350th anniversary of Jewish settlement in North America.

As part of this celebration, the film festival will look at two films that depict perceptions of Jews in America through the eyes of Jewish people and those of their neighbors. Participants in the film festival will compare and contrast these perceptions as depicted in two films that debuted 45 years apart from one another.

The 1947 Elia Kazan film, "Gentleman's Agreement," starring Gregory Peck and the 1992 Robert Mandel film, "Schindler's List," starring Brad Pitt, are the two films. Each film will be shown with discussion following the viewing. All are welcome — there is no charge for this event.

For information on this program, call the temple office at 973-376-0534.

Springfield senior group plans D.C. trip

On April 16, the Senior Citizens of Springfield will embark on a trip to Washington, D.C. Included in the trip will be a visit to the White House, a visit to the World War II Memorial and the cherry blossom. Also, a box lunch will be provided.

Anyone interested in attending can call 973-376-0947 after 5 p.m.

Eggstra special event planned at park

The Springfield Recreation Department presents the Springfield Egg Hunt, March 26 in Chisholm Park, 100 S. Springfield Avenue, 11 a.m.

Participants are invited to the park at least 10 minutes early.

The Egg Hunt will begin at 11 a.m. and usually takes no more than 10 minutes before all the eggs are gathered up.

All are invited to join in the event, which features prizes and a special visitor. For information, call 973-912-2227.

Scouts invited to Bingo Madness Friday

All Springfield Daisy and Brownie

Girl Scouts are invited to a night of Bingo Madness on Friday at Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, in Springfield from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The cost is \$5 per child and includes snacks and prizes. RSVP to Andrea Schaffer Rouso at 973-376-0261 or at Andrea.Schaffer@yan-b.com.

Newcomers meet

The Mountainside Newcomers Club will offer a Ladies Night Out at L'Affaire when they attend the annual Mountainside PTA dinner/auction/fashion show today.

For membership information and times of activities, call Tricia Brancatella at 908-301-1498.

The Mountainside Newcomers Club Inc. is a social organization dedicated to providing a friendly greeting to new members, to help them meet others and to extend a welcome to the community.

Membership is open to new residents of Mountainside and established residents who have recently experienced a change in lifestyle.

A generous donation



Longtime Springfield resident Peter Appollo, second from left, donates an American flag that his mother made more than 70 years ago to the Township Committee on Feb. 22. Committee members plan to find a prominent place to display the flag. Showing it off are, from left, Committeeman Ken Faigenbaum, Appollo, Committeewoman Clara Harelik, Mayor Sy Mullman and Committeeman Harold Poltrok.

WINE RETAILER

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Special Lester Wine Co. Chardonnay 9 ⁹⁷	Special Bordeaux Pinot Noir 7 ⁹⁷	Special Santa Margherita Pinot Grigio 18 ⁹⁷	Special Burgundy White Cabernet 4 ⁹⁷	Special Crown Royal Vodka 10 ⁹⁷	Special Crown Royal Whisky 8 ⁹⁷

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Learning lessons on Valentine's Day

For the students at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield, the Valentine's Day celebrations consisted of more than just classroom parties. The children completed an array of center activities to combine learning and fun.

Valentine's activities reinforced various math skills.

Students were actively engaged in sorting, classifying and graphing using candy hearts. Then they explained their graph to a teacher to reinforce their understanding. Cutting a circle in half and adding a turned square helped a group of students see

that their baked cakes could "magically" transform into a heart-shaped cake.

Another math-centered project provided children the opportunity to practice their patterning skills as they strung colored beads to make bracelets and necklaces.

Language arts activities for the day reinforced lessons in reading words around the room that began with the letters in Valentine.

Children also read poems, wrote stories about a best friend in their writing journals and sequenced Valentine stories.

Delivering their Valentine cards also allowed students to read the names of fellow students.

In the true spirit of love, friendship and kindness, one group of children made tissue paper flowers to be used as the centerpieces for a senior dinner at a nursing home.

Additionally, another group of students had the opportunity to tell a classmate something that they liked or admired about him or her.

Valentine's Day at Edward V. Walton School was another fun-filled educational day.



In the true spirit of love, friendship and kindness, one group of children at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield made tissue paper flowers for Valentine's Day to be used as the centerpieces for a senior dinner at a local nursing home.

STUDENT UPDATE

Moss named 'Teen Volunteer of the Year'

Adam Moss, a sophomore at Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield, was honored Feb. 16 at a dinner conducted at The Birchwood Manor as one of the "Teen Volunteers of the Year" by The Friendship Circle for his work with The Soccer Circle.

The Soccer Circle is an organization which teaches the basic skills of soccer to autistic, handicapped and developmentally challenged children.

This organization is based in Livingston and works with children of all ages throughout Northern and Central New Jersey.

Moss has been volunteering with The Soccer Circle for almost three years now. Moss, a varsity soccer player since he started high school, has always loved soccer and wanted to teach other children the game he is so passionate about.

Moss is an F-licensed soccer coach and he was the assistant coach of the U8 Sirens boys travel team for the Soccer Club of Springfield this fall season.

Moss has been playing on a Premiere travel team based in Madison for five seasons where he has been the leading goal scorer in each season. For the Dayton Bulldogs, he has been playing defense where this past fall, his team won the Conference and

Madison, who achieved honors for the fall 2004 semester. Named to the honors list were Mountaineers residents Salvatore Arpino and Jeffrey Jenkins and Springfield residents Brent Salerno and Matthew Spada.

Youth Group serves up 'Souper Bowl Sunday'

The Mountaineers Community Presbyterian Church Senior High Youth Group served up homemade soup for "Souper Bowl Sunday" as part of their ongoing fund-raising activities for Habitat for Humanity.

This summer, the Youth Group will spend a week helping to build houses with Habitat for Humanity.

Over the last few years, this Youth Group has been focused on providing help to those in need all over the world through their participation in World Vision's 30-Hour Famine.

This year, they have decided to concentrate their efforts on Habitat for Humanity, a cause which is closer to home.

In addition to helping some families in need, the participants will learn specific skills required for construction.

Fish achieves dean's list at Syracuse

Mamie Fish of Springfield was named to the dean's list for the fall 2004 semester at Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications. To qualify for the dean's list, students must achieve at least a 3.4 grade point average on a 4.0 scale during the semester.

Fish is a sophomore majoring in television, radio and film.

Honors for Koutroumbis

Leonidas Koutroumbis of Springfield was among the students at Fairleigh Dickinson University's Metropolitan Campus, Teaneck, who qualified for the 2004 fall semester honors list. To qualify for the dean's list, a student must have a 3.2 or better grade point average out of a possible 4.0; for the honors list, a 3.5 or better.

Honors at FDU

Several Mountaineers and Springfield residents were among the students at Fairleigh Dickinson University's College at Florham Campus,



Jump Rope for Heart was a success at Deerfield School on Feb. 11. Students at Deerfield School jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope for Heart.

Initiative aims to increase exercise

Jump Rope for Heart was a success at Deerfield School on Feb. 11. Students at Deerfield School jumped all over heart disease and stroke by participating in Jump Rope for Heart. The students in grades three through five raised more than \$3,150 for the American Heart Association.

Donations raised for Jump Rope for Heart help fund research, fight heart disease and stroke and support the American Heart Association's public and professional education programs.

Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in America and stroke is the No. 3 killer.

This year's event was a huge success," said Bob Stanton, Jump Rope for Heart coordinator. "We're very proud of all the jumpers and we all had a lot of fun."

"I commend Mr. Stanton's efforts and acknowledge the contributions of the school community in their efforts to help so many people in our community," said Angela Colmano, curriculum coordinator of the district.

Students find flamingo theme for fund-raiser

As you drive through Mountainside, Westfield and Summit, you may notice an unusual sight — flocks of pink flamingos are showing up on front lawns.

These colorful birds are part of a fund-raising effort by the Mountainside Community Presbyterian Church Senior High Youth Group on behalf of Habitat for Humanity.

Over the last few years, this Youth Group focused on providing help to those in need all over the world through their participation in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine.

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Sebastian joins 'Who's Who' list of CFPs

Summit Financial Resources, Inc. announced that, David Sebastian, CFP, the founder of the Physicians Wealth Management Group, has been named to the "Who's Who of New Jersey Certified Financial Planners TM."

Sebastian is one of only 12 advisors to be recently acknowledged from New Jersey and highlighted in Kiplinger's Personal Finance, The Journal of Accountancy and The ABA Journal. When asked about the honor Sebastian said, "I am very proud to be selected to this exclusive list. Our singular focus on the specific financial needs of physicians and their group medical practices sets us apart from other advisors."



Sebastian

NCJVA plans 'IMAGES 2005'

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will host its 24th annual IMAGES 2005 gala, the center's principal fundraising event, on April 2 at the Crystal Plaza on Northfield Avenue in Livingston.

James Cramer, founder of TheStreet.com and markets analyst for CNBC, serves as IMAGES corporate chairman. IMAGES 2005 — "Dreamscapes" is a special evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to the music by The Party Dolls. The evening also features live and silent auctions. Proceeds of the evening will benefit the center's education and community outreach programs.

For reservations and information, call NJCVA 908-273-9121.

Located on Elm Street in Summit, the non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts includes a full-scale studio art school, interior galleries and an outdoor sculpture garden. Programs include Artists with Disabilities, Kaleidoscope docu-tours, Outreach Programming, Kid's Art Camp and teacher symposiums among others. In 2004, NJCVA launched "Access to Art", a \$5.1-million renovation and expansion program. Construction has begun and is expected to be completed by September.

Summit Symphony plans concert

The Summit Symphony Orchestra will present a free concert on March 20 at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd., at 1 p.m. There will be a pre-concert lecture given by Maestro James Sadewhite, beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Under the direction of Conductor Sadewhite, the Summit Symphony Orchestra will perform the "Overture to Prince Igor," as well as the "Pleasant Dances," by Alexander Borodin. The orchestra also will combine with the Pro Arte Choral of Ridgewood to perform Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Donna Nobis Pacem," with soprano Jamie Baer Peterson and baritone Marc Embree as featured vocalists.

The Pro Arte Choral, now in its 41st season, has earned a reputation as one of the finest regional ensembles in the northeast.

The choral has appeared in major concert venues across the region, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the New Jersey PAC and Alice Tully Hall. In addition to its own subscription series in Bergen County, the choral performs regularly with the New Jersey Symphony.

Soprano Peterson, a native of Minnesota, was educated at the Eastman School of Music and began her opera career as an apprentice with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since then, she has been a soloist with the Dallas, Atlanta, Hartford, Princeton and Omaha symphonies. Opera highlights include leading roles with L'Opera de Nice, Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera and the New York City Opera. Peterson currently lives in New Providence with her husband and three children.

Baritone Embree was a principal singer with the New York City Opera for several seasons and has performed throughout the United States, in Mexico, Canada and Europe. He has sung with many regional opera companies including New Orleans, St. Louis and Omaha. Embree received critical acclaim for his performance in Kurt Weill's "Street Scene." He has performed in several live television broadcasts and on several recordings. He often appears in recital with his wife, Jane Bunnell.

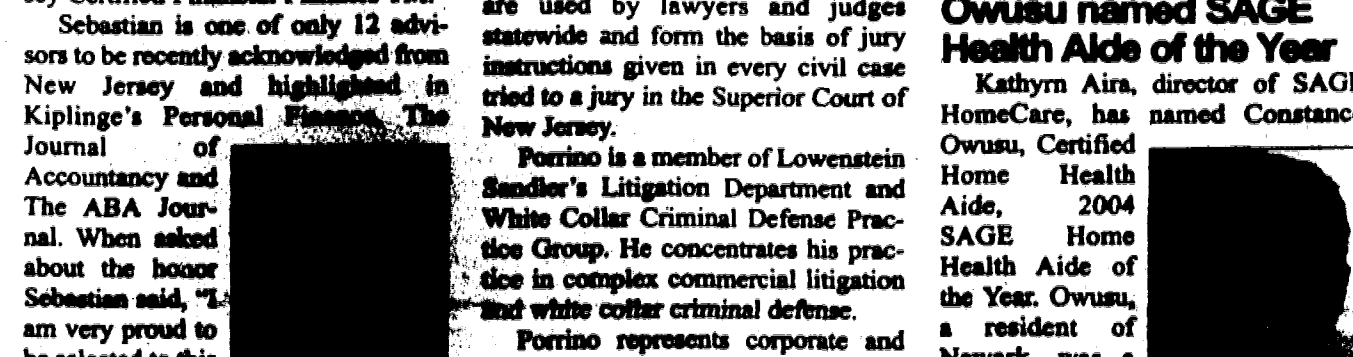
Funding for this concert has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Sebastian joins 'Who's Who' list of CFPs

Summit Financial Resources, Inc. announced that, David Sebastian, CFP, the founder of the Physicians Wealth Management Group, has been named to the "Who's Who of New Jersey Certified Financial Planners TM."

Sebastian is one of only 12 advisors to be recently acknowledged from New Jersey and highlighted in Kiplinger's Personal Finance, The Journal of Accountancy and The ABA Journal. When asked about the honor Sebastian said, "I am very proud to be selected to this exclusive list. Our singular focus on the specific financial needs of physicians and their group medical practices sets us apart from other advisors."



Sebastian

NCJVA plans 'IMAGES 2005'

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will host its 24th annual IMAGES 2005 gala, the center's principal fundraising event, on April 2 at the Crystal Plaza on Northfield Avenue in Livingston.

James Cramer, founder of TheStreet.com and markets analyst for CNBC, serves as IMAGES corporate chairman. IMAGES 2005 — "Dreamscapes" is a special evening of cocktails, dinner and dancing to the music by The Party Dolls. The evening also features live and silent auctions. Proceeds of the evening will benefit the center's education and community outreach programs.

For reservations and information, call NJCVA 908-273-9121.

Located on Elm Street in Summit, the non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts includes a full-scale studio art school, interior galleries and an outdoor sculpture garden. Programs include Artists with Disabilities, Kaleidoscope docu-tours, Outreach Programming, Kid's Art Camp and teacher symposiums among others. In 2004, NJCVA launched "Access to Art", a \$5.1-million renovation and expansion program. Construction has begun and is expected to be completed by September.

Summit Symphony plans concert

The Summit Symphony Orchestra will present a free concert on March 20 at Summit High School, 125 Kent Place Blvd., at 1 p.m. There will be a pre-concert lecture given by Maestro James Sadewhite, beginning at 2:15 p.m.

