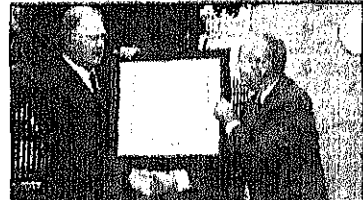


UNION COUNTY LOCALSOURCE

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The county's new forensics lab will help investigators delve deeper into old and new criminal cases by examining DNA evidence. Page 17

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008

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VOL. 91 NO. 42

50 CENTS

Mayor: Union lost in ruling to nix center plan

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

UNION — The redevelopment plan for Union Center will not go forward, Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonek ruled a week ago.

The embattled proposal from the Jersey City-based Metro Company LLC, which consulted with the governing body on the project,

focused on the land between Lentz Avenue and Vauxhall Road on Stuyvesant Avenue and called for a mixed-use development. It is not known how much the plan might have cost to implement, as it was in the early stages.

Union Center, considered by many to be the heart of the Union, was the first section in town out-

lined in the proposed plan. Other areas had been eyed by officials as possible locations for similar revitalizing efforts in the future, including the Five Points and Morris Avenue areas.

The governing body's support of the Union Center plan was met with jeers from businesses owners along Stuyvesant Avenue who

feared their properties would be seized through eminent domain. Last year, that fear resulted in the formation of the watchdog group, Citizens for United Union. The group filed a lawsuit against the township to block the plan in January 2007.

Franco DiPaolo, owner of DiPaolo & Son Bakery on

Stuyvesant Avenue for more than 20 years, said the court decision was fair. "I lost a lot of sleep over this because my business is my livelihood and everything I have is here. Instead of spending so much money on planners, officials could've spent it on paving the roads in town," DiPaolo said.

See JUDGE, Page 10

Contract talks stalled

By Joseph M. D'Alise
and Paul Greulich

SUMMIT — About 100 members and supporters of the Summit Education Association gathered outside the Summit Board of Education building at Jefferson School. They met last Thursday to protest "unrealistic" expectations for contracts currently being negotiated with school officials.

The school board and the teachers are at an impasse following eight months of negotiation and are now awaiting intervention by a state-appointed mediator from the Public Employment Relations Commission, who may help solve the problem.

In February, the Summit Board of Education began negotiations with the Summit Education Association to replace contracts that expired Aug. 31.

The SEA is comprised of the nearly 400 teachers, custodians and secretaries employed with the Summit school system who receive a total of \$30 million a year in salaries and \$6 million a year in health benefits.

According to board officials, until a new settlement is reached, members of the SEA will be working under the old contract and will



From left: Linden High School ROTC Commander William Murphy, USN Ret., senior naval instructor, helps Desiree William, the youngest Cadet, and John Kinney, the eldest naval veteran, cut the Navy birthday cake.

Linden JROTC celebrates Navy's birthday with bash

High school cadets continue to accelerate their lives

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

LINDEN — When you use a 2-foot-long marine sword to cut your birthday cake, you know it's been a good year. In the case of the navy, it's been a good 233 years.

Linden High School's Junior ROTC program cel-

ebrated the navy's birthday with a cake cutting and drill exhibition last week at the Academy of Science and Technology courtyard across the street from the high school.

But for these cadets, JROTC means much more than just ceremonies; it is a way of life.

See LINDEN, Page 10

Murder trial begins

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

UNION — A trial began this week for the two men accused of murdering a Vauxhall man in 2006, an incident that shocked the community.

Paul Capers was murdered at his home shortly before midnight on July 3, 2006. Police determined the 70-year-old had been fatally shot in the chest during a botched robbery.

An investigation between the Union Police Department and the county Prosecutor's Office led to the arrests of Vauxhall area residents Michael Knighton, 38, and Franklin Prather Jr, 39, three days later. Prather Jr. was the son of Capers' friend, Franklin Prather Sr. Both men were charged with robbery and murder. According to published reports, Prather Jr. had confessed to authorities he had been involved in drug-dealing and had provided Knighton with the murder weapon.

Capers was recognized as a local political figure, who had been involved with the Vauxhall Civic Association and owned a local paving company.

Assistant Prosecutor Caroline Lawlor, who is involved with the trial, could not immediately be reached for comment.

See BOE, Page 6
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Photo By Christine Hudak, Linden Public Schools
Linden School 6 student, Vernon Collier, learns about the fire house from the firefighters at Fire House 1 for Fire Prevention Month.

Fire captain axed

By Joseph M. D'Alise
Staff Writer

SPRINGFIELD — Fire Department Capt. Michael Bilotti has been fired from his post, following several hearings to determine the validity of his General Educational Development diploma from high school.

In a unanimous vote on Oct. 14, the Township Committee agreed with hearing officer Robert Czech's recommendation to terminate Bilotti.

"I find Michael Bilotti violated the statutory requirements...as it regards to having a valid high school diploma and by submitting the false diploma, did not satisfy the requirements of good moral character under the statute," Czech said in his hearing report. "The copy of the diploma submitted in 1994, along with his application, was a knowing misrepresentation."

The 14-year fire department employee had been suspended from his \$85,000 job since May.

According to township officials, Bilotti has 10 days from the time he was notified of Czech's recommendation to file an appeal.

His attorney, James Addis of Galantucci & Patuto based in Hackensack, said the former fire captain has not decided whether to appeal the committee's decision, but he pleaded for some leniency.

"I asked the committee to consider putting Bilotti on a leave of absence so that he can get his GED," Addis said. "He's a dedicat-

ed firefighter who only wants to be a firefighter. He has devoted time and effort to this township for...years."

But Mayor Bart Fraenkel suggested officials made the right decision, considering Bilotti violated a state statute. "Given the results, we had no choice but to comply with the statute, requiring a firefighter to have a valid GED," he said.

Township officials must wait the required 10 days to see if there is an appeal filed before moving forward to find a replacement for Bilotti.

The Union County Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the Bilotti matter in March. The probe stemmed from allegations grades from the last firefighters' entrance exam were altered to help Bilotti's nephew and former fire chief Wayne Masiello's son get a spot on the paid division of the fire department.

During the investigation, Bilotti's personal file was searched by officials from the Union County Prosecutor's Office and what appeared to be a photocopy of his GED was found with the name of a state education commissioner who did not hold the post at the time the degree was issued.

Bilotti and his attorney continue to contend the original diploma was destroyed in a house fire and they do not know where the diploma in the personal file came from.

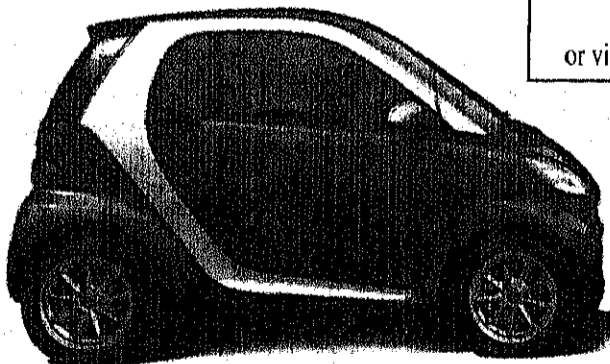
Joseph M. D'Alise can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 124, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

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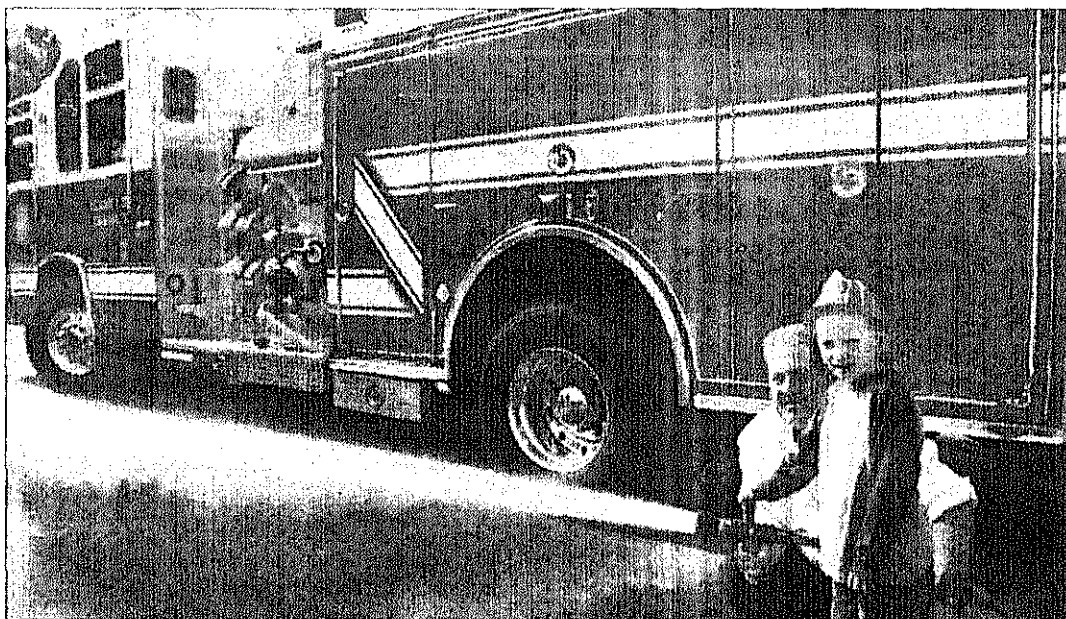
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Fire chief in training



Clark Fire Official, Frank Cerasa, gives hands-on training to William Kelly, a second-grader at Valley Road School in Clark, during Fire Prevention Week.

Officials tackle KU parking woes

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

HILLSIDE — Township officials are taking steps to resolve parking problems on Irvington Avenue and Wilder Street, where Kean University students have been parking their vehicles, leaving little or no space for the streets' residents.

"There was an overflow from the parking lot and students were parking on both sides of the street," Councilmember Edward Brewer explained about the roads bordering the university's East Campus.

The council is now working to revise the existing ordinance to authorize permit parking for residents along certain tracts of the street. Permit parking for residents will be available on Wilder Street between Irvington Avenue and Westminster Avenue, and on Ir-

vington Avenue between North Avenue and Wilder Street. Permit parking will be enforced Mondays through Fridays but not on the weekends, according to police and township officials.

Brewer said the council unanimously approved the ordinance on first reading and expects the second and final reading to take place at the next meeting on Oct. 28.

Police chief Robert Quinlan said the HPD began receiving complaints this semester, when the university's East Campus reopened after being closed for renovations for two years.

