

Welcome to the ECHO LEADER
How to reach us:
The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent family owned newspaper company.

Police nab robbery suspect

A lone gunman attempted to rob the Echo Queen Diner on Route 22 east in Mountainside, just after midnight on Aug. 24.
Julio A. Clusan, 43, of Audrey Terrace, Union, and Paladino Street, New York City, engaged the Echo Queen Diner waitress in a robbery and escape attempt, police said. He also had black powder painted on his face and hands in an attempt to disguise himself.

Police arrest unlicensed driver

Mountainside Police stopped a black, four-door 2000 Nissan on Aug. 22 at 11:01 p.m. after allegedly speeding 70 mph in a 45 mph safe corridor along Route 22 west near Lawrence Avenue.
After police could find no record of the name provided by the driver, identified as Nigel W. Armstrong, 18, of Plainfield, he was brought to headquarters, where his identity was confirmed and it was revealed to be an unlicensed driver.

POLICE BLOTTER

Mountainside police stopped a beige, four-door 2000 Mitsubishi for failing to maintain the lane at Route 22 west and New Providence Road Sunday at 2:31 a.m.
After an investigation, police learned the driver, identified as Maria A. Rodriguez, 25, of Duellenen, was arrested on an outstanding \$1,000 warrant from South Plainfield.
Davon M. Gordon of Newark, 24, was arrested by police on an outstanding warrant out of Hillside on Saturday at 10:07 p.m.
Gordon was a passenger in a vehicle that was "parked suspiciously" at Meineke on Route 22 east, according to police reports.

Performances take center stage at fair

On Sept. 10, the souls laid to rest in both historic cemeteries lining the streets of Church Mall and Academy Green in Springfield will hear more than angel's voices or mortal's prayers.
The second Church Mall Street Fair will take place on the two streets filling the air with the sounds of laughter and music.

Three-time national champion cheerleaders who train at Eastern Gymnastics in Cranford will take the stage at 5 p.m.
The Springfield Veterans and Scouts will join the Rev. Elaine Wing and the Rev. Charles Baier in leading a brief Time of Remembrance for those who died on Sept. 11, 2001.

Dancers from Turning Pointe Dance Center in Springfield will take the stage at 1 p.m., giving some of Springfield's own a moment of fame onstage.
At 1:30 p.m., librarians from the Springfield Free Public Library will offer a story or two to children.

Martial arts will then kick off the 2 p.m. hour with moves by staff and students of Hwang Martial Arts Studio.
Grand Master H.C. Hwang is the 2005 Black Belt Magazine Man of the Year and instructor at the dojo.

Clubs in the News
Sept. 18 — Dinner at Vivace in Plainfield \$40.00.
Oct. 9 — meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes from 2 to 4 p.m.
Nov. 13 — Our Lady of Lourdes from 2 to 4 p.m.
Dec. 11 — Christmas Party at Gran Centurions, Clark 1 to 5 p.m. \$40 cash bar.

Fishing will begin at 10 a.m. and run through 2 p.m. The Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club will provide fishing tackle and bait to all registered participants.
There is no charge for any of the activities.

Club conducts 28th annual fishing derby
The Newark Bait & Fly Casting Club will conduct its 28th annual People With Disabilities Fishing Derby on Sept. 10, with a rain date of Sept. 11 at Echo Lake Park, Mountainside.
The event headquarters will be at the gazebo near the dam at the lower lake.

All handicapped individuals, regardless of age, can participate. They must pre-register by Friday by calling Ellen Chase of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation at 908-527-4096.

Widowed Persons group seeks members
The Widowed Persons Association of Our Lady of Lourdes at 300 Central Ave., Mountainside, is looking for new members.
Meetings are the second Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. There is a program, followed by refreshments, consisting of wine and cheese, followed by coffee and cake. A fee of \$3 is charged.

Widowed persons are invited. Dates to remember include:
Sept. 18 — Dinner at Vivace in Plainfield \$40.00.
Oct. 9 — meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes from 2 to 4 p.m.
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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. To mail a schedule, send it to Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Wednesday
Sept. 8
The Springfield Planning Board will meet in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

Upcoming
Sept. 8
The Foothill Club will meet at the Herff House on Constitution Plaza in Mountainside at noon. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$8 per person. New members and guests are always welcome.

For a reservation, call Genevieve at 908-232-3626.
Sherry Lange and Janet Murphy from the Miller Cory House in Westfield will present a program on "Lenape Indian Lore."

The Springfield Board of Education recently approved new changes in the start and end times for each school in the district, starting today. They include the following:

For the Edward V. Walton School prekindergarten only students, the drop off time for the morning session will be 8:35 a.m.
The start time will be 8:50 a.m.
Dismissal for the morning session will be 11:25 a.m.

The start time for the afternoon session will be 12:35 p.m.
Dismissal for the afternoon session will be 3:10 p.m.
For the Edward V. Walton School students in grades kindergarten through second, the drop off time will be 8:35 a.m.

Dismissal for grades kindergarten through second will be 3:10 p.m.
For the third- through fifth-grade students at the James Caldwell School and Thelma L. Sandmeier School, the drop off time will be 8:25 a.m.

The start time for JCTLs students will be 8:40 a.m.
Dismissal for JCTLs students will be 3 p.m.
For the Florence M. Gaudiner Middle School, which serves grades six through eight, the drop off time will be 7:35 a.m.

The start time will be 7:45 a.m.
Dismissal for FMG students will be 2:30 p.m.
For the Jonathan Dayton High School students, grades nine through 12, the drop off time will be 7:30 a.m.

The start time at the high school will be 7:40 a.m.
Sept. 10
The second Church Mall Street Fair will take place on Church Mall and Academy Green in Springfield.

Three-time national champion cheerleaders who train at Eastern Gymnastics in Cranford will take the stage at 10:30 a.m.
At 11:15 a.m., Springfield veterans and scouts will join the Rev. Elaine Wing and the Rev. Charles Baier in leading a brief Time of Remembrance for those who died on Sept. 11, 2001.

Composer and keyboardist Dan Crisci and vocalist Virginia Johnston will perform familiar tunes and an original piece of music they wrote for the Time of Remembrance.
At 11:30 a.m., the SEUMC quartet will fill the air with the sound of jazz, folk and contemporary music as attendees enjoy barbecue foods, ice cream and baked goods at the outdoor food court.

Dancers from Turning Pointe Dance Center in Springfield will take the stage at 1 p.m., giving some of Springfield's own a moment of fame onstage.
At 1:30 p.m., librarians from the Springfield Free Public Library will offer a story or two to children.

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Junior League projects target those in need

By Brian Pedersen
Managing Editor
It's rare to find a volunteer group for women that allows them to make an immediate, deep impact on a community, changing the lives of those they serve.

But that's exactly the type of group that the Junior League of The Oranges and Short Hills is.

The group, which serves the community of Springfield in addition to eight other nearby towns, has been in existence since 1913 and is a member of The Association of Junior Leagues International. The association, which is made up of 296 junior leagues, is one of the largest international volunteer organizations for women, with 193,000 members worldwide.

While their reach is global, the goals of the Junior League are to aid those less fortunate with a series of specific projects that foster positive changes at the local level, and this is exactly what its members have done.

One of the most "done in a day" projects is called "Done in a Day." These consist of everything from participating in a blood drive to creating Thanksgiving meal baskets to be distributed to needy people.

"I anticipate a 'Done in a Day' project in Springfield," said Karen Hartshorn Hilton, president of the JLOSH.

While projects are still being developed, she said organizations in Springfield are welcome to contact the group if they have any ideas.

As the group's current president, Hartshorn Hilton has found that being a member carries numerous benefits. "We train volunteers and help communities. Each year, you have a different role. You're constantly learning through your new position," she said. "It's a tremendous way to help your community."

Springfield resident Tracy Beveridge is in her second year as a member and has found volunteering to be rewarding. As a full-time working mother of two children, Beveridge was happy to find volunteer work that fits into her busy schedule.

"For a little bit of time, there's so much benefit," said Beveridge. "I always thought it was for people who didn't work. I found this was something I could do."

She currently serves on the Women of Vision Committee, which awards three women each year who have done outstanding volunteer work in the community. As a member of the fundraising committee for the Women of Vision Committee, Beveridge helped raise more than \$20,000, which goes back to the league for future projects.

She also participated in six "Done in a Day" projects, instead of the required two. She particularly enjoyed these monthly weekend programs because it was a way to make a difference in a small amount of time. In most cases, she found it was just a few hours.

Borough names new recreation director

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer
Frank Masella will be appointed Mountainside's new recreation director this fall.

Masella will replace current Recreation Director Sue Winans, who is retiring after a 30-year career with the department.

Masella's appointment will be effective Sept. 12 at an annual salary of \$63,000.

With seven years at the Recreation Department, Masella started out as program supervisor in 1998 and has been working as assistant director for the past few years.

"Recreation has been a big part of my life," Masella said.

Growing up in Fair Lawn, he played lacrosse with the Fair Lawn Recreation Department and continued through high school and college at Montclair State University. At one point, Masella thought he might go into physical therapy, but says now that he decided against it after seeing trauma patients.

Aware that recreation was an available career option, after college, Masella worked in hotel management and had a part-time job at the Fair Lawn Recreation Department.

These days, Masella has been busy with his growing family and lives in Scotch Plains with his wife Jennifer and their sons, Jack, 2 and Ben, who is 7 weeks old.

The Recreation Department is getting ready to start its fall soccer season. There are more than 300 children signed up for the season, which runs through November. Masella explained that Mountainside is mainly

Junior League hosts upcoming meetings

The Junior League of The Oranges and Short Hills is developing informational meetings for prospective new members.

All women living in East Orange, Livingston, Maplewood, Millburn, Orange, Short Hills, South Orange, Springfield and West Orange are invited to join the Junior League and continue its tradition of volunteerism in the communities. The informational meetings will be conducted on three consecutive days in September.

The first will be Sept. 13, at 7:30 p.m., in the Junior League building, 105 Main St., Millburn.

The second will be Sept. 14 at 10:15 a.m., in the Maplewood Memorial Library, 51 Baker St.

The third will be Sept. 15 at 9:30 a.m., in the Junior League building, 105 Main St., Millburn.

Members of the Junior League Provisional Class will participate in weekly, evening training meetings from

Solutions eyed for speeding

By Meave Sheehan
Staff Writer
After hearing complaints from several residents, Springfield Township Committee members recently approved the assistant township engineer's recommendations for reducing speeding on Smithfield Drive.

Assistant Township Engineer Sam Mardini recommended to the Township Committee that they have a stronger police presence on the street, along with double yellow lines and white shoulder lines. Mardini also recommended a crosswalk be put in for people crossing to the small park there.

In the past, some residents have complained about speeding vehicles on the street. At a prior committee meeting, one resident spoke about the increasing number of accidents on the street and distributed a petition signed by 98 percent of the area's residents.

Currently, there is a stop sign at the corner of Evergreen Avenue and Smithfield Drive, along with a couple of 25 mph street signs. Speeding cars turn on to the street from Milltown Road.

Stanley Kaish, a Smithfield Drive resident at the Aug. 9 public meeting, said the double yellow lines were not the solution that residents would prefer. He mentioned residents' concern that the street would look like a commercial area if double yellow lines were put in place.

A recent traffic report the committee used to make its decision clocks the average driving speed on Smithfield Drive between 24 and 27 miles per hour for cars traveling north and south. Kaish questioned whether the committee was acting to appease the residents, instead of relying on evidence such as this finding.

Evergreen Avenue resident Daniel Burke said he had seen teenagers drag racing on the street. He believes double yellow lines would deter drag racing and drivers that drive in the middle of the road. Mardini said residents first asked for changes on the street when the road was repaved in summer 2004.

A few residents wanted rumble strips, according to Mardini. "Rumble strips would reduce the noise associated with the strips and their perceived lack of efficiency.

Local club collects school supplies
The Mountainside Newcomers Club is getting ready for "back to school." Those who have any backpacks or school supplies that can be donated are encouraged to drop them off at 1287 Wood Valley Road.

The Mountainside Newcomers Club has also created its own Web site. Visit their new site at www.mountainsidenewcomers.org for the latest club information.

Staff Writer Meave Sheehan can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleaderj@yahoo.com.