Under the direction of Conductor Sadewhite, the Summit Symphony Orchestra will perform the "Overture to Prince Igor," as well as the "Pleasant Dances," by Alexander Borodin. The orchestra also will combine with the Pro Arte Choral of Ridgewood to perform Ralph Vaughn Williams' "Donna Nobis Pacem," with soprano Jamie Baer Peterson and baritone Marc Embree as featured vocalists.

The Pro Arte Choral, now in its 41st season, has earned a reputation as one of the finest regional ensembles in the northeast.

The choral has appeared in major concert venues across the region, including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, the New Jersey PAC and Alice Tully Hall. In addition to its own subscription series in Bergen County, the choral performs regularly with the New Jersey Symphony.

Soprano Peterson, a native of Minnesota, was educated at the Eastman School of Music and began her opera career as an apprentice with the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Since then, she has been a soloist with the Dallas, Atlanta, Hartford, Princeton and Omaha symphonies. Opera highlights include leading roles with L'Opera de Nice, Santa Fe Opera, Minnesota Opera and the New York City Opera. Peterson currently lives in New Providence with her husband and three children.

Baritone Embree was a principal singer with the New York City Opera for several seasons and has performed throughout the United States, in Mexico, Canada and Europe. He has sung with many regional opera companies including New Orleans, St. Louis and Omaha. Embree received critical acclaim for his performance in Kurt Weill's "Street Scene." He has performed in several live television broadcasts and on several recordings. He often appears in recital with his wife, Jane Bunnell.

Funding for this concert has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

Summit residents join UCC Foundation board

The Union County College Foundation has recently announced that two Summit residents, Marylyn Luster Masia and Mary Zimmermann have been elected to serve on its Board of Trustees.

The Foundation was founded in 1977 to raise funds to support students and programs at Union County College. Last year, the Foundation raised more than \$600,000 through its annual appeal, special events and donations for endowed scholarships.

Masia serves as chairwoman of the Program Committee, whose function is to award grants to Union County College faculty and staff who want to offer special programs that are not possible under the college's operating budget. She also serves as honorary chairwoman of the Foundation's annual golf and tennis Tournament. This year's event will be April 25 at Echo Lake Country Club.

Zimmermann, who recently joined the Board of Trustees, serves as a member of the Gala Committee. She is also actively involved in the corporate and foundation phases of the Partnership for the Future Endowment and Capital Campaign, the Foundation's joint effort with the college to raise much-needed funds for scholarships and other programs.

Porrino selected for civil jury committee

Christopher Porrino of Summit, a member of the Roseland, N.J.-based law firm Lowenstein Sandler PC, was named recently to serve on the New Jersey Supreme Court's Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges. Porrino will serve the committee through Aug. 31, 2006.

Members of the Committee on Model Civil Jury Charges are selected for examination to the committee from

among all practicing lawyers in the state of New Jersey. Those appointed by the Supreme Court of New Jersey to serve on the committee pool their extensive knowledge and experience to draft new, and improved existing model instructions for jurors in civil cases. These model jury instructions are used by lawyers and judges statewide and form the basis of jury instructions given in every civil case tried to a jury in the Superior Court of New Jersey.

Porrino is a member of Lowenstein Sandler's Litigation Department and White Collar Criminal Defense Practice Group. He concentrates his practice in complex commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense.

Porrino represents corporate and individual clients nationwide in business disputes, criminal matters and internal investigations involving insurance fraud, bank fraud, securities fraud, tax fraud, antitrust and political corruption. He also defends lawyers, accountants and physicians in professional disciplinary matters.

Owusu named SAGE Health Aide of the Year

Kathryn Aina, director of SAGE HomeCare, has named Constance Owusu, Certified Home Health Aide, 2004 SAGE Home Health Aide of the Year. Owusu, a resident of Newark, was a teacher in West Africa for 25 years before coming to the United States.

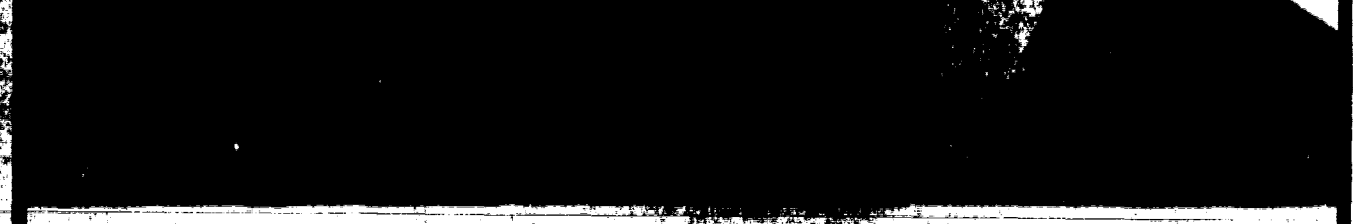
She has been with SAGE Eldercare for the past four years, having started as a home health aide back in 1997.

"I like working as a Home Health Aide because I am able to help others. This is what I enjoy," remarked Owusu after acceptance of this honor.

SAGE's HomeCare is designed to relieve some of the burdens faced by family caregivers who are on duty for long hours, usually tired and often trying to care for children at the same time. A home health aide is a professional who is trained to help clients with personal needs like bathing and getting dressed. Often clients find it easier to accept help from a home aide rather than a family member. Furthermore, an aide may observe a health problem or a change in cognitive function that a family member might not notice. SAGE's HomeCare aides become an integral part of families functioning with the care of an elderly loved one. In addition to home health aides, SAGE Eldercare offers a wide range of homecare services including personal care, family respite, home-making, bathing assistance, hospice and more.

SAGE's professional staff works closely with each client and their family members to deliver individualized, quality care.

For information regarding SAGE's HomeCare, call Kathryn Aina directly at 908-998-5528. For general information about SAGE Eldercare, visit their Web site at www.sageeldercare.org.

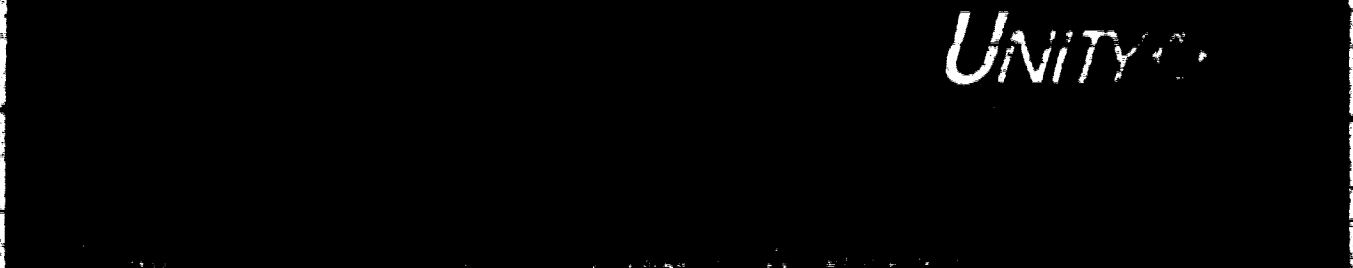


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Unity

AT THE LIBRARY

Good Books Group will meet tonight

The Good Books Discussion Group of the Springfield Free Public Library will meet tonight at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Three Junos" by Julia Glass.

In June of 1989 Paul McLeod, a newspaper publisher and recent widower, travels to Greece, where he falls for a young American artist and reflects on the complicated truth about his marriage.

Far from his straitlaced expatriate life as a bookseller in Greenwich Village, Fermo is stunned by a series of revelations that threaten his carefully crafted defenses.

Now pregnant, Fern must weigh her guilt about the past against her wishes for the future and decide what family means to her.

Registration is required, along with proof of age at the time of registration. Proof of age is a first-time only registration requirement.

Preschool Story Time

Mountainside Public Library will conduct Preschool Story Time today, from 2 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration is required, along with proof of age at the time of registration. Proof of age is a first-time only registration requirement.

Lecture addresses childhood obesity

Is your child a picky eater? Does he or she run straight for the television after school? Are your kids overweight? Are you worried about your child will be an obese adult?

The Westfield Regional Health Department will present a lecture on "Childhood Obesity and Good Eating Habits" at the Mountainside Free Public Library.

Learn how to set good examples of eating habits for your child. The earlier you start, the easier it is for them to change.

If you are interested in this topic, register by calling 908-233-0115. This is a free informational session provided for the towns of Garwood, New Providence, Roselle Park, Springfield and Westfield.

Program promotes proper dental hygiene

The Westfield Regional Health Department presents, "Hygiene Practices and Dental Habits of your Child" at the Mountainside Free Public Library.

As a parent, talking to your child about their hygiene and dental habits can be an embarrassing topic. Learn how to open the lines of communication by making hygiene practices and dental care fun.

Going to the doctor going to the dentist, taking a bath and brushing teeth can be less of a nightmare and more of a bonding experience.

These interesting and fun activities will be held in an informal setting, call registers by calling 908-233-0115.

For information regarding this topic prior to the event, call the Public Health Nurse at 908-789-4070 ext. 4073.

Donations sought

The Friends of the Springfield Public Library would like donations of used paperback novels.

Also welcome would be magazines within a years date and costume jewelry. The library is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

For information, call 973-376-4930.

Friends of Springfield Public Library meet

The Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library will be hosting their annual meeting on March 23 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be conducted at the Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

Members of the public who would be interested in attending this meeting would be welcome. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Film festival continues with 'Everybody's Fine'

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its spring international film festival on March 17 with "Everybody's Fine" at noon and 7 p.m.

In the tradition of Tomate's earlier cinema Paradiso, this lyrical tale explores the themes of aging, memories, and the inevitability of change.

Funding for the film festival has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant administered by

the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library. Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served.

Series continues with political conspiracy

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Lunchtime Video Series, "True Stories," on March 15 at noon.

Denzel Washington and Liev Schreiber play two U.S. soldiers who are brainwashed during the first Gulf War. They return home as heroes, though Ben Marco is troubled by dreams and vague memories of horrific events.

Funding for the video series has been made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, through a grant administered by the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and the Friends of the Springfield Free Public Library.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Coffee and cookies will be provided. For information, call 973-376-4930.

New titles released

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., has the following new releases available this week.

Fiction: "At Risk," by Stella Rimington; "The Bay at Midnight," by Diane Chamberlain; "Blood Memory," by Greg Iles; "Empire Rising," by Thomas Kelly; "The Forgotten Man," by Robert Crais; "Honeymoon," by James Patterson; "Love Overboard," by Janet Evanovich; "Portuguese Irregular Verbs," by Alexander McCall; "Prince of Fire," by Daniel Silva; "The Seventh Beggar," by Pearl Abraham; "Survivor in Death," by J.D. Robb; "Suspicion of Rage," by Barbara Parker; and "Vanishing Acts," by Jodi Picoult.

Mysteries: "All the Flowers Are Dying," by Lawrence Sanders; "Before the Frost," by Henning Mankell; "The Devil's Right Hand," by J.D. Rhoades; "Green Thumb," by Ralph McInerney; "Hidden River," by Adrian McKinty; "The Heartless Lounge," by Wallace Street; "Irish Cream," by Andrew Greeley; "Jazz," by David Fulmer; "The Killing Club," by Michael Malone; "The Rottweiler," by Ruth Rendell; and "Strange Affair," by Peter Robinson.

Non-Fiction: "Blind: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking," by Malcolm Gladwell; "The Case For the Living Wage," by Jerold Waltman; "How the Circulatory System Works," by Robert Mehler; "Voices of People's History of the United States," by Howard Zinn; and "Why Does He Do That?" by Lundy Bancroft.

Biographies: "Favre," by Brett and Bonita Favre.

Programs center on ladies' interests

A Ladies Time program for the community is scheduled through March 23 at Holy Cross Church, 639 Mountain Ave., Springfield.

The Spring meetings will be Wednesdays in March from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This will be an opportunity to build friendships with other women, relax and encourage one another while enjoying a variety of classes that enrich one's life.

Call for a brochure to Ladies Time at 973-379-4525. Classes to choose from include: "What's Up With Nutrition?" Using the basics of good nutrition and addressing the whole person, the group will develop personal wellness and nutrition goals.

For information on this not-for-profit program and to print out a registration form, go to: www.holycrossnj.org/ladies_time.shtml.

The class leader is a registered dietitian. "Parents: Are you Looking for Answers about your Child's Behaviors and Needs?" Receive practical strategies for meeting the unique challenges of parenting. Discussions are led by Jo Ann Madsen, RN and MCS.

"Bottom Drawer": Gather your unfinished projects and relax together as you enjoy finishing your knitting, embroidery, sewing, quilting and other "bottom drawer" projects.

"Scrapbooking": Bring your albums and personal supplies and join friends making memories last a lifetime.

"Book Club": Come together after reading to enjoy discussions of relevant topics and share wisdom found from a book selected by class participants.

Elks award students



Springfield-Hillside Lodge 2004 recently awarded students of Florence M. Gaudinier School in Springfield for their superior accomplishments for the marking period. From left are sixth-grader Brenda Warman, eighth-grader Michael Stiglano, Elks Exalted Ruler Walter Buerkle, seventh-grader Angela Reino and fifth-grader Alexa McCaffrey. Students received the awards at a dinner conducted at the lodge.

Group sponsors Music Cities Tour

An all-inclusive Music Cities Tour of Memphis, Branson and Nashville will be sponsored by the Renaissance Group of Temple Sha'arey Shalom, Springfield, from May 16 to May 23.

The eight-day fully escorted deluxe tour includes two nights in Memphis, Tenn., with guests staying at the Radisson Hotel; three nights in Branson, Mo., at the Radisson Hotel; and two nights in Nashville, Tenn., at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel. Departure will be from Newark Airport to Memphis, Tenn., returning from Nashville, Tenn. to Newark Airport.

The trip is open to the general public and is limited to 42 people. This Music Cities Tour of Memphis, Branson and Nashville is the eighth trip sponsored by Temple Sha'arey Shalom's Renaissance Group. The trip includes deluxe hotels throughout, round trip air and extensive sightseeing.

In Memphis, there will be visits to Graceland, the palatial home of Elvis Presley, and the Mason Temple and Church of God in Christ, where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

The visit to Nashville, "Music Capital of the World" will be a treat beginning with reserved seats at the "Grand Olde Opry." After, tour the historic RCA Studio B, where Elvis Presley, Dolly Parton, Charlie Pride and many more artists recorded their hit songs.

Next, there will be a tour of the Country Music Hall of Fame with an afternoon sightseeing tour of Nashville. He will also show how Pictaciny is currently supporting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Izzo is a native of Saratoga Springs, New York. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure and has a master's degree from Central Michigan University. He assumed command of Pictaciny in May of 2004.