Quinlan said the school already supplies adequate parking, complete with a shuttle bus to the East Campus, a service many students do not care to take advantage of.

More than 300 parking spaces were created at the beginning of the

semester and the student parking fee was eliminated, Kean spokesman Stephen Hudik noted.

"Students continue to park on the streets," Quinlan said, who noted they find it more convenient.

"But, residents of that area have had their driveways blocked, and traffic has increased on the street," Quinlan added.

According to the revised ordinance, non-resident drivers that park anywhere on the street will receive a \$50 fine for the first offense and a \$100 fine for subsequent offenses. A vehicle parked for more than eight hours after being issued a summons will be towed at the owner's expense.

Hudik said the university is supportive of the town's efforts.

Kean University President Dawood Farahi could not be reached for comment.

Romerovski site plan to be revealed

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

ROSELLE PARK — It's on everyone's minds in the borough as the hotly contested election nears an end: what will happen to the Romerovski site?

A finalized development plan for the Romerovski site is expected to be unveiled Tuesday.

According to court documents, borough officials had made an agreement with the property's owner, Israel Braunstein, in 2006 to seek developers together because Braunstein had been having difficulties locating a buyer for the textile recycling site.

The borough hired Heyer and Greul Associates as redevelopment consultants in March 2006. For months, several possibilities were examined, including building senior housing, a shopping complex or bringing in new businesses.

Meanwhile, the Virginia-based Avalon Bay Communities Inc., was also working in conjunction with Braunstein to create a development plan since the summer of 2006.

Talks continued between all parties involved with the plan until tensions developed between borough officials and Avalon Bay regarding the development process.

On Jan. 31, 2007, Avalon Bay representative Ron Ladell filed a lawsuit against the borough. According Mayor Joseph Delorio, the lawsuit was filed, "fulfilling his (Ladell's) prophecy to 'tie up' the

Romerovski site to his advantage, at least temporarily."

Litigation is ongoing and currently a gag order is in place that prohibits any borough official from speaking on the matter.

The development plan for the Romerovski site drafted by Avalon Bay earlier this year conflicts with the plan created by the borough.

The real estate company is seeking to create a luxury rental community named "Avalon Roselle Park" on the property with a maximum of 278 units of studio, one, two and three bedroom apartments. The rent for these apartments is expected to range between \$1,200 to \$2,500 per month.

If the plan is approved, the property would feature recreational amenities and structured parking.

But the borough's redevelopment plan involved the creation of a maximum of 215 housing units, with an average size of 900-square-feet. The Avalon Bay proposal includes building units with an average size of 950-square-feet.

Avalon Bay's proposal for the height of the buildings are expected to be up to 69 feet, which exceeds the borough's limit of 50 feet for the site.

Although borough officials had voiced an interest in creating retail space on the site, the Avalon Bay proposal does not include retail.

Jackeline Leon can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 126, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

KENILWORTH BRIEFS

Story time weekly

Story time for ages 3 and up will be held on Thursdays from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 3:30 to 4 p.m.

through Oct. 30 at Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. Registration is required. For information, call 908-276-2451.

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News items:

For information or to report a breaking news story, call 908-686-7700 and ask for editorial. Union County LocalSource accepts news releases and opinion pieces by e-mail. Our e-mail address is editorial@thelocal-source.com. E-mail must be received by 9 a.m. Monday to be considered for publication that week.

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RAHWAY BRIEFS

City history class

The Rahway Division of Senior Services will offer a "History of Rahway" class by historian and author Alex Shipley at the Rahway library on Thursdays from 10 to 11:30 a.m. through Nov. 19. Registration is required and there is a fee. Register at the Rahway Senior Center, 1306 Esterbrook Ave., Rahway. For information, call 732-827-2016.

Trip to Penn. planned

The Rahway Division of Senior Services is sponsoring a bus trip to Delaware Water Gap, Pa., today. The trip is for Rahway Seniors only. There is a fee and no refunds. The bus will leave the Rahway Senior Center at 9 a.m. For information, call the Rahway Division of Senior Services at 732-827-2016.

Craft vendors wanted

The Rahway Division of Parks and Recreation is looking for vendors for their Annual Holiday Craft Market from Nov. 28 to Nov. 30 at the Recreation Center.

For information, call 732-669-3616.

Top stories online this week

- Summit:** "Truck hits utility pole, knocks out power at Town Hall"
 - Springfield:** "Report: School violence, vandalism down"
 - Roselle:** "RFD, Sears, put heat on fire safety"
- To read featured stories, visit www.localsource.com, click on "My Town" and select your community.

Dems, GOP debate spending

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

RAHWAY — At the city's NAACP-hosted candidates' forum, Republican challengers sparred with Democrats over how to decrease taxes, arguing fiscal conservation is needed more than increased revenue from redevelopment.

The more than 30 residents and supporters of both sides packed into the Ebenezer AME Church on Central Avenue to hear the debate. Only three at-large council seats are not being decided and every ward seat is up for grabs.

Current 4th Ward Councilman David Brown, D, is running unopposed. Democratic incumbents Jerome Scaturro, 3rd Ward, and Jennifer Wenson-Maier, 5th Ward, both Democrats, did not attend the debate.

One of the main concerns from residents and Republicans was whether downtown development is benefiting taxpayers.

Arlene Daniels questioned how revenue from new ratables, such as the Indigo Hotel, is affecting the taxpayer's wallet.

First Ward Republican challenger Lawrence Bodine said he worries condos in the hotel are "making developers wealthy" and

not lightening the tax burden.

Fifth Ward challenger James Pekarofski, R, agreed. "Everything is for the commuter who isn't here yet. How is it benefiting you?" he asked residents.

Sixth Ward incumbent and current council president Samson Steinman, D, said the property brought in \$900,000 in taxes on a nine-month assessment, a figure which should rise to \$1 million for a full year assessment.

Increasing revenue through redevelopment is the most efficient way of lowering the tax burden for residents, Steinman noted.

Steinman added that for each condominium unit sold, the city receives a \$10,000 fee. He estimated almost 30 have been sold so far.

Republican candidates concerned with rising taxes said they felt slashing city spending could bring relief to taxpayers.

Challenger Bryan Derochers, 3rd Ward, said he sees "inefficiencies" in the current government.

After a resident asked what programs he would cut, Derochers pointed to liquidating the sewerage authority and eliminating unnecessary city employees or consolidating positions that have similar functions.

Republican challenger Kevin

Retcho, 6th Ward, agreed merging non-essential departments would help save and suggested the council get rid of or minimize employee health benefits, particularly for council members.

Several first-time candidates were able to introduce themselves to voters at the forum.

Bobby Akbar is the Democratic candidate running for the vacated 1st Ward seat.

A teacher and coach in the Rahway school system, he worried quality of life issues are being overlooked in his Ward. "Our voices have not been heard," he declared, promising to bring in a stronger police presence, stop speeding near West Grand and Elizabeth streets and cut down on industrial traffic.

Both 2nd Ward candidates are also newcomers - Michael Cox, D, and Ken Lund, R.

Lund said he would like to focus on delivering essential services like garbage, street sweeping and sidewalk repairs more efficiently.

Cox supported the current direction of the City Council and said he would like to "be a part of the change" the city is currently undergoing.

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

SPRINGFIELD BRIEFS

Mother Goose event

A special mother goose group will meet at the Springfield Public Library on Tuesday. There will be an ASL sign language interpreter to present the stories in a very special way. Assistive listening devices will be available. For information, call 973-376-4930.

Aid squad needs help

The Springfield First Aid Squad seeks volunteers.

If you are interested in joining, a membership application is available online. Visit the Web site springfieldfas.org/volunteer.html for the application.

For information, call 973-376-2040.

Get computer training

Starting in November, the Springfield library will hold its drop-in computer training program on Wednesday mornings (previously held Tuesdays).

Patrons can visit the library anytime between 10:30 a.m. and noon for training in using the Internet and searching online databases and the library catalog.

Talk current events

The Springfield Free Public Library Current Events Discussion Group will meet Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. The Springfield Free Public Library is located at 66 Mountain Ave.

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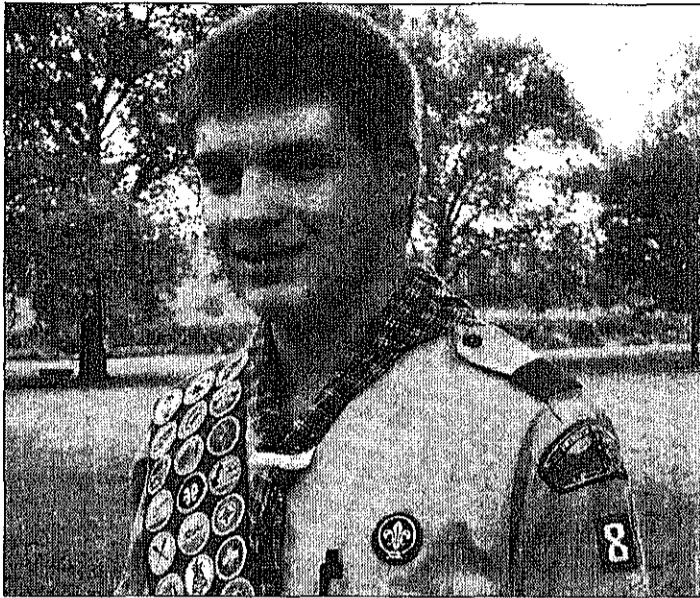
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Badge of honor



Richard M. Tiemann of Kenilworth will become Boy Scout Troop 83's first Eagle Scout on Sunday at a special Eagle Court of Honor at the Kenilworth VFW Post 2230. Richard's project to attain his badge was the remediation of a hiking trail at Watchung Reservation.

RPPD: Pedestrians have the right of way

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

ROSELLE PARK — The pedestrian you see as you're driving in the borough may be a police officer in disguise making sure you are adhering to the law.

As part of a crosswalk decoy program launched two weeks ago by the Roselle Park Police Department, officers appearing as everyday citizens will be on the look out for motorists unwilling to yield to pedestrians.

How it works: A decoy officer dressed in plain clothes enters a crosswalk with two officers in police vehicles nearby. If a car fails to yield to the police officer at the crosswalk, they signal to the standbys to follow the vehicle. Officers are instructed to patrol areas two hours each day on weekdays.

The program, which had already resulted in 15 to 20 summonses being issued to violators early last week, does not require overtime on the part of police officers involved, according to police chief Paul Morrison.

Officers who have performed the motor vehicle stops said most often, a driver admits to having seen the pedestrian but refused to yield.