Frank Masella will be appointed Mountainside's new recreation director this fall. As the current assistant recreation director, Masella will begin his new post on Sept. 12. The senior fitness center in Borough Hall is just one of the many areas he is currently involved in.

A three-sport borough, with soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter and baseball and softball in the spring. For other sports, children make use

of the programs that Berkeley Heights offers. This week, the borough is running a five-day multi-sport children's camp.

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SPORTS

Sports Numbers Phone: 973-763-0700 Fax: 973-763-2557

THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini Sports Editor The hitting is getting pretty serious...

Field hockey is back



Photo by Barbara Korkkila

Oak Knoll, in white, managed to defeat Johnson 5-2 in last year's Union County Tournament final in Chatham.

Dayton boys' soccer has talent to succeed Bulldogs open home Sept. 9

By Timothy Denman Staff Writer

The Dayton High School boys' soccer team is coming off one of the most successful seasons in school history...

Last year marked the first time in over 15 years that the Bulldogs won a state playoff game...

With the defense still a question mark, the Bulldogs will continue to rely on the talents of junior goalkeeper David Sauerhoff...

Tereshchuk is another forward that should be finding his name in the scorebook...

- UNION COUNTY 2004 1. Elizabeth (9-2) 2. New Providence (10-2) 3. Linden (7-4) 4. Rahway (8-2) 5. Cranford (8-2) 6. Scotch Plains (6-5) 7. Brearley (9-2) 8. Plainfield (5-5) 9. Union (4-6) 10. Gov. Livingston (6-5) Summit (5-5) Roselle Park (6-4) Hillside (4-6) Roselle (4-6) Johnson (1-9) Westfield (1-9)

Dayton JV Football Scrimmage: Sept. 1 at Plainfield, TBA Regular season: Sept. 8 at Bound Brook, 7 p.m. Sept. 15 Poly Prep, 4 p.m. on varsity soccer field...

Dayton Boys' Soccer Scrimmages: Sept. 2 Elmwood Park, 10 a.m. Sept. 6 Elizabethtown, 4 p.m. Sept. 7 at Verona, 4 p.m. Regular season: Sept. 9 Manville, 4 p.m. Sept. 12 at Solomon Schechter, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Oratory Prep, 4 p.m. Sept. 19 University, 4 p.m. Sept. 20 at Technology, 4 p.m. Sept. 22 Brearley, 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at New Providence, 4 p.m. Sept. 29 Roselle, 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at Manville, 4 p.m. Oct. 7 at Roselle, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 at Verona, 4 p.m. Oct. 11 Oratory Prep, 4 p.m. Oct. 14 Technology, 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at Roselle Park, 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at Brearley, 7 p.m. Oct. 27 at Johnson, 4 p.m.

Dayton Girls' Soccer Scrimmages: Sept. 6 Madison, 3:30 p.m. Regular season: Sept. 9 at Plainfield, 4 p.m. Sept. 12 Solomon Schechter, 5 p.m. Sept. 13 at New Providence, 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Benedictine Academy, 4 at Warranboro Park Sept. 22 at Hillside, 4 p.m. Sept. 23 at Roselle Catholic, 4 p.m. Sept. 27 Bound Brook, 4 p.m. Sept. 28 Lacordaire Academy, 4 p.m. Sept. 30 at Manville, 4 p.m. Oct. 6 Roselle Park, 4 p.m. Oct. 7 Rahway, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 at Dunellen, 4 p.m. Oct. 14 at Hillside, 4 p.m. Oct. 18 Roselle Catholic, 4 p.m. Oct. 20 at Bound Brook, 4 p.m. Oct. 21 Carteret, 4 p.m. Oct. 24 Brearley, 4 p.m.

Dayton Girls' Tennis Sept. 13 Roselle Park, 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Hanover Park, 3:45 p.m. Sept. 16 Oak Knoll, 4 p.m. Sept. 19 North Plainfield, 4 p.m. Sept. 20 at Gov. Livingston, 4 p.m. Sept. 22 New Providence, 4 p.m. Sept. 23 at Punell School, 4 p.m. Sept. 26 Rahway, 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at Johnson, 4 p.m. Sept. 29 Bound Brook, 4 p.m. Oct. 5 at Mount St. Mary, 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at Roselle Park, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 at Cranford, 4 p.m. Oct. 11 at Oak Knoll, 4 p.m. Oct. 17 Whippany Park, 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at New Providence, 4 p.m. Oct. 20 Johnson, 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at Bound Brook, 4 p.m. Oct. 27 Mount St. Mary, 4 p.m.

Dayton Gymnastics Sept. 13 at Scotch Plains, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 15 at Union Catholic, 4 p.m. Sept. 20 at Wayne Valley, 5 p.m. Sept. 27 at Columbia, 4:30 p.m. Sept. 29 at Bridgewater-Raritan, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 5 at West Milford, 5 p.m. Oct. 11 at Cranford, 4 p.m. Oct. 17 at Westfield, 4 p.m. Oct. 19 at Union, 4:30 p.m. Oct. 22 Union County Tournament at Surgent Elite in Roselle Park, 6 p.m. Oct. 24 Passaic Valley, 4:30 p.m. NOTES: Dayton captured county and sectional championships for the first time last year. This year's Union County Tournament is scheduled for a Saturday - Oct. 22 - at Surgent's Elite in Roselle Park. The UCT used to be contested on a Friday night.

Dayton Boys' Cross Country Sept. 13 at Manville, 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at Bound Brook, 4 p.m. Sept. 19 University, 4 p.m. Sept. 20 at Technology, 4 p.m. Sept. 22 Brearley, 4 p.m. Sept. 27 at New Providence, 4 p.m. Sept. 29 Roselle, 4 p.m. Oct. 6 at Manville, 4 p.m. Oct. 7 at Roselle, 4 p.m. Oct. 10 at Verona, 4 p.m. Oct. 11 Oratory Prep, 4 p.m. Oct. 14 Technology, 4 p.m. Oct. 18 at Roselle Park, 4 p.m. Oct. 25 at Brearley, 7 p.m. Oct. 27 at Johnson, 4 p.m.

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Workshop taps into spiritual energy sources "Gearing Up Our Energy," a workshop led by Lisa Athan and Scott Strickland will be conducted on Sept. 9 from 7:30 to 9 p.m. at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall.

to allow them to live their lives fully and abundantly. Athan and Strickland have recently returned from a workshop with author Alan Cohen that was conducted in Maui. The Hawaiian Islands are full of energy, starting with their formation as volcanoes in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. The land then developed beautiful beaches and lush vegetation and was ultimately inhabited by animals and people.

According to Athan, God is still creating life through every one. In fact, it's the only way that God can experience life, as people live it here on earth as humans created in the image of God.

According to Athan, God and his universe provide people with the forms of energy that enlighten them - light, food, shelter, clothing and the desire to create.

"So the fall is a good time to focus on tapping into this creative energy and gearing up for the school year, our work, and our community activities that provide opportunities for us to develop and use special God-given abilities," said Athan. "And, as we interact with others in our daily lives, we can tap into the love, joy and peace that we desire in this world."

The cost of the workshop is \$12. For information, call Athan at 973-912-0790 or send a message by e-mail to: Lathan208@aol.com.

Water Communion On Sept. 11, The Unitarian Church of Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., conducts its annual Water Communion to welcome the congregation back from summer travels and embark on the 2005-2006 church year. The Rev. Vanessa Southern, will lead the services at 9 and 10:30 a.m.

In preparation for water communion, which symbolizes the flowing together of individuals and the community, members traditionally collect a small amount of water during the summer months, whether from the ocean, a mountain lake or their kitchen tap. They bring the water with them to church on the first Sunday after Labor Day.

During the services, individuals are invited to come forward, pour the water into a common bowl and explain briefly the water's source and its significance to them. The co-mingled water is used throughout the year for child dedications and weddings.

The Sept. 11 services will also include a sermon by Rev. Southern and music by Mitchell Vines, the church's music director. Activities will be provided for children age 14 and younger.

Afterward, everyone is invited to a social hour in Fellowship Hall. For information about the Water Communion service or the church, call the church office at 908-273-3245.

Unitarian Church worship hours change The Unitarian Church in Summit, 4 Waldron Ave., has changed the start time of its two Sunday worship services to 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m., effective Sept. 11.

The services were moved back half an hour after an informal survey of parents indicated that newer children would permit more children to attend the church's extensive Religious Education program.

The Religious Education classes are provided during both services for children from the age of toddlers through the end of middle school.

Worship Calendar BAPTIST METHODIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (SUMMIT) welcomes all of God's children. We renewed and strengthened through upper Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM. Express God's love through outreach ministries. Praise God through music with our professional music ministers, Ginny Johnson and Dan Cricci. Grow in your faith through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Improve relationships through an affordable Counseling Center (CCHD). SUMMIT is located at the back end of Church Mall, #40, near Morris and Mt. Airy in Springfield. 973-376-1695, sumc1@verizon.net

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of Summit is located in the heart of town on the corner of Kent Place Boulevard and DeForest Avenue. Church School and Bible Study is held at 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 a.m. The emphasis of which is to always have a "good week" because of Paul's reminder to us in his letter to the Romans "that ALL things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to his purpose". The sermon is uplifting, biblically sound and guaranteed to keep you awake. The music and weekly children's message are memorable. All are welcome to hear the Good News of God's love and salvation through Jesus Christ. Our church also offers nursery - care, after worship refreshments and fellowship, and many lively programs for everyone. Come worship with us and find out how you too can have a "good week". Call the church office or Pastor Gina or Rich Hendrickson, Senior Co-Pastors for more information at 908-277-1700.

JEWISH - REFORM TEMPLE SHAR'EVY SHALOM 78 S. Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-5387, Joshua Goldstein, Rabbi; Amy Daniels, Music Education Director; Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Mindy Schreff, Family Life Educator; Edward Fink and Hank Rotenberg, Co-Principals. Temple Sh'ar'evy Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM, with monthly Family and Alternative Worship. Saturday morning Torah study class begins at 9:15 AM following by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7, and on Tuesday evenings for post bar/bat mitzvah students. Pre-school classes are available for children ages 2-5. Family and children services are 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third-seventh grade) meets on Sunday and Tuesday. There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-School Women's League, Men's Club, youth group for sixth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. For more information, please contact our office during office hours.

JEWISH-ORTHODOX CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, 973-467-9666. Chaim Marcus, Rabbi; Alan J. Viner, Rabbi Emeritus; Solomon Greenfield, President. Congregation Israel is a Modern Orthodox synagogue. There are two daily weekday morning Minyanim at 6:15 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Daily weekday Mincha/Maariv services are also held. Call the shul office for times. There are weekly Shabbat morning services at 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. as well as Junior Congregation at 9:30 a.m. The Nursery School conducts classes for children ages 2 1/2 to 4 A

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REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL, 229 Cowperthwaite Pl., Westfield, N.J. Paul K. Knoch, Pastor, (908) 232-5417. Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship Services are as follows: Sunday Morning Services, 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery activities. There are weekly Evening Worship services, 7:30 p.m. Evening Holy Communion is celebrated at all worship services. The church and all rooms are handicapped accessible.

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COMMUNITY FORUM

EDITORIALS

Be realistic

The already delayed construction project at Edward V. Walton School in Springfield has met with increased scrutiny from parents anxious about having it completed before school starts.

With school starting in one week, many parents are wondering if the school will be ready for the large influx of students arriving for the 2005-06 school year.

Everybody wants to have the school finished by the start of the school year. That would be disruptive for all involved, since the students would have to remain in the schools they attended last year and be moved to Walton further into the school year. This is the only contingency plan that the school board has revealed and it's a plan that's fraught with problems.

The completion of Walton is critical because it will provide the grade shift that will allow the district to house first- and second-graders along with prekindergarten and kindergarten programs at the school. In turn, James Caldwell and Thelma L. Sandmeier elementary schools are expected to contain the district's third-, fourth- and fifth-graders. Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School, which currently has grades five through eight, will become a sixth- through eighth-grade school.

This is a massive shift in students that will be chaotic if Walton is not completed on time. One of the problems with the district's contingency plan is that it has not been effectively communicated to parents just how disruptive this will be. While Michael Davino, superintendent of schools, keeps repeating that the school will be ready on time, simply saying so is not going to make it happen.