To make reservations, call the tour agent, Preferred Travel, at 973-338-9697 and refer to group membership number 845819 and departure date of May 16.

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERRIE'S BROTHERS REALTY CO. INC. NOTICE OF CONDEMNATION. THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that sealed bids for CONDEMNATION SHALL BE OPENED AT 10:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2005 AT THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, COUNTY OF BERGEN, 100 WALL STREET, NEWARK, NEW JERSEY 07102.

By virtue of the above-stated act of assembly, the public vendor of the Union County, New Jersey, shall be the County of Union, State of New Jersey. The County of Union, State of New Jersey, is the owner of the property described in the attached plat, which is located in the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey. The property is being sold to the County of Union, State of New Jersey, for the purpose of the construction of a road.

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SAGE moves into new home

The Spend-A-Day program of SAGE Eldercare has officially moved into its new facility at 290 Broad St. in Summit.

The Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center provides older adults with a day of stimulating social, recreational and physical activities in a medically supervised group setting, giving caregivers time for other activities.

Enthusiastic Spend-A-Day participant Margaret (Peg) Murray of Summit joined others on the first full day of programming in the new building.

"I like the new building very much. It's lovely, spacious, airy and very bright," Margaret (Margie) Cram of Rahway had a similar response, remarking "I love the way everything is here."

SAGE's skilled services provide a viable alternative to placement in an assisted living facility or nursing home. The Spend-A-Day program is offered Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Extended hours between 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. are also available to accommodate working caregivers.

The Spend-A-Day program offers two levels of programming. The initial program is for the older person who can participate in a full schedule of group activities.

The special needs program offers additional assistance to those who are beginning to experience early dementia or physical limitations and provides individual and group activities that reinforce basic skills while reducing the anxieties and frustrations that often accompany advancing illness.

Breakfast, lunch, snacks, entertainment, massage, pet and music therapies are part of both levels of programming.

The Spend-A-Day staff is experienced and professionally trained. A registered nurse is on-site to monitor medications, blood pressure and weight management as well as coordinate health care plans with a primary care physician. SAGE maintains a high staff-to-client ratio and personalized care plans," said Jennifer Comfort, Spend-A-Day director.

SAGE Eldercare welcomes the public to visit the new location and learn more about the programs and services available to you and your family. An open house has been scheduled for April 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. For those who can't make it to the open house but would like more information about the Spend-A-Day program, call Comfort at 908-598-5519.

For information about other SAGE Eldercare services, call 908-273-5550 or visit their Web site at www.sageeldercare.org.

Spent-A-Day participants Margaret (Margie) Cram of Rahway and Margaret (Peg) Murray of Summit enjoy the first full day of programming at SAGE Eldercare's new facility on 290 Broad St. in Summit.

Present SAGE programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP - State Health Insurance Assistance Program - of Union County, Bill Paying, a Shopping Service, Chore Service, InfoCare, a Resale Shop and Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, currently located in Berkeley Heights.

SAGE serves 5,000 older people and their families annually in Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union counties. For information, call 908-273-5550 or log onto www.sagejnj.org.

Summit AARP meets

The Summit AARP will conduct its second monthly meeting at 10 a.m. on March 28 at St. John's Lutheran Church, 287 Springfield Ave. in Summit.

Coffee and social starts at 9:45 a.m. The speaker will be Mary Viscimino, who will provide an update on Medicare benefits/prescription plans. For information, call 908-273-5550.

Grant from Overlook aids needy seniors

The Overlook Palliative Care Program has been awarded a three-year, \$291,000 grant for a project designed to assist vulnerable seniors. The project will be coordinated in collaboration with Atlantic Home Care and has been funded by the Grota Fund for Senior Care of the Jewish Community Foundation of MetroWest New Jersey.

The project's goal is to coordinate services for medical care, symptom management and improved quality of life for 150 chronically ill seniors each year or more.

"It is natural for older people to want to be independent. This program is for those people who need some assistance managing their health but who do not require more intensive services," said Joanne Karvins, coordinator of the Overlook Ethics and Palliative Care Program.

"Hopefully, this program will provide additional resources to these seniors to extend their ability to remain independent and to enhance their quality of life."

For information, call Ellen McNally, SAGE InfoCare Director at 908-273-5550.

SENIOR NEWS

SAGE Eldercare serves as a major community resource in the establishment and delivery of innovative services for older adults and their caregivers; providing them with dignity and choice. These services allow the elderly to remain independent and living in their own homes.

Present SAGE programs include HomeCare, Meals-on-Wheels, SHIP - State Health Insurance Assistance Program - of Union County, Bill Paying, a Shopping Service, Chore Service, InfoCare, a Resale Shop and Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, currently located in Berkeley Heights.

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Old Guard hears from Pictaciny general

Brigadier General Paul Izzo, the commanding general of Pictaciny Arsenal, will speak to The Summit Area Old Guard about the facility's role in the past, present and future in the nation's defense at the Tuesday meeting in the New Providence Municipal Building, 360 Elkwood Ave. at 10 a.m.

The Pictaciny Arsenal was established in 1880 as a power storage facility and later turned into an ammunition producer. General Izzo will tell how the base evolved into an armament research and development facility. He will also show how Pictaciny is currently supporting our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

General Izzo is a native of Saratoga Springs, New York. He is a graduate of St. Bonaventure and has a master's degree from Central Michigan University. He assumed command of Pictaciny in May of 2004.

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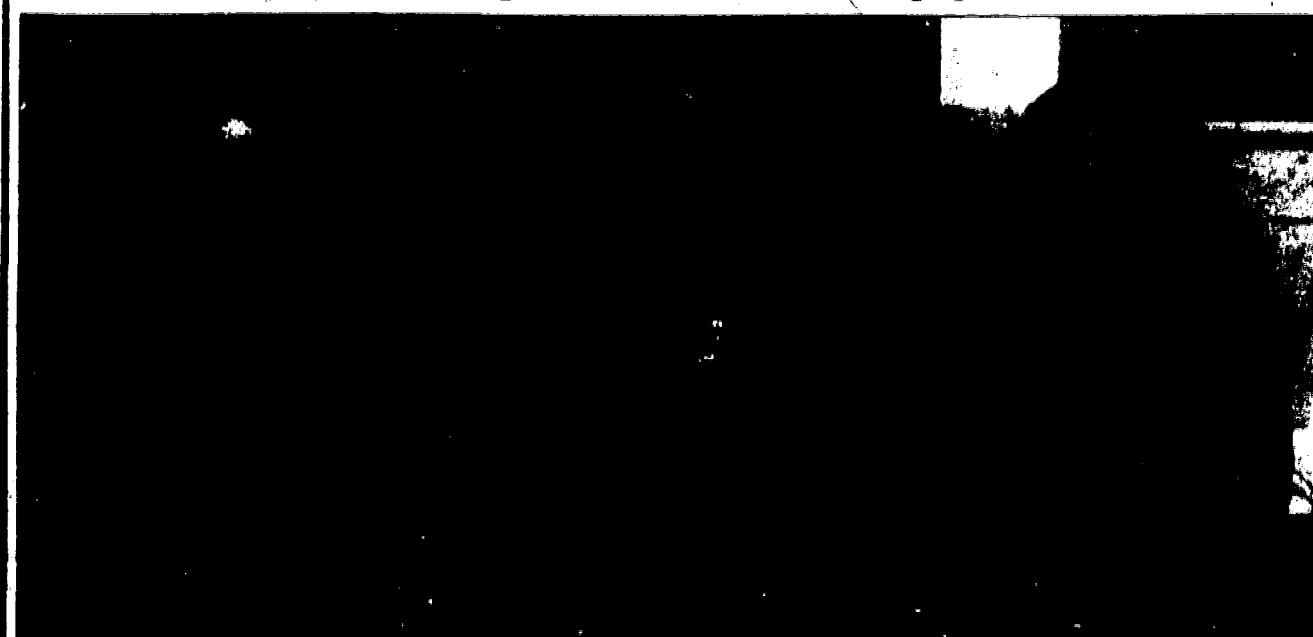
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Volunteers help make it happen



Volunteers at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit attend a coffee at Wisner House to learn about the upcoming volunteer possibilities for the 2005-2006 year. Participating in the event are dedicated volunteers Ellen Donovan, Maria Zazzera and Leslie Rodgers.

Watercolor exhibit uncovers artistic wonders

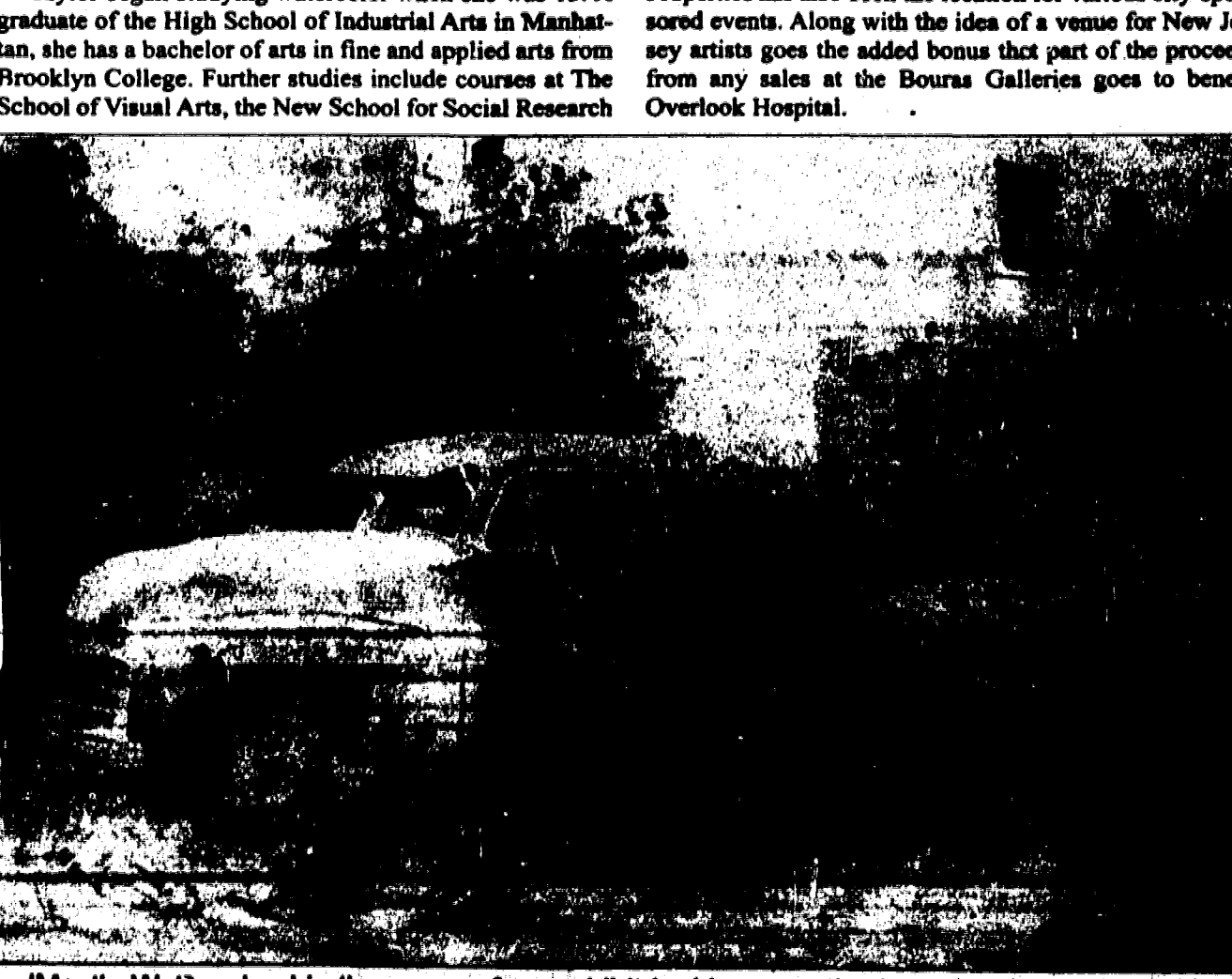
"Mostly Watercolors" is the name of an exhibit by Verona artist Ann Taylor. This exhibit of 40 watercolor and pastel paintings is on view at the Bouras Galleries in Summit on DeForest Avenue. The exhibit will be at Bouras Galleries through April 28. The gallery is open to the public by appointment only. To make an appointment, call Linda Cole at 908-277-6054.

Taylor is an award-winning artist who finds challenge in interpreting a wide variety of subjects, frequently utilizing water as a compositional element. Her love of color and light is evident in her paintings as is her passion for travel.

Taylor began studying watercolor when she was 15. A graduate of the High School of Industrial Arts in Manhattan, she has a bachelor of arts in fine and applied arts from Brooklyn College. Further studies include courses at The School of Visual Arts, the New School for Social Research

and most recently, the Yord School of Art in Montclair. Taylor is a member of several professional organizations; she is also an associate member of the New Jersey Watercolor Society and the Garden State Watercolor Society. Taylor just completed a three-year membership of the Essex Watercolor Club - New Jersey's oldest watercolor society. Presently, she teaches watercolor painting and is a trustee of the Verona Park Conservancy, for whom she designed note cards as a successful fund-raiser.

Bouras, owner of the Bouras Building, is very community-oriented and has supported many charitable and civic organizations in town and throughout the country. Bouras Properties has also been the location for various city-sponsored events. Along with the idea of a venue for New Jersey artists goes the added bonus that part of the proceeds from any sales at the Bouras Galleries goes to benefit Overlook Hospital.



"Mostly Watercolors" is the name of an exhibit by Verona artist Ann Taylor. This exhibit of 40 watercolor and pastel paintings is on view at the Bouras Galleries in Summit on DeForest Avenue. The exhibit will be at Bouras Galleries through April 28.

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ENTRY BLANK. NAME, ADDRESS, CITY, PHONE. Contest Ends Fri., March 11, 2005 - Noon. Register here-Contest Ends Fri., March 11, 2005. Register here-Contest Ends Fri., March 11, 2005. Register here-Contest Ends Fri., March 11, 2005.

Local Supermarket advertisement listing various businesses: FUSCO BROS., MOUNTAINSIDE DELI, SUMMIT YMCA, MERLE NORMAN COSMETICS, SPRINGFIELD YMCA, SUMMIT CAR WASH & DETAIL CENTER, HAPPY EASTER.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST: EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH - 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield, Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor. Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Seniors - Sunday School 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM - 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer, Praise and Bible Study. Junior/Senior Ministry. Active Youth Ministry. Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Choir. Fellowship with assistance. All are invited and welcomed to participate in worship with us. For further information call church office (973) 379-4351. Mondays - 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE.

