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School time changes pose problems Grade shift, growing enrollment spells busing shortage

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

At Springfield's Board of Education meeting this Monday at the Jonathan Dayton High School, board members and parents continued the discussion about the board's recent decision to change school times.

Board President Patricia Venezia said that, as a result of parents' concerns at the June meeting, board members had looked at the school time change issue extensively for the past two weeks. In addition to the original time changes that the board had decided on for Springfield's middle school and elementary schools, board members presented parents with four other school time schedules.

The board intends to host a special meeting on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at the high school to vote on which one of these five schedules they will use for the 2005-06 school year.

Venezia explained that the board had decided to change school start and end times because of their difficulties with busing. The district is busing more children to school this year and needed to find a solution that would allow them to accommodate the additional children without buying more buses.

At the June meeting, the board presented the new school time changes, which they said was their final decision.

Parents were notified of Springfield's school time changes on the last

day of school, June 23, with letters that were sent home with their children. At the June meeting, several parents showed up to protest the board's decision and discuss the difficulties that the new schedule would present to them.

The board's letter home said that Edward V. Walton School would start at 9 a.m. and end at 3:20 p.m. Thelma L. Sandmeier and James Caldwell schools would start at 8:50 a.m. and end at 3:10 p.m. Florence M. Gaudineer would start at 7:50 a.m. and end at 2:35 p.m. The high school's schedule would remain unchanged.

At both the June and July meetings, some parents said the later school start times would make it difficult for working parents to drive their children to school. These parents often need to be at work much earlier than the school start time and they now have to make arrangements for before-school care or leave their children on unsupervised playgrounds. Currently, the district only provides supervision 10 minutes before school begins.

One parent, Rita McNany, collected 200 signatures from residents who were against the original time change decision.

Other parents said board members needed to take traffic flow to and from the schools into greater account.

To accommodate the need for before- and after-school care, the Board of Education is planning to administer its own before- and after-

school program this fall. Though the board has not hired staff yet, it has written a pamphlet outlining the school care program. Parents questioned why the program will not remain open on school holidays and why medication will not be given to children in the after-care program. One parent, Susan Blanco, wanted to know whether the staff would consist of certified teachers. Board members have suggested that some of their staff will include high school students.

Again, some parents criticized what they saw as inadequate communication between board members and parents. One of the meeting attendees called the letter to parents "badly written" and pointed out that school starts in less than eight weeks. One parent pointed out that many parents do not know when board meetings are conducted.

Many families had left the area for vacation by the final school day and will not be prepared for the schedule change when their children return to school this fall.

The board members said they had not been able to speak amongst themselves yet due to time constraints. Board member Irwin Sablosky admitted to not knowing about the time changes until upset parents started calling him.

In general, parents were concerned that a handful of important issues for the upcoming school year had not been resolved. In addition to not

knowing the school times yet, some parents who live within two miles of their child's school may not be able to continue to use the district's buses. With more children using the buses and no new buses being added, the board said they plan to do away with subscription busing, which allows parents to purchase yearly seats for their children.

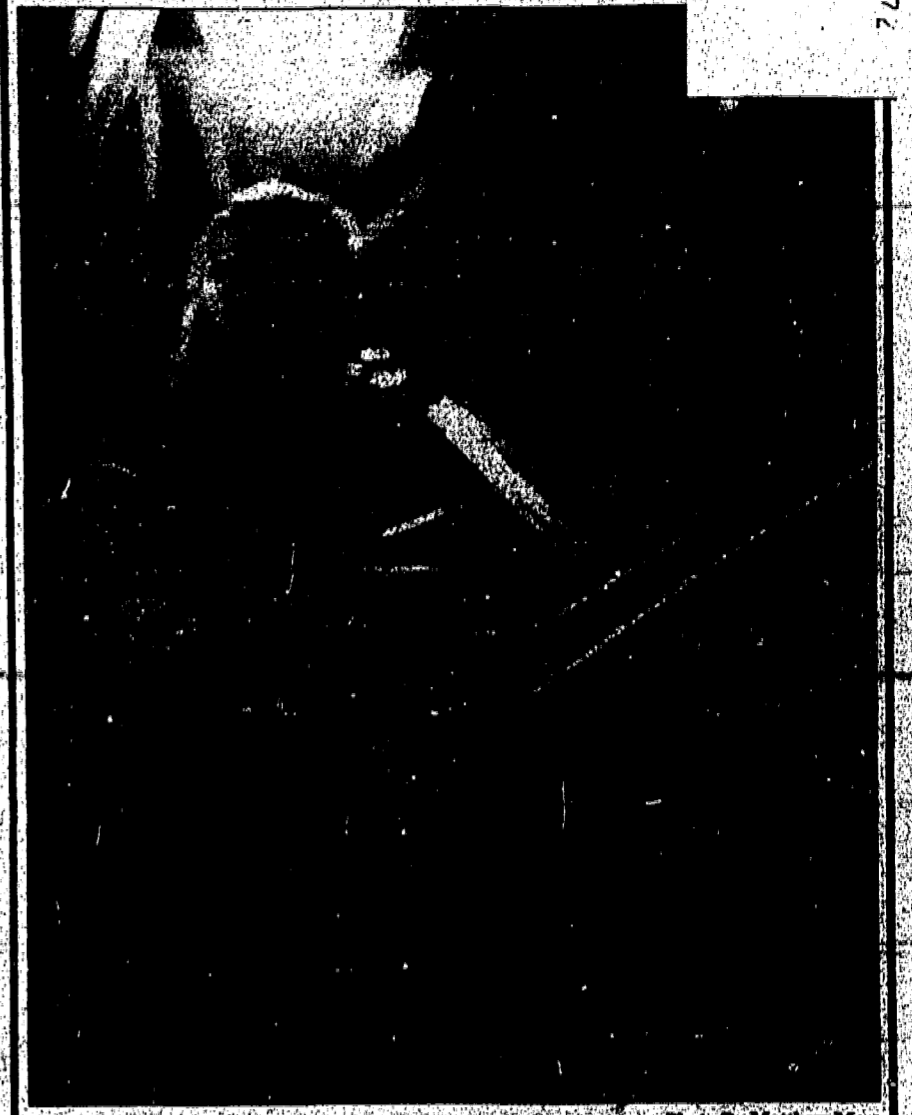
In the past, empty seats on buses have been sold to children who live within two miles of school and are already on a bus route. These seats are sold depending on availability, since children who live more than two miles away from their school are entitled to seats on the buses whether they use them or not. Now that there are no subscription seats available, some parents will have to make new transportation arrangements.

Parents who rely on subscription busing have not been informed of the board's decision yet. The board is considering sending letters to the parents of children who used subscription busing in 2004-05.

Business Administrator Matthew Clarke suggested that parents who have used subscription busing organize and find their own bus company.

The board said the fact that their budget has not increased is partially to blame for their last-minute indecision. The lack of funds and the laws that legislators in Trenton are making have created a crisis situation for schools, board members said.

In a classical mood



The August Symphony Orchestra, a new group of classical musicians from the Springfield area, will debut with a concert at Jonathan Dayton High School on Aug. 21 at 3 p.m. For information, call 973-743-5425.

Artist has musical roots

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

Bob Yurochko of Mountainside still owns his first trumpet, which his father gave him at 16. The Bach trumpet is housed in a glass case in Yurochko's studio.

Yurochko has spent his working life teaching music and playing in jazz bands. In the last few years, he has devoted much of his time to making art and selling his work at festivals.

Now 66, Yurochko began his career as a music teacher in the Cranford elementary school system while he was a graduate student at New York University. Yurochko then taught at Cranford High School for 20 years. After moving on to teach jazz history and performance at Kean University, he retired from teaching in 2000.

With more free time, Yurochko began to focus on his interest in art, taking classes at the Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

Merging his interests in music and art, he began painting and drawing jazz greats such as Miles Davis, Duke Ellington and Dizzy Gillespie. Some of Yurochko's paintings are done in the art nouveau style and others are done in what he calls a "flat style," where the figures appear flat on the canvas.

Yurochko has exhibited his art at the JVC Newport Jazz Festival in Rhode Island, the Saratoga Jazz Festival and, most recently, the Washington Square Music Festival. This winter, he plans to show his work at the West



Combining a love of music with a passion for art, Bob Yurochko of Mountainside has spent his working life teaching music and playing in jazz bands. In the last few years, Yurochko has devoted much of his time to making art and selling his work at festivals.

field Art Gallery, and he is preparing for the Montreal Jazz Festival next summer.

In 1993, Yurochko's textbook, "A Short History of Jazz" was published by Nelson-Hall Inc.

The book went into a second printing. On its Web site, Amazon.com describes the textbook as a chronological history that traces jazz from its "early West African and New Orleans roots to the Jazz Age, to the Swing

Era, to the Bebop Era, through the '50s, '60s, '70s and '80s, to the contemporary scene."

When asked to name some of his favorite musicians, along with better-known jazz musicians, Yurochko cited Jaco Pastorius, an electric jazz bassist and '70s cult figure.

As for his goals, Yurochko said he wanted to "see better art in art. That's the most important thing."

Yurochko is currently chairman of

the Westfield Art Association Sketching Class.

Yurochko's wife, Patricia, works for the Children's Specialized Hospital and is the coach of Lightning Wheels, a junior wheelchair team made up of children with spinal chord injuries that competes in national and international athletic events. He has one son.

For information about Yurochko's work, visit www.rmyart.com.

Borough dedicates two outdoor clocks

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

A new clock in front of the Police Department at Mountainside's Borough Hall was dedicated Saturday to the memory of Police Capt. Todd B. Turner, who was killed in a car crash two summers ago.

In August 2003, Turner, 42, was traveling east on Wyoming Drive when he was struck by a vehicle traveling north on Cherry Hill Road. Turner was taken to the University Hospital Trauma Center and remained in a coma from Aug. 15, the day of the accident, until his death on Aug. 22.

Turner served with the Mountainside Police Department for 24 years. Based on the circumstances surrounding the mid-August accident in which Turner was killed, 60-year-old Mountainside resident Ivan Andre, who was driving the other car, did not face criminal charges.

Turner was not wearing a seat belt at the time of the collision.

Councilman Keith Turner, the brother of Capt. Turner, said the clock is "a tribute to who my brother was." Councilman Turner thanked the mayor and Borough Council for their efforts.

The four-faced clock is green with gold trim and a white face.

The clock is controlled by satellites triggered by a global positioning system. The clock was paid for by friends and residents who donated to the PBA Local 126.

A dedication ceremony for Mountainside's new community clock took place July 9 at the corner of Mountainside and Woodland avenues, in front of Valley National Bank.

The bank provided the largest contribution to the project, \$5,000, and decided the property.

The clock cost roughly \$40,000 and slightly more than \$40,000 was raised from about 70 residents, businesses and friends.

The surplus money will be donated to the Mountainside volunteer Rescue Squad and Mountainside volunteer Fire Department. A specific figure as to the surplus was not immediately available.

The Mountainside Clock Trust Fund was opened by Borough Council at Valley National Bank in order to keep track of the funds.

Verdin Design Group designed the clock, which has four main plates located on the base of the clock that bear the names of three companies.

The names include Valley National Bank and PSE&G, which has donated \$2,500 toward the clock to bear its name on another plate.

Real estate taxes due on Aug. 1

Fourth quarter real estate taxes are due Aug. 1. To avoid interest charges, all November payments must be received on or before this date.

Mail tax payments to Tax Collector's Office, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, NJ 07092 or 100 Mountain Ave., Springfield, NJ 07081.

For more information, call the Mountainside Tax Collector's Office at 908-232-2400, on the Springfield Tax Collector's Office at 973-912-2204.

Local woman is happy to turn 100

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer

Springfield resident Sue Ritz celebrated her 100th birthday this Sunday at the Grand Summit Hotel.

Surrounded by friends and family at the birthday party, Ritz's family members told anecdotes about her, her grandchildren sang for her and partygoers watched a slide presentation about Ritz's life.

A longtime Union County resident, Ritz came to Springfield from Hillside in the 1960s, where she raised two sons with first husband, Herb Siegel. Ritz also has two stepchildren from her second marriage to Ruby Ritz.

Ritz's family members spoke about the active and notable life that she has led.

As a volunteer for the Daughters of Israel Senior Day Care Center for 30 years, Ritz worked with the elderly and led a traveling chorale group around northern New Jersey. Granddaughter Emily Cutler said Ritz was,

older than most of the people that she volunteers for.

Ritz earned recognition for her service with a United Way Community Volunteer award.

Born Sue Nutes on July 10, 1905, on Rivington Street in Manhattan, Ritz studied physical education at Mountclair State College and taught gym classes in the 1920s. The daughter of a Newark tavern owner, Ritz ran an Essex County soda factory called Sue Beverage.

Today, Ritz stays busy, living by herself and traveling for appointments and errands. Sharon Siegel Voelcke, her granddaughter, said Ritz maintains a busy social calendar, goes out a few times a day and can still handle the steps that lead to her apartment. Siegel Voelcke also said Ritz had only stopped driving two years ago.

The matriarch of her large family, Ritz brings her family together and "keeps everyone in the loop," said Siegel Voelcke. Ritz has 14 grandchil-

dren by two marriages and 11 great-grandchildren.

The family has gotten together before to celebrate her 90th and 95th birthdays.

Ritz's penchant for high heels was also mentioned by her relatives. For her party, Ritz showed off manicured nails as she watched the slide presentation and blew out the candles on her cake. Ritz said she still makes a point of going to the beauty salon.

Joseph Siegel, Ritz's son, said his mother has been in good health for most of her life.

Other relatives spoke of Ritz's positive attitude and resolve when faced with a recent health issue.

Ritz credits her good health to "apple a day" nutritional advice. Siegel, a doctor, noted Ritz has only lived two husbands and one son. Siegel said he is looking forward to more birthday celebrations for Ritz in the years ahead and called this 100th birthday party a celebration of life.



Sue Ritz of Springfield gets help blowing out her birthday candles from her family members while celebrating her 100th birthday during a party at the Grand Summit Hotel on Sunday.

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

How to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worral Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company.

To subscribe: The Echo Leader is mailed to the homes of subscribers for delivery every Thursday. One-year subscriptions in Union County are available for \$26.00.

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

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

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

e-mail: The Echo Leader accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is Editor@thelocalsource.com

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section.

To place a public notice: Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers.

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Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Worral Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083.

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Police get report of animal cruelty

Mountainside Police responded to Timber Line Road on July 12 at 10:43 a.m. on a report of animal cruelty.

Police responded to a report of animal cruelty, Police were met by the complainant and a member of the Associated Humane Society.

Police bagged and logged the existing surveillance tape, to be turned over to the detective bureau.

On July 14 at 4:33 p.m., Martin Milano, 20, of Rahway, was arrested for driving with a suspended driver's license while he was traveling on Route 22 east.

On July 14 at 4:02 p.m., an individual reported a missing cell phone.

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location of the offense was Scotch Plains.

Police responded to Linden Avenue on Monday at 3:15 p.m.

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Police bagged and logged the existing surveillance tape, to be turned over to the detective bureau.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

The Great Books Discussion Group will meet the third Thursday of the month at Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Monsieur Ibrahim" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Motorcycle Diaries" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Kitchen Stories" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Magdalene Sisters" at noon and 7 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Shakespeare in the Park...ing Lot" returns to the Mountainside Public Library.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "The Sisterhood of Temple Sha'arey Shalom" will conduct their annual rummage sale in the temple's social hall.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom" will be shown at 9 p.m.