Motorists who fail to yield to

pedestrians face a \$120 fine and receive two points on their license, according to Morrison.

Traffic Safety Officer Michael Antonucci sees the program as a success. "Today we wrote up 18 summonses," Antonucci said Friday afternoon.

Morrison assured the program is necessary.

"It's not about the revenue, it's to increase the awareness of motorists," he said. "This is a problem everywhere, but we've noticed this happening often in Roselle Park, with vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians."

Antonucci said, however, there have been no recent pedestrian fatalities and that the only fatality this year occurred in January, but not at a crosswalk.

While police will focus their effort on Chestnut Street, the program will cover the entire borough. A new emphasis may be placed on the Locust Street, near the train station where there is a high amount of pedestrian traffic, according to Morrison.

"This is a law, and I want people to know we are out there actively enforcing it," Morrison said.

Jackeline Leon can be reached at 908-686-7700 ext. 126, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

CLARK BRIEFS

Pre-election Dem. rally

The Clark Democrats will hold a pre-election dinner and rally today from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Bistro 1051, 1051 Raritan Road, Clark. To show support for Gary Slodowski

for mayor and Council-at-Large candidates Nancy Shanahan, Diane Lanigan and Nancy Sheridan, join the dinner, which requires a donation. To make reservations or for information, call 732-382-6884.

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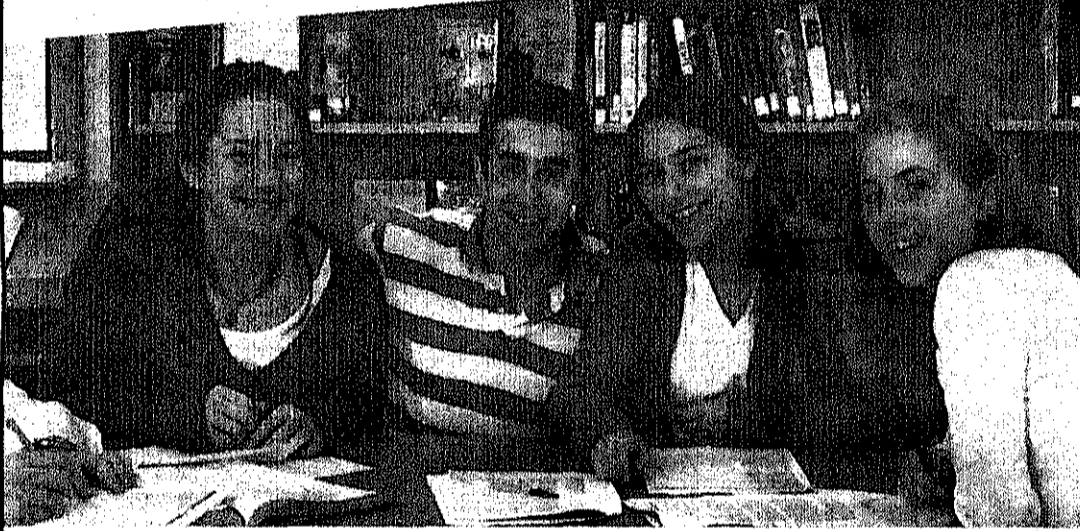
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BOE, SEA conflicted

(Continued from Page 1)

continue to receive their full salaries, health insurance, tuition reimbursement and all other benefits outlined in their most recent agreement with the board.

Dan Miller, who has worked as a social studies teacher at Summit Middle School for 19 years and now serves as president of the SEA, said salary and health benefits are at the center of this conflict. "They're asking for...dramatic changes in our cost-sharing," he said. "It would not be in line with any of the recent settlements in the county. We would prefer not to have any change in healthcare."

According to Miller, during the negotiation process, settlements in outside districts can not be brought to the table or discussed with the public.

When called for comment, Superintendent Nathan Parker would not discuss the details of the package, but pointed to a prepared statement posted on the Board of Education's Web site.

In the statement, Parker said, "The Board presented what it believes to be fair proposals in salary and adjustments in the health benefit programs as part of a package that is commensurate with the fiscal and budgetary constraints imposed by the state."

"The board is seeking a balanced settlement that meets the needs of the children, the staff and the school district, without having a negative impact on programs, class size and current levels of staff," Parker also noted in the statement.

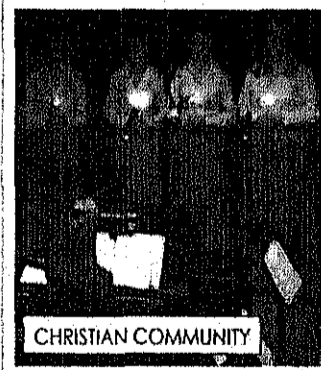
Adam Fern, girls track team coach at Summit High School, said teachers have not allowed the contractual problems to have an impact on their jobs. "We don't want to fight this in the classroom," Fern said.

But he noted if an agreement is not made soon, teachers may stop performing work they are not paid for, a tactic employed in similar standoffs in other towns. Such duties involve arriving at school early and overseeing various activities. Though this would likely have a negative effect in the district, school officials said it could be more than a month before a mediator is available to address the problem.

According to Miller, if an agreement is not reached with the help of the mediator, which is not a binding or legal process, a fact finder, will be hired. The fact finder's determination will not be binding either. If the fact finding process does not result in a new contract or terms both sides agree upon, they will be forced to participate in around-the-clock negotiations until an agreement is reached. Both parties said they hope this final step is not necessary.



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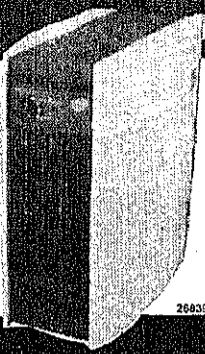
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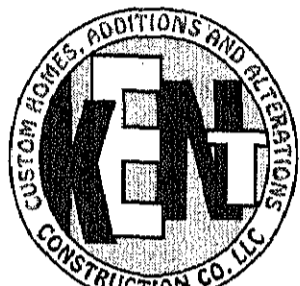
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Going through the motions

St. Agnes School students to participate in mock debate

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

CLARK — Students at Saint Agnes School are prepping to argue for the fun of it.

A mock debate that will be held at the school Tuesday was coordinated by eighth-grade social studies teacher Jane Burns, who organized a similar event four years ago. "It was such a big success" she said about her reason for offering the program again.

Burns said a panel of judges, will present questions to two debate teams — Republicans and Democrats — each consisting of eight students chosen by Burns.

Students answered questions ranging from energy and healthcare to the economy and global conflicts.

Other local school districts are encouraging programs like Clark's.

"There are a lot more conversations going on in social studies classes because of the uniqueness of having an African American and a woman involved," said Union

Superintendent of Schools Theodore Jakubowski.

Panelists in Clark include Mayor Sal Bonaccorso, Saint Agnes Pastor Father Dennis Cohen, President of Rahway Savings Bank Russ Taylor and Joanne Cadigan Peters, a teacher at Saint Mary's Academy in Watchung.

Burns said students have been working hard to prepare for weeks by researching the candidates' platforms and backgrounds. "They are so involved. They're doing a terrific job at it," Burns said.

The students say they are looking forward to the event. "My team's going to be ready for whatever questions may appear," said Steven Tochyloski, who will be heading the Republican team. "I really like John McCain, so I'm happy about being captain of the Republican team."

Rebecca English, who will be representing the Democrat party, said she is nervous, but confident her team will do the best they can.

She said she respects the presi-

dential candidates, which include Democratic Barack Obama. "They both have very good qualities," English said, adding members of her family have an interest in politics, but her own did not grow until recently. She predicts the presidential election will be very close.

Burns said this election seems to have generated more interest from local youngsters than past elections. "They've been very involved with watching the debates," she said.

Tochyloski said the outcome of the election will have an impact on students.

"Some people say kids don't worry about who is president, but they do because it effects our education and our future," Tochyloski said. "It's good for them to know what's going on."

The debate will be held at 10 a.m. at Saint Agnes School, 342 Madison Hill Road. Parents are invited to attend.

Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 121.

Linden home hit with stray bullets; six teens arrested

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

LINDEN — A Roselle teen is accused of firing three bullets into an East Price Street home while the owners were in their beds and fleeing police who spotted him in a vehicle near the crime scene, according to Linden police Capt. Raymond Tyra.

Four friends that went along for the ride with the youth and the driver of vehicle were also nabbed.

The residents, a 47-year-old man and 53-year-old woman, dove to the floor and laid there until the shots ceased. Neither was hurt, according to authorities.

One bullet went through the couple's bedroom window and traveled through the wall into an adjacent room.

"Right now there is no connection between the house hit and the

reasons it was shot," Tyra said, who added police are also investigating whether the shooting was gang-related.

Police in the area heard the gunshots and ran to the scene in time to see a red Toyota Tercel fleeing from a parking space on Zeigler Avenue.

When area patrol units tried to pull over the vehicle near Elizabeth and Wood avenues, the 17-year-old suspect jumped out and led authorities on a foot chase. He was detained after a brief struggle with officers on Penn Place.

Police allegedly found a .38 caliber Smith and Wesson revolver with four spent rounds and loaded with two live rounds in the teen's possession. Investigators say they are trying to determine who owns the weapon.

The driver of the car the 17-year-old dove from, Smithy

Antoine, 18, and four other juveniles in the vehicle were also arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and released on summonses.

Arresting officers said the occupants would not cooperate with police. "They were very disorderly, yelling and shouting...The adult occupant was violently throwing his arms around, yelling and shouting profanity and encouraging the other occupants not to listen to the officers," Tyra added.

The alleged shooter was charged with unlawful possession of a weapon, resisting arrest and obstruction of justice. On Monday, he was being held in the Union County Juvenile Detention Facility.

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

UNION BRIEFS**Book delivery service**

The Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., is offering a delivery service of books to residents who are unable to visit the library due to a physical disability or other health-related conditions. For information, call 908-851-5452.

Learn about fire safety

October is Fire Safety Month, and as an integral part of Kean Col-

lege's Health & Science Expo, the NJFSAB will bring its burn trailer, a demonstration tool with live fire to simulate the action time for sprinklers to extinguish a fire from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today at Kean College, 1000 Morris Ave., Union.