JEWISH - REFORM: TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-5387. Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Cantor; Education Director, Rita Greenstein; Fellowship Director, Mandy Schreff; Family Life Educator; Edward Pink and Hank Rosenbaum, Co-Presidents. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union County Reform Judaism. Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM, with monthly Family and Adult Bible Study. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturdays mornings for grades K-5, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00 AM to 8:30 AM. Evening services for preschoolers, pre-schoolers, and young children ages 2-12 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active School Board, Board of Trustees, Board of Congregation, Board of Education, Board of Youth Group and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call

Chance visit sprouts book idea

What started out as a chance visit to the home of renowned poet Emily Dickinson's family home in Amherst, Massachusetts, turned into a labor of love for horticulturalist Marta McDowell of Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit.

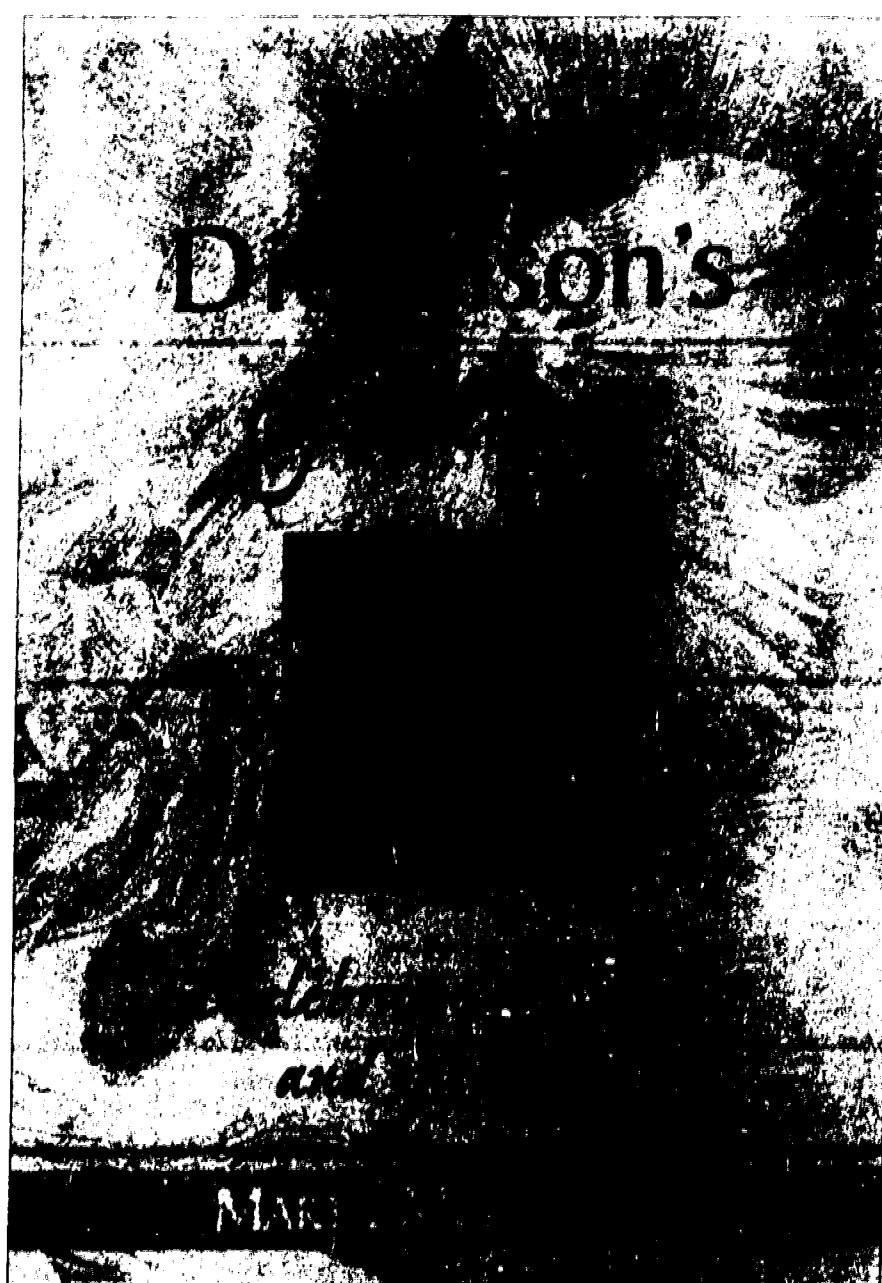
Two years and much research later, McDowell unveiled "Emily Dickinson's Gardens," published by McGraw Hill.

"Excerpts from Dickinson's letters and verse lend grace notes of profound beauty and surprise," according to Carol Stocker of the Boston Globe. The book has also been favorably reviewed by The Plain Dealer, The Sun and the Indianapolis Star.

The illustrated gift book explores the flowers and poems of the "Belle of Amherst." It contains memorable and rarely anthologized excerpts from Dickinson's poetry and letters and historical details emphasizing the poet's horticultural interests. It also includes instructions on planting an Emily Dickinson garden, including plans, design ideas, plant sources and growing tips. McDowell, a resident of Chatham, was inspired to write the book when she learned that the reclusive Dickinson sent homegrown bouquets to friends, studied botany at Amherst Academy and tended her own glass conservatory.

McDowell teaches landscape history at RRA, the New York Botanical Garden and at Drew University, Madison. She has written for Woman's Day Gardening and Outdoor Living, Hortus, New Jersey Monthly and The New York Times.

The book was released in December



Art is in bloom, both indoors and out

While the world around lies mostly dormant during winter, life at Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit is in bloom both indoors and out. The arboretum offers many ways to spend an hour, whether one is retired, in preschool, or on lunch break. A visit to the warm green house at the arboretum will reveal cast, begonias and orchids at their peak as well as other winter wonders.

More blooms can be found inside Wisner House, where professional photographer Lynn Wilkins has recently installed her exhibition "In Full Bloom."

The show features floral images rich in detail and also in abstract forms. It runs through March 23. Wilkins' unique and artistic effects result from soft and selective focusing techniques. Back lighting adds extra brilliance by illuminating petals and sculpting shadows to reveal the delicate shape of flowers. An artist's reception is scheduled for Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Be sure to bring a camera to capture some artwork and walk the grounds to take in winter scenes of crystallized tree limbs, frosted shrubs and towering branches that stretch to the sky just waiting for the warmth of the sun to return their green coats. Worthy of special attention this time of year is the Winter Interest Garden. The garden



At Reeves-Reed Arboretum, be sure to bring a camera to capture some artwork and walk the grounds to take in winter scenes of crystallized tree limbs, frosted shrubs and towering branches that stretch to the sky just waiting for the warmth of the sun to return their green coats. More blooms can be found inside Wisner House where professional photographer Lynn Wilkins has recently installed her exhibition "In Full Bloom."

Programs celebrate signs of spring

Often thought of as the quintessential sign of spring, the jaunty daffodil can be described as both humble and sophisticated. Each spring, Reeves-Reed Arboretum hosts a display of more than 35,000 daffodils in its glacial kettle, affectionately known as the "daffodil bowl."

Visitors can learn more about these versatile members of the Narcissus family — and their history and significance at RRA — through the variety of programs offered below.

• Wisner House Gallery celebrates daffodil season by hosting "Daffodils and Other Signs of Spring," a collaborative exhibit of works featuring daffodils and other signs of spring. Included will be graphite and colored pencil drawings, watercolor, photog-

Arboretum offers outdoor education

Reeves-Reed Arboretum, 165 Hobart Ave., offers a wide range of adult education courses, events and activities this spring. For information on any of the following, call 908-273-8787 ext. 16.

• With Wednesday Watercolors, accomplished watercolorist Jutta Hagen provides an opportunity for both beginning and more experienced artists to observe nature through still life and the arboretum's own vistas.

• Bring materials to the class. The supply list will be sent upon registration. Classes run eight consecutive weeks, starting April 6, from 9 a.m. to noon. The fee is \$139 for members, \$143 for non-members.

• On March 19, join the RRA horticulturalists and learn the proper pruning techniques for hybrid teas, climbers and shrub roses. Also discussed will be correct tools for pruning. Participants will practice their new found knowledge on the

ECHO LEADER

Editor: JR Parachini
Can be reached in
Maplewood at 973-763-0700

SPORTS

What a mess the snow made State tourney games delayed

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

What a mess. State tournament basketball was to commence around the state of New Jersey on Monday.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature jumped up and slammed the entire Garden State with a massive snowstorm.

The Dayton boys' and GL boys' and girls' teams were scheduled to play Monday.

These three teams may not be played until yesterday.

The Dayton girls' team is scheduled to host Florence tonight and should still have its game played tonight since there were no first-round games in Central Jersey, Group 1 because only seven teams qualified.

The Dayton boys' are seeded 11th in Central Jersey, Group 1 and were to play at sixth-seeded New Providence in a first-round game.

The Bulldogs beat Bishop Abz 56-45 in Edison last Saturday to improve to 11-12. Joe Furnagura scored 21 points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked two shots.

Mike Mason had 12 points and 10 rebounds, Raul Purnaguera nine points and Jesse Westphalen six.

GL, seeded fifth, was to host 12th-seeded Rutherford in a North 2, Group 2 first-round game.

The Highlanders began the week 13-10 after falling to Roselle Catholic and New Providence last week. Tom Amadio had 13 points and Evon Kaplan four in Saturday's 66-51 loss to New Providence.

The GL girls' seeded 11th, were to play at sixth-seeded Rutherford in North 2, Group 2. GL beat Somerville 52-50 last Thursday to improve to 10-11.

The Dayton girls', seeking to get back to the Central Jersey, Group 1 final, played for the first time in 12 days last Saturday, falling at home to Colonia by a score of 53-43.

Cristin Zavoicki scored a team-high 16 points for the Bulldogs, while teammates Dara Poltrock and Valerie Upton added 11 and 10 respectively.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE BLUE DIVISION ALL-STARS 2004-2005

- FIRST TEAM**
Goatleader: Jeff Green, Millburn, No. 35
Defense: Rob Carroll, Dayton, No. 10
Defense: Charlie Booth, Millburn, No. 13
Forward: Zach Bierbaum, Livingston, No. 9
Forward: Kyle Whalon, Watchung Hills, No. 23
Forward: James Romano, Passaic Valley, No. 17
- SECOND TEAM**
Goatleader: Brandon Waldner, Livingston
Defense: Hugo Oliveira, Newark East Side, No. 20
Defense: Brandon Lipka, Watchung Hills, No. 28
Forward: Kolin Kleinsdorfer, Millburn, No. 9
Forward: Steve Mandel, Dayton, No. 18
- HONORABLE MENTION**
Wilder Knicker, Newark East Side, No. 32
John Scates, Glenview, Livingston, No. 35
Stephano Molinari, Passaic Valley, No. 19
Steven Pallino, Passaic Valley, No. 10
Joe Pijanowski, Governor Livingston, No. 20
Tom Pacheco, Livingston, No. 16
Mike Lundberg, Watchung Hills, No. 23
Elio Klein, Watchung Hills, No. 25
- MVP**
Rob Carroll, Dayton, No. 10
- REGULAR SEASON CHAMP**
Watchung Hills

CENTRAL CONFERENCE WHITE DIVISION ALL-STARS 2004-2005

- FIRST TEAM**
Goatleader: Myles Woods, Summit, No. 30
Defense: Eric Paron, Nutley, No. 17
Defense: Brent Daniels, Verona, No. 6
Forward: Dan Kargus, Verona, No. 14
Forward: Marshall Madison, Summit, No. 24
Forward: Brent Davis, Westfield, No. 15
- SECOND TEAM**
Goatleader: Max Greenberg, West Orange, No. 31
Defense: Danny Harris, Verona, No. 3
Defense: Doug Clark, Bernards, No. 17
Forward: James Foley, Verona, No. 13
Forward: Ryan Madara, Westfield, No. 39
Forward: Casey Voss, West Orange, No. 6
- HONORABLE MENTION**
Jack Pike, Bernards, No. 27
Phil Bucconero, Westfield, No. 27
Andrew Maronelli, West Orange, No. 5
Chris Maricchi, Bernards, No. 12
Tim Leopold, Bernards, No. 10
Colin Campbell, Summit, No. 10
- MVP**
Dan Kargus, Verona, No. 14
- REGULAR SEASON CHAMP**
Verona

DAYTON ICE HOCKEY IN KELLY CUP PLAYOFFS THE EAST THREE SEASONS

2004-2005 (13-4-3) (culture states)
Roughly 1000 fans attending to Watchung Hills 6-2 at South Mountain, Conn. (1st game of series)

2003-2004 (9-9-3)
Roughly 1000 fans attending to West Orange 6-2 at SMA, Steve Mandel and Paul Lookumovich scoring.

2002-2003 (13-4-3)
Won Cup trophy, defeating Montclair-Kimberly Academy 2-1 at SMA, Rob Carroll and Steve Mandel scoring.

GL's Abitante wins MOC pole vault event

Governor Livingston High School student winner track and field student Anthony Abitante was a winner in Sunday's annual Meet of Champions at Red Bank in Princeton. The senior captured the pole vault event with a jump of 14 feet, six inches. Union County also had the sixth-place finisher in Tom Hansen of Cranford, who had a mark of 12-6.

District 12 Wrestling at South Plainfield

Governor Livingston finished tied for seventh and had third-place qualifiers in Mike Mattingly at 140 and Scott Mack at 152.

South Plainfield extended the state's longest current streak with its 21st straight title and had six champions along with Watchung Hills.

South Plainfield was also won of only three teams in the state - Kintstiny and Paulsboro the others - to advance 13 wrestlers to the regions.

Region 3 continues at Union tomorrow and concludes Saturday.

TEAMS: 1-South Plainfield 270. 2-Watchung Hills 176. 3-New Providence 167.5. 4-North Plainfield 71.5. 5-Johnson 54. 6-Middlesex 46. 7-Colonia and GL 44. 9-Plainfield 19.