The Walton construction project has already been delayed due to the short-sightedness of the school board when a state Department of Environmental Protection permit was denied as a result of the nearby stream. The permit was denied because the pending construction would have encroached on the stream, thereby delaying construction for many months.

Keeping this in mind, the school board and superintendent should be realistic in describing all the potential problems that may arise if the project is not ready on time. They also need to tell the public what other back-up plans they do have or if the start of school will be delayed and for how long.

Allowing for the end of construction to be so close to the start of the school year is not only risky, but unfair to the many parents who voted for this districtwide school expansion and renovation referendum in January 2003.

Being realistic and communicating all the possible outcomes in a clear, lucid manner would prevent rumors from spreading and prepare parents for the worst, rather than leaving them surprised when opening day arrives.

Celebrating the American spirit

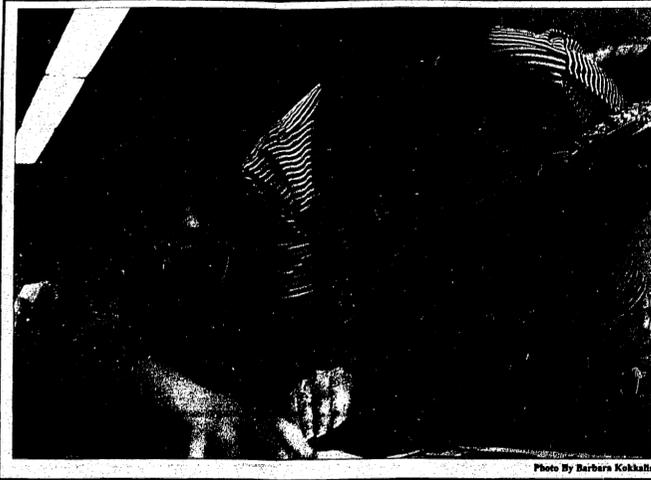
Labor Day will be celebrated Monday, as it has been on the first Monday in September for more than a century. A creation of the labor movement, Labor Day is dedicated to the social and economic achievements of American workers. It constitutes a yearly national tribute to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated Sept. 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union. Soon, other states were acting in accordance with New York and celebrating Labor Day in a similar fashion. The holiday continued to expand in its importance throughout the nation until, on June 28, 1894, Congress passed an act making the first Monday in September of each year a legal holiday in the District of Columbia and the 50 states.

Today, Labor Day has become the traditional ending of summer, even though the season doesn't officially end until Sept. 22. For many, this three-day weekend is the last chance to take the family to the beach or a nearby park and enjoy the freedoms often associated with summer. And for the children, Labor Day signifies that school is just around the corner, with its new lessons, friends, teachers and homework.

But it's important to keep in mind what this holiday celebrates. Unlike many holidays, which recognize the accomplishments of a particular person or event, Labor Day celebrates the spirit of labor, the spirit that unites our community and nation while upholding the values on which our country was founded.

While our work force has changed a great deal in the past century, the American worker still represents an ideal of honesty, integrity and hard work of which we can be proud. On Monday, as you celebrate Labor Day with your family, remember the sacrifices of the workers who built our great nation and continue to keep that sense of camaraderie alive today.



A READING REWARD — With help from his mom, Diane Roman of Mountaintop, Nathaniel Roman, 4, picks out his reward for reading books throughout the summer at the end-of-summer reading program at the Mountaintop Public Library.

Making toys was easy with some useful tools

Back in the good old days, before cheap plastic toys began to flood the market, we had to make our own toys. Finding any material from which to make them was almost as much a challenge as actually producing the toys. Fortunately for us youngsters, there were a couple of grocery stores in the neighborhood.

A lot of their fruits and vegetables came to the stores in wooden crates, made of low-grade lumber. After their contents had been removed and placed on the shelves, the crates were usually discarded and, therefore, free for the asking.

The sides of the crates were made of wood about a quarter of an inch in thickness and about 4 inches wide. This size was most useful for our purposes, and the nails that held the crate together were carefully pulled out and added to our collection of useful items.

The end-pieces of the crate were usually single pieces of wood about a foot square, and three-quarters of an inch thick. A similar piece of wood was used to make a divider in the middle of the crate, and all of these pieces were very useful in our toy-making. The thin wood was fine for making airplane wings, and the thicker wood made fuselages and boat hulls.

Our cellar workshop had no power tools in it, but we did have a great variety of hand tools. Some of these were antiques before we got to use them, but age has nothing to do with a

The Way It Was

By William Frolich

well-made saw or hammer. The first settlers of Elizabethtown used tools similar to ours when they sawed logs into boards to build their houses.

One of our most-used tools was a wire-frame coping saw that held a very thin blade which was able to cut all sorts of curves in thin wood. This blade could also be removed and inserted through a hole drilled in a piece of wood. Re-mounted in its frame, this blade could now enlarge the hole into any desired shape, such as a window for a miniature house.

Wood for this sort of work came from the local cigar store, where the friendly owner was glad to get rid of his empty boxes. The feeling was mutual, as even if these boxes were made of smooth cedar wood, about 5/32 of an inch thick. These boxes were nailed together with many small nails, which we removed and re-used in our projects. The wood on the inside of the boxes was usually bare, with only a sheet of paper laid inside, but the outside was always covered with glued-on labeling that we had to work on very hard to remove.

Quite a number of these wooden cigar boxes were recycled into small houses that created a village under the

Christmas tree, to go along with the Lionel electric train, whose tracks encircled the tree. Painted a variety of appropriate colors, electric light gleamed from the cut-out windows of these houses when set in place over small bulbs. This village, like a mystical town or legend, still reappears for several days near the end of December, only to disappear until next year.

Back in those days, we were lucky in that the cigar boxes were all made of wood, for a couple of years later, we found that many of our newly gathered boxes were now made of thick cardboard, which did not suit our purposes. This material could not be trusted to hold nails securely, and any toys that we might have made might fall apart. This was a big disappointment to our cellar toy factory.

There was another source for useful wood back in those days. Any new house that was being built in the neighborhood had its interior walls covered with wet plaster smoothed on over rough wooden laths. They were strips of wood about three-eighths of an inch thick and about an inch and one-half wide.

In house construction, these laths were intended to be nailed about a half inch apart on to the studs of the walls, but we had other uses for discarded pieces. In the cellar armory, they could easily be turned into a variety of swords and daggers. With the addition of a lid from a bushel basket as a shield, we all felt well-equipped to

join King Richard and the Crusades.

Mentally jumping ahead a few centuries, we re-tooled our munitions factory and began to produce wooden pistols that fired rubber bands. The necessary material for these weapons is almost unobtainable these days, but back then, blown-out rubber inner tubes from tires were easy to get from any gas station.

Using a heavy duty pair of tin snips, we'd cut the tubes into rubber bands about three quarters of an inch wide. These were used as ammunition and for reinforcing the spring clip clothes pins that we used for triggers.

The guns were made from a 1-by-4 piece of old board about 18 inches long. Fourteen inches of it were cut down to 1-by-1/2 inches wide, and the remaining 4 inches were left as a handle. A spring clip was held in place on that end by a couple of the rubber bands.

To load the gun, a folded rubber band was inserted into the clip, and the rest of the band was stretched out and placed over the end of the 1-by-1/2. Properly loaded and aimed, the band would fly out when the clip was pressed and go about 10 feet and harmlessly tag an opponent.

In playing "Cops and Robbers," these rubber "bullets" generally eliminated the argument of who had got whom.

William Frolich is a member of the Union County Historical Society.

Red-leaved roses work wonders in bare spots

I've said it before and I'll say it again — roses do not have to be fussy plants that take extraordinary commitment, constant care and a daily dose of prayer to grow successfully. Choose your roses intelligently and plant them with care in the right place, and the rest of your work will be relatively light and easy.

In my experience roses stay healthier when they are planted in mixed beds or borders, with an array of perennials, shrubs and annuals around them. Dedicated rose beds in formal rose gardens are lovely, but in this part of the world you might as well host an end-of-July smorgasbord for Japanese beetles. Planting your roses amid other ornamental plants doesn't completely discourage Japanese beetles and their fellow thugs, aphids and earwigs, but it seems to confuse them and lessen their numbers. This makes it easier for birds and other predators to do their bit to keep the insect populations under control.

Roses also make a better showing in mixed beds because many varieties look rather undistinguished when they are not in bloom. The exception to this rule is Rosa glauca, sometimes known as Rosa rubrifolia, the red-leaved rose. In fact, Rosa glauca has such interesting leaves that it makes the other annuals, perennials and grasses around it look better by association. It is such an excellent landscape plant that I am surprised that it is not more widely used.

Native to central and southern

The Gardener's Apprentice

By Elisabeth Ginsburg

Europe. Rosa glauca has been in cultivation since at least the 19th century. The "rubrifolia" in its old botanical name means, literally, "red-leaved." "Glauca" means "with a waxy covering." This also alludes to the appearance of the leaves, which sometimes have a waxy "bluish" tint on them. The shrub is a large one, growing to eight feet tall if left unchecked. You can easily prune it to more manageable dimensions if you are short on space.

One of the many charms of Rosa glauca is that it thrives in either full sun or light shade. Some garden pundits even say that the foliage colors are better in the shade. The majority of roses are celebrated for their blossoms, and while this is not the case for the red-leaved rose, the flowers have plenty of charm. Fragile and pink, the one-inch flowers have only five petals apiece, but each blossom is enlivened by a white "eye." Rosa glauca blooms once in the late spring, then produces attractive rounded red hips.

Many roses' new growth is tinged with red, but the red-leaved rose's new growth is a distinctive red-purple. The

canes mature to a cinnamon color, and the leaves are either gray-green in light shade or a coppery reddish blue in the sunshine. Various garden writers have worn out their pen nibs trying to describe the changing colors. Suffice it to say that the foliage looks great in flower arrangements, and it is also a good complement to all kinds of plants out in the garden. In the shade it mingles particularly well with some of the blue-leaved hosta, like H. sieboldiana "Elegans." I can also imagine it surrounded with Digitalis ambigua, the pale yellow perennial foxglove.

In the sun Rosa glauca harmonizes with a variety of plants. I first saw it in one of the color-themed beds at the celebrated Stonecrop Gardens in Cold Spring, N.Y., working in great harmony with blue echinops or globe thistle. Since it was not in bloom at the time, I didn't even realize at first that it was a rose.

That did not stop me from deciding that I had to have one.

I suspect that many people have spots in their gardens that are less than

satisfactory because nothing really grows well in them. The reasons might have to do with light or soil, or simply the lack of the right plants for specific sites. I have long had such a spot right in the middle of my back yard, adjacent to a large brick circle. I think that Rosa glauca may just work wonders there.

Rosa glauca is a species rose, and, according to the experts, has not been widely used in hybridizing. It is not a plant that you will find at your local garden center, but you can order it from specialty nurseries.

They include: Heirloom Roses, Inc., 24062 NE Riverside Drive, St. Paul, OR, 97137 503-538-1576, www.heirloomroses.com, catalog \$5; Pickering Nurseries Inc., 3043 County Road 2, RR#1, Port Hope, OR, LIA 3V5, 866-269-9282, www.pickeringnurseries.com.

Rosa glauca may be that rarest of rare things — a rose that even a rose hater can appreciate.

Elisabeth Ginsburg is a regular contributor to this newspaper.

Our policy on letters and columns

The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the editor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the opinion pages.

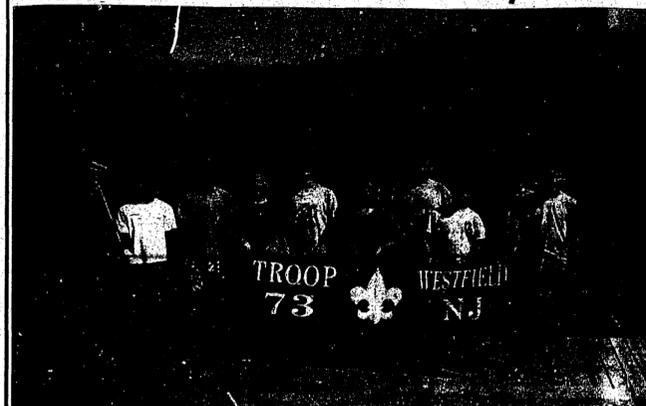
This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of both Springfield and Mountaintop and the county of Union.

