Massage parlors closed

Prostitution suspected

By Paul Greulich Staff Writer

Acting on new ordinances requiring manage parlors to obtain operating prints Springfield officials closed and sussessed parlors on Dec. 8 for failing to comply with these new regulations.

The establishments closed were Sun Master Spa at 245 Morris Ave., Wellness Center at 226 Morris Ave., a Four Seasons parlor at 656 Morris Ave. and another Four Seasons at 11 Dundar Road. Sun Master Spa is the only of the four seeking to remain open, while the others are closed permanently. The remaining parlors in town began hurrying to comply, but, even so, a fifth such establishment was closed on Dec 13.

Some of these massage parlors are suspected of being fronts for prostitution and other illicit activities. The new law also requires massage operators to provide more thorough identification and proof of training.

At the Township Committee meeting on Dec. 13, committee members discussed the issue with the citizenry present. They indicated that some 67 violations were discovered since the new regulations took effect.

Dustin Blanchard, a legitimate massage therapist with a business located on Morris Avenue, complained to board members that the permit fees required would be damaging to ins

A Straight Home against a so are no a new or unusual content action for a municipality up take and the fees put into effect in Springfield were recommended by the Union County Protections of the

Earlier this year, the prosecutor's office sent a letter to all towns in the county suggesting massage pariors be regulated and offering examples of other towns' similar policies as possible gridelines to follow in establishing their own laws.

Staff Writer Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117, or echoleadernj@yahoo.com.



Dr. L. Richard Eckle, right, chats with longtime patients Bob and June O'Dell at a recent function at the Buona Gente restaurant in Springfield.

Retiring doctor hosts luncheon

By Trucy A. Politowicz Managing Editor

Dr. L. Richard Eckle, an optometrist in Springfield who will be retiring at the end of the year, recently hosted a luncheon for some of his long-time patients.

Approximately 30 people attended the party at the Buona Gente restau-

rant in Springfield Eckle indicated it was heartwarming to see such a turnout.

Eckle opened his practice in 1952 in an office above the National State Bank building. Seventeen years later, he moved his office into his home. In many instances, the doctor has taken care of four generations of families.

Springfield Police Chief William Chisholm, a patient of Eckle's for 42 years, was among the luncheon attendees. Chisholm said, "Dr. Eckle can't be replaced. He has roots in this town and is gracious to everyone. It is the end of an era in the township."

Currently, Eckle's only plan after retirement is to "stay home."

Sexual harassme accuser files civi

By Dan Burns Staff Writer

Eileen Rogers, the Caldwell Elementary school nurse who claims she was sexually harassed by former Principal Ken Bernabe, has chosen a new forum to lodge her allegations.

Rogers filed a civil lawsuit against Bernabe and the Springfield school district last month. That means the legal gears can start turning, but court dates and a potential trial are still a long way away.

The Springfield Board of Education still hasn't been served with Rogers' civil complaint, according to the board's attorney Vito Garliardi ir.

'We are aware of it, but we haven't con served with it yet a Caglia said.

Rogers claims Bernabe acted inappropriately around her and other females during work hours in the autumn of 2002. The alleged incidents included the principal massaging her neck, making comments to her about her sex life and making sexually suggestive remarks and gestures to Rogers and other women in her presence.

She said the incidents occurred roughly two to three times a week from September through December in 2002, even though she had asked him to stop repeatedly.

"I was tired or seeing women debased and humiliated." Rogers said. She described Bernabe as a touchy, feely guy.

"It just made it a very hostile workplace for women," Rogers said. "It's very demeaning to think that your boss thinks he can do that to YOU,"

Rogers initially registered her complaints with the New Jersey Department of Law and Public Safety Division on Civil Rights in May of 2003. It then determined no investigation into Bernabe's conduct was nec-

essary, according to Gagliardi.

The school district investigated the claims as well according to Gagliardi.

A supposeding to Head at the only action taken was a reprimand from them Springfield Superpitendent of Schools Walter Mahler, asking Bernabe to attend a one-day sensitivity training seminar.

Bernabe is now retired, for reasons unrelated to the sexual harassment allegations, eccording to Gagliardi.

"It's unfortunate that this continues to drag on because of the impact on the district and the unfortunate impact this has had on Mr."Bernabe, even after his retirement," Gagliardi said.

Staff Writer Dan Burns can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 120, or at echoleadernj@yahoo.com.

New legislation making school budgets harder to meet

By Paul Greulich Staff Writer

A growing and recurring concern among many education officials in New Jersey has been the statewide logislation S1701. This law, which as put imo effett by the state legis-ture in July of 2004, places additional restrictions on the budgets of public

In Springfield, this legislation is

beginning to take a toll. The budget restrictions may soon force schools to begin charging parents for non-man-dated programs and activities, such as prekindengarten, after school activities and ficilities usage. It also limits those school edistricts in which the yearly budgets have been voted down, as Springles as have because the district the ar even lower base to

At the Board of Education meeting on Monday, Finance Committee Chairman Irwin Sablosky commented on S1701, "It overshadows everything we do. It's like a ball and chain."

Board members and parents present at the meeting Monday night agreed that a large part of the problem in trying to get this law amended is that there has been no significant pubite outery against it.

Springfield PTA President Kathy Rodriguez is among those concerned parents trying to start a grassroots. movement to get this bill amended.

She encourages those community members concerned and looking to voice their feelings and opinion about this issue to contact the following representatives: Sen, Thomas H. Kean Jr. at 908-918-0414; acting Gov. Richard Cody, as president of the Senate, at

609-292-6000 and the members of the Education Committee: Sen. Shirley K. Turner at 609-530-3277, Sen. Nicholas P. Schraff at 908-587-0404, Sen. Wayne R. Bryant at 856-757-0552, Sen: Robert J. Martin at 973-984-0922 and Sen Joseph A. Palaic at 732-531-1303

Staff Writer Paul Greulich can be reached at (908)086-7700 ext.117; or at echoleadernf@yahoo.com.

relie la Sierica Districa

By Paul Grenlich Staff Writer

Six new student teachers will be joining the Springfield School District for the 2005-2006 school year and are scheduled to begin their work in January 2006.

Depending on which subjects and age groups they are interested in teaching, these aspiring educators are assigned to real class-rooms so that they may learn from experience.

Elizabeth Psyhojos, a student at Kean University, will teach. sixth-graders at Florence M. Gaudineer School Jaime Stankus from Seton Hall University will work with teacher Sharl Scheckman's eighth-grade class at the Gaudineer School. Erms Hennings, a student at The College of St. Elizabeth, will be assigned

to the third-grade classroom of Barbars Walsh at the James Cald- responsibility for the whole class. The student teacher will also

Jenniter Cabrera of Kean University will be working with special education students at The Walton School: Ryan Peters and Jenna Colineri are also both from Kean University. Colineri will be teaching special education students at Sand Meier and Peters

will be teaching physical education at Caldwell School. In Mountainside, Deerfield School prepares to welcome Nathan Rayl from Kean, who will teach eighth-grade social stud-

Each of these college students will be assigned to an experienced teacher and spend several weeks observing them before gradually taking over the teachers duties until they assume echoleaderni@yahoo.com.

help with funch and playground drily and even attend faculty meet-ings. The original teacher will remain present to support and oversee them. Supervising professors from their respective colleges will visit periodically to observe the student teacher's progress and

Most of the student teachers working in Springfield and Mountainside schools hail from the education programs of Kean and Rutgers, though student teachers from the programs of schools such as Seton Hall, Columbia, and St. Elizabeth are also welcomed regularly.

Raul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 117. or at

Hygnetist treats health problems

By Raul Greulich

With smoking and obesity ranking as the leading causes of preventable death in America, a growing number of people are turning to medical hypnosis to get at what many health care

Glassman is offering treatment for people Webkirs to overcome their struggle viter stoblem! like drug and alcohol habits as well as those trying to quit smoking of control their weight. Many others seek his help in conquering a phobia.

He has recently signed with Random liques to publish a book outlining his findings over 26 years of work in the field. Classman intends the book, titled "The Alpha Solution," to be "the definitive guide to the use of hypnosis to change cating habits." It is due on abelies in spring of 2007.

'Alf a diet does is deprive you of what you want. But if you change your mind about what you want, there is no diet, no deprivation. Dr. Rön Glassman

Which the human beam produced in with a country of the country of

with a medical typhothersister as me Rutgers Mental Health (Center with helped him less moight and also changed the course of his career.

"I want to help other people conquer the struggle with food," he says.

Glassman claims to achieve a success rate that is 15 percent to 20 per-cent higher than the national average,

in from themen seeking to also convey executing go particular issue or proposed a petient is having at a time. Glassinal reals that hyposother-spy is more effective than disting.

Allocated does is deprive you of what concepts of the conc

Through hyperotherapy is a grow-ing practice. Glassman says its progress is hindered by western medicine's focus on pills and surgery, people's misconception of hypnosis

as a stage act and the relatively small number of board sertified hypnotherapists working in America.

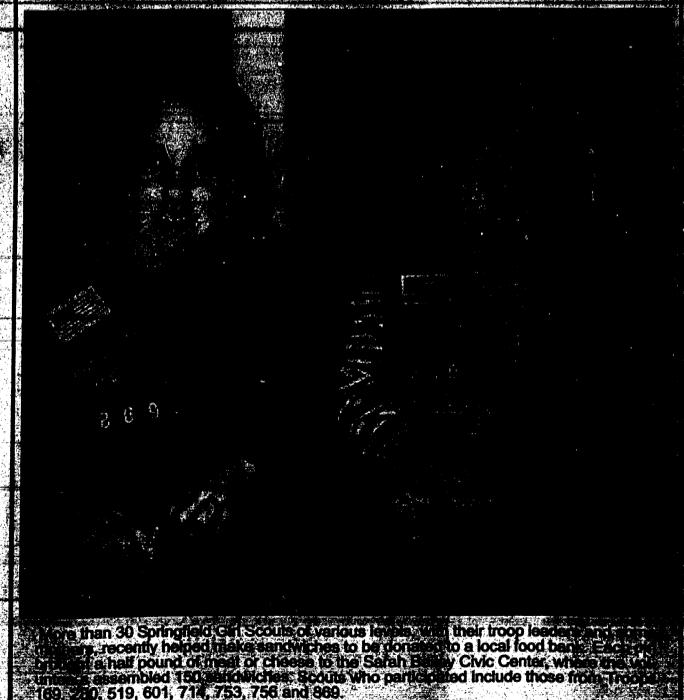
Glassman is part of a team of scicutiess at Columbia University Medical School Center for Neurobiology
and Ephavice that appropriate resonance imaging to study the human brain in various states, including hyp-

He was named Researcher of the Year by The International Association of Counselors and Therapists.

Glassman hat offices in Manhattan as well as in Mountainside. More can be learned about his practice on his Web site at www.MedicalHypno-

Staff Writer Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700; ear. 117, or at echoleadern/Gyakos com

Scouls donate sandwiches



ECHO LEADER

gram for girls in East Orange. This

community project was the final phase

of volunteer training required to

become active members of the Junior

League of the Oranges and Short

tainside resident Leslie Senke: East

Orange resident Dyan Bryson: Maple-

wood residents Maura Bigelow, Sheila

McClure. Marisa Sandora and

Annabel Whiting: Millburn resident

Joi Koenie; Millington resident Lori

Cilino: Short Hills resident Lisa

Mottesi; and South Orange residents

Antoinette Fraser, Jessica Smith,

"The group worked for several

weeks to identify an appropriate com-

munity need, to organize the project

with Dynamic Divas, and to collect

Heather Walker.

The provisional members who

to the **ECHO LEADER**

low to reach us: The Echo Leader is published every Thursday by Worrall Community News papers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. Call us

at one of the telephone numbers listed

Voice Mail:

Our main phone number, 908-686-7700 is equipped with a voice mail system better serve our customers. During regular business hours, a receptionist will answer your call. During the evening or when the office is closed, your call wil be answered by an automated recep-

To subscribe:

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

Back issues:

To purchase back issues of the Ech Leader please call 908-686-7700 and ask for circulation. Additional charges

News releases of general interest mus be in our office by Friday at noon to be

considered for publication the followin week. Pictures should be black and white glossy prints. For further information or to report a breaking news story call 908-686-7700 and ask for Editorial

For permission to reprint any item prin

ed in the newspaper you must call To Canavan at 908-686-7700. All materia

Letters to the Editor: The Echo Leader provides an opforum for opinions and welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be typed. double spaced, must be signed, and should be accompanied by an address and day-time phone number for verification. Letters and columns must be in our office by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week. They are subject to editing for length and

The Echo Leader accepts news relea es and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e nail address is Editorial@thelocalsource.com

mail must be received by 9 a m Monday to be considered for publication that week. Advertising is also accepted by email under certain guid lines at ads@thelocalsource.com

To place a display ad: Display advertising for placement in the ieneral news section of the Ech Leader must be in our office by Monde at 5 p.m. for publication that week Advertising for placement in the B sec tion must be in our office by Monday a noon. An advertising representative wi gladly assist you in preparing your mes sage. Call 908-686-7700 for an appointment. Ask for the display advertising

To place a classified ad: he Echo Leader has a large, well rea

lassified advertising section. Adver Tuesday at 3 p.m. for publication that week. All classified ads are payable in advance. We accept Mastercard, Visa, American Express or Discover. A clas sified representative will gladly assis you in preparing your message. Please stop by our office during regular Lusi-ness hours or call 908-886-7850, Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To place a public notice:

Public Notices are notices which are required by state law to be printed in local weekly or daily newspapers. The Echo Leader meets all New Jerse state statutes reparding public notice advertising. Public notices must be in our office by Monday at noon for publi cation that week. For more information all 908-686-7700 and ask for the pub notice advertising department.

The Echo Leader is equipped to accept your ads, releases, etc. by fax. Our fax lines are open 24 hours a day pleas tial 908-686-4169.

-Edition and Website: /isit our Web Site on the internet Our newspapers are available in their ntirety with a subscription to our E-

Edition a great choice for those who. like to keep their community news at their fingertips.

Postmaster Please Note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) published weekly by Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. Mail subscriptions \$26.00 per year i Union County, 75 cents per copy nonrefundable. Periodicals postage paid at Union, N.J. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ECHO LEADER P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083.

DPW will help dispose of Christmas trees

Each year, at this time, a lot of effort goes into keeping a Christmas tree safe, alive and decorated. But once the holiday season is over, just as much attention goes into making sure these symbols of holiday spirit are disnosed of properly. A dried-out tree wrapped in wires and forgotten about during the post-holiday slump can be a serious fire hazard.

To be rid of a tree, all decoration must first be removed from it. This includes wreaths, ornaments, stands and tinsel. The naked tree is then placed out on the curb in plain view. Public works crews will pick up the

trees and turn them into wood chips. Mountainside residents have the added opportunity to request some of

these wood chips for their gardens. at echoleaderni@vahoo.com. Firefighters respond

to natural gas leak On Dec. 7, firefighters responded

to a report of a natural gas leak near Route 22 westbound. On arriving at the scene, it was determined a telephone company preparing to install a communications pole had accidentally nunctured a natural gas pipeline. Firefighters remained on the scene until a PSE&G emergency crew arrived to

make the necessary repairs. • On Dec. 7, firefighters responded to a fire alarm in a residence located on Wood Valley Road. They discovered a furnace fan motor had shorted out and caused a smoke condition which activated the alarm. The fire officers cleared the smoke from the the scene

Prekindergarten registration scheduled

for the 2006-2007 prekindergarten program in Springfield public schools. as well as for those children eligible for kindergarten, first and second grades in September 2006 who are not currently enrolled in the Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center prekindergarten program, will be on the

last names beginning with the letters utility bill, lease, contract, etc.

1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with

On Jan. 18, from 10 to 11 a.m. or

1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with

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Richard Mack, D.O.

Board Certified in Family Medicine

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delectable dessert, wine and cheese well known Israeli artists.

watercolors, silkscreens, cartoon cels. original oils and various mixed media.

The collection will include works by Agam. Lautrec, Dali, Rockwell, springfieldevent@gmail.com.

• HEADACHES

LOW BACK PAIN

THORACIC SPINE DISORDER

Registration will take place at the

Edward V. Walton Early Childhood Center, 601 Mountain Ave. To be eligible for prekindergarten.

a child must be a Springfield resident and be 4 years old on or before Dec. I, 2006. Children entering kindergarten must reach their fifth birthday on or before Dec. 1, 2006. Parents are requested to bring the

following materials to registration: child's birth certificate, child's current immunization records, and four proofs

Your child's registration Will only

Congregation Israel to host art auction

The Congregation Israel of Spring- Chagall, Neiman, Raad, Buckels, field will present an art auction on Jan. Miro, Delacroix, Behrens, McKnight, 7 at 7 p.m. The evening will include a Vasarely and Picasso as well as many

The art offering will feature pieces in all price ranges and will include lithographs, engravings, etchings, two raffle tickets to win valuable art-

per couple, if you register before Jan. 5. Included in the admission fee are

• NECK PAIN

• ARTHRITIS

FIRE BLOTTER

which the Department Public Works

In Springfield, Department of Pub-

lic Works crews begin cruising the

streets in search of these trees shortly

after Christmas. The Mountainside

Department of Public Works begins

their Christmas tree go until later

months can rest assured they will be

Anyone who has questions or

Mountainside residents can call

Staff Writer Paul Greulich can be

whose tree is put out but not picked up

can call their local public works

908-232-2409 and Springfield resi-

reached at 908-686-7700 ex. 117, or

dents can call 973-912-8483

Those who just can't seem to le

will gladly give them.

slightly later, on Ian 19

picked up.

residence with a smoke ejector. · On Dec. 7. firefighters responded to a report of a Dumpster fire at an elderly care facility on Route 22 westbound. Firefighters at the scene quick-

ly extinguished the minor fire. · On Dec. 6, firefighters responded to a report of a vehicle leaking gasoline near Summit Lane. At the scene. fire fighters discovered a vehicle leaking oil onto the roadway and were able to contain and absorb the flammable

The vehicle was then towed from

Registration for children eligible last names beginning with the letters

following days: On Jan. 12, from 10 to 11 a.m. or

last names beginning with the letters On Jan. 13, from 10 to 11 a.m. or 1:45 to 2:45 p.m., for children with of residency, e.g., N.J. driver's license,

On Jan. 17, from 10 to 11 a.m. or be officially processed if both age appropriate vaccines and all four last names beginning with the letters proofs of residency are submitted at the time of registration. If an alternate registration date is

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

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To mail a schedule, send it to Echo Leader, Attn: Managing Editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Tuesday • The Springfield Township Committee will meet for workshop session in the Municipal Annex Building, 10 Robert A. Parker until Feb. 16. N. Trivett Road, at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday

. The Springfield Township Committee will meet for regular meeting in the Committee Room of the Munic- Drive, at 8 p.m. pal 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. Bring a brown bag lunch to the program. Coffee and cookies call (973) 376-4930, ext. 228.

will be provided. For more information, call 973-376-4930. Jan. 7

• The Congregation Israel of Springfield will present

For more information or to register, contact Leah 973-210-4140 or springfieldevent@gmail.com.

an art auction at 7 p.m. The evening will include a delectable dessert, wine and cheese reception.

. The Springfield Board of Education will meet in the media center at Jonathan Davton 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

· The Mountainside Board of Education will meet in the media center at Beechwood School. 1497 Woodacres

. The Springfield Free Public Library's (Really Good) Book Discussion Group will discuss "White Teeth" by Zadie Smith at 7 p.m. Discussions take place in the Palmer Museum at the library, 66 Mountain Ave. For more information or to reserve a copy of the book.

. 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.

For information about the group, call the church office at 908-232-9490 and leave a name and telephone number

COUNTY NEWS

A specialized training program to

Sept. 27 to Nov. 17 on most Tuesdays

n.m. Volunteers must attend all train-

types of sexual assault, the trauma

In addition to serving as a Rape

Crisis Advocate, volunteers can also

become involved in making educa-

Persons interested in becoming

The training addresses the different

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 24x36-inch poster includes 18 historic scenes, taken from vintage postcards in the private collections of Lester Sargent, chief warrant officer hours. for the Union County Sheriff's Office and Charles Shallcross, an Elizabeth

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.

experienced by sexual assault sur-"Below each postcard is a short vivors and their family members and informative description of the photoother related issues. It prepares advograph and its place in history. The cates to respond with support and information either on the phone postcards show the evolution of the county complex and of Midtown Eliz- through the 24-hour hotline or in perabeth over the past 100 years," said son while accompanying survivors Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, through medical or legal proceedings, chairwoman of the Union County

Courthouse Centennial Committee. The earliest photo is an 1890 shot of the previous courthouse, which was tional presentations to schools or to groups in the community on sexual built in 1811. Other photos include the current courthouse, which opened in 905 and saw additions in 1927 and

The posters are available for \$10 233-7273 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. each, with proceeds going to pay for Monday through Friday. Interviews the preservation of historic artifacts, between the months of May and Posters can be obtained by calling August. Bilingual individuals are 908-527-4787 or in person at the Union County Clerk's Office, Union

County Courthouse, Old Annex, first floor, Elizabeth, 07207.

The Courthouse Centennial Comnittee 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 tennial 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

heir or personal representative. The Union County Rape Crisis Center is looking for caring, supportive, and committed individuals who can assist survivors of sexual assault ffice," Rajoppi added. during daytime, evening and weekend

become a rape crisis advocate will be County Clerk's Office. Documents will be recorded in the Union County and Thursdays between 6:30 and 10 Veterans' Index and the original will be returned to the veteran. Photoecorded their documents in the clerk's office can call the office and

> Access to their discharge papers is an, his/her mother, father, wife/husband, brother, sister, child, heir or per-

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. Rape Crisis Advocate should call 908-Monday through Friday.

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 oof 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 lessly served in our Armed Forces," just one way to say thank you and make veterans' lives a little easier." The ID cards are available to veter-

17 12's happening in Springfield &

Wountainside, then it's in the

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and Volunteer Services, the freeholders established a process to provide peakers to senior citizen centers. mmunity audiences, schools, and The Citizen Services Speakers'

Bureau employs experts interested in speaking to schools and community groups on a wide range of topics

· Cutting through the Red Tape at Honoring deceased veterans

through services to families;

MANE

O Check enclosed. Echo LEADER

No other discounts apply. In-county delivery only.

ans 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.