FINALS
103: Patrick Hunter, SP, dec. Anthony From, Johnson, 6-5.
112: Billy Ashault, SP, pinned Adel Alfa, New Providence, 3:41.
119: Jimmy Conroy, SP, pinned Dave Phimpaseon, North Pl., 2:19.
125: Ross Baldwin, New Providence, pinned Vito Vo, SP, 4:40.
130: Tyler Rietze, Westfield, dec. Nick Dorey, SP, 8-4.
135: Ed McCray, SP, pinned Larry Pooter, New Providence, 3:17.
140: Shane Riccio, Watchung Hills, dec. Foster DaAndrea, SP, 2-0.
145: Paul Ribicki, SP, pinned Marc Neuwirth, New Providence, 1:55.
152: Alex Caruso, Watchung Hills, dec. Miha Zabavnik, SP, 17-6.
160: Cory Aldrich, Watchung Hills, dec. Sam Martin, SP, 3-2.
171: Brett Keating, Watch. Hills, pinned Sigit Diaz, Johnson, 5:17.
189: Shane Mallory, New Providence, dec. Kevin Crilly, SP, 7-6.
215: Rob Maitzick, SP, dec. Bryan Reilly, Middlesex, 4-2.
HWT: Steve Keit, Watchung Hills, dec. Preston Johnson, SP, 4-3.

THIRD-PLACE QUALIFIERS

103: Mike Sarfat, North Plainfield
112: Ryan Start, Watchung Hills
119: Wade Baldwin, New Providence
125: Nick Deleto, Middlesex
130: Mike Boccia, New Providence
135: Roberto Soriano, W. Hills
140: Mike Mattingly, Gov. Liv.
145: Phil Bajajski, Colonia
152: Scott Mack, Gov. Livingston
160: Jimmy Conroy, New Providence
171: Michael Pappalardo, Johnson
189: John J. Pappalardo, Johnson
215: Trevor Martin, New Providence
HWT: Dwayne Wilson, Colonia

OW: Jimmy Conroy, 119, S. Plain

Conroy, 119, S. Plain, was named MVP of the district 12 wrestling tournament. He won his first match against North Plainfield's Mike Sarfat in the first round. Conroy then won his second match against Watchung Hills' Ryan Start in the quarterfinals. Conroy then won his third match against Johnson's Sigit Diaz in the semifinals. Conroy then won his fourth match against New Providence's Billy Ashault in the final. Conroy's victory over Ashault was a rematch of their first meeting at the state tournament in November, where Conroy won by a 10-0 decision.

DAYTON BOYS' HOCKEY

Dayton's boys' hockey team, coached by Don York, won their first game of the season on Saturday night at South Mountain. Dayton defeated Somerville 5-2. The game was a rematch of their first meeting in November, where Dayton won 4-3. Dayton's victory over Somerville was a significant win for the team, as they had lost their previous two games. Dayton's offense was led by Mike Mason, who scored two goals and three assists. Dayton's defense was led by Rob Carroll, who made several key saves.

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THIRD-PLACE QUALIFIERS

103: Steve Hagan, SP
112: Ryan Start, Watchung Hills
119: Greg Selway, Millburn
125: Eric Finn, Millburn
130: Doug Linn, Colonia
140: Mike Antonucci, SP
145: Eric Buggen, SP
152: Andrew Gagnier, SP
160: Rick Deane, Roselle Park
171: Mike Karam, Roselle Park
189: Jim Stanton, Roselle Park
215: Max Pflieger, Irvington
HWT: Manny Lewis, Berkeley

OW: Tom Eidel, 119, SP, Coach: Dino DeBellonia, SP.

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Breast cancer group awarded

The North Jersey Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, located on Springfield Avenue in Summit, recently awarded grant funds to the Sisters Network of Central New Jersey.

The Sisters Network is the first and only national African-American breast cancer survivors' organization in the United States.

Funds from the Komen North Jersey Affiliate grant will enable the Sisters Network to continue to educate, provide support and bring breast cancer awareness to the African-American community in Union and Middlesex counties.

For information on the Sisters Network, call 732-246-8300, for information on the Komen North Jersey Affiliate, call 908-277-2904.



Accepting the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation's North Jersey Affiliate grant check for the Sisters Network of Central New Jersey are Lane Howard, member and volunteer, and Dorothy Reed, president, second and third from right. Joining them are from left, affiliate representatives Mary Hess, grant coordinator; Deb Belfatto, executive director; and trustees Barbara Kennedy, Elizabeth Kennelly and Andrea Karsian.

Foundation awards local hospitals

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, North Jersey Affiliate, based in Summit, recently awarded grant funds to two Union County hospitals to provide education, outreach and screening services to low-income, uninsured women.

Overlook Hospital in Summit received two grants.

The first grant will support the Patient Centered Teaching Team Project designed to recruit, train and enable women with breast cancer to function as patient educators for physicians, and peer educators for other women with breast cancer. Funds from the second grant from the Komen North Jersey Affiliate will be used to support the hospital's breast health outreach to Latina and African-American women in Summit, Union, Vauxhall, Springfield, Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Sterling, including education programs, inter-generational programs, community events and health fairs and breast cancer screening sessions.

For information on Overlook's Patient Centered Teaching Team, call 908-522-5283; for information on the Hospital's Breast Health Outreach Program, call 908-522-2844.

Grant funding from the Komen Affiliate will be used by Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth to support its Breast Health Outreach Program focusing on taking breast health information into underserved segments of the community by educating minority women about breast health, navigating women to other critical services related to their overall health and conducting free health screenings through the NJCED program — New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36.

Today, the Foundation is the largest private source of funding for breast cancer research and community outreach programs.

The Komen North Jersey Affiliate serves the nine-county northern New Jersey Region covering Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties.

Since its inception in 1997, the Affiliate has granted more than \$6.1 million to community-based agencies providing breast health education and breast cancer screening and outreach programs focusing on the medically underserved and uninsured.

In addition, the Affiliate has direct-

ed approximately \$2.3 million as of March 2003, to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation Award and Research Grant Program.

For information on the Komen North Jersey Affiliate, call 908-277-2904.

Health Outreach Program focusing on taking breast health information into underserved segments of the community by educating minority women about breast health, navigating women to other critical services related to their overall health and conducting free health screenings through the NJCED program — New Jersey Cancer Education and Early Detection.

The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation was established in 1982 by Nancy Brinker to honor the memory of her sister, Susan G. Komen, who died of breast cancer at the age of 36.

Today, the Foundation is the largest private source of funding for breast cancer research and community outreach programs.

The Komen North Jersey Affiliate serves the nine-county northern New Jersey Region covering Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, Union and Warren counties.

Since its inception in 1997, the Affiliate has granted more than \$6.1 million to community-based agencies providing breast health education and breast cancer screening and outreach programs focusing on the medically underserved and uninsured.

In addition, the Affiliate has direct-

Free YMCA lectures explore nutrition topics

The Summit Area YMCA will run a series of lectures throughout the month of March covering several areas of nutrition topics.

These lectures are free and open to the community. Nutrition/Myths and Magic will be the topic for Monday. There are a number of misconceptions regarding nutrition and exactly what makes up a healthy diet. This session will dissect those myths while bringing a simple understanding to the table.

The March 16 lecture, Portion Distortion, will focus on how much we eat rather than what we eat. Correct portion size will be discussed and demonstrated both for home prepared meals and restaurant dining.

How to Eat Healthy on Your Schedule, scheduled for March 30, will cover how to adjust and plan so you can eat healthy even on the go.

Lecture times are as follows for Monday, March 16 and March 30: Berkeley Heights YMCA, 9 to 10 a.m., 550 Springfield Ave., Berkeley Heights; Summit YMCA, from 1 to 2 p.m., 67 Maple St.; Springfield YMCA, 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., 100 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield.

For information call Susan Fieseler, Summit Area YMCA Nutrition Counselor at 908-273-3330 ext. 167, or suiefeseler@summitymca.org.

CLASSES FOR BABIES, CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

YOGA

NEW PROGRAM STARTS MARCH

NEW KUNDALINI CLASSES

Wednesday, March 9 at 8:30 pm
Saturday, March 5 at 1:45 pm
Or by appointment

HATHA ASHTANGA KUNDALINI RITA MEDITATION

Monday, March 7, from 4 to 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 10, from 1 to 2:30 pm
Saturday, March 12, from 1 to 4:30 pm
Monday, March 14, from 6 to 7:30 pm

Nicole has taught more than 22,000 Yoga classes in Middlesex and Union Counties.

NICOLE'S YOGA CENTER, LLC
94 NORTH AVE., GARWOOD - (908) 785-6426
Call for brochure or visit www.nicolesyogacenter.com

SPECIAL CLASSES FOR SENIORS

OBITUARIES

Marilyn Mason
Marilyn Mason, 82, of Wayne, formerly of Summit, died Feb. 10 in the Lianfair House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Wayne.

Born in Ypsilanti, Mich., Mrs. Mason maintained residences in Summit and Denville for many years. She later moved to Vero Beach, Fla., where she lived for nine years before moving to Wayne five years ago.

Surviving are a daughter, Roberta M. Lord, and two grandchildren.

Catherine Damiano

Catherine Lois Damiano, 83, of Monroe Township, formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 18 in St. Peter's University Hospital, New Brunswick.

Born in Norwalk, Conn., Mrs. Damiano lived in Springfield before moving to Monroe Township 21 years ago. She was a switchboard operator with Bell Telephone Co., Newark, during World War II. Mrs. Damiano was a former member of the Altar Rosary Society of St. James Church, Springfield.

Surviving are a son, Richard J.; a daughter, Barbara Tomaszewicz; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

E.F. Buschmann

E. Frederick Buschmann, 79, of Mountainside, died Feb. 18 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Teaneck, Mr. Buschmann lived in Newark before moving to Mountainside 40 years ago. He was a vice president and engineer for 3M Corp., Newark, for many years before retiring. Surviving are his wife, Loretta; a son, John Carl; a brother, John, and three grandchildren.

Ruth Coleman

Ruth Coleman, 94, of West Orange, formerly of Springfield, died Feb. 25 in the Daughters of Israel Geriatrics Center, West Orange.

Born in New York City, Mrs. Coleman lived in West Orange, Hillsdale and Springfield before moving back to West Orange 10 years ago.

OBITUARIES

Surviving are a daughter, Doreen Solomon; a son, Ira; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Pauline Marko

Pauline E. Marko, 74, of Springfield, formerly of Hillsdale, died Feb. 27 in Union Hospital.

Born in Mahanoy City, Pa., Mrs. Marko lived in Hillsdale before moving to Springfield 45 years ago. She was a customer service representative at Johnson & Johnson, Hillsdale, for 30 years and then at D & F Marketing, Union, for three years before retiring 10 years ago.

Mrs. Marko was active with Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Union. She was a past Sunday school teacher for 20 years and a member of the Ladies Altar Guild, Trinity Fellowship, choir, the committee for Worship & Music, Mutual Ministry Committee and the ADORA Circle.

Surviving are three sisters, Mildred Tyburcyk, Ann Berger and Gail Chermansky.

Doris Roberts

Doris Roberts, 92, of Basking Ridge, retired Summit nurse, died on Feb. 19.

Mrs. Roberts was a licensed practical nurse at Overlook Hospital, Summit, and JFK Hospital, Edison, for many years before retiring 28 years ago. She served as a Red Cross nurse's aide during World War II. Mrs. Roberts was the former president of the Ladies Auxiliary of the International Typographical Union No. 157, Dumellen.

Surviving are a daughter, Joy DeChoser; a son, Charles; 12 grandchildren and 24 great-grandchildren.

Stephanie Choensy

Stephanie Choensy, 83, of Summit died Feb. 23 at home.

Born in Perth Amboy, Mrs. Choensy lived in Irvington for 14 years before moving to Summit 45 years ago. She worked at Ciba-Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Summit, for 29 years

before retiring in 1986.

Surviving are her husband, Chester S.; two daughters, Christine Witte and Donna Hoehle; a son, Mark; three sisters, Anna Harazda, Luba Trzciniecki and Nadia Recka; a brother, Raymond Dolozkycki; six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Caroline Lane

Caroline Lane, 87, of Chatham, formerly of Summit, died Feb. 23 in the King James Care Center, Chatham.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Lane lived there for 60 years and in Summit before moving to Chatham five years ago.

She was a member of SAGE and the Summit Area Gerontological Group.

Surviving are two daughters, Alice Hurler and Carol Caffrey; a sister, Ruth Birmell, and four grandchildren.

William Hess

William J. Hess, 75, of Summit died Feb. 23 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Newark, Mr. Hess moved to Summit 45 years ago. He was captain of security at Schering Plough, Madison, where he worked for 25 years. Surviving are two sons, William and Thomas, and two grandchildren.

Anthony Marcantonio

Anthony Marcantonio, 80, of New Providence, formerly of Summit, died Feb. 23 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Summit, Mr. Marcantonio moved to New Providence six years ago. He was a salesman with Brick Church Appliance, East Hanover, for five years before retiring 15 years ago. Earlier, Mr. Marcantonio was a school crossing guard in Summit and new Providence for 10 years.

He was an Army veteran of World War II and participated in the Battle of the Bulge. Surviving are two daughters, Valerie Ricciardi and Janice Wargo, and five grandchildren.



Union County

- News
- Arts
- Entertainment
- Classified
- Real Estate
- Automotive

Keeping an eye on Murphy

Sal Bonaccorso speaks about the two-and-a-half hours John Murphy, candidate for governor, spent when he came to visit Clark Township. It was more than just the time Bonaccorso, who endorsed his fellow Republican, sees a "new face" — the regular guy who is a volunteer fireman, a husband and father of three with "substance and a message."

Come March 12, when Union County Republicans meet for their annual convention, it will be time to judge if Murphy, a Morris County Republican with his enthusiasm and grass roots plan, has made a hit.

Currently, official claim that traffic congestion is caused by the toll booths, as six highway lanes expand to 13 toll lanes before merging back into five highway lanes after the plaza. Eliminating the booths will offer a smoother transition from six to five lanes, officials said.

"You're not going to have that merge problem anymore coming out of the plaza," said Joe Orlando, a representative of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority, which oversees the Parkway. "It's allowing cars not to have to slow down at the pinch point of the plaza."

The southbound side of the toll plaza is expected to be removed by July, at a cost of \$5.3 million, by Tarheel Enterprises Inc. of Morgan At the Asbury Park and Raritan tolls, the Turnpike Authority has installed Express EZ-Pass, which will allow drivers to maintain highway speed through the toll booth, instead of slowing down to less than 15 miles per hour that regular EZ-Pass requires.

At the Union tollbooth, however, there are no plans to install the express version, Orlando said, though he was unsure as to why.

The biggest question is whether motorists will divert around the plaza to avoid paying the doubled toll. For those trying to reach Route 78, there are other exits that offer ways to avoid the toll plaza.

After the one-way tolls go into effect on Sunday, the southbound side of the plaza will be demolished starting at the end of March. Orlando said that tentative plans call for the booths to be completely removed by July.