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ECHO LEADER

Donor keeps on giving

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer

Everybody is aware of the urgent need for blood donors; no one is more aware than David Conte of Springfield.

He has the distinction of being a 70-time platelet donor and spoke at the recent dinner celebrating the first year of Overlook and Morristown Memorial Hospitals alliance with New Jersey Blood Services.

A Springfield resident and Bayonne police officer, Conte spoke about his giving.

"It is just an hour of my time; it is very convenient, and besides, my body is built for this," said Conte.

There is another story behind this, however; his wife, Debra, was the Summit police officer who, back in 2000, was hit by a car and had terrible injuries.

"She is back on her feet now. It is a miracle she survived, but she cannot work as a police officer again," said Conte.

Conte has A-Positive blood and, on the day of the dinner, he again gave blood.

"I usually go every two weeks," he said.

The American Red Cross Westfield/Mountainside Chapter, located at 321 Elm St. in Westfield, offers their summer 2005 Health and Safety Course Schedule.

Unless otherwise noted, all programs and courses will take place at the chapter house.

A charter blood drive will take place on Aug. 3 from 3 to 8 p.m.

Family Caregiving Program Workshop for Providers takes place Aug. 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The 87th PGA championship will kick off at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield and conclude on Aug. 15.

"Movies in the Park" is a program offered by The Union County Freeholders at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., will begin its summer International Film Festival with "Magdalene Sisters" at noon and 7 p.m.

Admission is free for all films. Space is limited to 60 people at each showing. Refreshments will be served.

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David Conte of Springfield, left, speaks with Loretta Ferrara, blood donor services at Overlook and Morristown Memorial hospitals, and Rita Polchin of New Jersey Blood Services at the one-year celebration of the Morristown Memorial/Overlook Blood Banks' alliance with New Jersey Blood Services.

This alliance between the hospitals and the blood service center was created to meet the community blood supply needs, a new model between hospital donor programs and blood centers to build a community-based program.

It focuses primarily on platelets, the specific blood component used for cancer, open heart and trauma patients, featuring state-of-the-art automated collection technology provided by New Jersey Blood Services.

At the same dinner, Sheila Klehm, mother of a teenage platelet recipient who is battling leukemia, also spoke. Her son, Hank, has received more than 100 platelet transfusions at Morristown Memorial in the past year.

Dr. Robert Katz, medical director for the Atlantic Health System blood banks, said he is very excited about the collection progress they have made in this past year.

"We are pleased to report that 475 platelet products collected at Morristown Memorial and 335 at Overlook Hospital have been added in the first half of this year," said Katz.

"This is a dramatic increase at both facilities and several people will lead deaths in the coming year because of the availability of these platelets on site."

Platelets are a specific component of blood that helps with blood clotting and preventing excessive bleeding. Having adequate supplies is critical and there is a known nationwide shortage.

The grant "will be a good windfall for towns for enforcement," Lavorgna said.

The Safe Corridors law doubling fines on almost 130 miles of state roadways took effect Feb. 15, 2004.

Signed into law by Gov. James McGreevey in July 2003, the measure doubles fines for a variety of driving offenses, including speeding and aggressive driving.

Parts of Routes 1, 9, 22, 40, 46, 47, 73 and 206 were designated as Safe Corridors based on statistics showing a crash rate 50 percent more than the state rate and 1,000 or more crashes over three years.

According to the state Department of Transportation, there were almost 3,000 car crashes along Route 22, six of which resulted in fatalities, during that three-year period.

Borough applies for 'Safe Corridor' funds

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

Motorists on Route 22 are warned that they are entering a "Safe Corridor" in Mountainside and Springfield, where traffic fines are doubled.

The borough of Mountainside filed a grant application requesting funding for three radar units, three mobile vision units for patrol cars and a surveillance camera for the footbridge spanning Route 22.

Communities can purchase almost any type of police equipment, as long as it is to be used with the Safe Corridor. The grant application was due last week.

The nine radar units the borough has are about 15 years old and, although they are working fine, it "would be a good time to upgrade," said Police Chief/Borough Administrator James Debbie.

The surveillance camera would allow police to view traffic in both directions on Route 22. Debbie was not sure when the state would notify municipalities of the grant awards, but he was hoping before the end of the year.

Fines within the Safe Corridors are collected by the state, which then will distribute the funding to Safe Corridor towns. Communities eligible for Safe Corridor funds locally are Mountainside, Springfield, Hillside and part of Scotch Plains. In Mountainside, the Safe Corridor runs locally from the Springfield border to New Providence Road. It continues east into Hillside.

Of the 48 eligible towns, about 18 filed applications for the grant, which will come from a pool of about \$450,000 to \$500,000 collected in fines, according to Marc Lavorgna, a spokesman for the state Department of Transportation.

Every grant won't be uniform, he added, as the grants will be distributed on a competitive basis. Applications are "relatively flexible" in terms of what can be requested, but a timeline on when towns will be notified has not yet been determined, he said.

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COME SEE THE GOOD NEWS BEARS! So Much Fun It's UNBEARABLE! Friday July 22nd @ 7:05 PM: The first 1,500 fans (18 and older) will receive instant scratch-off game cards presented by New Jersey Lottery.

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Stuyvesant HAIRCUTTING Quality Hair Cuts At Affordable Prices SENIOR CITIZEN SPECIAL Mon., Tue., Wed., Thurs., Fri. 20% OFF OPEN MON. thru SAT. 1654 STUYVESANT AVE., UNION

CRUISE VACATIONS and TOURS Your One Stop Vacation Store One of the Largest Sellers of Cruises in Union County Book your Voyager Class Ships out of Bayonne 265 Mountain Avenue, Springfield (973) 258-0003

FOSTER FAMILIES NEEDED! Provide care and parenting to a school-aged child in need. Receive guidance, training, and financial support. Every child deserves a family! Call toll free: 1-800-837-1020 Union, Essex, Morris, Passaic, & Bergen Counties FREE Training Available KidsPeace National Centers

Choose the bank that believes in your dreams. At Kearny Federal Savings we believe the dream of owning a home can come true for everyone. We offer a variety of low rate mortgage plans, and experienced loan counselors who will help you every step of the way.

Kearny Federal Savings Your Neighborhood Bank... Since 1884. Call Toll Free: 877-691-2265 (My1-bank) Visit www.kearnyfederalsavings.com

ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNERS Be part of our 2006 Town Planner Community Calendar in Union & Essex Counties. This will be one of the smartest and most cost-effective advertising buys you will ever make. 100% saturation of all the towns we circulate in. the calendar is mailed to every household and business in town. 87% of adults who receive the Town Planner keep it and use it! Produced by WORRAL Community Newspapers

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Red Cross: Be prepared

Hurricane season 2004 was unprecedented, with four major hurricanes wreaking havoc within a six-week period.

A new hurricane season began June 1, and hurricane forecasters are predicting another above-normal hurricane season...

Every year, communities suffer loss of life and property because of hurricanes, which can devastate a region with destructive winds, heavy rains and flooding...

It's important to remember that just because you were safe last year doesn't mean you shouldn't be prepared for emergencies this year.

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Surviving are his wife, Jeanette; two daughters, Cindy Ecy and Allison Madden; a brother, Richard Turley, and five grandchildren.

Hardy Lee Smart, 87, of Springfield, died July 2 in the Manor Care, Mountaineer.

Mr. Smart lived in Springfield. He was the manager of Commercial Wiper Supply Co., Hillside, where he worked for 60 years.

Mr. Smart was a part-time travel agent with St. George Travel Agency, Linden. He also drove long-distance buses for Campton Bus Co., Newark.

Mr. Smart directed the Pilgrim Baptist Church choir in Summit for 53 years before retiring 12 years ago.

After retirement, he continued to direct the church choir at the Aeon Baptist Church, the Bethel A.M. Baptist Church, all in the Vauchell section of Union, and the Peaceful Zion Baptist Church and St. Mark's A.M.E. Church, both in East Orange.

Surviving are his wife of 53 years, Mrs. Doreen Smart, and two daughters, Estelle and Virginia Young.

Ray Ann Blackburg, 83, of Springfield died July 6 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Mr. Blackburg lived in Jackson Heights, Queens, before moving to Springfield in 1949 for his performance as guard for the Summit High School football team.

Mr. Turley received a bachelor of science in business from Seton Hall University, South Orange, and a master's degree in business from New York University, New York. He served as a medic in the Army from 1952 to 1954 and was discharged with the rank of corporal.

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He received a bachelor's degree from Queens College and a PCPU degree from the College of Insurance, both in New York City.

Mr. Heimstaedt served in the Navy during World War II.

He volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and was a member of the Old Guard and the American Association of Retired Persons, both in Summit.

Born in New York City, he lived in Willow Grove, Pa., Allentown, Pa., and New York City before moving to Summit 36 years ago.

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He was given a commendation from President Kennedy for his work on the project.

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Mrs. Holton was a food service cashier at Bell Labs, Murray Hill, before retiring many years ago.

Born in Irvington, she lived in New Providence before moving to North Plainfield.

Surviving are daughters, Virginia Young and Georgann Smith, six grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

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She was a member and past president of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield.

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Mrs. Piccione was a registered nurse who worked for the Summit Medical Group for 25 years. Earlier, she worked for Overlook Hospital, Summit, for five years.

She was a graduate of the Overlook Hospital School of Nursing.

Mrs. Piccione was a member of the Rosary Society at St. Teresa of Avila Church, a volunteer at Overlook Hospital, a member of the Golden Age of Summit, and a member of the Knights of Columbus Columbiettes of Springfield.

Born in Pennsylvania, she lived in Summit for 60 years.

Surviving are sons, Phillip and Paul; a daughter, Tina Ungerman; brothers, Emery and James Husvar, and a grandchild.

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Mr. Turley lived in Mountaineer 45 years ago. He was selected as a first team All-State Group 3 football player in 1949 for his performance as guard for the Summit High School football team.

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SUMMIT OBSERVER - ECHO LEADER

Stories and photos may be emailed to UnionCountySports@yahoo.com

Summit's Toney; GL's Egan, Bergeski, Maxwell All-Stars

By JR Parachal Sports Editor

Going for three in a row. That's what the Union County All-Stars will be doing tonight when they clash with the Middlesex County All-Stars in the Home News Tribune Snapple Bowl 12 at Kean University in Union.

Kickoff is set for 7:30 p.m. Union County leads the series for the first time at 6-2 after having won the last two and four of the last five.

Union County will attempt to become the first team in the series to win three straight.

Union County won 19-7 last year and 13-0 the year before, both games played at East Brunswick High School. The shutout two years ago is the only so far in the series.

Both Union County victories were sparked by MVP performances from quarterbacks Jan Coccozzello of Westfield last year and Mike Vici of Johnson two years ago.

This will be the second Snapple Bowl to be played at Kean. The first was a Middlesex 28-20 victory in 2002, sparked by MVP running back Zack Earvin of South River.

The Union squad will have Matt Melody of Union and Shawn Gibson of Hillside at quarterback. Melody guided Union to another playoff appearance in North 2, Group 4, while Gibson almost directed Hillside to one in North 2, Group 2.

Melody will continue his baseball playing days at NJIT. UHS and All-Star teammate Ken Lang will continue his football playing days at Montclair State University.

UC All-Star Chris Bergeski of Governor Livingston, a Mountaineer resident, will continue at Southern Connecticut State.

The last time Cranford's Chris Drechsel, Jamar Ingram and Steve Caprio faced Rahway's Darnell Butler, Bradley Jones and Joel Pierre was in last year's Central Jersey, Group 2 playoffs. They are all teammates now in the Snapple Bowl.

NOTES: All proceeds from the charity event benefit Children's Specialized Hospital of Mountaineer and the Lakeview School for Cerebral Palsy in Edison.

The Middlesex County All-Stars practiced at East Brunswick High School and the Union County All-Stars at Union High School.

Practice for the Middlesex County All-Stars was moved to Monroe High School for two days because that playing surface is FieldTurf, the same used at Kean University. The Middlesex County coaching staff hoped the move will help their players make the transition come game time.

All players and coaches were to visit their respective charities Monday for a pre-game pep rally with the kids. Union County participants were to go to the Fanwood facility of the Children's Specialized Hospital, while Middlesex County participants were to visit the Lakeview School for Cerebral Palsy in Edison.

MIDDLESEX COUNTY ALL-STARS: Ryan Airey, North Brunswick (6-1, 215); Dylan Barnick, Spotswood (5-10, 170); Matt Bouchard, Woodbridge (6-3, 215); Greg Byrne, East Brunswick (6-1, 230); Don Calogero, Spotswood (6-1, 224); Matt Clancy, South Brunswick (5-11, 205); Antuane Claudio, North Brunswick (5-10, 165); Stephen Cooper, Montclair (5-10, 185); Greg D'Aluisio, J.R. Kennedy (5-10, 165); Steve DiMarco, East Brunswick (6-0, 290); Rayn Denapoli, Dunellen (5-9, 170); Kenneth Flores, New Brunswick (5-10, 235); James Garrison, Perth Amboy (5-8, 165); Sal Guarnaci, Colonia (6-3, 280); Mike Hall, Middlesex (5-7, 130); Steve Halupka, East Brunswick (6-2, 235); Justin Hinds, Woodbridge (6-0, 225); John Hoernlein, Old Bridge (5-10, 175); Daryl Jackson, South Plainfield (5-11, 185); Ed Kidney, Edison (5-11, 210); Jason Lefkowitz, Sayreville (6-3, 210); Frank Lillis, Old Bridge (6-2, 260); Will Manley, Cranford (5-9, 160); Matt Mariano, East Brunswick (5-9, 160); Matt Marziano, Piscataway (6-1, 240); Eric McDaniel, South River (5-9, 170); Joe Mellillo, Carteret (6-1, 210); Billy Moore, South Plainfield (6-3, 235); Vinnie Otero, Sayreville (5-10, 190); John Parks, East Brunswick (5-10, 170); Bart Pidgeon, J.P. Stevens (5-10, 190); Angel Ramirez, Perth Amboy (6-1, 270); Shane Robinson, Bishop Ahr (5-10, 170); Robert Rose, Piscataway (5-11, 175); Tommy Scanlon, South River (6-2, 275); Daryl Stron, Highland Park (6-0, 175); Dave Stuch, Carteret (5-11, 215); Wesley Traskovicz, Monroe (6-1, 190); Kyle Trone, J.P. Stevens (6-0, 170); Brian Whelan, Carteret (6-0, 215).

Cheerleaders: Nicole Bozzomo of Middlesex, Krystal Covin of New Brunswick, Stephanie Cucinello of Old Bridge, Monica D'Addio of Sayreville, Melanie Foscolo of South Plainfield, Marie Friedrich of Spotswood, Riquel

Union County MVPs have come from Summit, Rahway, Elizabeth, Linden, Johnson and Westfield.

Middlesex County MVPs have come from Monroe, South Brunswick, Dunellen, Perth Amboy and South River.