"The distinctive red. white and blue cards have a raised scal certifying proof of recording from the Clerk's

If a veteran's discharge papers have never been recorded, the original document may be presented at the Union copies of Honorable Discharge or DD 14 documents cannot be accepted for ecording. Those who have already have the card mailed to them.

imited and available only to the veter-

Veterans' documents are archived

If more information, call 908-527-

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

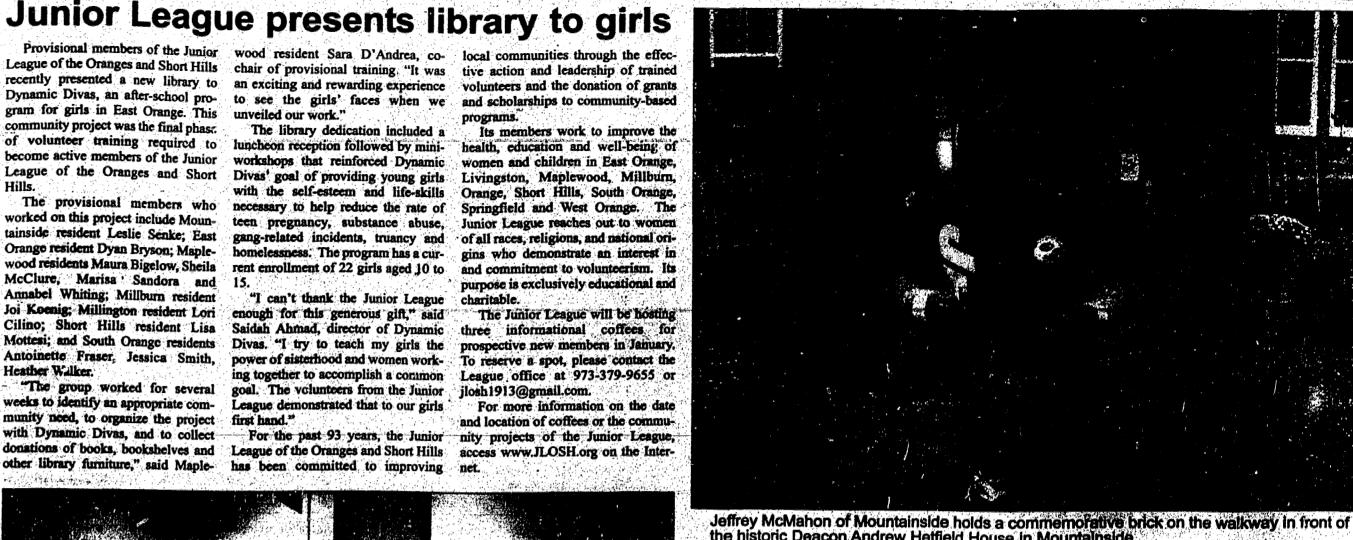
An overview of the Bureau of Vet-

Elected officials from the town and by the volunteers this year is 1,323. At 66 Mountain Ave. Its hours are Mon-

Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. hours worked by the Friends of the Library, Garden Club, volunteen who

Video series continues runs 97 minutes. It was made in 1941. It is not rated. Bring a brown bag

Funding for the video series has been made possible in part by the New A jockey who threw a race is mur-Jersey State Council on the Arts. dered in the locker. With that, Nora Charles (Myrna Loy) and hubby Nick mation, call 973-376-4930.



Become part of borough's history

are still available for purchase.

They may be personalized with names, dates or events, and will become a part of Mountainside's history, as well'as side Historic Preservation Committee, c/o Borough Hall,

historic Deacon Andrew Hetfield House in Mountainside ough Hall, 1385 Route 22 Fast, or at the Mountainside Library, Constitution Plaza.

1385 Route 22 East. Mountainside, 07092.

Burglary nets thief \$60K plus jewelry

On Dec. 7, there was a report of a burglary at a Hillside Avenue residence. Items stolen include approximately \$60,000 in cash, and an with records. unknown amount of U.S. coinage and

the theft of two headlights from a 2004 Lexus parked in a lot on Morris

. On Sunday, there was a report of the theft of two headlights from 2005 Lexus on Mercy Avenue. . On Sunday, there was a report of the theft of two headlights from a

2002 Infiniti parked on Morris Avenue. Its driver's side window, was · On Saturday, there was a report of

burglary at a residence on Wakefield drive. The victim's wallet, containing 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Tuesday, Friday and

· On Dec. 15, Gregory Semeraro, 47,, of Springfield, was arrested on Milltown Road for driving while

• On Dec. 15, there was a report of smashed rear window of a 1992 Toy-the theff of a catalytic converter from ota. A hammer was found on the vehi-

Vestfield was arrested at the MVC Sports Club on Morris Avenue. The Elizabeth was arrested for

Allegiance =

POLICE BLOTTER

• On Dec. 13, there was a report of the theft of a backpack from a bicycle parked on the side of Mountain Avenue. The backpack contained

passport, Social Security card, \$25 and the victim's lunch. On Dec. 13, James Weinberg, 50, of Springfield was arrested on Maple

Avenue for forgery and possessing • On Dec. 12, there was a report of the theft of a 1995 Jeep from a resi- Route 22 week for driving while under dence on Briant Park Drive. A baby the influence

car seat and several music CDs were in the stolen vehicle. • On Dec. 12, there was a report of the theft of two compactors and prop- employee reporting to work noticed erty damage at a Route 24 address.

Springfield, was arrested for driving while intoxicated, reckless driving and

leaving the scene of an accident.

cle's rear seat. . On Dec. 14. Delamo Burton, 33. On Dec. 8, there was a report of Chiriboga, 19, of Jersey City, was the theft of a Commerce Bank VISA arrested for resisting arrest and drives

. On Dec. 8, David Butisingh, 21, of Bloomfield, was arrested for outstanding warrants out of North Arling-

• On Dec. 8, there was a report of the theft of a GPS system from a vehicle parked in a lot on South Springfield Avenue. Its passenger side window was smashed.

. On Dec. 6, Andrew P. Hines, 66, of Westfield was arrested for an outstanding warrant out of Westfield.

 On Friday, Hiu Fung Leung, 24 of New York City was arrested on • On Friday, there was a report of

criminal mischief at Children's Specialized Hospital on Route 22. An

On Dec. 10. Marie Ortman, 49, of East Orange was arrested in Newark

On Dec. 13, police arrested On Dec. 9, there was a report of a Rolando Vargas, 42, of Elizabeth, in

On Dec. 13, Robert Glynn, 43, of charge card from a wallet at the NY On Dec. (1. Jason Madrey,

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Dynamic Divas, an after-school pro- to see the girls' faces when we and scholarships to community-based Its members work to improve the luncheon reception followed by minihealth, education and well-being of women and children in East Orange, Divas goal of providing young girls Livingston, Maplewood, Millburn Orange, Short Hills, South Orange, Springfield and West Orange. The worked on this project include Mounteen pregnancy, substance abuse, Junior League reaches out to women gang-related incidents, truancy and of all races, religions, and national orihomelessness. The program has a curgins who demonstrate an interest is rent enrollment of 22 girls aged 10 to and commitment to volunteerism. Its purpose is exclusively educational and

> The Junior League will be hosting three informational coffees for prospective new members in January. To reserve a spot, please contact the League office at 973-379-9655 or ilosh1913@gmail.com.

For more information on the date League demonstrated that to our girls and location of coffees or the commu-For the past 93 years, the Junior nity projects of the Junior League, donations of books, bookshelves and League of the Oranges and Short Hills access www.JLOSH.org on the Interother library furniture," said Maple- has been committed to improving net.



Provisional members of the Junior wood resident Sara D'Andrea, co- local communities through the effec-

The library dedication included a

workshops that reinforced Dynamic

with the self-esteem and life-skills

necessary to help reduce the rate of

enough for this generous gift," said

Saidah Ahmad, director of Dynamic

Divas. "I try to teach my girls the

power of sisterhood and women work-

ing together to accomplish a common

goal. The volunteers from the Junior

first hand."

unveiled our work."

Volunteers at the Springfield Free Public Library were honored for their service at a dinner

Springfield Free Public Library honors volunteers recognition dinner in the Donald B. An unofficial, conservative esti- New volunteers are always needed

have been furthered by the donated

Local artists wanted The Priends of the Mountainside Public Library are sponsoring as Artists' Showcase at the library on

Works may be exhibited for one low entry fee of \$25, with all proceeds going to the artists. The suggested

price range is up to \$150 per piece.

ATT HE BRARY The deadline to sign up is Jan. 15. (William Powell) are off to the races For more information, call the on another case of murder, mirth and library at 908-233-0115

The Springfield Free Public its Lunchtime Video Series, "Clascookies will be provided.

big impact.

Winter Programs for Morns and Bables The state of the s

\$0-2,499,99 0.00% \$2,500.00-9,999.99. 1.75% \$10,000,00-24,999,99 \$25,000,00-49,999,99 2.75%

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EDITORIALS

Merry Christmas

With 90 percent of America celebrating Christmas, no wonder it's called the most wonderful time of the year. And that's where all Christians are heading next week: to celebrate the most wonderful time of the year with the birth of Christ and the advent of a new year.

Certainly we will not make a pilgrimage to the promised land in celebration, but we will celebrate Christ's birth in a way that has become familiar to all of us some 2,000 years later. We will get together with family, seek long-time friends whom we have not seen in many years and listen to children's choirs singing the most joyous of Christmas

Most of all, it will be a time to reflect, to sit quietly in front of a brightly lit Christmas tree, perhaps with the Nativity scene our inspiration for promise of an equally bright future ahead of us

Sadly, many of our friends and family will not be with us this Christmas. Many of our brethren are serving in the military in this country's war against terrorism. We wish all our men and women in the service safety as they serve in Iraq and elsewhere, and hope for their speedy return home to their loved ones.

Some friends and family will be spending time in hospitals and nursing homes this season. This time of year is when we should make a promise to ourselves that we visit them and lift spirits that have probably sunk to very low levels throughout the year.

We must think of children who suffer with illness during this time of year and those who are deprived of the comforts most of us take for granted. We must not forget any of our brothers and sisters who are in need because that is the spirit of Christmas.

Unfortunately, there are forces that, year after year, try to dampen the spirit of Christmas. Their efforts, some successful, have included the elimination of some of the most beautiful Christmas music from within the walls of our public schools. Calls for the removal of Christmas trees from town squares have turned citizens against each other every December. Offensive, these trees are called.

Offensive?

Offensive are the weak leaders who allow the minority voice to carry more loudly than the majority of people who celebrate the holiday, who look forward to the spirit of Christmas that makes them smile more and makes them reach out and help their fellow man. How can a symbol of this spirit be called offensive? Offensive are the people who try to defeat the spirit of Christians all around the world who celebrate the birth of Christ

For a majority of Christians in America, Sunday will be a day of-celebration.

We hope the spirit of Christmas reaches the hearts of all Christians, and we hope the day reflects the most wonderful

Festival of Lights

Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights, the Jewish festival of rededication, begins Sunday evening with the lighting of the first candle of the menorah with the shammus candle. This process continues for eight evenings until all eight candles of the menorah have been lit.

This tradition dates back to the reign of Alexander the Great. When Alexander conquered Syria, Egypt and Palestine, he allowed the lands to continue observing their own religions. However, more than a century later, one of his successors, Antiochus IV, began to oppress the Jews severely, not allowing them to practice their religion. A rebellion, led by Judah Maccabee, was successful and the temple was

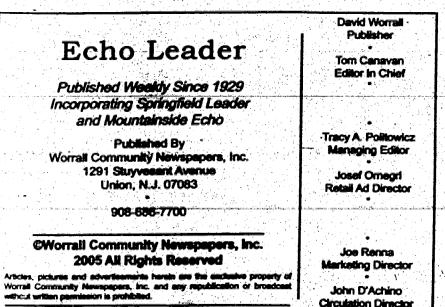
Unfortunately, at the time of rededication, most of the oil had been defiled by the Greeks, and there was only enough oil for the menorah in the temple to burn for one night. Yet, miraculously, the oil burned eight days and nights, the time needed to prepare a fresh supply of oil for the menorah. An eight day festival was declared to commemorate this mira-

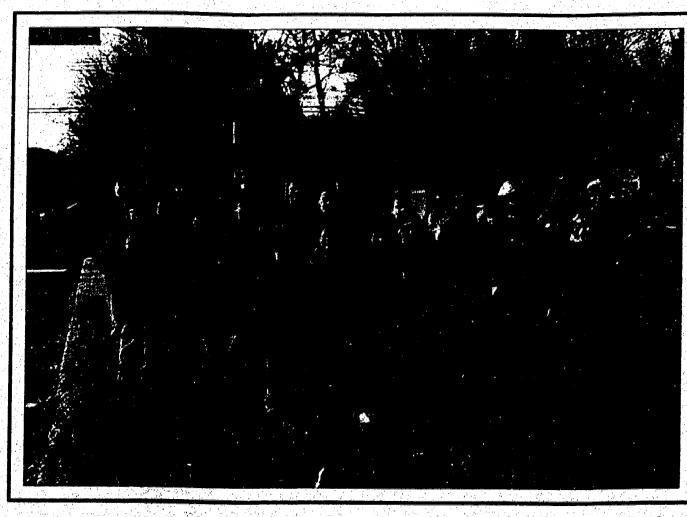
Hanukkah is probably one of the best known Jewish holidays and the miracle of the oil is one worth remembering and celebrating.

As Jewish families come together for the Festival of Lights, we wish them a happy Hanukkah.

"No matter what a person believes in, we must hear it. That's the essence of freedom."

> — Alexander Meiklejohn First Amendment Scholar





WORKING TOWARD AN ARROW OF LIGHT - Mountainside Webelos and Boy Scouts take a break from raking leaves at the New Providence Road jug handle. They also raked at the historic Hetfield House in Mountainside to help the younger boys earn the Arrow of Light award, which requires participation in an outdoor activity with the Boy Scouts.

Bring the world a step closer to peace this season

During the entire holiday season — aside from the rampont commercialism which often reduces the season to a gift-giving frenzy — we think and speak about "peace," "freedom of worship" and "good will."

Yet, in reality, do we live by those virtues? Although the tree and menorah stand side by side, do we stand side by side in terms of our mutual respect and honor for each other's traditions and beliefs? Do we genuinely share good will toward other people who look and believe in a fashion different from us or do we seek any opportunity to be critical or con-

religious symbols, are we overcome by feelings of community partnership and solidarity or do we inwardly express scorn and contempt? Are we open to learning about other religions and cultures or do we perpetuate the stereotypes and ignorance which have Jew, Christian, Muslim, atheist and

led to the profaning of religion and to

By Rabbi Michael Klayman

Last year, I had the opportunity and

privilege of lighting the Hanukkah menorah at Ground Zero. Although last year Hanukkah preceded Christmas, the tree stood alongside the menorah, overlooking the remains of the Twin Towers. The setting and image were unforgettable. In their attacks upon the World Trade Center, Osama bin Laden and the terrorists of Al Qaeda did not distinguish between

Christmas trees and lit Hanukkah menorahs. They were people marked for destruction because terrorists have little regard for any human life. While they may ignorantly cite Western civilization as the cause of all evil, such preposterous statements serve as an excuse to justify the killing of innocent people. Sadly, there are people in our world who believe such statements and condemn a particular culture or religion rather than condemning the terrorists themselves. Perhaps

that is the saddest tragedy of all. Just as the tree and menorah stand together, we who enrich our lives with the beauty of these sacred traditions true light - a light which will need to stand together in mutual respect for the Judaism and Christianity which gave birth to the beautiful symbols which enhance our belief in God and our concern for all people on leader of Temple Beth O'r/Beth

season approach, we have time to reflect on the values of "peace or Earth" and "good will to humankind," values which must become more than

Sept. 11 brought much darkness to the world. The tree and menorah shed light, which the world desperately needs to overcome the darkness. I gious traditions offer ways to draw closer to God, then we will embrace the holiday season as an opportunity to bring the world one step closer to

May the tree and menorah shed enhance our lives and our spirits.

Rabbi Michael Klayman is spiritual

On the road and in life, make every second count

loved one suddenly; how an entire life could be snuffed out in a second. At about 8 p.m. on the night of Nov. 18, I was in Plainfield on my way home. Stopping at a red light, I sat Idly thinking what I would do when I got

home — have a snack, read and watch the 10 o'clock news. Suddenly, I was struck violently from behind, pushed forward and into the car in front of me. It took about five seconds to realize this was a collision and my daily, orderly routine was about to vanish. The instant it happened, there was just the sudden shock

of something unknown. A terrific feel-Since I was wearing my seat belt, I I left.

shield. The head rest is fairly high, so don't think I experienced whiplash. The police came and took a report. Standing there in the cold night, I was rying unsuccessfully to process it all. Despite the vast damage to my car

By Richard Lime

- it was later declared "an obvious total loss"—I was able to drive it, and

didn't come in contact with the wind-

fearful of driving, especially at night. I would ever have known. ing. The garage mechanic estimated

My guardian angel must have been vatching over me. I had a full tank of gas and was hit on the side where the tank is. The impact might have caused a fire or explosion, trapping me inside. and by the time I untangled myself a look behind you.

love, kindness and generosity over the past year.

hospital, and I went there. Twice, as it it may have been too late. I could have turned out. Since the accident, I am been gone in a second and nobody

panic when I see headlights come up
behind me thinking cars will crash in the general scheme of things, but a few people do need me and depend on me for help, however little it is. Then I the guy was going about 40 miles an was blaming myself. I should have hour when he hit me. There was no seen it coming, but stopped at a red light, you generally don't expect someone to hit you full force in the back in dry, clear weather.

Life is as fragile as a snowflake. It can disappear just like that. Never take even one second for granted. He carecouldn't have gotten out of the dri- ful driving in this bustling time, and be ver's side, as the door was then bent, safe. And when stopped at a light, take

everything to exit the passenger door, Richard Lime is a resident of Union

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

do not mean 'welcome winter

Merry Christmas!

Saying "Seasons Greetings" is not the same as saying "Merry Christmas." Seasons greetings could mean "welcome winter."

Joseph Chieppa

A thank you to those who helped us

One year ago, on Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2004, I returned home from a quick trip Our neighbor, Shaun Modi, called 9-1-1 after hearing my screams for help.

Within seconds, the Mountainside Police responded. Within minutes, the Mountainside Volunteer Fire Department responded.

The fire destroyed our kitchen and severely damaged the rest of the house

with its heavy smoke and soot. But the quick responses of the fire and police-departments saved our home. For that, we will always be thankful. We were essentially homeless just days before Christmas. Within hours, our mom/mother-in-law, Ruth Evense, had warm beds ready for us in her home, where we were to live for many months to follow. We will always be grateful for ber for verification. her kind and loving spirit.

Also within hours, friends, relatives and neighbors began dropping off monetary donations, clothing, food and gift items for our family. We also received many anonymous donations

We were overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and generosity that contin-

ued in the days and weeks to follow. We are happy that our children experienced this warmth and love from the people of Mountainside We are now back in our home, just in time for this year's holidays. Like Santa, we have our list of everybody who has been nice, those who showed us

We thank you all again. To those who chose to remain anonymous, we thank

But most importantly, we will carry the wonderful memory of your kindness and generosity in our hearts forever and will always be grateful. Wishing you God's blessings and a happy holiday season. With our love and

Maureen, Bob, Bobby and Kelly Goess

Our policy on letters and columns The Echo Leader welcomes submissions from its readers. Letters to the edi-

tor or opinion pieces on any subject will be considered for publication on the This opportunity also is open to all residents, officials and employees of both

Springfield and Mountainside and Union County. The Echo Leader reserves the right to edit all submissions for length, content and style. Writers must include their name, address and daytime telephone mum-

Letters must be no more than 500 words long; longer pieces must be arranged in advance with the editor. The Echo Leader accepts letters to the editor and guest columns via e-mails

The address is editorial@thelocalsource.com. Letters and essays also may be sent via U.S. mail to 1291 Stuyvessent Ave., Union 07083.

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Temple hosts lecture



Mark Pelavin, associate director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, is flanked by Richard Zack and Rabbi Stuart Weinberg Gershon. Pelavin spoke at a recent lecture titled, "America's Evangelicals: Allies? Adversaries? Both? A Reform Jewish Perspective," at Temple Sinai in Summit.

Art exhibit scheduled at gallery

The Kent Place Gallery will showan exhibit titled "The Midnight Zone" from Jan. 9 to Feb. 2.

This exhibit will feature about 20 works that demonstrate the evolution of his ideas and art over two decades.

Ranging from extravagant and psychologically charged performance art events, to abstracted painterly meditations on the Italian landscape. to beautiful oil and wax-brushed constructions that explore the analogy between oil paint and the human skin, and persistently returns to ideas of

His work was seen most recently desire to go through the physical to in solo shows at Greeley Square touch something essential about Gallery in New York and at the Bris-human experience.

case the work of artist Tim Trelease in Mass., where Trelease currently Island School of Design. He has lived teaches, hosted a solo exhibition of The ideas that inform Trelease's

> performances, constructions and paintings frequently touch upon the biological and the body. His Mind/Body paintings, for example, exhibited at Squibb, dealt with modern medicine, surgery and the ways that the manipulation of surface and depth, space and structure as carried out in making a picture might relate to the actions of the surgeon working on the human body. With these works, as always for this artist, there is the

In 2005, Deerfield Academy in Art in Detroit and studied at Rhode and created his art in Detroit, New Orleans, New York, and New Jersey, where he was the art department chair at the Peddie School, before moving

> A reception will be Jan. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gallery. At 7 p.m., Trelease will give a presentation and walking tour of the gallery.

The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The Kent Place Gallery, located in

Summit on the campus of Kent Place School, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment with Director Ken

Passport requirements changing

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 port process. 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.

the country from within the Western

Passport application forms may be obtained at the county clerk's main Amtrak employee. The same rules 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/cty-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 ralization Certificate or Resident Alien 4 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and card as well as proof of residency, such Fridays. The phone number is 908-654- as driver's license, recent tax return form;

passport laws coming. Union County 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through made applications for new U.S. pass-Friday. The phone number is 908-527-4966. Clients are asked to arrive at least. Sorms on the agency's Web site. This 15 minutes prior to closing time to option promotes faster passport pro-

allow for staff assistance with the pass- cessing and reduces the chance of data entry errors by climinating the need to More information on travel rules and manually enter data from handwritten passport applications. regulations is available online at www.travel.state.gov or by calling, toll-

www.travel.state.gov/passport can free, 1-877-487-2778. select the appropriate form and elec-. In a related development, Amtrak has also undertaken heightened security tronically enter their personal informaneasures. Amtrak customers 18 years tion onto a secure form. Once printed Currently, U.S. citizens returning to old or older must produce valid photo the information is not retained by the identification when obtaining, exchang-Hemisphere are not required to show a ing and refunding tickets; storing bag- can be mailed or taken to a passport sage at stations; checking baggage; and, on board trains, if requested by an apply to unaccompanied children ages 15 to 18. Examples of valid identification include passport, driver's license, student identification, and military iden-

> The Union County Clerk's Office offers official photo identification cards \$67 U.S. State Department / \$30 to the to applicants 14 years old or older for a clerk's office. \$10 fee. Applicants must provide an original birth certificate, U.S. Passport, Natuto the clerk's office. voter registration card or utility bill.

Department of State. The printed form agency for processing. ed "Security Surcharge" increased passport processing fees by \$12. The fee increases are mandated by the U.S.

ports and renewals available as online

Applicants who go online to

State Department. The current fee schedule is as fol Passport application, adult: \$97,

 Passport application, younger than 16: \$82, \$52 U.S. State Department/\$30

Passport renewal: \$67.

Emergency/expedited service add \$60.

Kids help collect coats

Dana Haines, Amira Harris, Isabella Grago and Jolene Sinclair sort coats collected for the Springfield YMCA's recent coat drive for New Jersey Cares. The girls are participants

of Meyers Squibb Gallery in Prince- Trelease has a master's degree in For more information, call 908in the Y's after-school program. Locality Amount in the Y's after-school program.

