

# HOLIDAY GUIDE

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# Echo LEADER

Serving Springfield and Mountinside

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Keith Christopher, Kimberly Raguse and Anthony Voorhees chat before the Township Committee meeting on Tuesday. The three were sworn in as the newest members of the Springfield Police Department.

## Three new Springfield police officers are sworn in

By Paul Grealich  
Staff Writer

Springfield's newest police officers took their oaths Tuesday. Kimberly Ann Raguse, Anthony Voorhees and Keith Christopher were sworn in by Mayor Steven D'Amico at the Springfield Police Academy. The officers received applause from their family and colleagues. They will be on duty as of the following morning.

Patrolman for training. Their presence will be a welcome addition, as the police force has been understaffed due to retirements. After the mayor and other committee members welcomed the new officers, Police Chief William Spillane gave them a congratulatory address, praising the officers' skills and hard work at the academy. Kimberly Ann Raguse is now the second female officer on the Springfield Police Department, having transferred from distant Wheaton, Minn., and transferred to New Jersey with an earlier job in the treasury department. She became a police officer

to work with people and "to pursue a dream I always wanted to achieve." Voorhees, a lifelong Springfield resident, said he became a police officer because he wanted to help people. "I'm happy to have a chance to work in the town I live in," he said. Keith Christopher, originally from South Plainfield, is happy to be getting started as a police officer. "I just wanted a career my family and I could be proud of." Paul Grealich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleader@echo.com.

## DPW directors are ready for winter

By Doug McNamara  
Staff Writer

Though winter officially begins until Dec. 21, with the recent snowfalls on Saturday and Monday nights, the season is under way in Springfield and Mountinside. In particular, any snowstorm keeps the public works departments of both towns busy. Springfield can deploy as many as 15 municipal vehicles, explained Ken Homish, director of the Department of Public Works. The township has 42 square miles, he explained, which means there are 42 miles of streets to plow. Before an expected storm, the township will pre-salt any major through streets, as well as bridges and hills, said Homish. "The snow accumulates, we start plowing procedures," he explained. Specifically, 2 inches of snow stick to the roads, the township will initially plow the major through streets only. Once the snow stops, they'll turn their attention to the side streets, municipal parking lots and municipal sidewalks, said Homish. Once the roads are cleared, they'll re-salt the major streets. Last year, Springfield used more than 400 tons of salt. "With only a staff of 17, Homish explained, "it's the biggest concern is how much you're going to get." For instance, during heavy snowfalls such as the Blizzard in 1996, the men slept in the garage and shovels did the work for them for three days. Similarly, this past week, Friday and Saturday, the entire staff reported to work and didn't finish until the next morning. According to Homish, there are two major problems with snow. First, people will leave their car in the street, but if it had been plowed,

a township ordinance that mandates cars can only go back on the street after the final plowing. The second problem is people who use snow blowers, or get their driveways cleared by a truck, frequently push the snow into the middle of the street, effectively undoing the township's work. During a storm, in the case of medical emergencies, the Springfield Fire Department will decide how serious the emergency is. If deemed serious enough, the DPW will clear the individual's street. Preparing for the winter ahead, Dr. Herb Alexander, spokesman for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, offered some tips for handling snow. Alexander said he typically sees injuries from shoveling and snow-blowers, either of which "can be a huge problem if you don't do it right." Some tips for shoveling include pushing, rather than lifting snow. Don't go too low at the knees and avoid twisting the spine. Also, find a shovel that fits your body size and strength, as well as wear appropriate footwear with tread, he said. Finally, keep an eye on the forecast. If many inches are expected, shoveling quickly since it's easier to move 3 inches of snow three times than 10 inches once. "Generally, a snow blower, Alexander said, the most common injuries are lacerations or severe lacerations that come from people who get their hands in snow blowers," especially when the blower is running. Springfield residents can call the City Yard's main number 908-686-7700, ext. 117, if they have any questions or problems. Doug McNamara can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 118, or dnm@echo.com.

## Auxiliary officers in a state of confusion

By Paul Grealich  
Staff Writer

One of Springfield's most valuable volunteer organizations is its auxiliary police force. These 23 police officers can make a considerable difference in law enforcement and public safety, especially at community events such as the tree-lighting ceremony this past Sunday, when large crowds require additional officers to be present.

However, over the last three years, confusion between the two groups has made it difficult for new auxiliary officers to receive proper training. Although Springfield's auxiliary officers have been given permission to assist in such a capacity, such a change of action is not feasible, because many of these officers

## Laptop initiative a reality

By Doug McNamara  
Staff Writer

At an information session Dec. 8 at the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School, representatives of the Springfield School District spoke to parents and students about the progress of the district's controversial laptop initiative for seventh- and eighth-grade students. The district, which recently finished its latest session of professional development for teachers at FMG Middle School and distributed the laptops Wednesday and today, first gave a presentation on the initiative's benefits to the parents. "Demonstrating what you know ... with just paper and pencil isn't enough nowadays," said Lester A. Ray, a development executive for the education department of Apple computers, the company the district hired to provide the computers. "The tools are integrated," said Ray, so schools don't focus on learning the technology, but rather on making it easier for teachers to communicate their knowledge to the students. In a later interview, Superintendent of Schools Michael Davino admitted the introduction of technology into the classroom won't necessarily result in an immediate boost to standardized test scores. Rather, he cautioned, the effects will be subtle. Ray agreed, adding that parents and teachers should not expect a dramatic increase in test scores. "The laptops will be used in the classroom," he said. "The period you have is 24 hours a day, seven days a week," said Davino. However, after the initial excitement with the laptops wears off, "you begin to see comfort zones ... develop," so the students aren't all using their laptops all the time.

Saying the laptops are "just one piece of the total effort," board member Hugh Keffer said in a later interview the laptops are "part of a broader program to raise the standards in our schools... They're not the complete picture." Also in a later interview, Timothy Kieley, the principal at FMG and a former teacher at Petride in States Island, the first school in the country to implement a laptop program, explained each student will be given an Apple G4 iBook with a 12-inch diagonal monitor. He estimated each laptop weighs no more than "a few pounds." Each machine will come with the same software package, said Kieley, including Microsoft Office, various Web browsers, a calendar, an internal chat client and iLife Suite that "allows student production of work." The advantages of the program, said Kieley, are many. Calling today's students "digital natives" and their parents "digital immigrants," he explained integrating technology into the classroom "makes school more their world." In a later interview, Davino agreed, saying the initiative fulfills the district's mission to "prepare students for the world they're going to live and work in."

what they wanted... The job for me is to support the teachers in how they want to use it." Davino, in a later interview, addressed why the district needs to provide the machines instead of individual parents purchasing any laptop for their child. In short, each computer will be an exact image or replica, in terms of what programs are loaded, what permissions each student has and the machine's capabilities — of each other, said Davino, ensuring the district a greater level of control over each laptop. "There needs to be cloning" in an instructional context, stressed Davino. Without exact clones, it would be like the district requiring students to purchase an American History textbook without specifying a particular one. The result, he said, would be a chaotic situation. "The same thing is true" with the computers, said Davino. At the meeting, school officials also answered questions from parents. One of the first questions involved the issue of accountability in the event a student's computer needed repairing. "The only thing you're responsible for is vandalism," said Davino, otherwise the district's insurance policy covered the break. "They're pretty rugged machines," said Kieley. However, Davino did suggest "you consider purchasing laptop insurance," as part of a parent's home ownership coverage. After speaking with his insurance company, Kieley estimated the added cost would come without \$18 per year. He added, "I've never come across a kid who's lost one," noting a laptop is quite different than a day planner. Another parent asked what will happen to the laptops during the summer. Each summer, the district will take the machines to perform any necessary maintenance, as well as add any new programs or hardware. The next year, the district will return the same machines to the students.

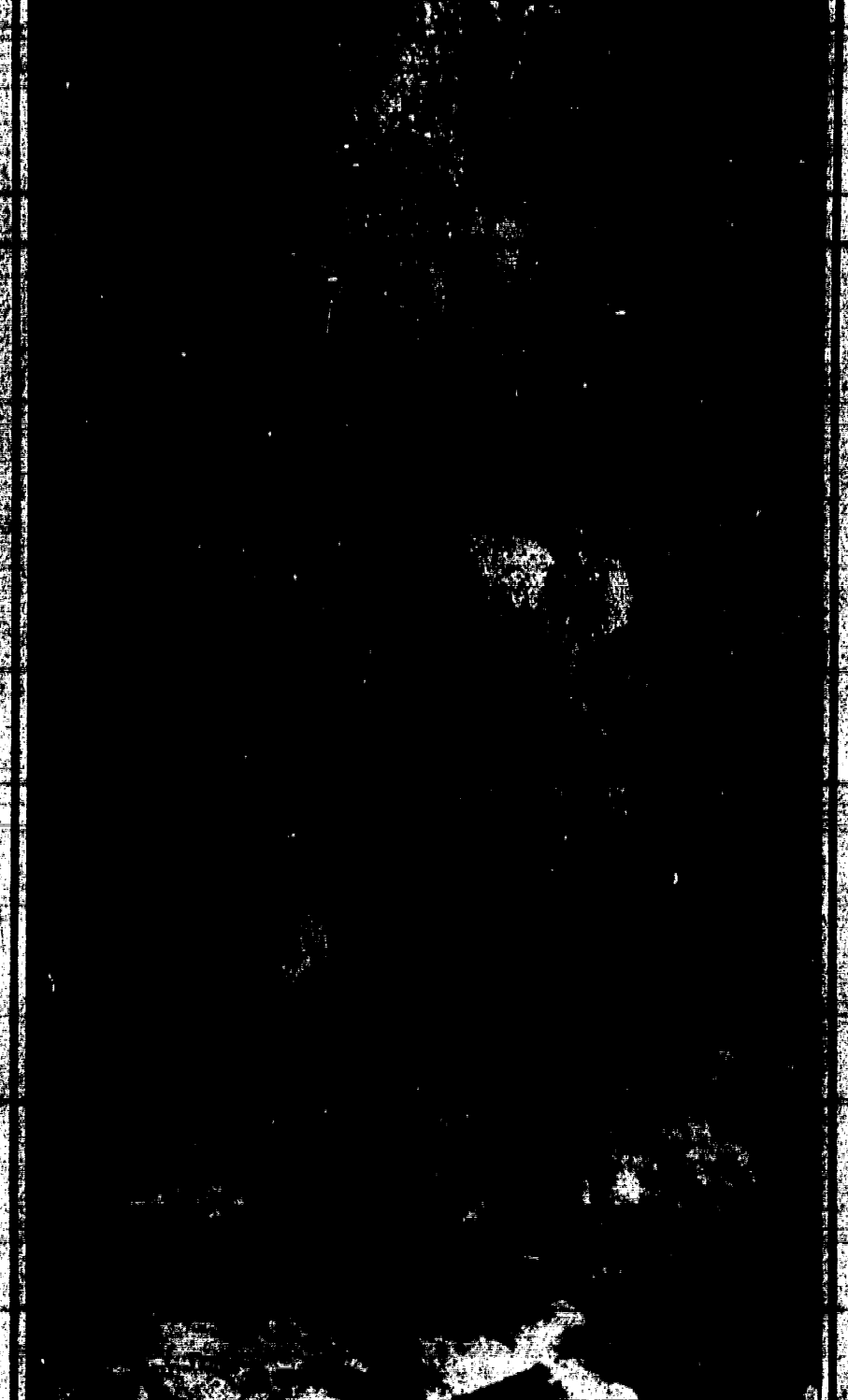
## Newspaper offices are closed for Christmas

The offices of this newspaper will be closed Dec. 26 in observance of Christmas. We will reopen Dec. 27. The newspaper will be published Friday, Dec. 30. The deadlines for the Dec. 30 edition are as follows:

- Lifestyle, including church and club news, etc. — Dec. 27, noon.
- Legal advertising — Dec. 27, noon. The legal advertising deadline for the Jan. 6 edition will be Jan. 3 at noon.

Letters to the editor — Dec. 27, 9 a.m.  
What's Going On — Dec. 27, 2 p.m.  
Display ads — Dec. 27, 5 p.m. for Section A and noon for Section B.  
Sports news — Dec. 27, noon.  
General news — Dec. 27, 5 p.m.  
Classified advertising — Dec. 27, 3 p.m.  
We wish all of our readers and advertisers a happy holiday.

## Snow is in the air



Nicholas, 7, from Springfield, plays in the snow outside Springfield Town Hall during the tree-lighting ceremony on Sunday.



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.

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

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

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

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

Story reprints: For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700. All material is copyrighted.

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

MOMS Club seeking new members: The newly-formed MOMS Club of Springfield and Mountainside is seeking new members.

Widowed Persons group seeks members: The Widowed Persons Association of Our Lady of Lourdes, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside, is looking for new members.

Vendors wanted for Super Saturday market: The Governor Livingston Highlands Booster Club invites a community vendors/crafters of all types to participate in their annual Super Saturday market.

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

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

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

E-Edit and Website: Visit our Web Site on the internet at http://www.localsource.com.

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

Mountainside resident dedicated to helping those people in need

By Doug McNamara, Staff Writer

For more than 12 years, a Mountainside woman has worked tirelessly to help the disadvantaged and inspire the advantaged.

Prefering to only give her first name, Sigrid, has mobilized the Mountainside community, organizing countless clothing and food drives for two Newark churches, St. Rocco's and St. Bridget's, as well as St. Joseph's Social Service Center in Elizabeth.

"Sigrid is relentless. She reaches out to people in need, not only at Christmas but all year long," said Sister Jacinta Rodriguez, executive director of St. Joseph's.

"You can inspire so many people to help," Sigrid explained. "A lot of people would like to help, but they don't know how."

For instance, six years ago at the Mountainside Pool, she saw a sign stating all lost-and-found items would be thrown out every Tuesday.

She then delivers the lost items to Ferdandes in Elizabeth, who in turn gives them to more than 100 poor children going to a summer camp sponsored by St. Joseph's.

For the summer campers, Sigrid also collects toiletries from various sources. She has enlisted the help of local dentists who give her free samples of toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Similarly, Timothy Boyle, co-owner of Northside Trattoria in Westfield, explained, "The horrible waste in restaurants has always bothered me."

Similarly, Timothy Boyle, co-owner of Northside Trattoria in Westfield, explained, "The horrible waste in restaurants has always bothered me."

Calling it a "win-win situation," he has been donating to Sigrid for more than three years. "These volunteers allow me to do something positive," especially since he usually can't find the time to volunteer himself.

Though she just finished working with Mountainside's Our Lady of Lourdes Church on a frozen turkey drive for St. Joseph's, she explained "Sister Jacinta needs food desperately, everything you can bring to me."

In particular, St. Joseph's runs a soup kitchen that feeds as many as 200 people each Saturday, as well as giving out free donated pre-made sandwiches during the week, said Rodriguez.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Springfield Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its fall international film festival with "Hero" at noon and 7 p.m.

B'nai B'rith Lodge 2093 of Springfield will sponsor a trip to "Danny Kaye and Sylvia," at the Forum Theatre, 314 Main St., Metuchen, at 3 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Mountainside Public Library, Constitution Plaza, will meet in the meeting room at 7:30 p.m.

The Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment will meet in the Committee Room of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., at 8 p.m.

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Lunchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," at noon.

The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Dayton High School, 139 Mountain Ave., at 7:30 p.m.

The Donald B. Palmer Museum, part of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., is hosting an exhibit called "New Jersey Images" by photographer Robert A. Parker until Feb. 16.

The Mountainside Board of Education will meet in the media center at Beechwood School, 1497 Woodcreek Drive, at 8 p.m.

The Handcrafter Group of the Women's Association of the Community Presbyterian Church, 1459 Deer Path, Mountainside, will meet the second Saturday of every month in the church's Memorial Room at 10 a.m.

Mountainside is moving toward construction of a 28-unit building designed for handicapped living, located on the Barnes Tract along Mountain Avenue.

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Or Behini, 4, and Raquel Shapiro, 4, light the Menorah for Hanukkah with the rabbi at Temple Beth Ahm.

Hanukkah celebrations scheduled

By Joan M. Devlin, Staff Writer

The family "Festival of Lights"—Hanukkah in Hebrew—will begin for Jewish people at sundown on Dec. 25.

Coming late in the calendar this year, several synagogues in this area will begin celebrating the week before. Some will wait until the actual day. To all, the word itself means "dedication" and celebrates a miracle.

The miracle took place in 165 B.C., when the tribe of Maccabees triumphed over the Hellenistic Syrians in a revolt. After the battle, they reclaimed the Temple Mount, but the temple had to be purified and rededicated.

On Tuesday at 5:45 p.m., the synagogue will have its annual Hanukkah party, sing-along and Menorah lighting. There will be refreshments and entertainment for the children.

On Dec. 23 at 9:30 a.m., the annual preschool Hanukkah show will take place with children performing songs for their family.

On the actual first night of Hanukkah on Dec. 25, there will be a ceremonial lighting of the first candle. On all subsequent nights until Jan. 1, another candle will be lit in a ceremony.

Advertisement for KidsPeace. Text: "Become a Foster Parent. 866-4KidsPeace. www.KidsPeace.org". Includes KidsPeace logo.

Advertisement for Allegiance Community Bank. Text: "OPEN A FREE CHECKING ACCOUNT WITH DIRECT DEPOSIT. And take advantage of these great offers!". Includes interest rate table and bank logo.

Mountainside school district unveils new writing program

By Tracy A. Politowicz, Managing Editor

At Tuesday's Mountainside Board of Education meeting, the new writing curriculum for children in kindergarten through eighth grade was presented by literacy specialist Elizabeth Raes.

This new approach is the result of a district-wide goal to improve students' writing skills. Raes explained that educators should strive to help "students be better young people and thinkers" and that "writing is thinking on paper."

She described the information presented as a "working document" based on scientific research that all students have the capacity to write and "writing can be taught."

Two of the highlights of the program are the incorporation of a "Portfolio Assessment" and the practicing of the types of writing that a student will use in the "real" world, i.e., in college, work and their personal life.

Santa Claus arrives at town hall

Advertisement for Downtown Millburn New Jersey. Text: "Experience DOWNTOWN MILLBURN NEW JERSEY". Includes an image of a shopping bag and the Downtown Millburn logo.

Advertisement for Downtown Millburn Development Alliance. Text: "Experience DOWNTOWN MILLBURN NEW JERSEY. In a classic suburban downtown that is vibrant, gracious, accessible and family focused!". Includes Downtown Millburn logo and contact information.

Advertisement for Stuyvesant Haircutting. Text: "Stuyvesant HAIRCUTTING Quality Hair Cuts At Affordable Prices. SENIOR CITIZEN SPECIAL. 20% OFF". Includes phone number and address.

Advertisement for Worrall Newspapers. Text: "Worrall Newspapers - Your Best Source for Community Information". Includes website and phone number.

Advertisement for Worrall Newspapers. Text: "CAPTURE THE MEMORIES. A picture is worth 1,000 words... and with reprints from Worrall Community Newspapers, you can capture those precious memories that may have otherwise been missed. Order professional reprints of your favorite photographs from Worrall Newspapers and bring a smile to the face of someone you love."