The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor.

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Explorers embark on canoe trip



Boy Scouts from Westfield Troop 73 enjoy a high adventure canoe trip to Algonquin Provincial Park this summer. The young explorers included, from left, Aldan Ireland, JP Zavodny, John Gilmartin, Patrick Ireland, Andrew Davinson, Alex Deduck, Den Stracquotanio, Tom Hogboom and John Falzon.

RECREATION

Springfield YMCA offers classes for all ages

The Springfield YMCA offers classes and programs for every age and fitness level, including a full range of dance classes, preschool enrichment classes, youth sports programs, specialty fitness, sports and yoga classes.

Preschool enrichment classes include a Preschool Readiness program, Little Chef's class, Toddie Tots activity class, Creative Kids arts and crafts program. Youth sports classes offered include Cheerleading skills,

Floor Hockey, Fencing, Karate and Soccer.

For Adults and Teens Yoga, Fencing, Line Dance, Ballet, Tap, Hip Hop Fitness and Teen Dance are also offered.

Registration for fall programs at the Springfield YMCA is ongoing. Members can register online, in person or by phone, non members register in person only.

The Springfield YMCA is located at 100 S. Springfield Ave. in Springfield. The fall session will run from Sept. 12 through Nov. 20. For a full listing of fall programs and classes

visit, www.summitareaymca.org, or call Membership Services at 973-467-0838.

Square dancers meet

The summer square dance season has arrived and the local clubs have joined together to sponsor Saturday night dances in the Springfield YMCA. The local clubs are Harmony Dancers, Y Squares, Bee Sharps, and Rutgers Promenaders. For the prospective dancers, a free open house will be conducted on Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m., in the YMCA/Chisolm Recreation Center at 100 S. Springfield Ave.

Springfield YMCA plans Ladies Night Out

Springfield YMCA is planning a Ladies Night Out special anniversary program on Oct. 14, from 7 to 9 p.m., at 100 S. Springfield Ave.

They are seeking craft vendors specializing in handmade items for this event. The event is a one-time event, Ladies Night Out is a one-time event, and open to the community. Table rentals will be \$20 for the evening. For information or to rent a space, call Tracy Gaume, physical director, at 973-467-0838.

Church conducts attic treasure sale

Vendors are encouraged to add their inventory to a treasure trove of collectibles, antiques, a holiday boutique and upscale rummage items at the annual attic treasure sale on Sept. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Oct. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at Springfield Emanuel United Methodist Church, 40 Church Mall.

A luncheon counter and dessert

table will provide indoor dining and take home items. This sale has gained popularity with return customers and vendors in its five-year history. Profit from the church inventory goes to local and regional ministries that improve the lives of people, animals and the environment. Each indoor or outdoor space costs \$25 total for the two days.

Those persons whose spaces are outdoors will receive a refund in case of inclement weather.

Knights of Columbus plan Atlantic City trip

Mrs. Francis X. Coyle Knights of Columbus Council of Springfield are planning a trip to the Showboat casino at Atlantic City, on Sept. 11. The cost is \$25 per person.

The fee includes the cost of the bus trip, with sandwiches, beer and soda. At the Showboat casino, guests can get \$18 cash back and a \$5 buffet voucher.

The bus leaves the Knights of Columbus home parking lot at 10 a.m. For reservations, call Tony Graziano at 973-376-5612 or Rudy Reino at 973-467-8263.

PTSO plans carnival at Dayton High School

Jonathan Dayton High School PTSO is sponsoring their second annual carnival to be conducted on Sept. 15, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Sept. 16, from 6 to 10 p.m.; Sept. 17, from 3 to 10 p.m., and Sept. 18, from 1 to 6 p.m., in the front parking lot of the school located at 139 Mountain Ave., Springfield.

This event will be made possible through the effort of parents, staff and members of the community. These four days will include rides, games of chance, 50/50, food and beverages.

EVENTS

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COUNTY NEWS

Going back to work the topic for moms

At the Wednesday meeting of the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More, certified coach Allison Rivlin will speak regarding the return to paid work after an absence for childrearing.

Rivlin's workshop will cover making the decision to return to work, balancing work and home priorities, exploring alternative work arrangements, updating your skills and resume, and discovering the "right" career for you.

The meeting, which is open to the public, will be at 7:30 p.m. at the Fawcett Recreation Center located in Forest Road Park in Fawcett. Refreshments will be provided.

Mothers & More is a national, nonprofit organization that champions the value and necessity of all mothers' work to our society, paid and unpaid, within and outside of the home.

Mothers & More provides its members with opportunities to connect with like-minded women through evening meetings, mom and tot outings, mom's night out, playgroups, a book club, and more.

For more information, call Stacy at 908-928-9841 or Marilyn at 908-568-2633 or log on to www.mothersandmore.org.

Light a candle at Sept. 11 memorial

Families of the 60 Union County residents who lost their lives in the World Trade Center during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, are invited to light a candle in their memory on the fourth anniversary of the attacks.

On Sept. 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Sept. 11 Memorial in Echo Lake Park, Mountainside, candles will be available for families. Flowers and other memorabilia may also be displayed.

During this time the September 11th Memorial will remain open to the general public as well.

NAMI offers family education program

Union County residents are invited to register for the fall Family-to-Family Education Program that begins Sept. 8.

Presented by the Union County Chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, the course meets from 7 to 9:30 p.m. on Thursdays, over a 12-week period. It is free, with all necessary materials furnished at no cost.

The course is offered specifically to the parents, siblings, spouses, teenage and adult children, and significant others of individuals with severe and persistent mental illness. It is not appropriate for individuals who themselves suffer from one of the mental disorders. In a comfortable setting, loved ones will learn how to understand and support their ill relative while maintaining their own well-being. The program is taught by NAMI members who have completed intensive training.

Curriculum covers schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, etc., the clinical treatment of these illnesses and how caregivers can learn to cope more effectively.

Attendees will learn about the biology of the brain, new research, medications, skills needed to successfully communicate with a relative and how to deal with critical periods. Other topics include advocacy, fighting stigma and problem solving.

United Way of Union County to honor Baran

United Way of Greater Union County will honor Ann Baran, senior vice president of external affairs and hospital services at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth, during "United Way" 2005 Celebration event.

United Way's 2005 Celebration is scheduled for Sept. 21 and will be held at Merck & Co. Inc. in Rahway from 6 to 8 p.m. The cost is \$35 per person and includes a buffet dinner, wine, beer and soft drinks.

Baran is being recognized for her lifetime of leadership and active involvement in community services. She will be presented as the first recipient of United Way's Dolores "Dell" Raudelunas Spirit of Caring Award. The award is named in memory of Dolores "Dell" Raudelunas who served as United Way of Greater Union County's chief executive officer from 1969 to 2000.

"Dell would be very proud to know that United Way is recognizing her longtime friend and community partner recognized for her years of community service and volunteer involvement," said Frank Raudelunas, husband of the late Dolores "Dell" Raudelunas. "Ann truly is a leader in caring throughout Union County, and serves as a shining example to everyone of what it means to be committed to improving the lives of our neighbors."

Baran, who resides in Milltown, serves on a number of civic, nonprofit and business boards on a local and statewide basis. In addition to United Way of Greater Union County, Baran is a board member of Leadership New Jersey, Community Access, the Greater Elizabeth Chamber of Commerce, and the Union County Alliance. She has received numerous awards and citations from various national, state, county and local professional organizations and community-based groups.

In her role at Trinitas Hospital, Baran supervises government relations, community outreach, marketing, planning, public relations, construction, real estate, materials management, environmental services, food service, facilities management, and information technology.

Prior to working at Trinitas Hospital, Baran was director of operations at the Gateway Institute for Regional Development at Kean University from 1997 to 1999.

From 1985 to 1997 she worked for Union County government serving as county manager for approximately nine of those years. Prior to this she held several high-level administrative positions within the state Department of Human Services.

Baran received a bachelor's degree and master's degree in psychology from Fairleigh Dickinson University, and a master's degree in public administration from Rider University. United Way of Greater Union County develops and supports more than 100 programs that measurably improve the lives of local children and families. United Way's Early Learning programs are focused on enhancing the quality of local childcare centers to ensure children are well prepared to learn and succeed in school and in life.

United Way's 2-1-1 helpline also supports thousands of local families by connecting callers with community resources that can help answer their human service needs.

2-1-1 is available in Union County thanks to a strong partnership between United Way and the County of the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

For more information or to support United Way of Greater Union County, call 908-353-7171 or visit www.uwguc.org.

CAPE COD & THE ISLANDS Summer Super Saver Pkg. Meals, Island Trip or Whale Watch 3 Nights \$285. For two 5 Nights \$387. For two Arrive Sun. for 5 Nights, 6th FREE Gas Rebate of \$25, with your 3 Night minimum pkg.

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Classes will meet at the Westfield YMCA, 220 Clark St., Westfield. To register or if you have questions, call Pat Roman, at 732-382-0762. Refreshments will be served.

Juvenile committee seeks volunteers

Volunteers are being sought for the Juvenile Conference Committee of the Family Court.

A JCC is a community-based panel that hears matters involving alleged juvenile offenders. The juvenile, parents/guardians, and complainant are invited to discuss the offense and related matters with the committee.

The JCC considers the facts and makes recommendations to the judge for a resolution that would aid in the juvenile's rehabilitation. The program is designed to divert juveniles charged with minor offenses to their local JCC instead of a court proceeding.

For more information, contact the Juvenile Conference Committee, Office of the Court Administrator, Union County Courthouse, 2 Broad St., Elizabeth.

Nominations sought for 'excellent women'

Nominations are being sought for the 14th annual "Women of Excellence" awards program sponsored by the Union County Commission on the Status of Women.

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

The women selected from the nominees will be honored at The Westwood, 438 North Ave., Garwood, on March 24 at 7 p.m.

For the Union County Women of Excellence Award Nomination Form, please call Sean Faughnan at 908-527-4107 or go to www.uccnj.org to download the form. Once the form is completed, mail to Joan Abitante, 322 Dietz St., Roselle, 07203.

The Union County Commission on the Status of Women will be accepting nominations until Nov. 1.

Due to the overwhelming interest in this annual event, the Union County Commission on the Status of Women is encouraging all nominations to be submitted as soon as possible.

For additional information, call Abitante at 908-241-4889.

The recipients of the Union County 2005 Women of Excellence awards were: Shirley Boyden Maxwell for Arts & Humanities, Patricia Hall for Business, Samantha Rozoyki for Community Service in the field of Youth Advocacy, Diane Litterer for Education in the field of Drug Prevention, Bernita Little-Matthews for Government, Angie D. Devaney for Government in the field of Environmental Advocacy, Danielle Walsh for Volunteerism and Ethel Christie Smith for Lifetime Achievement.

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The 'winter parlor' is the warmest room of Boxwood Hall in Elizabeth because of the glass windows and marble fireplace.

WPA helped restore Boxwood Hall

(Continued from Page B1) William C. DeHart Jr., Craig said.

It was during DeHart's ownership that the home shifted focus and became a rooming house.

In addition to demolishing the two lateral wings, DeHart changed the home's roof, making room for a third and fourth floor, and added a kitchen, Craig said. Previously, the kitchen had been housed in a separate building at the rear of the home.

Shortly thereafter, the home became the Elizabeth Home for Aged Women, and remained that way until the state took over the property in 1941.

In 1943, the building was opened to the public, following restoration done by the Works Progress Administration.

However, the onset of World War II held up some of the renovations which included the removal of the upper floors and restoring the home to its original two-story stature.

In the early 1950s, the state put out a call for furniture donations, which Craig said, helped to establish the site's vast collection.

"All of the tables fold in one way or another," Craig said, looking into the first-floor "winter parlor." Interpreted as a room for recreational card playing, it also boasts portraits of some of the home's inhabitants, chiefly Boudinot and his wife Hannah, who was sister to Richard Stockton.

Craig said the room is referred to as the "winter parlor" because from mid-autumn to mid-spring the two glass windows let in the most light and, coupled with the marble fireplace, make it the warmest room in the house.

Also on the first floor are another parlor, with accents added later by Dayton, as well as a clavichord, a piano-type instrument, and a dining room complete with two china closets, which were formerly doorways to the westerly wing of the home.