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Breakfast with Santa



Springfield residents Cassie and Keara Gutzwiller visit with Santa Claus and his elf at the Springfield YMCA's Breakfast with Santa on Dec. 10. At the event, they also enjoyed a yummy breakfast and made holiday crafts.

Agency matches donations to foundation

Noble Title Agency in Cranford is a total donation from Noble hosting its second fund-raiser to bene- \$2,000. fit Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation. The hospital has several area locations, including one in Moun-

Through the month of December, the agency is challenging the community and clients to help hospitalized children make their holiday wish. come true - to be healthy.

Noble Title Agency will offer a dollar for dollar match to anyone in the nation's largest pediatric rehabilithe community who sends a check tation hospital, renowned for rehabilimade out to "CSH Foundation," up to tative advances in cerebral palsy,

It is projected that, this year, more than 15,000 children will be provided \$20 and goes twice as far to help chil- with rehabilitative services at its nine sites throughout New Jersey. The hospital would not be able provide this Each donor will receive a personalcare without the sustaining support of ized thank you note from Children's Specialized Hospital Foundation.

Send donations payable to "CSH For many families this holiday sea-Foundation" to: Noble Title Agency. son will be the most difficult time in Inc., 570 South Ave. east, Bldg. A. Cranford 07016 Attn: Stephanie Children's Specialized Hospital is

For more information, call 908-497-9333 or go to www.nobletitle.net

EDUCATION

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their life. You can give them hope.

Computer lab open

The Summit public schools are sponsoring an open computer lab for the public in Room 107 at the high school, 125 Kent Place Blvd., Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

The open lab will run until the end of the school year, but will not be open on days that school is not in session.

Computer or software instruction will be available to assist with prob-

Monday to Dec. 30. On successful completion, partici-pants will receive Lifeguard Certification, First Aid Certification, and lems. Internet access is controlled by CPR/AED for the Professional Rescuer Certification.

The class fee is \$275, which covers all books and materials.

For more information, call Suzi Pellegrino at 908-273-3330, ext. 149.

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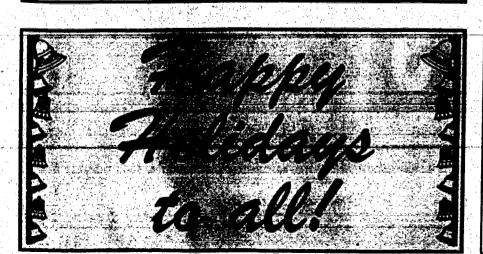
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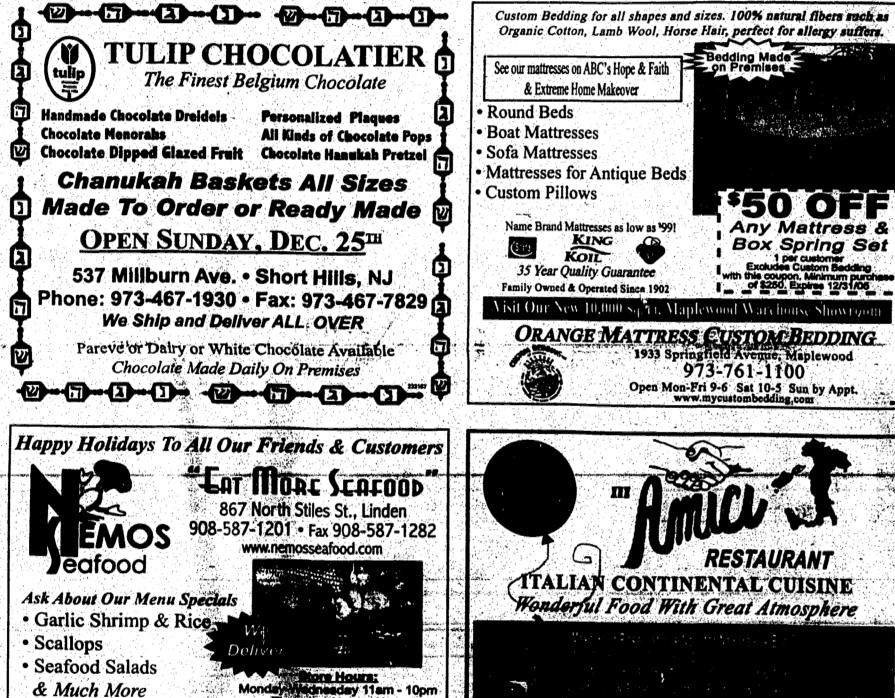
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COUNTY NEWS

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 identifica-

SUMMIT OBSERVER - ECHO LEADER

tion cards at the County Clerk's office. The wallet-size card is honored as proof of service in the United States armed forces. It can assist in receiving educational benefits, death benefits, licenses. and the property tax rebate.

The identification cards are avail-

able 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.

ment must 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.

veterans can write to the National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Blvd., St. Louis, 63632. Those who have already recorded their documents in the Clerk's office can call the office for additional "All veterans can be assured that

"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 docu-

If the original documents are lost,

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," Rajoppi said. "Veterans' documents are archived in a secure

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Community

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area and they are not accessible to the The County Clerk's Office is located in the Union County Courthouse at 2 Broad St., Elizabeth. Office hours are p.m., and 8:30 and 10:30 p.m. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday

through Friday.

ice skating center open for season

facility of the County of Union, is open for the 2005-06 ice skating season on Skating sessions will be as follows:

· Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30 to · Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to noon.

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ed or caged helmet. • Fridays, 10 a. m. to noon, 3:30 to The skating center also offers group 5:30 p.m., and 6 to 8 p.m., which is a and private skating lessons and hockey family session during which children ages 17 and younger must be accompa- individuals with disabilities. Other fea-

nied by an adult, and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. tures include a Pro Shop and a refresh-· Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 ment stand. 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

change on holidays. Call the Skating

Center to find out if changes will be

General sessions cost \$5 for adults,

\$4 for children 17 and younger, and

\$4.25 for senior citizens. Skate rental is

an additional \$3. Discount cards are

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 shield-

available for Union County residents

who plan to skate on a regular basis.

Hockey clinics begin Sunday run for six weeks. The Warinanco Ice Skating Center is This schedule may be subject located off Thompson Avenue in Wari-

seeks volunteers

nanco Park, Roselle. Park entrances are sey Citizens Corps program, a federally located on St. Georges Avenue, Thomporganized program that is designated to son Avenue, and Third Avenue. strengthen the state's overall homeland For more information, call 908-298-7850 for a recorded message, or 908-

The Union County Medical Reserve 527-4900 for the Union County Depart-Corps is part of the statewide collaborament of Parks. Recreation & Facilities. tion and is actively looking for citizens to help Union County communities Medical reserve corps respond to a terrorism event or natura

assist during a public health emergency

The New Jersey Medical Reserve

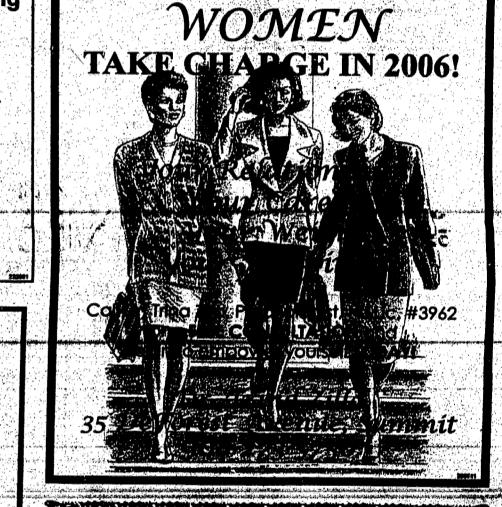
Corps was created through the New Jer-

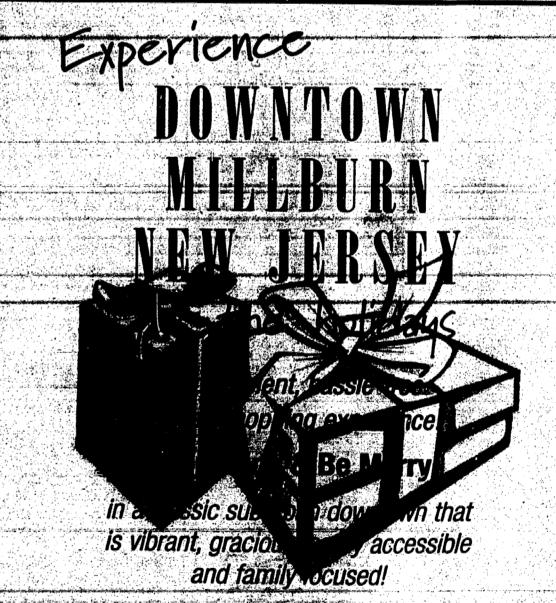
in partnership with state county and

local health departments.

UCMRC volunteers needed include The Union County Local Informs medical and public health professionals tion Network and Communication Syssuch as physicians, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, veterinarians, and epidemiolotem has launched a unit of the Medical Reserve Corps and is seeking volunteers. Last month, the New Jersey Departclinics, as well as skating lessons for ment of Health and Senior Services legal advisors, and others — can fil







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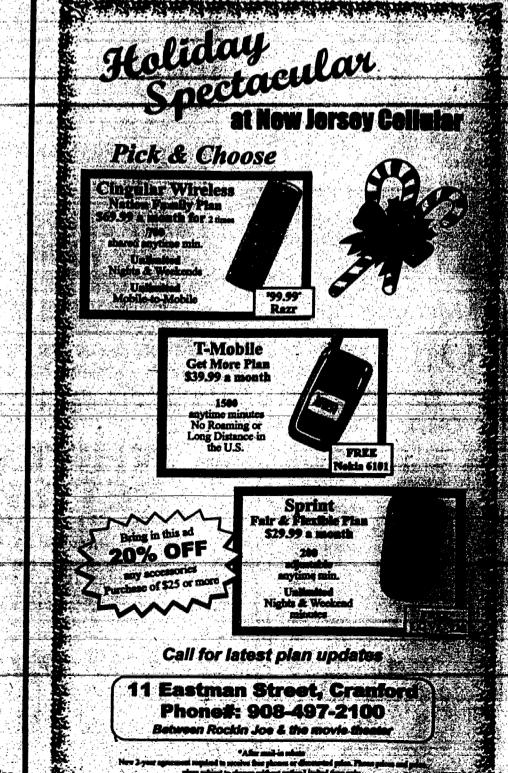
Manhattan)

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Any questions? Call Downtown Millburn Development Alliance at 973-379-2341 YOU'LL HAVE A WONDERFUL TIME DURING THE HOLIDAYS IN DOWNTOWN MILLBURNI

Design: Signal Graphics



Overlook Hospital receives grant to create stroke center

Atlantic Health System recently Betty Lagitch, neuroscience nurse the Department of Health and ical director of neurosciences for of Healthcare Organizations. was awarded three grants from the manager at Mountainside Hospital. Senior Services to address the pub- Atlantic Health System, based at Atlantic Health System is one of state of New Jersey to support the "Mountainside is dedicated to lie health needs of an aging popula- Overlook. "These grants will help the largest non-profit health care gery radiology and advanced diagcreation of state-of-the-art stroke reducing the morbidity and disabil- tion. State officials have let area us build the type of acute care stroke systems in New Jersey. Its three centers at each of its three hospi- ity caused by stroke and will use hospitals know the state will desig- centers New Jersey needs now - hospitals have a combined total of tals: Mountainside Hospital in this grant to enhance its already nate qualified New Jersey hospitals ones that deliver top-notch care, 1,585 licensed beds and 2,600 affil- pice care and rehabilitation services. Montclair/Glen Ridge received excellent stroke services." Summit received \$55,000, and Mor- is being overseen by Dr. David hensive centers offering highly spe- that are on call 24/7." ristown Memorial Hospital received Blady, a board-certified neurologist. cialized care for the most complex

Kent Place receives an award

The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, the leading organization of college and independent school communications and development professionals, recently honored Kent Place School in the CASE District II Accolades Awards program, which recognizes excellence in alumni. communications and fund-raising

The Office of Development and Alumnae Relations received acclaim and earned a silver medal in the fundraising publications category for its 2004-2005 Annual Fund materials. The "Countless Reasons, Endless Possibilities." themed design played an integral part in the school exceeding its \$1,000,000 goal by over \$115,600. Elizabeth Bugliari, Kent Place's

director of development and alumnae relations, said, "Our design team deserves a great deal of credit for consistently coming up with a clear message that describes and defines the goals of this outstanding school, Annual fund brochures must reach all constituencies including parents, grandparents, friends and our beloved alumnae. Their generous response to our request for support speaks volumes about the resonance of the message and I am delighted that the team's hard work has been recognized in such an important way."

In early 2005, Kent Place received a bronze medal in the educational fund-raising category for their Senior Class Giving Program and, in 2004, was awarded a gold medal in the visual design in print category for logos and nameplates for its "Conversations Across Difference: A Symposium on Diversity" logo. In 2002, Kent Place was awarded two medals: a bronze medal for fund-raising publications and a bronze medal for visual design

School is New Jersey's largest nonsectarian, college-preparatory school for

Editorial deadlines Following are deadlines for news:

Church, club and social — Friday Entertainment - Friday, noon. Sports — Monday, noon. Letter to the Editor - Monday, 9

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The grants are part of the state's stroke cases.

cach year in the United States," said the Stroke Center Act, permitting hope," said Dr. John Halperin, med- Joint Commission on Accreditation betes care, gastroenterology, trauma Dentistry of New Jersey.

567,900; Overlook Hospital in Mountainside's stroke initiative sive" stroke centers, with compre- ventional expertise and stroke teams—array of health care services to the five million residents of 11 Northern New Jersey. To meet the highest standards of and Central New Jersey counties. stroke services. Atlantic Health Sys- Specialty services include cardio-"There are approximately new focus on hospital stroke "For the first time, acute stroke is tem's hospitals area are also apply- vascular care, neurosciences, pedi- through a clinical affiliation with 700,000 new or recurring strokes response. In 2004, the state passed treatable and patients have new ing for stroke certification to the atrics, cancer care, orthopedics, dia- the University of Medicine and

as either "primary" or "comprehen- including advanced imaging, inter- iated physicians providing a wide Atlantic Health maintains a partnership with The Cancer Institute of

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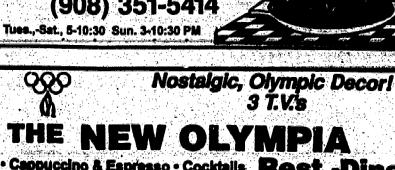


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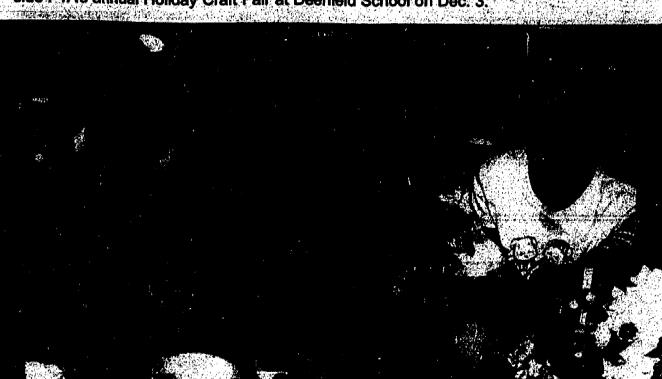
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SEASON'S GREETINGS To Our Customers and Friends MICHAEL F.



Jenny Reis, Aubrey Marcantonio and Cassie Kinney work on their crafts at the Mountainside PTA's annual Holiday Craft Fair at Deerfield School on Dec. 3.



Kelly Goense, Jackie Wells, Katie Wells and Lauren Wagner get 'crafty' making crafts at



Andrew Fresolone, Jonah Butler, Garrett Hain, Dylan Hain, Jensen Butler and Alex Fresolone get ready to taste treats from the bake sale.



Give a child the gift of reading by

ATTHE LIBRARY

Mountainside PTA sponsors annual holiday craft fair

Photography exhibit of New Jersey scheduled

platy 66 Mountain Ver is sustained carefully better in over the Nutley and Belleville public p.m.

dexhibit called Now Jersey, Imsteed nature and those created by man Montclair Community Hospital The used for Jan. 2 to reb 16

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take advantage of the weather or the light. But more often I employ close-

"is to present work that invites contemplation with the viewer discovering more and more in the image with group shows, including juried shows

Book discussion group

Books for Kids

The Mountainside P

um to Cape May, from Sussex County in winter to summer at the Jersey Shore, and from Ramapo, to Nutley, to Clinton.

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

Community Collegs, Newton; the Arts County tographic Art, Winchester, Mass.

Other group ahows have been at County tographic Art, Winchester, Mass.

Other group ahows have been at Guild of Rahway; the Meadowlands Environment Center, Lyndhurst, and, with his wife, Margor, at the Gallery at the Callery at the Venezuelan Consulate in Manhaters and its content for the Arts, Rutherford, and the Kodalux Gallery, Paramus.

The museum is open on Monday, the Meadow and the present First and second-generation immigrants struggle either to

versity.

and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 don.

Other solo exhibitions have been at p.m., and on Suaday, from 1 to 3:30 . Discussions take place in the

973-376-4930 to verify that the exhib- a copy of the book, call 973-376-4930.

Library's (Really Good) Book Discus-donation strive.

Lynde Gegliene Committee Secretary U132499 ECL Dec. 22, 2005 (\$14.25)

Other tox of the state of the s

in the Garden State. Occasionally, I restal Center, Princeton; Bloomfield Wednesday and Thursday, from 10 maintain traditions or break free of like to capture an entire acene, and College, and Fairleigh Dickinson Uni- a.m. to 8:30 p.m.; on Tuesday, Friday them in multiethnic, postcolonial Lon-

libraries the Midisch Pablic Library. Because the museum from is also Mountain Ave.

Montclair Community Hospital. The used for closed meetings; call shead at Polymore information or to reserve, accepted at the library through tomorNIA Group, Paramus, and at St. John's 973-376-4930 towers to the exhib-

The collection box is located at the main entrance to the library. Books for children from birth to age 14 are needed. These books are

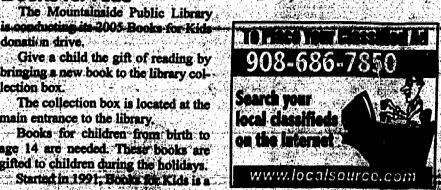
Road Block 14 Lot 16 Expension of the Municipal Building, pavement of driveway, contrary to Sec. (00 Municipal Building, long 1009(c)(2) front yard under 1001; or sey at 300 M. prevailing time. 1009(c)(3) side yard under 8 ft. or 105 of Executive meetings with precede the region of the 1009(c)(4) insufficient for area parawallings and will start at 7:50 P.M. 1009(c)(7) lot coverage, 1009(c)(5) least.

1009(c)(7) lot coverage, 1009(c)(5) least.

The Municipal Building with precede the region of the parawalling to the para

statewide program sponsored by the New Jersey Library Association's

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



PUBLIC NOTICE

for consulting and saving neering services to PMK Group to conduct aslective asbestos identification surveying and act as project designer and monitor for any project which may be undertaken at the Deerlied School during the appropring rooting and media center projects, or a see not to exceed 8,000. The resort ign and contract will be on the and available for public inspection in the office of the Soard.

U132520 ECL Dec. 22, 2005 (\$6:25)

2502 ECL Deg. 22: 2005 (\$6.25)



Mrs. Thomas's and Mrs. O'Brien's 3-year-old students sing seasonal songs for their recent Holiday Show at the Community Presbyterian Nursery School.

WORSHIP CALENDAR

BAPTIST EVANGEL BAPTIST CHURCH "SERVING CHRIST IN THE 21st CENTURY." - 242 Shunpike Rd., Springfield, Rev. Frederick Mackey, Sr. Pastor, Sundays: 9:30 AM Bible School for all ages - Nursery through Seniors; Spanish Sunday School 9:30 am and 5:30 pm 10:30 AM Worship Service and Nursery care 5:30-7:00 PM AWANA Club Program for Children ages 4-11; 6:00 PM Evening Service & Nursery care. Wednesdays: 7:15 PM Prayer Praise and Rible Study: Junior/Senior High Ministry, Active Youth Ministry; Wide-Range Music Program. Ample Parking. Chair Lift provided with assistance. All are invited and

welcomed to participate in worship with us. For

further information contact church office (973) 379-4351. Mondays - 7:00 pm - ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. JEWISH-CONSERVATIVE Springfield. 973-376-0539. Mark Mallach. Rabbi, Richard Nadel, Cantor, Marilyn Garlen, President. Beth Ahm is an egalitarian Conservative temple, with programming for al ages. Weekday services Mon.-Fri. 7:00 AM Sun.-Thurs. 7:45 PM Shabbat (Friday) 6:00 PM & 8:30 PM Shabbat day 9:30 AM & sunset; Sundays, 8:30 A.M. Festival & Holiday mornings 9:00 AM. Family and children services are conducted regularly. Our Religious School (third There are formal classes for both High School and pre-Religious School aged children. The synagogue also sponsors a Pre-School Women's League, Men's Club, youth groups for sixth through twelfth graders, and a busy Adult Education program. For more information, please

contact our office during office hours.

JEWISH-ORTHODOX CONGREGATION ISRAEL OF SPRINGFIELD 339 Mountain Avenue, Springfield. 973-467-9666. Chaim Marcus, Rabbi: Alan J. Yuter, Rabbi Emeritus: Solomon daily weekday morning Minyans at 6:15 a.m. and conducts classes for children aged 2 1/2 to 4. A summer camp is also available to children of this

Senior Set and very active Jr. NCSY and Sr NCSY chapters for pre-teens. Our Sisterhood. Adult Education and Youth groups provide a wide array of communal programming. For further information call the synagogue office at

> JEWISH - REFORM TEMPLE SHA'AREY SHALOM 78 S.

Springfield Avenue, Springfield, (973) 379-5387. Education Director, Nina Greenman, Pre-School Director; Mindy Schreff, Family Life Educator; Edward Fink and Hank Rottenberg, Co-Presidents. Temple Sha'arey Shalom is a Reform congregation affiliated with the Union for Reform Judaism. Shabbat worship, enhanced by volunteer choir, begins on Friday evenings at 8:00 PM, with monthly Family and Alternative Worship. Saturday morning Torah study class-begins at 9:15 AM followed by worship at 10:30 AM. Religious school classes meet on Saturday mornings for grades K-3; on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons for 4-7; and Tuesday evenings for post bar/bat mitzvah students. Preschool, classes are available for children ages 2 1/2 through 4. The Temple has the support of an active Sisterhood, Brotherhood, Renaissance Group and Youth Group. A wide range of programs include Adult Education, Social Action, Interfaith Outreach, Singles and Seniors. For more information, call the Temple office (973) 379-5387.