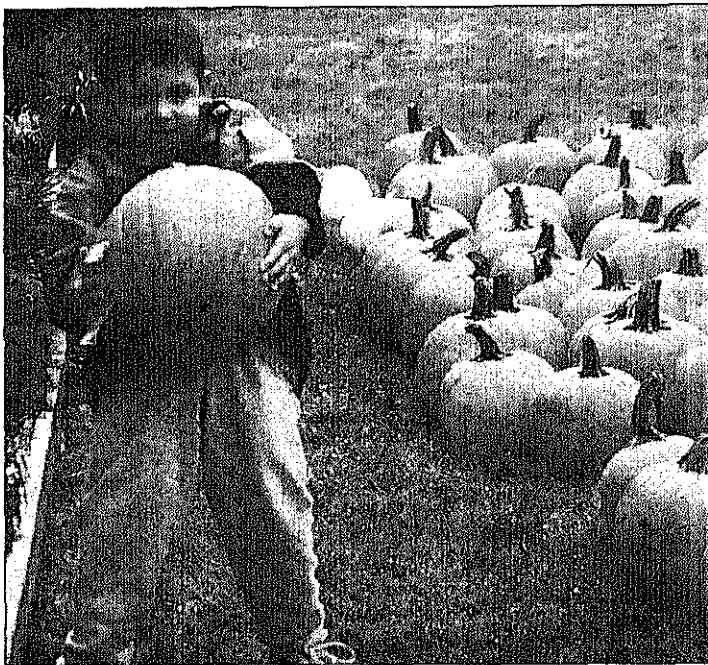
The fire marshall agency and the Division of Fire Safety will be present. Other agencies participating include: Red Cross, Organ Donation Agency, Environmental

Protection Agency, Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation Hazard Awareness Agency.

Lower East Side talk

The Union Public Library will host a free seminar presented by Leslie Fishbein, Ph.D., entitled "From Shtetl to Ghetto: the Culture of the Lower East Side" at 7 p.m. on Oct. 30.

Perfect pumpkin



Anthony Fiorentino finds his perfect pumpkin during the annual pumpkin sale in the courtyard at Valley Road School in Clark Oct 3.

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Free pre-K for tots

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

ROSELLE — Three- and four-year-olds will be eligible to attend pre-school for free next year in the borough, thanks to a new state initiative.

Piggybacking on the success of free pre-K in Abbott school districts — the poorest districts that receive state funding for programs and supplies — New Jersey legislators will fully fund pre-school programs in non-Abbott districts across the state. Areas with more than 40 percent of eligible students can offer the program to the entire district, regardless of a student's financial situation — Roselle has a 58 percent rate.

The initiative was signed into law in January as part of Gov. Jon Corzine's school funding plan. About \$330,000 will be put toward the program in order to fund pre-school in Roselle. Statewide, the increase will support an additional 30,000 students next year, bringing the total up to 70,000, according to 20th District spokesperson Erin Caragher.

As a part of the new initiative, any student in the state who is eligible for a free or reduce-priced lunch is also eligible for the free schooling, regardless of where they live.

Roselle School District consultant Jack Perner said the initiative is great news for the borough. "Now, when kids enter pre-K [and beyond], they will be well prepared. I foresee a tremendous turnaround in their academic achievement," he said.

In the free program, the state mandates there be 15 students to a class, with a teacher and teaching assistant in each one, according to Perner.

The "educational center" must be 950-square-feet and will be equipped for Internet. Students will also all receive free lunch and breakfast and have a master teacher, nurse and family worker available.

While district officials are still in the planning phases — preparing to implement the program by the 2009-10 school year — they admit not all eligible students will be able to take part in the program at first.

Perner said that in the first year, 20 percent of the estimated 400 pre-school-aged children in the borough may take part. He has a preliminary goal of a 90 percent involvement in four years. "We anticipate there will be more demand than space this year. But, based on what happens, it is conceivable expansion may be accelerated in the second year," he said.

District officials said they are excited to offer the early educational opportunities at no additional cost to taxpayers. "It's great, because we get to work with an approved, research-based curriculum," said Roselle superintendent Elnardo Webster.

He added school and borough officials are discussing co-building a new early childhood center, which could eventually house the entire pre-K program. A forum was held for the public to discuss the free pre-school program on Monday at Leonard V. Moore Middle School. Speakers included Webster, Senator Raymond Lesniak, Assemblyman Joseph Cryan, Cynthia C. Rice, an analyst for the Association for Children of New Jersey, and Ellen Wolock, state Department of Education's pre-school director.

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

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KENILWORTH BRIEFS

Story time weekly

Story time for ages 3 and up will be on Thursdays from 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. and 3:30 to 4 p.m. through Oct. 30 at Kenilworth library, 548 Boulevard. Registration is required. Call 908-276-2451.

Bingo for children

Bingo for children who can read will be held Friday from 3:30 to 4 p.m. at Kenilworth library. Halloween craft event A Halloween Craft will be held on Saturday from 11 to noon in the Activi-

ty Room at Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. Children ages 4 to 6 years must be accompanied by an assisting adult.

Halloween parade

A Halloween Parade will be held Saturday at 10 a.m. at the Recreation Center, 575 Boulevard.

For information, call 908-272-4995.

Toddler time weekly

Toddler Time for 2 year olds will be held on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. through Nov. 5

at Kenilworth Public Library, 548 Boulevard. Registration is required. To register or for information, call 908-276-2451 or visit www.kenilworthlibrary.org.

Shredding service

The Union County will sponsor a recycling event for electronic equipment and a papershredding event on Nov. 1 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Schering-Plough Corp. facility, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth. All residents of Union County are eligible to participate at no cost.

Linden JROTC celebrates Navy

(Continued from Page 1)

"It is...a different culture," said Naval Commander William Murphy, head of the program in Linden.

"If [a student] is going to come in and wear a uniform and give up the time required to do this and excel, they are a little bit different," the 20-year Navy veteran explained. Students meet in lieu of gym class each day to drill and study, but also take part in volunteer projects on weekends and after school.

Two JROTC leaders, seniors Joseph Failla and Christopher Minowski, agree their organization is far from any other type of high school activity.

"It's a whole different breed. They teach you discipline here, character, how to be a leader," said Failla, who noted the ROTC participates in many community events, such as walk-a-thons for the local food bank and presentations on holidays like Martin Luther King Day.

Both plan to attend college and hope to join the Marines after get-

ting a degree. They are applying to Virginia Military Institute, among other schools.

It isn't all fun and games, however, in the ROTC. The cadets say at times drilling and competitions, which Linden historically excels at, can take a toll.

They are in competitions almost every weekend. In the past they have won and regularly place in national JROTC contests.

"They put us through a lot of stress," said Minowski. "At the time it builds up and you get nervous and angry, a lot of emotions come out. But at the end of day, instruction is there to support you. It's all worth it."

The JROTC began in 1980 at the school. During the early years they barely had the 100 members required to stay afloat, but have grown since. The current crew consists of about 285 members from grades 9 through 12.

Army veteran Jeff Kennedy, head of Linden's American Legion Post 102, said he is touched when he attends ROTC events and sees the obstacles and achievements the

youngsters overcome. "It's very heartwarming to see the discipline and the leadership qualities they are showing today. It makes you feel good," Kennedy said.

He added that several students who have enlisted still keep in touch with him. "They seem to have a purpose," Kennedy said about what he sees in ROTC cadets, but not in the entire student body.

That purpose is not military recruitment, according to Murphy. He stressed the program focuses on four things: higher education, leadership development, citizenship and community service.

He hopes each graduate comes away from the program with an enhanced resume for college, a willingness to assist the community and an awareness of the tradition of the military and patriotism of Linden. "We want students to respect what the country is about and respect the idea of democracy," Murphy said.

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

Judge against Union Center plan

(Continued from Page 1)

In a press release issued Friday, the governing body blasted residents who opposed the revitalizing plan.

"The committee made a strategic investment in pursuing the redevelopment of Union Center for the future of this township," Mayor Cliff People Jr. said. "A limited number of landlords/property owners may have won this case, but all of the residents of Union lost."

According to township officials, some businesses have left the Stuyvesant Avenue area due to a lack of foot traffic and parking options, which they say could have been remedied by the proposed plan.

"In these horrible economic times, developments like these could very well have stimulated a redevelopment rush in and around Union Center," township attorney Daniel Antonelli said.

If the project had moved forward, the ground floor level would have featured retail stores and the upper levels would have had townhome-style apartments with parking in the rear.

Township officials noted the matter had nothing to do with eminent domain and had in fact passed a resolution against eminent domain in December.

"This is on blight distinction, it has nothing to do with eminent domain," township spokesperson Geri Durso said.

She explained the center has the highest vacancy rate in 15 years and the proposed plan was meant to address that issue. "Justice prevailed," CUU member and owner of Metta Realty on Stuyvesant Avenue Fran Metta said.

According to Metta, property owners were concerned they were being excluded from the planning efforts. "I do think the center needs help, but I think we should all participate and make it a township effort," she said.

Committee member Anthony Terrezza said cooperation with the property owners is essential and is being sought by township officials who now hope to hold a forum where members of the community can share their ideas.

"We implore these landlords, many who live outside of the Township of Union and outside the State of New Jersey, to sit down with us to find a solution that will give our residents what they want and deserve," Terrezza said.

Jackeline Leon can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 126, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

Arrest after one flees site of two-car collision

Cranford
 Todd Parrett, 29, of Caldwell was arrested by officer Steven D'Ambola at 9:33 p.m. on Oct. 9 following a motor vehicle accident on West 1st Street near Aldene Road in Roselle. The two-car accident resulted in minor injuries to one driver who refused medical attention. The other driver fled the scene into Cranford, where a witness to the accident later spotted them and called the police. Officers located the vehicle about 4 blocks from the accident site, pulling Parret over on Centennial Avenue and Elm Street. Parret was charged with driving while intoxicated and leaving the scene of an accident.

• Lance Jackson, 36, of Linden was arrested by officer Steven D'Ambola at 12:45 a.m. on Oct. 14

when police spotted his vehicle blocking a driveway on Raritan Road. Jackson reportedly had fallen asleep inside the vehicle with the engine running. He was charged with driving while intoxicated.

Clark
 • Amanda Manata, 35, of Lexington Boulevard was arrested at 9:50 p.m. on Sept. 30 on an outstanding warrant for contempt of court and motor vehicle warrants from Clark, Sayerville and Union. She was released pending a trial.

Kenilworth
 • Michael Berardinelli was arrested by officer Brian Pickton on Oct. 18 for driving under the influence of alcohol and was later released.

Rahway
 • On Oct. 16, at 5:24 a.m., police

responded to a report that a 43-foot Chiquita Banana tractor-trailer truck was stolen from the parking lot at the intersection of Route 1 and East Milton Avenue.