Here's the list of scores, MVPs and the positions they played:

2004: Union 19, Middlesex 7 MVP - Jan Coccozzello, Westfield, quarterback

2003: Union 13, Middlesex 0 MVP - Mike Vici, Johnson, quarterback

2002: Middlesex 28, Union 20 MVP - Zack Earvin, South River, running back

2001: Union 17, Middlesex 16 MVP - Brandon Bracey, Linden, defensive back

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY July 23rd, 2005
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: St. Leo's Irvington School
TIME: 9AM - 4PM
PRICE: \$15 per table. For information call 973-372-1272 ask for Norma
ORGANIZATION: St. Leo's Church

SUNDAY July 24th, 2005
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: New Jersey Transit Lodi, New York Ave, Lyndhurst, (off Ridge Road, by Shop Rite)
TIME: 9:30AM - 5PM
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and garage-tag sale items. For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by Lyndhurst Boy Scouts

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY July 31st, 2005
EVENT: Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Frank Vincent Marina, Passaic Avenue, (next to Burger King), Kearny
TIME: 9:30AM - 5PM
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles, and garage-tag sale items. For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor by Kearny Rotary

OTHER

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY July 25th-29th, 2005
EVENT: Bible Adventure Camp
PLACE: Faith United Church of Christ 1340 Burnat Avenue, Union NJ 07083
TIME: 9:00AM - 12:30PM
PRICE: Donations
ORGANIZATION: Board of Christian Education

OTHER

SATURDAY & SUNDAY August 13th & 14th, 2005
EVENT: 4th Annual Italian & American Street Festival
PLACE: Mechanic Street & Lincoln Avenue, Orange, NJ
TIME: 12 noon - 10:00PM
DETAILS: Honorees: Mayor Mims Hackett, J. Rosario Ferro & Carmine Campanile, ESO
Performers: Moreno Fruzzetti Aug 13, 6-10pm; Joe Casali Aug 13, 1-3pm and Ariette & Luigi Aug 14, 1-4pm
ORGANIZATION: Orange Cultural Affairs Division & Orange Italian American Organization

CLASSIFIED ADS ARE QUICK AND CONVENIENT!

HOROSCOPES

July 25 to 31
ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Gain pleasure or find enjoyment in the simple things that life has to offer. While in pursuit of a lofty goal, take time to stop and smell the roses!
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Plan to visit with relatives and catch up on the latest family news. Share your opinions and feelings, but avoid becoming too emotionally charged.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: You are way ahead of the crowd in the mental arena this week. Find someone to talk to who is capable of matching your wit and intelligence.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: The secret to your personal happiness is financial independence. Adopt a budget that will allow you to realize your fiscal dreams as soon as possible.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Hold

your head up and forge forward with self-confidence and poise. Feel secure in knowing who you are, where you are going and what you are about.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: It feels good to be able to help others who cannot help themselves. Do not hesitate to give generously from the heart to a favorite charity or institution.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Look for an outlet to express your creativity. Sign up and join a new club or group that is made up of an unusual assortment of people.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Listen to advice from an elder or mentor and turn a business opportunity into a successful venture. Ask questions, take notes and follow instructions.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Brilliant ideas are useless or ordi-

nary without direction or a plan of actual application. Move into action and launch your dreams.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: Distance yourself from someone who criticizes or judges your every move. Spend some quality time alone and pay attention to your inner needs.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: A loved one or partner has some unusual or unconventional insights to share. Stretch beyond the norm and reach a new plateau of understanding.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Adaptive is your key word this week. Do your best to be considerate of others and to go along with the changes that are requested of you.
 If your birthday is this week, uncover a unique way to express your individuality and heighten your creative experience this coming year.

Summer concerts return to Echo Lake

Rock 'n' roll entertainment returns this summer at the 2005 Union County Summer Arts Festival. The free concerts are conducted on Wednesday evenings in Echo Lake Park at 7:30 p.m.
 Attendees can bring their blanket or lawn chair and picnic basket for an evening of music beneath the stars.
 The refreshment stand and restrooms are both open. The concerts are conducted near the Mill Lane section of the park.
 • Wednesday — Mustang Sally
 • Aug. 3 — Philadelia Funk Authority, funk/jazz/pop
 • Aug. 10 — The Nerds, rock 'n' roll
 • Aug. 17 — The Fabulous Greaseband
 • Aug. 24 — Ed Palermo Big Band with Rob Paparozzi
 • Aug. 31 — The Party Dolls
 The rain site will be Cranford High School. Call the Parks and Recreation hot line at 908-352-8410 after 3 p.m. on the day of the concert.

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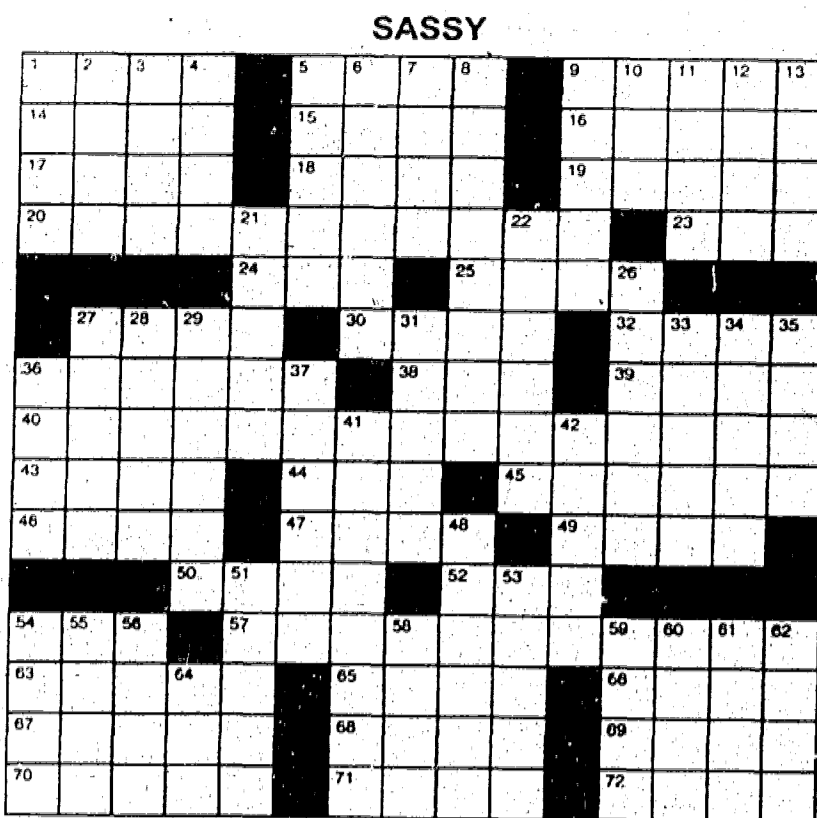
SAVE \$20 WEEKDAYS OR \$10 WEEKENDS!

Present this coupon at any Six Flags Great Escape ticket booth on any regular operating weekday now thru Sept. 5, 2005 and SAVE \$20 on a full-price, one-day Regular Admission ticket or SAVE \$10 on a full-price, one-day Regular Admission ticket on any regular operating weekend thru 9/4/05. Cannot be combined with other discounts. Limit four admissions per coupon. See Park for restrictions.

Circle purchased: 1 2 3 4 404018 Circle purchased: 1 2 3 4 304026 - \$20 304006 - \$10

ACROSS

- 1 ___ liquor
- 5 Impudence
- 9 Evila patronymic
- 14 Solo or duet, usually
- 15 Coppelia garb
- 16 Sprightly
- 17 Brokerage order
- 18 Name that rises and falls
- 19 Bag man?
- 20 Campaign slogan, e.g.
- 23 Close
- 24 Luis' bear
- 25 Ruler in 54 B.C.
- 27 U.S. chief justice, 1921-30
- 30 Lose it
- 32 Turner and Cole
- 36 Soap opera, e.g.
- 38 ___ Cruces, N.M.
- 39 It's about a buck
- 40 Parental concerns
- 43 Scots Gaelic
- 44 Educators' org.
- 45 Winter Olympics site
- 46 White-tailed creature
- 47 Would-be glass
- 49 Lend an ear to
- 50 Brit's gun
- 52 Take steps
- 54 Lippo Lippi, e.g.
- 57 Roadside sights
- 63 Helmet insert
- 65 Kansas city
- 66 Thought
- 67 Venerate
- 68 Israeli PM, 1969-74
- 69 Herod's X's
- 70 Feeling the pressure
- 71 Soft cheese
- 72 Son of Seth



COPYLET NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

- 3 March meter, e.g.
- 4 Baby powder
- 5 Arrests
- 6 Creative type
- 7 Get going
- 8 Yorn, of film
- 9 Morning reading, for many
- 10 Ivy Leaguer
- 11 Ready for plucking
- 12 Hot spot?
- 13 Not a BMOC
- 21 Grand ___
- 22 Takes effect
- 23 Impatient
- 24 Pomme de ___
- 28 Got up
- 29 Nylon, Orion, etc.
- 31 Canada-Alaska route, once
- 33 Halos
- 34 Pollster's concern

- 35 Sound: prefix
- 36 Tore along
- 37 Auto instructor
- 41 Greenwich
- 42 Chicago Hope star
- 48 "The Blue ___"
- 51 The Magi, e.g.
- 53 Kind of school
- 54 London digs
- 55 Hope of 57 Across
- 56 Down in hiding?
- 58 Homecoming queen, e.g.
- 59 High as a ___
- 60 Churchill's successor
- 61 Little Big Horn observer
- 62 Show of disrespect
- 64 Tragedy ctrs.

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

REUNIONS

The following schools will conduct reunions in the coming months:

- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1985, 20-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1995, 10-year reunion, 2005.
- Union Hill High School, Class of 1975, 30-year reunion, 2005.
- Union High School, Class of 1976, 30-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.
- Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.
- Westfield High School, Class of 1980, 25-year reunion, 2005.

For information on any of the above reunions, write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726 or call 732-671-1000.

- Lind a High School will hold an all-graduates picnic reunion on Aug. 27 from 1 p.m. to dusk at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue. Bring your own chairs.

For more information, call Jim Kuecho at 732-634-8674, or send an e-mail to LP63044@comcast.net.

- Union High School, class of 1970, will hold its 35th reunion on July 30 at the Spring Lake Manor, 415 Highway 71, Spring Lake Heights. Tickets cost \$65 per person.

Write to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726, for more information, or call Fran Whitney at 732-382-5593.

Fran will also take information about missing classmates.

- Hillside High School, class of 1975, will hold its 30th reunion at Costa's Restaurant, Roselle Park, on Nov. 26.

Anyone with information about missing classmates should contact these two men.

Editorial deadlines
 Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social events — Friday at noon.
 Entertainment — Friday at noon.
 Sports news and game results — Monday at noon.
 Letter to the Editor — Monday 9 a.m.
 General news and information — Monday 5 p.m.

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NYC parking guru's book fights tickets

(Continued from Page 3)
 near to where you have to go that you know will have legal spots at the time you arrive. I can't promise there will be anything open on the street where you want to park, but I can promise that if you're prepared and you know where it is legal to park because you've done your research, all the honking traffic won't bother you once you come across an empty spot, and you won't panic about whether or not you can take it because you'll know, without having to stop and read the sign, that it's yours."

Inspired by his own painful experiences with New York City's arcane parking regulations, Feder set out to write this book as a public service. He commented, "I know it sounds cliched but I really did have this light-bulb moment. I was taking a quick five-minute break from my job and ran outside for a breath of fresh air. Just as a few minutes I saw a traffic cop walking down the street, hitting people with parking tickets. Seven in a row! I thought it was amazing that nobody knew the parking regulations and therefore got tickets when they could have been avoided. People obviously needed a tool to help avoid stress and plan ahead. Then I thought someone should put together a guide, someone really should do this. So I looked around to see if anyone had, and there were a few Web sites and pamphlets but nothing comprehensive. So I wrote my book."

Writing the book was an intense and time-consuming experience. There are more than 5,100 blocks in Manhattan. This first Feder guide covers the downtown area, starting in Battery Park and climbing up to 30th Street, going from river to river. A second guide, covering the uptown area from 30th Street to 124th Street, also stretching from the Hudson to the East River, is due out later this year. "Where to Park in Manhattan" readers will reap the benefit of Feder's exhaustive research and comprehensive listing of New York's 200 various parking regulations. He discovered that there are actually just 30 to 40 major categories for parking from alternate side rules to no-standing zones but multiple variations on each rule depending on where you are in the city.

Feder emphasizes taking the time to understand the signs as a successful way to avoid getting ticketed. "He admits that deciphering multiple signs hanging together can be daunting. Especially when trying to comprehend them while driving and hunting for a spot. He explained that signs are never contradictory; they just need to be read closely to make sense. He said, "Of course it's good to plan ahead, but if you don't make the time beforehand, make sure you thoroughly read the signs before you leave your car. They might look conflicting and confusing but actually they do make sense if you read carefully and often times you can find a space which actually is legal but everyone else just can't because they didn't take the time to understand what the sign says. For instance, a sign might say 'No parking except commercial parking 11-7 p.m., 3 hr. limit, M-F.' That parking space under the sign might sound like a guaranteed ticket unless you stop and realize that you are there on a Saturday and so the sign doesn't apply and it's a perfectly legal place to park. And isn't it great that you're just a block away from where you need to go? He offers other tips for drivers who may not make the time to sit down with the guide before heading into the city. Feder suggests if you want street parking leave a little extra time and plan for a little walking. Rather than expecting to park right in the middle of town, drift east or west a bit where you're much more likely to find something. Also, bring something to read in the car. If you land in a neighborhood where there's alternate side of the street parking you can sit and read until it's time to leave your car parked legally. "Where to Park in Manhattan" is additionally a great source of information regarding how to work the mini-meters, feed the regular meter — legally of course — and where to park and save when you'd rather put the car in a garage.

Whether you decide to park on the street or in a garage, the thorough guide is easy to use and well designed so that finding a good spot will be a snap. In "Where to Park" there are smiley face icons next to places/streets which are good and frowny face icons next to bad streets or where there's no parking anytime or no standing, like in and around the Times Square area particularly on 42nd Street and near all the bridge and tunnel entrances. Feder noted, "People ask me how exhausting this was and how much driving I did. I drove the entire island, tip to tip, for months. Up and down every street in Manhattan, and there's parking on both sides of the street, often with different parking regulations. So there was a lot to note. I would drive around and jot down all these parking regulations by hand and then had to come back and do the data entry into a program I had designed. The driving was fine, but what was really grueling was the data entry. In the middle of that I thought it would never get done.

Thank goodness it did get finished and the next edition is on the way. For drivers who don't want to carry around a huge volume, "Where to Park in Manhattan" is available as an e-book and Feder plans to make it available as a general parking tips to come out as well. Additionally, Feder guides for other cities are in the planning stages. Feder's efforts on behalf of his fellow parkers shouldn't go unheralded. The book sells for \$17.95 and if you avoid just one ticket it has already paid for itself six times over. If using the knowledge gleaned from the book saves you from getting towed, the guide has paid for itself almost 14 times over.

To get your copy stop into your local bookstore or order online at www.wheretoparkinmanhattan.com. For additional parking questions, call 877-412-7275.

Connors to direct Westfield band tonight

The Westfield Community Band, under the direction of Thomas Connors, brings its 93rd season of summer concerts to a conclusion in Mindowaskin Park tonight at 7:30 p.m.

The finale brings music that is both familiar and new to concertgoers in the park.

A feature for the evening will be "Belle of the Ball" by Leroy Anderson, well known for his music embracing American popular culture. In the early 1930s, Anderson was serving as band director of the Harvard University band when he was first noticed by Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops Orchestra.

Fiedler encouraged him to write novelty pieces for the orchestra, which brought such hits as "Trumpet's Lullaby," "Syncopated Clock," and "Sleigh Ride."

The band will continue their review of the music of Gilbert and Sullivan with the selection "Gilbert and Sullivan: Symphonic Suite." Gilbert and Sullivan were the masters of the light opera, known as operetta, at the end of the 19th century.