LUTHERAN HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH 639 fountain Avenue, Springfield, 07081, 973-379-4525. Fax 973-379-8887. Remo Madsen, Pastor Our Sunday Worship Service takes place at 10 s.m. For information about our midweek children, teen, and adult programs, contact the Church Office Monday through Thursday, 8:30-

SCHOOL, 229 Cowperthwaite Pl., Westfield, Rev. Paul E. Kritsch, Pastor. (908) 232-1517. Greenfield, President. Congregation Israel is a Beginning Sunday, July 6, Summer Worship 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning Nursery worship services. The church and all rooms are

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Christmas Eve

7:00 PM Candlelight Service

Children's Program

welcomes all of God's children. Be renewed and strengthened through upbeat Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM. Express God's love through outreach ministries. Praise God through music with our professional music ministers, Ginny Johnston and Dan Crisci. Grow in your faith through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship. Improve relationships through an affordable Counseling Center (CCHD). SEUMC is located at the far BACK end of Church Mall, #40, near Morris and Mt. Aves in Springfield, 973-376-1695, seume larverizon net

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

information at 908 277-1700. **PRESBYTERIAN**

PRESBYTERIAN Jersey 07092. You are invited to join us in Worship Services on Sundays at 10:30 sm. This is a place for you to enjoy uplifting music and relevant messages that will energize and inspire you. We offer a warm and friendly environment with Bible study. Sunday school and active adult and youth groups. For further information, please contact Dr. Christopher Belden, Pastor at 908-

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 210 Morris Ave. at Church Mall, Springfield, 973-379-4320. Sunday School Classes for ages 3yrs. Senior High 9:00 a.m. in our Parish House, Sunday morning worship service 10:15 a.m. Children's Church is held during the worship service; Nursery care and facilities are provided

nonth; The Ladies Evening Group-3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m.; Kaffocklatsch-let and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m.; Men's Fellowship-2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m.; Choir-every Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We also host various Outside group neetings: Springfield Garden Club, Children's Community Choir, Learning Disabled Group, and Alanon. For information about any of our programs or services, call Gesele at the Church Office: 973-379-4320, Mon. through Fri., 9:00 a.m.-12 noon; 1:00pm-4:00pm

ROMAN CATHOLIC THE CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 300 Central Avenue, Mountainsid 08-232-1162. Celebrate the Lord's Day: Anticipated Mass 5:00pm, Sunday at 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am. Weekdays: Monday-Friday 7:30am, Saturday 8:00am, Sacrament of Reconciliation, Saturday at 1pm. Perpetual Adoration Chapel for personal prayer and

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF ST. JAMES, 45 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey 07081:973-376-3044. SUNDAY EUCHARIST: Sat. 5:30 p.m. Sun. 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 a.m., 12 Noon, Reconciliation Sat. 1:00-2:00 p.m. Weekday Masses: 7:00 & 8:00

UNIVERSALIST

UNITARIAN CHURCH IN SUMMIT, 3245. www.ucsummit.org. Rev. Vannessa Rush Southern, Minister, Emilie Boggie, Assistant Minister, Mitchell Vines, Music and Choir Director. Sunday Services and religious education classes at 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM. Adult

writing and received by Worrall Community Newspapers No later than 12:00 Noon, Fridays

Connie Sloan Worfall Community Newspapers 1291 Stryvosant Ave. P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J. 07083 U/W

OBITUARIES

Adam Chapleski Adam Chapleski, 93, of Springfield died Dec. 11 in Overlook Hospi-

Born in Scranton, Pa., Mr. Chapleski lived in Newark before moving to Springfield 36 years ago. He was a bottler at P. Ballantine & Sons Brewery. Newark, for 31 years before retiring 30 years ago. Mr. Chapleski was a member of Group 3 of the Sarah Bailey Senior Citizens in Springfield.

Surviving are his wife, Mary; a daughter, Carole Stankiewicz: a brother, Edward Czypoliski; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Fred Giordano

Fred Giordano, 58, of Mountain side died Dec. 12 in Mount Sinai Hos

pital, New York City. Born in Irvington, Mr. Giordano lived in Clifton before moving to Mountainside, Mr. Giordano was chief executive officer and president of East Coast Auto Group in Bergen, Somerset and Hudson counties for many years. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. Mr. Giordano served in the Army as a Military Police officer.

Surviving are his wife. Debbie; two sons, Shane and Brandon; a daughter, Rebekah; his mother, Regina Giordano; two sisters, Carol and Susan. and two grandchildren.

Lillian Shewitz

Lillian Shewitz of Mountainside died Dec. 12 in the Brighton Gardens,

Born in Brooklyn, Mrs. Shewitz lived in New York. East Orange and West Orange before moving to Mountainside eight years ago. She received a bachelor's degree in education from St. John's University, New York City. Mrs. Shewitz was a past president and reasurer of the B'nai B'rith Women of East Orange.

Surviving are a daughter, Francine Rubin; two sons, Kenneth and Peter, and five grandchildren.

Anthony Rogala

Anthony Rogala, 77, of Mountainside, formerly of Clark, died Dec. 13 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Born in Mielec, Poland, Mr. Rogala lived in Newark and Clark before moving to Mountainside 25 years ago. He was the owner of Larchmont Liquors, Union, for many years before retiring in 1990. Mr. Rogala served in the Merchant Marine during World War II and the Army during the Korean War.

Surviving are his wife, Gilda; three sons, Marc, Michael and Matthew; a

Victor Palais Victor Palais, 82, of Delray Beach.

Fla., formerly of Springfield, died Dec. 14 at home. Born in Brooklyn, Mr. Palais lived in Bayonne, Jersey City and Spring-

field for seven years before moving to Delray Beach 16 years ago. He was a tool and die maker for Corning Inc., Kenilworth, for many years before

Mr. Palais served in the Navy during World War II and was a member of the Knights of Pythias in New York City and the Bayonne Chapter of Deb-

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Rhoda; a son, Michael Jeffrey: a sister, Sydelle Eisenberg, and two grandchil-

Lewis Winkler

Lewis A. Winkler, 82, of Mountain side died Dec. 16 at home.

Born in Phillipsburg, Mr. Winkler moved to Mountainside in 1960. He was a product executive at Exxon Chemical, New York City, where he worked for 30 years before retiring in

Before that, Mr. Winkler was an instructor at Lafayette College in

He received a degree in chemical engineering in 1944 from Lafayette College and then served in the Navy during World War II.

Surviving are his wife, Doris: three daughters, Barbara Gorman, Carole Meier and Patricia Schor, a sister, Elinor Landis; a brother, Richard, and eight grandchildren.

Charles Zagorski Charles Zagorski, 83, of Spring

field, a Holocaust survivor, died Dec Born in Chraznow, Poland, Mr. Zagorski lived in Newark before moving to Springfield. He was a ladies' clothing designer for Jonathan Lovan Inc., New York City, before retiring 20 years ago. He was a member of the

Surviving are his wife, Phyllis; a son, Joseph B., and three grandchil-

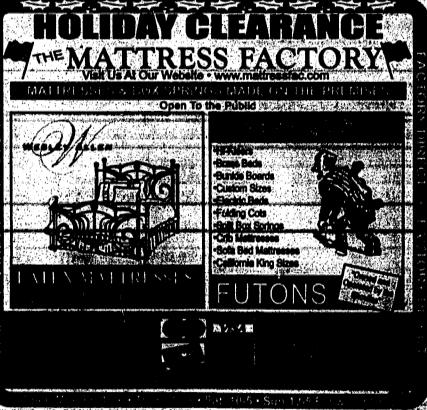
Chraznow Association and the Ahavas

Obituary policy

local funeral homes or families mus be in writing. This newspaper cannot accept obituaries by telephone. Obituary notices must be typed and include a telephone number where the

writer may be reached from 9 a.m. to

For more information, call 908



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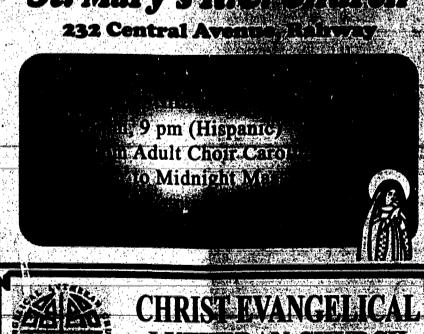




HRISTAWAYCHAGA LUTHERAN CHURCH

11:00 AM Candlelight & Holy Communion **Bell Choir & Sanctuary Choir** Music Presentation 908-686-0188

Christmas Day 10:30 AM Informal Children's Story & Hymns/Carol Singing





CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

10 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion Worship Service



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New Added



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ArtsEntertainmentClassified

Automotive

Good deal to say

Elizabeth Cox of Summit has a good deal to say. She continues to be a forceful advocate for women's issues. The Union County Women's Political Caucus made her a 2005 honoree. She helped to create both the Union County and State Woman's political caucus, and she even served a stint as statewide

ment and reminiscences of activity their young vice president named

Her elective office stint was only two years in the state Assem bly from 1971 through 1972 before redistricting took place. She was unsuccessful in a later attempt a State Senate, which she recalls "losing by 30,000 votes."

Cox calls herself an Eisenho

father of Social Security. The exgovernor Tom Kean Sr. has her dmiration. The current state Senator, Tom Kean Jr., has a loyal supporter in his run for the U.S. Senate She quips, "I probably know more about his grandfather than he does." There really needs to be an oral

ton from Kentucky, As a Serioto

Bush Sr., but in regard to the current Bush, she is far more reserved. As a moderate Republican, she believes former Gov. Christine Whitman 'made a mistake going to Washington.' Beyond her prochoice stand, Cox believes issues spousal struct, and displaced bome makers do not get nearly enough

Along with Democrat Joan Rajoppi she represents the Union County Caucus on the State Board of the Commission for Women. She of the Commission for Women. She also serves the state organization as Parliamentarian and Bylaws.chain She directs her own business New Jersey Research and Information Services. That's understandable kince she got her second master's degree in Library Science from Pratt Institute. Her first master's was from NYU, where she became

State of the got to try to She
is accorded of Gov-elect Jon
Corring stying the \$4 billion plus
state deficit will be his hards inc control of a copy of the control

time in politics are preserved. The stories are interspersed with facts and human insight. Something about living history comes to mind. An attorney, Frank Capece is

The pay hikes are the first the board has approved since 2003, Her thoughts were echoed by Bruce Paterson, also of Garwood, and its highest single increase since 1998, when the board unani-

and Elizabeth Cox of Summit. "I don't begrudge you salaries," Cox said, "but I think you could slow it down." Cox cited the fact that the 5.3 percent increase was higher than the Consumer Price Index rate of roughly 3.75 percent.

As next of the the same ordinance, the freeholders also approved salary increases for six department heads. The raises for County Manager George Devanney, Deputy

County Manager Elizabeth Genievich, County Counsel Robert

million budget. In addition to part-time salaries, the freeholders Barry, Director of Economic Development James Daley, Director are also eligible for full medical and dental benefits from the coun- of Engineering Frank Dann and Director of Public Safety Harold Gibson are all retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005.

At the meeting, Garwood resident Patricia Quatrocchi, who ran Each department head is a full-time county employee.

In an additional resolution, the board also established the salary unsuccessfully for a spot in the board in November, asked the board to set and example for the rest of the county by non taking of Nicole Tedeschi, clerk of the board, at \$82,500 for a period beginning Jan. 1, 2006 and ending Dec. 5, 2007.

As part of a separate resolution, the board voted 8-1, with Free holder Adrian O. Mapp as the lone dissenter, of increasing the unnual salaries of the county's three constitutional officers: Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi, Sheriff Ralph Froehlich and Surrogate James La Corte.

Mapp's vote broke the all-Democratic board's streak of unani-

mous. 9-0 votes Lauren DeFilippo can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or

Caldwell Parsonage important in local history

By Lauren DeFilippo

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

mously approved approximately 6 percent.

while the vice chairman will make \$30,500.

\$29,500, an increase of 5.3 percent.

As of Jan. 1, the salary for a part-time freeholder will 1

In 2006, the chairman will earn chairman will earn \$31,500

Last week, county officials estimated the fiscal impact of the

legislators' salary increase to be 0.3 percent on the county's \$390

During the late 1800s, much of the Union County was embroiled in the dom, self-government and independevents of the American War for Inde-ence from an unjust government," he

Nearly 105 skirmishes, large and small, are documented as occurring within the county's boundaries over the six-and-one-half years of fighting, Kean History Department Chairperson Mark Lender noted at a seminar devoted to the topic in June.

That's approximately two recorded and verifiable engagements each

The Battle of Connecticut Farms took place on June 7, 1780. That same day, Hannah Caldwell, wife of the Rev. James Caldwell of the First Presbyterian Congregation of Connecticut Farms, was guimed down by British Troops outside her home on what is

The Rev. Caldwell and his family were supporters of the patriot cause. of the Innu New Jersey Regiment.

After Julling Hannah, the troops then Jet two of the Caldwell's nine children, Hills. 10, and Maria, 9 months beave the home with the

The Rev. Caldwell sought out who had killed his wife in the months following her death. He even wrote personaliv to officers in the British Army, but his queries were never answered

The incident of Hannah's death en commemorated on the offici ncorporated until 1857.

Some people feel the terrible death

The home is outfitted with pieces of furniture, accessories and artwork that have been donated to the museum over the years. ... On the first floor, the main meeting

families like the Hedleys and the ry bedroom, complete with rope bed Meekers, who owned Union Town-

The Caldwell Paracrisoe is listed on both the superand national registers of historic places. The historic bone sits surrounded by modernion residences, but inside the rooms are filled with shownees of the township's fair-reacking past and its storied residents. The

home is contitued with pieces of furniture, accessories and artwork that have been donated to the museum over the years. groups, is located in what had previ- Victoristics Pieces of lace, ribbon, historical Union documents including Parson from 1835 to 1885.

On the second floor, one of the two

on both the state and national regis Lauren DeFilippo can be re u 908-686-7700, ext. 119, or ib

MARA CANAL MAN CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

including Revolutionary-era

Staff Writer Renaming the Cranford Commons
at Union County College was a sixprise 21 years in the making
The space will now beat the name
"The Victor M. Richel Student Com-

mons in tribute to long-serving tristee Victor Richel

Klonel: a resident of Berkeley
Heighna has been a trustee of the school for 23 years and saved as challenger of the board negatives of the school for 23 years and saved as

ino's Midtown Station Cafe, which is owned and operated by Michael LoBrace.

LoBrace, with much vision, took the historic Elizabeth Train Station, closed and unoccupied since 1974, and restored and renovated it into a

Richel, a native of Elizabeth, first lives.

got involved with the UCC Board of Looking back over his tenure, Trustees through Sid Lestner, who Richel stid the expansion of the served on the board.

Richel said it was Lestner who gram and the high number of articusold him on the idea of becoming part listion agreements the institution has of the college, but it was also the mission of the institution.

Richel, a native of Elizabeth, first lives it involved with the result of the result o

of the college, but it was and the sion of the institution.

The mission is very, very critical According to Richel UCC has 75 to the people of the county, Richel acticulation agreements which allows said.

All students to be admitted to four many constants agreements which allows to be admitted to four many constants.

UCED Coresents annual Businessawards

William to the second s

greate community through Volunteer activities.

This year a award recipient is Choong
Hwang owner of Ped Eze, a Bobyce and specie

Hwang dware of red 122,

appears store in Plainfield. — 128

Hwang his been a busines own in Plainfield since 1987 and will be opening in accord location by the end of this year. He has been constituted by the end of this year.

with left to A file county, the cut of His District to the Line of the Line of

ning Board and as part of the Golges Gloves pro-



The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders voted unanimously in favor of upping their annual salaries. Worrall Community Newspapers, incorrectly reported in the Dec. 15 editions that the raises were retroactive to Jan. 1, 2005. They are not.

Still, it's the political involve going all the way back to the 1956 Republican Convention that is so interesting. She can regale with stories such as the re-nomination of a

Left

By Frank Capece er/Kean Republican, which Kean is open to question. She praises the grandfather, Congressman Robert Kean who, she reminds, was

history format to preserve the expe rience of people like Cox. At the

She peak to carrial balloon in the name; but the nouse keener before ator Clifford Case which didn float in the wake of the Nixon and Agnew ticket. She doesn't criticize the Reagan years but adds, "I was a Republican before he was."

The praise is there for George

an expect in the United National
Fig. 100-20 and Community
the University of Vermont
She tryogen bury lines to praise
the mayer of her Community Jou-

control is New York and (fall the gard, cystic (1000) Estimal Conven-

resident of Cranford.



something such as a government seal,

However, others feel it is impor-

tant to memorialize people, like the

Caldwells, who spoke out "for free-

The home was rebuilt in 1782 by

the congregation on the same site,

Yesenko said.

Yesenko said.

photos of early county residents from

ship's first botel, line the walls in their

rooms is interpreted as an 18th-centuas the "Connecticut Farms" room.

Original copies of legal document

hat have been framed with a translation from their archaic English are nounted on the walls of the stairways The third floor is outfitted with a

A graduate of Thomas lef High-School, now called Bi

Adults with low literacy skills face

Parents who cannot read well are

unable to help their children with

The problem can continue into the

next generation. LV-UC wants to

If you know an individual who you

Literacy Volunteers tutor training

believe could benefit from confiden

workshops will be held Jan. 12, 17

19, 24, 26, 31 at Barnes & Noble, 240

Route 22 West, Springfield, from 7:30

11 and 25at Rahway Public Library, 2

City Hall Plaza, Rahway, from

- For more information, call Dawn at 908-518-0600 or dawikalivatinion org.

9:30a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas 🔆

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163 Washington Avenue • Belleville, NJ (973) 759-2468

Training also will be held March 4.

tial, free tutoring, ask them to call.

parents and other adults today.

Two groups unite in effort to ensure heat for needy

prices are impacting everyone this grants from Elizabethtown Gas." Gas customers having trouble paying

tomers to call United Way's 2-1-1 to Morris, Sussex and Warren counties, find out if they qualify for heating PROCEED Inc. serving Union Coun-

"Working families that live below or slightly above the poverty line face up to \$500 in heating assistance is As such, United Way programs are a daily struggle with life's basic needs, made available this winter to each not just "stop gap" measures, but ultisuch as paying for utilities, food and Elizabethtown Gas customer that mately preventative ones that affect rent," said James W. Horne Jr., CEO qualifies for help," said John Becker, powerful and lasting change. of the United Way of Greater Union energy assistance coordinator for Eliz-

decide whether to buy food for their 2-1-1 and other local agencies to service gaps, forging consensus and children or pay their utility bills to ensure that support is directed to keep their children warm. To help Elizabethtown Gas customers in New keep families in need warm and fed. Jersey that fail to qualify for we want to give them the information LIHEAP or NJ Shares assistance, but and contacts at local community agen-still need help to keep up with their cies to obtain the assistance that is utility bills. Hurricane Katrina evacavailable from state and local pro- uses that have relocated to New Jer- hood associations, community devel-

PUBLIC NOTICE (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:

the rules of civil practice and procedure. This action: has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 02/24/2003 made by Karen M. Annicchiarico, Jr., his wife as mortgagors, to America's MoneyLine inc. recorded on 03/21/2003 in Book 9987 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 0973 which Mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff. Deutsche Bank Trust Company, Americas formerly known as Banker's Trust Company, as Trustee and Custodian by: Saxon Mortgage Services, inc. 7/k/a Meritech Mortgage Services, inc. 7/k/a Meritech Mortgage Services, inc. 3 its attorney-in-fact by Assignment Of Mortgage which is unrecorded at this time; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerne premises

commonly known as 122 Midway Avenue, Fanwood, NJ 07023.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey Bar Association by calling 732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services office of the County of venue by calling 908-354-4340.

Joseph M. Annicchiarico and Karen M. Annicchiarico, his wife, and each of their heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made party defendants to this foreclosure action because they executed plaintiff's action because they executed plaintiff's action and may be liable for any deficiency and because they are the owners of record of the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein and for any lien, claim or interest they may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

DONALD F. PHELAN, CLERK SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY THIS IS AN ATTEMPT

TO COLLECT A DEBT.

ANY INFORMATION OSTAINED.

WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE
File XCZ 70239F

U132583 WCN Dec. 22. 2005 (\$73:50)

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

✓ 15+ Years Old

GRANT

AND LOAN

donated \$100,000 in energy assistance

Way are working together to provide grants to five organizations, including heating assistance to Elizabethtown United Way's 2-1-1, to help those in grams in Union County. NORWESCAP serving Hunterdon,

assistance through state programs or ty, the Puerto Rican Action Board focus on what matters most in comserving Middlesex County, and New munities by developing and investing Jersey SHARES Inc. serving the state. in programs that address the root caus-"Our primary goal in making the es of community needs - why prob-

corporate donations was to ensure that lems exist.

reduce truck vehicle miles traveled (VMTs) between Port Elizabeth in the City of Elizabeth and Tremley Point in the City of Linden in the area east of Route 129. The "Freight Access Study" is part of Union County's ongoing process to facilitate the movement of goods in this area and to foster economic development that supports trade and commerce in the region.

cost plus fixed fee. The total costs should be segmented according to labor, indirect and direct costs and summarized by task. All applicable federal and state law provisions will be applied. DBE/ESBE firms are encouraged to apply. RFP document can be made by mail or phone to: Liza Betz, Principal Transportation Plannier, Division of Planning and Community Development, Bureau of Transportation Planning, Country of Union, Administration Building - 1st Floor, Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, NJ 07207, (980)527-4086. In order to be qualified for review, proposal applicants are required to submit ten copies (one original and nine copies) of their completed proposal by 4:00 p.m. on January 18, 2006. December 15, 22, 2005.

December 15, 22, 2005 U131897 WCN (\$84,00)

required to serve upon the Attorneys for Plaintiff, Powers Kirn, LLC 9 East Stow Road Suite C, Mariton, NJ 08053, POBOX 1568, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, an Answer to the Complaint (and Amendment to Complaint, if any) filed in a Civil Action in which Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. is plaintiff and MNC Consumer Discount Co., at al., are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, within thirty-five (35) days after December 22, 2005, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court at the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex, CN 971, 8th Floor, North Wing, Tranton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure. A \$135.00 filling fee payable to the Clerk of the Superior Court and a completed Case information Statement must accompany your answer or motion.

The action has been is stituted for the purpose of foreciosing a mortgage dated 06/04/2004, made by Virginia Emanuel to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., and concerns real estate iocated at 1213 Grant Avenue, Plainfield, NJ OU, MNC Consumer Discount Co. are made a Usefendant because you are a lien holder in the above matter and so have an interest in the property being foreclosed. An Individual who is unable to obtain an attorney may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling toil free 800-792-8315 (within New Jersey State Bar Association by calling toil free 800-792-8315 (within New Jersey) or 609-394-1101 (from out of state), you may also communicate with a Lawyer Referral Service, or if you cannot afford to pay an altorney you may call the Legal Services Office. The phone numbers for the county in which this action is pending are: Legal Services (908) 354-4340 Lawyer Referral Services (908) 354-4340 Lawyer Referral Services (908) 355-55)

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Avoid costly clean-ups and difficult real estate transactions. We'll give you options and solutions.

Freezing weather and high energy grams, including energy assistance sey are also eligible for assistance. United Way's certified agency partners Proceed Inc., Urban League, and In October, Elizabethtown Gas

Elizabethport Presbyterian Center are helping implement the assistance proassistance partnership is just one program the non-profit organization has

United Ways across the country

United Way works by creating community collaborations by building "We're working with United Way's partnerships, assessing needs and

Community partners often include schools, government policy makers, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, voluntary and neighboropment corporations and the faith

approximately 1,400 communitybased United Way organizations. Each is independent, separately incorporated and governed by local

The United Way system includes

RSVP has toy drive

The Retired Senior and Volunteer Program is having its annual toy drive for children in Union County ages 1 through 16. The toys will be wrapped and distributed through to needy children the week before Christmas.