Roselle
 • Anthony Randle, of Warren Street and Robert Wilson, 43, of Frank Street were arrested at 1:33 a.m. on Oct. 2 after they were found in possession of several stolen items.

Roselle Park
 • A 17-year-old of Maplewood was arrested by officer John Deegan at 8:31 a.m. on Oct. 18 for stealing money from an attendant at the Delta gas station on Lehigh Avenue in Union. The arrest occurred after Deegan, who was off duty and in the area of Galloping Hill Road, spotted a suspicious

man pacing back and forth and talking on his cell phone under.

He saw a second man running from the gas station, with the attendant chasing him and screaming for help.

Deegan stopped the man, but the other, who appeared to have acted as a lookout, fled in a gray sedan waiting nearby. According to the attendant, the suspect grabbed the money out of the their hand while they were giving him change and fled. They identified the youth as the robber.

Springfield
 • On Sept. 29, at 8:48 a.m., a Cypress Terrace resident reported their silver, four-door Toyota Camry was stolen while it was parked in front of their home between 9:30 p.m. on Sept. 28 and 8:48 a.m. on Sept. 29.

SUMMIT BRIEFS

Music DVDs at SPL

The Summit Public Library's newest collection of music DVDs is on display. The music DVDs can be borrowed by anyone with a valid library card from Summit or from one of the seven local libraries that have a reciprocal borrowing agreement with Summit. The library is located at 75 Maple St.

For information, call 908-273-0350.

Travel with AARP

The Summit Area AARP will travel to Williamsburg, Va., from Sunday through Wednesday. For information, call 908-273-1962.

Celebrate two fields

Summit residents are invited to celebrate two athletic field projects: Glenside Field and Upper Tatlock Field.

LINDEN BRIEFS

Halloween parade

The Linden Halloween parade will be held Sunday at 2 p.m., with a rain date of Oct. 27 at 7 p.m. For information, call 908-474-8627.

Knitting, crocheting

Knitting and Crocheting for a Cause invites people of all ages who have a basic knowledge of knitting or crocheting and a set of knitting needles or a crochet hook

to meet Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon at the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center, 330 Helen St. Projects are distributed to charitable causes. For information, call 908-474-8627 or visit www.linden-nj.org.

Board to accept check

The Library Board and Friends of Linden Library invite the public to the "Kick Off Fund Raiser" on

Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the front steps of City Hall, 301 North Wood Ave. The board will receive a \$50,000 check from Conoco Phillips to start its fundraising campaign. The goal is to raise \$250,000 for amenities for the new library.

Vendors sought

The holiday gift and craft show at the Linden Presbyterian Church, 1506 Orchard Terrace, Linden, will

be held Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is seeking vendors.

to display and sell their new items for holiday shopping, including handmade crafts, beauty gifts, jewelry, candles, etc. Tables are available for a fee.

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Cats spend a considerable amount of time licking and cleaning themselves, and therefore tend to swallow a lot of hair. Hairballs, or "fur balls," are quantities of hair that accumulate in the cat's stomach or small intestine. Normally most of the hair that is swallowed is expelled through the cat's digestive system in the stool. Problems occur when hair that does not get excreted gathers in the cat's stomach or intestine to form a dense ball or mat that cannot be passed. The ball is then vomited. The signs of hairballs in cats are related to the digestive system and include vomiting, loss of appetite, or constipation. Hairballs are actually one of the most common reasons that cats vomit.

The hygiene of cats is often overlooked; however it is definitely part of your cat's overall health. At T.L.C. PET DOCTOR, we are experienced animal experts, and you can entrust the complete care of your animal with us. We advise you to monitor your cat for vomiting, loss of appetite, and constipation which are signs of "fur ball" problems. Bring your pet to 1326 Stuyvesant Ave., Union or call 908.686.7080 for more information. Our services include geriatric care, radiology, wellness and preventive medicine, and many more.

P.S. Large numbers of hairballs are dangerous and can block a cat's intestinal tract.

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Strong effort



Kent Place seniors, from left, Elizabeth Chrystal of Summit and Hannah Kaplan of Randolph were named semi-finalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Competition.

SCHOOL NEWS

Open house at RHS

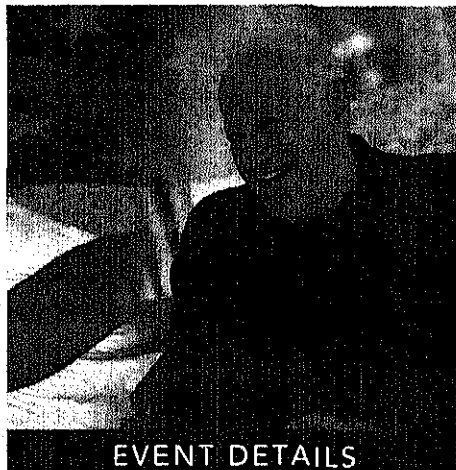
Rahway High School will host a Open House for grades 7 and 8 from 7 to 9 p.m. today in the RHS Auditorium. The theme is "The Secret is Out." Subjects to be covered include NJ Core Content course enrollment and academic development.

DECA collects shoes

Members of the Cranford High School DECA chapter are collecting old, used sneakers of any brand for recycling in Nike's Reuse, a shoe program. Collection boxes will be located in the school rotunda until Friday. DECA hopes to collect at least 500 pairs of sneakers.

Veterans' Benefits: What You Should Know

Free Presentation at
Brighton Gardens of Mountainside



EVENT DETAILS

**Veterans' Benefits:
What You Should Know**
With Barbara Steinberg, Certified
Financial Planner, CEA, CLTC

Saturday, October 25, 2008
11:00am

Space is limited. RSVP to
908-654-4460 today.

Please join us for an informative presentation about understanding benefits for veterans. Join guest speaker Barbara Steinberg to gain more insight on this subject.

Discussion topics to include:

- Understanding VA benefits and the application process
- How to become eligible even if you exceed the limits

A question and answer session will follow the presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVP for you and a friend today.



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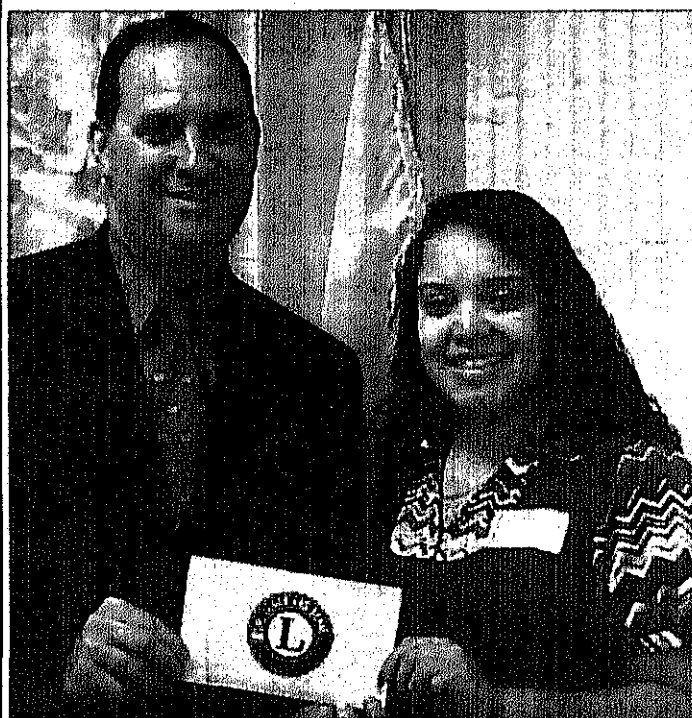


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Gift of giving



The Cranford Public Schools was awarded a \$25,000 grant by Learn & Serve America in September. This grant will help Cranford integrate service learning into the curriculum. Stephen F. Izzo, manager of Grants & Special Programs in the district, and Linda Rivera, program manager for New Jersey Learn & Serve America.

Courts: Two billed borough company for lavish lifestyle

By Joseph M. D'Alise
Staff Writer

MOUNTAINSIDE — The former information technology chief and the chief financial officer at a Mountainside-based company have been arrested for allegedly swindling their employer out of approximately \$900,000 they used to enhance their personal lives, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Other employees at the company may have been involved in the scheme, authorities said.

On Oct. 15, Robert Gonzalez, 35, of Deltona, Fla., was indicted on conspiracy and tax evasion, while Geraldine Manuel, 56, of Westwood was also indicted on conspiracy charges.

Gonzalez, who allegedly took the money between October 2002 and early 2004, purchased computer-related goods and services for

Comstock Images, an international supplier of professional photographs. Gonzalez worked there for several years before the scheme took shape in 2002, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Lorraine Gerson. Gonzalez charged large amounts to his corporate American Express credit card and submitted fraudulent expense reports and inflated invoices to his job. He used the money to pay for meals at restaurants, including Wolfgang Puck and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse, to fund Caribbean cruises for his wife and his family, airfare to Walt Disney World in Florida, hotel stays in the Bahamas and Puerto Rico, and pay his expenses, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

According to the indictment, Gonzalez hired Manuel in October 2002 as the company's CFO and later enlisted her in his scheme to bilk the company out of the money.

In addition to funding his own lifestyle, Gonzalez allegedly purchased a flat-panel plasma television and more than \$2,000 worth of furniture for Manuel's home.

Meanwhile, Manuel allegedly charged the company for her own trip to the Bahamas, thousands of dollars worth of gems and diving equipment.

The U.S. Attorney's Office officials would not comment on how the pair was caught or release the names of two other Comstock employees believed to be a part of Gonzalez's plot because the investigation into the matter continues.

A representative from Comstock Images could not be reached for comment. Manuel's bail was set at \$100,000 by U.S. Magistrate Judge Michael Shipp of Newark federal court. Gonzalez was detained in Florida and his bail was set at \$50,000.

Out in style



Photos By Barbara Kokkalis and Dan Burns

The Roselle Fair and Festival was held Oct. 4. Magretta Morgan of Roselle smokes up Jamaican-style jerk chicken.

CRANFORD BRIEFS

Candidates to meet

The Union Area-Cranford League of Women Voters and the Cranford Jaycees will host the annual Township Committee Candidates' Forum today at 8 p.m. in the council chambers of the Cran-

ford Municipal Building.

The Township Committee Candidates include Daniel Aschenbach, Christopher Drew, Mark P. Dugan and Kevin J. Illing. An open forum will be provided for questions from the audience.