With more than a dozen of the finest musical theater productions to come from the Victorian era, Gilbert and Sullivan operettas continue to be immensely popular.

The "Gilbert and Sullivan: Symphonic Suite" includes excerpts from Mindowaskin Park is located next

to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 E. Broad St. in Westfield.

The event is free to the public; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs.

In the event of inclement weather, the concert will be held in the Presbyterian Church on the corner of East Broad Street and Mountain Avenue.

The next performance in the series will be by the Westfield Community Swing Band on July 28.

The Westfield Community Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, Bruce Kaufmann, director. For further information, contact 908-789-4080 or go to the band's Web site at westfieldcommunityband.com.

Union County resident leads art workshop

Nancy J. Ori of Berkeley Heights, a well-known New Jersey artist and educator, will lead a group of photographers and painters to Santa Fe, N.M. for a workshop designed to help discover and fine-tune each participant's reactions to light, heighten personal vision and expand the creative process. It is important for every artist to understand in practical terms how the behavior of light defines the nuances of form, color, space and atmosphere in all mediums. This workshop is being offered to all fine artists who are excited to find new inspiration and experience the fun of a different culture and cuisine within our borders. Tuition is \$675. The workshop given October 15 to 22, is designed for all levels of experience in photography as well as the more experienced painter.

Participants will focus on formal and informal architecture that will be found in the small county towns of Abiquiu, Cerrillo, Chimayo, Trampas and Truchas as well as the large cities of Santa Fe and Taos. While in Chimayo, the group will visit the Santuario de Chimayo, one of the most popular churches in N.M., famous for its miraculous healing mud, and the tigua Chimayo weavings. History, art, architecture and the opportunity to make incredible photographs and paintings, await each participant.

Participants will focus on the effect that light plays in capturing the illusion of value, form, color and space.

On the day trip in Abiquiu, students will also explore some special sites along the Chama River with a visit to Ghost Ranch where Georgia O'Keeffe first explored the landscape.

One day will be spent in the city of Santa Fe, a city that embraces its natural environment unlike any other in the United States, a city whose beautiful, adobe architecture blends with the high desert landscape. Another day will be spent discovering the delights of the Taos area. Taos is actually a blend of several close-knit communities that, together, provide a world of infinitely varied experiences. Students will visit the famous Rancho de Taos Church, the ancient Indian living village of Taos Pueblo that has stood

unchanged for centuries, explore historic Taos Plaza and its side streets filled with old adobe buildings that now house shops, galleries and artist studios.

While enjoying the autumn air, painters will be encouraged to photograph the compositions and color so that they can express their vision when they return home. There will be plenty of time at each location for painters to complete sketches, small works or vignettes. Painting and sketching participants should be somewhat experienced in their medium. The only formal instruction on painting techniques will be by Hart at the evening critique and morning demonstration. Photographers may be at any level. All participants must travel light so that they are ready and able to move about unencumbered by excessive equipment.

Participants are responsible for their own air and ground transportation, meals and lodging. Those enrolling in the workshop will receive a complete itinerary and recommendation for lodging. All are encouraged to bring a significant other, non-artist, at a reduced rate of \$150 to share this rewarding experience overflowing with history, culture, beauty, warmth and lots of shopping.

For registration and questions, call 908-790-8820. Registration deadline is Sept. 1.

Community Dining Guide III

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Flynn's has all eyes smiling
 By Bill VanSant
 Associate Editor

The luck of the Irish is with diners who venture into downtown Rahway and stop at Flynn's Irish Pub on Main Street.

Unlike many "Irish" pubs that hang green curtains and call it done, Flynn's is the real deal, with owner Morris Flynn himself hailing from the Emerald Isle.

The menu boasts truly traditional pub fare, with such dishes as bangers and mash, and the ever-popular fish and chips - which, on a prior visit, a friend described as the best she'd had "outside of the U.K."

The decor is as pub-like as the menu, with the dark wood bar being the focal point upon entering. The slate floor, the Irish-themed prints, the traditional music all add to the feeling that one has "crossed the pond" and landed in the heart of Ireland.

But the proof is in the pudding - or, in this case, the various choices on the menu.

On a recent visit, my dining companion and I settled ourselves into one of the tables near the bar overlooking Main Street. After perusing the menu - which we've done many times before on several visits - we began our meals with the appetizer course. We both selected the garlic shrimp, which boasted half a dozen plump and firm shellfish swimming in a rich but tangy garlic-butter sauce. The shrimp were succulent and quickly vanished, leaving a healthy portion of the sauce to be mopped up with bread.

After our house salads of fresh mixed greens, we moved into our main course.

Each one of my favorites on the Flynn's menu: the shepherd's pie. The deliciously seasoned mixture of vegetables and ground meat is topped with a dollop of Champ, a traditional mashed-potato dish. From top to bottom, this meal was both hearty and filling, without weighing me down, and left me comfortably satisfied when I'd finished.

My companion chose the popular Steak Diane, with its rich cream sauce offsetting the tender and lean steak.

Each main course comes with a choice of side dishes.

It being a warm summer night, we bypassed the Belgian fries - delectable cream puffs - and chose from the many varieties of ice cream pies for dessert. The wide selection of coffees combined with the frozen treats to make for the perfect ending to our meal.

Flynn's offers smoking and non-smoking sections, and major credit cards are accepted. The full service bar features several beers on tap, with Guinness being the centerpiece.

Flynn's is located at 1482 Main St. in downtown Rahway. For information and reservations - which are often a good idea at dinner hour on Saturdays - call 732-381-4700. In addition to the regular menu, daily specials are offered to tempt the palate.

No need to book a flight to Ireland when this pot of gold is as close as Rahway!

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to: Worrall Community Newspapers, 463 Valley St., P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-263-2557.

ART SHOWS

"LARGE SCALE WORKS FROM 1990-1994" by Gayle Ruskin-White will be on exhibit through July 28 at the Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For more information, call 908-709-9155.

AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS by award-winning realist artist Paul Casalo will run through Aug. 31 at The Framing Center, 9 Eastman St., Cranford. Casalo's art combines a 19th century approach to painting with contemporary subject matter. Recent paintings in oils, pastels and watercolors of landscapes, cityscapes, beach scenes and figurative work will be on display.

BOOKS

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

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-8544.

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

KEAN UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF UNIVERSITY RELATIONS and *The Star-Ledger* have partnered to publish a new book titled "World of Wonder: Exploring the Realms of History, Science, Nature, and Technology." The book brings together 90 of the most fascinating subjects uncovered by the World of Wonder series. The book is now available for purchase in the Kean University book store and on the Web site of *The Star-Ledger* at <http://www.nj.com/worldofwonder>.

WRITERS' DISCUSSION GROUP will meet tonight at 7:30 p.m. to discuss, evaluate and offer constructive feedback on various written materials submitted by its members. Submissions cover a wide range of written work, including novels, short stories, poetry and nonfiction works and meet in the quiet Children's Department at Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

CHILDREN ARE INVITED to Take The Stage with Molly at Barnes & Noble on Friday at 4:30 p.m. "American Girl: Take The Stage with Molly" is for children ages 8 to 12. It's a special hour-long American Girl event. Features of the event include a craft activity to create a sparkly crown and putting together a variety show reminiscent of the shows in the 1940s. Pre-registration is required in the Children's Department and space is limited. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

BEST-SELLING AUTHOR LINCOLN CHILD will sign copies of his collaborative effort with Douglas Preston, "Voices of Death," on Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield. Child will reveal details on FBI Special Agent Pendergast's most personal foe: his brother, Diogenes. Don't miss this exciting afternoon with this entrancing author. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

IN THIS MONTH'S "DISCOVER" BOOK GROUP on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield, "Metropolis," Elizabeth Galfrey captures the splendor and violence of America's greatest city in the years after the Civil War as young immigrants climb out of urban chaos and into the American dream. Join this enlightening discussion-group and help select its upcoming month's selections. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

ROBERT KAPLOW will sign copies of his book, "Me & Orson Welles," on July 30 at 4 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield. The book features a star-struck New Jersey boy and promises to provide an entertaining afternoon for young and old. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

DR. VANITA BRAVER will sign copies of her books, "Party Princess" and "Pinky Promise: A Book About Telling The Truth," at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield today at 11:30 a.m. These books are part of the Teach Your Children Well Series, a unique tool to help young children develop moral values and confidence. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON will appear at the Barnes & Noble in Springfield on Monday and July 28 at 11:30 a.m. Coloring fun follows a reading of "Harold and the Purple Crayon" by Crockett Johnson. Children are invited for a very "colorful" day. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

CLASSES

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

Stepping Out

The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration.

For information about the spring term call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.ducret.edu for details. LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM on Morris Avenue in Union has scheduled its popular Lunch and Learn series, which is free to members of the public who are invited to bring their lunch and

Mail, Springfield. Doors open at 7:30 p.m., shows start at 8 p.m. Admission is \$14. For information and reservations, call 908-412-9105 and press 2, or send an e-mail to concerts4causes@aol.com. Also, visit the Web site, [http://www.coffeewithconscience.com](http://www.cof-feewhithconscience.com). The fall concert series will begin on the third weekend of September.

CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD will feature the following: Every Monday, Open Mic Night.

To request HEART Grant information, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202, call 908-558-2550, Relay users dial 711, or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

To learn more about Sweet Adelines, Hickory Tree and its quartets, women and teen-aged girls who sing are urged to visit the Web site, hickorytreecorus.org, send an e-mail to info@hickorytreecorus.org, or call 973-966-6815.

FILMS

THE PURPLE VIOLET FILM FESTIVAL, an innovative event established

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM on Morris Avenue in Union has scheduled its popular Lunch and Learn series, which is free to members of the public who are invited to bring their lunch and

CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD will feature the following: Every Monday, Open Mic Night.

INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic/Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m.

cut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Premiere Stages Play Festival. To request entry guidelines, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Laura Kelly, producing assistant, Premiere Stages at Kean University, 1000 Morris Ave., Union, N.J. 07083.

SINGLES

DINNERMATES and Entrepreneurs Group invites business and professional singles to dinner at a local restaurant, wine and mingling is at 8 p.m., dinner is at 9 p.m. Two age groups are available. For information on dates and locations, call 732-822-9798 or visit www.dinnermates.com.

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

SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 2660 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-688-8816.

THEATER

THE KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY will present its second annual "The Bard on the Boulevard" outdoor summer Shakespeare festival. Performances in the series include "Richard III" on July 31 and "Love's Labour's Lost" on Aug. 14. All performances are free and open to all member of the general public. Because seating will not be provided, the public is encouraged to bring lawn chairs or other portable seating. Blankets and beach towels are not recommended. In the event of rain, the performance will be moved indoors to the Kenilworth Public Library at 548 Boulevard. For more information, call the Kenilworth Public Library at 908-276-2451.

THE THEATER PROJECT IN CRANFORD will present "Jackie, An American Life" which continues through July 31. Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 3 p.m. General admission is \$20. On Thursdays, tickets are \$12. Student tickets are always \$10. Reservations are recommended, and can be made by calling 908-853-5189.

THE WESTFIELD SUMMER WORKSHOP will present "My Fair Lady," on Wednesday and July 28 at 7 and 9:30 p.m. at Roosevelt Intermediate School, 301 Clark St., Westfield. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$6 for seniors, students and children. For information, call 908-518-1551.

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.

Happy Hour is 4 to 7 p.m. Mondays to Fridays, with \$1 drafts and \$3 Long Island Iced Teas. Mondays are Mexican Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 teaca. Wednesdays are Ladies Nights and karaoke.

The Back Porch is located at 1605 Main St., Rahway.

For information, call 732-381-8544. **CROSSROADS**, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, funk and poetry; Live at Instant Coffee, 8 p.m.

Every Monday: Open Mic Night, Happy Hour all night.

Every Tuesday: Jazz Jam; all pints, \$2.

Every Wednesday: Karaoke Night, Miller Lite and MGQ, \$2 all night; 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: www.theinternetlounge.com.

To receive more information about the Purple Violet Film Festival and to download an application, visit www.kean.edu/premierestages.

JAZZ

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

KIDS

TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes and Noble, 202 West, Springfield, Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. For information, call 973-376-8544.

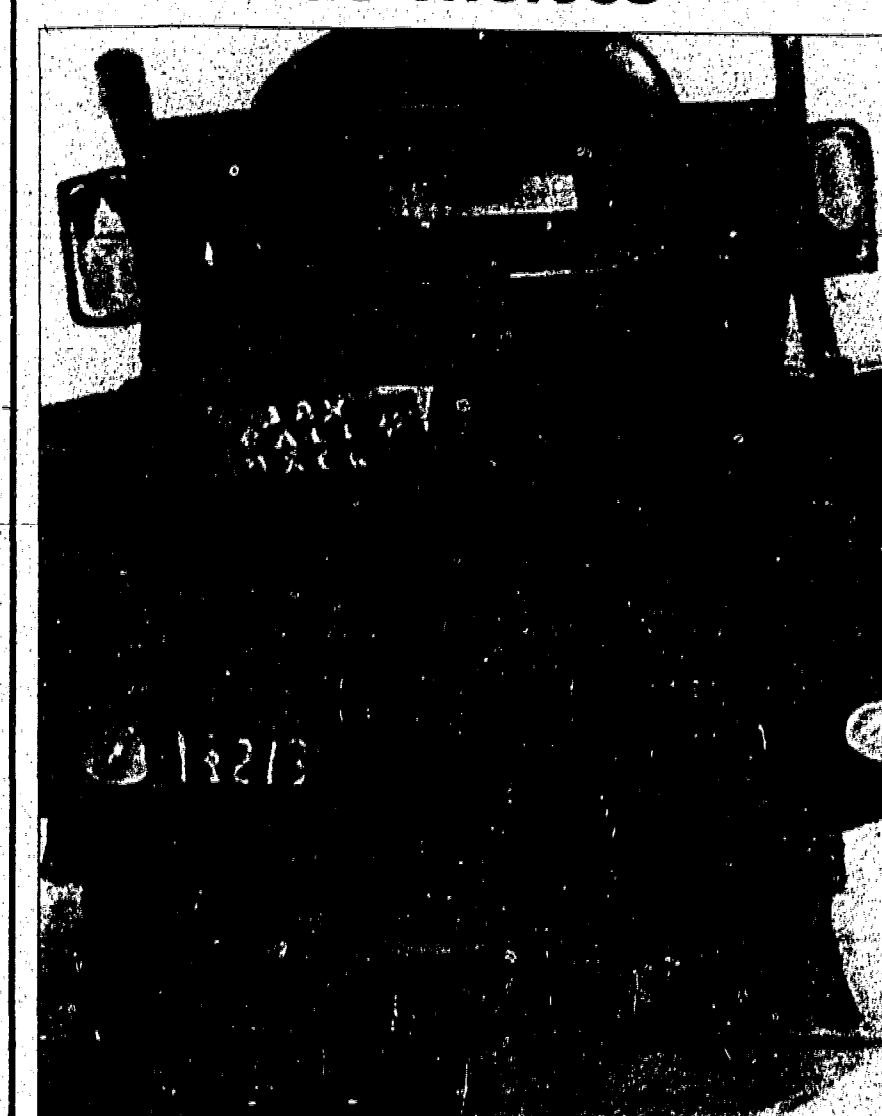
RADIO

For information, call 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRCinc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmr.com.

CONCERTS

PREMIERE STAGES, the new Actors' Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional playwrights born or currently residing in New Jersey, as well as in the surrounding areas of New York, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

Numerous choices



Three watercolor paintings by Judy Martindale, which will be on display at the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside beginning in early August, are, from left, 'Pale Brew',



'Steppin' Out,' and 'Decisions, Decisions.' For additional information on the show or other artists who will be featured, call 908-301-5463.