If you wish to give to donate, it will

Contact Debra at the RSVP office in Elizabeth at 908-354-3040, ext. 369, for further information.

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. Dis-tribution of presents will take placeting tribution of presents will take placetin. Yars young control puter who was early December during a Christmas ready to roll up in a leaves and dig in party given by NAMI, at UCPC. They began by localising on Antoine's

and get paid for your insights!

Personal Care Items (soaps, shampoos, etc.)
 Pet Care Items

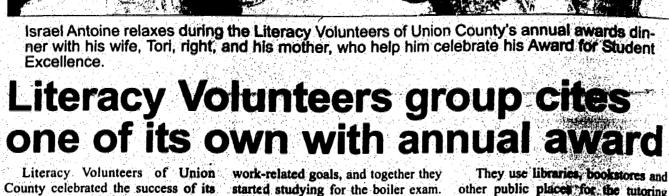
Get Pald Every Line!

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Pet Care Items



ly got married, and speaks about adult

Literacy Volunteers of Union

County is a non-profit organization

that provides free tutoring for adults in

the community who want to improve

their reading, writing and math skills

In Union County, one in four adults

level. This means they cannot read

LV-UC trains volunteers to provide

one to one and small group instruc-

Tutoring is done at a time and place

student, Israel Antoine, at the annual After a year of hard work and dogged Literacy Awards Dinner, held at Som- determination. Antoine passed his boiler exam and earned his Black Seal. many challenges in today's changing In 2003, he was reassessed and wine tasting dinner and silent auction moved up one reading level. Today, he one know they are struggling that raised funds for Literacy Volun- has a better, higher paying job, recent-

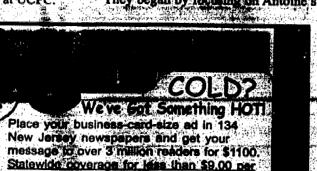
LV-UC nominated Antoine for LV-NJ's 2005 Award for Student Excellence. Antoine was selected from adult learners throughout the state. Antoine first came to Literacy Vol-

unteers-Union County in January

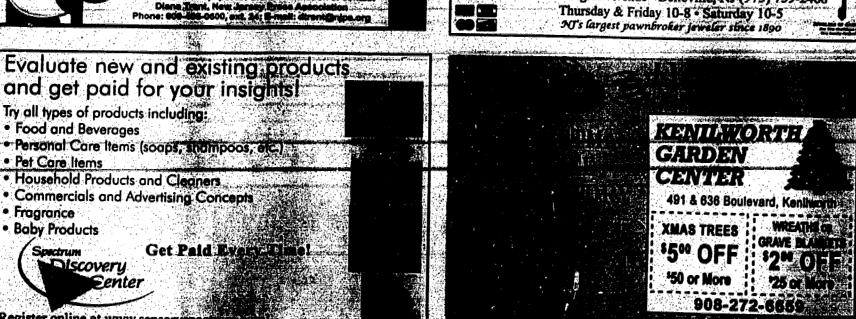
2002. A man in his early 20s, he had or who want learn to speak English. graduated from Elizabeth High School reading at the third grade are functioning at the lowest literacy At the time, he was working in well enough to fill out a job applicamaintenance at a hotel and was afraid tion, read the back of a medicine botthat his boss would find out about his tle, or read a story to their children.

LV-UC matched him with Chris

reading difficulties. This made his job



To All Our Customers & Friends WM. S. RICH & SON JEWELERS







Singer takes his style back to the future during week of concerts

The title track on DaVido's upcoming CD is called "Running Every Red reality."

The Union singer said it's about a guy who left the woman he loves, and suddenly decides to turn around and drive right back to her.

"He just turned the car around and didn't matter how many red lights he an to get to her," said DaVido.

Funny, that kind of sounds like DaVido's approach to music. In the middle of the first decade of the 21st century. DaVido has realized the music he loves occurred four decades ago, when male singers had big voices, and bigger personalities

DaVido put that bigger-than-life approach on display for a week-long stand at the St. George Theater in West Orange. For one week, the cathedrallike theater was transformed back to the '60s, as DaVido took the audience on a trip back to a time when singers

"In those days, people didn't songs In fact, one of his songs, "White want real. People loved living a Hot Christmas," was recorded by an dream; they didn't love reality English band, the Jive Aces, and it

Westfield author's book explores vengeance

studying on those guys."

former, and his outgoing, gregarious

personality certainly lends itself to that.

book and say, 'This reaction is venge-

Palmer said that "two different

before 9/11," said Palmer, "But I, like

many people, was shaken by that day.

and I went up to the Torne, which is a

Yet, there's more to DaVide than

Orbison and B.J. Thomas

Immediately following the 9/11 ful,' and it's a bit of both." tragedy, patriotism became the rule of the day, almost without limits. Several years later, the mood in the country seems reminiscent of the Vietnam era. and there are now decided limits to

time immediately post-9/11. Anger in a certain light could easily be per- I live where you can see the New York

nemy is greater, the terrorists, or her. At that point, Palmer chose to take osses, executives who ve left her in a a page from Stephen King's approach, that catches the eye in a lot of different attacks of an explosive nature."

ratiot anes ceived as patriotism, begging the skyline over the Watchung mountains, question, at what point does patriotism that's how high it is. And usually, you end and anger — and possible violent go up there, and on a nice day, you're looking for the twin towers of the World Trade Center, and now you saw

Westfield native Robert O. Palmer's the smoke. But I stood up there, and I new novel, Parrior sines. Its book mought. You know what if my brothis about a woman whose brother is or hadn't died the way he did, but what
killed by terrorists Subsequently, the 11 he d been in that building today and
woman trains to be a solutive assas- se'd been killed? How would I feel? sin, one who charms terrorists, and You're putting yourself in the place of then kills them.

Ultimately, the group she works seen going to come home that night with it numby executives whose deci
That go me thinking I felt very angry sions leave her in a vulnerable position.

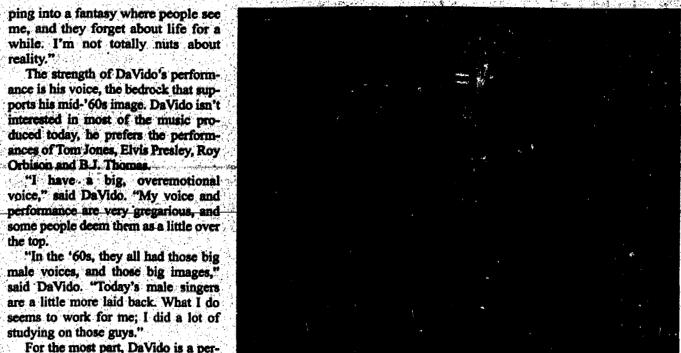
precatious position. to change things around for his story. ways, something Palmer was hoping Palmer, like so many writers, pos- with the "Nutcracker." "I've been contagious.

"Good question," said Palmer, "I "I said, 'Well, what if I wasn't a for. sesses a devotion for his craft that doing 'Nutcracker since I was about 6 Hartmann pointed out after the perthink the book is written so the reader middle-aged, technological kind of "The 0 works into the plot of the goes well beyond any notoriety an years old, I guess," she said. "I started formance that Verterich was once a think the book is written so the reader would sense the latter."

Almost as important, was how readers will feel about terror, patriotism and America's role when they've is an ad America's role when they've is an adverse in this character Cynthia James, just sort it's been successful because some people. As well as Goldfinch Books in Maplewood, where he'll appear to vidual readers and he qualities into my novel."

The 0 works into the plot of the author could achieve with their stories. Palmer's book is for sale on ama-bout terror, patriot-sort of woman to be somewhat a Barnesandhoble.com, and at Barnesandhoble.com, was note a author could achieve with their stories. Palmer's book is for sale on ama-bout terror, patriot-sort of worm and at Barnesandhoble.com, and at Barnesandhoble.com, was note a suthor could achieve with their stories. Palmer's book is for sale on ama-bout their stories and at Barnesandhoble.com, was note that Verterich was once a author could achieve with their stories. Out as a clown and I progressed over member of the cast of "Riverdance," year."

Palmer graduated from Westfield worms in the plot of the cream of the cream. Year of the cream of t



Singer DaVido, a native of Union, brought his mid-'60s, one-man singing act to the St. George Theater on Staten Island.

Then, there's Lis "past life." DaVido modeled for Boris Vallejo in Nashville, Tenn. DaVido even claims to have done some Harlequin book covers, though he's quick to acknowledge that his real

DaVido. "The way that I perform will tin." said DaVido. become reality again. It will become the new, old wave of music again." Indeed, even DaVido's bachelor

series, DaVido will continue working

"I'm hoping the fantasy I perform pad-style Web site smacks of that era. "It's all shout love," said DaVido becomes reality in years to come." said "It's like James Bond meets Dean Mar- "That's one thing that hasn't changed tin," said DaVido.

since the beginning of time. It's still
Following the week-long concert what spins the world.

For more information on Davido

Whiting is excellent as Clara in 'Nutcracker'

in the outstanding arts offerings available here. Granted, some things might be overrated, but the New Jersey Ballet always lives up to its billing, and its as much as Brown has. presentation of "Nutcracker" last Saturcompany is held in such high regard.

The New Jersey Ballet regularly performs at Kean University in Union, and the hours of preparation its performers endure produce pay dividends with spectacular performances like "Nutcracker."

who went on to perform on Broadway Union counties should be well versed in "Phantom of the Opera." Clearly, the bar is set high, but based on Whiting's performance last Saturday, it wouldn't come as a surprise if Whiting achieved

The audience clearly appreciate day at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Whiting's performance as Clara, sever-"aahhh." as she stood on tiptoe, extend ing her other leg toward the ceiling Her finished product was tremendous and she honed it through seeming

"I started out having my moin take me to ballet on Saturday mornings said Whiting. "At 8, I took private k regal feeling, with a purple curtain sur- sons with Amanda Gonozi That sum-

> Yet as good as many other perform ers were. Vitaly Verterich virtually stole

One person is going to read the book do with the impetus for this book. explosiveness, or the explosions, may be reached at journalis@thelo- use company 4 35th year of "Nutcrack- 3/6-4343. Performances will configure the book starts with terrorist calsource.com.

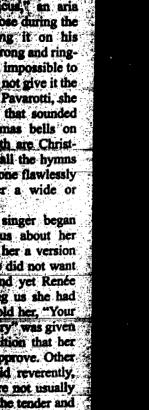
This reaction is patriotic.' Interestingly, the book has a cover because the book starts with terrorist calsource.com.

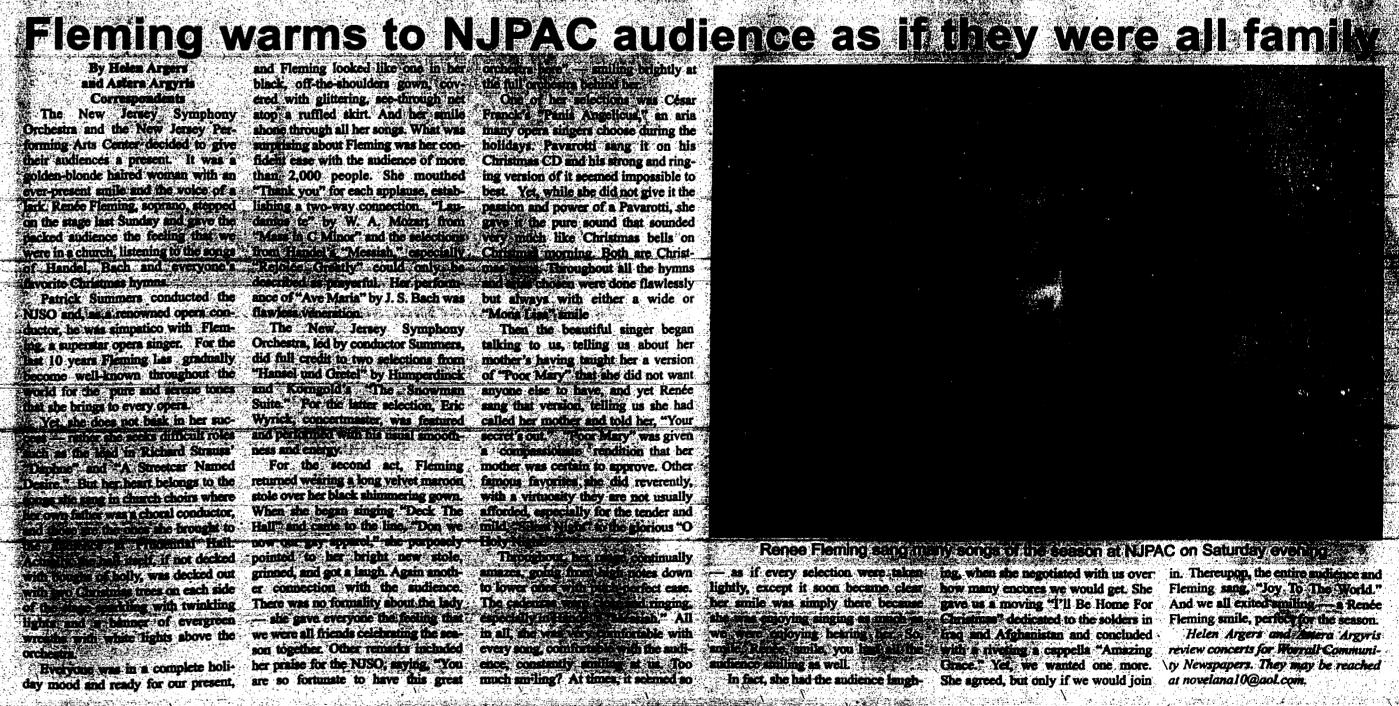
Laphne and "A Streets Named

were in a church, listening to the songs. From Handel & "Messiah," especially. Christman morning. Both are Christman of Handel, Bach, and everyone's "Reloice Greatly" could only be made and Etale choice were done flawlessly ance of "Ave Maria" by J. S. Bach was but always with either a wide or "Mora Lass" smile.

The New, Jersey Symphony Then the beautiful singer began that 10 years Fleming Las gradually did full credit to two selections from mother's having taught her a version of "Poor Mary" that she did not want and Komgold's "The Snowman anyone else to have, and yet Renée that she brings to every opers.

Wynek, concertmanter, was featured called her mother and told her. "Your





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Jeff Cummins, Editor

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ACROSS

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ANSWERS APPEAR ON PAGE B8

HOROSCOPES

Dec. 26 to Jan. 1 ARIES. March 21 to April 19: Look for new and exciting opportunities within your career or business

Follow up on ideas or suggestions offered by a teacher or minister. TAURUS, April 20 to May 20: Practice discipline and be patient in all affairs or matters relating to your home and family.

It is also important to take responsibility for your actions. GEMINI, May 21 to June 21: very carefully.

Figure out a way to pay old debts and to wipe your fiscal slate clean. CANCER, June 22 to July 22; Power plays at work among workers or colleagues are probable

Stay one step ahead of the absurdity with clear purpose and

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 22: Health or dietary issues are highlighted this

Do your homework and come up with a plan for attaining your desired like a pioneer and move forward.

VIRGO, Aug. 23 to Sept. 22: Romance is in the air. Do your best to maintain your composure and stay scious, in control of your senses.

Avoid fantasizing or thoughts of

focus is on catablishing a new home or, perhaps, remodeling your current Take a novel approach and make starting over a fun and fabulous goals.

beyond the normal scope of under-

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 22 to Dec. 21: Break free from prior financial worries and look forward to a period

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to you are encouraged to break ground

and initiate a personal project. Think

AQUARIUS, Jan. 20 to Feb. 18: Do not ignore a hunch or informa-

Tune into your dreams or turn to meditation for additional clarifica-

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: The PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20; Unification in purpose takes you far Use the knowledge, experience or connections provided by friends or

fair.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Cipline, practical action or applicaSCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Cipline, practical action or applicaSCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 21: Cipline, practical action or applica-

challenge during the coming year. To ensure your ultimate success,

Strive for the greatest amount of growth and personal development

Also born this week: Henry Miller, Louis Pasteur, Woodrow Wilson, Jon Voight, Rudyard Kipling,

tion stemming from your subcon-

For information any of the rounion Gall 732-288-2857 or send about refinions, write to Reunions an e-mail to Ron Knox at rah-Unlimited Inc., P.O. Box 130, English way25 reunion@sol.com for more

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X-ray

Dorfman to curate series at Arts Guild of Rahway later this month

visual artwork curated by New

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

works by the following artists writer whose series about a Yaqui- The concept becomes the over-rid- clusions about the nature of exis-Metropolitan area: Thomas Ander-popularity during the 1970s. son. Aileen Bassis, Allen Macriz, Leah Oates, Roger Sayre, Char-

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The Arts Guild of Rahway will lotte Schulz, Rebecca Sittler, individual artist in varying degrees realism. This realistic view is This program is also made pospresent "A Separate Reality," an Brian St. Cyr, and Randall J. of realistic representation. This based on the juxtaposition of per- sible in part by a grant from the

Dorfman was quick to point out image they desire. This exhibit is them." Jennifer Mazza, Douglas Newton, that, "Each work portrays the per- an eclectic choice of works whose This exhibit is sponsored by mail at artsguild1670@earthsonal and public ideology of the unifying thread is a concept of Merck & Co. Inc.

depiction is somehow skewed, sonal and public emotional and Curator Samantha Mae Dorf- enhanced or magnified in order to theoretical, social and political. Jersey artist Samantha Mae Dorf- man, who has organized many convey an added intent or subtext. These external and internal truths exhibits showcased in both New In a vast world, the artist's role combine to make up our own 'sep-There will be an opening recep- York City and New Jersey, has has become selector of imagery. arate realities. In a time when tion on Jan. 15, from 1 to 4 p.m., brought art work together for this The viewer must ask why would one cannot distinguish between exhibition based on an idea from the selected images be used and the realities presented by the The exhibition will feature the books of Carlos Castenada, a what is the underlying message, media or one's own logical con- to 7 p.m.

N.J. state Council on the Arts, Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endow-

Friday, and Saturday from 1 to 4

p.m.; Thursday from 1 to 3 and 5 from the New York-New Jersey Indian shaman, Don Juan, rose to ling key to discovery in a time tence, the artists present their own school visits and groups. For when the artist is free to use any truths about the world ground more information, call 732-381-7511 or contact the gallery by e-

wayartsguild.org for selected images and text about the show. The Arts Guild of Rahway is a

non-profit center for the arts presenting a yearly season of art exhibits primarily featuring New Jersey visual artists, a jazz series, a classical music concert series, and seasonal art classes and workshops for adults and children at all

levels of experience. The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in downtown Rahway at the corner of Seminary





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Joe Ornegri

Colleen Smile

Anne Santos

Jenelle Roberts

Pete Karpel

Iom Yauch

Demis Pellicano

John D'Achino

Nick Borrelli

Steve Sutterlin

Tom Canavan

Eric Bryant

Kitty Wilder

Robert Zullo

Paul Durning

lanet Uzzolina

Seth Augenste

Chris Sykes

John Zucal

Tara Hayden

Sean Havey

Vince Gragnani

Cindy Klimchock

Doug Mc Namara

David Worrall

Nancy Worrall

aura Durning

Terri Dassing

Fran Petrien

Mitch Turnaue

Rob Corio

Harold Rubin

Dave Van Dever

Rae Loria

Vancessa Zelaya

Tracy Politowicz

aul Greulich

Chris Lang

Leslie Scott

Jeff Cummin

Phil Curran

💆 Joe Ragozzino

Nancy Comggio

Ruth Dombrosk

loc Renna

Raymond Wortall

Peter Worrall

Felicia Mason

Austin Sammon

Michael Stewar

Connie Sloan

Dawn Boyden

Helen Kamens

Kate Spencer

Helena Atienz

Omayra Soto

Clara Mannin

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For our customers' convenience, the Union office will be open Tuesday evening, December 27 and Tuesday evening, January 3 from 6:30-8:30 om.

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SEVIE

Concert provides relief

On Dec. 30, Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre will present two benefit concerts to raise funds for the Gulf Coast hurricane victims. "Richard Rodgers, A Celebration of his Music," will take place at 6 and 8:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of West-field, 170 Elm St. Net proceeds will go directly to the Salvation Army Hurri-cane Relief Fund. Guests of honor will include Maj. Barbara Kelly, Salvation Army divisional secretary for program development and director of World Trade Center assistance, and Maj. Charles Kelly, Salvation Army executive director, Newark area services.

mented that many communities, like Westfield, are coming together to assist-people in the South through concerts like this one and other various events.

feels it is so important that we all conribute in whatever way we can to raise the funds to help people who have lost

their holiday schedule to attend Richard Rodgers, A Celebration of his Music," on Dec. 30 because the major

Tickets are \$25 and \$15 for students, ages 17 and younger, and are available at Tarpley & Co., 106 Quimby St.; the UPS Store, 321 North Ave. West; and Boogie's Tickets, 41 Elm St. Tickets will also be sold at the door. For further information regarding the concert, call 908-233-3200.

Agape Family Worship Center Blani Image Maken **Burgdorff ERA.** Crossroads Christian Fellowship. ERA Village Grean. Eye Care Center of NJ First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange. orest Hill Properties Apartments. Srand Sanitation. Holy Cross Church Hospital Center at Orange. JRS Realty

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Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news:

Church, club and social events -

Entertainment — Friday at noon.

Sports news and game results.

Letter to the Editor - Monday

n. General news and information

OUR PHYSICIANS: Morton Farber, MD * John a. Kline, MD Walter J. Pedowitz, MD Richard P. Mackessy, MD Francisco J. Miranda, MD

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

ART SHOWS

sent to 973-763-2557.

Maplewood 07040. Faxes may be

DIVERSITY ARTS GALLERY will host its 15th 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 neetings. Among the exhibitors will be Nancy Ori of Berkeley Heights, Sigal Lenz and Jeanne Smith of Fanwood, Adrian Giuliani of Scotch Plains and Dolores Brink of Roselle Park. Diversity Arts Gallery is located at Union County Baptist Church, 4 Valley Road, Clark. For more information, call 732- tard out of Carolina," will be the first 574-1479 or visit the Web site at

www.diversityart.com. THE ARTS GUILD OF RAHWAY. located at 1670 Irving St., Rahway, presents "A Separate Reality: An Eclectic Exhibition of Realistic Visual Artworks," 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 Bassos, Allen Maertz, Jennifer Mazza, Douglass Newton, Leah Oates, Roger Savre, Charlotte Schulz, Rebecca Sittler, Brian St. Cyr and Randall J. Stoltzfus. The exhibition will be curated by Samantha Mae Dorfman. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org.