Trip: Clinton Museum

The Fine Arts Department of the Wednesday Morning Club, a woman's study group, one of the oldest clubs in Cranford, will car pool to the Clinton Museum, Clinton, today.

For additional information on the trip or the Wednesday Morning Club, call 908-272-6243.

Join youth programs

The Cranford Recreation & Parks Department registration for

youth programs for the fall has begun. Classes include: 3D Visualization, Amazing Science Workshop, Bowling, Basketball Clinic, Clay Animation, Elementary Cooking, Elementary Engineering, Field Hockey Clinic and Golf for Juniors.

Leonard Lance says "Stender is a spender and a truth-bender."



Linda Stender says Lance is "the real big spender."

UNFORTUNATELY, THEY'RE BOTH RIGHT!
They have even called their own campaigns "overly partisan."
But can they ever shed their partisan suits?



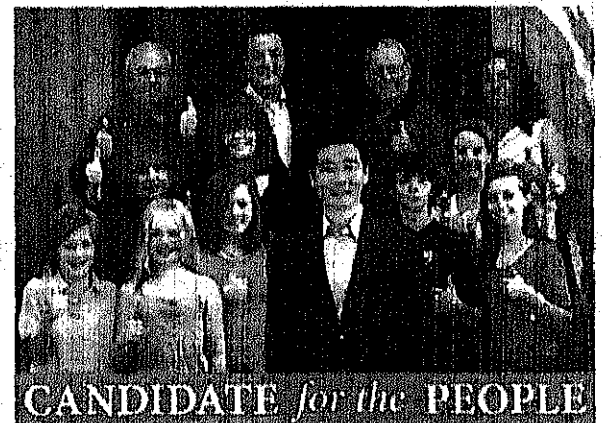
ON NOVEMBER 4TH

Say NO!

to ridiculous negative campaigns
to endless partisan deadlock
to old-party candidates Stender and Lance

Say YES!

to Independent Candidate
MICHAEL HSING!



OPINION PAGE

EDITORIAL

Right the wrong with a real review

The Springfield Fire Department captain accused of providing a fake General Education Diploma in order to land a spot on the squad has been axed from his position, putting an end to a lengthy and controversial hearing process.

On Oct. 14, the entire Township Committee sided with hearing officer Robert Czechs' findings: Bilotti's GED is a fake and his "moral character" is lacking.

But what does this all mean for the unlucky person who may have been in line for the position at the department when the now former captain, Michael Bilotti, was appointed 14 years ago? Probably nothing.

What officials can do to right the wrong, beyond canning the alleged liar, would be insignificant at this point.

What can be offered to the unfortunate person who may have lost out on Bilotti's gig, which grew to be very lucrative — he earned \$85,000 during his last full year on the department — is a sign of change.

There should be a full review of the Fire Department. Surely officials who couldn't recognize — or were too busy to care about — the presumed fake-out in the first place may have let a few other job candidates with phony resumes slip through the cracks over the years. A recent scandal surrounding the legitimacy of the test result from the last firefighter's entrance exam proves fire officials are still letting the same type of mistakes be made.

Two volunteers firefighter, Connor Hamilton and Dino D'Angelo came forward in February, after taking their fire entrance exam, alleging their scores were downgraded to make room for retired Fire Chief Wayne Masiello's son, Adam, and Bilotti's son, Jeremy, at the top of the list of candidates eligible for a job on the squad.

An internal investigation needs to be launched into the hiring practices, among others at the department. The probe should be lead by an outside agency, followed by a clear plan to punish offenders and remedy any problems that are found. It's as simple as this: with unqualified employees, either those without the needed education or those without the know-how to perform the job — according to a test — the public is not being fully protected.

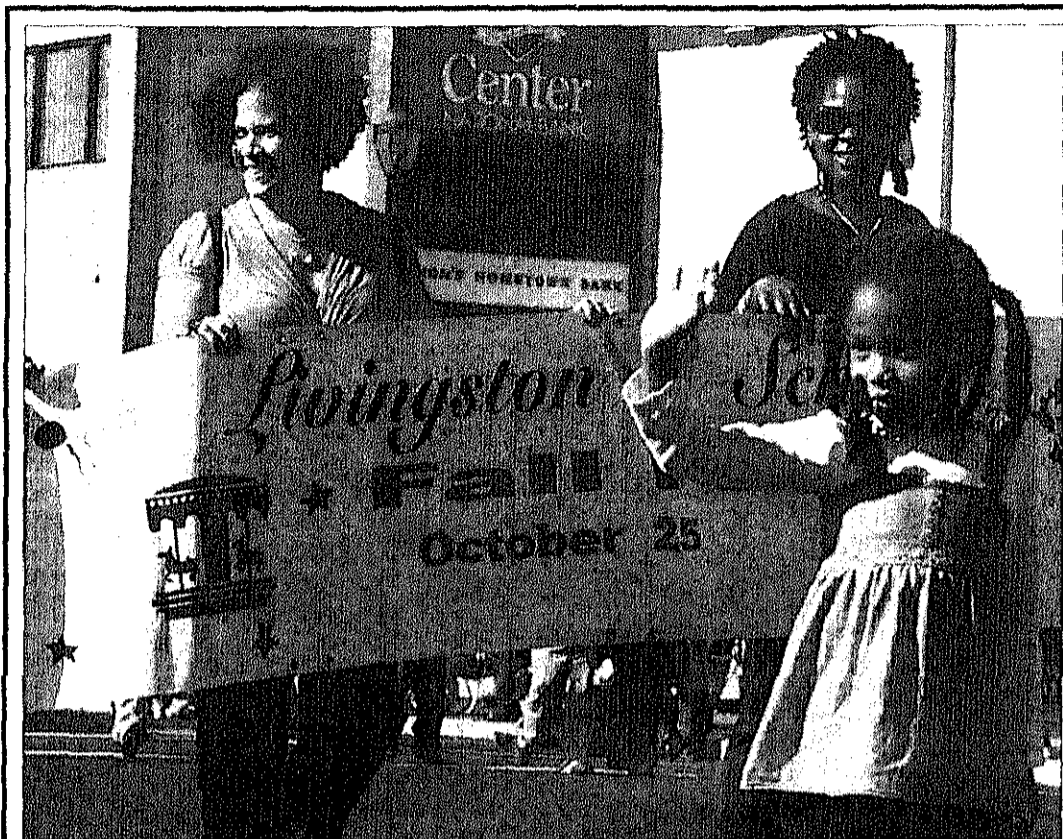


Photo By Barbara Kakkalis

CELEBRATING HISTORY — Students from Livingston Elementary School wave to the crowd as the school's contingent march down Morris Avenue during Union's bicentennial parade last week.

The taste of an 'old-time' event

The complexity of the rules were very modern, but Mountainside's First Annual Pie Baking Contest had the taste of an old time community event.

Sponsored by the local Historical Preservation Committee, 18 entrants — note these are bakers not cooks — put their pies through the paces last Sunday.

The complex point system used by the three judges dealt with questions like "does the crust taste doughy or salty," and "is the filling evenly cooked?" Maybe the most obvious was "would you want to take this pie home?"

The Judges knew their pies. They included Frank Geiger an owner of the former local Cider Mill, Elena Bantey from Deerfield School in Mountainside and this corner's favorite: Effie Jones, the owner of Pies by Design in Cranford, which has added an inch to my waistline this year alone.

Each judge painstakingly went through the tasting of the pies of the 18 entrants. There was water drinking in between, and a clean fork and dish provided for each testing. The pies could be "one- or two-crust." A complete list of ingredients, quantities and preparations printed on an 8 1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper had to be submitted in advance.

All the testing took a little more than an hour. Unlike Dancing with the Stars, the winners' calculations took some more-time as the afternoon sun on the cool autumn day

Left Out

By Frank Capece

at the historic Hetfield house faded.

It was very nice that Anjali Mehrotra's apple pecan crumb won the blue ribbon. For the contestants and the 30 or so observers, something else was going on that was also pretty sweet.

While waiting, a relatively new resident named Linda spoke about her prior homes in New York State, South Jersey and the fondness for the local flavor that had her settle with her family in Mountainside.

We often forget the luxury that our kids can safely walk to school and play in their town. Young Art Mezo, who would later win third place, spoke to his parents about the things teenagers speak about with their parents. This baker-to-be is only in the eighth grade.

The observers popped in occasionally to the warmth of the house of Deacon Andrew Hatfield, which was built in 1760. The Historic Restoration Committee sold cider and pies to raise funds. The discussion ran the gambit from national politics, to the size of local lots, to the needs of the borough. It's so nice to listen to dialogue where the goal is the exchange of information.

As we suffer the talking heads on cable, e-mail communications, and text messages, last Sunday a bunch of people in Mountainside did something unique — they exercised their sense of community.

They are not alone. Down the hill in Cranford, an invitation has gone out for the Nov. 8 rededication of the township flagpole and the dedication of the Victorian fountain.

The history of the battered flagpole from World War I and a forgotten Victoria fountain in the township had been detailed.

This story has such a happy ending. The local green thumb garden club purchased and donated the fountain to the town.

The club members went to Pennsylvania, brought back and preserved the fountain. Local Commissioner Martha Garcia, herself a Korean War veteran, kept the issue front and center, and along with local businessman Paul LaCorte, helped raised the funds for renovations.

Come the dedication, Mayor Robert Puhak will undoubtedly go to some lengths to praise everyone involved.

For each of the participants, the real joy comes in the future each time they pass the new renovation and can remember they helped to mark a portion of their community. Talk about some old time flavor.

An attorney, Frank Capece is a resident of Cranford.

UNION COUNTY
LOCALSOURCE

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Independent' thinkers

To the Editor:

As mayor of the City of Linden, I am endorsing Independent council candidates Elaine Lubas for the 8th Ward, Diane Wilverding for 6th Ward and Bruce Howe for the 10th Ward.

These three individuals will best represent the city of Linden and their perspective wards.

Their loyalty is to the taxpayer, not any political party. Each candidate will think for themselves and do what they feel is right for their constituents. They will not be influenced by me or self interest groups.

These are the type of individuals that should represent the city of Linden. I will be proud to serve with all three when they are elected and sworn in as councilpersons.

Mayor Richard J. Gerbounka
Linden

Support the charter study

To the Editor:

On Election Day, Union voters will vote on a ballot question as to whether or not a charter study commission should be established to determine the best form of government for Union and also vote for five candidates for such commission.