THE ARTS

Ruskin-White's art at Union County College

Through July 28, Union County College will be host to an exhibition by Gayle Ruskin-White titled, "Large Scale Works from 1990-1994." This exhibition will hang in the Commons on the College's Cranford campus at 1033 Springfield Ave. Due to extensive renovations being made to the MacKay Library, the Tomasulo's offerings are being moved from the gallery space to various venues on the Cranford campus.

Ruskin-White describes her works as abstractions, using a combination of organic, painterly gestures with line. She works on five or more paintings at a time, which allows her to create a wonderful dialogue between the pieces.

The paintings all seem to come together at the same time. The paintings are worked on in layers, allowing them to manifest a sense of depth.

This allows the viewer to establish their own dialogue with each painting; there is no correct interpretation of what is seen. The paintings in this exhibition are oil paint on unstretched canvas, wood panels, and steel. They incorporate total works of black, gray, brown, and white, with hints of color. The paintings have an urgency of life and death to them, not in an ominous way, but instead, they reach out to a universal acknowledgement of the human condition.

Ruskin-White lives and works in New York City. She studied art as a child in school and was enrolled in a special collage art program for high school students. She went on to study, with the encouragement from her teachers, at Pratt Institute in New York City, receiving a BFA in drawing. Following graduation, she lived in Mexico for a while, working in a lithography

studio. Ruskin-White has exhibited in New York City, California, Mexico, Chicago, Arizona, Florida, and Germany.

Attended gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Saturdays.

Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information please call 908-709-7155.

New home for Sanctuary Concerts

The Sanctuary Concerts, Central New Jersey's home for internationally known acoustic performers, had an incredible 2004-05 season: Tom Paxton, John Gorka, a Steve Goodman memorial celebration, Patty Larkin, Cate Curtis, Susan Werner, Aztec Two-Step, The Roaches, Eddie Fournier, and many, many others appeared, often stretching its 250-seat capacity.

The Sanctuary Concerts are moving. The new home is the 400-seat Presbyterian Church of the Chatham, 240 Southern Blvd., Chatham, Scott Sheldon, concert coordinator, said "We chose the Chatham location because it is only two miles from the downtowns of Summit, Chatham, and Madison; the 400-seat sanctuary is intimate, only 17 rows, and 75 of the seats are in a balcony. The acoustics are excellent, and there are acres of convenient parking."

The Sanctuary Concerts will begin its first season in Chatham on Sept. 10.

Performers planned for the 2005-06 season include David Wilcox, Maria Muldaur, Janis Ian, Richie

Havens, and Aztec Two-Step performing the songbook of Simon and Garfunkel.

Kean will present new theater program

Kean University has announced the creation of Premier Stages, a new professional Actor's Equity Association theater program. Actively engaging and enhancing the professional theater academic programs at Kean, Premier Stages will also serve a culturally diverse audience, children-at-risk, and a broad pool of artists.

Premiere Stages features four uniquely conceived projects that will nurture and encourage the work of students, introduce children to the arts, attract high-profile artists to the institution and provide a forum for the development of new plays. The Premier Stages Play Festival will present the work of emerging dramatists living in the greater metropolitan area through readings, workshops, and fully-produced world-premiere productions. For more information on Premier Stages at Kean University, or to get on the mailing list, call 908-737-6397, ext. 4410, or send an e-mail to juwooten@kean.edu.

Theater group receives endowment

The National Endowment for the Arts announced April 21 that it is awarding The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey a grant in the amount of \$10,000 to support the Theatre's upcoming production of "Julius Caesar." Directed by Brian B. Crowe, Shakespeare's ever-popular history

play will be presented on the company's Main Stage in Madison from Oct. 11 through Nov. 13, with 35 public performances and seven on school-time student matinee series performances.

The award comes in the form of an Access to Artistic Excellence grant, which specifically supports the creation and presentation of exemplary work throughout the nation, across a full spectrum of artistic disciplines. The program bolsters artistic endeavors "that make the best of America's arts organizations and artists accessible to all Americans," said NEA chairman Dana Gioia.

The Shakespeare Theatre's production of "Julius Caesar" was selected from among 1,088 eligible applications as one of 98 leading theater companies and theatrical organizations nationwide to receive this prestigious federal funding. It is the only New Jersey theater to receive an Access to Artistic Excellence grant.

Said The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's artistic director, Bonnie J. Monte, "It is always a tremendous honor to receive an NEA grant, and we are thrilled that the NEA has chosen to

support our production of 'Julius Caesar,' a show which represents the real core of our mission in so many ways. It will serve more students than any other Main Stage show this season, through our Student Matinee Series, and it represents our commitment to using Shakespeare's plays as our most valuable 'mirror' or reflecting pool as we examine our contemporary lives and societal issues."

"Julius Caesar" marks the fifth part of The Shakespeare Theatre's multi-season focus on works from Shakespeare's canon that address the current

world situation. The initiative began in 2004 with "King John," followed in 2004 with "Richard II" and "Macbeth" as well as the 2004 Biennial Colloquium, The Ethics of Power and Kingship in Shakespeare's Universe: "Holding the Mirror Up."

Tickets to Julius Caesar are on sale now, and may be purchased by calling 973-408-5600 or visiting www.ShakespeareNJ.org. For information about Student Matinee Series performances for school groups, call 973-408-3980 or e-mail JBGrant2@ShakespeareNJ.org.

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REAL ESTATE

Baris report: second quarter good for sellers

Northern New Jersey single-family homes prices posted strong gains during the second quarter of 2005, shaking off higher interest rates and talk of a "real estate bubble," according to statistics released today by Jordan Baris Inc., Realtors, an independent real estate brokerage based in West Orange.

The newly resurgent city of Newark posted the biggest gains, with the average price of single-family homes jumping 20.47 percent to \$292,173 during the second quarter of 2005 from \$156,159 during the 2004 period, according to Garden State Multiple Listing Service data analyzed by Ken Baris, president of Jordan Baris Realtors.

"Newark has simply been off the charts," said Baris. "Prices in Newark went up 32 percent during the first quarter and almost that much during the second quarter. That's unbelievable, and a sign sign of buyers' growing confidence in Newark." Prices were also

up in the counties around Newark: Essex County's single-family homes sold for an average of \$525,622 during the three months ended June 30, 2005, up 14.87 percent from \$457,583 during the 2004 quarter.

Morris County's average single-family home price rose 13.92 percent year-to-year to average \$576,899 during the second quarter.

And Union County's average single-family home price rose 11.94 percent during the second quarter, but Baris said these hints of weakness were offset by continued demand for high-end homes. Sales of homes costing more than \$1 million are often the first to decline when the real estate market peaks, but Baris said high-end sales continued to be strong in Morris, Essex and Union counties.

Total sales were down slightly year-to-year in northern New Jersey and inventories rose a little bit during the second quarter, but Baris said these hints of weakness were offset by continued demand for high-end homes. Sales of homes costing more than \$1 million are often the first to decline when the real estate market peaks, but Baris said high-end sales continued to be strong in Morris, Essex and Union counties.

Ninety-four single-family homes in Essex County sold for more than \$1 million during the second quarter of 2005, noted Baris. "We're selling more than one \$1 million home a day in Essex County," said Baris. "That's a

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DENISE DAVIS, Plaintiff,
vs.
MARY E. GREEN, Defendant.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO appear upon notice of the above-captioned lawsuit filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, at Newark, New Jersey, on July 21, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. to answer the complaint and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff. Failure to appear at the time and place specified may result in a default judgment being entered against you.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DONALD E. PHELPS, Plaintiff,
vs.
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY, Defendant.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED TO appear upon notice of the above-captioned lawsuit filed in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, at Newark, New Jersey, on July 21, 2005, at 10:00 A.M. to answer the complaint and defend against the claims of the Plaintiff. Failure to appear at the time and place specified may result in a default judgment being entered against you.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Plante of Westfield ERA earns broker's license

Sales associate Pat Plante, from the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office, recently received her real estate broker's license. This is the highest designation a Realtor can attain. In order to achieve a broker's license, Plante demonstrated a stellar work ethic in conducting a large volume of successful business transactions, participated in intensive classroom training of more than 150 hours, and took the challenging New Jersey license examination.

"This is another milestone in Pat's illustrious career at Pat Herk, president and chief operating officer of Burgdorff ERA." "She is one of our top producers in the Westfield office, and her success is the result of strong negotiating skills, market knowledge, and professionalism, which are highly valued in the real estate industry."

A licensed Realtor since 1988, Plante recently received the Senior Real Estate Specialist designation, which is a perfect fit with her prior 18-year career with the Social Security Administration. She also earned the Burgdorff Specialist designation. A current member of New Jersey Association of Realtors' Circle of Excel-

lence, she has also been a member of the Burgdorff-ERA President's Club. Plante is a member of the Greater Union County Association of Realtors and Middlesex County Board of Realtors.

A life-long Union County resident, Plante is an active volunteer in her community. She is a member of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Rotary Club, Union County Parks and Recreation Citizens Advisory Board, a TWIG volunteer for Children's Specialized Hospital, a member of the Fanwood Fanny Wood Day Committee, the Scotch Plains-Fanwood PTA at Park Middle School, and the Raritan Valley Line Commuter Coalition. Pat lives in Fanwood with her husband, Tom and daughter, Kerry.

Pat Plante can be reached by phone at 908-233-2162, by e-mail at pat.plante@burgdorff.com, or by visiting her at the Burgdorff ERA Westfield office located at 600 North Avenue West.

Tenny now in Summit At Burgdorff ERA

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Amy Tenny has joined the company as a sales associate in its Summit office, located at 401 Springfield Ave.

McKee joins Burgdorff at its Summit office

Burgdorff ERA recently announced that Robert McKee has joined the

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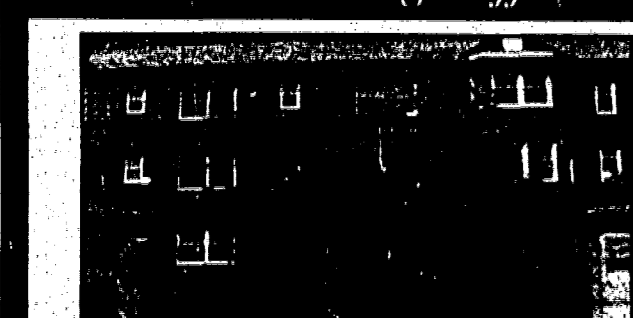
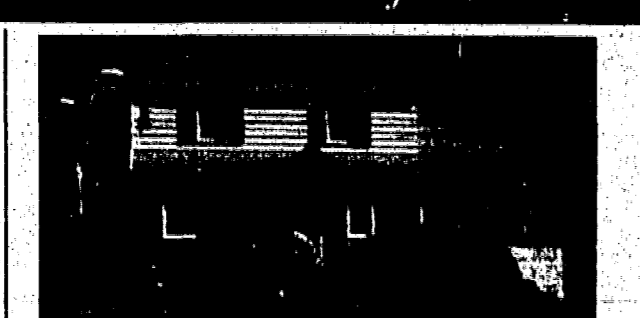


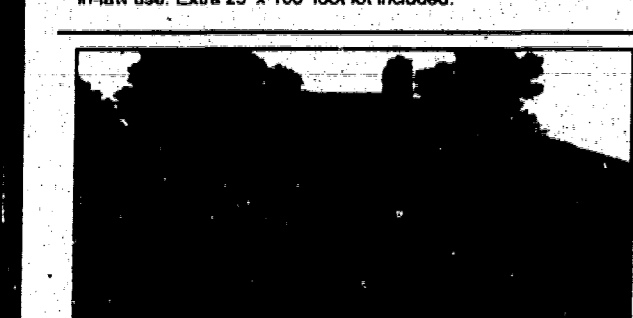
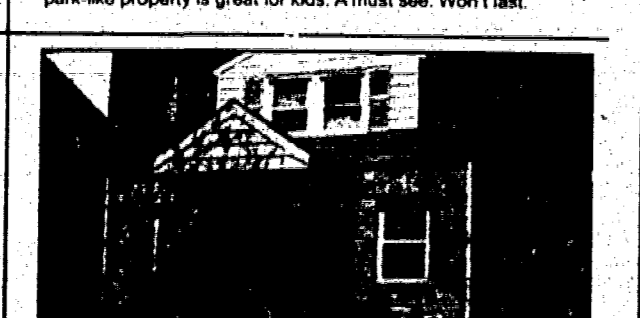
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AUTOMOTIVE

Malibu Maxx is a good family car

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Chevrolet's new Malibu Maxx is as efficient as a computer briefcase. You know the ones, padded pocket, flap or zipper for everything the contemporary traveler has to lug around every day.

It's pretty in a business sense, but it's better and more practical than a backpack, and the Maxx comes in pleasing colors.

That's meant as blue-chip praise for the concept of Maxx. It seems conceived with European and American influences and drivability, then built with quality materials and assembly.

Built on a stretched platform of the new and redesigned Malibu sedan, Maxx has a 6-inch-longer wheelbase, but it's about a half inch shorter. The five-passenger hatchback body style is somewhat rare in the class of midsize cars.

It's a creative adaptation of a sedan, not a wagon, that has almost as much back-seat room as the front. It's almost as if the car were designed from the back seat outward.

For any family with growing children, Maxx has potential. The rear seat slides about 7 inches and reclines, for passenger comfort or expanding the cargo area. The seat is split 60/40, not just at the seat back but also the seat bottom so both sides can move independently of each other. The front seat-back also folds forward to allow a useful alley of cargo capacity from front to rear.

In the category of "anything that make the back seat more tolerable" is a rear glass skylight, a standard feature. Two panes, each side with a sunshade, add an openness and light to the rear area, which may help people sensitive to motion sickness.

The flow of heat and air conditioning also was improved for the back seat, with floor vents and power thrusters in the front dash for quicker response rearward.

As optional rear DVD entertainment system has a seven-inch flip-up LCD screen mounted to the rear of the center console and includes two sets of infrared headphones, video game jacks, remote control and independent audio selection.

The cargo area is also multi-tasking with a power outlet, a cargo shelf with

AUTOMOTIVE

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To save on gasoline costs, drive efficiently and maintain your car

The Federal Trade Commission, in cooperation with the American Automobile Association, better known as the AAA, reminds consumers that there are things they can do to keep the cost of gasoline from busting budgets or putting the brakes on summer driving plans. With the right maintenance tips, the FTC and AAA are putting out a new alert to help consumers get the best mileage from their car, truck or sports utility vehicle.

"We all want to get the most out of our gasoline purchases," said Lydia Parnes, director of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection. "Simple fuel efficiency can help you save money."

The new consumer alert, "Good, Better, Best: How to Improve Gas Mileage," reminds drivers that staying within posted speed limits and avoiding aggressive driving can actually improve gas mileage. The alert highlights several ways consumers can improve their gas mileage.

According to the FTC and AAA, consumers can use fuel efficiently if they keep the following tips in mind:

- Drive more efficiently: stay within posted speed limits; stop aggressive driving; and avoid unnecessary idling. Gas mileage decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 miles per hour. When driving in town, consumers can improve their gas mileage up to 5 percent if they avoid "jackrabbit" starts and stops. Combine errands; use overdrive gears and cruise controls when appropriate; and remove excess weight from the trunk — an extra 100 pounds can reduce a typical car's fuel economy by up to 2 percent.
- Avoid packing items on top of your car: a loaded roof rack or carrier creates wind resistance and can decrease fuel economy by 5 percent.
- Maintain your car: keep the engine tuned, tires properly inflated and aligned, change the oil on schedule, and check and replace air filters regularly. Replacing clogged filters can increase gas mileage up to 10 percent.
- Use the proper octane level for

most cars, the recommended gasoline is regular octane. Using a higher-octane gas than the manufacturer recommends offers no benefit.