LANDSCAPES will be the focus of "Landscope: 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 Brentano, Peter Giaccio, Laura Lou Levy and Roger Tucker. For more information, call 732-381-7511, or log on to www.rahwayartsguild.org. THE VISUAL ARTS CENTER of New

Jersey will present the third exhibition in its Emerging Artists Series, continuing through Feb. 3. This special exhibition will showcase the work of five Master of Fine Arts candidates who will be graduating in 2006. The artists all attend New Jersey colleges and universities offering Master of Fine Arts programs. The artists chosen are Stephen Shingler from Montclair State University; Neil Callander and Jeffrey Thompson from Mason Gross School of Fine Arts, Rutgers; Lydia Viscardi from William Patterson University; and Todd Doney from New Jersey City University. For more information, call 908-273-9121, or log on to www.artcenterni.org for more information on classes, exhibitions and special events. THE DONALD B. PALMER MUSEUM at the Springfield Public Library. 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield, plans the following exhibits:

 New Art Group through Dec. 30. · Robert Parker, Jan. 9 through Louis Winarsky, Feb. 21 through

March 30. For information on these exhibits and other programs at the Donald B Palmer Museum, call 973-376-4930. BERKELEY HEIGHTS ARTIST NANCY ORI is featured at a permanent exhibit at Berkeley Heights Public Library, 290 Plainfield Ave., Berkeley Heights. For information, call 908-464-9333. Ori's work is also featured at the New Providence Public Library, 377 Elmwood Ave., New Providence through December. For Information call 908-665-0311.

BOOKS

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN BOOK GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818. THE "LORD OF THE RINGS" READ-ING GROUP meets the first Wednes day of the month at Barnes and Noble 1180 Raritan Road, Clark. For information, call 732-574-1818.

the case of a young man with Asperg-KEAN UNIVERSITY'S OFFICE OF er's syndrome arrested for a senseless UNIVERSITY RELATIONS and The Star-Ledger have partnered to publish Come meet this funny mystery writer a new book titled "World of Wonder: on Jan. 21 at 2 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, Exploring the Realms of History, Scilocated at 240 Route 22 West, Springence, Nature and Technology." The book brings together 90 of the most fascinating subjects surveyed by the World of Wonder series. The book is now available for purchase in the Kean University book store and on the Web site of The Star-Ledger at

by newspaperman John Grogan. author of "Marley & Me," will touch everyone who's ever known and loved a goofy dog during the Discover Great http://www.nj.com/worldofwonder. New Writers Book Group on Jan. 25 at WEEKLY STORY TIMES are present-7:30 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, located ed every Monday and Thursday at t 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For 11:30 a.m. at the Springfield Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22 West. formation, call 973-376-6581. COMPARE AND CONTRAST Alice Springfield. For information, call 973-Walker's thrilling book, "The Color Pur-

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be selected for upcoming months. WALTER CHOROSZEWSKI will sign copies of his book, "New Jersey: A 25-Year Retrospective," at The Town Book Store, 255 East Broad St., Westfield, on Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon. Call 908-233-353 for more information, or log on to www.townbookstore.com.

CLASSES

THE DUCRET SCHOOL OF ART located at 1030 Central Ave. and is situated on a seven-acre campus in a historic residential area of Plainfield. The school offers full-time and parttime day and evening classes in fine art, graphic design/computer graphics and illustration. For information call 908-757-7171, fax: 908-757-2626, or

'Cave Totem.' by Tim Trelease, will be part of an exhibit titled 'The Midnight Zone,' from

Jan. 9 to Feb. 2 at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit. For more information, call 908-273-

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM on Morris

Avenue in Union has scheduled its

popular Lunch and Learn series, **whic**h

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York musician who has devoted his Club, 625 Pulaski St. For information, career to injecting new life into the blues, jazz, vaudeville, ragtime and folk traditions of the roaring 1920s, '30s and '40s, will take the stage at the Union County Arts Center. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased by calling 732-499-8226 or online by visiting the Web site at www.UCAC.org. Tickets may also be purchased in person at the Ticket Central Box Office located at the corner of 1601 Irving Street and Central Ave., Rahway.

SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC

call 908-355-3131.

THE UNION COUNTY BOARD OF FREEHOLDERS invites local nonprofit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the 2004 Union County HEART — History. Education, Arts Reaching Thousands - grant program. To request HEART grant Information, contact the Union itage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth 07202; call 908-558-2550, Relay users dial 711; or send inquiries via e-mail to culturalinfo@ucnj.org.

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 908-964-9724 or 908-964-8808, send inquiries via e-mail to TMRCInc@aol.com or visit the Web site at www.tmrci.com.

THE HARVEST QUILYERS OF CEN-TRAL NEW JERSEY will meet the first Monday of each month at Cozy Corner Creations guilt shop, Park Avenue, 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 Café. For more information, call 973-376-

HICKORY TREE CHORUS, an awardwinning women's chorus singing fourpart 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. To learn more about Sweet Adelines, Hickory Tree and its quartets, women and teen-aged girls who sing are urged to visit the Web site, hickorytreechorus.org., send a message by email to info@hickorytreechorus.org., or call 973-966-6815.

INTERNET

THE INTERNET LOUNGE, 256 South Ave., Fanwood, hosts an Open Mic/ The winning scripts will be honored Karaoke Night on Sundays at 7 p.m. Join the group for a cup of gourmet coffee and a wide variety of organic foods and participate in an original poetry reading, a stand-up comedy routine or a musical number. There's no cover WarCraft or Counter-Strike. To ask about a schedule of events, call 908-490-1234 or visit its Web site: www.theinternetlounge.com.

JAZZ

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

Hong, a virtuosa pipa player, who leads an ensemble performing the best JAZZ IS BACK AT THE COVE of Chinese folk, classical, court, silk Wednesday's Jazz Cocktells" will feaand bamboo music on dozens of ture the house band, Tempo, playing at Dusty's Place on Monday, formerly string, wind and percussion instruments, on Jan. 22 at 3 p.m. Wilkins known as The Cove. 112 Chestnut St. Theatre is located on the campus of mation, call Marge Devanney at 908ropolitan area. For information call 908-241-5675, or 908-241-1224. THE MADRIGAL SINGERS, an a cap-Patrons may also send a message by e-mail to salange@bellatlantic.net. nusic of the European Renaissance. LIVE JAZZ PERFORMANCES WILDS will perform on Jan. 8 at 4 p.m. at First eatured every Friday at 9:30 p.m. at United Methodist Church, One East 22 West Restaurant and Lounge, 2185 Broad St., Westfield. Donations may be Route 22, Union. Patrons must be 21

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/-SQUARES, a local square dance TALES FOR TOTS PRESCHOOL club, meets Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at STORYTIME will be offered at Barnes Frank K. Hehnly School, Raritan Road, and Noble, Route 22 West. Springfield. Clark. The fee for each lesson is \$4. Mondays and Thursdays at 11:30 a.m., For information, call 908-298-1851, and the Kids' Writing Workshop, Satur-732-381-2535 or 908-241-9492. days at 10 s.m. For information, call

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

The concert series continues at the

Suburban Community Music Center,

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Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. For information,

CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE

DOG on Jan. 31 at 10:30 a.m. at

Barnes and Noble, Route 22 West, Springfield, on Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. For

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

SCRIPTS

Equity Association theater program at Kean University, is currently accepting County Division of Cultural and Her-play submissions for the Premiere Stages Play Festival from professional cut and Pennsylvania. There is no fee required to submit a play to the Preentry guidelines, send a self-Morris Ave., Union, N.J. 07083.

SINGLES

adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental preakfast at First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield. Donation is \$2. For

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

Thursday, starting today at 7 p.m. Enjoy live entertainment and free finger food at Cafe Vivace, 1370 South Ave., and Terrill Road, Fanwood. Admission s free. Call 908-753-4500 for details.

THEATER

wrights Competition for New Jersey High School Students, sponsored by The Theater Project, Union County College's Professional Theater Company. First-, second- and third- prize winners will receive \$600. \$400. and \$200 U.S. savings bonds, respectively. with professional script-in-hand per formances during New Jersey Family Week at the theater in March when professional theaters in New Jersey offer free programming for young people. The contest is open to students in charge, and patrons can come in. New Jersey in grades nine to 12. make new friends, surf the Web or play Scripts at any stage of completion are Jan. 31. There is a \$5 entry fee. Mail to The Theater Project, Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford, NJ 07016. For information, call 908-659-5189.

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"Beyond These Four Walls," has writ- Book Group on Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at Center, 1601 Irving St., Rahway. Red- ing, \$9 per person, or Latin dancing ten a revealing book that offers readers Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route bone, the eccentric and eclectic New \$10 per person, at the Bayway Polish new insights into recognizing, accept- 22 West, Springfield. For information. ing, deciphering, and surrendering to call 973-376-6581. All are invited to the psychic signs and symbols in their join this newly formed group. Titles will own lives, titled "Sign of the Dove." Come meet this amazing woman and hear her messages from "the other side." Occhino will come to the Barnes & Noble, located at 240 Route 22

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For information, call 973-376-6581. BOOKS BY AND ABOUT WOMEN: 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 973-376-6581.

West, Springfield, on Jan. 14 at 2 p.m.

DOROTHY ALLISON, author of "Basauthor of the New Year in the Books By and About Women series. Her book is the story of a poor, struggling South Carolinian mother and daughter, who each face painful choices. Allison will

0900, or visit www.kentplace.org.

240 Route 22 West Springfield, on

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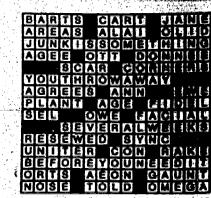
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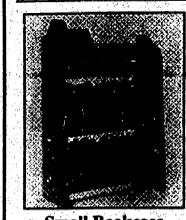
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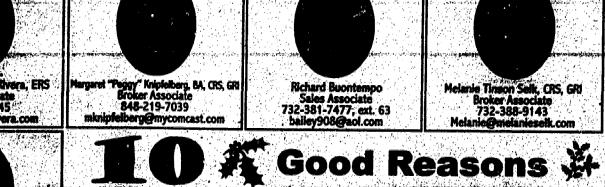
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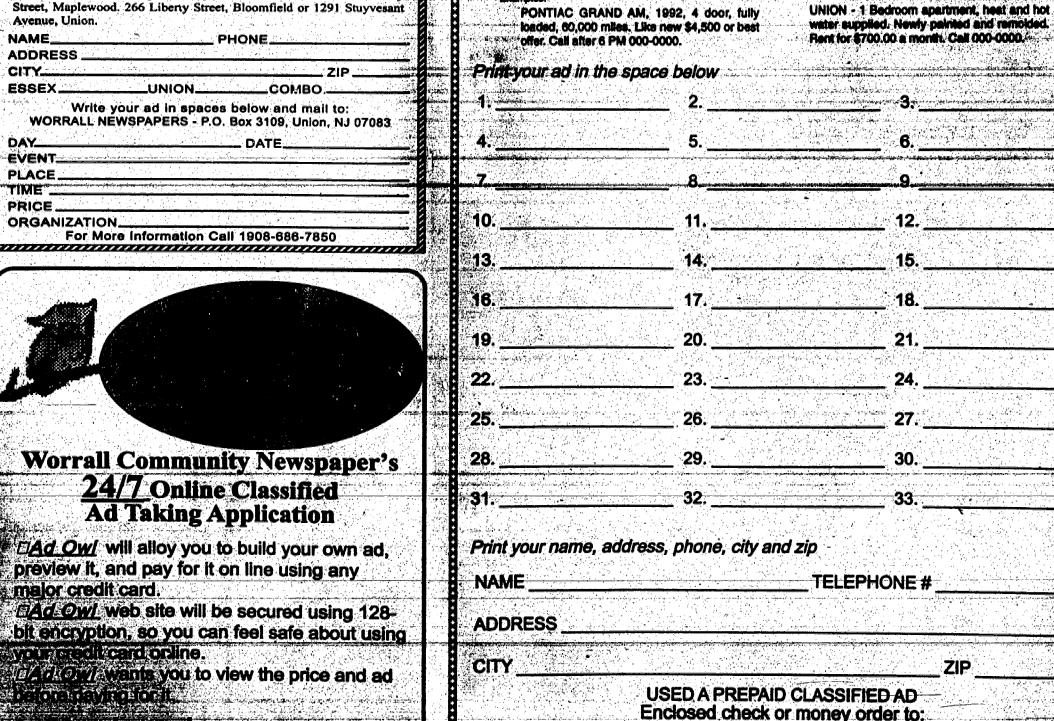
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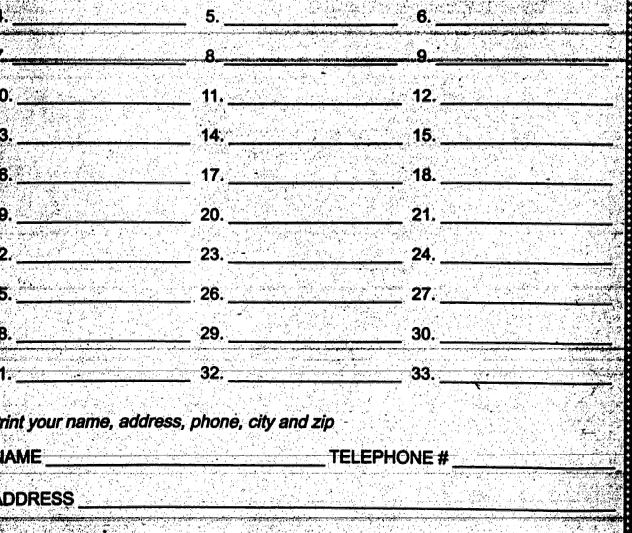


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For more information



REAL ESTATE

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Quinones joins RE/MAX

RE/MAX Fidelity has added Ricardo Quinones of Union as its newest sales associate. Ricardo specializes in the listing and sale of residential and commercial properties throughout Essex, Middlesex and Union counties.

"By being a RE/MAX associate, I will be able to provide my clients with the latest services in technology, allowing me to offer more comprehensive marketing plans," said Quinones.

To contact Quinones, call RE/MAX Fidelity at 908-241-0700, or log on to his Web site, www.rquinones.remax-nj.com.

Top agents are honored at Weichert in Westfield

Three sales associates in Weichert, Realtors' Westfield office, were recently honored for their office success in June. Harvey Tekel, branch manager, made the announcement.

Nancy Kronheimer was named top listing associate in the office, in addition to earning the award for top dollar volume in June. Kronheimer is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, in addition to Weichert's Ambassador's Club, an honor that places her in the top 2 percent of the company's 15,800 sales associates. She also holds membership in the New Jersey Association of Realtors Circle of Excellence at the bronze level for 2004.

Tressa Malone was named top sales associate in the office for the month. She is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales Club and Weichert's 2004 Executive Club, an honor that places her in the top 5 percent of the company's 15,800 sales

REAL ESTATE STRAIGHT TALK



WIN-WIN #GREEMENTS

1

When you are ready to negotiate a home purchase agreement, it's important to remember that a successful negotiation does not necessarily mean everyone pets what they want and no one goes home disappointed. "Win-win" is an easily misunderstood term. In a real-life win-win' situation, some compromises are inevitable in the process of all parties coming to a fundamental agreement. The secret to negotiating a satisfactory purchase contract is to expect to make some concessions at the bargaining table.

Approach the meeting with a positive, open-minded attitude. Try-to-listen and stay sensitive to the other's point of view. Be clear about your priorities, but don't expect to prevail on every point. The more you remain flexible, the better your chance for a fair compromise. Stay focused on what you feel is truly important. Too often negotiations based down because people become flexible on issues of lesser consequence. When you become stuck on a point of contention as minor as the cost of painting the picket fence, be witting to split the difference. Above all, trust your real estate agent, who has the expertise to bring the proceedings to a happy resolution.

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associates. Furthermore, Malone holds membership in the NJAR Circle of Excellence at the bronze level for 2004. Mary Ann Ciesla was awarded for generating top revenue units.

Alan Rubin was awarded for top production in June. Rubin is a member of Weichert's 2004 Million Dollar Sales and Marketed Clubs, in addition to Weichert's Ambassador's Club, an honor that places him in the top 2 percent of the company's 15,800 sales associates. He also holds membership in the NJAR Circle of Excellence at the silver level for 2004.

Invite the fine sales associates from Weichert's Westfield Office in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert has to offer. They can be reached for real estate at 908-654-7777, located at 185 Elm St.

Lowery wins honors in month of September

Prudential New Jersey Properties'
Summit office has named Robert Lowery the Sales Associate of the Month for
September.

"Bob is incredibly driven and strives to always exceed client expectations," says Kim Crites-Carloto, manager of the Prudential New Jersey Properties Summit office. "Buyers and seilers benefit from his local market expertise, industry savvy and excellent negotiating skills."

Lowery joined the Summit office of Prudential New Jersey Properties in 2003 as a certified relocation specialist and accredited buyers representative. He is a member of the National, New Jersey and North Central Jersey Associations of Realtors, and the Garden State Multiple Listing Service.

His market area includes residential neighborhoods throughout Summit, Chatham, Long Hill, Madison, Bernard Township, Short Hills and Maplewood.

Lowery may be reached at the Summit office, located at 428 Springfield Ave., by phone at 908-273-0400, or via e-mail at RobertLowery@PruNewJersey.com.

Top September honors to Baratta of Prudential

Prudential New Jersey Properties'
Millburn office has named Helen Baratta Sales Associate of the Month for September.

"Helen is able to assist her clients with a broad range of real estate services," says Barbara Weiss, manager of the Prudential New Jersey Properties Millburn office, "Her comprehensive support and thorough communication contribute to her extraordinary success."

A sales associate for 17 years, Baratta has received many local and national awards, including Prudential Real Estate's President's Circle award, a distinction ranking her among the top 8 percent of associates in the national Prudential Real Estate Network, and Silver Level membership in New Jersey Association of Realtors 2004 Circle of Excellence Sales Club. She has also been honored with the New Jersey Association of Realtors Distinguished Sales Club award.



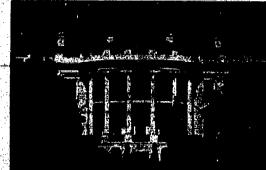
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Volume Nine, Number One January 2006

Competition emerges from bank mergers

Despite the warnings from some business executives that bank mergers are harmful to business and individual customers, banks in the Union County area are using the mergers to increase customer services and grow their customer base.

"Competition is fierce in the banking industry," noted Barbara Muhrbutter, senior vice president of retail banking in the central division for Valley National Bank.

That competition translates into more services for customers, according to banking officials interviewed by *Inside Business*.

Commerce Bank, based in Cherry Hill, is one of the fastest growing banks in the country and is a major source of some of that competition. Although not involved in mergers or acquisitions for the most part, the bank now has more than 350 branches, or stores as they prefer to call them, in New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, northern Virginia, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, and will expand to Florida in early 2006.

"We were one of the first to offer seven-day-a-week banking and extended hours. Branches opened at 6 AM the Friday after Thanksgiving," said David Flaherty, a spokesman for the bank, enumerating some of the changes other banks have had to try to match. "We were the first to offer no surcharges on ATMs, no fees on credit cards, and penny arcades (free coin counting machines)."

Mergers creating larger and larger banking organizations create new opportunities for community and regional banks, the banking officials said.

"The last consolidation may just be the latest in a series for a customer. He may have been through three or four changes by then and he has had enough. With each merger, the decision making process for that customer gets further and further away from where it originally was," Flaherty said. "This creates a great opportunity for us with both business and individual customers."

Other banks that have been involved in mergers and acquisitions of their own say the mergers help the customers.

Valley National Bank, based in Wayne, recently acquired Shrewsbury State Bank in Monmouth County, NorCrown Bank with its 15 branches in northern New Jersey, and now has a total of 154 branches, mostly in New Jersey and nine in Manhattan.

"We have kept the branches of the other banks open and kept their managers so people see the same faces. On the corporate side, we have had even less turnover of customers than what is normally expected even without an acquisition being involved. Many of our customers now find the new branches more convenient," said Martin J. Carbotti, senior vice president for commercial lending in Valley's central New Jersey division.

"We have the ability to lend more money than a customer might have been able to get at NorCrown because we are a bigger bank. One customer had a relationship with NorCrown and a larger relationship with a much larger bank. After the acquisition, he wanted us to handle both accounts," Carbotti said. "That is just one story. There are many other similar ones.

"We may be larger than some small community banks, but we are accessible. We never that the property of the chairman of the ch

(Continued on page 4)

SENNY ARCADE

Inside This Issue... Articles

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Special Expanded Issue





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

Gateway to Growth Here's looking at you. kid

By John L. Picard

Beginnings are wonderful things. Full of hope, Full of potential. They are a reminder of what is possible.

It's a new year! It is time to renew our commitment to fulfill the dream of your business or career.

Month in and month out, this column has offered real-life business development and growth ideas to help you realize the potential of that dream. We have sought to provide you with the tools you need to achieve a real return on your investment in your critical business relationships. Along the way, I have shared stories of family and of humor.

Underlying it all is a commitment to the dynamic relationships that are the lifeblood of each business. However, it has been frustrating that the nature of a newspaper column has limited my ability to do the very thing I discuss... create a real dialogue and relationships with each of you.

Let me wish you each a successful 2006 and invite you to make this column a two-way dialogue between us. I invite you to email me at jpicard@picardmarketing.com, fax me at 908-771-0937 or call me

directly at 908-771-0512. Ask any question you may have about business development,

retention, growth, the latest marketing technology or the simple need to build an architecture of connection around your most important relationship opportunities.

We have known each other for years. It's time we took this relationship to the next step. I leave you with the final line from the film classic, Casablanca. As Humphrey Bogart walks off into the fog with Claude Rains, he says: "Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship."

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





To our guests and friends, we extend our sincerest best wishes for a happy holiday season and a joyous new year!

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G A T E W A Y R E G I O N

Federal credit unions expand members and services

The days of federal credit unions being tied to one business or industry and open only to designated group of employees are long gone. As the financial institutions have expanded membership, most also have expanded the services provided to directly compete with banks in many instances.

Federal credit unions still stand apart from banks. Each is a cooperative made up of members and is a not-for-profit organization. In existence since the 1930s, there are now nearly 6,000 in the United States serving more than 46,000,000 people. Originally conceived to promote savings and provide loans at reasonable rates, the organizations have grown over the years to provide a wide range of financial services.

"One of our most recent additions for us were Visa gifts cards" said Linda Farro Wood, president of United Financial Services Community Federal Credit Union. Wood admits the name of the institution is "quite a mouthful," but it accurately reflects what the organization is today.

"We started as Wenewark Federal Credit Union to serve the employees of Western Electric in Newark. With the changes in the communications industry Western Electric no longer existed and in 2000 we became a community based credit union," Wood said.

The federal guidelines were changed at that time to allow credit unions to expand beyond one industry or company. They can now be geographically based and anyone who works, worships, goes to school or has some community involvement in the designated geographic area can be a member. Membership conveys voting rights in the organization. Unlike banks, members of the board of trustees serve as volunteers.

Many credit unions are open to the families of those who qualify for membership and many have a policy that once a person is a member, he or she can remain a member, even if the member moves or severs the original local connection.

United Financial with 3,300 members is now one of the larger credit unions in the state. It serves 11 municipalities in central Union County and has offices in Scotch Plains

"We have a full service mortgage program and loans for almost any situation. We are now working on providing plastic travelers checks that resemble credit cards," Wood

Another credit union that grew out of Western Electric in Newark is Atlantic Federal Credit Union, which now serves more than 300 companies in the Newark area as well as anyone who works, lives, worships or has a community connection to Newark. Based in Kenilworth, Atlantic Federal Credit Union now has branches in Newark and Elizabeth.