### Lunch with these lovely ladies



The Hickory Tree Chorus, an all-female barbershop ensemble, will perform at Central Presbyterian Church, 70 Maple St., on Friday at 12:15 p.m. This free concert of holiday music will be the last of the church's Brown Bag series. Attendees are invited to bring a lunch or purchase one from the church's kitchen.

### Changes in passport and Amtrak requirements

With significant changes in U.S. passport laws coming, Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi is urging those with plans to travel to ensure their documents are up to date. Effective Dec. 31, a passport will be required for all air and sea travel to or from the Caribbean, Bermuda, Central and South America. As of Dec. 31, 2006, a passport will be required for all air and sea travel to or from Canada and Mexico. As of Dec. 31, 2007, a passport will be required for all air, sea and land border crossings. Passport application forms may be obtained at the county clerk's main office in the Union County Courthouse in Elizabeth and the Annex, 300 North Ave. East, Westfield. Applications and related information can also be found online at <http://www.ucnj.org/cly-clerk/passport.html>. The Westfield annex is the only county clerk's office in the state that is open during the evening. The annex is open from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The phone number is 908-654-9859. The Elizabeth office is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number is 908-527-4966. Clients are asked to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to closing time to allow for staff assistance with the passport process. More information on travel rules and regulations is available online at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov) or by calling toll-free, 1-877-487-2778. The Union County Clerk's Office offers official photo identification cards to applicants 14 years old or older for a \$10 fee. Applicants must provide an original birth certificate, U.S. Passport, Naturalization Certificate or Resident Alien card as well as proof of residency, such as driver's license, recent tax return form, voter registration card or utility bill. Applicants who go online to [www.travel.state.gov/passport](http://www.travel.state.gov/passport) can select the appropriate form and electronically enter their personal information onto a secure form. Once printed, the information is not retained by the Department of State. The printed form can be mailed or taken to a passport agency for processing. Earlier this year, a federally mandated "Security Surcharge" increased passport processing fees by \$12. The current fee schedule is as follows: • Passport application, adult: \$97, \$67 U.S. State Department / \$30 to the clerk's office. • Passport application, younger than 16: \$82, \$52 U.S. State Department / \$30 to the clerk's office.

### Menendez tapped for Corzine's Senate seat

By Doug McNamara Staff Writer On Friday afternoon at Liberty State Park in Jersey City, Rep. Robert Menendez, D-13, was officially appointed by Governor-elect Jon Corzine to fill Corzine's vacant U.S. Senate seat. The 13th Congressional District includes parts of Linden and Elizabeth, including the port area, much of Hudson County and parts of Essex County, including Newark Airport. Corzine said Menendez's progressive agenda — including his opposition to the war in Iraq — was the prime reason he picked Menendez to fill the vacant spot. With Ellis Island, once the starting place for millions of United States immigrants, serving as a backdrop, the venue couldn't have been more appropriate for this son of poor Cuban immigrants. Menendez, 51, is the first Hispanic senator from New Jersey and only the sixth ever in the country. He began his acceptance speech by referring to his humble roots. With his seamstress mother and carpenter father present, Menendez remarked, "My own parents came to this country fleeing tyranny and searching for freedom. We never had more than just enough money to pay the rent and put food on the table." A life-long resident of New Jersey, he explained to the crowd of several hundred, "I have walked in the shoes of the average New Jerseyan all my life, and I know the challenges they face." In a later interview, Menendez called the appointment a "privilege," saying it was "an opportunity to create change ... I'm going to work my heart out every day ... to create a different American agenda." In particular, he singled out a number of issues as being particularly salient, chief among them the war in Iraq, which has already cost the United States \$200 billion. He also wants to address cuts in federal funding for college educa-

tion. "I understand how important and powerful a college education can be," Menendez is a product of New Jersey's public schools, having earned his bachelor's degree from St. Peter's College in Jersey City and a law degree from Rutgers. Looking back at his 13-year career in the House, he was particularly proud of the Hope VI funding in Elizabeth for affordable housing which "transformed the face of public housing and the lives of people in public housing." He also mentioned the transformation of the port area. Though "today the port is thriving," 13 years ago it was losing business to Halifax, Canada and in desperate need of dredging, he said. Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage agreed, saying Menendez "has been an advocate for issues important to Elizabeth. He has championed dredging" to increase the port's viability. Though he is "incredibly proud" of his Cuban heritage and recognizes the Hispanic "community is very proud," he stressed 75 percent of his voters aren't Hispanic and he will represent "everyone" while in office. Union County Freeholder Angel Estrada agreed, saying "I truly believe he's a man who cares for people who have needs." "I can't think of anyone more qualified," said Linden Mayor John T. Gregorio, who added "he's become not only a representative, but a friend. ... I think he'll be great." Menendez plans to run in 2006 for Senate. He vowed to "bring ... the campaign to a higher plane" by making it "about ideas." "I think the people are turned off by the politics of personal disruption," he said. Staff Writer Doug McNamara can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 118, or [gazetteleader@yahoo.com](mailto:gazetteleader@yahoo.com).

### COUNTY NEWS

**Volunteers sought** Make a difference in your community by donating your time for important work. The courts are actively recruiting volunteers for various programs involving juvenile offenders, children and families in crisis, and courthouse operations. Opportunities are available countywide. Comprehensive training provided. Bilingual applicants are especially encouraged to apply. For more information, contact Eric Chait, volunteer coordinator, Office of the Court Administrator, 2 Broad St., 15th Floor, Elizabeth, 07207; call 908-965-2688 or send a message by e-mail to [eric.chait@judiciary.state.nj.us](mailto:eric.chait@judiciary.state.nj.us).

**YWCA seeks volunteers** The YWCA of Eastern Union County, 1131 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth, is seeking volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, call Lynn, at 908-355-1500, ext. 18.

**Election dates brochure** A pamphlet outlining all of the important 2005 election dates, candidate petition filing deadlines, absentee ballot deadlines, and campaign-finance report deadlines is now available at public libraries, the Union County Clerk's offices in Elizabeth and Westfield, and municipal clerk offices throughout the county. The pamphlet also includes a detachable absentee ballot application. This pamphlet lists the key election dates and other information essential for voters and prospective candidates for elective office. With the absentee ballot application, registered voters who are unable to make it to the polls on any Election Day can apply to receive absentee election ballots at their homes. The County Clerk's Office can be reached at 908-527-4360.

# Holiday

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SENIOR CITIZENS SPECIAL Every Tuesday (12-1-05 thru 1-31-06) \$5.00 OFF YOUR CHECK (up to \$25) on any other day

**EAT**

**NIGHT TIME COUPON** \$2.00 OFF Any Check Over \$15.00 Valid Any Time After 4:00pm Regular Menu Only. Dine In Only.

**KIDS EAT FREE** Monday-Friday From 4 pm-10 pm & Celebrated By An Adult One Child Per Adult. See Your Server For More Details. BALLOONS, GAMES, GIFTS & GAME SHEETS FOR ALL KIDS.

**EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST SPECIAL** Are Still Available Starting at 7:00am - 10:00am Monday - Friday (12/26-1/1/06) \$3.99

465 North Broad St. • Elizabeth • 908-351-8833  
RESTAURANT HOURS: Sunday thru Thursday 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Friday and Saturday Night Open till Midnight

## 5th Anniversary Celebration

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## CELEBRATING OUR 5th ANNIVERSARY

Start your year off right. Take care of yourself. Whether it is stress, anxiety, anger and pain or simply feeling down relating to one of our disciplines - WE CAN HELP!

Happy and Healthy New Year

### Mind Body Wellness Center

48 Maple Street, Summit  
908-273-0073  
[mbwellnesscenter@aol.com](mailto:mbwellnesscenter@aol.com)  
[www.mindbodywellnesscenter.org](http://www.mindbodywellnesscenter.org)

Partners:  
Beth Pincus LCSW/BCD Psychologist  
Tami Schneider Certified Massage Therapist/Bodywork  
Carol Tomason E.D.S. Learning Consultant

We are proud to introduce three new associates:  
Margie Freeman, LCSW/CLAP, Psychologist/EMDR  
Nancy Miller, LCSW/CLAP, Psychologist/EMDR

Associates:  
Katherine L. Bennett, Psy.D. Nutrition Therapist  
Christina B. DSH Personal Trainer/Bodywork/Massage  
Kim M. Myrland, Ph.D., C.P.T. Pediatric Advanced Practice Nurse  
Elizabeth Pincus-Kaplan, M.S., LPC Speech Language Pathologist  
Cecilia Gomez, LCSW Psychologist

Carlynn B. Reich, DC Doctor of Chiropractic  
Richard Colligan, LCADC, CSW Chemical Dependency Counselor  
Dr. Edward M. Buzanich Chiropractic Physician  
John V. Schmidt, Ph.D./ATC. Sports Physical Therapy

3550 Rte. 108, Summit, NJ 07981  
Corporate/Institutional/Community Center

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**Poster of vintage postcard available**

A deluxe poster of vintage postcard scenes of the Union County Courthouse and Midtown Elizabeth dating back to the 1890s is now available from the Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee. The 24-inch by 36-inch poster includes 18 historic scenes, taken from vintage postcards in the private collections of Lester Sargent, chief warrant officer for the Union County Sheriff's Office and Charles Shallcross, an Elizabeth resident.

Sargent is president of the Union County Historical Society; Shallcross is a past president. The poster was designed by Matthew DiRado, director of Special Projects and Graphic Compliance for Union County.

"Below each postcard is a short informative description of the photograph and its place in history. The postcards show the evolution of the county complex and of Midtown Elizabeth over the past 100 years," said Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, chairwoman of the Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee.

The earliest photo is an 1890 shot of the previous courthouse, which was built in 1811. Other photos include the current courthouse, which opened in 1905 and

additions in 1927 and 1933.

The posters are available for \$10 each, with proceeds going to pay for Courthouse Centennial programs and the preservation of historic artifacts. Posters can be obtained by calling 908-527-4787 or in person at the Union County Clerk's Office, Union County Courthouse, Old Annex, first floor, Elizabeth, 07027.

Payment may be made by cash or a personal check made out to "Union County Courthouse Centennial Committee." To have the poster shipped, include a postage and handling fee of \$2.25.

The Courthouse Centennial Committee and the Board of Chosen Free-

holders are hosting an ongoing series of activities celebrating the Union County Courthouse's 100 years as a center of law, justice and government in Union County. A Courthouse Centennial and Cornerstone Capsule Exhibit will be on display through Dec. 9. The exhibit includes unique artifacts from a time capsule buried in 1903 as well as memorabilia celebrating the past 100 years of history in Union County.

**Training offered for rape crisis advocates**

The Union County Rape Crisis Center is looking for caring, supportive, and committed individuals who can assist survivors of sexual assault during daytime, evening and weekend hours.

A specialized training program to become a rape crisis advocate will be held Sept. 27 to Nov. 17 on most Tuesdays and Thursdays between 6:30 and 10 p.m. Volunteers must attend all training sessions.

The training addresses the different types of sexual assault, the trauma experienced by sexual assault survivors and their family members and other related issues. It prepares advocates to respond with support and information either on the phone

through the 24-hour hotline or in person while accompanying survivors through medical or legal proceedings.

In addition to serving as a Rape Crisis Advocate, volunteers can also become involved in making educational presentations to schools or to groups in the community on sexual assault.

Persons interested in becoming a Rape Crisis Advocate should call 908-233-7273 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Interviews for volunteer training will be held between the months of May and August. Bilingual individuals are needed especially.

# Holiday Gifts & Dining

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<b>Lohr</b> Seven Oaks Cabernet <b>11.07</b>	<b>Meridian</b> Chardonnay, Cabernet, Merlot <b>7.77</b>	<b>Mondavi</b> Private Selection Cabernet, Merlot <b>7.67</b>	<b>Smoking Moon</b> Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay <b>7.07</b>	<b>Korbel</b> Brut, Extra Dry <b>10.27</b>	<b>Woodbridge</b> Cabernet, Merlot <b>10.00</b>
<b>Beringer</b> Founders Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot <b>7.97</b>	<b>Beringer</b> White Zinfandel <b>4.27</b>	<b>Coppola</b> Cabernet, Merlot <b>13.17</b>	<b>Ruffino</b> Chianti Reserve (Duckie Tin Label) <b>16.97</b>	<b>Martini &amp; Rossi</b> Asti <b>9.17</b>	<b>Carlo Rossi</b> Cabernet, Merlot, Chardonnay, Shiraz, Pinot Grigio <b>8.19</b>

**Domestic, Import & Microbrew Beer**

<b>Jim Beam</b> Bourbon <b>23.99</b>	<b>Gordon's</b> Gin <b>14.99</b>	<b>Bevanda</b> Light Gold <b>19.99</b>	<b>Dewar's</b> Scotch <b>29.99</b>	<b>Smirnoff</b> Vodka <b>18.99</b>	<b>Seagram's 10</b> Whiskey <b>19.99</b>
<b>Evan Williams</b> Bourbon <b>16.99</b>	<b>Tanqueray</b> Gin <b>30.99</b>	<b>Captain Morgan Rum</b> Spiced Rum <b>23.99</b>	<b>Johnnie Walker Black</b> Whisky <b>54.99</b>	<b>Absolut</b> Vodka, Citron, Raspberry <b>31.99</b>	<b>Canadian Club</b> Whiskey <b>15.99</b>
<b>Jack Daniel's</b> Black Label <b>35.10</b>	<b>Beefeater</b> Gin <b>27.99</b>	<b>Baileys</b> Whisk Cream <b>17.99</b>	<b>Chivas Regal</b> Whisky <b>51.99</b>	<b>Grey Goose</b> Vodka <b>25.99</b>	<b>Seagram's 7</b> Whisky <b>14.99</b>

**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
Christmas - 12/18: 9am-9pm (Elizabeth Square)  
12pm-9pm (River Edge), 12pm-9pm (Union)  
12/19-12/23: 9am-10pm, 9am-11pm (Union)  
12/24: 9am-9pm, 8am-9pm (Union)  
Closed Christmas Day  
New Years - 12/31: 9am-10pm, 11:12pm-9pm

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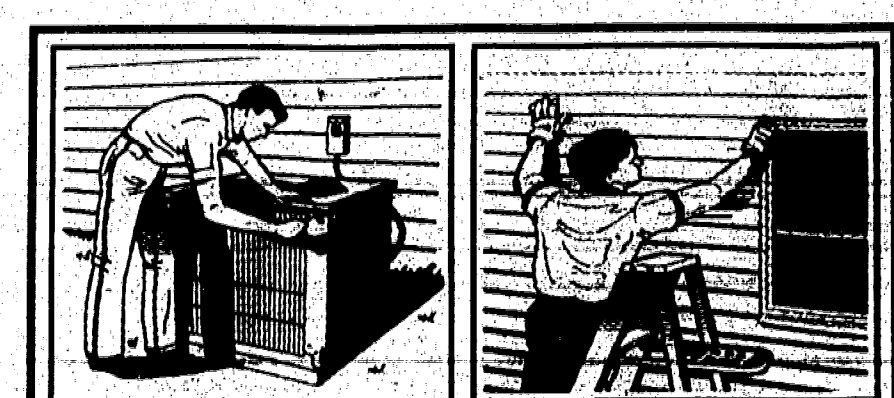
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Officers from the Union County Police Department, who have teamed up with the Union County Prosecutor's Office on a unique gun surrender program, pose with the 73 different firearms collected at the most recent target turn-in date. From left to right are Sergeant Michael Sandford, Lieutenant Richard Puschel, Captain Chris Hansen, Detective Krzysztof Audinis and Corporal Manuel Cortes.

## Union County offers residents a safe gun surrender program

A unique gun surrender program that has allowed Union County residents to turn in handguns and rifles in exchange for certificates good for up to \$50 for food or sports equipment will be open for a fourth time Saturday from 11 to 4 p.m. at the Union County Police Headquarters at 300 North Avenue East in Westfield.

Union County Prosecutor Theodore J. Romanowich was encouraged by the results of the gun program, which has resulted in the surrender of more than 200 weapons since it started last October.

Newspaper ads paid with money from a federal gun violence reduction grant are run last week and the rifles, shotguns and pistols turned in are checked carefully and eventually melted down into useful items such as manhole covers and metal fasteners.

"We really can't lose when law-abiding citizens and others who have a gun and have really been wondering how to get rid of it come in and help us avoid the possibility that these dangerous weapons can ever be used for an illegal purpose in the future," said Romanowich, who said New York City officials were able to retrieve thousands of guns several years ago with similar efforts.

Officers in the past have received handguns that were inherited and sitting in closets for years, a loaded revolver brought by two kindly ladies from Elizabeth on a teenage in Plainfield.

In 2003, Romanowich said, 15 of the 28 murders in the county were committed with guns, while in 2002, 10 of the 15 murders were shootings and eight of 18 in 2001.

Last year and this year, at least a dozen homicides involved handguns, police said.

Members of the freeholder board have also voiced support for "a well-executed program that can save lives and reduce crime in a unique way at no cost to taxpayers.

Some of the guns range from a cheap "Saturday Night Special" to elaborate and expensive collector's guns.

**Veterans can get IDs**

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi would like to remind veterans that they can receive their free military discharge identification cards at the County Clerk's Office.

The wallet-size card is honored as proof of service in the U.S. Armed Forces. It can assist in receiving educational, death benefits, licenses and the property tax rebate.

"On Veterans Day we rightfully honor the men and women who selflessly served in our Armed Forces," Rajoppi said. "This ID card service is just one way to say thank you and make veterans' lives a little easier."

The ID cards are available to veterans whose Certificate of Honorable Discharge and DD 214 Forms are recorded at the Union County Clerk's office. Benefits from honorable military service are limited to the veteran and their spouse, parents, children, heir or personal representative.

"The distinctive red, white and blue cards have a raised seal certifying proof of recording from the Clerk's Office," Rajoppi added.

If a veteran's discharge papers have never been recorded, the original document may be presented at the Union County Clerk's Office. Documents will be recorded in the Union County Veterans' Index and the original will be returned to the veteran. Photocopies of Honorable Discharge or DD 214 documents cannot be accepted for recording. Those who have already recorded their documents in the clerk's office can call the office and have the card mailed to them.

Access to their discharge papers is limited and available only to the veteran, his/her mother, father, wife/husband, brother, sister, child, heir or personal representative.

Veterans' documents are archived in a secure area and they are not accessible to the public, she added.

The County Clerk's Office is located in the Union County Courthouse at 2 Broad St., Elizabeth. Office hours are from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

If more information, call 908-527-4787.

**Speakers available**

The Union County Office of Citizen Services offers a countywide speakers' bureau. Drawing on the expertise of employees in the areas of Consumer Affairs, Veterans' Affairs and Volunteer Services, the freeholders established a process to provide speakers to senior citizen centers, community audiences, schools, and other organizations.