The second floor of the home, Craig said, was the private area of the house, containing the bedrooms and a wide hallway.

According to Craig, on rainy days, the hallway space could have been used as a play area for the children of the household.

The second floor also houses a changing exhibit of local history. Boxwood Hall is operated by the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry. The site is listed on both the state and national registries of historic places, and is National Historic Landmark.

Staff Writer Lauren DeFillippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or unioncountyb@yahoo.com.

Applications available for training

The Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Union County Master Gardener Training Program is in the final stages of accepting applications for the class 04-05-06. Classes will be Tuesdays from 10 a.m. until noon and will begin on Oct. 11, and run through May.

Rutgers Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Cooperative Research & Extension in delivering horticulture programs and information to the general public. Anyone with an interest in gardening and a commitment to volunteer service can become a Master Gardener.

Members are people who believe in the volunteer mission and have the desire to enhance the program. At the same time, the association helps build a network of educated, committed and experienced volunteers who enjoy the rewards of gardening through volunteering, education and experiencing the benefits of meeting new friends and socializing as well. No previous education or training is necessary.

Master Gardeners receive in-depth training in horticulture from Rutgers University faculty and professional staff.

There is a fee to cover material and program costs. As part of the training, Master Gardeners are required to volunteer a certain number of hours, working in their community in programs sponsored by Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension. Successful graduates of the training become Certified Master Gardeners after they complete their volunteer service.

Some of the topics include: flower gardening, vegetable gardening, fruit gardening, insects and diseases, plant pathology, basic botany, integrated pest management, mosquito control, soils, weed management and wildlife.

Classes will be at the Union County Administration Building's first-floor auditorium, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield.

For more information or to obtain an application, call the Rutgers Cooperative Research & Extension of Union County's Agriculture Department at 908-654-9854.

UCLSA dinner planned Sept. 27 at Firehouse Pub

UCLSA, the association for legal professionals, will hold its regular monthly dinner meeting on Sept. 27 at the Firehouse Eatery & Pub, 435 St. Georges Ave., Rahway.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the guest speaker for the evening will be Rosemarie L. Strawn of Positive Actions. Strawn is a motivational speaker, trainer and author.

The cost of the complete dinner is only \$23 per person and includes dinner, tax, tip and seminar. For reservations, call Diane Hahn at 908-241-9339.

UCLSA is part of a tri-level association of legal professionals — all with the common goal to increase their legal education and broaden their networking opportunities. Members include legal secretaries, paralegals, judicial secretaries as well as local, county and state government employees. In addition, student memberships are available — which is an important addition to a resume.

For more information about UCLSA membership and/or scholarship opportunities, call UCLSA Membership Chairman Susie Mack at 908-943-2543 or send an e-mail to legalangel@hotmail.com.

Fall art choices

The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts travels to Upper Montclair on Sept. 17 and 18 to present a free Children's Art Area at the Rose Squared Fine Art and Craft Show.

Below, "Picnic on Wine," by Sandy Skoglund, currently on display at the Center for Visual Arts; and bottom, Students trying out the new Digital Media Studio at the center. For more information on the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, call 908-273-9121.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Union filmmakers honor friend's memory with movie

By Jeff Cummins Associate Editor

There's an anecdote behind the first film made by Union residents Emmanuel Vozos and Brian Monaghan. Not a bad sign, since many ventures, from movies to universities, began with an interesting anecdote.

The two friends attended a graduation party one night, "a typical rockers' party," they called it, and in the morning, several friends wound up discussing the events of the previous night, attempting to piece together their foggy memories of the festivities. Eventually, one friend, Steel Burkhardt, suggested making a movie putting a humorous spin on the night's events, and the two friends had all the inspiration they needed. So they began to develop their film, which they titled "Diner State."

Well, make that almost all the inspiration they needed. Much of their inspiration was provided by another friend, Doug Krueger, who worked for MTV.

"He graduated a few years before us, and we heard around the grapevine that he wanted to get into movies, so we had a meeting at his house," said Vozos. "We met in his backyard, and he said, 'I really like this, we can make this.' So, with his help, we started hammering out the details, financing the small budget that we had."

At this point, the story sounds like a wonderfully happy success story, but suddenly, it took a dramatically different turn. Krueger was killed in a car accident on Dec. 29, and the friends put filming on hold while they grieved for the loss of their friend.

As May rolled around, Vozos and Monaghan realized they needed to complete their project, and quickly, since it had to be finished by the Fourth of July, due to a previous commitment.

So, with the financial backing of friends and family, the two began filming their low-budget movie, often at the home of Krueger's mother, who remained a steadfast supporter of their project.

"Truth be told, the subject of the movie was a friend of mine. I was there, too," said Monaghan. "Nothing that happened was as racy as what we wrote down. We wrote about people who forget things. What would catch an audience's attention? We had characters who wake up with people they don't know, who remember things differently than what happened. It made for a good story."

Of course, to strengthen the story, Vozos and Monaghan took some liberties, taking out some parts and amending others, adding details that tied in the flashbacks with the current material, tightening up the actual structure of the narrative.

After meeting the demands of a frantic production schedule, the group premiered "Diner State" on Aug. 17 at Union High School, completing the film-making dream that Vozos and Monaghan had discussed since high school.

"We've known each other more than 10 years, and we just used to talk

about different ideas and different plot lines," said Monaghan. "We started scribbling movie ideas on napkins. The name of the company is Diner State Pictures. I just made a joke one time that the New Jersey license plate should say, 'Diner State.' We used to sit around the diner and write our ideas on diner napkins."

For now, the group is still considering a number of festivals at which to show their film. Locally, it's already been a success on another level, since the proceeds the group raised from the premier were placed in a scholarship fund in Krueger's name.

In terms of the future, the group has some other ideas, but for now, they're still focusing on "Diner State." For more information, contact Vozos and Monaghan at dinerstatepictures@yahoo.com.

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins can be reached at jcummins@telecast.com, or at 973-763-0700, ext. 112.

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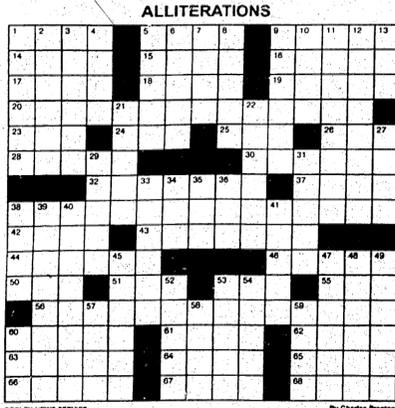
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ACROSS

- 1 Go down
5 Broad ending
9 Wear away
14 Genesis area
15 Confederate
16 Jeans
17 Neptune's waters
18 Calmness: sl.
19 ___ of robins.
20 Their business is picking up?
23 And so forth, briefly
24 Greek letters
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26 Vietnam holiday
28 Jacket style
30 Bring back
32 Purvis, of the NBA
37 Foreshadowing
38 Canaries?
42 Silbiant sound
43 More reliable
44 Comes into
46 Sum up
50 Ripen
51 Brain scan: abbr.
53 Greek letter
55 Stephen, of 'The Crying Game'
56 Sluggabeds
60 Together, in prescriptions
61 An Arkin
62 Arguing
63 The end of ___
64 Art ___
65 Area in Germany
66 Utah city
67 Water pitcher
68 Nothing more than



COPYLEFT NEWS SERVICE

By Charles Preston

DOWN

- 1 Reduce
2 Character in 'Swann's Way'

- 3 Scrounge about
4 Massachusetts motto word
5 Mojave growth
6 At ___
7 Foxy
8 10th president
9 Expire
10 Actor Auberjonois
11 Reason for extra pay
12 Part
13 NYC time
21 CROW
22 Deserved
27 Gunboat sizes?
29 Siellar Della
31 A ___ santel
33 Tenant
34 Refugee org.
35 Actor Erwin

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B10

HOROSCOPES

Sept. 5 to 11

ARIES, March 21 to April 19: Co-workers and colleagues regard you as an expert in your field. Accept the leadership role that is thrust upon you at work, and many shall gladly follow.
TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Pay attention to your social life this week. Make romantic plans for an evening on the town with someone special, including dinner and dancing.
GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: Family or domestic matters will take center stage. Deal with issues of change that will directly affect a real estate development or a home-improvement project.
CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Your mind is sharp and processes informa-

tion at an amazing speed. Take on a problem-solving task and put your mental agility to the test.
LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Living with an inconsistent or insufficient income can drastically and constantly upset your peace of mind. Work to establish a dependable cash flow.
VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: You will find yourself in a high-energy or a high-profile cycle this week. Choose to utilize your time wisely and easily accomplish several tasks.
LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Great timing is a wonderful asset. Listen to your inner clock. It is set to let you know when to move into action or to launch a major project.
SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Join

a club, group or organization where your input and energy is appreciated and makes a difference. Dare to get involved and change the world.
SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Take an aggressive, bold and decisive step toward achieving your career goals. The immediate results or responses will excite and delight you.
CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: A timely vacation provides a much-needed break from your daily routine.
AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Gather resources from a variety of different sources to adequately fund a pet project.
PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: Relationships will bring a special magic or excitement into your life.

What's Going On

FAIR SUNDAY September 4th, 2005

EVENT: 11th Annual Nutley Street Fair PLACE: Held along Franklin Avenue from Chestnut Street to Harrison Street TIME: 10AM-5PM, Raindate 9/5/05
DETAILS: Great Food, Kiddie Rides, Local Merchants, Pony Rides, Petting Zoo, 150 Vendors, Crafts, Climbing Wall and Live Entertainment. For information call 201-997-9535
ORGANIZATION: Sponsor By Van Ripper House Trust

OTHER SUNDAY September 11th, 2005

EVENT: Family, Craft, Vendors & Car Show PLACE: Center Street, between South Avenue and Hazal Avenue, Garwood PRICE: FREE Admission TIME: 12p.m. to 5p.m.
DETAILS: Rain date September 18, Classic Car Show, Garwood Mall, South Avenue. Carnival games, prizes, blow-ups, DJ and live music. Food, crafters, vendors. Something for everyone. Fire Dept. Bucket Brigade, and many local organizations. Vendor and any information call 908-788-1600
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by Garwood Chamber of Commerce

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your notice must be in our Union Office (1521 Stuyvesant Ave) by 4:00 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at our other offices: 286 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 463 Valley St. Maplewood. For more information call 908-686-7850

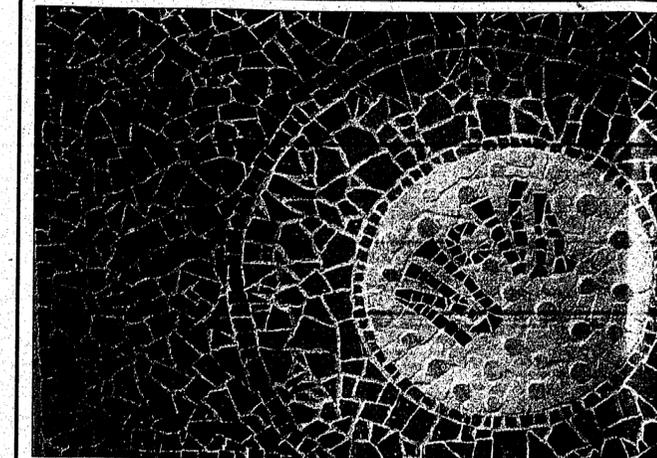
REUNIONS

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 732-617-1000.
• 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 may contact Shirley Anne at 908-241-8298, or send an e-mail to hhsclassof1975@comcast.net.
• Linden High School, Class of 1955, will have a 50th reunion celebration dinner on Oct. 29 at the Crown Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road, Clark. For more information, contact Janet Melleky Patrick at 732-458-8843, or Janice Cabarty Wenk at 732-370-4103.
• Our Lady of Lourdes Grammar School is hosting an all-class reunion in celebration of the 80th anniversary of the school on Oct. 29 from 7 p.m. to midnight at Our Lady of Lourdes School, 100 Valley Way, West Orange. Call the school at 973-325-0555 for additional information, reservations or to provide information on the location of other classmates.
• Orange High School Class of 1950 is having its 55th reunion on Sept. 28 at the Essex House on Northfield Road in West Orange. Contact Bob Rizzo for information at 973-736-1320. The cost is \$32 per person.
• South Side High School Class of 1935 will hold its 70th reunion on Sept. 28 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Appian Way Restaurant, 619 Langdon St., Orange. There will be a cash bar. Reservations are \$30 per person. Make checks payable to South Side High School Alumni and mail them to Allan G. Katz, 170 Forest Hill Road, West Orange, NJ 07052-3921. All graduates from the 1930s are welcome to attend. For more information, call Allan Katz at 973-731-6475, or Arnold Minsky at 908-688-4659. Anyone with information on missing classmates should contact these two men.