The one-way tolls went into effect in September for the Raritan and Asbury Park toll plazas, and there has been improvement in traffic flow and less congestion in those areas, Orlando said.

Northbound motorists at the Garden State Parkway's Union Toll Plaza will have to pay 70 cents starting Sunday, while southbound tolls no longer will be collected. The southbound toll plaza will be removed by this summer at a cost of more than \$5 million.

The one-way tolls are part of an overall plan to reduce congestion on the state's highways, he said. "It's just one tool of many others."

The Parkway was recently cited as one of the Union County roads that is projected to see large increases in truck traffic and congestion, in a study released in January by the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit advocacy group. Using federal highway data, the study found an increase of 76 percent in freight traffic on the Parkway in Union County.

By A. E. Gualtieri
Staff Writer

Southbound Parkway commuters will get a break starting Sunday, when the Union Toll Plaza becomes the third toll plaza in the state to offer one-way tolls.

If you're headed north, however, it will cost you twice as much to pass through the Parkway's second-busiest toll plaza.

In a move expected to ease congestion, the 13 toll booths will soon disappear, leaving only the northbound side of the plaza.

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"It was very nice of them to come back and choose me as the grand marshal," she said. "I'm only the second woman in nine years."

Cullen, who was born in County Leitrim, in Western Ireland, and lived in Dublin before emigrating to the U.S. after World War II, will participate in the Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 12.

Until then, her duties are keeping her head in the parade as well, she said. "I've never even seen it," she said. "Somebody had to meet the store."

"Growing up in Ireland, it was a solemn, religious holiday, stores weren't open," she said. "All that has changed now. Many grown from this country go over there to celebrate."

While she hasn't been in Ireland on St. Patrick's Day since her childhood, Cullen still goes back there or four times a year on buying trips. On her most recent one in January, she returned with the cape, called a rannas, she'll be wearing for the parade.

Until she has a chance to wear it, she'll be celebrating in Summit with step dancers and an Irish soda bread contest, judged by her customers.

Patricia Breeninger, of Breeninger & Fellman, who represented Larrie Werosow in the lawsuit, declined comment on the settlement.

"We are not allowed to speak about the lawsuit as a condition of the settlement," she said.

Union County Council Robert Busby also declined comment, through the Office of Public Information, citing continuing negotiations over the confidentiality agreement.

The county had also retained outside counsel to represent several county employees named in the suit.

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One-way tolls begin Sunday

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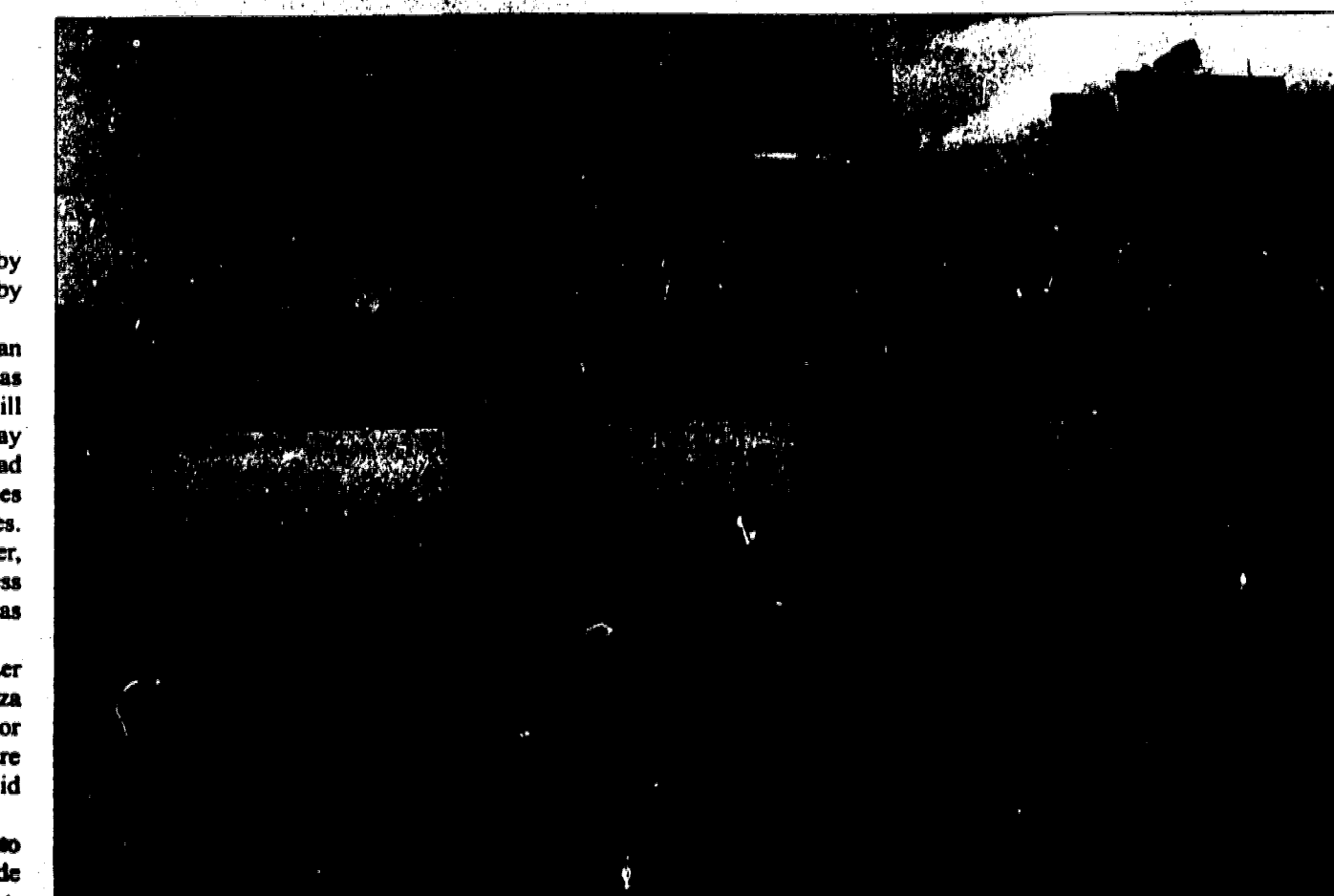
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COUNTY NEWS

'Green Dance' March 13

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and the Department of Parks and Recreation will host the ninth annual St. Patrick's Day 'Green Dance' for people who are disabled...

908-486-7118 or Kevin Dowling at 35-504-1763. Registration for the Guinness Fun Run is \$25 which includes admission into Finnegans' wake, 1-shirt and complimentary beverages...

WPC to honor Cox and Rajoppi

The Union County Women's Political Caucus will host a reception honoring Elizabeth Cox of Summit and Joanne Rajoppi of Union on March 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 1, A'Heare, 1099 Route 22 East, Mountaintop.

Additional information on the Union County Women's Political Caucus, and details on how to place a congratulatory message in the reception's program may be obtained by contacting Brenda King at bking@pam-media.net.

Cox has been actively involved with women's concerns and issues since the end of 1971, when she helped form both the U.C. Women's Political Caucus and the Women's Political Caucus of New Jersey.

As a former assemblywoman in the early 1970s, Cox was responsible for the concept of county commissions on women in New Jersey. Currently, along with Rajoppi, she represents the Union County Caucus on the Board of the State Caucus, and she serves the state organization as parliamentary and by-laws chairwoman.

Rajoppi currently serves as Union County clerk. Her many accomplishments include many firsts: first female mayor of Springfield; first female freeholder director; first female Register of Deeds & Mortgages; first woman to hold the position of county clerk. She is the author of "Women in Office: Getting There and Staying There."

Rajoppi is a Democratic State Committee member for Union County, and she is a founding member and on the board of directors for PAM's List, the Democratic Legislative PAC for New Jersey women.

There will also be screening for Supplemental Security Income eligibility, and information about the Senior Health Insurance Program. For more information on the outreach services program and other programs offered by the Union County Division on Aging, call the division's toll-free number: 1-888-280-8226.

The program includes excerpt from the county's annual reorganization ceremony on Jan. 2, as well as new Freeholder Chairman Rick Proctor and County Manager George Devaney discussing the major initiatives for 2005. These include:
• Boundless playgrounds and expansion of the Kids Recreation Trust Initiative to improve recreational facilities and opportunities for all children, especially those with disabilities. A Kids in Motion initiative will provide vehicles to municipalities to transport kids to recreation venues.
• Reserve Medical Corps/CERT, to develop a corps of medical volunteers to help respond to an emergency or natural disaster.
• Mobile Eco Labs, to bring the displays, exhibits and natural history knowledge of Trailside Nature and Science Center to schools and community centers throughout the county.
• Senior Citizen Home Improvement, to provide home-improvement grants for income-eligible seniors.
Further details on the 2005 agenda and more information on Union County government's programs and services can be found online at www.ucnj.org.

Each half-hour "Freeholders Forum" program can be seen on a continuing program loop as part of UCC 1, an Internet video service from Union County College. Viewing details can be found at www.ucc.edu, which has a link to the broadcast. "Freeholders Forum" is produced

by the Board of Chosen Freeholders and is made possible through the facilities and technical direction of Union County College. Entitled "The 2005 Reorganization Ceremony: Safety, Services and Results," the show will be aired through Saturday according to the following schedule:
• Union County, except Elizabeth and Plainfield: Channel 26, Mondays, 6:30 p.m.
• Elizabeth: Channel 70, Thursdays, 6 p.m.
• Hillside: Channel 35, call 973-926-1054 for more information.
• Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park and Winfield: Channel 36, daily, 10 p.m.
• Plainfield: Channel 74, Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
• Rahway: Channel 34, daily, 6:30 p.m.
• Scotch Plains: Channel 34, call 908-232-2400, ext. 243, for more information.
• Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood and Mountaintop: Channel 36, Fridays, 2 and 7 p.m.
Anyone wanting more information or to comment about "Freeholders Forum" can call the Office of Public Information at 908-436-2072 or e-mail forum@ucnj.org.

Pre-registration is required for all programs. To be put on the mailing list and to receive information about these and other programs for people with disabilities call Ellen Chase, Program Coordinator for the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-527-4096 or 908-527-4900.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

House painter set to play concert at church in Berkeley Heights

By Jeff Cummins, Associate Editor

For all the people who've reported seeing a man strumming an imaginary guitar while painting a house, you can relax. The fact is that's not a figment of your imagination. Monclair resident Jeremy Wallace, house painter by day, discovers his alter ego at night as a musician.

When you talk with Wallace, he seems reliable and sincere, qualities you'd certainly look for in a painter. But, to a degree, Wallace can be kind of quiet. You wouldn't consider him gregarious, but in his case, that just means that his personality comes to life on stage.

By his own admission, Wallace is a shy person. Yet his drive to perform onstage, something that will be on display when he performs in Berkeley Heights on March 12 as part of Sanctuary Concerts, appearing on the same bill as Susan Werner.

Wallace has released two albums, "My Lucky Day," in 1998, and "She Used to Call Me Honey" in 2002. He called his style country blues, comparing himself to performers like Furry Lewis and John Hurt. He even took lessons from Dave Van Ronk, part of an anecdote that illustrates how devoted he is to his craft.

"I got into all this because I read on the back of Bob Dylan's first record who he listened to, and I found this guy Dave Van Ronk," said Wallace. "When Dylan first came to New York, he crashed on Van Ronk's couch. So I found Van Ronk, and got guitar lessons from him. That's why I got into this whole finger-style guitar." Wallace explained that he doesn't use a pick to strum the chords when he plays guitar, he uses his own fingers.

Wallace is single with no children, a "low-maintenance lifestyle," as he called it. That low-maintenance lifestyle offers the ease of adapting his schedule to deal with the occasionally erratic responsibilities of a musician. And that's perfect for Wallace, because he's not the sort of musician who's playing to find that big hit, something that will enable him to finance his family's life. Wallace plays for himself, primarily because he enjoys singing, performing and being in front of an audience.

"I'm just kind of into the whole thing," said Wallace. "I don't work too hard. I make enough money painting houses so that I don't have to work hard. Maybe playing is my way of communicating. I'm a songwriter, I do my own material mostly. I think I have something to say. Nothing earth-shattering, though."

To hear what Wallace has to say, head to the Union Village Methodist Church at 1130 Mountain Ave. in Berkeley Heights on March 12 at 8 p.m. For ticket information, visit http://www.sanctuaryconcerts.org/.

Jeremy Wallace

Operatic 'Barber of Seville' was excellent

By Helen Argers, Correspondent

Ever seen old Charlie Chaplin movies? Marx Brothers? Lucille Ball doing her grape stomping? Jim Carrey doing his body language humor? Ever heard of comedia dell'arte? Read a Shakespeare comedy such as "The Comedy of Errors"?

Answer "yes" to any of those, and you would have loved "The Barber of Seville," done to perfection by the talented cast of the New Jersey State Opera production, under the irrepresible stage director, Mario Bertolino. But this is opera, and so we demand more than humorous stich that had the audience at the Victoria Theater at New Jersey Performing Arts Center roaring and clapping for every bit.

Starting with Figaro, performed by a tall and gleefully proud of himself Sean Anderson. He used his powerful voice for his "Hargo al factotum," commonly known as the "Figaro Figaro" aria that was a rapid delight to the singer and the audience. Throughout, Anderson stinks and winks around and becomes the charming fulcrum of the comedy. Anna Tonna plays Rosina, the mix-type heroine with the proper poising and pouting, and her singing voice is clear as a bell.

Other cast members with commandingly strong voices included Ryan Allen, who added humor to the ironic aria about the benefits of using a slander to get rid of your opponent, as well as Sung Bae Ju as Fiorello, and, lastly, Mariane Karpstova who made the most of her role as Bart

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 WATERWORLD, photography of the subject of water by John D'Amico Robert Parker and Bryan Zanisnik will be presented at The Arts Guild of Rahway through March 11.

urban Community Music Center in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8.

March 10, Color & Teles, Ground Level. March 11, Victory Gin. DANCE Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m.

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LANA'S RESTAURANT will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night and solo artists and bands on Saturdays.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

Two of three



Ron Nasso and Bob de Benedette of the Vickie Smith Trio, will perform at Fore Seasons Restaurant, 440 Parsonage Hill Road in Short Hills, from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. on March 24. For information, call 973-467-8882.

TONY FANELLI will sign copies of his book, "The Thought of It All," on March 12 at The Town Book Store, 255 E. Broad St. in Westfield.

CLASS

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART is located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in an historic residential area in Plainfield.