The Citizen Services' Bureau employs experts interested in speaking to schools and community groups on a wide range of topics including:

- An overview of the Bureau of Veterans Affairs;
- Cutting through the Red Tape at the Veterans Administration;
- Honoring deceased veterans through services to families;
- "Did You Know?" A myriad of services available to veterans.

An overview of the Office of Volunteer Services:

- Finding the right volunteer placement for your needs;
- How to make your volunteer experience the best it can be;
- Volunteering: How to get started in your community;
- How organizations can better recruit and manage their volunteers;
- How to bring a volunteer fair to your school or community.

An overview of the Office of Consumer Affairs:

- A consumer's lesson on auto leasing/home repair/credit cards etc.;
- Learn to be a smart consumer;
- Senior citizens: Protect yourself from fraud;
- Learn your rights as a consumer.

The legislative agenda for 2004-05. Speakers are available for morning, afternoon, and evening engagements. Programs are flexible and can accommodate different formats. If groups have an interest in a variety of the topics listed, the Citizen Services' Bureau will be able to provide more than one expert speaker if a request is placed with advanced notice.

When calling for a speaker, have the following required information ready:

- Contact name, address, and telephone number;
- Name of organization;
- Date, time and place of meeting;
- Nature of the occasion and size of the audience;
- Amount of time for presentation; and
- Speaker topic desired.

**Local volunteers are the driving force that help keep Union County a great place to live and work,** said James W. Home Jr., chief executive officer of United Way of Greater Union County. "It is our mission to promote volunteerism and mobilize our community to improve the lives of our neighbors."

To receive a copy of the County of Union Volunteer Directory, or to add your organization's volunteer needs to future editions of the directory, call Susan Pepper, coordinator of Union County's Office of Volunteer Services, at 908-527-4753, or e-mail [spepper@ucnj.org](mailto:spepper@ucnj.org).

**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.

<b>AIR CONDITIONING</b> QUALITY AIR CONDITIONING & HEATING Gas, Steam, Hot Water & Hot Air Heat Humidifiers - Zone Valves Chillers - Air Cleaners 973-467-0583 Springfield, NJ	<b>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY</b> <b>KEEP</b> Your job for NOW! Build for YOUR future! The MOST profitable home based business WE PROVIDE EXCELLENT TRAINING ONSITE SUPPORT 855-285-0764	<b>CABINETRY</b> Custom Cabinetry Cabinetry for all purposes Crown molding - baseboard - window trim Storage organizers VERY REASONABLE RATES Bill McGreery 973-668-1492	<b>CARPENTRY</b> FULLY INSURED FREE ESTIMATES Remodeling Bathrooms Finish Basements Replacement Windows Tiling Steve Rozanski 908-686-6488	<b>CLEANING SERVICE</b> FREE ESTIMATES All City Cleaning Service * Complete Maintenance * General Office Cleaning * Commercial & Residential * Floor Stripping & Waxing * Carpet Shampoo & Cleaning 908-994-9777 100 OFF GENERAL OFFICE CLEANING & MAINTENANCE (First Month Only)	<b>CLEAN UP</b> Zelfand.com Help! * Virus and Software Removal * Network Setup and Upgrade * Data Transfer and Recovery * Web Design Our certified technicians can solve any large or small issue you might have. Call 908-778-8777 www.zelfand.com	<b>COMPUTER SERVICES</b> Zelfand.com Help! * Virus and Software Removal * Network Setup and Upgrade * Data Transfer and Recovery * Web Design Our certified technicians can solve any large or small issue you might have. Call 908-778-8777 www.zelfand.com
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COUNTY NEWS

Donations sought

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Union County is asking the public to join them in participating in their annual Holiday Star Project.

... veteran and their spouse, parents, children, heir or personal representative.

"The distinctive red, white and blue cards have a raised seal certifying proof of recording from the Clerk's office," Rajoppi added.

If a veteran's discharge papers have never been recorded, the original document must be presented at the Union County Clerk's Office.

UCPC offers out-patient, individual, group and family therapies, counseling and medical monitoring.

To make a cash donation, mail a check, payable to "NAMI Union County," to NAMI Union County, P.O. Box 724, New Providence, 07974.

For information about joining NAMI, call 908-233-1628.

ID cards for veterans

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi would like to remind veterans living in Union County that they can receive their free military discharge identification cards at the County Clerk's office.

Ice skating center open for season

Warinanco Ice Skating Center, a facility of the County of Union, is open for the 2005-06 ice skating season.

p.m., 1 to 3 p.m., and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Sundays, 1 to 3 p.m., 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

This schedule may be subject to change on holidays. Call the Skating Center to find out if changes will be made.

General sessions cost \$5 for adults, \$4 for children 17 and younger, and \$4.25 for senior citizens. Skate rental is an additional \$3.

There will be open hockey on Wednesdays 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. for a fee of \$7 for participants ages 18 and older with proper identification and a shielded or caged helmet.

The skating center also offers group and private skating lessons and hockey clinics, as well as skating lessons for individuals with disabilities.

Hockey clinics begin Sunday and run for six weeks.

The Warinanco Ice Skating Center is located off Thompson Avenue in Warinanco Park, Roselle.

For more information, call 908-298-7850 for a recorded message, or 908-527-4900 for the Union County Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities.

Medical reserve corps seeks volunteers

The Union County Local Information Network and Communication System has launched a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps and is seeking volunteers.

Skating sessions will be as follows: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

Fridays, 10 a.m. to noon, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m., which is a family session during which children ages 17 and younger must be accompanied by an adult, and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



Summit's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted by Temple Sinai on Nov. 20 and attended by approximately 500 people from Summit and the surrounding communities.

Temple hosts interfaith service

Summit's annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was hosted by Temple Sinai on Nov. 20 and attended by approximately 500 people from Summit and the surrounding communities.

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Carpet store joins breast cancer initiative

This fall, Cove Discount Carpet One, 335 Springfield Ave., is once again leading the way in the fight against breast cancer, along with more than 550 other Carpet One stores throughout North America.

Churches, clubs encouraged to send news This newspaper encourages congregations, temples, social and civic organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities.

Get The Facts... And Get In The Classifieds! It's the easiest way to reach thousands of potential buyers every week. GET THE FACTS CALL 908-686-7700

Waiting to see Santa



Santa sits on the steps of Town Hall in Springfield on Sunday with a line of children around the block waiting to see him.

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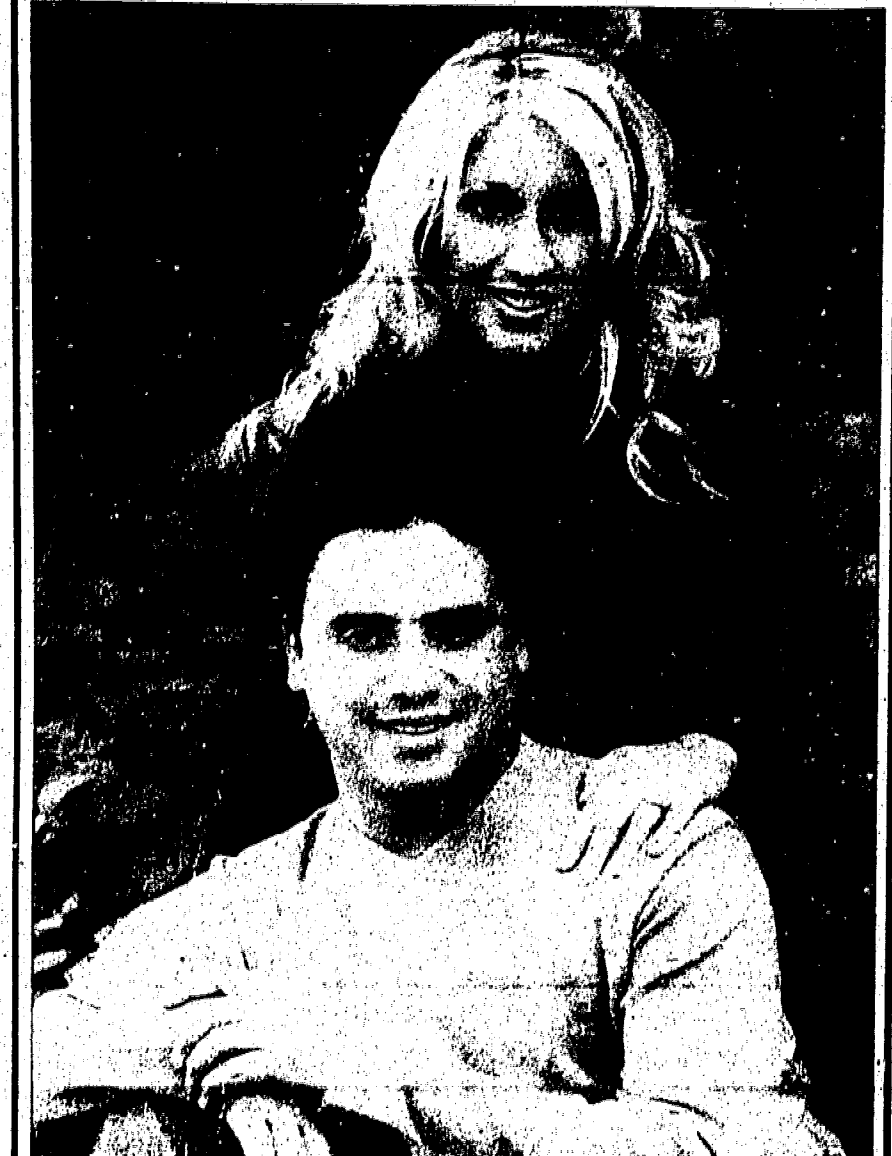
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Di Cosma's Italian Deli & Catering Clarkton Shopping Center 1073 Baritan Rd., Clark, NJ

Michele's Pizzeria LINDEN 1600 E. St. George Ave 908-686-4881

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Gina Marie Rapke and Salvatore Cocuzza

### Rapke to marry Cocuzza

Angela and Harold Rapke of Union announce the engagement of their daughter, Gina Marie Rapke, to Salvatore Cocuzza, son of Lucia Cocuzza of Springfield and the late Giuseppe Cocuzza.

### Policy on weddings, engagements

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed and double-spaced, no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if questions arise.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER XL BUILDING AND OCCUPANCY REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 12-05, DECEMBER 15, 2005.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWNSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, that the following Ordinance be adopted:

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER XL BUILDING AND OCCUPANCY REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 12-05, DECEMBER 15, 2005.

### PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, CHAPTER XL BUILDING AND OCCUPANCY REGULATIONS, AS AMENDED BY ORDINANCE NO. 12-05, DECEMBER 15, 2005.

### Video Series Continues

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., continues its Lunchtime Video Series, "Classic/Classy Comedies and Mysteries," on Jan. 3 at noon.

A jockey who threw a race is murdered in the locker room. With that, Nora Charles (Myra Loy) and hubby Nick (William Powell) are off to the races on another case of murder, mirth and perfect martini.

As in all films in this series, the supporting cast in this fourth episode is extraordinary with Sam Levene, Barry Nelson, Donna Reed and Stella Adler among the heroes and possible villains. Nick Jr. is back again but he's a more tolerable lad now.

The film is black and white and runs 97 minutes. It was made in 1941. It is not rated. Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Coffee and cookies will be provided.

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

For more information, call 973-376-4930.

### Springfield YMCA seeks volunteers

The Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave., is looking for volunteers for its Membership Services department. Volunteers will meet and greet members, and assist with front desk displays and information materials.

### YMCA collects coats

Springfield YMCA, 100 S. Springfield Ave., will host a winter coat drive for New Jersey Cares through Tuesday.

### AT THE LIBRARY

#### Photography exhibit of New Jersey scheduled

The Donald B. Palmer Museum, part of the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., is hosting an exhibit called "New Jersey Images" by photographer Robert A. Parker from Jan. 9 to Feb. 16.

Parker's subject matter will vary from natural habitats to man-made architecture, from athletic events to still life, from quiet portraits of birds or animals to blurred action.

Locations range from Giants Stadium to Cape May, from Sussex County in winter to summer at the Jersey Shore, and from Ramapo, to Nutley, to Clinton.

"This is the first time in my 18 exhibits that I have grouped New Jersey images together," says Parker. "It is truly refreshing to realize the variety of photographic subjects we have here in the Garden State."

Occasionally, I like to capture an entire scene, and take advantage of the weather or the light. But more often I employ close-up or zoom lenses to isolate an eye-catching pattern, both those created in nature and those created by man.

"My objective," Parker sums up, "is to present work that invites contemplation, with the viewer discover-

### RECREATION

#### Girls' softball

The 2006 Springfield Recreation Department Girls Softball Program for grades two through nine will have registration at Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Registration fee, all of which are non-refundable, are payable in two checks: \$25 to the 6 township of Springfield, and another for \$30 to Girls Softball Parents Organization.

The deadline for registration is Dec. 23. If space is available after Dec. 23, a \$25 late fee will be payable to the Softball Parents' Organization.

For more information, call Linda Corona, public services librarian, at 908-233-0115.

#### Soccer program

Springfield Recreation Soccer Programs U-10, U12, U14 & U-17 Co-ed for grade three through nine are now accepting registrations.

Register or mail in form with payments to: Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall.

Two fees are due by March 1. A non-refundable registration fee, payable to Township of Springfield, of \$25 is due for each player. Another check, payable to Springfield Stars Parent Organization, of \$65 is owed for new players, which includes full uniforms and NYSA membership.

For more information, call Linda Corona, public services librarian, at 908-233-0115.

#### Public Notice

held on December 7, 2005 the Planning Board voted to adopt the 2005 Housing Element and Plan for the Township of Springfield, New Jersey.

Robert C. Kirkpatrick, Planning Board Secretary  
U131881 ECL Dec. 15, 2005 (43.13)

RESOLUTION TO AWARD CONTRACT TO THE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD, COUNTY OF UNION, STATE OF NEW JERSEY.

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is desirous of procuring a contractor for the construction of a new building on Van Winkle Brook (8908-0001).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Local Public Works Law, the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, has determined to award a contract for the construction of a new building on Van Winkle Brook (8908-0001).

WHEREAS, the Township of Springfield is desirous of procuring a contractor for the construction of a new building on Van Winkle Brook (8908-0001).

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### SUMMIT OBSERVER - ECHO LEADER

## Children make the most of snowfall at Echo Lake Park



Students from Arthur L. Johnson High School in Clark rest during a break from snowboarding Friday at Mountainside's Echo Lake Park.



Shannon Daly, 10, of Cranford slides down a hill at Echo Lake Park after the first significant snowfall of the season on Friday.

### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2005 — PAGE 13



Cranford resident Larry Kain takes his son, Max, 8, and daughter, Julia, 6, for a snowy ride at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside.



Area residents flocked to Echo Lake Park in Mountainside on Dec. 9.

### RELIGION

#### St. Teresa's youth group to have retreat

The Winter Retreat of the St. Teresa's Youth Group will be held at the New York City Dec. 17-19.

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#### Youth group going into New York City Dec. 17

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### Theater continues productions into 2006

Paper Mill Playhouse continues its line-up for the 2005-06 season. The "Diary of Anne Frank" will run from Jan. 18 to Feb. 26.

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Large advertisement for 'SIX GAME PLANS START AT \$96' with various logos and contact information.



COUNTY NEWS

Courthouse tours

The Office of the Court Administrator of the Union Vicinage Superior Court of New Jersey announces that it is instituting a new courthouse tour program entitled "Taking a Closer Look at the Union Vicinage" this fall.

The new courthouse tour program intends to provide all of its attendees with a comprehensive overview and basic understanding of the daily operations within the courthouse. This tour will not only bring light to the courtroom but also to the many behind the scenes procedures that continue to make the courts run.

Mothers & More

Mothers & More is a national, non-profit organization serving mothers who are by choice or circumstance altering their participation in the paid workplace over the course of their active parenting years.

40 percent of these employees engage in some type of paid employment. "Mothers and More offers invaluable support and friendship that can fit into every woman's schedule," said the chapter's co-leader, Linda Miklencic of Cranford.

The chapter's activities include meetings on topics of interest to mothers, mom and tot outings, playgroups, a book club and a craft club. Members also have the opportunity to attend national conferences, to participate in nation e-mail support networks, and to volunteer in a variety of areas including chapter coordination, membership, online services, publications, media relations, marketing and advocacy.

Free firearm safety kits are available

The Union County Sheriff's Office will provide free firearm safety kits to county residents through a partnership with Project ChildSafe, a nationwide firearms safety education program. The safety kits, which include a gunlock, will be available to county residents from Sept. 1 through Nov. 1.

Mothers' walking club

Want to get the kids and yourself out of the house, but need some motivation? Some area moms, members of the Union County Chapter of Mothers & More, have solved this problem by forming a walking club, meeting mornings in Tamaques and Monahan parks. Moms meet at different times to accommodate kids' naps and moms' work schedules.

By partnering with Project ChildSafe, the Union County Sheriff's Office is participating in a growing national effort to promote firearms safety to all gun owners. Project ChildSafe is distributing gunlock safety kits in all 50 states and five U.S. territories. Safety kits are available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Union County Sheriff's Office in Elizabeth between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

ECHO LEADER

Anna Asselmeyer

Anna P. Asselmeyer, 93, of Georgetown, S.C., formerly of Springfield, died Nov. 29 in the Prince George Health Care Center, Georgetown.

Arthur Winter Sr.

Arthur H. Winter Sr., 84, of Litzitz, Pa., formerly of Mountaintop, died Dec. 5 at home.

Gertrude Douglas

Gertrude Douglas, 92, of Atlantic Highlands, formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 4 in Riverview Medical Center.

Walter Vosburgh

Walter L. Vosburgh, 84, of Orange Park, Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 5 in the Life Care of Jacksonville, Fla.

Angelina Gialmo

Angelina Gialmo, 97, of Cedar Grove, formerly of Mountaintop, died Dec. 6 in Bea Lea Village, Toms River.

Ana Wasyluk

Ana M. Wasyluk, 61, of Mountaintop, died Dec. 6 at home.

Belle Alper

Belle Alper, 88, of Livingston, formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 9 in the Inglemoor Care Center, Livingston.

Stephen Bumball

Stephen W. Bumball, 85, of Piscataway, formerly of Mountaintop, died Dec. 8 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Joseph Demark

Joseph H. Demark, 69, of Springfield died Dec. 9 in St. Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston.

Margaret Conte

Margaret Evelyn Conte, 97, of Alpha, formerly of Hillside and Springfield, died Dec. 11 in the Visiting Nurse Association Hospice, Bethlehem, Pa.

Michalina De Fino

Michalina De Fino, 91, of Springfield died Dec. 10 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Obituaries

Surviving are his wife of 44 years, Robin; a son, Joseph F. Jr.; two daughters, Jackie E. Mullock and Jill Demark; a brother, James; a sister, Sharon Perry, and three grandchildren.

Obituary policy

Obituary notices submitted by local funeral homes or families must be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone.

Holiday Spirit of 2005 Celebrate The Divine In All Things

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH Christmas Eve Services

Receive God's Gift of Love This Christmas! No Shopping, Wrapping or Stress Required.