While the Township Committee adopted the ordinance to place this question on the ballot, I believe it was their hasty, desperate attempt to thwart efforts of a local citizens action group that circulated a petition to place a change-of-government question on the ballot. That group's petition was rejected for insufficient signatures, after Township Clerk Eileen Cryan Birch, rejected hundreds of signatures for various reasons.

This matter went to litigation, but dismissal, due to exhaustion of the citizens group's funds, is still pending. This may be another stall tactic on the part of the township, as I believe that the charter study cannot commence while litigation is pending.

Such charter study will only be as fair and unbiased as its commission members and voters should consider the following:

- The Renahan Report, resulting in Township Administrator Frank Bradley's designation as Appropriate Authority over the Division of Police, was alleged to have been manipulated, because of Mr. Bradley's personal connection with Mr. Renahan.

- A few years ago, several residents concerned about tear-downs and overdevelopment in residential neighborhoods, pleaded with the Township to place greater restrictions on new construction in RA zones. The Township's Housing Trend Analysis found no tear-down trend, and its Master Plan Re-examination Report recommended no changes to the land development ordinances in residential districts. Yet, the township voted in August of 2007 to raise the maximum height of new construction in residential zones from 27 to 32 feet.

- On Oct. 16, Superior Court Judge Walter Barisonek ruled against the township in a suit brought by property owners with businesses in Union Center, who feared the township would take their land by eminent domain because of the area's designation as blighted and in need of redevelopment.

In my opinion, the only way to achieve an unbiased and fair charter study is to elect Floyd Patterson, Linda Lewis, Paul Verzosa, Roxanne Ciampi, and Charles Donnelly. I believe they are experienced, responsible citizens who are committed to a study that will serve the best interests of Union and its residents.

Ellen Entriken
Union

Something to be proud of

To the Editor:

As a lifelong resident of Union, all I can say is wow — what a parade.

Union's bicentennial parade on Oct. 12 was some-

thing to be proud of. Kudos to Committeewoman Brenda Restivo, chairperson, Kathleen Holmes and the entire committee. I can't imagine the job it was to stage all the participants. Almost two hours long, it was a slice of our town, present and past. Police, fire and emergency units, students from every school, community organizations, bands, antique cars, even a gondola. You name it and it was in the parade.

Most impressive was the attitude of everyone, both spectators and marchers. Everyone smiled, waved, recognized their friends along the way, took photos and had a great time. I remember watching the sesquicentennial parade in 1958. I don't remember much about that one, but this one I'll remember for sure. (I'm proud to be a Unionite.

Jim DiGiovanni
Union

Support for Steve Grau

To the Editor:

The following endorsement reflects the opinions of tax-paying citizens of the Springfield voting public and is not being made on behalf of or for the Board of Education.

Steve Grau is running for re-election to the Springfield Township Committee and has decided to run as an Independent. This was a decision that was reached by Steve after months of soul searching because he, like many others in our community have grown tired of the political rhetoric and bureaucratic red tape that has prevailed in Springfield for decades.

During his three years in office, Steve has worked with members of the (Township Council) achieve numerous accomplishments which have benefited tax payers in Springfield. He's an independent thinker who tenaciously stands up for what he believes in and does not bow to the pressure of others with differing political views and agendas.

Since he was elected in 2006, he has been one of the most tireless advocates for open and transparent government for instance: prior to the ruling from the NJ Supreme Court allowing any individual to video tape any public meeting, Steve tried on three separate occasions to get Township Council meetings televised only to be voted down each time. It wasn't until he found a volunteer in town who, when he had the time, has televised our meetings and made them public.

In conjunction with Ms. Manes, was inspirational in increasing the capital budget for road maintenance, enabling us to fix the infrastructure of our town that has been neglected for decades.

Recognizing that Springfield has a significant senior citizen population, Steve was responsible along with Beth Manes, for increasing the senior citizen budget for the first time in many years; and after many years of debate, the majority of the Township Council is finally on the same page and working together to move forward with a viable and successful plan to improve and beautify our downtown area.

As taxpayers in Springfield, we appreciate Steve Grau's leadership in this area and think it's important to maintain the current cohesion on the Township Committee in an effort to see many of the positive initiatives the Township Committee is in the midst of and that Steve is personally involved with come to fruition.

Jeff and Susan Strumpf
Springfield

A few words of 'caution'

To the Editor:

I saw Rita Labruzzo's comments in the paper and share her concern about (Dan) Aschenbach's candidacy.

During Mr. Aschenbach's 15 years on the council, he made some suspect decisions; like the agreement with Kushner at the crossings, the Hale insurance debacle, the mosquito land swap with the county and allowing commissioners to have health insurance to name a few.

Continued on Page 16



DERMATOLOGY & LASER CENTER

Presented by
Patricia C. McCormack, M.D., F.A.A.D.
Diplomate, American Board of Dermatology

JUST SCRATCHING THE SURFACE

With school back in session, parents of young children should be aware of impetigo. This contagious, bacterial skin infection can spread from one area of the body to another by fingers that have been in contact with scratched, infected skin. The infection can also spread to schoolmates and other household members on clothing, towels, and bed linens that have touched the infected person's skin. Impetigo is usually treated with antibiotics given orally. In very mild cases, a topical antibiotic cream may be used. Healing should begin within two to three days, and a child with impetigo can return to school when the infection is no longer contagious, usually about 48 hours after treatment is started.

Good hygiene practices, such as regular hand washing, can help prevent impetigo. Also, pay special attention to cuts, scrapes, bug bites and rashes caused by allergic reactions. It's best to keep these areas clean and covered. To schedule an appointment for dermatologic care, call 908-925-8877. The office is conveniently located at 822 North Wood Ave, Linden.

I am pleased to announce the opening of a second NJ office at the Jersey Shore at 407 Richmond Avenue, Point Pleasant Beach. For more information or to arrange an appointment at the Point Pleasant office kindly call 732-295-1331.

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The Insurance Corner - October 23, 2008 Halloween - Safety

In our last article, we provided you with a few suggestions on how to protect your "Trick or Treater". In this article, we will cover some things that you can do to insure that visiting Trick or Treaters are safe.

- Make sure that your house is adequately lit. Replace any burnt out light bulbs. Be sure to turn the porch light on.
- Use flashlights to illuminate pumpkins/jack-o-lanterns instead of candles.
- Remove all obstacles from the front lawn, walkway and porch that may cause a child to trip (e.g., bicycles, hoses, toys, potted plants, etc...).
- Sweep and remove any wet leaves and/or tree branches from sidewalks, walkways and steps.
- Cut down and remove any loose branches from property.
- Keep pets in doors and make sure that they can not get loose.
- Insure that the treats that you are handing out have not been tampered with (e.g., old worn or torn wrappers, wrappers removed or partially removed, etc...)

Please keep in mind that these are just a few suggestions that can be used to help protect your teenager and should not be considered an all inclusive list.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from Page 15)

I agree that there is no more troubling decision than Mr. Aschenbach's opposition to COAH certification. This failure has exposed our town to lawsuits that have cost us tens of thousands of dollars in fees already. Now we have an alarming proposal to rezone part of Birchwood as residential with more than 400 units. Cranford's ability to self-govern is jeopardized by the failure of past leaders to make tough decisions and to think ahead. Mr. Aschenbach's refusal to support COAH certification is indefensible and is a cautionary tale for voters as they enter the voting booth this November.

David Cummins
Cranford

federal government by taxes, as a percentage of GDP, has remained a steady 19 percent. During the Kennedy administration however, the high-income people paid only a small portion of the total tax collected. Currently, the top 1 percent of earners shoulder 40 percent of the total tax burden. The top 5 percent shoulder 60 percent. The bottom 46 percent pay no income tax at all. As tax rates go down, the incentive for wealthy people to avoid taxes goes down with it. Conversely, as tax rates rise, the incentive to avoid taxes rises also.

The lesson: if you want the rich to pay less and the poor and middle class to pay more, vote for Obama.

John DeSocio
Summit

Continue positive change

To the Editor:

I, Pete Bartus, am proud to endorse Diane Wilverding for Linden's 6th Ward council seat.

She is a Linden native residing in her family home in the 6th Ward. Over the years, she has witnessed the changes in Linden, from the tax burden shifting from industry to homeowners, with council's pattern of spending not reflecting the change. Nepotism in government has cost Linden residents dearly.

Diane is running as an independent to represent the taxpayer's interests. She is not influenced by party politics and her slogan, "People Over Party," clearly states her position. Diane's election will give the 6th Ward a voice to continue the positive changes in city government.

Pete Bartus
Linden

Vote intelligently Nov. 4

To the Editor:

The election for the next President of the United States of America will take place on Nov. 8. The important issues at stake rise above empty and meaningless slogans such as "change."

Each citizen should open his/her mind and do a thorough investigation of all candidates, both Republican and Democrat and examine each position on the real issues as enumerated below: terrorism and national defense; border control and illegal immigration; eliminate federal income tax with implementation of a Fair Tax (Consumption Tax) or Flat Tax, 15 percent to 20 percent; the economy — loss of jobs, housing and foreclosures, globalization, free markets, outsourcing of jobs, off-shoring corporate headquarters to avoid paying federal tax, corporate greed, NAFTA, China threat, imbalance of trade, deficit spending and balancing the federal budget; oil dependency and drilling in ANWR, Alaska and off the coast of California, and drilling for oil in various states to eliminate dependency on foreign oil.

In conclusion, the candidates principles, moral compass, integrity, credibility and not pandering to the audience at hand are the real issues and we, as citizens, must do our homework if we are to elect the best candidate for president.

Urban J. Weiss
Linden

Actions speak louder

To the Editor:

I was encouraged to hear that the Cranford Democrats were running a new candidate this year instead of the same ones over and over. My excitement was short lived when I learned it was George McDonough's business partner, Kevin Illing. I was more disappointed to learn that Mr. Illing is using the same old tactics as his predecessors.

Illing sits on the Planning Board and the Master Plan Subcommittee. I regularly attend Planning Board meetings to observe the process. Mr. Illing had pushed for dense redevelopment downtown, advocating for an increase that would allow four stories across all of downtown Cranford. But once he started his campaign, he quickly became silent and in campaign pieces, and now public statements, he denies those statements. But we need leaders that we can trust.

Mr. Illing also pushed for rezoning the controversial Birchwood property from office to residential, with dense cluster housing. Fortunately, other Planning Board members voted against his efforts for dense housing at Birchwood Avenue and downtown. Now Mr. Illing is singing a different tune during campaign time. But actions speak louder than words. And the message is clear. I sat through hours of Planning Board meetings. I've seen the real Kevin Illing. This is not a leader that will protect our small town interests. This is someone with ties that trace back to the county political machine and an appetite for increased density that benefit well connected developers.