"Because we are a not-for-profit, our lending rates are generally lower than in banks and our savings interest rates are generally higher," said Maryann Small, marketing manager. "We have increased our online services to make everything more easily accessible: Our members can do everything from paying bills to obtaining a loan online without going to a branch."

Atlantic Federal Credit Union celebrated its 70th anniversary this year. The organization recently signed a contract for an expanded ATM network providing members with free ATM access at more than 20,000 machines nationwide.

"We are looked at as an employee benefit by companies that are members and the benefit does not cost the company anything," Small said.

The history for Community Financial Services Federal Credit Union is similar. It began as a financial organization made up of employees of General Motors and members of the United Auto Workers Union in Linden, but it has since obtained a community charter and now serves all of Union County.

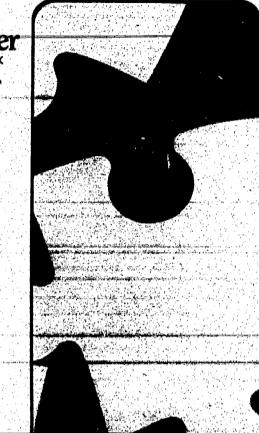
In addition to standard savings accounts and loans, Community Financial provides IRAs, certificates of deposit, credit cards, mortgages and other financial services, said Ed Landerkin, administrative officer and past president.

"We have fewer fees and better interest rates than banks because we are a not-forprofit. Our ATMS are free to members. Unless we absolutely have to, we do not charge for any service," Landerkin said. "The fees we do charge are lower than those in banks. For instance, a bounced check fee for us is \$5 or \$10, depending if it is your check that bounced or a check someone issued to you.

"People join because they want to be owners of the institution and because they want the services we can provide. This is a small club with many benefits," he added

Union Center

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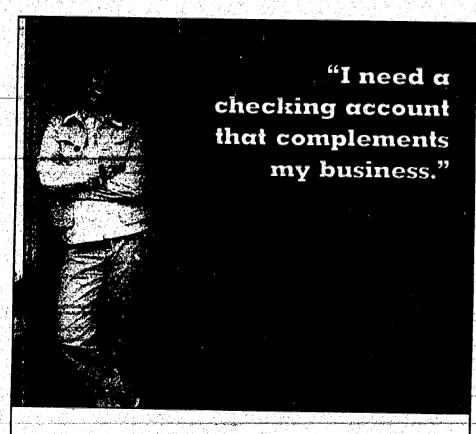
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Competition emerges from bank mergers

(Continued from page 1)

are traditional lenders, but also very flexible. Every business is different and every financing package has to be different," he noted.

"We are also always reaching out to get new business customers and new individual customers. New customers are the name of the game in our industry," Carbotti added. To get those new customers, no business deal is ruled out. "We do not target or eliminate any industry, like some banks do. We do not lend to industries, we lend to people, and it does not matter if the business is in an industry that some banks might not favor. If it is a viable business, we want the account."

Muhrbutter, who deals with Valley's individual customers agreed.

"We are a regional, growing bank, but we are also local. We get more customers every time there is a huge merger. We can do things for individual customers the big banks cannot take the time to do," she explained.

As banks get larger with the mergers of entities such as Fleet and Bank of America or J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.'s merger with Bank One, now the two largest banks in the nation, some company CFOs worry about being able to obtain the same lines of credit or the same fast action on such things as letters of credit, according to the Internet

At the same time, Kenneth Thomas, who lectures on finance at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, warns that businesses should diversify their banking

"Even if you're a big company, you're just another brick in the wall to the 'league of trillionaires," Thomas told CFO.com, referring to Bank of America, JPMorgan and Citigroup. Other banks try to offer services some of the large entities might not be able

"Big bank mergers, creating even bigger banks, are good for us in terms of our ability to attract new customers," said John Harrison, regional executive for commercial banking for the mid-Jersey market of Sovereign Bank, which has 112 branches in New Jersey. "I have met with three different company owners recently, and I asked them who their relationship is with at their current bank. They just gave me a puzzled look. They did not know. One person was trying to get an answer to a question from his bank, and it took him two months to find the right person at the bank to talk to.

"We won't do that. We are local and that is why large mergers are an opportunity for us," Harrison said. "For us there is no brick wall between our retail and commercial divisions like there is at some banks and everyone in both areas is accessible. We will meet with clients in person and our products and services continue to be developed locally. At the same time, we have the same products of the larger banks."

Jack McGowan at Union Center National Bank, based in Union with 14 offices an \$1.2 billion in assets, agreed.

"Any time there is a major consolidation, it is to our benefit. The smaller busing customers sometimes get left out because they are too small for the major banks they are the size customer we like. Major banks have a ton of products and tech but sometimes their service is lacking. At the same time, we have technology and products. Our customer base is affluent, and very savvy. They know what they wa and they do not lose anything in the way of technology or products by coming to

"We don't have as many customers as the big banks, but we take care of them better," McGowan added.

Even at those banks that are among the largest in the country, officials say consolidations help rather than hurt their customers.

The bank that has now become Wachovia, based in Charlotte, NC, is made up of some formerly familiar New Jersey names, such as Core States, First Fidelity and First Union. Wachovia is now the second largest bank in New Jersey and the fourth largest in the United States.

"Each merger lets us provide better training and better service to our customers," said Fran Durst, a Wachovia spokeswoman. "A larger company can provide better products and more comprehensive service, and it can invest more in employee training. so that customers are being served by knowledgeable, well-trained employees."

field Savings Bank

Northfield Savings Bank is \$1.5 billion mutual savings bank serving New Jersey, Staten Island and Brooklyn. Founded in 1887, Northfield Savings Bank has more than 118 years of experience serving the financial needs of its customers.

Northfield entered the New Jersey marketplace through a merger with Liberty Bank, based in Avenel, in 2002. This partnership gave Northfield an immediate presence in New Jersey's Union and Middlesex counties. Northfield retained the Liberty Bank name in New Jersey until the summer of 2005, when all Liberty Bank branches officially took the Northfield Savings Bank name

"Customer service is the foundation of Northfield Savings Bank's success," said Damien Kane, vice president, marketing director for Northfield. "We believe that in today's crowded financial marketplace, superior customer service is what sets us apart from the competition. We also believe that banking should be convenient for our customers. That is why every one of our New Jersey branches is open seven days a week and is open extended hours on Saturday's."

Northfield Savings Bank offers a full line of personal and business products and

The free checking account has no minimum balance and no monthly service charge. Customers can access their accounts online 24 hours a day at www.eNorthfield.com to check account balances, transfer funds, pay bills and view images of their cleared checks. Northfield also offers an interest checking account, overdraft protection, statement and passbook savings accounts, holiday and vacation club accounts, telephone banking and competitive rates on Certificates of Deposits.

A new service introduced by Northfield Savings Bank in the spring of 2005 now gives customers the ability to apply for a residential mortgage online. In less than 20 minutes, customers can apply for a mortgage at Northfield's web site and receive an immediate decision on their application - all from the comforts of their home or office computer. Potential homebuyers can also apply online for a free mortgage prequalification and sign up for an email rate watcher service that will alert them via smail when mortgage rates change.

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"These convenient services are available 24 hours a day and are designed to simplify the home buying process." Kane said.

For business customers, Northfield Savings Bank's commercial lending team understands that when it comes time for business owners to seek financing solutions, they turn to a partner they can trust.

According to William Graber, first vice president and commercial loan officer of Northfield Savings Bank's New Jersey market, "At Northfield, we take the time to understand our customers individual business needs - offering results, not red tape."

Northfield offers a wide array of commercial lending products including; construction loans, land loans, working capital loans, commercial mortgages, and equipment loans. With dedicated commercial lending teams located in New Jersey, Staten Island and Brooklyn, all lending decisions are made by locally.

Businesses can also turn to Northfield for other products and services such as business checking, merchant credit card processing and business credit cards.

"Northfield understands that being a good neighbor goes beyond offering financial products and services," Kane explained. "That is why Northfield and its employees are dedicated to serving the communities in which they operate."

Bank employees serve on the boards of various chambers of commerce, economic development authorities and charitable organizations. Employees are also actively involved in fundraising efforts and have generously donated their time and money to numerous charitable events such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the Salvation Army and the March of Dimes.

Northfield Savings Bank, headquartered in Staten Island, currently operates 19 branch locations in Linden, Rahway, Avenel, Edison, Milltown, East Brunswick, Monroe Township and Staten Island.

Additional information about Northfield Savings Bank can be found online at www.eNorthfield.com or by calling 732-499-7200.



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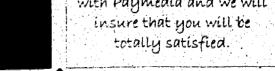


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TERMS quickly expands its client portfolio

TERMS is a full service environmental consulting and remediation company that specializes in managing all aspects of any project requiring technical or environmental expertise. Additionally, the firm specializes in the environmental due diligence associated with commercial real estate acquisition and finance.

TERMS was founded by Ron Dooney, who has an extensive background in the environmental arena. Combined, Ron and Kathleen Murray, who is an associate and senior project manager with the firm, possess well over 50 years of experience in their field. The company has now expanded to include Ron's brother, Jeff, who has extensive experience in business development and organizational management.

"Ron, Kathleen and I decided my skills would be a good compliment to the existing expertise that the TERMS team already possessed," Jeff said, "We are hoping to double the size of our business in the first year.

Through the extensive experience of the team of principals and associates, TERMS is well-situated to provide clients with expertise in the following areas:

- Environmental consulting, contracting and compliance
- Underground storage tank removal, investigation and replacement
- · All forms of site remediation and waste management
- Facilities and construction management
- · Land use consulting including wetlands, stream encroachment, etc.

"At TERMS, we have accumulated significant expertise in assisting both potential buyers and sellers of commercial property with a thorough evaluation of their targeted site from an environmental point of view," Jeff said. "We also work quite extensively to assist and facilitate the services of many lending institutions, the legal community, developers and a host of other forms of interested parties."

TERMS range of service in this area includes

- All forms of preliminary assessments and transaction screens at specified locations
- · Phase I environmental assessments to determine potential environmental impacts on
- · Phase II investigations to determine the type of environmental impact, the extent of the problem and any potential liability related to the contamination
- · Brownfield assessments for developing a remediation strategy, cost for cleanup, and transfer or redevelopment of sites

TERMS specializes in the management and re-development of Brownfield locations. Brownfields are by definition, any commercial or industrial site that is vacant or underutilized where there has been or is suspected to have been a discharge of

"We have extensive expertise in obtaining available government funding designed to assist in the evaluation and subsequent remediation of such sites," Jeff said. "At TERMS we embrace any Brownfield type of opportunity and coordinate the assessment, management, remediation and re-development of these locations either as a management agent or by taking an ownership interest ourselves.

"We have refined and streamlined the process of providing these Phase I and II assessments while comfortably satisfying the needs of many key banks and other lending institutions. We now perform well over 500 Phase I assessments annually for the benefit of lending institutions, law firms, commercial realtors and their clients as well as developers," Jeff said. "We pride ourselves on providing a high quality service in a cost-effective manner. We are highly responsive to our clients and turn projects around quickly in order to meet their needs."

Additional information on TERMS can be obtained by calling Jeff Dooney at 908-

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nited Financial Services is full service community federal credit union conveniently located at 320 Park Avenue in Scotch Plains, just one block off of Route 22. The credit union is a member-owned cooperative serving anyone who lives, works, worships or attends school in the following communities in Union County: Cranford, Fanwood, Garwood, Hillside, Kenilworth, Mountainside, Plainfield, Scotch Plains, Springfield,

United Financial Services is a federally chartered credit union established and organized under the Federal Credit Union Act and regulated by the National Credit Union Administration, an agency of the federal government. Members' shares are insured up to \$100,000 by the National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund. Additional insurance coverage can be obtained on multiple accounts, if a member has different ownership interests or rights in different types of accounts. The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund is funded by federal credit unions and, in addition to the fund's equity, member shares are protected by the full faith and credit of the US government.

The history of United Financial dates back 68 years to 1937 when it was founded as Wenewark Federal Credit Union to serve employees of Western Electric's Newark facility. With the corporate changes that occurred with the break up of AT&T in the 1980s, Western Electric no longer existed as a separate corporate entity and the credit union began serving a larger employee base with AT&T. The credit union relocated from Newark to its current home in Scotch Plains and subsequently changed the name to United Financial Services Federal Credit Union. In addition to the AT&T member base, many other employee groups have been added to the credit union's field of

In November 2000, United Financial Services was granted a community charter. Now, instead of just serving the employee groups that made up the credit union previously, the credit union can serve anyone who lives, works, worships, attends school or belongs to an organization or association in its field of membership.

Serving approximately 3,300 members, the credit union is one of the larger credit

unions in New Jersey and continues to serve its former employee groups as well as new membership from the communities within its charter.

To accommodate members' financial needs, the credit union offers a complete menu of financial services, from savings and loan services, to free checking and VISA check cards, direct deposit, payroll deduction, and 24 hour access to accounts via online banking and a toll free telephone teller.

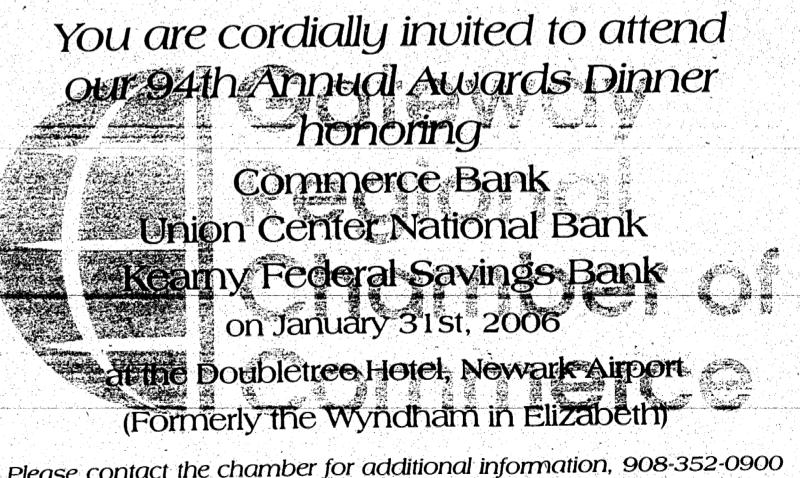
On the savings side, the credit union offers regular savings, money market accounts, checking, individual retirement accounts, certificate accounts, and holiday and vacation

Personal loans, VISA credit cards, loans for used and new automobiles, recreational vehicles and boats, and stock-secured and share-secured loans are available. The credit union offers a comprehensive first mortgage program, as well as home equity loans, both fixed and a variable rate line of credit.

The credit union offers other services along with special promotions to assist members. These convenience services include: VISA gift cards, travelers cheques, money orders, wire transfers, notary service, car buying promotions for both new and used cars, discount real estate selling and buying, scholarship program, financial education resources, and life and disability insurance at reduced rates.

"With 68 years of financial services experience, the credit union still retains many loval original members' groups and brings that knowledge and quality, family oriented service to the communities it now serves." said Linda Farro Wood, president of United Financial. "We welcome members of the community, and are ready to pitch in and help, whether it be promoting financial literacy in youth, providing a loan for a hardship, contributing to a noteworthy cause, or advising members on how to protect their

Addition information about membership and services provided can be obtained by visiting the credit union's website at www.ufsfcu.org or by calling toll free at



Please contact the chamber for additional information, 908-352-0900

President's Message

Today is trash day in the part of Elizabeth that I pass through every day on my way to work.

I've worked in Elizabeth for more than nine years now, and I have fallen in love with the city. It is a place that is alive, tearning with diversity. Elizabeth is an ethnic town with people from many nations and backgrounds. It is a city that boasts some of the best offinic restaurants anywhere; and I especially find the Portuguese restaurants in Elizabeth to have better food and a much nicer decorum than any that I have gone to in the Ironbound.



Unfortunately, over the last nine years the city has become progressively dirtier with each passing year. Downtown Elizabeth, and some of the poorer neighborhoods in particular, have been allowed to deteriorate to a point that I am embarrassed to take people to lunch at my favorite Cuban restaurant on Elizabeth Avenue. The streets, the private parking lots, the businesses, every place you turn is strewn with trash.

This problem isn't confined to certain parts of Elizabeth. As I drove into work on Westminister Avenue, one of the nicest streets in Elizabeth, garbage was pouring onto the street, blowing and collecting in yards and against fences. As you enter the downtown area where there are several apartment buildings, it gets especially bad. A drive down Rahway or Elmora avenues is the same. Broad Street is a disgrace.

People often wonder why Elizabeth, a city with so much to offer, hasn't taken off? Why don't people who live outside the city want to come here? Why do people move out as soon as they can? The appearance of any place determines how appealing it is, and the appearance is going to suffer when all you see is garbage.

When looking at solutions to the problem, provention is by for the biggs of part of the answer. Garbage is created by all of us, and how we handle it will, in large part, determine whether we live in a nice place or a dump. Unfortunately, since by nature most of us are lazy, the Elizabeth City Council must take the lead in mandating behaviors that will allow us to clean up the city.

I think the most important mandate would be to require that trash be kept in covered containers. As I drove by hundreds of residences today, I looked for, but did not see, one covered trash can. In fact, almost every can was overflowing with additional begs piled on the street. My town certainly requires all garbage to be covered, and it is not much of a burden.

In addition, littering laws need to be enforced. It is appalling to watch people throw garbage out of their car, but it happens all the time. Businesses also need to be required to keep their premises and sidewalk areas litter free. Many parking loss belonging to businesses are among the dirtiest in town.

The city should also replace its aging open top garbage can downtown with newer covered units, and they should be emptied before they overflow onto the street. There is certainly plenty of money from the UEZ to fund this. The city's garbage haulers need to be made aware that it is unacceptable to leave trash laying around. If a bag breaks, the mash that falls out should be picked up, not left on the street.

My wife makes me wipe my feet before entering the house it is a little thing that keeps the house clean. Frankly, on a municipal level, it isn't a lot different. Simple things can make this city a much nicer place to live and work. The only thing that is needed is a little will.





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MISSION STATEMENT

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Where the Chamber stands...

State needs to continue improving ban on pay-to-play

With one small step at a time, New Jersey is managing to enact laws that go a long way toward combating the impression that the Garden State is among the more corrupt entities in the nation. Rightly or wrongly, New Jersey has had a reputation of being up for sale to the highest bidder, and until we enact a strong, all-encompassing ban on giving government contracts to political contributors at all levels of government, that reputation will reflect reality. But at least we are making progress.

It has not been easy even getting to the point we are at now. The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and the State Chamber have fought hard for a total ban on the policy that amounts to public bribery. Until recently, contractors who gave the biggest donations to political campaigns were rewarded after the election with lucrative public contracts. Many people think that is just the way government works, but it does not have to be that way.

Former Gov. James E. McGreevey used the clout that he obtained by announcing his resignation before the end of his term to sign an executive order that prohibited contractors giving more than \$300 to a state political organization or a gubernatorial candidate from obtaining government contracts valued at more than \$17,500 for 18 months after the election. The terms of that executive order were then enacted into law under Acting Gov. Richard Codey. The Chamber praised government officials for doing the right thing.

But problems arose almost immediately when the federal government said the law violated the rights of contractors bidding for work on highway projects and threatened to withhold federal highway money if the law was applied in that area. Department of Transportation contracts that involve federal money had to be exempted from the ban.

In the meantime, there is a glaring hole in the law. Political contributions can still be made to legislative leaders' political action committees and to individual legislators' campaigns. Without protections in these additional areas, the law is nice but far from finished.

The state law does not address contributions made on the county or local levels, but at least 60 municipalities and two counties, Cumberland and Mercer, have enacted their own prohibitions and more are considering taking action. Most of these bans are even stricter than the state law. It was feared that when the state law goes into effect Jan. 1, it would nullify the local ordinances. So the Legislature passed, and Codey is expected to sign, a bill that would allow municipalities and counties to pass their own strict pay-to-play bans. The bill passed the Assembly by vote of 75 to 0 with two abstentions and passed the Senate by a vote of 35 to 0.

Harry Pozycki, chairman of New Jersey Common Cause and founder of the Citizens Campaign, which has lead the fight for a pay-to-play ban, hailed the bill as a victory for the people. We hope that even before this publication hits the streets, the governor will have signed this bill into law.

If we can continue to make progress, the state can look to some of the local ordinances for inspiration and adopt even stronger pay-to-play prohibitions that would apply to all political contributions. Right now New Jersey is among only a handful of states that have any pay-to-play prohibitions and ours is among the strongest. But the issue is gaining widespread attention and we will not remain the leaders on this issue for long.

The Chamber has lobbied hard for the reforms that the state has managed to enact. Businesses need to be on a level playing field when it comes to public contracts, which should be awarded on the basis of price and the quality of work, not on who gives the biggest political contribution. Anything less is unfair to business and perpetuates the idea that government is only there to help those with political connections.

New Jersey is one of the few states that has started to tackle this problem. Maybe if we continue on our road to enacting bans on various levels of pay-to-play we will finally earn a better reputation. Gov.-elect Jon Corzine has promised banning all pay-to-play will be one of his priorities. The Chamber sincerely hopes this is something that can be accomplished in the coming year.

Capital Page...

Earlier this year, Johnson & Johnson's corporate facilities in Montgomery Township, located in my? Congressional District, installed the largest and highest ground-mounted solar, panels east of the Mississippi. Over its 30-year operating life, it is expected to reduce east on dioxide emissions by an estimated 7,000 tons—the equivalent of removing almost 1,400 cars from New Jersey's roadways.

This is just one example of how New Jersey has become a national model for solar power. New Jersey's Clean Energy Program has put rules and incentives into place to encourage solar use in homes and businesses. For instance, New Jerseyans are exempt from the state in homes and businesses. For instance, New Jerseyans are exempt from the state is o parcent sales lax to purchase solar-electric-system equipment. Further rebates from the state Board of Public Utilities will help homeowners saye as much as 70 percent off purchasing and installing a solar electric system. According the New Jersey of Clean Energy Program, families have seen savings of \$11,000 and in some cases \$50 percent of the cost of installation.

Particularly in the wake of rising natural gas and heating bills this winter, am hoping to further there is because on a federal level. The Energy Policy Act of 2005, which the House of Representatives approved earlier this year, authorizes federal tax credits to homeowners and business is that install energy-efficient solar panels on their properties. However, these tax credits expire after 2008.

I recently introduced legislation in the House, the Clean and Green Solar Tax Credit Act, to extend a 30 percent tax credit, up to \$2,000, for purchasing and installing solar panels on your home.

Not only is solar power an important ingredient to reducing America's reliance on foreign sources of energy, but it also benefits the environment and helps businesses remain competitive. This legislation is about making an investment in reducing energy

costs and protecting the environment.

New Jersey farmers are also benefiting from this importance technology. Throughout the state, farmers are using solar-power systems on

their barns to help with the heating their homes, barns and powering their irrigations systems. All the while, it reduces energy costs and pollution.