Blessed, Healthy and Prosperous New Year from the Staff at Worrall Community Newspapers

Calvary Lutheran Church 108 Eastman St. Cranford, N.J. 908-276-2418

CHRIST IS THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS HOLY TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

ST. MICHAEL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH 1212 KELLY ST. UNION, 908-688-1232

Kenilworth Gospel Chapel Newark Ave. & S. 23rd St., Kenilworth

EXPERIENCE THE JOY CHRISTMAS EVE! @Holy Cross Lutheran Church

Christ Church Summit Invites You to Christmas Services: Saturday, December 24th

Holiday Spirit of 2005 Celebrate The Divine In All Things

St. James the Apostle Church 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield

St. John's Church (Founded in 1706) - The Reverend Joe Parrish, Rector

Townley Presbyterian Church Invites you to our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Has the true meaning of Christmas gotten lost in the lights? Remind your children of the Reason for the Season

THE CHURCH OF ST. JOSEPH THE CARPENTER Roman Catholic

Open minds. Open hearts. Open doors. The people of the Cranford United Methodist Church

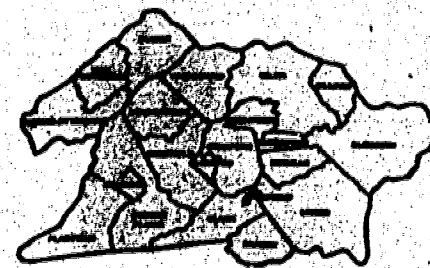
Open minds. Open hearts. Open doors. The people of the Cranford United Methodist Church

CHRISTMAS EVE Festival of Carols & Christmas Pageant Saturday, December 24, at 4:30pm



# SPORTS

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



# Union County

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

## THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

More quality than quantity. That's how I describe the 2005 Union County football season.

As many as 11 of the 16 football playing schools posted winning records, with nine of them making the state playoffs.

Cranford, one of six teams in the county to finish 6-4, might have been the best team in North Jersey to not have made the state playoffs.

A Group 2 school among Group 4 heavyweights, Cranford will look forward to being a member of the Mountain Valley Conference in 2007, if there is still an MVC alignment of schools at that time.

The Watchung Conference and MVC may be a thing of the past in a few seasons, with a conference consisting of Union County teams only.

For now, Cranford has received the necessary approval to leave the Watchung Conference and join the MVC for all sports but football for the 2006-2007 academic season.

Cranford will play a Watchung Conference schedule for the final time in 2006.

Summit left the Watchung for the MVC 10 years ago and Rahway followed soon after.

Cranford played Group 4 schools such as Linden, Plainfield and Irvington quite well this year, but came up short. The Cougars are looking forward to a more level playing field against Group 2 schools.

There wasn't much of a difference among - say - the top six or seven teams in the county this year.

This was a season where there was not a dominant team and a lot of surprise success stories, such as Cranford, Governor Livingston, Johnson and Brearley.

Union did well to beat Plainfield in the state playoffs after losing to the Cardinals in the regular season. Unfortunately for the Farmers, they ran into, perhaps, the best team in the state in Phillipsburg in their second-round game.

Union and P-Burg should be solid teams once again next season, so a rematch may be in order.

I was able to cover 24 games from Sept. 9 to Dec. 2, seeing 15 of 16 Union County schools, with Roselle being the exception.

Brearley getting to a final for the first time in 14 years was a great story. The Bears held their own against two-time defending champion Florence after two unfortunate miscues early on.

No team wants to go winless, so it was good to see Summit and Westfield capture a victory in their consolation games.

The county will expand next season, with Dayton playing varsity football again for the first time since 2000.

Dayton did well on the junior varsity level this season, fashioning a 3-5 record, including two shutouts.

Cranford might play at Union next season, replacing Hillside on its schedule. Hillside will open against Passaic.

This is High School Football will return in August.

Happy Holidays!

**IRVINGTON 2005 UNION COUNTY HONORS**

Teams of the Year: Brearley 10-2, sectional finalist

Coeach of the Year: Erik Rosenmeier, Cranford

Offensive Player of the Year: Chris Brown, Cranford

Defensive Player of the Year: Isa Abdul-Quadir, Union

**WEEK TWELVE SCORES (1)**

NSIAA Final, Dec. 2, Rutgers Central Jersey, Group 1

Florence 19, Brearley 6

Final week 0-1

This year: 92-34 (.730)

**UNION COUNTY FOR 2005**

1-Brearley (10-2)

2-Rahway (8-3)

3-Union (7-4)

4-Plainfield (6-4)

5-Cranford (6-4)

6-Elizabeth (6-4)

7-Linden (6-4)

8-Gov. Livingston (6-4)

9-Johnson (7-3)

10-New Providence (7-4)

Roselle Park (6-4)

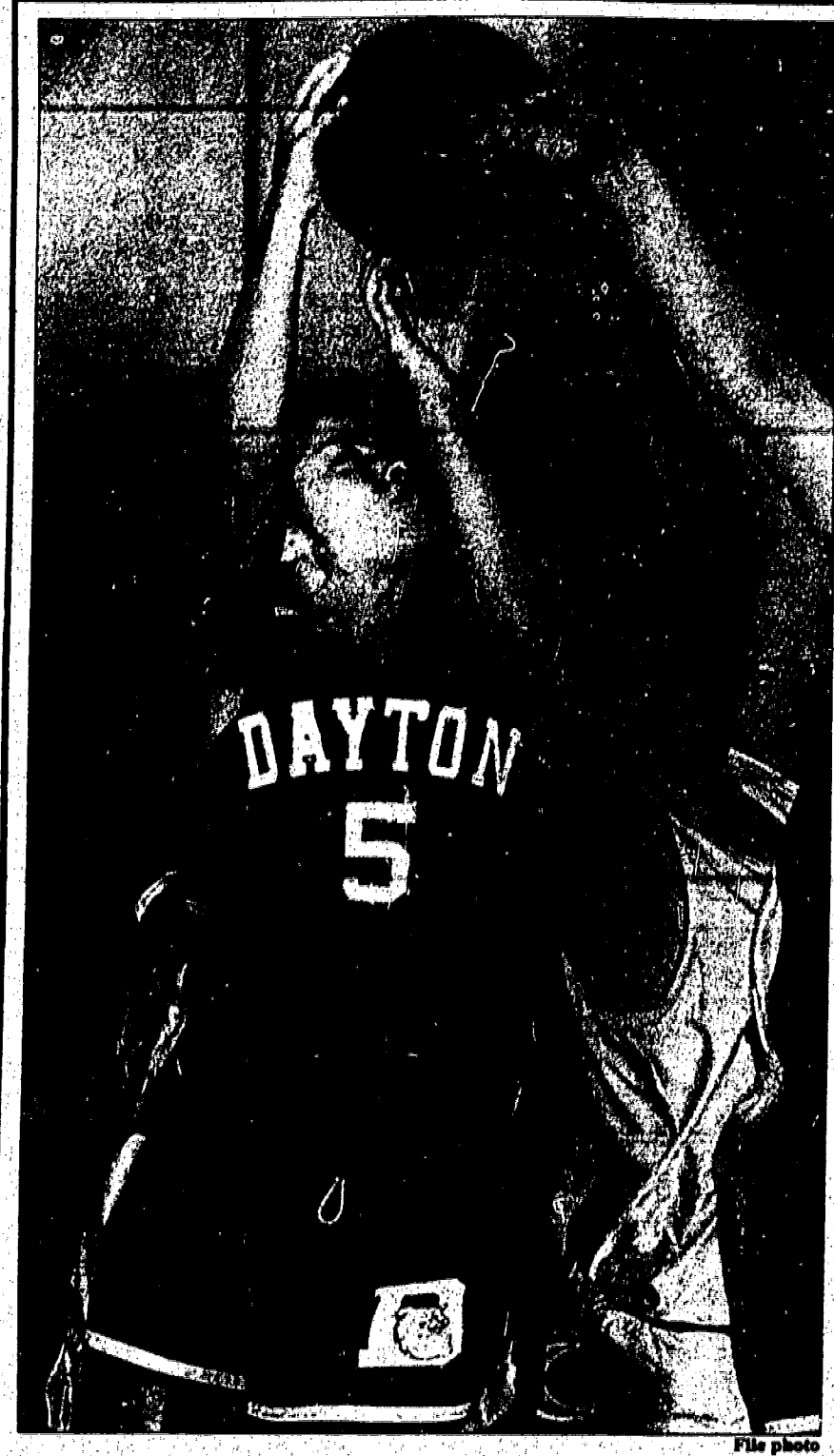
Scotch Plains (3-7)

Roselle (3-7)

Hillside (3-7)

Summit (1-9)

Westfield (1-9)



**BASKETBALL BACK - Katelyn Viverito** helped the Dayton girls' basketball team finish 18-10 last season and win its first sectional championship. The Bulldogs are scheduled to open tomorrow night at 7 at Governor Livingston.

## Summit seals swimmers make splash at Gator Grid Boys, girls manage to turn in terrific times

The Summit Area YMCA Seals sent a contingent of 54 swimmers to the Cranford Municipal Pool to participate in the annual Gator Grid Iron held Dec. 6.

The swimmers competed in events divided into a gold and a silver division, according to qualifying times.

In the 10-and-under Girls Gold Division, Grace Newcomb captured gold in the 50 butterfly, swimming her best time of 34.25, followed by Alexandra Riba and Jackie Joffe. Tasha Kdwalramani took home gold in the 50 breaststroke with a time of 40.41. Also competing for the 10-and-under girls were Camryn Bindra, Annie Feeney and Hannah Park.

The boys were well represented in the Gold Division by Ben Lin who swam away with a gold in the 100 individual medley in a time of 1:14.57 and two silvers in the 100 backstroke and the 100 breaststroke. Also earning medals in the Gold Division were Harry Cleweli with a silver in the 50 backstroke and Kevin Fries, who placed sixth in the 50 butterfly with a personal best time of 37.18 and sixth in the 50 freestyle with a time of 32.54. Also competing were Jimmy Currie, Michael Yuan, James Burke and Christopher Boyle.

In the 11-12 Girls Gold Division, Shannon Lin collected a pair of silver medals in the 100 and the 50 breaststroke. Natalia Angelo swam away with a bronze medal with a personal best time of 37.16 in the 50 breaststroke. Hannah Benn placed seventh in the 50 freestyle. Rounding out the team were Alexandra N'Diaye, Julia Kudryashova, Keri Enriquez, Ria Iizuka, Christina Westphal and Evan O'Hara.

Michael Strand, 12, took home a pair of gold medals in the 100 backstroke and the 100 IM as well as a silver in the 50 freestyle. In the Silver Division, Will Benn placed first in the 100 backstroke followed by Kyle Fries with a personal best time of 1:23.37. Victor N'Diaye finished fifth in the 50 breaststroke followed by Danny O'Hara, Jimmy Campbell and Jorge Dias logged personal best times in the 50 backstroke. Also swimming for the Seals were Cameron Simko and Daniel Keller.

In the 13-14 Silver Division, Carey Fries logged her personal best time of 1:10.60 to finish 10th in the 100 butterfly, followed closely by Megan Carlotto in 1:12.14. Brittany Guinee in 1:12.29, Alane Trafford in 1:12.40 and Anne Trojanowski in 1:12.88. Kim Baldwin took home bronze in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:09.91.

Kevin Ng earned silver in the Gold Division in the boys 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:10.29. Kevin Wilson finished fifth in the 50 freestyle. In the silver division, Brandon Moy finished the 100 freestyle in 57.06 followed by David Lemons. Greg Fennel also posted a personal best of 26.35 placing sixth in the 50 freestyle. Also competing for the Seals was Patrick Smith.

In the 15-and-over Silver Division events, Mary Jane Pijanowski earned gold in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:05.52. Pijanowski also took silver in the 200 IM, touching the wall in 2:22.90. Taylor Hartman placed 10th in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:52.74, followed by Eileen Guinee in 2:53.56 and Erin Murray with a time of 2:56.91.

Christina Daquila placed seventh in the 100 breaststroke with a time of 1:21.31.

Scott Belfiore swam to fourth in the silver division of the boys 15-18 200 butterfly with a time of 2:29.82.

## Springfield youth hoop squads excel

The St. James the Apostle, Springfield, 5th grade CYO basketball team performed admirably last weekend.

The boys' White Team defeated St. Helen's of Westfield 18-16 behind Joe Peterson's 1-foot jumper with 12 seconds left. Peterson subsequently stole the ball to seal the win.

Peterson and Chris Mascetti each had six points, while Joe Wightman had four and Jon Gonzalez two. The White Team goes into the Christmas break at 2-0.

## Cranford switch to MVC just the start?

By JR Parachini  
Sports Editor

Who will play who in 2006? There are still questions to be answered following Cranford's move from the Watchung Conference to the Mountain Valley Conference.

For football, Cranford will play one more season in the Watchung Conference next year. For all other sports, the Cougars will play as a member of the MVC beginning with the 2006-2007 school season.

"We're excited about becoming a member of the Mountain Valley Conference," Cranford athletic director Mark Taglieri said. "It's something I evaluated a few years back when I came here and was looked at by other Cranford ADs before me."

Cranford is the only Group 2 school remaining in the Watchung Conference. Summit made the same move 10 years ago - joining the Iron Hills Conference - and Rahway moved from the Watchung to the MVC shortly thereafter.

"The whole move is based on putting kids in the safest environment and giving them an opportunity to go up against other teams more their size," Taglieri said.

According to Taglieri, Cranford picked up Union to replace Hillside as a gridiron opponent for 2006, making next season's final year of playing football as a member of the Watchung Conference that more difficult.

However, Union AD Bill Parsons said there's a good chance Union won't play Cranford.

"Playing Cranford is a possibility, but we're trying to book another Group 4 or Group 3 school," Parsons said.

Final Cranford approval to the MVC will rest with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Elizabeth AD Ray Korn, the principals of the Watchung Conference schools approved the move by a vote of 7-4.

Voting to allow the move were Cranford, Union, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Kearny, Shabazz and Newark East Side.

"Cranford is a Group 2 school, so going to the Mountain Valley Conference makes sense for them," Parsons said. "However, our whole outlook is for the Union County schools in the Watchung Conference to merge with the Union County schools in the Mountain Valley Conference and have a Union County League."

Against the proposal were Elizabeth, Linden, Irvington and Plainfield, although those four appeared resigned to the fact that this might signal the end of the Watchung and have begun investigating other options as well.

"We're wishing for a Union County League," Parsons said. "Our biggest opposition are the Group 1 schools and the three Essex County schools (Irvington, Shabazz, Newark East Side). For football, we wouldn't play any of the Group 1 schools that are in the MVC. In other sports last year, Union played some 65 games against MVC teams."

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Hillside opened against Cranford on the gridiron the past two seasons. Next year Hillside will open at Group 4 school Passaic.

"They had an opening, we called and worked it out," Hopke said. "Passaic was 3-7 this year, situated in North 1, Group 4. Hopke feels that Cranford's arrival would only bolster the MVC."

"I see Cranford coming in as a positive thing," Hopke said. "It's a great move for them and now they can be competitive year in and year out. It also brings stability, with teams bailing out."

North Plainfield, Bound Brook and Manville are leaving for the Skyland Conference. Dayton will re-enter next season, fielding a varsity football team for the first time since 2000.

The Bulldogs had a junior varsity team this season, fashioning a more-than-respectable 3-5 record that included two shutout wins.

Dayton will be situated in the Valley Division, replacing Newark Central, who will move over to the Mountain Division.

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1. "It puts us up against schools similar in size."

2. "Geographically, it's a great situation travel time wise, allowing us to get our athletes back in a reasonable hour so they may attend to their studies."

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Taglieri also realizes that a Union County Conference is being explored by several schools.

"Our stance is clear now," Taglieri said. "We don't want to put ourselves in another situation similar to the one we are in at the moment."

Ironically, Cranford held its own on the gridiron this season, minus all but two starters lost to graduation and with a new head coach. The Cougars finished a winning record of 6-4 and came within a touchdown of beating Group 4 playoff teams Linden, Plainfield and Irvington, falling to the first two in the final minute of both games.

"We were able to have success the last four years, but week in and week out it takes a toll on the kids," Taglieri said. "They got pretty banged up and out of gas pertaining to football."

"Our coaches and our kids put us in a position to be successful. Playing schools more our size gives us a greater opportunity to be successful."

Cranford is scheduled to open its 2006 season at Linden.

"Next season is the beginning of another two-year cycle as far as football schedules go," Taglieri said. "As soon as we get expected approval from the NSIAA, we will immediately begin re-doing schedules for the other sports. If one conference agrees to accept you and the current one releases you, then it shouldn't be a problem."

The Watchung Conference goes back to 1961, shortly before first-year Cranford head football coach Erik Rosenmeier was born.

There's no doubt that he and his coaching staff received a great deal of satisfaction from the way Cranford performed this season, much better than anyone expected.

However, the former Scotch Plains assistant and 1969 Johnson Regional graduate will look forward to competing in the MVC beginning in 2007.

"I know that this is something that Cranford has been looking to do for a while," Rosenmeier said. "Summit and Rahway were able to do it before us and I think it will be a good thing, playing schools more like our group size."

## Greetings and Humbugs

Let's get going. Happy Holidays to Arnold Witte of Hillside. His national company DonJon Marine conducts dredging and other environmental projects. With no fanfare, he became a major sponsor of the Holiday Express, which entertains the underprivileged of our state.

Humbug to Robert Milkosky of Cranford. Milkosky fought to get more hours and benefits for Cranford's perky meter maid to carry on her obsession of ticketing every car possible.

Happy holidays to Irene Caselle, director of Union Harmonica Band, which has provided joy for more than 53 years.

"Playing Cranford is a possibility, but we're trying to book another Group 4 or Group 3 school," Parsons said.

Final Cranford approval to the MVC will rest with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association. According to Elizabeth AD Ray Korn, the principals of the Watchung Conference schools approved the move by a vote of 7-4.

Voting to allow the move were Cranford, Union, Scotch Plains, Westfield, Kearny, Shabazz and Newark East Side.

"Cranford is a Group 2 school, so going to the Mountain Valley Conference makes sense for them," Parsons said. "However, our whole outlook is for the Union County schools in the Watchung Conference to merge with the Union County schools in the Mountain Valley Conference and have a Union County League."

Against the proposal were Elizabeth, Linden, Irvington and Plainfield, although those four appeared resigned to the fact that this might signal the end of the Watchung and have begun investigating other options as well.

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## Freeholders to consider self pay increases

By Lauren DeFilippo  
Staff Writer

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders will consider giving themselves a raise tonight.

The proposed 5.3 percent pay raise will be the first raise the board has received since 2003.

The first reading of the ordinance passed unanimously by the all-Democratic freeholder board at its Dec. 1 meeting.

But, the annual raises for Union County Freeholders are nothing new.

Their last increase, in 2003, bumped up the part-time salary for a freeholder by \$1,013 from what it was in 2002, to \$28,013.

With that increase, the freeholder chairman earned \$30,088 and \$29,050.