- Check out claims about "gas-saving" gadgets: be skeptical of claims for devices that will "boost your mileage by an extra six miles per gallon," or "improve your fuel economy up to 26 percent." Some "gas-saving" devices may actually damage a car's engine or increase exhaust emissions.
- There are also alternatives that consumers may want to consider, advises the FTC and AAA:
 - Alternative fuel vehicles operate on alternative fuels, such as methanol, ethanol, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, electricity, and others designated by the Department of Energy. Find out how many miles a new alternative fuel vehicle travels on a tank or supply of fuel because, gallon for gallon, some don't travel as far as gasoline-powered vehicles.
 - Hybrid electric vehicles combine the benefits of gasoline engines and electric motors and can be configured to achieve fuel economy and increased power.

Copies of the alert, "Good, Better, Best: How to Improve Gas Mileage," are available from the FTC's Web site at <http://www.ftc.gov> and also from the FTC's Consumer Response Center, Room 130, 600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20580. For more information on gas prices and conserving fuel, log on to www.aaa.com.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to

help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them.

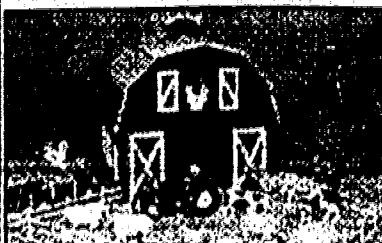
To file a complaint in English or Spanish — bilingual counselors are available to take complaints — or to get free information on any of 150 consumer topics, call toll-free, 877-382-4357, or use the complaint form which can be located on the Internet at <http://www.ftc.gov/ftccomplaint.htm>. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the United States and abroad.

As North America's largest motor and leisure travel organization, AAA provides its more than 48 million members with travel, insurance, financial and automotive-related serv-

ices. Since its founding in 1902, the not-for-profit, fully tax paying AAA has been a leader and advocate for the safety and security of all travelers.

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

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<p>'00 GMC SUBURBAN 1500 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'00 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'01 LINCOLN TOWN CAR SIGNATURE CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'00 CHEVY SUBURBAN 1500 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'04 CHEVY CARGO VAN 62500 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 2 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'02 CHEVY TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'03 CHEVY 1500 SILVERADO 271 EXT CAB 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'00 GMC YUKON 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'03 CHEVY SUBURBAN 1500 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'04 CADILLAC SEVILLE STS CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 12,153 mi.</p> <p>'00 CHEVY SUBURBAN 1500 4X4 CALL FOR EMPLOYEE PRICE SK #118721A, VIN #118721A, 4 DR, 8 Cyl, auto, a/c, p/w/ABS/locks/tilt/steer, cd, mp3, 8, leather, chrome wheels, 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2002 CHEVROLET MALIBU LS 4DR
6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/ sunrf, a/c, cass/cd, leath, alum whls, tilt, cruise. 52,632 mi. Stk#40384A VIN#2M634166

\$8,921

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2001 CHEVROLET IMPALA 4DR
6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cass/cd, tilt, cruise. 26,849 mi. Stk#6638 VIN#19283479.

\$9,921

2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LS 4X4 4DR
6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, lugg rk, alum whls, tilt 17163 mi. Stk#6538 VIN#22209714

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2004 CHEVROLET S-10 LS CREW CAB 4X4 4DR
6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds, a/c, alum whls, white ltr tires, alarm sys, tilt, cruise. 8738 mi. Stk#50681A VIN#4K131001.

\$18,921

2001 CHEVROLET TAHOE LS 4DR
8 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks, a/c, 6 pass. 38,212 mi. Stk#50049A VIN#12177835.

\$21,921

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2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE Z71 4X4 4DR
8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/ winds, p/seats/moonrf, a/c, cd, leath, alum whls, lugg rk, alarm sys. 41,660 mi. Stk#50949A VIN#2G300038.

\$23,921

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<p>1997 NISSAN SENTRA GXE 4DR 4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks, a/c, cass, a/s radials 78161 mi. Stk#50782A VIN#1L35467</p> <p>\$5,921</p>	<p>2000 NISSAN SENTRA GXE 4DR 4 cyl. 5 spd man. p/str/brks/lks, p/winds/sunrf, a/c, cd, tilt, brks, a/s radials 70,499 mi. Stk#50871A VIN#YL311159</p> <p>\$7,721</p>	<p>2002 SATURN SC2 3DR 4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds, p/lks/moonrf, a/c, cd, alloys, tilt. 46,413 mi. Stk#50847A VIN#Z2170108</p> <p>\$8,921</p>	<p>1997 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 2DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cass, r of rk, alloy. 52,610 mi. Stk#50663A VIN#VK172-45</p> <p>\$8,921</p>	<p>2002 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER TOURING 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/moonrf, a/c, cd, chr whls. 80,888 mi. Stk#50645A VIN#Z1371255</p> <p>\$8,921</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4DR 6 cyl. auto. a/c, p/str/brks/seats, any/m/cd, cruise, tilt/r of rk. 18,267 mi. Stk#6614 VIN#2M603930</p> <p>\$10,521</p>
<p>2003 CHEVROLET MALIBU 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, alum whls. 34,510 mi. Stk#6633 VIN#3M593113</p> <p>\$11,921</p>	<p>2003 MITSUBISHI GALANT ES 4DR 4 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/lks, a/c, am/m/stereo. 14,316 mi. Stk#50842A VIN#3E058675</p> <p>\$11,921</p>	<p>2001 MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPORT LS 4X4 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds/seats, a/c, cd, lugg rk, alum whls. 55,568 mi. Stk#50371A VIN#1P00901</p> <p>\$12,721</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN ALTIMA GLE 4DR 6 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/ABS, pwr winds/lks/mir/s, sts, cass/cd, sunrf, leather int. 37,265 mi. Stk#550A VIN#1C155268</p> <p>\$12,921</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 4X4 2DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/brks/winds, a/c, am/m stereo, radials, fibreglass top, B' bed. 37,315 mi. Stk#50975A VIN#Z2199319</p> <p>\$13,921</p>	<p>2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4 4DR 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, alum whls. 45,922 mi. Stk#50954A VIN#YLC12726</p> <p>\$13,921</p>
<p>2004 TOYOTA COROLLA LE 4DR 4 cyl. auto. a/c, pwr str/brks, pwr winds/lks/mir/s, sts, cass, blk wall trs. 15,231 mi. Stk#50242A VIN#4C134264</p> <p>\$13,921</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, ltr int, lugg rk, alum whls, alarm. 34,508 mi. Stk#6632 VIN#3K105369</p> <p>\$14,521</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4X4 4DR 6 cyl. 5 spd man trans, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, am/m stereo, lugg rk, alum whls. 51,125 mi. Stk#50999A VIN#1W501609</p> <p>\$15,921</p>	<p>2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, seat, leath, 3rd row seats, alum whls. 38,445 mi. Stk#50603A VIN#Z2B92287</p> <p>\$16,721</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER EXT 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, alum whls, 3rd row seat. 53,563 mi. Stk#50718A VIN#Z0134089</p> <p>\$18,421</p>	<p>2003 DODGE RAM 1500 ST QUAD CAB 4DR 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/lks, a/c, cass/cd, alum whls, sec sys. 56,105 mi. Stk#50998A VIN#35161965</p> <p>\$18,621</p>
<p>2003 CHEVROLET TAHOE LT 4X4 4DR 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, p/seats/sunrf, a/c, cd, leath, alum whls, sec sys. 67,912 mi. Stk#50956A VIN#3SR10667</p> <p>\$19,921</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, ltr int, lugg rk, alum whls, alarm. 30,246 mi. Stk#6586 VIN#Z2491165</p> <p>\$21,921</p>	<p>2003 FORD F-150 XLT EXT CAB 4DR 6 cyl. 5 spd man trans, p/str/brks/winds, cd, bed ltr, alum whls, sec sys. 24,318 mi. Stk#50987A VIN#3N412274</p> <p>\$21,921</p>	<p>2000 MERCEDES E320 WAGON 4DR 6 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds, p/seats/sunrf, a/c, cd, leath, alloys, r/rk, 3rd row seat, side/air bgs, sec sys. 13898 mi. VIN#YB034866</p> <p>\$22,921</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4DR 8 cyl. auto. p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, leath, lugg rk, alum whls, sec sys. 55,127 mi. Stk#50900A VIN#Z6286165</p> <p>\$24,921</p>	<p>2001 MERCEDES E-430 4MATIC 4DR V8, auto. p/str/ABS/winds/moonrf, a/c, cd, navig, alloys, sec sys. 31,629 mi. Stk#W15040 VIN#1X066117</p> <p>\$29,721</p>

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Volume Eight, Number Eight
August 2005

Special education schools change to meet students' needs

While most schools are struggling to keep class sizes small, the Victory School in Union County has been forced to close its doors to its special education students because it was too small.

As the landscape for students requiring a range of special education services changes, private and public schools are changing to meet those needs. The latest trend for special education is to keep students with special needs as close to their home district as possible and have them integrated into as many regular classroom settings as they can handle.

But for students with severe disabilities, a separate school setting is often the only alternative, and the Victory School in Roselle, operated by the Occupational Center of Union County, was a good alternative for some until this year. In operation for 19 years, the school graduated 170 students, including the last four graduates who received their diplomas in June.

Victory School served 16 to 21 year olds who were severely disabled but able to benefit from some job training. They attended class for a half day and then received job training for a half day. Four years ago the state Department of Education ruled schools must have 16 full-time students to maintain state licensing. For Victory, that meant a required student enrollment of at least 32. This year there were eight students.

Lengthy attempts to obtain a waiver from the size requirement were unsuccessful, said Mark Lasky, Occupational Center president. Tuition for students was paid by their home district after the home district determined it could not meet the students' needs. But without the state's seal of approval, public school districts will not be able to send students to Victory School and so the school has to be shut down.

"Students came to us when they needed much more concentrated support than their districts could provide," said Lasky. "Here they could get their diploma and job skills and then move into the world. For some of these youngsters, this was their only opportunity. We kept the school small on purpose to give the students the attention they needed. If it is not for our program, many will have nothing — no training — but we needed a waiver of the administrative code, and the state would not grant it."

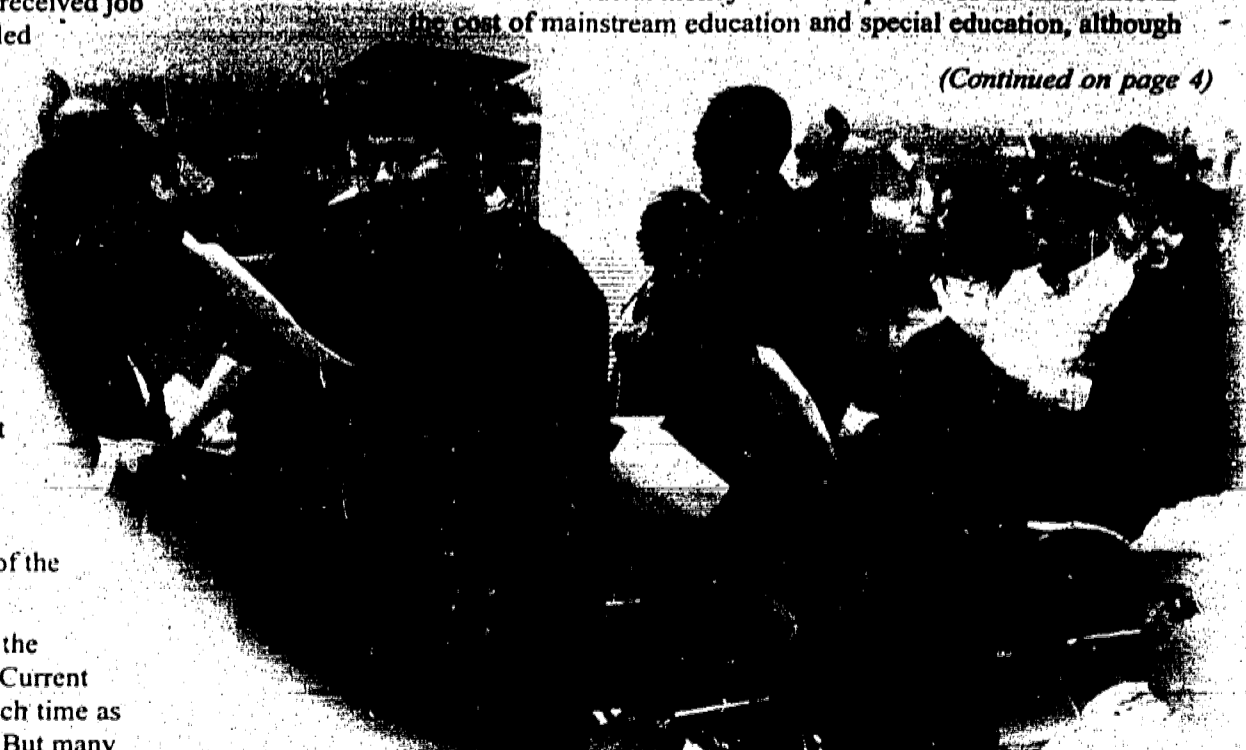
The Victory School was one of a handful of public and private schools in the Union County area that cater to the specialized needs of disabled students. Current thinking in educational circles is that disabled students should spend as much time as possible in the regular classroom setting, with individual support if needed. But many also need the special tutoring and counseling and smaller class size available in separate settings.

New Jersey has approximately 230,000 special education students, or slightly more than 16 percent of the student population. Of that number, nearly 9 percent receive educational instruction in settings outside the regular classroom. Advocates for the disabled are trying to change that and integrate as many special education students into mainstream classrooms as possible. The trend has been fostered in part because of a raised awareness that all students, including special education youngsters, have certain rights guaranteed by law, including a right to the most appropriate education.

"The thinking is that they are going to have to live in regular society, so, as much as possible, they should be educated in regular schools," said Edward M. Hartnett, superintendent of the Union County Educational Services Commission. Mainstreaming students with special needs also helps other students learn to accept their peers who have different needs, educators say.

Most services in both public and private special education schools are paid for by the school district that the special education student would have normally attended. School districts receive state and federal money to make up some of the difference in the cost of mainstream education and special education, although

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Elinore Stempniewicz (left), teacher at the Victory School for 17 years, is seen participating in the graduation ceremonies with the four members (each wearing a mortarboard) of the school's last graduating class.

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This is a publication of
The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Gateway to Growth

The Gift

By John L. Picard

You can see a lot just by looking *Yogi Berra*

Everyone we meet has the potential to offer us a unique gift. My father-in-law, among the many gifts he gave me, showed me how to truly cherish the moment. He had the ability to sense a pivotal life event and, without stopping or missing a beat, could acknowledge it as it was occurring. He called these times "memory days." I often remember him stopping briefly in some activity with his granddaughter, grinning as he recognized the power of the moment, telling us all: "This was a memory day" and going right back to play with her.

The gift of focus - Recognizing and being "present in the moment" is all too rare, as we rush through our lives, relationships and business dealings. We have all felt this sense of richer experience—praying in a church or temple, hearing our child laugh on a beach, or being part of a business relationship that is critically important. These moments of joy, opportunity and power occur often but can be missed because our minds are already somewhere else.