COMEDY

COLIN QUINN will appear at the Union County Arts Center on Saturday at 8 p.m. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site.

CONCERTS

SANCTUARY CONCERTS in Berkeley Heights will present musical acts in the coming weeks. Concerts are presented at Union Village Methodist Church, 1130 Mountain Ave., Berkeley Heights.

Arts Center on April 9 at 8 p.m. For information, call the box office at 732-499-8226 or visit the Web site.

and reservations, call 908-928-0127 or send an e-mail to info@secondstardays.org.

p.m. at the Connection, Morris Ave. at Maple St., in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed.

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant.

COLD? We've Got Something HOT! Place your business card-size ad in 128 New Jersey newspapers and get your message to over 3 million readers for \$1099.

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Make April 15 a Happy Day Hire a Certified Public Accountant (CPA). A CPA is a trusted advisor with the tax and financial expertise to help you keep more of what you earn.

THE PRICES DO. njArtsTix

ences in "Alexander Who's Not, Not, Not... Going to Move." On March 13, Theatre at 3 p.m. For tickets or information, call 908-737-7469.

AUDITIONS

LANA'S RESTAURANT will offer dinner and live jazz with Warren Vache every Thursday, beginning at 7 p.m. For information, call 732-669-9024.

VARIETY

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mic Night every Thursday night, a disc jockey every Friday night and solo artists and bands on Saturdays.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults over 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. For discussion and continental breakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield, Donations is \$2.

THE NEW JERSEY THEATRE ALLIANCE welcomes managers 13 to 18 to submit their original poems for a Performance Poetry Jam contest.

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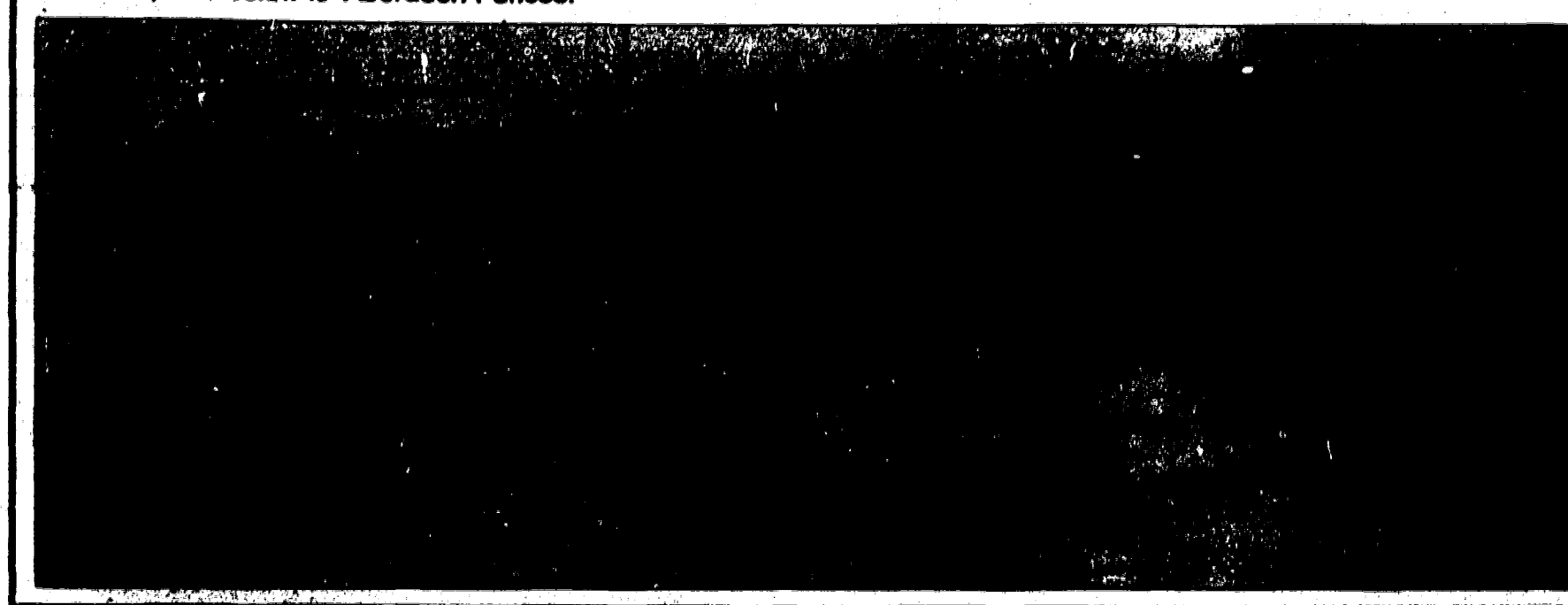
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DREAMS OF SUMMER — Pictured are two paintings by Plainfield artist Gerry Heydt. Above, is 'Clouds Over Sunset Beach,' and below is 'Aberdeen Fences.'



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Yiddish Comedy at Kean

The Gilbert and Sullivan Light Opera Company of Long Island will present a Yiddish-English musical comedy, "Der Yiddisher Mikado," on March 26 at 2 p.m. at the Wilkes Theatre at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

South Mountain A Great Deal To arrange a tour, please call our admissions office at 908-688-3400 2385 Springfield Ave. • Vauxhall, N.J.

WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OXFORD'S NO COST FITNESS MEMBERSHIP. WANTS TO KNOW IF HE CAN HAVE ANOTHER FREE MUFFIN. GET YOUR MEDICARE QUESTIONS ANSWERED AT OXFORD'S FREE BREAKFAST SEMINAR.

REAL ESTATE

Coldwell Banker starts new concierge service

When you're buying or selling your home, the checklist of things to do often seems insurmountable. From financing and coordinating utility services, to home improvements, moving arrangements and varied repairs, the home buying and selling process requires the services of professionals you can count on. The Coldwell Banker Concierge is "at your service" every step of the way.

Designed to meet the every-increasing demand for full-service from both buyers and sellers, the innovative Coldwell Banker Concierge Service is based on the same concept that upscale hotels have provided for years. It is a complimentary, value-added, service-delivery program that helps buyers and sellers locate services they need before, during and after a home sale or purchase.

"Buying or selling a home demands the services of a variety of industry professionals. Frequently, consumers feel as though they have nowhere to turn for the guidance and support they so desperately need," cites Karen Balter, senior vice president, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage New Jersey and Rockland County, N.Y. "Concierge is a tremendous resource network that links consumers with vendors who are pre-screened, licensed, insured and in good standing with the Better Business Bureau."

Local vendors are recommended by Coldwell Banker sales associates, employees, clients and participating service providers, and include attorneys, cleaners, child-care professionals, contractors, painters, chimney sweeps, movers, landscapers, locksmiths, flood restoration services,

environmental services, veterinarians, security system specialists, and the like.

Once consumers have been introduced to the Coldwell Banker Concierge Service, they have lifetime access to a service provider network that offers convenient, high quality and competitively priced services through one point of contact. Even after they move in, homeowners have ongoing needs that we can help them address. We are committed to supporting our clients long after each transaction, because we are committed to creating customers for life," stated Balter.

In addition to the vendor network, Coldwell Banker Concierge gives customers access to mortgage, title, home warranty and insurance services. "The Coldwell Banker Full-Service Marketing system speaks to the totality of consumers' needs and a concierge is what true one-stop shopping was meant to be," says Balter. "Today's consumers have tremendous demands on their time, so they need a real estate company that can handle all primary and ancillary services and deliver them to buyers and sellers seamlessly. Truly remarkable services delivers truly remarkable results."

For more details on the Coldwell Banker Concierge Service, contact 800-353-9949. For information about buying or selling a home in New Jersey or Rockland County, N.Y., contact Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage at 1-800-REALTOR.

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in New Jersey/Rockland County, N.Y., is a member of the Coldwell Banker system, which has more than 3,500 offices and nearly 106,000 sales associates worldwide.



by Jill Guzman

CHOOSING A BROKER

In all walks of life, we the consumers are faced with making decisions: which car is safest, which college offers the best curriculum, which doctor can alleviate our pain. Real estate is no exception. When it is time to sell a home, we seek assistance. Choosing a Realtor is one of the most important decisions as it will decide the financial and emotional securities of our families. Just as we confide in our doctor for many, many years, we must trust our Broker.

In choosing a Realtor, we must seek the qualities of honesty, integrity, and ethics. Talking to friends and neighbors and getting recommendations from people you trust is a key factor. A proven track record of a company is vital. A Broker's knowledge of the community, school system, and of course, market values is essential.

CAVEAT EMPTOR - let the buyer beware. Watch out for letters and correspondence that state there is a buyer waiting for your home. Let's be realistic. Has the buyer been inside your home? Has the buyer seen your home??? Be on the

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Thank you
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I wish to thank you and your associate, Anita Diaz, for your expert assistance in facilitating the sale of my mother's house at 337 Hollywood Avenue, Hillsdale. You both handled the numerous details associated with this sale in a professional and competent manner and made a difficult and emotional transaction as easy as possible. Maxine and I am especially grateful for all that Ms. Diaz did to dispose of all furniture and household goods. Anita got her own family involved in running a sale of some household items and disposing of all the others and even cleaning the entire house at the conclusion of the sale. I would not hesitate to recommend your agency to anyone who would be buying or selling real estate in the Union County area.

Alan Kleinman

Thanks so much. You were wonderful! Your help was invaluable. I would recommend you and JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC. to anyone. God bless you. Dear Cecile, you were so wonderful and caring during the sale of my house. I had four house sales in the past but none of them came close to the caring and expertise you showed, thanks again.

Dolores Beutley

Dear Jill Guzman Realty and Jordan Carmo,

Thank you for everything you have done in the process of the sale of our home. You were amazing and we were very happy to have you as our realtor. We would also like to thank Sonia at JILL GUZMAN REALTY, INC who also helped. We were blessed to have your personal attention to address all our concerns. God bless you.

Jacqueline Rojas and Liebeth Escobier

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mortgage market place

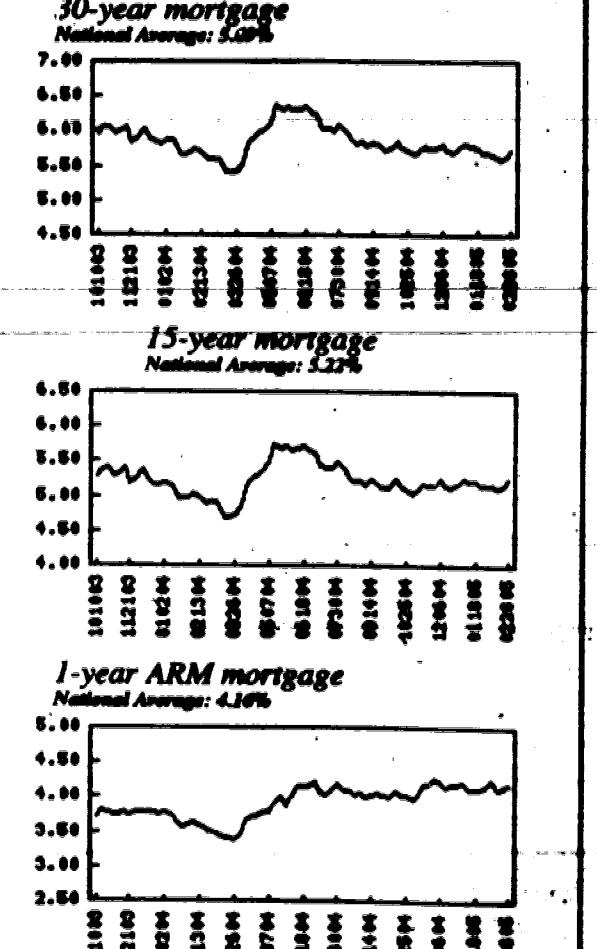
Lender & phone	30yr fixed rate+pt/pt/pt	15yr fixed rate+pt/pt/pt	ARMs (ppm) rate+pt/pt/pt	Additional programs/information
American Family	6.15-6.22	4.88-5.1	4.5-6.04(17)(1)	All Rates and Fees are Based on 100% LTV!
Mortgage Champ	6.02-6.68(7)(9)(A)		5.10-5.11(1)(1)	www.mortgage.com
800-321-4087	5.54-6.30(1)(9A)			
Colonial Bank	6.07-6.35(18)	4.28-4.74	4.125-6.09(1)(1)(1)	30yr fix 5.25-6.25 or 5.5yr / 10yr fix
800-982-4988	6.125-7.25(23)	4.38-4.24(24)	4.275-6.41(25)(1)	30yr fix 5.25-6.25 or 5.5yr / 10yr fix
First Mortgage	5.75-6.48	4.78-5.14(21)	4.025-6.34(22)(1)	2nd & 3rd level loans. Adjustable financing discount
800-885-8278	6.025-6.64	4.28-4.68(20)	4.125-6.48(23)(1)	80% LTV on 1st ptg reduced rate & money back
Eastly Mortgage	Call	Call	Call	Please call for current rate information.
800-488-2728				
Investment Bankers	6.025-6.64(24)	4.28-4.64(24)	4.125-6.48(25)(1)	Other loan programs available.
800-488-0418			4.5-6.15(26)(1)	Based on 80% LTV.
Loan Source	5.75-6.48(2)	4.58-4.94	5-6-6.15(27)(2)	Call to check our latest rates
800-911-3279			6.75-6.68(28)(1)	www.loansource.com
Parsons, Inc.	4.975-6.48(2)	4.275-6.41	4.28-6.48(2)	Zero pt., zero fee loans available.
800-697-0416				Free mortgage loans.
800-788-4775				Refinance/Repay
Prudential Bank	6.75-6.78	5.125-6.19	4.25-6.14(29)(1)	Call us about our latest rates
800-988-8888			4.75-6.17(30)(1)	Other programs available, please contact us for more details and rates.
	5.975-6.68(32)(1)	5.25-6.32(31)	5.5-6.61(30)(1)	

Weekly Mortgage News

McLean, VA - Freddie Mac (NYSE:FRE) today released the results of its Primary Mortgage Market Survey in which the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.69 percent, with an average 0.7 points, for the week ending February 24, 2005, up from last week when it averaged 5.62 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.58 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.22 percent, with an average 0.7 points, up from last week when it averaged 5.14 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 4.99 percent.