The raises were also retroactive to Jan. 1, 2003.

In 2002, the freeholder board approved a 4.3 percent increase in their salaries.

If approved, the newest salary hike would establish the annual pay for a freeholder at \$29,500, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

The annual salary for freeholder board chairman would be \$31,500 and the vice chairperson \$30,500.

County officials estimated the financial impact of the freeholders' raises to be 0.3 percent of the county's \$390 million budget or between \$12,000 and \$13,000 for all nine freeholders combined.

Union County freeholders rank in the top five highest paid freeholder boards in the state of New Jersey.

Hudson County takes the cake, doling out \$37,849 for its freeholders, while Essex County pays its freeholders \$30,894. Union County will round out the top, with its increase, followed by Monmouth and Ocean counties which each pay their freeholders \$30,000.

"A lot of residents in Union County would like to give themselves a 5 percent raise right before Christmas," Union County Republican Chairman Phil Morin said.

He also noted that under the current freeholder board, the county spends more than \$1 million per day.

"I think they should do the right thing," he said, noting that the county should provide examples to the public to justify the raises.

Freeholder Angel Estrada called the raise for freeholders warranted, while Freeholder Bette Jane Kowalski declined to comment.

In addition to pay increases for legislative officers, the ordinance also provides for a 5 percent raise for County Manager George Devanney and raises for five department heads.

Last year, Devanney received a 4 percent raise, while he received a 4 percent salary hike in 2003.

The raises for department heads range between 3.7 percent and 5 percent.

Both freeholders noted that the

Index. Additionally, the freeholders also approved exclusionary wage increases no to exceed 3.75 percent.

Those increases are based on the employee's performance evaluation score.

Both resolutions are retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

The freeholder board meets tonight at 7 p.m. on the 6th floor of the County Administration Building on Elizabethown Plaza in Elizabethtown.

Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119 or union-county@yahoo.com.

## Twin Maples dubbed Summit's White House

By Lauren DeFilippo  
Staff Writer

Editor's Note: This is part of a continuing series on historic sites in Union County.

Built in 1908, the residence referred to as "Twin Maples" in Summit is a bit closer to the present day than it may appear.

It was given its moniker because two maple trees did indeed grow in front of the home.

However, there is only one still standing.

In architectural style, "Twin Maples" is considered an example of a Colonial Revival estate, that takes its cues from the White House, Helen Weston, a member of the Fortnightly Club, was called the White House of Summit," Wasson said.

Hopke built in the Colonial Revival style, with a column, a symmetrical facade and a portico, a Fortnightly Club brochure explained.

Alfred Morris, former lawyer James Foley, Twin Maples has all of these.

Foley and his wife, Karoline, moved to Summit from Brooklyn, just as the innovation of railroads made settling the suburbs an option for those who had to work in the city.

After the death of her husband in 1916, Karoline Foley sold the estate to the Collins family in 1918.

Frederic Collins was known as the "Sugar King." He was president of James E. Ward & Co., which shipped sugar from the Caribbean to Manhattan.

The Collinses lived in the home for almost three decades.

In 1949, the Fortnightly Club purchased the home from Emily Collins, who was a member, for \$25,000, Wasson said.

Wasson missed that whoever donated the work no longer had a wall big enough to hang the large piece. The painting is more than five feet in length.

In the mid-1990s, many Americans wanted to return to the school, Wasson said. As a result, they were asked to produce a work of art that included examples of human figures, landscaping and architecture to showcase their abilities.

Wasson said that one art historian told the club that whoever painted the

work said. Since that time, the home has undergone some interior renovations.

Mostly, knocking down walls to make three smaller rooms into one large auditorium type space, which serves as the main meeting spot for the club.

And, some rooms have been re-interpreted. What was the original living room of the home is now furnished like a dining room.

Since the home had been a residence until the Fortnightly Club took it over as its headquarters, it was more or less move-in ready.

However, all of the furniture in the home had been donated to the club throughout the years.</



# Trailside Nature and Science Center offers packages for children

With winter quickly approaching, Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountain-side, is offering a variety of educational programs for adults, children and families of all ages.

Due to limited space, all programs and workshops require pre-registration.

Adults with children ages 4 and younger are invited to participate in "Baby Makes Three," a workshop designed to acquaint adults and children with the natural world through sensory hikes and other hands-on activities.

Each of these children's workshops, "Small Fry Days," "Afterschool Explorations" or "Trailside Explorations," is \$8 per child for Union County residents and \$10 for non-county residents.

"Small Fry Days" is a drop-off program for 4- to 6-year-old children.

The "Small Fry Days" workshop series is designed to foster awareness and appreciation of the natural world through nature hikes, exploration and hands-on activities.

For a complete fall brochure that includes a listing of all children and family workshops and upcoming special events, or for a new autumn adult workshop brochure, visit Trailside or call 908-789-3670.

Patrons may browse the Union County Web site at [www.wcnj.org](http://www.wcnj.org) to learn more about the programs the county has to offer or to view Trailside's programs and workshops.

This autumn, participants in this workshop series can discover interesting facts about owls, investigate spiders for Halloween, visit Watchung Stables to learn about horses, hike the trails in search of wild turkeys and/or use your senses to match evergreen trees with their cones.

"Baby Makes Three" meets on alternating Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 1 to 2 p.m. The fee for each family — up to four members — is \$8 per workshop for residents of Union County and \$10 per workshop for non-county residents.

A family workshop series titled "Dusk to Dark," encourages visitors to explore the reservation and its inhabitants during the evening hours.

Each week a different theme is featured that focuses on the many treasures the Watchung Reservation has to offer. Explore the beautiful colors of fall, learn about the elusive life style of the coyote, visit the Village of Felville on a walking tour and discover what it takes to survive in the wild during the cold winter months.

Admission to "Outdoor Adventures" is a suggested donation of \$1 per person. Times vary weekly, so call Trailside for a complete listing.

Children ages 3 or 4 accompanied by an adult can take part in a variety of programs throughout the season. The workshops held each Tuesday from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

These interactive programs encourage nature discovery through hikes and other indoor and outdoor activities.

Workshops this season will include information on insects, raccoons, skeletons, bird nests and dinosaurs.

Participants will enjoy crafts, games and theme hikes through the scenic Watchung Reservation during the autumn season.

Each workshop is \$8 per child accompanied by an adult for children 3 to 4 years old. The cost per class to participate in "Trailside Explorations" for third- to fifth-graders is a series of workshops that take an in-depth look at plants, animals and their habitats.

Meeting on alternate Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., these classes will investigate the lifestyles of migrating hawks and eagles, learn the skills needed for orienteering, hike the 1.2-mile Yellow Trail, enhance wildlife habitat by creating brush piles for animals and/or discover how to identify the tracks of eight different animals that live in the Watchung Reservation.

## Gretings and Humbugs

Happy holidays to Iris Segal, president of Springfield chapter of Hadasah, for taking positions and actually trying to improve conditions.

Humbug to local boards of health for not taking more aggressive action against stabs who don't pick up after their dogs.

Happy holidays to Ray Lunch of Cranford and Henry Varriano of Clark for being part of the effort that saw Marine hero Sgt. John Basilone honored with a first class stamp.

Happy holidays to Kathleen Prunty of Cranford, head of the local downtown management corporation, who spent Saturday doing the unglamorous but necessary job of putting free parking bags on parking meters.

For everybody else, hopes for peace and prosperity.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

## Newspaper's policy on weddings and engagements is announced

Couples are encouraged to send their engagement and wedding announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements to the lifestyle editor. Announcements should be typed, doubled spaced or legibly handwritten and no longer than one page. All announcements should have a daytime phone number for verification or if time a questions arise.

Information requested for engagements are parents names, date of wedding, where the wedding took place, who officiated, the bride and groom, high school name and town, college name, town and degree, name of employer and towns where located, job title and where the couple honeymooned and will reside.

When sending a picture with the announcement, a check for \$10 is required. Black and white or color pictures are acceptable. For more information, call 908-686-7700.

Our organization should be getting the publicity it deserves and we would like to help. We have a publicity handbook which explains how to tell your story. We would like to publicize your club, church, sports, school news, etc.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Notice is hereby given that the County of Union, New Jersey will accept proposals from suitable qualified consultants/firms to conduct a study entitled "The Union County Freight Access Study between Port Elizabeth and Tremont Point (Freight Access Study)." Ten copies (one original and nine copies) of a completed proposal are required.

The goal of the "Freight Access Study" is to identify and prepare for the project planning, freight mobility options that will maximize port and airport related development. The primary objective will be to reduce truck vehicle miles traveled (VMT) between Port Elizabeth in the City of Elizabeth and Tremont Point in the City of Union County. Proposals for the study are to be received by the County Office, 2005-2006, 1031977 WCN (\$94.00).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



'Fallen Tree 1,' left, and 'Fallen Tree 3,' right, part of the Emerging Artists Series at the Visual Arts Center in Summit. For more information, call 908-273-9121.

## Decay and renewed life inspire artist at Summit show

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

Stephen Shingler has a serious interest in death.

No, it's not really disgusting. He's just as interested in birth, as well.

Shingler's focus is trees. He shows them decaying, and then he portrays them growing into something new. He's one of five artists whose work will be showcased at the third installment of "Emerging Artists: First Look," which will be presented this Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Visual Arts Center of New Jersey, located in Summit.

In addition to Shingler, a student at Montclair State University who lives in Bloomfield, other artists include Neil Callender and Jeffrey Thompson, Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Rutgers; Lydia Viscardi, William Paterson University; and Todd Doney, New Jersey City University.

Shingler's work moves beyond documentation to enter a place beyond science and logic.

"Most of what I'm doing now has a lot to do with the natural decaying of trees," said Shingler. "I'm specifically interested in the process of decay. I'm catching the trees in a time span of falling, dying and regrowing into something new. I've also built sculpture of similar things that are decaying, with moss and lichens growing on them."

It's a unique interest, for sure, but that off-beat approach works well in the art genre. The question is, how did Shingler develop this fascination with decay?

"In my undergraduate days, I built an aluminum iceberg and the whole idea for me was that I was taking something from nature that can only exist in one place," said Shingler.

I'm really fascinated with this mountain of ice; there's so little we know about things that live in that environment anyway.

"This whole idea of taking something out of context and putting it in my studio started this whole thing with rebuilding nature. Then last year I was at a show at the Andrea Rosen Gallery in Chelsea, and the artist was David Altmejd. He built an installation of this modernist architecture building out of plexiglass and mirrors, and he was building on top of decaying werewolf carcasses. I was interested more in the werewolf, while teaching at an elementary school for a year. During that time, he did several silverpoint drawings of outer space, making a comet, a supernova, small scale stuff."

"I want to start looking at different angles of nature; mushrooms, bright green moss," said Shingler. "I think I'm going to do a series of stalactites and stalagmites."

For more information, call 908-273-9121, or log on to [www.artcenter.org](http://www.artcenter.org).

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins may be reached at [jcummins@thelocalsource.com](mailto:jcummins@thelocalsource.com).

## 'Nutcracker' inspires veteran choreographer

By Bea Saliba  
Staff Writer

For more than 30 years at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, the "Nutcracker" ballet has made an indelible impression on the hearts of its 15-year-old resident choreographer, George Tomal.

According to Tomal, he loved every moment of his performance of the New Jersey Ballet Company's "Nutcracker," and he especially loved working with his closest friend, director Carolyn Clark, and the many dancers throughout the year. Not only did Tomal create the original choreography for the "Snow Scene" and the Kingdom of Sweets, but from 1971 to 2003, he portrayed the memorable, lovable Drisselmeyer until he became seriously ill.

"I'm still very much a part of the 'Nutcracker,' and now that I'm feeling better, I attended a rehearsal recently," Tomal said, during a recent conversation. "I also expect to be there on opening night. It was wonderful to see a beautiful production coming together so smoothly. It's so good to make so much love go into the making of the 'Nutcracker,' and we need more love in our lives."

He explained that the only reason that he's not at rehearsal every day is

George Tomal

Tomal, a veteran New Jersey Ballet's beautiful productions of "Beauty and the Beast," "Cinderella," "Coppelia" and "Hansel and Gretel." Tomal served as director of the Denver Ballet Arts Center for six years, and choreographed many Broadway shows for the Booth Theatre. He even staged a soloist and leading dancer with the performance of Beethoven's Sixth Symphony for Red Rocks Amphitheater, both in Denver, Colo.

The "Nutcracker" begins Saturday at the Paper Mill Playhouse.

Bea Saliba may be contacted by sending e-mail to [jcummins@thelocalsource.com](mailto:jcummins@thelocalsource.com).

## How about dysfunctional royals?

By Jeff Cummins  
Associate Editor

The folks at the Summit Playhouse know a hot topic when they see one, that's why they chose "The Lion in Winter" for their next production.

It focuses on a dysfunctional family something that's 99 percent accurate in the 21st century that some might say is "too vulgar."

Certainly, few people would want to be involved in a dysfunctional family, but using that topic for a play just seems to make perfect sense these days.

"Dysfunctional families are the same through history, that's why this is so interesting to watch. It's just that the prize is bigger," said Joann Scanlon, director of "The Lion in Winter."

Bigger, indeed. In "The Lion," Maureen Clarke has the challenging role of Eleanor of Aquitaine, a woman who got married and provided numerous fighting vessels for the Second Crusade — all by the time she was 20. That's a lot on someone's plate in any era.

Eleanor must've been up to it, though, she bore nine children and lived into her 80s. All without assistance from big pharma. Mike King-of-New-Providences-plays King Henry, who was married to Eleanor when she rebelled against him.

Suffice it to say there's plenty of juicy stuff there for the plot.

"One thing that's so fascinating is the time period," said Scanlon. "There's so much history, they can tell you what day they were married and that Eleanor had nine children. In 1183, that's incredible. She lived into her 80s; in that time period, that's incredible."

"What's also interesting is the way France looks now is very different from the way it looked in 1183, when the English king ruled much of the land that is currently France, because at that time it was part of England. Richard the Lionheart spoke no English, even though he was the king of England. He was only in England twice in his life, and for a period of no more than eight months. It's just very different, the center of their universe was France, and that was their language."

Scanlon lauded costume designer Kirsten Solberg and set designer Rhoda Roper for their efforts.

"This will be her second show," said Scanlon, of Solberg. "It's very exciting to see her develop costumes from that era for our actors."

Veteran playwright/actor Christopher Durang is an alumnus of the Summit Playhouse. Who knows, this play may get someone else started on the road to stardom.

The Summit Playhouse is a non-profit community theater located at 10 New England Place, Summit.

For more information, call 908-273-2192, or log on to [www.summitplayhouse.org](http://www.summitplayhouse.org).

Associate Editor Jeff Cummins may be reached at [jcummins@thelocalsource.com](mailto:jcummins@thelocalsource.com).

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Willy Wonka  
and the Chocolate Factory

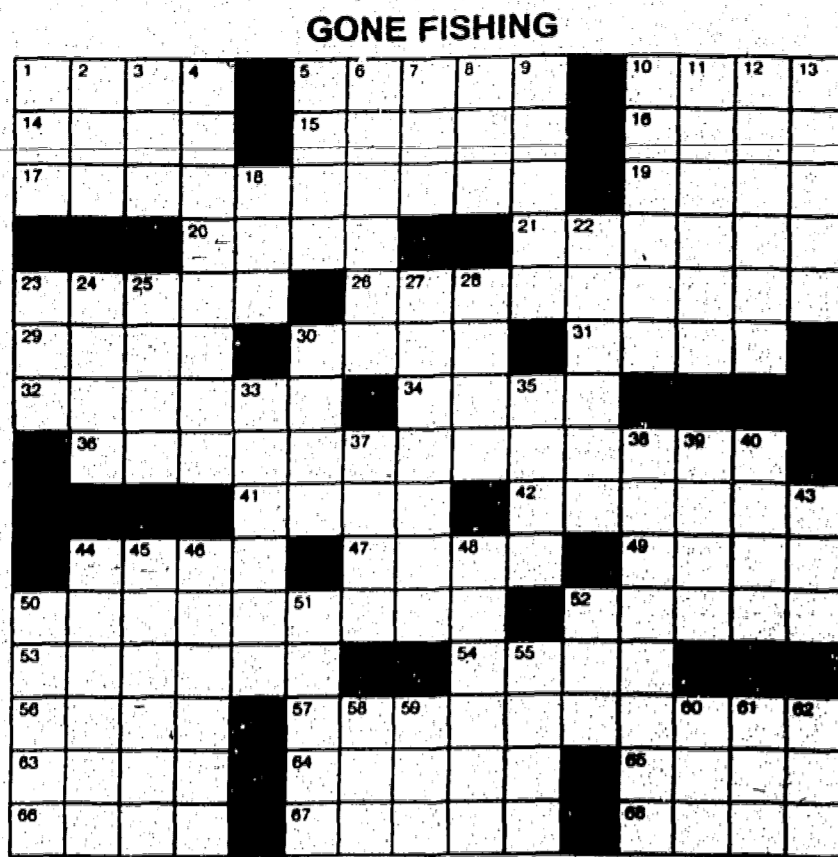
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ACROSS

- 1 PBS host Alan
- 5 Pretoria prime minister, twice
- 10 Precursor to duke or bishop
- 14 Winter wear
- 15 Mountain fortress
- 16 Sport of princes
- 17 Fortification slope
- 19 German/Polish border river
- 20 Middling
- 21 Straggler's position
- 23 Notre Dame coach
- 26 Back talk
- 29 Vissi d'arte, e.g.
- 30 Fox or turkey step
- 31 Littlest of the Little Women
- 32 Legendary Italian director/actor
- 34 Artists' inspiration
- 36 Nautical splicing tools
- 41 Controversial apple spray
- 42 Emphatic typeface
- 44 Sometimes follows A
- 47 Actor Brad
- 49 Place for memories
- 50 Auspicious
- 52 Cashew relative
- 53 Grand Tour locale
- 54 Snack between meals
- 56 Sometimes follows C
- 57 Envoy's superior
- 63 Head, in Le Havre
- 64 Hook
- 65 Yahoo
- 66 Scorch
- 67 Waste maker
- 68 Gernus Capra



COPYLEFT NEWS SERVICE By Charles Pridmore

- 4 Sim, of St. Trinian's
- 5 Suckers
- 6 Biography
- 7 Cult follower
- 8 10th anniversary gift
- 9 Scrap
- 10 Highest point
- 11 Chinichilla, for one
- 12 Hands and teeth do it
- 13 Tartar's golden group
- 18 Ms. Russell, to friends?
- 22 Even if
- 23 I've \_\_\_ ill
- 24 City near Provo
- 25 Actress Kudrow
- 27 Ruling on some legal claims
- 28 NHL's Grimson and Barnes
- 30 Beginning of the end
- 33 Get quiet
- 35 Meat turner
- 37 Valley of vines
- 38 Botswana mirage
- 39 Dash
- 40 Express praise
- 43 Every co. has one
- 44 Head warmer?
- 45 Corrigenda
- 46 Expiator
- 48 Renter
- 50 Jazz events
- 51 Below, poetically
- 52 Pub. submissions
- 55 Bone prefix
- 58 Broncos Taniwasa
- 59 Crosswalk, at times
- 60 Make a knight
- 61 UK award
- 62 Tyrannosaurus

ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B8

# What's Going On

**FLEA MARKET**  
**SUNDAY**  
 December 18th, 2005  
**EVENT:** Holiday Flea Market & Gift Show.  
**PLACE:** North Arlington High School, 200 Ridge Road, (off Route 3), North Arlington.  
**TIME:** 9-5PM Indoors & Outdoors.  
**DETAILS:** For your shopping pleasure vendors will be selling a variety of new merchandise, crafts, gift items, collectibles & garage/tag sale items!  
**ORGANIZATION:** Sponsor By: North Arlington Woman's Club. For information call 201-498-1144.