A growing field of study - Medicine and psychology have recently popularized a technique called *mindfulness*. This is simply the practice of being present in your current activity. The work of Herbert Benson and Jon Kabat-Zinn have shown us the power of getting into "your zone" and achieving a level of connection with ourselves, with others and with the moment, that is fundamentally different from anything we are taught in schools.

Bringing yourself to the situation - There is nothing more fundamental to your success than your ability to bring all of you to the opportunity at hand. In our gadget driven business world, we each need to insure that the whole of our presence is brought to each selling, communications and, most importantly, listening opportunity.

Nine quick suggestions to be "mindful" in business and marketing:

1. **Pay attention.** Concentrate on what is happening at the moment. Don't judge, simply observe.
2. **Use all of your senses** - Sight, touch, smell, taste and hearing.



3. **Reach out and into the other person** - Look at and think about the customer's needs, business objectives and style of working and communicating.

4. **See them in context** - Notice where you are and its impact on the dialogue. Understand the environment, the timing and the broader context of the corporate culture, the part of the country or the industry.

5. **Look below the surface** - Observe and connect across the hidden dimensions of the relationship and dialogue. Balance the surface needs with the intangibles.

6. **Listen to what is said and unsaid in the conversation** - How many times has a pause or a raised eyebrow told you more than the words?

7. **Be flexible to the unfolding of new opportunity** - When we raise our awareness, we gain new information that requires us to adapt in the moment.

8. **Feel and don't ignore what your emotions are telling you** - Don't be afraid of trusting your intuition and gut about the situation.

9. **Wake up** - Decide here and now, that in this meeting you are going to wake up and bring everything you have to the opportunity.

Like those moments in prayer or at the beach, you have the opportunity to gain real and tangible benefits from being mindful. When you are "in the moment," you will find new solutions for customers (sometimes out of thin air), build more successful relationships (based on a trust you just can't buy) and feel more rewarded in surprising ways. People will sense the difference in you and will react positively, re-enforcing your success. In the end, these powerful techniques will turn more of your business days into *memory days*.

JOHN PICARD is principal of Picard & Company, a strategic marketing firm specializing in business growth and customer retention. Functioning as a "relationship architect," the firm strengthens customer relationships to optimize long-term returns and profitability. Picard can be reached at 908-771-0512 or via e-mail at jp@picardmarketing.com or visit www.picardmarketing.com

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Local hospitals rise to the challenge of helping children and the elderly with mental health problems

Mental health problems frequently seem more difficult to treat than physical ailments, and this is particularly true for young people and senior citizens. Local hospitals are devising new programs and approaches to try to tackle the problems facing these two distinct populations, according to hospital representatives.

One of the most shocking problems health care experts have had to deal with is the explosion in the number of autistic children.

"For the entire spectrum of autism disorders, it used to occur in one in 10,000 births. Now it is one in 166," said Dr. Jill Harris, director of psychology for Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. Nationally, the number of autistic children between the ages of 6 and 22 receiving service under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act grew by more than 500 percent between 1993 and 2002, according to the U.S. Government Accounting Office.

"One of the questions that needs to be answered is: Is autism increasing or are our diagnostic techniques getting better?" she added. "Maybe it is a combination of both."

For those who believe the real number is increasing, many blame it on the use of mercury to preserve children's vaccines. The number of required vaccines were drastically increased in recent years and only recently was mercury banned from use in the vaccines. Whatever the cause, hospitals and schools are dealing with the results. Children's Specialized Hospital also has seen an increase in the number of children diagnosed with bipolar disorders.

The hospital provides a range of therapies and counseling programs for both the child suffering from the disorder and the rest of the family. The week of Aug. 8 has been set aside for the first-ever Sib Week, to focus attention on the needs of the brothers and sisters of a child with the problem.

"We want to raise the awareness of the community and of staff members to the fact that the entire family is affected by these disorders, including the siblings. As part of Sib Week, a seminar will be held Aug. 9 for families and for health care professionals. Additional information can be obtained by calling Linda Nordstrom at 908-301-5488 or 1-888-244-5373 ext. 5488.

At Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, one of the ways of approaching children's mental health and behavioral problems is for the hospital staff to work directly in the schools, said James R. Lape, vice president for psychiatry and long-term care at the hospital.

"This is one of the programs we are very excited about," Lape said. "We cannot assume children are arriving at school willing and able to learn. Many need more support than they are getting at home, particularly in an urban environment. The hospital is trying to help bridge that gap with the home environment."

"Pressure is increasing on children, not just in school, but in life in general. It is harder to grow up now, than it used to be," he added.

Family involvement is as important for treatment of elderly patients as it is for youths, according to Lape and other health professionals. In the case of an elderly person, it is more likely the sons and daughters who need support in caring for aging parents.

Physicians at Union Hospital are always on the lookout for signs of depression in elderly patients, said Charlotte Clark. Less severe cases are treated by the hospital, while more severe cases are referred elsewhere.

Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, a long-term and acute care county facility, deals with patients with mental illness, psychiatric disorders, bipolar disorders and major depression. In the elderly, these problems are frequently compounded by physical ailments, said Liz Migneco, a licensed clinical social worker who is the psychiatric social work supervisor at Runnells. Runnells has 44 psychiatric beds, a number that was recently more than doubled from an original 20 beds.

"We try to involve families in treatment," Migneco said. "We want to keep people close to home and return them to their homes. We have weekly family social support groups and the family of a patient can come in at any time and see us."

"Unfortunately, one of the added stresses in these cases is often finding adequate housing, because often there is no family or the family cannot handle the person. But no one ever leaves here until safe, suitable housing has been arranged," she added. "The goal is always to treat them and return them to their homes."

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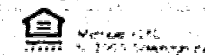
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Special education schools change to meet students' needs

(Continued from page 1)

many school officials complain it is not enough. The state provides grants for school districts to build facilities for special needs students and to train staff members, but not every district can meet all the students' needs.

New Jersey, for a variety of reasons, sends more special education students to schools outside the normal school setting than most states. Educators speculate it is partially because of the number of special needs schools that exist in the state and partially because the state is divided into more school districts than almost any other state. Despite its small size, New Jersey has 616 separate school districts, many of them small, and with limited ability to provide special education services, even with state assistance.

Although services in specialized schools cost more than those in mainstream schools, Kenneth Alter, director of the Deron School of New Jersey, said for the services provided the education is very inexpensive.

"If a regular school had the services we provide, it would cost even more," he said. Deron School is a private special education facility for multiply-handicapped students, all of whom have mental handicaps and some of whom also have physical handicaps. "For instance, we have speech classes five times a week and we have a three-to-one ratio of students to staff. All of our students, for one reason or another, have not been able to stay in their home district. They require too much intense supervision."

Deron, which has been in existence for 37 years, has two facilities. Younger students are taught at a school in Union and those 14 to 21 years old go to a facility in Montclair Services for the overwhelming majority of the 300 students are paid for by the sending districts in Union, Essex, Morris, Hudson, Passaic or Middlesex counties.

Alter feels the number of handicapped students is increasing, but only because the population of the area continues to increase. The one exception may be the number of cases of autism, which have skyrocketed across the country in recent years, maybe caused in part by the mercury used in children's vaccines, according to some advocates.

Michele Rieman, director of the High Road School in Somerset, said her school's population is staying high, despite the trend to return handicapped students to regular classrooms.

"I do not know if the number of special education students is increasing but we are maintaining a steady enrollment," she said of the school that teaches learning disabled students who also have emotional or social deficits. "But we consider ourselves a regular school. The students just learn differently." High Road has 150 13 to 21-year-olds.

In addition to these two private schools, the Union County area also has the Jardine Academy in Union, run by the Cerebral Palsy League of Union County; the Kohler School in Winfield, operated by the Retarded Citizens Association of Union County; and the Children's Specialized Hospital School in Fanwood.

The county also operates public special education schools under the auspices of the Union County Educational Services Commission. In New Jersey, most counties have an educational services commission made up of representatives from each of the school districts in the county.

"Every school has a department of special services and one or more child study teams. When a child is having difficulty, the child study team tries to provide the resources necessary. If it is determined the student has a disability, they try to put the child as close to the mainstream classroom as possible," Superintendent Hartnett said.

"But regular school settings may not be appropriate. Our students are with us because their type of disability or the severity of the disability makes it impossible for them to attend public school," he added. The Educational Services Commission operates the Westlake School in Westfield for multiply-handicapped students, the Beadleston High School in Westfield for emotionally disturbed teenagers, the Crossroads School in Westfield for autistic students, and two alternative high schools for Elizabeth students who have not been successful in the regular high school setting for a variety of reasons. The Educational Services Commission also provides training and services for private special education schools.

Often when a student is returned to the regular school district for all or part of the day, he or she has a special assistant assigned to help. The assistants are often trained by the Educational Services Commission, but work for the local district.

"The trend now is to make every effort to educate the student inclusively (in the regular school district) or return them to the regular district as soon as possible," Hartnett said. "We have had reasonable success in this effort."

Trinitas Hospital

Trinitas offers wellness management and employee assistance programs

For more than 15 years, Trinitas Hospital has been working to improve the health of companies and their employees through its Wellness Management Services and C.A.R.E. Employee Assistance Programs.

Wellness Management Services

"Every day, these vital programs help companies throughout the greater New Jersey area build strong, effective employee teams," said Dr. Rodger Goddard, director of Wellness Management Services. "Companies today are in survival mode and must continually find new ways to improve worker productivity and provide unique, competitive customer value."

"Wellness Management Services provide innovative, effective programs to improve manager leadership, competitive customer value, employee well-being, teamwork and employee productivity," he added. "Our programs are active and are designed to have managers and employees learn by achieving very specific goals."

Wellness Management Services is aimed at helping companies create a positive work community. Clients have included Ford Motor Company, Sealand, Hoffman LaRoche, Ikea, PSE&G, Wakefern, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, Woodbridge Township and many others.

WMS training programs at Trinitas Hospital include:

- The Leadership Challenge Program: Strengthening employee effectiveness by having managers set and achieve specific financial and/or customer value goals.
- The Daily Action-Task Customer Growth Program: Allowing employees to use step by step daily tasks to achieve customer value and improve work efficiency.
- The Senior Leadership Focus Forum: Clarifying the priorities, values, mission and actions of an organization.
- The Team Building Treasure Scavenger Hunt: Getting employees to search for, and enjoy finding, work process and customer service improvements.
- Beyond Change Management: Transforming the work environment into a caring, supportive, energetic, customer-focused culture.
- Innovative Customer Value: Making the competition irrelevant by giving customers benefits that they can get nowhere else.
- From Conflict to Synergy: Overcoming and transforming conflict in the workplace.

Manager and employee health improvement programs include:

- Stress and time management training.
- Quit Smart - A four-session smoking cessation program.
- A weight loss program.

Wellness Management Services also provides manager coaching and customer feedback surveys. Additional information can be obtained by calling Goddard at 908-994-7334.

Employee Assistance Program

Through the C.A.R.E. (Comprehensive Assistance and Referral for Employees) Program, Trinitas Hospital provides short-term counseling, evaluation and referral for employees of local municipalities and businesses both within and outside of New Jersey.

"Since 1992, we have contracted with local businesses to provide their employees and immediate families with a wide range of counseling services for mental health, substance abuse, financial, marital and family issues," said Dave Bencivengo, C.A.R.E. Program director. "The services are provided through the employees' benefits package with most contracts providing for three to six sessions per employee."

The program, which is staffed by certified employee assistance professionals and licensed clinical social workers, also offers training to supervisors for dealing with workers' performance problems.

"The Mental Health Association has noted that 10 to 15 percent of employees have severe personal problems," said Bencivengo. "However, a recent two-year study by McDonald-Douglas showed a four-to-one return on money invested in Employee Assistance Programs."

One specialized program C.A.R.E. provides is evaluation for the state Department of Transportation for commercial licensed drivers to help them meet DOT-mandated requirements.

A toll-free, 24-hour telephone counseling line is also offered through the C.A.R.E. program for all eligible employees. Additional information on C.A.R.E. can be obtained by calling Bencivengo at 908-497-3954 or visiting www.healthy-exchange.com/careap.

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President's Message

Well, it is all coming home to roost!

Though discussion has disappeared from the front page for the last couple of weeks, the crisis of defined benefit pension programs continues to grow. It is a harbinger of what is in store for the Social Security System.



Defined benefit pension programs are what we all think of as classic pension programs. You work for a certain number of years, you pay into a program, and when you retire, you are paid a monthly stipend for the rest of your life usually based on your years of service and your final level of compensation.

While this sounds very reasonable, several factors have converged with disastrous implications. First, we are all living a lot longer than anyone expected back in the 1950's and 1960's when these plans became widespread. This means that the obligations are much greater than at first expected.

Second, most businesses have fewer current workers per retiree than when the programs originated. Since these programs, like Social Security, are often funded through current contributions, fewer workers are paying into the program to support those who are on the other side collecting. In the auto industry, it is to the point where there are almost more retirees than there are workers!

Finally, too many of the defined benefit pension programs were negotiated in bad faith, and are much too generous. During many labor negotiations of the late 1970's and early 1980's, the pension program became a key component of the overall contract negotiation between management and labor. Since we all tend to live for today rather than 20 years down the road, it was an easy area to compromise. Many managers were surely more concerned with reducing costs now, well knowing that they probably wouldn't be around in 20 years to worry about the effect the overly generous retirement program would have on the company. Labor representatives, on the other hand, needed to show their membership a major gain, and since that wasn't in salary, it could be in retirement.

The result has been staggering debt. Retirement debt is one of the factors that crippled the US steel industry, depriving tens of thousands of their jobs and retirement programs. Recently, we have seen this with the airline industry, where it is argued that if many carriers don't shed their retirement commitments, like United Airlines did, that they will not remain competitive enough to stay in business.

The situation in the auto industry is worse, largely because it is so much bigger. It is estimated that more than \$1,000 of the cost of an American built car goes to pay retirement obligations. This makes it hard for US manufacturers to compete with foreign competitors who do not incur pension costs. Of course, this makes the US manufacturer less competitive which makes it even harder to pay retirement obligations.

Nor are government employees immune. Runaway generosity in New Jersey's state-run pension system and serious government mismanagement have led to a \$25 billion shortfall in funding. Since it's the government though, they will simply take the money from us at some point or another.

These problems are endemic to defined benefit pension programs. Of course the granddaddy of all defined benefit pension programs is Social Security. It is politically popular, but terribly naive, not to look at serious reform to the Social Security System.

In the meantime, I would advise people to start doing some of their own saving, after all, God helps those who help themselves.

John P. Coyle

INSIDE BUSINESS

A publication of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce

Publisher: James R. Coyle • Editor: Karen DeMasters
 Director of Advertising: Joanne Vero • Director of Graphics: John Tirpak
 Editorial Committee: Charles Bertsch and James R. Coyle
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Where the Chamber stands...

Changes not needed for New Jersey law against discrimination

New Jersey has one of the strongest laws against discrimination in the workplace and in the housing and the rental market. We should be proud of that and fully support it. But the Legislature is now considering several changes that are not needed. The changes would create a hardship for many businesses and would not necessarily benefit employees.

New Jersey law prohibits discrimination in hiring, firing and promotions and in apartment rentals and housing sales based on a person's race, creed, color, marital status, sex, sexual orientation and several other related categories.