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To Place Your Classified Ad 908-686-7850 Search your local classifieds on the internet www.localsource.com

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS



WHAT'S NEW AT THE NJCVA — Some of the many activities at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts include, clockwise from top left, The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts Art of Golf Classic is scheduled for Oct. 24 at Baltusrol Golf Club in Springfield, pictured at the top left; is a mosaic donated to promote the Art of Golf Classic; above right, ceramics student Bonnie Jaffe of West Orange working on a recent piece of art work; instructor Jessica Lenard will be teaching introduction to printmaking and explorations in printmaking this fall in a brand new, state-of-the-art studio, below right; instructor Gerry Heydt, below left, of Plainfield will be returning to the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts this fall to teach outdoor landscape painting in oil and her popular figure drawing for teens class. For additional information call 908-273-9121, or log on to www.njcv.org.



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Do you wish you could jump up on the stage and sing, dance and act? STOP DREAMING!!! Join us in class!! Class Registration for drama, musical theatre, dance, voice and yoga — ages 8 - Adults September 7 & 8, 2005 4 pm to 8 pm Hillcrest Academy South (formerly Lincoln School located behind Kebleer Stadium) 728 WESTFIELD AVENUE, WESTFIELD, NJ 07090 For information call: 908-233-3200 or Website: www.wyact.org

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Choral Society to hold auditions

Anne Matlack, artistic director of the Harmonium Choral Society, will be holding auditions through Sept. 10 for experienced choral singers, particularly tenors. There is an extremely limited number of openings in the other voice parts for excellent singers with good sight-reading skills. The auditions are held at Grace Episcopal Church, Madison Avenue at Kings Road in Madison. Call 973-765-9028 for an appointment. Rehearsals are held Sunday evenings, from the first Sunday after Labor Day through the following May at Grace Lutheran Church, 65 E. Main St. in Mendham. Visit the Harmonium Choral Society Web site, www.harmonium.org, for further information about the chorus and for driving directions. Currently, the Harmonium Choral Society features members from Springfield, Maplewood, Millburn, Shore Hills, Union, Roseland and Linden. Harmonium presents three subscription concerts per season in the Morristown area, and also participates in other events such as First Night Morristown. This year the group will be involved in several collaborations and world premieres. The holiday subscription concert Dec. 10 and 11 on the theme of wisdom include the world premiere of "The Bethlehem Suite" by Michael Mendoza on a poem by James Van Cleef. The featured work of the March 4 and 5 program is Andrew Carter's "Benedicite" with guest artists from the New Jersey Youth Chorus. The concert on June 3 and 4 will be all about memories, or a sense of looking back at our own history, and feature the winning compositions of Harmonium's ninth annual New Jersey High School Student Choral Composition Contest. Harmonium is also participating in a number of other exciting events this season. In addition to First Night Morristown and the biennial family-friendly Halloween concert at Grace Episcopal Church in Madison, Harmonium will also be involved in another world premiere and the performance of a beloved classical work. The group joins Antioch and a chamber orchestra under the direction of Joel Thorne to premiere "The Mystic Trumpeters," a piece by Alan Seldner on a text by Walt Whitman at Merkin Concert Hall in New York City on Jan. 17. On May 6, Harmonium will join the Colonial Symphony at the Community Theater in Morristown under its new director, Paul Hostetter, to perform Mozart's "Requiem."

Community Dining Guide Fast & Friendly To Sit Down Elegant

Jade Harbor Chinese • Japanese Cuisine Newly Renovated Kitchen To Better Serve You Lunch Specials 11:30am-3:00pm Large Selection Reasonably Priced 201 Morris Ave., Springfield Tel: 973-379-3393 Fax: 973-379-5833

Rio Cafe serves elegance The perfect setting for business or pleasure, the Rio Cafe in Rahway can satisfy appetites ranging from "burgers in a bar" to the elegance of a fine dining room. Situated on the corner of East Grand Avenue and Monroe Street, the Rio Cafe is in the midst of an ambitious expansion project. Already, the eatery has grown from its original "corner bar" set-up to include a comfortable dining room with a neo-Edwardian decor. Future plans include an expanded dining room and kitchen, as well as off-street parking. My dining companion and I began our meals with a house salad for him and a seafood chowder for myself. The salad was prepared European style, while the chowder boasted a rich and flavorful broth that was deliciously light on the palate. Our appetizers consisted of mussels in marinara for me and the chorizo for my companion. A native of Texas who grew up on Tex-Mex cuisine, he described the chorizo as being prepared European style, rather than Mexican style, and raved about the dish. My mussels were firm and flavorful without being overcooked or overly fishy. Our main courses were absolutely exquisite. I opted for one of the specials: veal medallions in a mushroom-oyster-brandy sauce. The dish was tantalizing on the tongue and heartily satisfied my appetite. My companion selected the picanha, a steak barbecued Brazilian style. A devout meat-eater, my friend described his meal as the best steak he's had since moving to the Northeast. The service was efficient and courteous without being obtrusive. An understandable mishap involving our appetizer course was handled with an efficient aplomb by our server, Fernando, maintaining a seamless dining experience for myself and my companion. The Rio Cafe is located at 289 Monroe St. in Rahway, on the corner of East Grand Avenue. The restaurant is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and take-out is available. For information, call 732-574-9392 or 732-574-9331.

Rio Cafe 20% OFF Early Bird Special on Food Only Mon-Sat 11-6 pm with this coupon Featuring Authentic Old World Cuisine MON - SAT 10 - 10 CLOSED SUNDAYS 289 Monroe St. 732-574-9392 Rahway 732-574-9331 MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

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Village BBQ Barbecue Chicken & Ribs Charcoal Pit Portuguese & American Cuisine 889 Stiles St., Linden Tel: 908-486-1636 Fax: 908-486-1154 Mon - Sat 11 AM - 10 PM Sun 12 PM - 10 PM WWW.CITYTAVERNRESTAURANT.COM

Restaurant & Bar INTERNATIONAL CUISINE 908-353-7113 1100 Elizabeth Ave., Elizabeth Open 7 Days

"EL TEXANO RESTAURANT" Open 7 Days For Lunch & Dinner 11am - 9pm "Experience Great Food in a Casual, Relaxed Atmosphere" 1418 Roselle Street Roselle 908-486-6003

molly Maguire's IRISH PUB & RESTAURANT A GREAT PLACE FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS! SAT. SEPT. 10th 10PM SEQUOIA SUN. SEPT. 11th 12PM BETTIE TIEGER MON. SEPT. 12th 8PM THE DELToids with Brian Bennett TUE. SEPT. 13th 8PM HEAVY TO ST. PATS WED. SEPT. 14th 7PM JOHN GARDNER THUR. SEPT. 15th 8PM AMETHYST FRI. SEPT. 16th 8PM JOHN WALSH SAT. SEPT. 17th 10PM CONCRETE DONKEYS SAT. OCT. 1st 10PM Wednesday's Karaoke with Teddy O'Connell FRIDAYS DJ BILLY Call Weekly for any ADDITIONAL Updates Visit us at our website: mollymaguires.com WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A GREAT BURGER? Monday and Tuesday Nights are Burger Nights at Molly's Buy One Burger and Get the Second One at HALF PRICE. In Dining Room Only ALL INCLUSIVE Private Party Room Available for All Occasions up to 100 People Pub Menu Available until 1 am - Open Nightly 'til 2am Serving Lunch & Dinner Daily! Visit us at our website @www.mollymaguires.com for additional info. 1085 Central Avenue, Clark • (732) 386-6511

Stepping Out

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, 07040. Faxes may be sent to 973-763-2557.

is free to members of the public who are invited to bring their lunch and learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

Liberty Hall Museum, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history. The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations call 908-527-0400.

THE NEW SCULPTURE STUDIO of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts has prepared an expanded curriculum. The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will be offering a new stone

ART SHOWS

"OF TIME, PLACE AND PEOPLE," will run from Sept. 11 through Oct. 11, with a reception on Sept. 11 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Arts Council of Rahway. Artists include Neal Korn, Wendy Letwin and Michael Nirenberg. For more information, call 732-381-7511.

AUDITIONS

"IMAGINATION VACATION" ESSAYS AND DRAWINGS from children based upon Mark Teague's book, "How I Spent My Summer Vacation," are sought at the Springfield Barnes & Noble's End of Summer Reading Contest, which concludes on Sept. 9 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. The contest celebrates Back to School and the end of Barnes & Noble's Summer Reading program which provided free books to all children in grades one through six who read eight books each this summer.

The most creative vacation essays and drawings for each grade level will win prizes. Entries complete with name and phone number may be submitted at the Springfield store's Customer Service desk through Wednesday. The Springfield Barnes & Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For more information call 973-376-6581.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan 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 973-376-6584.

THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READING GROUP meets the first Wednesday of the month at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan 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 surveyed 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.ku.edu/worldofwonder>.

WEEKLY STORY times are presented every Monday and Thursday at 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble. Located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call 973-376-6581.

DURING LIBRARY APPRECIATION DAYS, children's librarians from the Springfield Public Library will present a special storytime and craft event featuring Margie Palatini's picture book, "A Hailing Folktale, and Other Stories," a Haitian folktale, and the Pledge on Sept. 9, beginning at 7 p.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble, 240 Route 22 West. The librarians will also be offering library card sign-ups. Refreshments will be served, while supplies last. For more information, call 973-376-6581.

CHILDREN'S BOOK DUO, best-selling author Doreen Cronin and illustrator Harry Bliss, will read, sign and discuss the creation of their latest book, "Diary of a Spider," at the Barnes & Noble Bookstore, 240 Route 22 West, in Springfield on Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. Just in time for back-to-school days, the cleverly illustrated "Diary of a Spider" is about a spider who is a lot like the average schoolboy: he goes to gym class and has Grandparents' Day at school. But, his best friend is named "Fly" and he takes wild-crafting lessons among other hilarious activities. He also has a number of interesting fears to which children and adults can relate. Cronin and Bliss are the team that created last year's No. 1 bestseller "Diary of a Worm." For more information, call 973-376-6581.

INSPIRATIONAL AUTHOR TOM CANAVAN will appear at two book stores on Sept. 10 to sign copies of his book, "I Don't Have Time for This: My Battle with Cancer." His first stop will be Goldfinch Books, 97A Baker St., in Maplewood Center, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. His second stop will be The Town Book Store, 255 East Broad St., Westfield, from 2 to 4 p.m.

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. The school offers full-time and part-time day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or visit the Web site at www.ducret.edu.

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 learn. Lunch and Learn takes place on a Tuesday from 12:15 to 1 p.m. Space is limited, so call 908-527-0400 for your reservation.

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THE NEW SCULPTURE STUDIO of the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts has prepared an expanded curriculum. The New Jersey Center for Visual Arts will be offering a new stone

carving course for the fall 2005 semester. Classes start Sept. 12. Call 908-273-9121 for information.

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DANCE

Y-SQUARES, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Hehrly School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492.

THE SUMMIT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS group has begun a new season with sessions on Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Connection, Morris Avenue at Maple Street, in Summit. Beginners are welcome, no partners are needed. All sessions begin at 8 p.m.; newcomers may arrive at 7:30 p.m. for extra help. Admission is \$2 for the evening. Call 973-467-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

RADIO

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

SCRIPTS

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

INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave. # Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover

THEATER

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"AMERICAN RAPTURE V: AND THE BEAT GOES ON," will be performed by Mystic Vision Players from Oct. 26 to 29 at the Linden High School auditorium. For more information, call 908-925-9068.

THE THEATER PROJECT, Union County College's professional theater company, presents "Music From a Sparkling Planet, on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 3 p.m., Sept. 22 through Oct. 9. General admission is \$20. On Thursdays, tickets are \$12. One Sunday only, Sept. 25, is Senior Sunday when all senior citizen tickets are \$12. Student tickets are always \$10.