**To Place Your Classified Ad**  
**908-686-7850**  
 Search your local classifieds on the internet  
[www.local5source.com](http://www.local5source.com)

**Jeff Cummins, Editor**  
 Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc.  
 2004 All Rights Reserved  
 Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section, can mail copy to:  
 463 Valley Street, P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, NJ 07040

**Are You Having An Event? And Would You Like To Let Every One Know?**

**What's Going On** is a paid directory of events for nonprofit organizations. It is PREPAID and costs just \$20.00 (for two (2) weeks) in Union County or Essex County and just \$30.00 for both Counties. Your Event must be in one of our Offices by 4:30 P.M. on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Offices are located at 463 Valley Street, Maplewood. 266 Liberty Street, Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union.

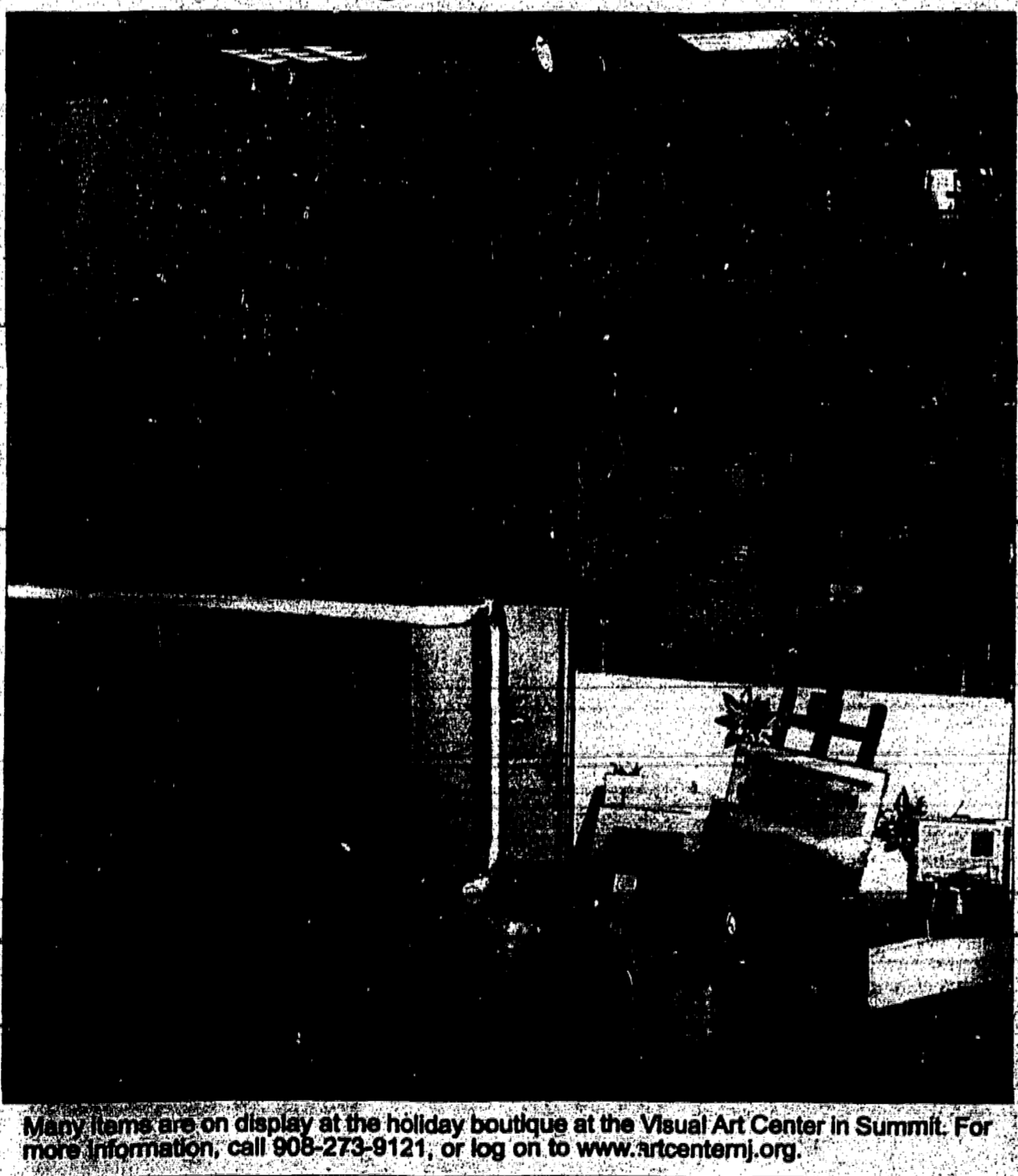
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Write your ad in spaces below and mail to:  
 WORRALL NEWSPAPERS - P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083

DAY \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 EVENT \_\_\_\_\_  
 PLACE \_\_\_\_\_  
 TIME \_\_\_\_\_  
 PRICE \_\_\_\_\_  
 ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

For More Information Call 1908-686-7850

## Looking for a gift?



Many items are on display at the holiday boutique at the Visual Art Center in Summit. For more information, call 908-273-9121; or log on to [www.artcenter.org](http://www.artcenter.org).

## HOROSCOPES

**Dec. 19 to 25**  
**ARIES,** March 21 to April 19: You have some important decisions to make about your career, ambitions or purpose in life. Trust your instincts to provide you with a push in the right direction.  
**TAURUS,** April 20 to May 20: A distant trip or a foreign entanglement is charted for this week. Break away from your routine and enjoy exploring new horizons.  
**GEMINI,** May 21 to June 21: Trust a friend or associate to support your shared goals, dreams and challenges. Ask for help while knowing that it is yours for the asking.  
**CANCER,** June 22 to July 22: Other people might not always agree with your opinions, but that is no reason to change. Stand strong behind your convictions and defend your ideas.  
**LEO,** July 23 to Aug. 22: Do not be discouraged by a setback in a diet or exercise program. Stop feeling sorry for yourself, cut your losses and

bravely start all over again.  
**VIRGO,** Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: A slow-and-steady approach works best when attempting to establish long-lasting social contacts. Take the necessary time to get to know your associates well.  
**LIBRA,** Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Get quiet and come to terms with an emotional lesson. The answers or justifications you will need to feel better are found within your heart. Look within.  
**SCORPIO,** Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Figure out the best way to use the information and ideas that you are exposed to this week. Keep an open mind and expect to change your perspective.  
**SAGITTARIUS,** Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Stop and analyze your financial position and decide on how to increase your holdings. Implement a budget that will assure your prosperity.  
**CAPRICORN,** Dec. 22 to Jan. 19: You have the ability to turn thoughts into constructive action. Calculate and formulate your very own plans for

solving the most daunting problems.  
**AQUARIUS,** Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Use this time to do something relaxing and personally fulfilling. Clear the slates and take a break from demanding schedules, duties and deadlines.  
**PISCES,** Feb. 19 to March 20: Relationships with close friends will play a key role this week. Plug into an abundance of group energy and get excited or charged up about future goals.  
 If your birthday is this week, mental discipline and meticulous planning during the coming year will lead to your success. Pay special attention to details associated with finances and do not allow important or pertinent information to slip through the cracks or to be overlooked. Uncertainty in a social setting creates hesitation. Take time to gather the facts or understanding that will set your heart free.  
 Also born this week: Alvin Lee, Harvey Firestone, Joseph Stalin, Maurice Gibb, Eddie Vedder and Kit Caron.

## REUNIONS

- The following schools are planning reunions:
  - Union High School, Class of 1960, 30-year reunion, 2006.
  - Union High School, Class of 1981, 25-year reunion, 2006.
  - Union High School, Class of 1986, 20-year reunion, 2006.
- For information on any of the above reunions, visit to Reunions Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 150, Englishtown 07726, or call 732-617-1000.
- Hillside High School Class of 1960 is planning its next reunion for 2007.  
 Forward your contact information to Linda Arotzky Lieb at [Hillside-high1960@aol.com](mailto:Hillside-high1960@aol.com).
- Rahway High School Class of 1980 is organizing its 25-year reunion. Call 732-288-2857 or send an e-mail to Ron Knox at [rahway25reunion@aol.com](mailto:rahway25reunion@aol.com) for more information.

## Editorial deadlines

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

## Join the Friends of Mountainside Library

Local artists are invited to join the Artists' Showcase to be sponsored by the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library in February. Painters, photographers, printmakers, sculptors and others in the fine arts are encouraged to participate.

Exhibit your works for one low entry fee and keep the proceeds from the sale. Suggested price range is \$25 to \$150 per piece.

Deadline to join is today. Call the library at 908-233-0115 for more information.

**Just in time for the Holidays - Extra cash!**

- Women aged 18-65
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- No allergies or sensitivities to skin care products
- Must be available 1 hour each day 12/12 to 12/16 in New Providence, NJ

Register with us online at [www.sensoryspectrum.com](http://www.sensoryspectrum.com) and then screen for this study right online! If you have questions, call us at 908-376-7050

**Spectrum Discovery Center**



**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. Fax: 908-686-7850.

## ART SHOWS

**"CONSUMED: PAINTINGS BY VALERIE LARKO"** will be on exhibit through Friday at the Arts Guild of Rahway, located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to [www.rahwayartguild.org](http://www.rahwayartguild.org).

**DIVERSITY ARTS GALLERY** will host its 18th exhibition in Clark titled "Just Pastels." The 60-piece pastel exhibition will be open to the public through Jan. 8, every Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m., and by appointment. Community groups are invited to call for group meetings. Among the exhibitors will be Nancy Ott of Berkeley Heights, Sigal Lanz and Jeanne Smith of Fanwood, Adrian Guillani of Scotch Plains and Dolores Strick of Roselle Park. Diversity Arts Gallery is located at Union County Building 4 Valley Road, Clark. For more information, call 732-574-1479, or visit the Web site at <http://www.diversityart.com>.

**"THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY"** located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway, presents "A Celebration of Reality: An Eclectic Exhibition of Realistic Visual Artwork" from Jan. 11 to Feb. 10, with an opening reception on Jan. 15 from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Thomas Andersen, Aileen Bagnoli, Alan Maszke, Jennifer Mason, Robert Schmitt, Scott Schatz, Rebecca Sledge, Brian C. Cyr and Randall J. Stotzka. The exhibition will be curated by Samantha New-Dotman. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to <http://www.rahwayartguild.org>.

**LANDSCAPE** will be the focus of "Landscape: Recent Landscape Imagery" at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., Rahway, from Feb. 19 to March 17 with an opening reception on Feb. 19 from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Featured artists include Patricia Brenfano, Peter Giacchino, Laura Lou Levy and Roger Tucker. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to <http://www.rahwayartguild.org>.

**LOCAL ARTISTS** are invited to join the artists' showcase to be sponsored by the Friends of the Mountainside Public Library in February. Painters, photographers, printmakers, sculptors and others in the fine arts are encouraged to participate.

**PLANS** for the December meeting will be announced and available at Customer Service. The December book is "Bread Alone" by Judith Ryan Hendricks. New members are welcome. For more information, call 973-376-8581.

**DOROTHY ALLISON**, author of "Between Out of Carolina," will be the first author of the New Year in the Books By and About Women series. Her book is the story of a young girl growing up in the South during the Depression. Allison will be at the Visual Art Center in Summit, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. For more information, call 908-233-3333.

**STEPHANIE LEBERSON** will sign copies of her book "She's Got Issues" on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. at the Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m. For more information, call 908-233-3333.

**GOTHAM WRITERS WORKSHOP** will present author and playwright David Shields' "The Art of the Story" on Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 10 at 8 p.m. For more information, call 908-233-3333.

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS ARTIST NANCY** will be featured at a permanent exhibit at Berkeley Heights Public Library, 290 Plainfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 908-464-8333. O'R's work is also featured at the New Providence Public Library, 377 Elmwood Ave., New Providence, through December. For information, call 908-685-0311.

# Stepping Out

The museum is open to the public Wednesdays through Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sundays, from noon to 4 p.m. April through December. For more information about upcoming Liberty Hall events or for reservations, call 908-527-0400.

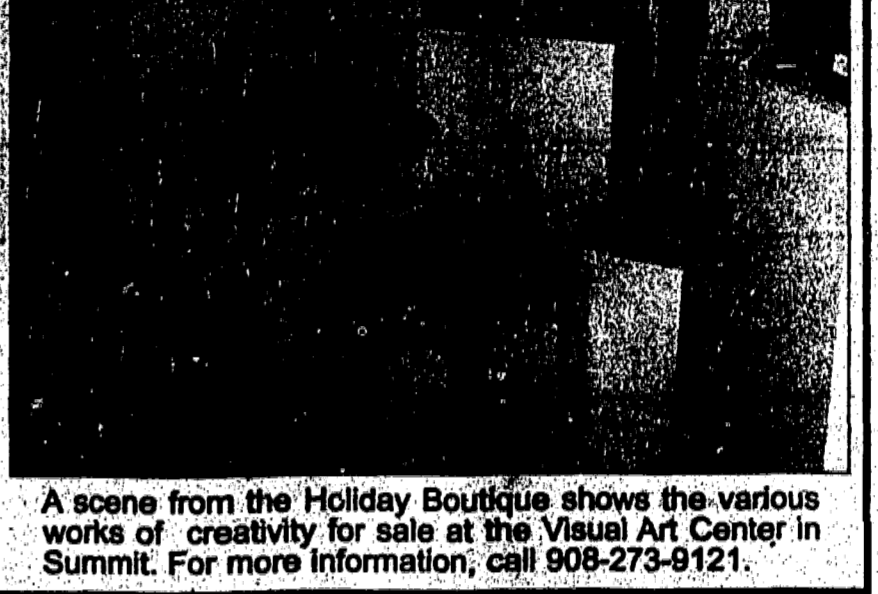
## BOOKS

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

**"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.

## CONCERTS

**CROSSROADS IN GARWOOD** will feature the following:  
 Every Monday, Open Mic Night - Every Tuesday, Jazz Jam.  
 Every Wednesday, Karaoke Night.  
 The Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave., Garwood. For information, call Lee at 908-232-6688, or visit the Web site, [www.crossroads.com](http://www.crossroads.com).



A scene from the Holiday Boutique shows the various works of creativity for sale at the Visual Art Center in Summit. For more information, call 908-273-9121.

**WALTER CHORZEWSKI** will sign copies of his book, "New Jersey: A 25-Year Retrospective," at The Town Book Store, 245 East Broad St., Westfield, on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 908-233-3333 for more information, or log on to <http://www.townbookstore.com>.

**JANNY ANNE ADLERMAN** will sign copies of her book "How Much Wood Can a Woodchuck Chuck?" at The Town Book Store, 245 East Broad St., Westfield, on Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m. Call 908-233-3333 for more information, or log on to <http://www.townbookstore.com>.

## CLASSES

**THE DECRET SCHOOL OF ART** is located at 1000 Central Ave. and is based on a 100-acre campus in the residential area of Plainfield. The school offers Art and Design classes in line art, graphic design/computer graphics and photography. For information, call 908-717-7171, fax: 908-767-2020, or visit the Web site at [www.decret.com](http://www.decret.com).

**LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM** on North Ave. in Union has scheduled its popular Learn 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. Call 908-527-0400 for more information.

**LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM**, 1003 Morris Ave., Union, chronicles more than 200 years of New Jersey and U.S. history.

## JAZZ

**JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE!** "Wednesday's Jazz Cocktails" will feature the house band, Tempo, playing at Dunley's Place on Monday, formerly known as The Cove, 112 Chestnut St., Roselle. Saturday Jazz Showcase features top acts from the New York Metropolitan area.

## KIDS

**YOUTH SYMPHONY** coach Remoh Moseley, on April 23 at 2 p.m.

The concert series continues at the Suburban Community Music Center, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For the 18th year, the Suburban Community Music Center, in cooperation with the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, will host the Meet the Orchestra series for children ages 3 to 8. For more information, call 908-790-0700.

## DANCE

**Y-SQUARES**, a local square dance club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at Frank K. Heintz School, Raritan Road, Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. For information, call 908-298-1851, 732-381-2535 or 908-241-8492.

**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 973-487-8278 for information and a flyer listing the season schedule.

**DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY IN ELIZABETH.** Pick your choice of social dancing, \$9 per person, or Latin dancing, \$10 per person, at the Bayway Polish Club, 625 Pulaski St. For information, call 908-355-3131.

## HOBBIES

**THE MODEL RAILROAD CLUB INC.** meets at 295 Jefferson Ave., Union, behind Home Depot on Route 22 East. The club is open to the public Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m. For information, call 908-984-8724, or 908-984-8808, and inquire by e-mail to [TMRCinc@aol.com](mailto:TMRCinc@aol.com) or visit the Web site at [www.tmrcl.com](http://www.tmrcl.com).

**THE HARVEST GUILTERS OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY** will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations quilt shop, Parsippany, Scotch Plains.

**KNITTING GROUP** meets every Monday from 10 a.m. to noon. Knitters are encouraged to bring a favorite project to the Springfield Barnes & Noble. For more information, call 973-376-8581.

**HICKORY TREE CHORUS**, an award-winning women's chorus singing four-part a cappella harmony in barbershop style, meets every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center, 570 Central Ave., New Providence. Open to residents of both Essex and Union Counties. The chorus is open to all women and men ages 16 and up who are urged to visit the Web site, [hickorytreecorus.org](http://hickorytreecorus.org), and a message by e-mail to [info@hickorytreecorus.org](mailto:info@hickorytreecorus.org), or call 973-999-0515.

**SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER** will host the following concerts:  
 • Meet the Strings and New Jersey Youth Symphony string duo; Barbara Barstow, Jan. 22 at 7:15 p.m.  
 • Meet the Woodwinds with New Jersey Youth Symphony woodwind duo; Cheryl Ann Meehan, Jan. 29 at 7:15 p.m.  
 • Meet the Brass with New Jersey

## SINGLES

**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 908-888-5285 or 908-888-4751.

**SOCIAL SINGLES DANCING**, for 45-year-olds and older, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Yankee Buffet Grand Ballroom, 280 Morris Ave., Union. Admission is \$7. For information, call 908-888-5285.

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WINTER SCENES — 'Passaic River Winter,' above, and 'Branch,' below, two photographs by Nancy Ori, are currently hanging in the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. For information, call 908-233-3720.