The New Jersey Power Crop Initiative is an initiative partnered between the New Jersey Farm Bureau and Flemington-based Sun Farm Network to minimize up front costs for solar energy installation of farms as well as churches and many not-for-profit organizations.

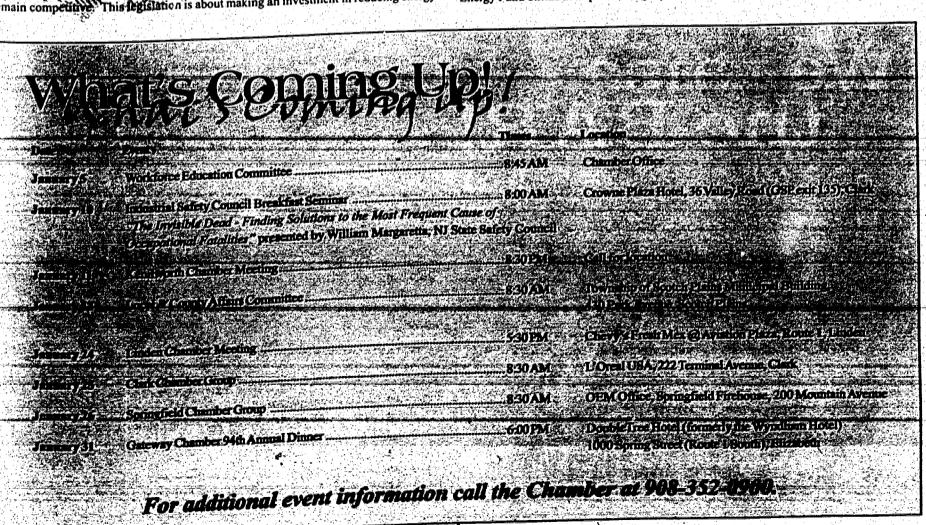
Since the initiative was launched a year ago, two dozen New Jersey farms have new solar-power systems or will soon be installing the system.

Besides the benefits of saving money and reducing pollution, if we look back to the plackouts two years ago, we see the importance of relying on renewable energy sources as well as traditional energy grids.

With New Jersey leading the nation in solar energy programs, we in the Federal government must work to coincide our efforts to make it affordable so that more homes and businesses can take advantage of solar energy. Not only does it reduce heating prices but also reduces pollution.

Whether it benefit the farm, home or business, each New Jersey resident has a chance to benefit from this technology.

To find out more about the New Jersey solar rebates, visit the New Jersey Clean Energy Fund online at http://www.njcep.com



sovereign Bank

Sovereign Bancorp, Inc., ("Stvereign") (NYSE: SOV), is the parent company of Sovereign Bank, a \$63 billion financial institution with more than 650 community banking offices, over 1,000 ATMs and approximately 10,000 team members with principal markets in the Northeast United States. Sovereign is the 18th largest banking institution in the United States. It currently has nine offices in Union County, two in Essex County, 10 in Middlesex County and two in Somerset County among others in the state.

Sovereign offers a broad array of financial services and products including retail banking, business and corporate banking, cash management, capital markets, trust and wealth management and insurance. The bank has maintained its reputation as a highly focused full-service bank with a community touch.

"Sovereign combines the service culture of a small bank with the products and services of a larger bank," said Bob Zajac, regional executive, community banking for Sovereign's mid-Jersey market. "We're always looking for ways to better serve the needs of our communities, and our leadership team is aligned to serve local markets with local decision-makers."

A market chief executive officer and/or a market president manage each market division. They are responsible for all commercial and retail business growth in their market, as well as for providing leadership to team members and the community.

"At Sovereign, we understand the importance of community reinvestment and are very committed to being a good neighbor. We do this by encouraging our team members to get involved in their own neighborhoods, by lending our support to community programs and services through grants and sponsorships, and by providing banking services that help advance the dreams of our customers" said Zajac.

Sovereign has contributed to numerous organizations in Union, Essex, Middlesex and Somerset counties this year. Some of the organizations Sovereign has supported include the following:

Union Count

· Union County Economic Development Corp.

- · Community Food Bank of New Jersey
- YMCA of Eastern Union County
- . The Interfaith Council for the Homeless of Union Co.
- Brand New Day
- Temple Community Development Corp.
- Essex County
- · Oskar Schindler Performing Arts Center
- New Jersey Children's Charitable Trust
 New Community Corp.
- Association for Children of New Jersey
- · Joseph Kushner Hebrew Academy
- Middlesex County
- March of Dimes
 National Conference for Community and Justice, New Jersey Region

Somerset County

- · Women's Health and Counseling Center · Hillsborough Public Library
- Somerset County Coalition for Affordable Housing
- · Somerset Home for Temporarily Displaced Children

The Sovereign Bank Foundation, through its "Spirit of Your Neighborhood Campaign," supports non-profit organizations with charitable grants with the mission of making a difference in youth and educational programs as well as community and economic programs. In 2004 more than 600 community organizations received more than \$3.6 million through the Sovereign Bank Foundation. Sovereign team members "banked" 9,168 volunteer hours with more than 110 New Jersey organizations in 2004, providing valuable service to local communities.

· City of Elizabeth Housing Fair

Boys & Girls Clubs of Union County

Crest Community Development Corp.

Westfield Area YMCA

· Jefferson Park Ministries

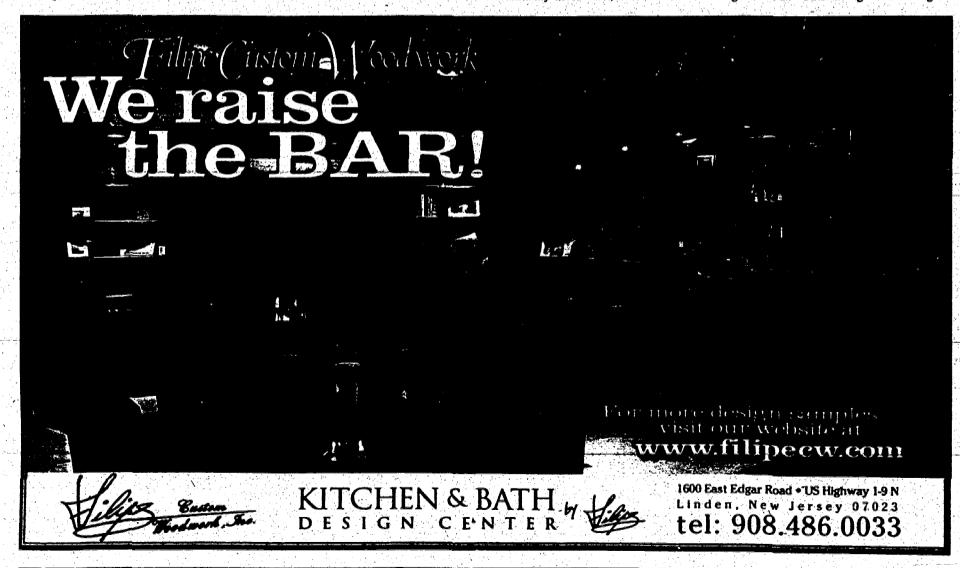
Saint Vincent Academy

• Tri-City Peoples Corp.

YMCA of Newark

. The J.H. Cohn Foundation

The Federal Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) requires the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS) to evaluate banks' performance in helping meet the credit needs of the community and to take this evaluation into account when deciding on certain applications submitted by banks. In recognition of Sovereign's commitment to community investment, OTS awarded Sovereign Bank an "Outstanding" CRA rating.



G A TEWAY REGION

Member Moments...

United Way of Greater Union County is expanding its outreach efforts to local nonprofit organizations to allow them to become certified and be eligible for United Way grants.

Non-profit 501 (c)(3) organizations view certification from United Way as a strong endorsement that the organization is accountable for creating measurable impact in improving the lives of local people. It is also the first step in being awarded funding support from United Way. Programs supported by United Way address critical community needs and improve the lives of children and youth, seniors, people with disabilities and families in crisis throughout Union County, North Plainfield and South Plainfield.

Only certified agencies may request program funding from United Way of Greater Union County. For more information or to receive an Agency Certification Application, please call Andrea Todman at (908) 353-7171 ext. 114.

The Youth Enrichment Services (YES) program at Elizabeth High School recently celebrated its expansion at the high school's Jefferson House. Established 18 years ago with Halsey House, the YES program is a collaborative effort of Trinitas Hospital, the Elizabeth Board of Education, and the Office of Children's Service of the New Jersey Department of Human Services.

YES helps young people obtain skills leading to employment or continuing education and helps them graduate healthy and drug free.

Dr. Fred Jacobs, Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health & Senior Services, has given final approval to Trinitas Hospital's application to participate in a study to determine the effectiveness of elective angioplasty procedures.

Trinitas and eight other New Jersey Hospitals received approval to participate in a multi-state demonstration project that will assess the safety, quality and cost of elective angioplasty in hospitals that offer emergency angioplasty without onsite cardiac surgery backup. The three-year study, known as the Atlantic C-PORT Trial, also includes hospitals in Ohio, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Alabama and Georgia and will involve up to 16,000 patients.



Employees from FedEx's North Avenue location in Elizabeth (pictured left to right)
Robert Volkert, Enrique Lugo, Robert Needham, Martin Fenton, Vonda Bennett, James
Bolen, John Calazza, and Mike Ryan recently stocked and organized a truckload of
donated school supplies at the Community Food-Bank in Hillside. The program was
donated out through the United Way of Greater Union County. School teachers from
carried out through the United Way of Greater Union County. School teachers from
throughout New Jersey turn to the Community Food Bank for Books, pens. paper, and
other supplies to support students from low-income families.

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MEMBER FDIC



Member Moments

(Continued from page 11)

Stephen LaMont, a certified public accountant with the firm of Stephen J. LaMont CPA, and Kenneth Battiato, president and principal shareholder of Townley Sweeping

Services, were named to the board of directors of Center Bancorp, Union.

Mack-Cali Realty, Cranford, announced the following promotions: Diane Chayes, Christopher DeLorenzo and Jeffrey Warner, each to vice president, leasing, and Lawrence Reiss to senior associate, general counsel.



Gil Chapman, president of Island Ford, Inc., has been appointed to the board of directors of Northfield Savings Bank. Island Ford finished as the number one New York City retail Ford dealership in 2004, with sales volume of \$63 million. Last year, Crain's Magazine listed Island Ford and Chapman as one of the Top 25 Minority Owned Businesses in New York.

The Northeastern Province of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.,

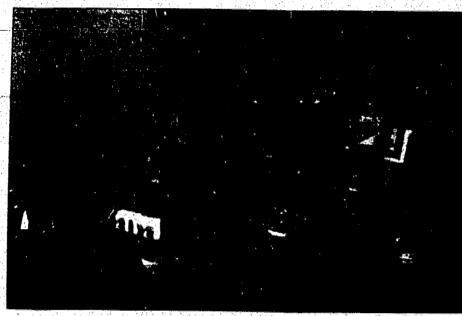
recently organized a clothing drive to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina. Since victims of Katrina lost everything they own, including their work wardrobes, the focus of this clothing drive was to collect ready to wear business attire to help those affected get back to work. Enterprise Rent-A-Car of New Jersey, The Law Offices of Wilentz. Goldman & Spitzer in Woodbridge, Old Navy in East Hanover, and The City of Newark Purchasing and Accounting Department partnered with Kapps Alpha Psi to contribute to the relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Alumni of Kappa Alpha Psi and employees of Enterprise, Wilentz, Old Navy, and The City of Newark collected over 2000 articles of clothing to donate to this cause. Items were driven to Washington D.C. by the Newark Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, and were then flown to the hurricane affected areas of the Southeast.

Pictured below are: Jameal Barton (L) and Jimmy Mastropoalo (C) of Enterprise Rent-A-Car in Newark, and Calvin Pierce (R), Kappa Alpha Psi Member (Newark Alumni) and Senior Buyer for City of Newark, are packing up boxes of clothing for the trip to Washington D.C. The 2,000+ articles of clothing were sent from Washington DC to the hurricane ravaged areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.





Gary S. Horan, president & CEO of Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, Is shown with the Award for Excellence from the New Jersey Business & Industry Association. Trinitas was presented with the 2005 Award for Excellence in the Outstanding Employer category for its unique nurse recruitment campaign.

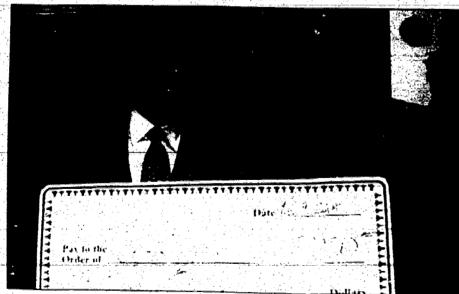


Sister Marion Scranton, director, community initiatives at Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth, conducted a ceremony blessing food baskets that were donated by employees of the Hospital to 55 needy families in the community.

Thomas J. Cloffe, co-founder and president/CEO of Compensation Solutions, Inc. based in Oakland, will serve in 2006 and 2007 on the board of directors of the National Association of Professional Employer Organizations (NAPEO). The association represents the \$43 billion PEO industry, which delivers Fortune 500 employee benefits and human resources expertise to America's main-street businesses. Cioffe was elected to his first term as a NAPEO Director by a vote of the national membership during annual conference in mid-September.



Yves and Monette Louissant of Roselle became the proud parents of triplets at Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth on Oct. 14. The boys, Marveins, Martheins, and Markeins, were born within three minutes of each other, and weighed in at 5 pounds 4 ounces, 5 pounds 3 pounces, and 6 pounds 3 ounces, respectively. The babies are the second set of triplets born at Trinitas since the creation of the hospital in 2000 following the merger of St. Elizabeth Hospital and Elizabeth General Hospital.



James W. Horne, Jr., (left) CEO of United Way of Greater Union County, accepts a generous \$2,000 donation from Everton Scott, area manager of Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L), on behalf of employees at JCP&L, FirstEnergy and the FirstEnergy Foundation. Each year, employees from Jersey Central Power & ight (JCP&L) join employees from FirstEnergy and the FirstEnergy Foundation to support United Way's Workplace Giving Campaign.

Companies of the Year honored for service to community and Chamber

Commerce Bank, Union Center National Bank and Kearny Federal Savings Bank will be honored by the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce as Companies of the Year at the Chamber's 94* Annual Awards Dinner Jan. 31 at the Doubletree Hotel in Elizabeth.

The three financial institutions were selected because of their service to the community in general and for their support of the Gateway Chamber and its members. Because of the efforts of companies like those being honored the Chamber is now the largest business organization in northern New Jersey and one of the fastest growing Chambers in the state.

"We are proud to be able to honor three banks this year for their outstanding efforts to serve the community," said Jim Coyle, president of the Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce. "Each has shown an exemplary willingness to work with the Chamber to provide serveies to our members and to help the business community grow in and around Union County.

"It is because of members such as these three that the Chamber is able to be an effective voice for business," Coyle added. "Each year we honor three outstanding companies. Banks help create the backbone of any business community, and these three banks in particular provide a wealth of services for the business community and for our members."

"We are glad to be able to honor these banks for being such a positive part of the community and of the business world," said lan Grusd, chairman of the Gateway. Chamber. "In today's competitive business environment, banks have had to reinvent themsleves as retailers with longer hours expanded services.

"We are proud to have these banks in the Chamber. We congratulate each of them and thank them for their contribution to the Chamber," Grusd added. "These particular banks are very visible in our busines community, provide good jobs and are an active part of charitable organizations."

Commerce Bank, headquartered in Cherry Hill, now has more than 350 branches, or stores as they prefer to call them, in New Jersey, Delaware, Washington, northern Virginia, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania, and will expand to Florida in early 2006. Commerce is being honored as the Large Company of the Year.

"Of all the chambers we are involved in in New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania, which is the area I cover, the Gateway Chamber is the most pro-active for business," said Kevin T. Gillen, senior vice president, market manager. "This is a classic case of what you put into something, is what you get out of it." The Gateway Chamber was the first organization I reached out to in this market and it has been an integral part of helping us grow our business. It is the greatest compliment that we can receive that we have now been selected for this honor."

Union Center National Bank, based in Union with 14 branches and \$1.2 billion in assets, is the largest bank headqurtered in Union County. The bank will be honored as the Medium Company of the Year.

"We are a local bank that has been headquartered in Union County for more than 82 years. We take particular pride in the community we serve, so we are very proud and honored to receive this awrd from the Chamber," saidJack Davis, president of Union Center.

Kearny Federal Savings Bank, headquartered in Fairfield, will be honored as the Small Company of the Year. Founded in 1884, the community bank has branches in northern New Jersey.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected as a Company of the Year," said John Hopkins, president of Kearny Federal Savings. "I appreciate that we are able to work with the Chamber to promote businesses throughout the area. We are particularly proud to be chosen for this award because there are so many good banks in New Jersey and so many that are members of the Chamber. The Chamber opens many doors for us and it is nice to be singled out by the organization."

Patrick Paolella, treasurer of Chamber and vice president, regional branch administrator for Kearny Federal Savings, said the bank is "honroed to be selected as the Small Business of the Year. We support the mission statement and goals of the Gateway Chamber. We fell the award validates our mission statement to be a community and business-friendly bank."

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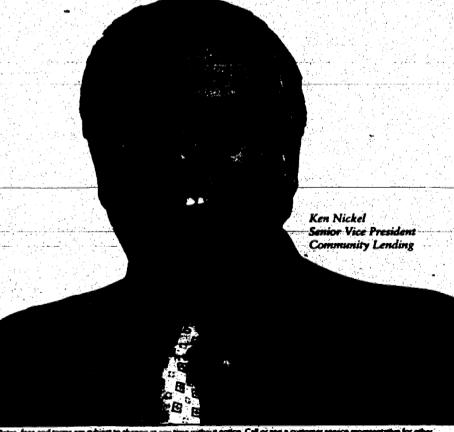
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Did Vou know. "True Love" will cost you more this year

By PNC financial experts

Avian flu and energy prices are making it more difficult to get that perfect Christmas gift for your True Love this year, as evident in the annual PNC Christmas Price Index, the tongue-in-cheek economic analysis by PNC advisors based on the cost of goods and services gifted in the holiday classic, "The Twelve Days of Christmas.

According to the 21" annual survey, the cost of "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is \$18,348 in 2005, a 6.1 percent increase over last year. Increases in gift prices mirrored the U.S. government's Consumer Price Index - a widely used measure of inflation calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

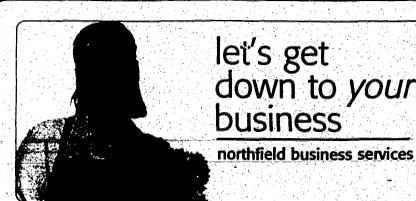
"The Christmas Price Index reflects the economic trends that we have witnessed during the past year," said Jeff Kleintop, chief investment strategist for PNC Advisors. "Not only are avian flu fears and fuel costs driving prices higher, but gold prices are also on the rise. Meanwhile, wages for skilled laborers are struggling to keep up with

For Internet-savvy True Loves, PNC Advisors tabulates the cost of The Twelve Days gifts purchased on the web. This year, each item in the PNC Internet Christmas Price Index is substantially higher due to increased shipping and handling costs.

High-Flying Bird Costs

The results of this year's survey indicate that the biggest hurdle for True Loves will be obtaining imported birds. The threat of avian flu has restricted the international shipment of birds, thus preventing the purchase of three French hens from France. However, there are domestic breeders of French hens, as well as the other feathered friends mentioned in the song.

Since the large birds are bought from national suppliers, total costs are higher due to the shipping and related hikes in fuel prices. The Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens reports the cost of geese almost doubled this year, while the cost of swans increased by 20 percent. On the other hand, the cost of turtle doves and calling birds have not been hard hit by rising fuel costs because these smaller birds are generally available from local retailers.



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Rising energy prices have affected the prices of other gifts, too. Not only is the partridge more expensive this year, but so is the price of the pear tree - up 15 percent m last year, also due to higher delivery costs.

True Loves also will have to dig a little deeper to pay the jeweler this year. The carol's five gold rings now cost \$325, a whopping 27.5 percent higher than last year. This increase reflects the rising cost of gold on the commodities market and an increase in the demand for plain gold rings, which appear to be back in vogue this year.

Paying the Piper

The prices in one area of the Index seem to be holding steady. That may be good news for True Loves, but it was disappointing news for the service providers in the "The Twelve Days of Christmas." According to Philadanco, the Philadelphia Dance Company, the Nine Ladies Dancing received a pay raise of 4 percent, but they were the only lucky ones to get a raise this year. The wages of Maids-a-Milking, Lords-a-Leaping, Pipers Piping and Drummers Drumming did not budge in 2005, demonstrating that it was a difficult year to keep up with higher costs of living.

As part of its annual tradition, PNC Advisors also tabulates the "true cost of Christmas," which is the total cost of items gifted by a True Love who repeats all of the song's verses. This holiday season, very generous True Loves will pay \$72,608 for all 364 items, up from \$66,334 in 2004. This 9.5 percent increase is substantially higher than last year's scant 1.6 percent increase. Kleintop observed that Christmas Price Index inflation may reflect the signs of overall inflation that led the Federal Reserve to steadily hike interest rates this year.

Special Present: New Web Site

Since 1984, PNC Advisors has been calculating the cost of Christmas. Each year, the PNC Christmas Price Index provides an interesting perspective on the events and news that helped shape the economy during the year. For a historical look at PNC's Index, please visit our new website at www.pncchristmaspriceindex.com. The site contains interactive activities, annual results and trends, a Flash presentation, MP3 download, and much more, for trend-watchers, educators and children.

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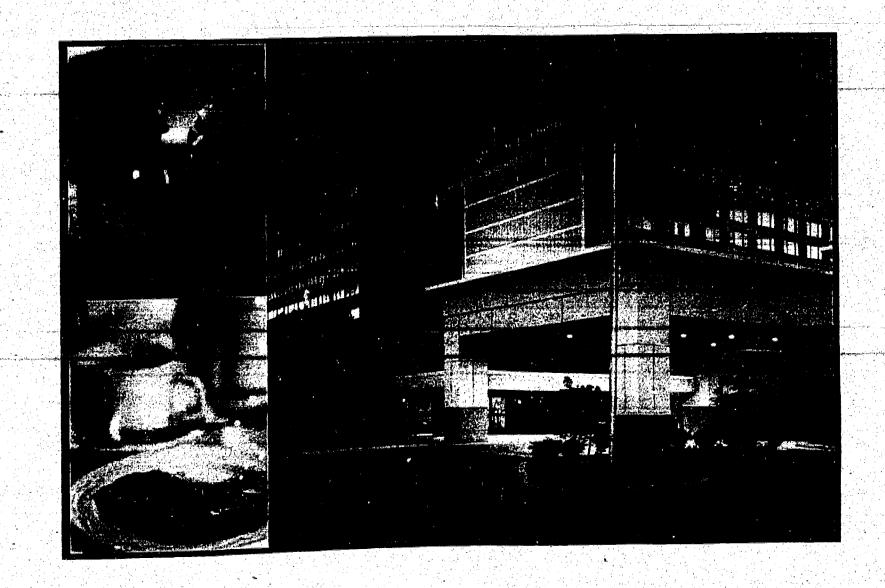
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