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 craft and \$3 Long Island Iced Tea. Mondays are \$3 Long Mondays with \$2 shot specials, \$2 Coronas, \$2 margaritas and \$1 tacos. Wednesdays are Ladies' Nights and karaoke.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St., Rahway. For information, call 732-381-6544.

CROSSROADS, 78 North Ave., Garwood, presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts, as well as football-themed nights.

Every Sunday: Live comedy, 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 MGD, \$2 all night.

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For information, call 908-232-5666 or visit www.crossroadsnj.com.

MOLLY MAGUIRE'S IRISH PUB in Clark will present entertainment in the coming weeks. Molly Maguire's is located at 1085 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call 732-389-6511.

SECOND SATURDAYS COFFEE-HOUSE will take place the second Saturday of each month at 8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the Summit Unitarian Church, 4 Waldron Ave., Summit. Featured will be an "open mic" forum of music, poetry, comedy and performance art. Refreshments are available. Admission is \$4. Talent is sought for future dates.

For information, call 908-928-0127 or send an e-mail to info@secondaturdays.org.

VAN GOGH'S EAR, 1017 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, will present a series of musical events. Tuesdays are "Acoustic Tuesdays," some of which feature open mic from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mic participants sign up at 7:30 p.m. and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. The cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts, unless otherwise noted. For information, call 908-810-1844.

THE CONCORD SINGERS, a unique, non-auditioning women's community chorus, seeks new members. Rehearsals are Mondays from 7:30 to 10 p.m. at Calvary Episcopal Church in Summit.

For more information, call Debra Boyman at 908-771-0978.

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.

JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE! "Wednesday's Jazz Cocktails" will feature the house band, Tempo, playing at Dusky's Place, formerly known as The Cove, 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. Saturday Jazz Showcase features top acts from the New York Metropolitan area. For information, call 908-241-5675, or 908-241-1224. Patrons may also send an e-mail to astings@bellatlantic.net.

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 732-822-9796 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-

RADIO

Central Ave., New Providence. Open to residents of both Essex and Union counties. 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, hickorytreechorus.org. Send an e-mail to info@hickorytreechorus.org, or call 973-968-8815.

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SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING, for 45-

In step with Yvette



Students of the Yvette Dance Studio in Cranford recently performed in Fusion Dance Theatre's Spring Dance Concert. The studio offers classes in ballet, tap, jazz, hip hop, modern, pointe, pre-dance for 3-year-olds, adult tap and jazz and Mad Hot Ballroom for teens. Students have performed in Broadway shows, Atlantic City, and modern dance and national touring companies. In person registration is Sept. 6 and 7, 4 to 7 p.m., call 908-276-3538.

When school starts, help lower family stress

Can families really make "back to school" time stress-free? Experts agree that this may be an elusive ideal, but stress can be managed if expected. Children and parents faced with apprehension about the beginning of a new school year can take comfort in knowing that resources are available to help ease the pressure and stress of the unexpected.

shift into a routine can assure parents and students of a smooth trip on the road to a productive school year. Sample tips include: Participate in an open house tour of your child's school. Discuss the new schedule of bedtime and wake-up; start putting younger children to bed early a few weeks prior to the first day of school; discuss the pending change in curfew with older children. Review safety rules, especially regarding bus safety and street crossing, as well as rules about strangers. Keep lines of communication open with kids of all ages, if something does not feel right, a parent wants to be the first to know. Walk your child to the bus stop or school route prior to the first day of school, so both you and your child have an idea of the time and distance required. Prepare an emergency contact list for your child and place a copy in your child's pocket. Also write this information in your child's backpack. Post a calendar page in a highly visible area, where all family members can note evening and weekend activities and events; make it a family rule to check the calendar before making a commitment. Unexpected events can trigger strong emotions, disrupt daily routines, and jeopardize safety. Anticipation and realistic expectations can keep things in balance. Prevent Child Abuse-New Jersey is a statewide, non-profit agency that has been pursuing the mission of working to eliminate the abuse and neglect of children in all forms. The year 2005 marks the 26th year of service to New Jersey. For more information, call 732-246-8060 or visit the Web at www.PreventChildAbuseNJ.org.

Wear your backpack correctly and avoid injury

Parents should be aware that there are several guidelines to be followed to make certain a child is not injured by their backpack. To avoid injury, straps should be set at certain tensions. And not only should all straps be used to provide a snug fit, but several should be padded to avoid nerve damage. There is also a weight limit that children should attempt to carry, and a specific way in which a child should lift and position the backpack. Before school gets under way, reviews the following guidelines for backpack safety. Share what you have learned with your child if you believe they might be falling into unhealthy backpack habits. Make sure the backpack is sturdy and appropriately sized. Some manufacturers offer special child-sized versions for children ages 5 to 10. These packs weigh less than a pound and have shorter back lengths and widths so they do not slip around on the back. Consider more than looks when choosing a backpack. An ill-fitting pack can cause back pain, muscle strain or nerve impingement. You want to have padded shoulder straps to avoid pressure on the nerves around the armpits. Some backpacks have waist straps designed to stabilize the load. These should be used whenever possible.

Back to School

FALL SEASON
Register Now

New Jersey School of Ballet

Ballet • Jazz • Tap

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES AND LEVELS

Open Classes and Intensive Program

Livingston
Morristown • Somerville

973-597-9600 or 908-526-2248

St. Agnes Church RCIA

Have you ever been curious about the Catholic Faith? Often people are interested in learning what it takes to become a Catholic but don't know where to start.

If you have that curiosity then maybe the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults or RCIA is for you. The RCIA is for those who want to join into the Catholic Faith. Or if you were baptized and wish to receive your Communion and/or Confirmation.

Inquiry nights for the RCIA occur monthly. These are meetings when questions are answered and introductions are made. There's no pressure, no obligation. Only a chance to ask and learn if this is for you.

332 Madison Hill Road Church, New Jersey 07066-1752 FAX: 908-526-2248

CAMEO DANCE & FITNESS WEAR

Complete line of:
dancewear • dance shoes • fitness wear
yoga wear • accessories
gifts • jewelry & much more!

Fall Season Special
10% Discount
with this ad. (Exp. 9/30/05)

105B Walnut Ave., Cranford
908-276-9100

FREE Dental Exam
first tooth to age two

Your child deserves a lifetime of good health. Call for an appointment today.

"Gentle dental care for all ages"

SEPTEMBER FREE NEW PATIENT DENTAL EXAM & ORAL CANCER SCREENING

Dr. Douglas Lee Chester
1226 Burnet Ave., Union • 908-688-5388
Limited Offer

CLASSES FOR BABIES, CHILDREN AND TEENAGERS

YOGA

NEW PROGRAM STARTS SEPT. 12

FREE INTRODUCTORY CLASS

Wednesday Sept. 7 at 8:30 pm
Saturday Sept. 10 at 1:45 pm
or by appointment

NEW KUNDALINI CLASSES

CELEBRATING 51 YEARS

COME JOIN THE FUN!

YOU DESERVE THE BEST!
CHILDREN • TEENS • ADULTS

• BALLET • TAP
• JAZZ • MODERN
• POINTE • HIP HOP
• PRE-DANCE FOR 3 YR. OLDS

"NO PRESSURE END OF YEAR DEMONSTRATION"

VOTED READER'S CHOICE 2004

In-Person Registration
Tues. & Wed. Aug. 30, 31
Tues. & Wed. Sept. 6th & 7th
4-7 pm

FOR INFORMATION CALL:
908-276-3539

The YVETTE DANCE & FITNESS STUDIO
118 WALNUT AVENUE • CRANFORD
CLASSES BEGIN SEPT. 8TH

Cherney Dance Studio

Our 49th Year FREE OFFER!
Register for September classes by September 9th and receive a FREE PAIR OF NEW DANCE SHOES!

IN PERSON REGISTRATION
Wed. Sept. 7, 6-8pm • Thurs. Sept. 8, 6-8pm • Fri. Sept. 9, 6-8pm

Ballet • Tap • Jazz • Pointe • Gymnastics
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OPEN HOUSE DAYS

Tuesday Sept. 6 from 4:00 to 7:00pm
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Saturday Sept. 10 from 1:00 to 4:00pm
Monday Sept. 12 from 4 to 7:00pm

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LYRICAL • STREET TAP
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Classes start
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Check Us Out:
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ESSEX COUNTY
483 Valley Street, Maplewood
298 Liberty Street, Bloomfield

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CRANFORD INSURANCE Agency seeks best first person to work in local office. No experience necessary. Compensation and benefits. Bookkeeping and insurance experience a plus. Fax resume: 908-687-8075 or call 908-687-8075

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CLERICAL ASSISTANT: needed part time for Insurance Agency office located in Union. Monday-Friday 10am-4:30pm. Call 908-276-5053

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POLICE DISPATCHERS
The Roselle Police Department will be taking applications for the position of Police Dispatcher. Applications are for full-time positions. Applicants must meet the following requirements: 1. Current New Jersey Emergency Medical Technician or will be certified within one (1) year of employment; 2. Current AHA or ARC CPR Certification; 3. Must possess a high school diploma or GED; 4. Union Registration; 5. Type 30 wpm; 6. Must be US citizen (Proof of Citizenship if applicable); 7. Must be 18 years of age or older. Applications can be picked up at the Roselle Police Department Records Bureau, Roselle Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut Street, Roselle, New Jersey, between 9am and 4pm, August 29 to September 2, 2005

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REAL ESTATE

In first half of 2005, RE/MAX International has its biggest growth ever

As of June 30, RE/MAX International had registered 443 new franchise sales, a new record for the first six months of any year in the network's 32-year history, and a 15.7 percent increase year-to-date over 2004.

"These figures represent the hard work of many region owners, regional directors and franchise marketing personnel around the world," said Peter Gilmour, RE/MAX senior vice president of international franchise sales and brokerage. "And, of course it is also indicative of the personal commitment of those who are purchasing these new franchises and offering the many opportunities afforded by the RE/MAX network to sales associates and to their buyers and sellers everywhere."

Regions in the United States are experiencing the largest expansion with a total of 241 new franchise sales. Europe is also experiencing rapid growth, with 143 new franchises during the first two quarters of 2005.

RE/MAX of New Jersey helped to contribute to this record by adding four new franchises in locations throughout the state to their region during the first half of 2005. "We are extremely pleased with the news of this record breaking number of new franchises sold," said Jeff Snyder, co-regional owner of RE/MAX of New Jersey. "The more the RE/MAX network expands, the more powerful our organization becomes. New franchisees allow us to increase the RE/MAX brand name awareness and bring our real estate company into more communities. This allows our associates to reach their main goal, which is providing high levels of customer service and helping clients realize their dreams of home ownership."

The region with the most sales was Spain at 27, California was second at 24 new franchisees, followed by 22 in South Africa and 20 in the Minnesota/Wisconsin region. Central Atlantic closed on 19, Florida established 18 new franchisees while Texas and Turkey both reported 15. Israel, the Southwest and New England regions each confirmed 13 and there was also a three-way tie between Australia, Italy and Portugal at 11 each.

"2004 was the best year ever for RE/MAX franchise expansion with 1,032 sales," said Gilmour. "We're already on pace to exceed that at mid-year, and considering that the last three years have all been banner years for growth, we anticipate another stellar year for 2005."

The RE/MAX franchise network is a global real estate system operating in 56 countries. More than 5,600 independently owned offices average 108,000 member sales associates who lead the industry in professional designations, experience and production while providing real estate services in residential, commercial, referral, relocation, and asset management. For more information visit www.remax.com.

Celebrating its 20th anniversary, RE/MAX of New Jersey is made up of more than 3,300 real estate professionals in 195 franchise offices, and continues to be one of the leading real estate organizations in the state. Since its inception in 1985, RE/MAX of New Jersey has experienced record-breaking growth in both franchise sales and sales associates, and has surpassed all previous sales records. This remarkable success can be attributed to the quality agents and service consistently found in all RE/MAX organizations. RE/MAX of New Jersey, based in Moorestown, is a privately owned and operated regional franchisor for RE/MAX International. Visit www.remax-nj.com for more information.