# Artwork is on display at Swain

## Nineteen artists from the Garden State to showcase their works

Plainfield's Swain Galleries will showcase small scale art by 23 noteworthy metropolitan area gallery artists in its annual "Christmas Miniatures" multimedia exhibit, through Dec. 31. Nineteen artists represent New Jersey localities with two from Manhattan, one from New York State and another from Florida, formerly New Jersey. "Miniatures" will vary from landscapes and seascapes to still lifes, florals, figures, wildlife, and more in media that include oils, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, gouaches, pen-and-ink and calligraphy. Swain Galleries, located in a restored house, has been a family owned art business and gift emporium since 1968. The gallery is located in the historic Crescent District at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For details, call 908-756-1707.

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WINTER SCENES — 'Passaic River Winter,' above, and 'Branch,' below, two photographs by Nancy Ori, are currently hanging in the Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. For information, call 908-233-3720.

**Wishing you & your family a very Happy Holiday Season!**

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20 words \$8.00 or \$12.00 combo items for sale under \$200.00 One item per ad price must appear.  
**AUTOS FOR SALE**  
20 words - 10 weeks \$38.00 or \$58.00 combo no copy changes

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The 'new' mortgages: look before you sign

Homebuyers may not realize that monthly payments on some types of specialty-mortgages can increase by as much as 50 percent or more when the introductory period ends. That's one of the messages that the National Association of Realtors and the Center for Responsible Lending are trying to drive home in "Shopping for a Mortgage? Do Your Homework First," a new brochure to inform homebuyers about the risks and advantages of specialty mortgage products.

The publication is part of a new NAR consumer education campaign addressing specialty loans and abusive lending practices. The brochure helps consumers understand conventional loans such as fixed rate and adjustable rate mortgages, and more exotic loan programs, including interest-only mortgages, 40-year fixed-rate mortgages, negative amortization mortgages, and option payment adjustable-rate mortgages.

"The growth of the specialty mortgage market has helped many borrowers finance the American dream of

homeownership, but these mortgages come with risks," said NAR President Al Mansell of Salt Lake City. "Consumers are susceptible to loans with monthly payments that can spike dramatically, or that actually increase the amount they owe on their home. Homebuyers should consult with a Realtor to learn about different financing options and their implications over time."

"We're warning homebuyers to approach these new mortgages carefully," said Mike Calhoun, general counsel of the Center for Responsible Lending. "They should be cautious about accepting a mortgage they can't afford. These mortgages can be devastating for families who are stretching their budget to buy a home."

David Lereah, NAR's chief economist, said, "Consumers particularly need to understand the risks inherent in specialty mortgages when financing a home purchase. The National Association of Realtors is committed to giving our Realtor members the tools and knowledge essential for their customers' success."

Because homebuyers turn first to Realtors for advice on the real estate transaction, NAR is making the brochure available online to all its

1 million-plus members at www.realtor.org. Buyers can ask their Realtors for a copy or can access the brochure on NAR's consumer Web site at www.realtor.com. The brochure also is available through the Center for Responsible Lending at www.responsiblelending.org.

The state of the Nation's Housing 2005, issued by the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, cites information from Loan Performance indicating that one in four home loans in 2004 was financed with an interest-only mortgage. Three years ago, these mortgages comprised only a few percentage points of the total mortgage market.

In testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Financial Services on July 20, Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan expressed concern about the "increase in the prevalence of interest-only loans and the introduction of more exotic forms of adjustable rate mortgages." He suggested that some homebuyers may be using these loans to buy homes that they might not otherwise afford, and warned that lenders should "fully appreciate the risk that some house-

holds may have trouble meeting monthly payments as interest rates and the macroeconomic climate change." In May, NAR's board of directors approved launching a new consumer education campaign through its membership to help consumers avoid the pitfalls of predatory lending practices that often threaten potential homebuyers with credit problems and, possibly, the loss of their home.

The campaign aims to develop standards that balance the need to keep credit available for borrowers with less than perfect credit while avoiding abusive lending practices that put homebuyers at unnecessary risk.

The National Association of Realtors is America's largest trade association, representing more than 1 million members involved in all aspects of the residential and commercial real estate industries.

The Center for Responsible Lending is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to protecting homeownership and family wealth by working to eliminate abusive financial practices. CRL is affiliated with Self-Help, one of the nation's largest community development financial institutions.

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Infiniti's M: pleasure and power

By Mark Maynard  
 Copying News Service  
 Infiniti has turned a class loser into a class achiever with the redesign of its 2006 M35 and M45 sport sedans.

Based on an expanded and enhanced foundation of the G35 sedan, the M may be the best engineering example of the human-machine interface—or better driving through electronics.

Sold in five rear-wheel models—two V-6 models, with an option for all-wheel drive, and two V-8s—this shapely sedan is a standout for drivability and user empowerment.

Prices start at \$40,510 for the M35 with 280-horsepower, 3.5 liter V-6 and five-speed automatic with manual shift. All-wheel drive adds \$2,300. A Sport model is \$43,310.

The M45, with a 335-hp, 4.5 liter V-8, starts at \$47,360. The Sport model is \$50,860.

And if \$50,000 seems ridiculous money for a midsize sedan that isn't a BMW, Infiniti is playing to win with this redesign.

Whatever the M needed to succeed it appears to have been given—top dollar for top ingredients.

The M45 Sport has all the necessary ingredients of a value purchase: pleasure, presence and power.

It's not that the last-generation car was bad, but the Black Beauty styling from the "The Hot Chick" film didn't catch on, particularly when compared with the sleek lines of the Lexus GS, BMW 3-Series or Mercedes-Benz E-Class.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then Infiniti might be guilty of copying too much styling from its G35 sedan, which has been the company sales savior since it debuted three years ago.

While the shape is similar to the G35, two-thirds of the M is unique, including the front, rear and interior.

The car is 6 inches longer, 1.12 inches wider and taller and rides on a 2-inch-longer wheelbase.

The quality of assembly is more Lexus-like than the last model, and the performance more like a BMW.

The interior is artfully and intuitively arranged.

Rosewood trim is genuine and is meant to have the appearance of fine furniture wood. Sport models use aluminum trim—not plastic that looks like aluminum. Every switch and button is lighted for nighttime access and there's a classy lighted Infiniti logo at the door sill.

The sound system was raised to a new level, says product planner Skip MacLean. The Bose Studio Surround Sound system, a \$2,000 option, uses 14 speakers and digital 5.1 channel decoding to bring the music noticeably closer to a live experience, even for an untrained ear, he says.

"The M has a rigid structure, but we found resonances in various areas and we went to the body guys and said, 'You have to fix this.' We'd never done anything like that before," MacLean says.

The cabin is roomy, with 39.6 inches of head room up front, even with the standard sunroof. Back seat legroom is a little more than 37 inches, and there's still about 15 cubic feet of trunk space, with room for a full-size spare tire and 18-inch wheel stowed below the trunk mat.

Unobstructed sightlines, seats that have a high hip point to help visibility and getting in and out and a trim turning circle are just more examples of what makes the M such an agreeable car. All before the driver presses the start button.

It is quiet inside, but not so sound-isolated from the good sounds of the engine and exhaust. Both engines have a distinctive Nissan/Infiniti tone, a good one.

The V-6 model uses a 280-horsepower, 3.5-liter V-6 and returns a decent 18 mpg around town and 25 on the highway on 91 octane. The all-wheel drive model—only with the V-6—is rated 17/24. And even the M35 AWD gives sharp performance and a full measure of features.

The faces of the 4.5-liter V-8 is woefully gratuitous with 335 horsepower and fuel economy of 17/23. And that is particularly notable considering the M45 Sport's hefty 3,995-pound curb weight.

The only transmission is a five-speed automatic with manual shift

mode. Unlike some auto shifters, this one gives a bip of the throttle on manual downshifts.

The higher the speed, the bigger the bip. It's a true instigator to go out and play. All that's lacking are steering wheel shift buttons.

Despite a command performance of electronic controls, there is a direct feel to every input.

Some cars in this class have too many electronic brains asking too many questions of the driver's input. Not in the M.

Step on the accelerator and the engine responds. Nudge the shifter for a manual downshift and there's action. Steering and brake inputs are refined and sensitive. High-speed stability and cornering get a boost from rear active steer that electronically adjusts the rear toe angle up to 1 degree for sharper turn-in.

Even the electronic controls for audio, AC and navigation are streamlined. A central control can be used to page through a display screen to make of engine sounds, audio or temperature or go deeper to set a vast range of personal preferences.

And there are controls for most cabin functions on the center console. It doesn't take long to figure out the keyboard of buttons, but if that's a problem, there are redundant controls on the steering wheel.

And when that logic fails, there's a much evolved and improved voice-activated system that can be used for temperature settings, audio, navigation, Bluetooth phone dialing and other screen info, such as to show tire pressures, etc.

The intelligent key with push-button ignition is the simplest I've used. With the key fob in purse or pocket, or plugged into the dashboard port, just hit the button once and the system takes over the engine cranking.

That process seems obvious, but not all the systems work as fluidly as this one.

And the M has no shortage of advanced features.

Infiniti has finally filled a very important gap in its lineup, G35 owners, your next car is waiting. Next up, a renewed Q45 flagship sedan.

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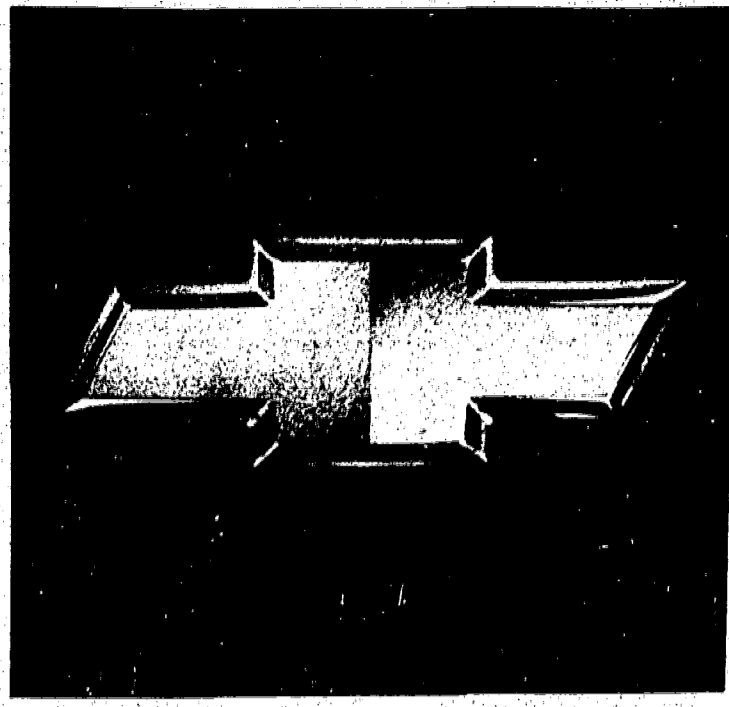
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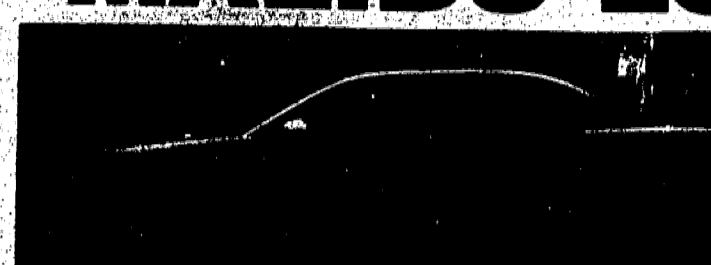
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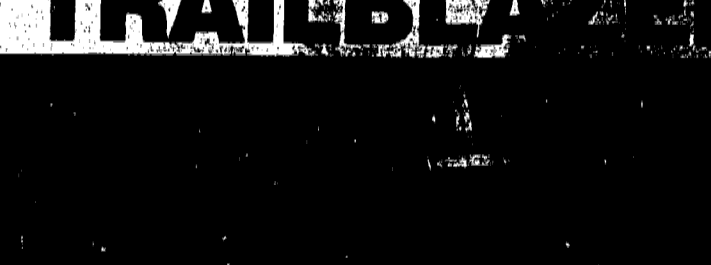
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'84 Ford Crown Victoria .....\$3985 Stk #18113A, VIN #RX184130, 4DR, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, tilt, cruise, dual air bags, alloys, 88,845 mi.	'00 Chevy S-10 Blazer .....\$8585 Stk #18202A, VIN #Y2396165, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, tilt, cruise, luggage rack, dual air bags, alloys, 62,039 mi.	'01 Pontiac Montana EX .....\$9985 Stk #18112A, VIN #5YF206727, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w, cd, cruise, 17,267 mi.	'02 Toyota Corolla CE .....\$12,485 Stk #18118A, VIN #5YF206727, 4DR, auto, 4 cyl, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, cd, tilt, dual air bags, 65,883 mi.
'84 Buick Park Avenue Ultra .....\$4785 Stk #18168A, VIN #9A822776, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/bx/mirrors/seat, cass, sunroof, leather, alloys, 95,873 mi.	'88 Toyota Camry LE .....\$8985 Stk #18175A, VIN #W02194317, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/mirrors/bx/mirrors, cd, a/s tires, 70,502 mi.	'00 Buick Century Custom .....\$10,885 Stk #18119A, VIN #5YF206727, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w, leather, cd, change, luggage, 35,097 mi.	'05 Ford Focus Z/A .....\$12,685 Stk #18083A, VIN #5W14374, 4 DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/mirrors/bx/mirrors, cd, 24,816 mi.
'88 Saturn SL2 .....\$5885 Stk #12184, VIN #WZ249648, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, sun roof, dual air bags, alloys, 61,273 mi.	'88 Chevy Tahoe LT 4X4 .....\$9385 Stk #18213A, VIN #WJ388282, 4DR, 8 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, cd, tilt, cruise, leather, alum wheels, 87,288 mi.	'04 Ford Focus SE .....\$11,885 Stk #18120A, VIN #5YF206727, 4DR, 4 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/b/w/l, tilt, cruise, dual air bags, 65,883 mi.	'05 Chevy Malibu LS .....\$12,985 Stk #18084A, VIN #5YF18076, 4 DR, 6 cyl, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/bx/mirrors, cd, alloy, alloys, a/s tires, 28,103 mi.

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# HOLIDAY GUIDE



# High-tech gifts are more popular than ever today

Gift giving has turned high-tech — the days of a tie for Ted and slippers for Aunt Susie are being replaced with an array of gear and gadgets. Whether buying for a 6-year-old, 26-year-old or 66-year-old, electronics are the name of the game this year. Once the domain of the tech-savvy, high-tech gifts are going mainstream.

According to a recent Digital Life in America survey from Ziff Davis Media, there has been an overall increase in consumer electronics interest, with 16 percent of Americans planning to buy a digital camera and 9 percent planning to buy an MP3 player before the end of 2005. That equates to millions of electronic devices.

Advances in technology have made items such as digital cameras, video game consoles, MP3 players and digital video recorders available in a wide range of prices to fit almost any budget. Since almost everyone has embraced this new age of technology, it is easy to make useful and fun high-tech electronics the perfect gift.

Digital cameras are easy to use and perfect for almost any age. Younger children still like video game consoles and players, with wireless controllers becoming the rage in the newest game consoles. In addition, preteens, teens and many adults desire MP3 players.

How to power these battery hungry high-tech devices is a question on many people's minds. Battery manufacturers like Energizer

have been focused on this challenge for years and have answered the call with lithium AA and AAA batteries. Used widely by professional photographers, the mainstream is now discovering them as well. Energizer e2 Lithium batteries last up to seven times longer than the leading ordinary alkaline batteries in digital cameras.

### Gratifying Gift-Giving Checklist

- Do your homework. Research high-tech gifts online; then visit local retailers to compare quality, value, function and price.
- Double-check your family's and friends' wish lists. When purchasing a high-tech gadget such as a digital camera, compact disc player or digital video recorder, make certain that is the item the person truly wants. It can be difficult to exchange or return electronics.
- Set your budget. Then, purchase the items that meet your expectations and your budget.
- Choose batteries carefully. Pick batteries that can keep up with the higher power



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demands of these devices, such as Energizer e2 Lithium batteries.

batteries in case someone forgets to buy them or needs to replace them in an electronic device they already own, such as a camera.

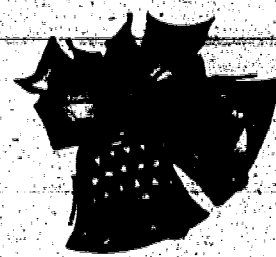
- Keep extras on hand. Stock up on extra

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# The right picture can make an event more memorable

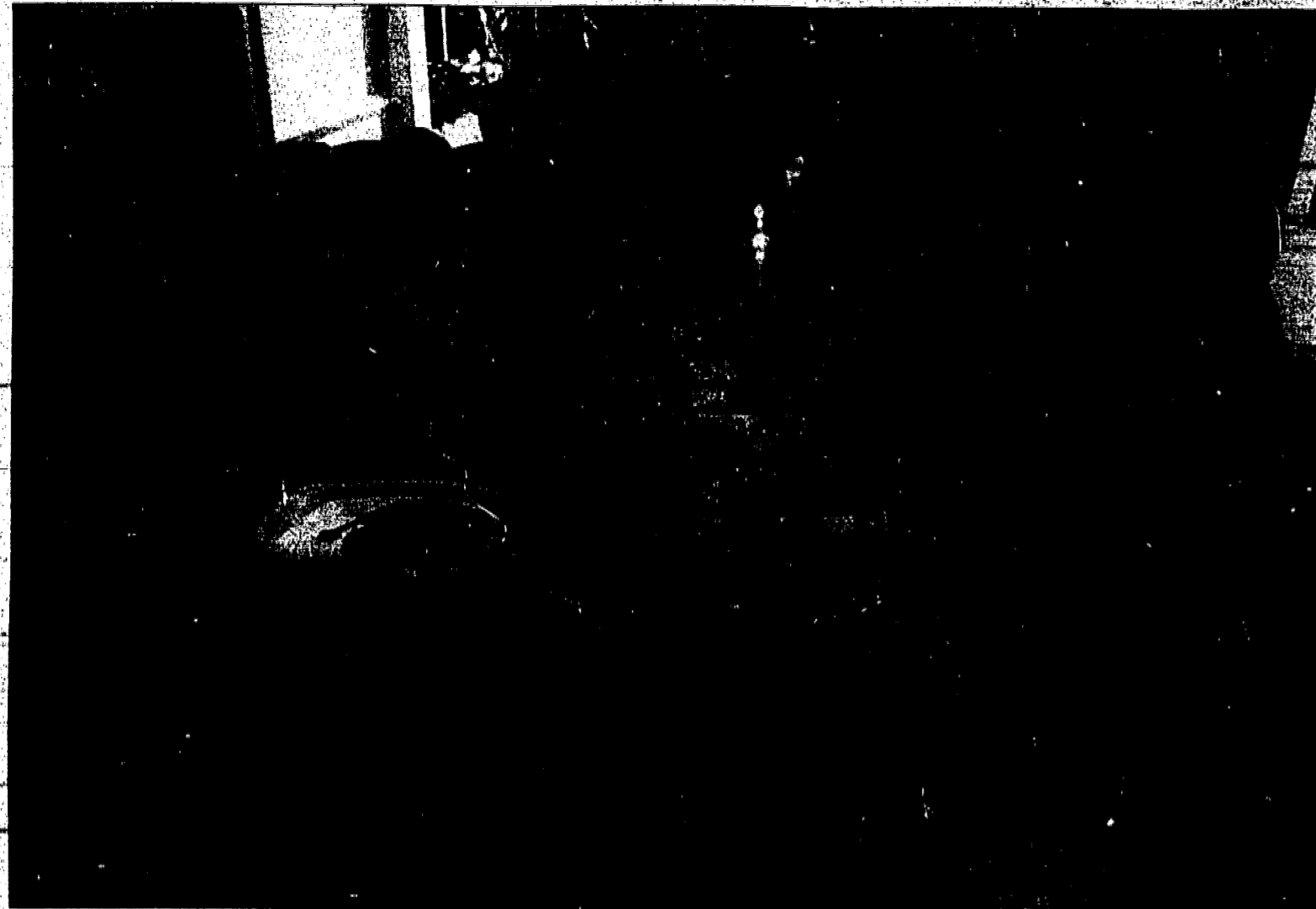
More than the elaborate table or painstakingly prepared food, it's the precious moments of love, laughter and shared life experience that make a seasonal gathering memorable. For many holiday hosts, the greatest compliment of all is a cherished memory of the event.