The biggest change proposed by this legislation, which some think was snuck through the Senate in the midst of the complicated and acrimonious budget negotiations on June 23, would make it illegal to make binding arbitration a condition of a labor agreement. Currently, employers can negotiate with individual employees or unions about whether discrimination complaints should go to an arbitrator, whose decision is final. If both sides agree, and the union votes to approve a contract with this provision in it, all complaints of discrimination and harassment go to an arbitrator.

This bill, if it becomes law, would make that illegal. New Jersey would join only one or two other states that have such a prohibition.

The reasoning by labor unions promoting this bill is that arbitrators too frequently side with employers. The reality is that arbitrators more often decide complaints based on the facts in the case, while juries can often be swayed by emotional arguments. However, discrimination and harassment issues should be decided on the facts in the case and the relevant law.

The number of "run away" juries that award ridiculously large settlements to plaintiffs in any type of discrimination or damage law suit is frequently exaggerated. But they do occur. Requiring that discrimination and harassment suits be taken to a jury, and never settled by an arbitrator, gives the plaintiff an unfair advantage. Every employer would feel forced to settle a suit, whether he were guilty or not, for fear of having one of those infamous run away juries take him to the cleaners.

The bill also would prohibit an employer, under most circumstances, from requiring that only English be spoken in the workplace, unless it can be proven it is a business necessity to prohibit other languages. On the contrary, the current law is the standard that should be maintained. Employers should have a right to require English to be spoken in their places of businesses. Efficient communications requires that employees and employers speak a common language.

Another provision that was in the legislation for awhile would have applied the anti-discrimination statute to independent contractors. More and more businesses are now outsourcing work to any number of independent contractors. This provision would have opened employers up to a wide range of spurious new suits by people who only work for them part time. As of now, this provision has been amended out of the bill. Let's hope it stays out.

The bill passed the Senate 37-0 in June as S2522. The Assembly version, A4157, has been released by the Assembly Judiciary Committee. The bill is now in a position for a vote by the full Assembly when the Legislature returns from its budget break. The Senate version is sponsored by Sens. John H. Adler and Wayne R. Bryant and the Assembly bill is sponsored by Assemblyman Neil M. Cohen and Patrick J. Diegnan and Assemblywoman Mary T. Previtte, all Democrats.

Arbitration should remain an option for settling discrimination complaints. New Jersey has a strong anti-discrimination law. Complaints under it should be settled on the merits of the case, which is more likely to happen in an arbitration situation. In addition, the courts are already overburdened and most judicial experts are looking for ways to remove cases from the system, not add cases. The backlog in most courts makes complaints drag on for far too long, creating an atmosphere of uncertainty for both the employer and the employee.

This bill, despite its unanimous passage in the upper house, should be allowed to die in the lower house.

Capital Page

Assemblyman Joseph Bryan

Substitute high school test should be abolished

What was intended as a safety net for a handful of students who failed New Jersey's High School Proficiency Assessment, has exploded over the last decade to become the biggest policy abuse of our state's education system.

The Specialized Review Assessment (SRA) is a program that was developed to provide students with documented test-taking difficulties with another route to graduation. In 1994-1995 only 5.2 percent of diplomas were earned via the SRA. Today, according to the State Department of Education, the use of the SRA as an alternative to the traditional High School Proficiency Assessment has skyrocketed in the last 3 years. Nearly one in five graduates now need the SRA to graduate, and that number rises to more than half of graduates in some urban districts. Statewide, about 20,000 out of 100,000 graduates each year use the alternative exam to achieve their diplomas.

Currently, students who twice fail either the math or language arts sections of the state's high school exit exam can go through the process of the Specialized Review Assessment to meet state requirements. The SRA is a untimed and far less rigorous test for high school seniors that allow students to graduate even though they cannot pass the state's literacy or math test.

The SRA is creating a watered down diploma that is hurting both students who pass the high school test and the students it was meant to help. Simply put, too many schools are over reliant on the SRA and are using it as a form of social promotion instead of correcting the poor curricula and teaching in their elementary and middle schools.

Supporters of the SRA question if any single test can measure if a student is adequately prepared for life after high school. Those same supporters claim that the SRA helps students stay in school who would otherwise drop out. As a member of the Assembly Budget Committee, I say those arguments do not stand up to scrutiny. I have heard testimony on higher education from university and county college presidents who have expressed alarm at the rise of incoming freshmen who need remedial classes because they do not meet the most basic requirements. New Jersey high schools are passing on their problems to our institutions of higher learning and New Jersey taxpayers are getting taxed at both ends. New Jersey's citizens are paying property

taxes that are supposed to educate all of our children to the same standard, but then we are paying again to our state colleges to teach students what they failed to learn in high school.

As an Assemblyman, I have written legislation that would eliminate the SRA as a way of fulfilling a high school student's requirement to graduate. I am a vocal critic of this charade which penalizes both children and parents alike. In his effort I have an ally in William Librera, Commissioner of the NJ Department of Education, who first proposed eliminating the SRA in 2003. Commissioner Librera has said that eliminating the SRA would require an alternative to exist, but that the alternative test process should be more rigorous. He proposes changing math lesson plans as early as fifth grade so students can learn the skills needed in order to pass the math portion of the high school test.

He has also proposed that the HSPA should be first given to sophomores, instead of juniors, so teachers would have more time to help students raise their scores by learning the material if they have failed the test. Librera has also suggested that students who fail the HSPA twice and need the alternative test, because they are poor test takers, would have to prove that they attended school 90 percent of the time and teachers would have to present the student's course work to show they mastered the material. Commissioner Librera believes that almost all students could pass the high school tests with the right help from teachers. His proposal, which is currently before the State Board of Education, is to phase out the SRA over a seven year period and must be approved before it can become official policy.

In as much as I agree with Commissioner Librera that I am not convinced one in five high school seniors can't pass the test, I disagree that the phase out period should take seven years. In that period of time almost 150,000 children will graduate using the Specialized Review Assessment and will go on to college or the workforce not understanding the basics of math or language arts. Tell your superintendents and board of education members that you do not want your child's diploma watered down any longer. Tell them that you want the SRA eliminated and the alternative test to be rigorous and given only to those who need it. Tell them for the benefit of all our children. Tell them for the benefit of this great State.



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Where the Chamber stands...

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News stories about one spill or chemical industry accident after another during the 1970s and 1990s led to approved handling of chemicals and other dangerous materials in manufacturing. But the real danger is the thousands of unreported

Member Moments...

COMPSolutions PEO, one of the tri-state area's leading Professional Employer Organizations, was recently named as the fifth Best Place to Work in New Jersey by *NJBIZ* and The Best Companies Group. The award identifies the best places of employment in New Jersey based on those that benefit the state's economy, its workforce and business community.

To be considered for this recognition, COMPSolutions PEO entered into a two-part process that included evaluating the company's workplace policies and procedures, practices, philosophy and demographics. The second part involved an employee survey addressing behavioral tendencies rather than company systems.

COMPSolutions PEO President and CEO Thomas J. Cioffe said, "We are delighted to be named as one of the Best Places to Work in New Jersey from the thousands of entries. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated group of professionals who are committed to the core values of COMPSolutions PEO - team building, training, communication, and superior client service. The success of our company is a shining example of the power of people and their ability to achieve the extraordinary through teamwork."

The COMPSolutions award was among the 25 medium-sized companies.



More than 100 golfers recently hit the links at Shackamaxon Golf & Country Club in Scotch Plains to support United Way of Greater Union County's work in improving local lives and addressing critical community needs. The 2005 Golf Classic, sponsored by L'OREAL USA, generated more than \$35,000 to support United Way. L'OREAL USA's Dave Wagner, Pat Cafaro, Jon Needham and Paul DeStefano (left to right) are seen here preparing to tee off.

The first Occupational Center of New Jersey, Orange, was named by the North Essex Chamber of Commerce as the **Outstanding Non-profit Organization** for its long history of community service and support. The Chamber noted the innovative efforts of the agency in providing employment opportunities to residents of New Jersey. The First Occupational Center of New Jersey is the state's oldest and largest vocational and job placement agency for developmentally disabled, elderly and economically disadvantaged New Jersey residents and their families.

(Continued on page 9)

June Lazaro, regional leader for Primerica Financial Services, Edison; Linden Councilman Tom Boland and Carolyn Pabon, chair of the Linden Chamber of Commerce, (left to right) are pictured after Boland was presented with a Special Recognition Award at the Linden Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner. Boland has worked as a liaison with the business community of Linden.



Member Moments

(Continued from page 8)

June Lazaro, Regional Leader of Primerica Financial Services has moved. The new address is 3499 Route 9, Suite 2-A, Freehold, NJ 07728 - 3258. (732) 845-9968

Valley National Bank, Wayne, announced Shelia Leary has joined the bank as senior vice president, director of BAS/AML.

Kearny Federal Savings Bank, Fairfield, announced Michael Paole Jr., who is mayor Roseland, joined the bank as regional business manager.



(left) Cheryl Howard, a law school student of Emory University, has joined Lindabury, McCormick & Estabrook as a summer associate. Howard, who will enter her third year at Emory in August, will assist with research and special projects at the Westfield law firm. She previously participated in the summer associate program at the New York law firm Herzfeld & Rubin, P.C. She has also worked as a Special Projects Editor and photographer for Jezebel Magazine, an Atlanta lifestyle publication.



Linden Chamber of Commerce Scholarship Award winners, Joan Arango and Kareem Absolu, listen as Carolyn Pabon, chair of the Linden Chamber of Commerce, introduces them. Both will be attending Rutgers University in the fall.

(below) Leonard Neuringer of LJ Engraving & Signs accepts the Linden Chamber of Commerce Small Business of the Year Award from Carolyn Pabon, chair of the Linden Chamber of Commerce.



(above) Carolyn Pabon, chair of the Linden Chamber of Commerce, honored Unity Bank's Carlos Martins (left) and John Kauchak (center) with the Linden Chamber of Commerce Large Business of the Year Award.

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As medical technology advances, it's important to the people in our area that the facilities at Muhlenberg are as up-to-date as possible. As part of Solaris Health System, we've made numerous enhancements and improvements at the medical center—to better serve the residents of our region.

Recent additions of advanced equipment include state-of-the-art MRI (magnetic resonance imaging), CAD (computer aided detection for breast imaging), and Mobile Lithotripsy (kidney stone treatment). The expansion of new services include Muhlenberg's groundbreaking status as the first hospital in the state (without cardiac surgery) to be licensed to perform Emergency Angioplasty; our continued presence as the state's preeminent Colon & Rectal surgical institute; and the innovative use of lasers and transilluminated techniques in the new Muhlenberg Vein Center. In addition, the Muhlenberg Regional Cancer Center has been accredited by the American College of Surgeons — a highly prestigious and clinically recognized designation.

We've also invested millions of dollars in the clinical computerization of Muhlenberg. From a robotic pharmacy to electronic medical records—Muhlenberg is among the leading hospitals in the state aggressively placing innovative computer technologies in the hands of physicians and nurses in order to enhance patient care and safety.

But we realize that the addition of new equipment and advanced technology is just a lot of stainless steel—without the presence of our skilled technologists, compassionate nurses, and talented physicians. Fortunately, you'll find that combination of technology and tenderness throughout Muhlenberg. It's been a part of our history and will remain a part of our future.

Take a close look at Muhlenberg today and you will see our future has never been brighter. We're modern. Convenient. Caring. We're hundreds of your friends and neighbors. We're an experienced team of professionals dedicated to bringing you cutting-edge medicine with a personal touch. We've always had a proud tradition of quality at Muhlenberg, but we're not stopping there. Instead, we're constantly changing and looking for new ways to serve our community. New ideas that can benefit you today... and tomorrow.

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Did you know... Renting vs. reimbursement: Employers and employees have options

By Woody Erhardt, Regional Vice President Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Reimbursing employees for their mileage when an employee uses his or her own vehicle has always been a popular practice among companies. However, with gasoline prices rising again to an all time high, the impact on corporate mileage reimbursement programs is becoming a huge burden for companies to bear, and many companies—and employees—are looking for another alternative.

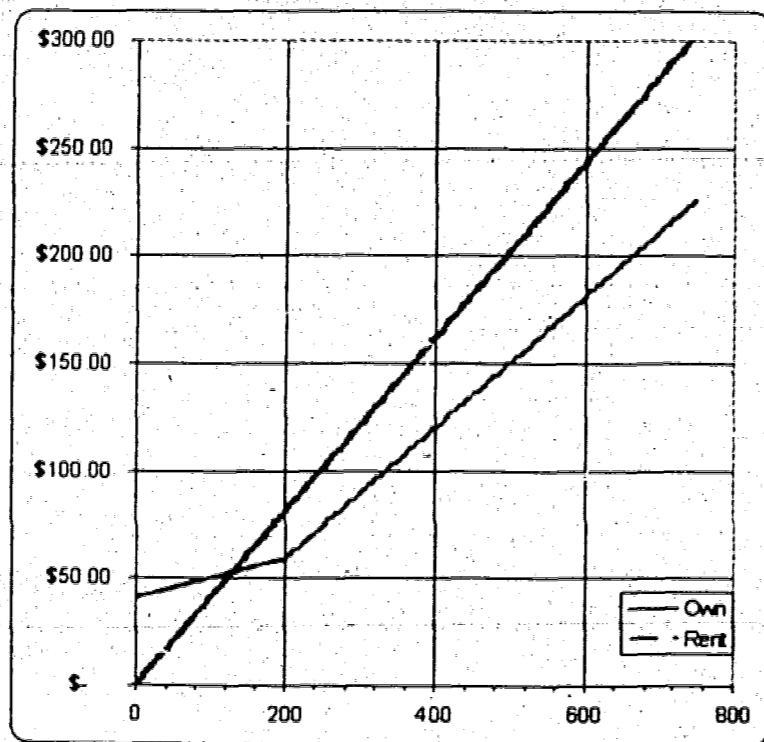
According to AAA, even if employees are paid at the federal reimbursement rate of 40.5 cents a mile, they could still be losing as much as 16.7 cents per mile they drive for the company. Even though reimbursement rates have increased slightly from year to year, they simply haven't kept up with the rapid increases in gasoline prices.

The good news is, companies have options for their employees. Providing rental cars versus mileage reimbursement is not only a cost-saving option for employers; it provides several benefits to employees as well.

Opting to rent over reimbursement can save an employer up to 20 to 30 percent. For example, a 200-mile trip reimbursed at \$0.405 would cost a company \$81. That same trip renting would cost the company approximately \$60, including the cost of a 1-day rental, taxes and gas.

In the Car Rental vs. Mileage Reimbursement Graph below, it's evident that renting a car will save both businesses and employees money. And the savings only increase with each mile driven. For example, if an employee drove his or her car on a three-day, 600-mile trip, the employer will end up reimbursing a total of \$243. However, if the employer had instead provided a rental car to the employee, it would have cost approximately \$176. When presented with a \$70 savings, one can see that renting a car for employees taking longer trips is certainly more cost effective than reimbursement.

Beyond the cost savings, companies reduce the insurance and liability risk, and ensure accurate accounting and invoicing when they rent. Furthermore, companies and their employees gain peace of mind, and enjoy the comfort and safety of driving what is probably a newer vehicle with 24-hour roadside assistance.



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Enterprise Rent-A-Car has more than 150 locations throughout New Jersey, including 38 offices in Union, Essex, and Hudson Counties. To make a reservation with Enterprise, go to www.enterprise.com, or call 1-(800)-RENT-A-CAR.

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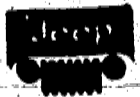


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