ERA of N.J. reporting an increase in agents

New Jersey real estate is booming in more ways than one. For ERA Real Estate in New Jersey, record numbers of new agents participated in the new-agent training class during the first half of the year. This marked increase illustrates that it is not just the sales that are booming but the interest in the industry, too.

"The amount of people attending our classes has more than doubled since I became a trainer," said Paul Laub, a 25-year veteran of the real estate industry and one of two trainers for ERA New Jersey. "It is exciting to see such a diverse group of people who are dedicated to joining the field."

"Not only have my classes grown in size but in diversity," added Cherran Evans, trainer and an eight-year veteran of the industry. "I see a lot more men coming back and making real estate their full-time career," she added. "My classes used to be predominantly women and now the ratio is almost even."

Laub, an associate with ERA Statewide Realty, Hillsborough, and Evans, an associate with ERA Van Syckel, Weaver & Lyte of Bridgewater, lead the special Acceleration training course. The week-long class is designed for newly licensed real estate salespeople who have joined ERA in New Jersey to refine the skills they learned in the state licensing course.

"The training class is so phenomenal," said current student Kelly Ellen McMahon of Scotch Plains, who is now associate joining ERA Statewide in Cranford. "The classes offer so much knowledge and really keep you up and motivated," she added. "Everyone leaving these classes can feel so much more confident about going into the field and succeeding."

"I really enjoy seeing the enthusiasm and confidence the students display by the end of course," said Laub. "When students feel more confident they achieve higher productivity, said Evans. "It gives them a feeling that they are not alone."

The team spirit, support, continued education and outstanding customer oriented services is what makes the ERA team so successful across the country.

ERA has brokers throughout New Jersey and the world. To contact your local ERA office visit the ERA Brokers of New Jersey Web site at www.ERANJ.com. ERA is a global leader in the residential real estate industry with more than 30 years of experience in developing consumer-oriented products and services. The ERA real estate network includes more than 28,000 brokers and sales associates throughout the United States and 30 other countries and territories.

Weichert Livingston has an excellent June

Janice Berkowitz, branch manager of Weichert, Realtors' Livingston office, has announced that in June, Weichert, Realtors Livingston earned the seventh-highest dollar volume out of all the company's offices.

If you are interested in joining this fine sales team or would like to speak to a sales associate about a real estate transaction, call Weichert's Livingston office at 973-994-9844. The office is located at 256 S. Livingston Ave.

Weichert has more than 15,800 sales associates in more than 330 company-owned and franchised sales offices in key markets throughout the United States. A family of full-service real estate and financial services companies, Weichert helps customers buy and sell both residential and commercial real estate, and streamlines the delivery of mortgages and home and title insurance. For more information, visit Weichert's Web site, www.weichert.com. Each Weichert franchised office is independently owned and operated.

Weichert promotes two at commercial brokerage

John G. Udell, president, and David A. Simon, executive vice president, managing director of Weichert Commercial Brokerage Inc. have announced

the appointment of Jennifer Roth as vice president of marketing. In this capacity, Roth is responsible for all facets of marketing, including advertising, publicity and the branding.

"We are pleased to welcome Jennifer Roth to our team of talented professionals," stated John G. Udell. "Jennifer's extensive marketing and management background within the commercial real estate industry will be an invaluable asset to our company's marketing goals. We look forward to utilizing her skills in order to meet our business objectives."

Roth received her Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a marketing specialization from Rowan College.

Mogensen is named a top sales agent

Residential market specialist, by Better Homes and Gardens, Linda Mogensen has been named the top sales agent for Real Estate Consultants L.L.C.'s Union region, according to an announcement made recently by Douglas Radford, broker/owner.

Mogensen has been a consistent sales achiever and has more than 14 years of award-winning experience in the real estate industry.

Real Estate Consultants L.L.C. offers virtual tours of all homes listed with the firm and currently serves 13 counties in Northern and Central New Jersey. Real Estate Consultants is able to offer options and flexibility with commission as low as 2 percent.

To learn more about Real Estate Consultants, contact Mogensen at 908-276-3331 or 908-464-5590 or log on to its Web site, www.recnj.com.

Real Estate Consultants is an active member of the New Jersey, Garden State, Middlesex, Monmouth and Ocean County Multiple Listing Services.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

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AUTOMOTIVE

Mercedes CLS coupe is gorgeous

Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

It is just as easy to design a gorgeous car as it is a dumpy one. Or so I'm told by car-company executives.

Beauty, however, is often lost in the translation from concept car to what rolls off the production line.

Not so the Mercedes-Benz CLS500 "coupe."

First shown as the Vision CLS concept car at the 2004 Los Angeles auto show, the four-door CLS has the fast roofline of a coupe but the accessibility of a sedan.

The concept car was a knockout, people loved it. Mercedes gave it the green light for production and nearly 90 percent of the concept design made it into real life.

"It's a car that hits the essence of creativity and innovation," says Ray Addison, product specialist at Mercedes-Benz.

"With its sweeping lines and heavy B-pillar, it is very coupe-like. With the four full-size doors and sizable trunk space, it is a sedan," he says. "It doesn't make too many compromises to the owner."

If there are crossover SUVs, why not a crossover coupe-sedan?

"The designers set out to create a car that hasn't been experienced yet, and established a new niche in the industry," Addison says.

Sold in two models, the CLS500 starts at \$65,000 and runs \$73,000 nicely equipped. Automotive Lease Guide, which sets lease-end residual values for the industry, gives the CLS a 36-month residual value of 65 percent, which isn't a bad way for people to park their money until the next new thing comes along.

The high-performance CLS55 AMG starts at \$86,500. That comes with a hand-built, 5.5-liter supercharged V-8 rated at 469 horsepower, a SpeedShift five-speed automatic, racing brakes, sport suspension with three levels of damping and an aerodynamic body kit.

A sampling of prices on eBay.com showed the CLS500 selling for MSRP, but dealer listings for the CLS55 with premium package priced it at \$105,000.

Mercedes isn't expecting mainstream sales numbers for the CLS "coupe," just 10,000 to 18,000 this first year. And despite the car's appealing beauty, it is not being considered as a long-term model.

"We are very confident the CLS will be successful, but after seven years there may or may not be a successor. We'll see what happens," Addison says.

Using the E-Class sedan as a foundation, there's plenty of room to exceed expectations in the CLS.

Addison is correct when he says: "There is something about CLS that makes you want to drive it and be seen in it."

The lines are strong, appealing to both sexes. The driving experience is solid and soundproofed, except for the precision-tuned wail of the V-8 at full throttle and the call of the dual chrome-tipped exhaust.

The CLS in Europe has options for diesel and V-6 engines, but only a V-8 is offered in the United States. The 302-horsepower V-8 and seven-speed SportShift automatic transmission give forceful acceleration and responsible fuel economy, 17 mpg city, 25 highway.

Steering inputs are responsive and light to the touch. The leather-wrapped wheel takes just 2.8 turns from lock to lock and the turning circle fits in the footprint of a much smaller car.

Giving the CLS four doors makes it easy to slip behind the wheel and get comfortable. Coupe doors typically are long and make entry and exit awkward in tight spaces.

The sculpted cockpit has the wrap-around feel of a coupe, but without restriction. It is snug, not cramped. Despite the slim ellipse of rear glass, sightlines aren't bad for the driver.

Interior styling is artful and accommodating, though the array of buttons the driver must navigate for audio and air appears overwhelming at first glance. The layout is similar to any large Mercedes, but mastering the procedure gets simpler after just a few days in the car.

The four-seat format allows generous back-seat hip, leg and elbow room. However, passengers much taller than 6 foot 2 inches back there

might have to slouch to clear the headliner. A distinctive center console separates the seats and spans front to back, providing plenty of storage.

Mercedes may call the CLS a coupe, but I saw it as a sedan, and drove it like a sports car.

2006 Mercedes-Benz CLS500 "coupe"

Body style: Large, four-door four-passenger
Engine: Aluminum, SOHC, 24-valve five liter V-8
Horsepower: 302 at 5,600 rpm
Torque: 339 foot-pounds at 2,700 to 4,250 rpm
Transmission: Seven-speed adaptive electronic automatic with TouchShift manual mode
Acceleration: 0-60 mph, 5.9 seconds
Fuel economy: 17 mpg city, 25 highway
Fuel tank: 21.1 gallons; 91 octane recommended
Wheelbase: 112.4 inches
Length: 193.3 inches
Curb weight: 3,812 pounds
Trunk area: 15.8 cubic feet
Front head/leg/shoulder room: 36.9/42.1/56.2 inches
Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 36.1/35/56 inches
Standard equipment: Ten-way power-adjustable seats with three-driver memory presets, power tilting/sliding sunroof, Airmatic air suspension with adaptive damping, four-zone automatic climate control, matte burl walnut or high-gloss laurel wood trim, leather upholstery, front and rear center consoles with enclosed storage, tilt-telescopic steering column with easy-exit feature, 10-speaker stereo system with single disc CD, chrome-tipped dual exhaust, projector beam halogen headlamps, LED brake lights, blue-tinted glass
Safety: Two-stage front air bags, front and rear side air bags, rollover curtain bags, electronic stability control, electronic traction control
Suspension: Airmatic, computer-controlled air springs, gas-charged shock absorbers with four-stage variable damping
Steering: Speed-sensitive, power-assisted rack and pinion; 36.7-foot turning circle

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<p>1997 NISSAN SENTRA GXE 4DR 4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds/lks, a/c, cass, a/s radials, 76161 mi. Stk#50782A. VIN#V1L035467. \$5901</p>	<p>1997 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 2DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cass, lugg rk, alum whls, 52,610 mi. Stk#50663A. VIN#K172145. \$8501</p>	<p>2002 CHRYSLER PT CRUISER TOURING EDIT 4DR 4 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, moonrft, a/c, cd, chr whls, 80,866 mi. Stk#50846A. VIN#Z1371255. \$8901</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET MAIBU 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, p/tilt, 18,267 mi. Stk#509390. VIN#2M605390. \$9901</p>	<p>2001 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cass, alum whls, 55,580 mi. Stk#50937A. VIN#1P000801. \$9901</p>	<p>2001 MITSUBISHI MONTERO SPORT LS 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cass, alloy wheels, 55,580 mi. Stk#50937A. VIN#1P000801. \$13,701</p>
<p>2000 FORD EXPEDITION XLT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds/seats, a/c, cd, alum whls, 45,982 mi. Stk#50663A. VIN#Y1C12726. \$13,901</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET BLAZER LS 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, alum whls, 35,580 mi. Stk#6610. VIN#K239002. \$14,701</p>	<p>2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER LE 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, 5 spd man trans, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, any/m stereo, lugg rk, alum whls, 51,125 mi. Stk#50889A. VIN#1W501608. \$15,901</p>	<p>2004 CHEVROLET MAIBU 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, leather, alum whls, 17,227 mi. Stk#16625. VIN#F13567. \$16,601</p>	<p>2004 FORD ECONOLINE CARGOVAN 800M 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/brks/winds, a/c, cd, 26,512 mi. Stk#50116A. VIN#4JAM231. \$16,701</p>	<p>2002 CHRYSLER 800M 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cass, cd, leather, chr whls, sec sys, 24,580 mi. Stk#51022. VIN#Z1165722. \$16,701</p>
<p>2002 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, 6cd, leather, 3rd row seats, alum whls, 38,445 mi. Stk#50603A. VIN#Z1382287. \$16,701</p>	<p>2003 VW BEETLE GLS CONVERTIBLE 4 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, alum whls, cruise, 15,242 mi. Stk#9007A. VIN#3M231823. \$19,701</p>	<p>2003 CHEVROLET TRAILBLAZER LT EXT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, p/seats/moonrft, a/c, cd, r ent opt, leather, sec sys, 38,690 mi. Stk#51032A. VIN#56181554. \$21,301</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET AVALANCHE LT 4X4 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, p/seats/moonrft, a/c, cd, leather, alum whls, lugg rk, 41,880 mi. Stk#50949A. VIN#2G300038. \$23,701</p>	<p>2002 GMC SERRANO 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, leather, cap, chr whls, 21,844 mi. Stk#51014A. VIN#G240337. \$24,701</p>	<p>2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN LT 4DR 6 cyl, auto, p/str/ABS/winds, a/c, cd, leather, lugg rk, alum whls, sec sys, 35,127 mi. Stk#50939A. VIN#Z1382165. \$24,901</p>

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