"Capturing those moments is easier than you think," says professional photographer Nick Kelsh. "All it takes is a camera, a little planning and a few basic tips."

Just before you're ready to serve, ask everyone to take a seat at the table. Because looking up toward the camera is a more flattering angle and ensures you'll capture everyone's face, take the picture from a standing position or use a short stool. Make sure every wine glass is filled and ask everyone to raise their glass — holding them below eye level, so no expressions are obscured. Take more than one photo to increase your chances of getting a "keeper." This may be the perfect moment to propose a toast: nothing too formal, just a few brief but sincere words of welcome.

Often the most natural shots are candid photos, when your subjects aren't posing for the camera, but are simply caught in the act of enjoying themselves. And don't wait for a big smile to snap your picture — a serious expression or a dreamy gaze makes for compelling, and revealing, images.

A picture says a thousand words, the saying goes, and simple props can tell a whole story. A raised glass full of wine conveys one message, an empty one quite another.



Looking up toward the camera is a more flattering angle and ensures you'll capture everyone's face.

See NATURAL, Page 5

# Natural photographs help to bring emotions out

(Continued from Page 4)  
Perhaps the most important tip for taking good portraits is to get close to your subject. "Really close," adds Kelsh. "Too much background can be a distraction and rob your photo of intimacy."

Even when you're photographing two or more people, arrange the image so that their faces fill the frame. The immediacy of the close-up can be the difference between a forgettable snapshot and a memorable moment.

**Capturing the Moment**  
Everyone loves photos, and everyone knows how hard it is to take good ones, especially during the holidays. How can you improve yours? By following these easy tips from professional photographer Nick Kelsh.

- Get close to your subject, and then get closer. Good close-ups have emotional impact — fill the entire frame with your subject.

- Keep pushing the button. Digital photography allows you to shoot more pictures with little added expense. Take dozens, pick a few good ones and delete the rest.

- Photograph things you've never photographed before, like a baby crying or dad napping. People don't always have to be smiling and looking into the camera.

- Turn off your flash and use natural, existing light to create dramatic photos.

- Read your camera's instruction book. Being familiar with all of your camera's features will ensure you're ready for the unexpected.

- Snap shots before you gather everyone together. Decide if you need to

move furniture or stand on a chair or ladder to get a better angle. Everyone looks better — and five-pounds lighter — when they're looking up.

- Shoot a test photo of the scene before everyone's in it so you'll know that your camera is ready to go.

- Most importantly, have fun — it will show in your photographs.

**Live, Love, Laugh**  
Show Lindemans how you live, love and laugh this season, and your special photo could be featured in a full-page ad on the pages of Us Weekly magazine.

It's easy: Use the tips in the accompanying article to capture friends and family as they celebrate, and then go to [www.lindemans.com](http://www.lindemans.com) for entry details and contest rules.

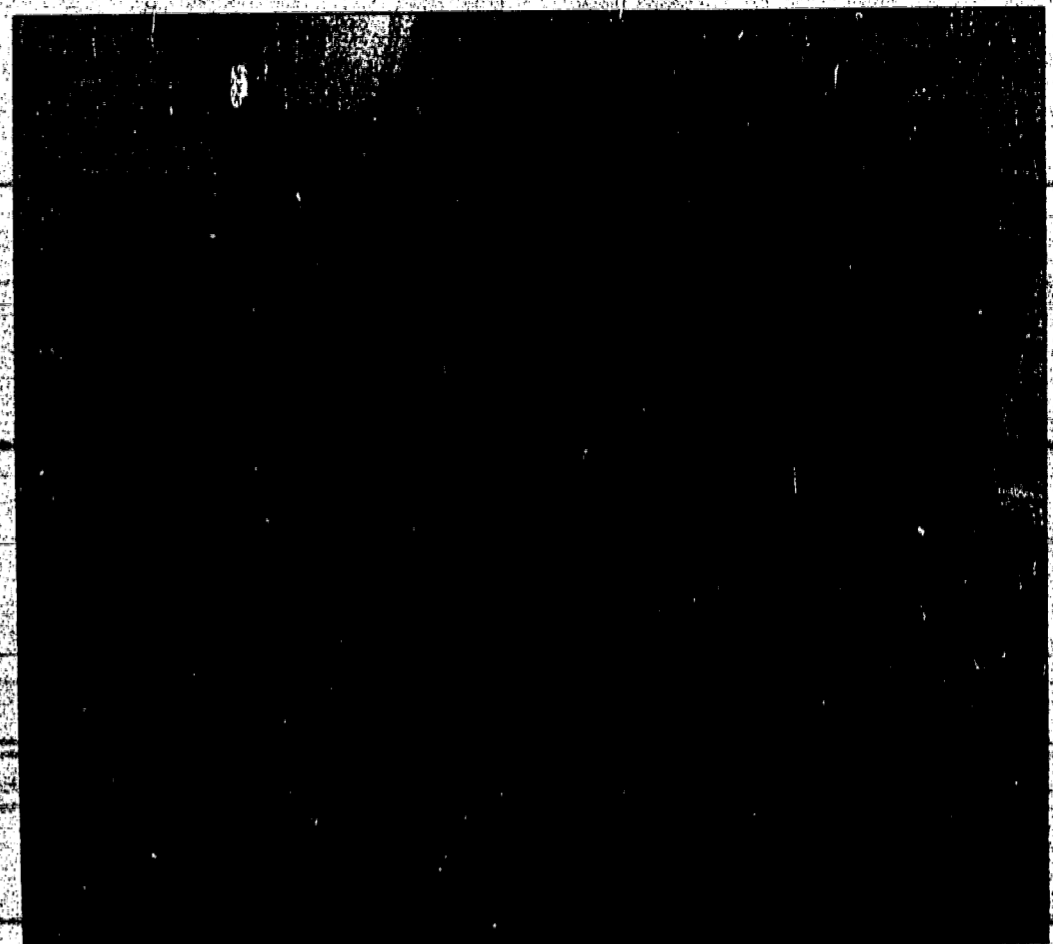
**Breaking Tradition**  
Here's a little-known wine fact: There is no "perfect" wine for the holiday meal. A single wine simply can't complement turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, candied yams and whatever cranberry salad your cousin brought, all at the same time.

That doesn't mean you have to throw out your corkcreeper. Instead, just ignore traditional wine matching rules and offer a selection of favorites at the table for your guests to choose from.

Many people do not realize that the exact same wine can taste different to different people," said Matt Lane, director of wine education for Lindemans Wines.

"So don't worry about any wine 'rules'.

The most important thing is to drink wines you genuinely like." Try a Shiraz, with its dark licorice and chocolate overtones, and a rich, cherry-berry Cabernet Sauvignon. For whites, a crisp Sauvignon Blanc and a fuller, creamier Chardonnay make nice options.



Often the most natural shots are candid photos, when your subjects aren't posing for the camera. Good close-ups have emotional impact — fill the entire frame with your subject.

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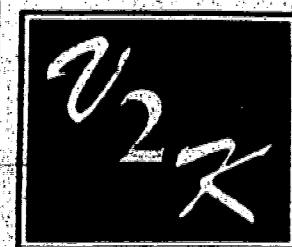
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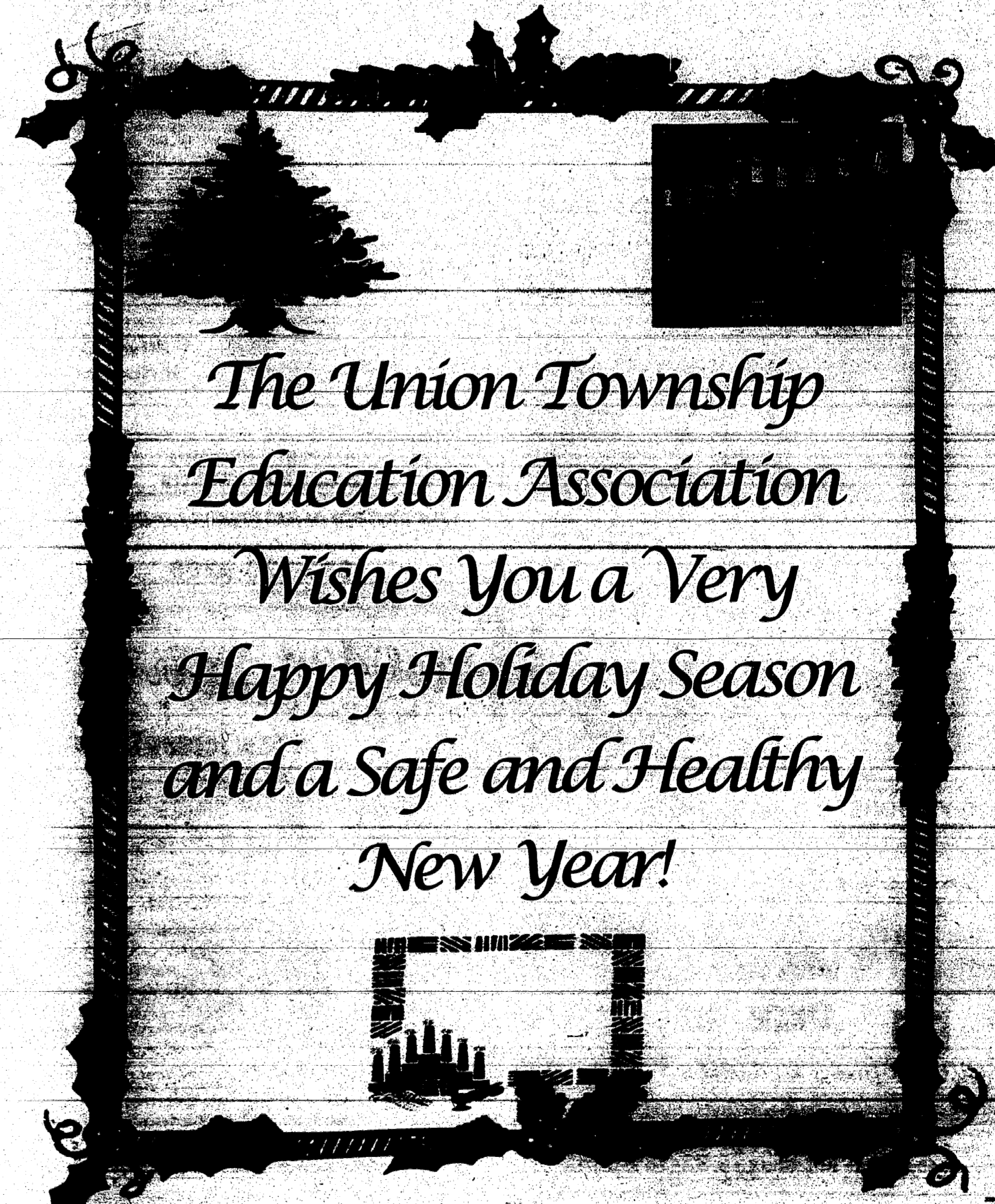


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# Clothing for the holidays can be simple, yet unique

"How can I look great this holiday season on my after-school job money?" That's the question millions of baby-sitting, burger-flipping, dressing room-attending teens ask themselves as the holidays roll around. They're finding that the answer is as cool as the first snowflake. With more than 5,000 one-of-a-kind items arriving at Savers locations daily, finding serious style for second-

hand prices is simple. Use these tips to turn frugal finds into fashion-forward treasures:

- **Go with the Flow:** Flowing skirts, Bohemian style. This season's hottest trend, "BOHO," gives the gypsy look of the 60s a fresh, modern twist. Make it your own by adding a pre-made ruffle — found at any craft store — to any skirt for that peasant look, or grab a long dress and hem it to shirt

length for a tunic blouse that's uniquely you. Look for bright colors and exotic prints. Accessorize with coral, turquoise or wood beads.

- **Flashback:** In fashion, what's old is always new again, and there is no better place than thrift stores to find vintage clothing. Create a timeline mixer by combining a '70s-style floral shirt, hot for all seasons, a chunky '20s- or '30s-era heel and an embroidered bag from the '60s and you'll surely make a splash this holiday season.

- **Bejeweled and Bedazzled:** Necks, wrists and ears aren't the only place you'll find jewels this season. Integrating jewelry directly into clothing is the latest way to bring a little sparkle to your day. Thrift stores are the ulti-

mate treasure chest when it comes to vintage, classic pieces. Use oversized earrings as buttons to glam up a favorite leather jacket or pearl necklaces as straps to update last year's winter formal dress.

- **Grandma Gets Her Groove Back:** Who knew crochet would make a comeback? Grandma did. Dig out her crochet needles and yarn — or raffia or string — and create old-school trim to add to the bottom of capri pants. Or make a woven belt to keep those pants up. Better yet, a pair of jeans, cords or cotton pants easily becomes stylish instead of high-waters with the snip of scissors and a lift of the hem. Add crochet trim and you're ready for the runway — or, at the very least, the school day.



In fashion, what's old is always new again, and there is no better place than thrift stores to find vintage clothing. Create a timeline mixer by combining a '70s-style floral shirt, hot for all seasons, a chunky '20s- or '30s-era heel and an embroidered bag from the '60s and you'll surely make a splash this holiday season.



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# Personal electronic devices are on everyone's gift list

Dasher, Dancer and the gang will have to exert themselves this holiday season. Santa hasn't gained weight — but the sleigh has, as personal electronic devices claim a spot alongside all the traditional toys.

The Consumer Electronics Association found that portable computer products such as MP3 players, portable DVD players and personal planners can be found in roughly 15 percent of homes, and that approximately 4 million households plan to purchase a portable media device within the next year.

It seems people can't board a bus, take a walk or even do their homework without an MP3 player dangling around their necks. And what parent hasn't given thanks for the portable DVD player that keeps the kids entertained in the back seat during family trips?

This holiday's hottest gift for technology lovers is the PocketDISH from DISH Network. It's a single device that replaces your MP3 player, photo storage equipment and even portable DVD player. By connecting the PocketDISH to a DISH Network digital video recorder, users can load and watch hours of their favorite television or movies. With the unit, users can also create portable music libraries, store thousands of photos and play games, eliminating the need for multiple devices. Imagine being able to take your favorite sit-coms, reality shows or last night's game with you anywhere and watch them anytime.

PocketDISH comes in three models with a 2-inch, 4-inch or 7-inch screen. One of the

most advanced portable media devices on the market, PocketDISH uses USB 2.0 technology for ultra-fast transfer speeds from select DISH Network DVRs. A full-length movie can be sent to the hard drive in less than 10 minutes. Also compatible with other devices such as VCRs, camcorders, DVRs or PCs, the 4-inch and 7-inch PocketDISH units can record video from other sources.

The PocketDISH with the 7-inch wide-screen LCD display is equipped with a 40-gigabyte hard drive that can store as much as 40 hours of DISH Network programming and can even record video from other sources. It can also store as much as 20,000 songs or 400,000 photos. The long-life, rechargeable lithium-ion battery provides approximately four hours of video or 12 hours of music.

With a 4-inch LCD screen, the second PocketDISH model offers a 30-gigabyte hard drive for storage of up to 30 hours of DISH Network programming or can record video from another source. In addition to holding up to 15,000 MP3, WMA and WAV music files, the AV500E can store up to 300,000 photos.

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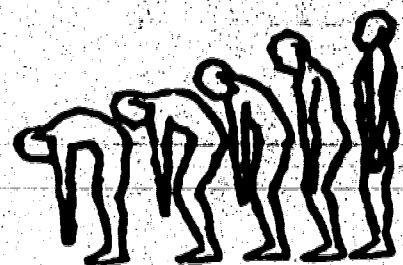
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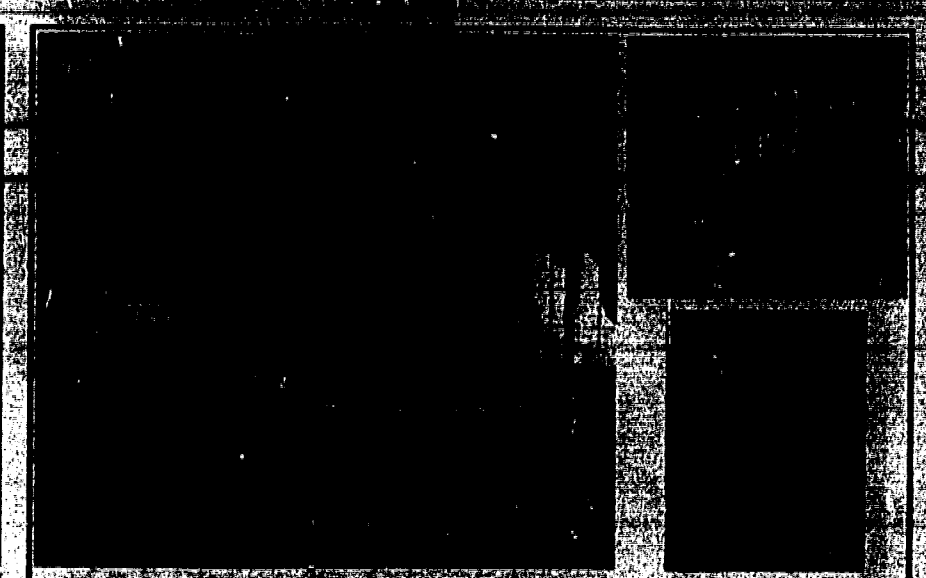
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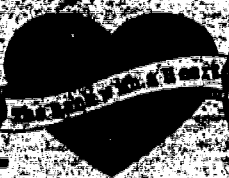
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