National Averages



LENDERS: TO BE LISTED IN THIS SURVEY CALL 1-800-CNS-8525

Information is current as of Feb. 28, 2005 and believed to be accurate but can not be guaranteed and can change without notice. Credit history, FICO Score and other factors may affect program terms. Rates based on \$145,000 single family loan. Jumbo rates (loans over \$150,000) based on a \$175,000 loan. Minimum down payment requirements, and other restrictions, may apply. Closing costs may vary. Contact each company for details. R = adjustable program with 1% - points include origination and discount fees. Lock = rate lock period. 30 - 60 day lock unless specified. APR = Annual Percentage Rate and is calculated by each company - includes costs to obtain loan and private mortgage insurance (if required). ARM (aps) = Adjustable Rate Mortgage program. Copyright 2005 Consumer News Systems, Inc.

ERA brokers are meeting 'virtual clients'

The ERA brokers of New Jersey have announced the addition of Real Estate Simulator, a highly innovative career assessment tool, to the ERANJ.com Web site.

Developed by Upward Motion, a Canadian-based company that provides state-of-the-art technologies for assessment and training using simulation technology, the Real Estate Simulator uses video segments and role-playing to recreate real challenges that a real estate associate could encounter in a typical day.

The Real Estate Simulator uses a unique three-in-one assessment strategy which involves role playing, problem solving and a personality profile to determine whether a visitor is well-suited to a career in real estate. During the simulation, the visitor plays the role of a real-estate agent and interacts with virtual clients who are interested in buying or selling property. The "real estate associate" experiences an entire sales cycle which evaluates their ability to "cold-call" a new prospect, negotiate contracts, deal with personality issues, understand client needs and handle objections.

According to Scott Lauri, chairman of technology for the ERA Brokers of New Jersey and broker/owner, ERA Absolute Realty, "The Real Estate Simulator is the best recruiting tool on the market because it allows perspective agents to explore what it would be like to be a real-estate agent, and provides them with feedback about their potential." Simulation results are also sent to a local ERA broker who may contact potential candidates to discuss a career in real estate.

With the addition of the Real Estate Simulator, ERA has become the first national real-estate franchise to offer a Web-based assessment tool to evaluate a visitor's aptitude for a real-estate career. "We set up the simulation program on our company Web site as a tool for evaluation of new recruits as well as experienced agents, for whom the simulator's analysis and recommendations have been very much on target," added Lauri.

The Real Estate Simulator is available at www.ERANJ.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Walter H. Tudor, D.D. announces the closing of his office at 200 West 9th Street, Union, N.J. Please call 908-353-6611 for further information.

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY vs. ANTIWAN NIXSON, HEREDITH NIXSON, et al. Heredith Nixson, et al. are defendants in a civil action in which the State of New Jersey is plaintiff. The complaint and Amended to Foreclosure Complaint filed in a civil action in which the State of New Jersey is plaintiff and ANTIWAN NIXSON, et al. are defendants pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and taking effect on 2/25/05 with this five (5) days after March 3, 2005. Judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the complaint and Amended to Foreclosure Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex, CN 871 Trenton, New Jersey 08646, together with your check in the sum of \$135.00 representing the filing fee in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure. This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 04/22/04 made by Andrew Nixson and Heredith Nixson, married to Antiwan Nixson, et al. mortgagors, to Wells Fargo Mortgage, Inc. as mortgagee, recorded on 06/03/04 in Book 1084 of Mortgage

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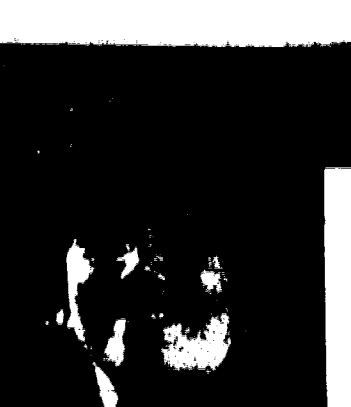
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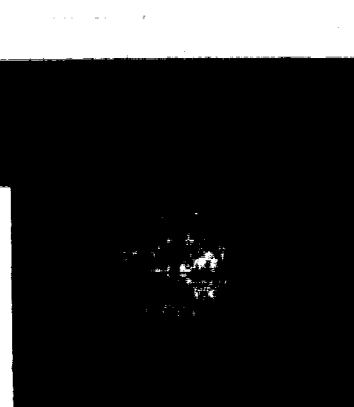
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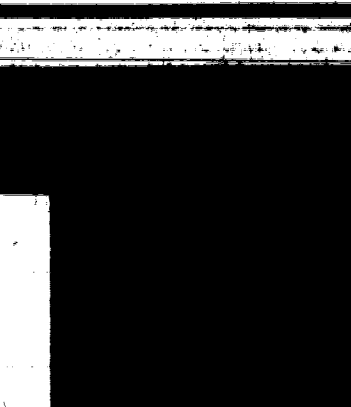
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AUTOMOTIVE

The Ducati is handsomely restyled

By Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service
BOLOGNA, Italy - The jacket was a stunner. A retro Ducati racing design, in red and black Italian leather. Butter-soft, yet strong, like only the Italians know how to do.

"Just my size," I told the salesgirl at the airport Ducati factory store. "I never see anything my size in Europe."

"We will always have your size," she replied in Sophia Loren-accented English. "We don't sell any. Too expensive."

The price tag said 480 Euros. At least \$600 U.S., depending on how badly I might get ripped off on the exchange rate. Too bad. For my closet.

And for Ducati.

Bologna is the world headquarters for Ducati, the manufacturer of outrageous championship-winning superbikes.

But you don't see many Ducatis on the streets around here. The average pastriccino can't afford to buy the so-called "superbike," much less pay title, taxes and registration, which is based on engine displacement; don't even ask about the insurance.

Some things are true in the United States, where Italian bikes such as Ducatis and Aprilias, which are manufactured an hour up the road from here near Venice, are pricey anyway.

The sinking dollar and rising Euro are making a tough situation even worse. Ironically, an American bike, the Bialli X89, is selling in greater numbers in Europe now than the United States, thanks to an exchange rate that is making it a comparative bargain.

And then there's the fact that dollars no longer equal horsepower in this class. For less expensive competition, like Yamaha's new YZF-R1, is kicking the stuffing out of the Ducatis and Aprilias on the Superbike race circuit so far this year.

"You can buy two R1s for the price of a race-edition Ducati," a fellow scribe pointed out. "And, they're just not cool" anymore. Plus, they're not very reliable."

The Ducatis faithful yearn for when their bikes were the best.

But the engine design makes the R1 a better choice. It's so short of

And then there's the matter of a polarizing styling change last year that transformed the Ducati from a two-wheeled work of art to an object of derision.

The R1, which was introduced in America in 1998, is responsible for a 600 percent increase in Yamaha's bullet bike sales.

Now, it's been handsomely restyled and mechanically redesigned for '04, making it better. A whole lot better. That's what you just heard come from the collective voices of the Italian superbike industry.

Last year, we noted that only the most proficient riders can even begin to explore the performance capabilities of the R1.

For 2004, Yamaha has managed to again ratchet up the performance quotient, while making it more manageable in everyday riding. Neat trick.

"They've added about \$2,000 more in value and capability, without jacking up the price," raved one tester.

At \$10,599, the R1 just about pegs the horsepower-per-dollar value meter. Yamaha admits to a 20-horsepower boost this year, to 172 hp at the crankshaft; independent dyno testing put it closer to 180 hp. Figure on at least 150 hp at the rear wheel.

That's stout for a 998cc bike that weighs in at just 379 pounds dry. Zero to 60 times? Try 2.8 seconds. Top speed: 178 mph, although some testers claim to have topped 190. Folks, that's Indy-car caliber performance.

And what about those former World Champion Italian bikes?

The \$13,999 Aprilia RSV1000 R makes 138 hp at the rear wheel. Slower, not surprisingly, because it's heavier and handles less precisely. But that gives you more time to admire the gorgeous styling as it goes by. Top speed: 175 mph.

The \$22,995 Ducati 999S, the 999R is nearly \$32,000, musters 136 hp and a top end in the low 170s. Ducati designers: Report to your seats.

The competition, on and off the track, is outthere in this class. To say the least.

But the engine design makes the R1 a better choice. It's so short of

Literbike values in today's marketplace.

Admirable offerings include the \$10,999 Honda CBR1000R, the \$10,999 Kawasaki ZX-10R, the \$10,599 Suzuki GSX-R1000, among others.

All these bikes are remarkably similar, when looking at the spec charts, at least. Rate angles vary just a half-degree or so, trail numbers are within 11mm of each other.

The fork of choice is the 43mm Showa or Kayaba.

The radial mount front brakes all have pads around 310mm, give or take a sly millimeter or two. Wheelbase is generally in the 55-inch range, and total length is around 81 inches — although the Honda is a noticeable 1 1/2 inches shorter than the rest.

The horsepower-to-weight champion in the class is actually the new ZX-10R, with just 2.5 pounds per horsepower, compared to the next best, the R1 at 2.79. This is a bike we will soon be subjected to a full road test.

A recent side-by-side test of the R1 and RSV1000 R, however, makes one wonder just how much room for improvement is left in the Literbike ranks.

We only had nitpicks about the new R1 overall: the mounting of the brake fluid reservoir looks like an afterthought, and the pebble kickstand is almost daisy. But the bike doesn't seem to fall over, unless you make it.

There is primitive accommodation for a passenger, but our rider begged to get off after a mile or two. We found the riding position a little too far forward on the wrists for our long-term comfort.

The Aprilia, however, had a more bulbous tank that gave us something to lean on and relieve hand pressure. But, let's get real: No one stays on these bikes for more than two hours at a time, anyway.

A common complaint we had was that the mirrors were too close together, for aerodynamic considerations, to see much behind the bike. It's a good idea to lift your elbows occasionally, and look out under your armpits, to see if you've become the object of a nationally televised chase.

Has this short of age any undue amount of lawlessness.

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8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, 3rd row seats, side airbags, trailering pkg, lkg r diff, w/h flares. Stk#50117. VIN#5J110713. MSRP \$43,445. Price includes \$3000 Factory Rebate, \$1500 Bonus, \$1000 Rebate & \$1000 Value Coupon if qual.

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2002 CHEVROLET CAVALIER 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/bks, air, cd. 27,000 mi. Stk#6535. VIN#27702617.

\$7,503


2001 SUBARU FORRESTER AWD 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#50000. VIN#111143341.

\$14,903

2002 NISSAN ALTIMA 4DR

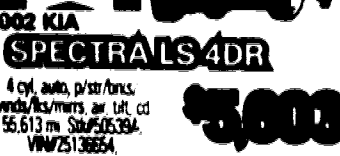


4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd. 15,499 mi. Stk#6602. VIN#2C126265.

\$14,903

GOLD PKG.

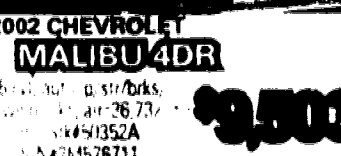
2002 KIA SPECTRA LS 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/bks, w/tilt, air, cd, 56,613 mi. Stk#55384. VIN#25138854.

\$5,903

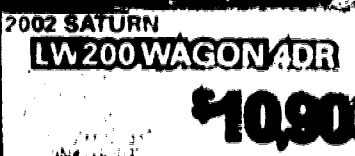
2002 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/bks, w/tilt, air, cd, 26,737 mi. Stk#49352A. VIN#52254554.

\$9,503


2002 SATURN LW200 WAGON 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/bks, w/tilt, air, cd, 27,000 mi. Stk#6535. VIN#27702617.

\$10,903

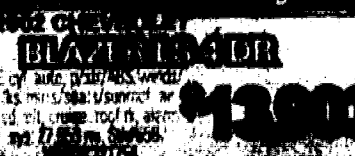
2002 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$10,903

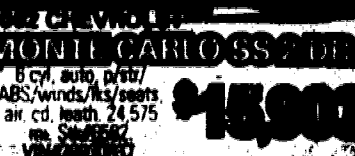
2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER 4DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$13,903

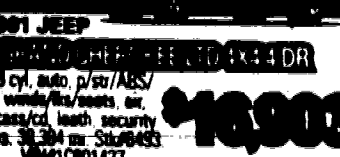
2002 CHEVROLET MONTE CARLO SS 2DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, w/tilt, 24,575 mi. Stk#6601. VIN#2R235833.

\$15,903

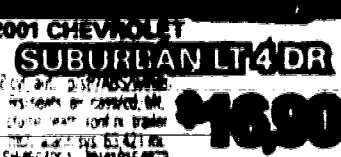
2001 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, security. Stk#50000. VIN#1J401477.

\$16,903

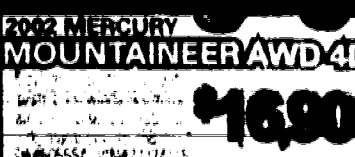
2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4DR



8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#50000. VIN#111143341.

\$16,903


2002 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER AWD 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#50000. VIN#111143341.

\$16,903

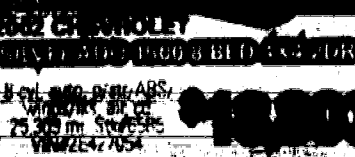
2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$17,903

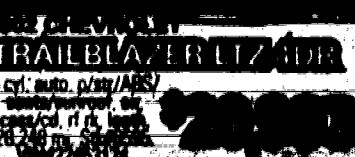
2002 CHEVROLET CANYON 4DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, 25,300 mi. Stk#6601. VIN#2R235833.

\$18,903

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LTZ 4DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$20,903

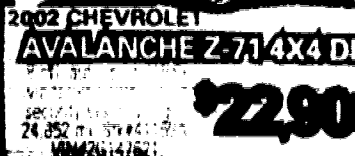
2002 BUICK RENDEZVOUS AWD 4DR



6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, 19,767 mi. Stk#49352A. VIN#52254554.

\$15,903

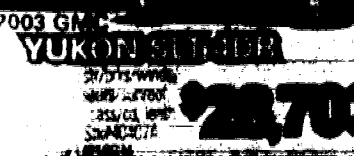
2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE Z71 4X4 DR



4 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$22,903

2003 GM YUKON 4DR



8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, tilt, cruise, air, w/tilt. Stk#47490. VIN#52254554.

\$28,703

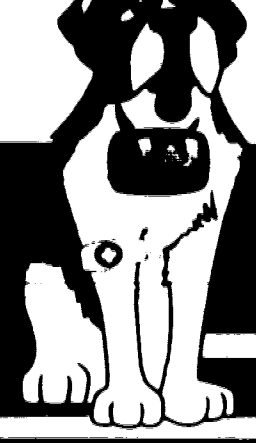
2002 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4X2 4DR



8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/wirnds/lks, air, cd, security sys. 3rd row seat. 31,720 mi. Stk#6601. VIN#2R235833.

\$21,303

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