D. Brodin
Cranford

Vote for change

To the Editor:

It is time for the people of Linden to focus on the real issues instead of trivial issues when it comes time to cast your vote.

Remember, Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny do not pay your taxes. A trimmed tree or fixed sidewalk — which you still have to pay for unless it's a city tree — is not a valid reason to vote for (Michelle) Yamakaitis.

The real issues lie with what happens on Council. They vote for your tax increase. They have voted to give hefty raises to city employees, free benefits, and Christmas bonuses. Although they say they are going to make cuts, they have done absolutely nothing since the budget passed. Yamakaitis has voted for these increases, which have been passed on to you, the taxpayer. In response to a letter printed on Oct. 2 by Dorothy Ford, I believe Ms. Ford should cease telling lies and misleading the good people of the 8th Ward.

As for Ms. Yamakaitis being the first to decline the benefits package, her decision was made only after she found out that Elaine Lubas was her opponent in the upcoming election. She indeed did take monies in lieu of benefits as set forth herein: In 2006, she took \$1,666 and in 2007, she took \$2,900. This information is available to everyone under the Open Public Records Act and can be obtained at the city clerk's office. I have seen the official document. Citizens, your concern should be yourself and your taxes. It all starts with council and with Yamakaitis voting for more increases. Let's put a stop to this now by voting Elaine Lubas as councilwoman of our 8th Ward.

Joyce Gedman
Linden

Taxing the rich

To the Editor:

At election time, we again hear calls to change the tax code to make the rich pay their fair share.

In evaluating these calls, one should consider the following facts: during the Kennedy administration the top income tax rate dropped from 90 percent to 70 percent, from 70 percent to 35 percent during the Reagan administration, and from 35 percent to 30 percent during the current administration.

Throughout this time, the revenue raised for the

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UNION COUNTY NEWS

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008 — PAGE 17

County opens new DNA lab

By Joseph M. D'Alise
Staff Writer

The Union County Prosecutor's Office celebrated the official opening of its Forensic Laboratory, located inside the Ralph G. Froehlich Public Safety Building in Westfield Oct. 14.

The lab has recently been accredited in the area of controlled substances and biology by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board, which according to Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, is the foremost accrediting agency in the world. This accredited lab will allow the county to more efficiently analyze DNA evidence gathered from crime scenes.

Union County is now the first county-run laboratory in New Jersey to receive DNA certification from ASCLD/LAB and the second lab in the state, along with the State Police Forensic Laboratory in Cape May.

Romankow began his initiative to have the laboratory receive national accreditation when he took the job as prosecutor in 2002. The DNA analysis will complement the existing serological

analysis — the study of blood serum — that has been conducted by the county since 1978.

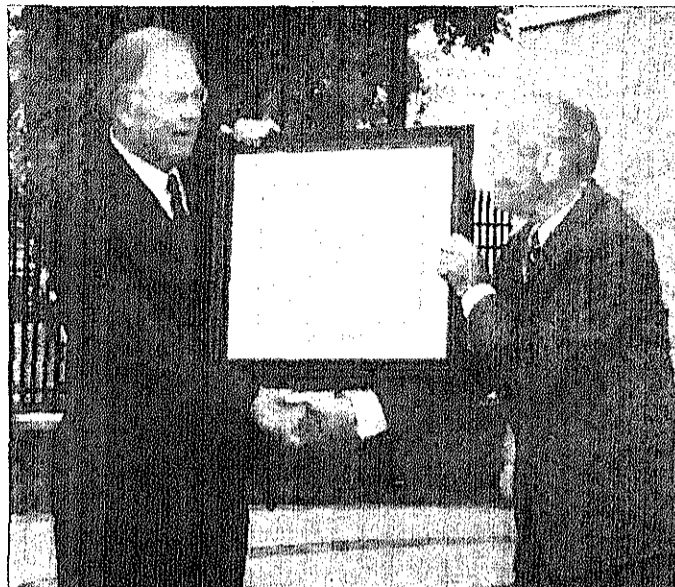
The entire accreditation process took three years, according to Richard Frank, ASCLD/LAB staff inspector.

"We inspected the lab's management, operations, personnel, procedures and quality assurance," Frank said, explaining the process.

According to Romankow, in addition to conducting DNA testing for active criminal cases, the lab will also look into a number of unsolved cases — some that are decades old — where biological evidence exists, in hopes of creating new leads.

"DNA investigations are the modern day fingerprint for law enforcement and by using this powerful science we can definitively link suspects to crimes," Romankow said. "It's a boon for the criminal justice system and should be a deterrent to criminals."

The Ralph G. Froehlich Public Safety Building was built three years ago and is more than three times the size of the old building. The facility cost \$11 million dol-



During the opening of the county's new DNA lab, Union County Prosecutor Theodore Romankow, left, accepts an accreditation certificate from Richard Frank of the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.

lars to build and is state-of-the-art, including a secure evidence vault which is on par with Drug Enforcement Agency codes. It includes several cameras along with motion and vibration detectors, as well as several labs to analyze controlled dangerous substances, including powders, pills and vegetation, as well as DNA evidence.

The lab established and revised some policies and procedures after its accreditation. The county pur-

chased new equipment and hired experienced staff, including Monica Ghannam, who serves as DNA technical leader/bio supervisor.

"All this was accomplished while maintaining the already high level of professionalism, efficiency and proficiency that the law enforcement community has come to know and expect of our forensic laboratory," said Union County Prosecutor's Office Sgt. Joseph Koury, who serves as director of the lab.

Polls will be busy

County sees jump in voter registration

ELECTION 2008

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

Late Friday morning, another pile of completed, new voter registration forms were brought into the county's Board of Elections room, and employees who have been working overtime are not getting a break anytime soon.

"Just now we got about 1,100," Board of Elections Administrator Dennis Kobitz said. "We've been getting 1,200 to 1,500 a day."

In the month of September, a total of 11,000 new voter registrations were processed.

Kobitz, who has worked in the board of elections for 25 years, said he's never seen such a big surge in registrations.

"They're working a minimum of 13 hours with most of them working 14 to 15 hours," Kobitz said. "No lunch, no dinner."

The employees have been working under a deadline. The cut-off date for voters to register was Oct. 14 and all the new registrations needed to be processed by Oct. 19.

Kobitz explained that the last time Board of Elections employees needed to work overtime was back in 1984 — the first year voters could register by mail.

Kobitz said the booming registration numbers may have something to do with the historic presidential race between Sen. Barack Obama, a Democrat and Sen. John McCain, a Republican.

"There is just a lot of interest in the presidential race, which is much more in the news than any other race," Kobitz said.

In Rahway, the city clerk's office has seen an increase of voters in three demographic areas: new residents, young voters, and African-Americans, according to Deputy Clerk Jeffrey J. Jotz.

He said that overall, there has been a significant increase in new voters registering in Rahway.

"On (Oct. 14) we had 75 new voters register and from the 9th to the 14th there were about 135 new voters," Jotz said. "We had a lot of

See **PRESIDENTIAL**, Page 18

Police capture kidnapping suspect

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

A harrowing kidnapping from an Elizabeth thrift store ended last week when authorities tracked down the suspect outside a Rahway gas station.

On the morning of Oct. 16, Eyvonne Alexander, 54, of Rahway allegedly snatched 3-year-old Jessica Alvarez from the Unique Thrift Store.

Police said she was alone briefly and playing with toys when she was taken. Surveillance cameras caught Alexander leaving in a black wig. Elizabeth police responded quickly — they issued an Amber alert to local police and media and began a comprehensive manhunt throughout the area.

A witness at a nearby soup kitchen recognized a picture of Alexander and was able to direct investigators to Rahway, according to Elizabeth Police Lt. Gary Lewis.

By 5 p.m. Oct. 16, Rahway police officers tracked Alexander to

the Max Quality Gas Station on Whittier Street and West Grand Avenue, where her husband works.

They found the suspect, with child, in a green minivan.

Alvarez was unharmed and reunited with her mother after being

taken to Trinitas Hospital, in Elizabeth, for precautionary measures.

Alexander was taken into custody and underwent a psychological evaluation. Authorities have not yet released the results or any motive in the kidnapping.

Police: Residents can help catch abductors

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

RAHWAY — In the wake of the kidnapping of 3-year-old Jessica Alvarez last week, authorities are urging all residents to sign up for a Wireless Amber Alert service.

When a child is abducted, an Amber Alert is immediately sent to all area law enforcement, notifying them of the incident.

Besides marshalling the professionals, residents can also receive alerts via a text message.

The Rahway Police Department sent out a plea for all residents to sign up to receive the alerts. Having those extra eyes in the community can be crucial to finding a child before they are hurt, officials said.

"When citizens and law enforcement work together it becomes very difficult for would-be abductors to operate in our community," said Rahway Police Ath-

letic League Executive Director, Sgt. Gene DeCarlo, in a press release earlier this week.

The PAL is a non-profit organization that administers several youth-based sports and educational programs in the community.

Residents can find a link to sign up for the wireless Amber Alert service on the group's Web site, www.RahwayPAL.org. For information on the service, call the organization headquarters at 732-669-3610.

The recent kidnapping in Elizabeth is proof that no communities are immune to dangerous situations, said PAL Secretary Frank Bianco in the press release.

"For any of you who thought that this type of thing couldn't happen in your own backyard, this is your wake up call," he said.

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

'Green' efforts a topic at UC forum

By Joseph M. D'Alise
Staff Writer

While the nation was watching the last of the Presidential Debates between Sens. John McCain and Barack Obama on Oct. 15, approximately 100 residents of Union County gathered in the Cranford Municipal Building as the Union County League of Women Voters hosted a Union County Freeholder candidate forum.

Union County Freeholder incumbents Democrats Angel Estrada of Elizabeth, Rick Proctor of Rahway and Nancy Ward of Linden shared the stage with Republican hopefuls Michael Yakubov of Roselle Park, John Russitano of Westfield and Joseph Franchino of Berkeley Heights. The six freeholder candidates were given an opportunity to answer several prepared questions as well as make public their campaign platforms.

Some issues that were raised during the forum involved "going green" in Union County, recreation, transportation and gang violence.

The first question revolved around "green," environmentally-friendly plans for the county. All the candidates agreed that sustainability is important in the county and going green is an important trend to follow, but certain candidates felt it is an unnecessary expense at the moment.

"We can't spend any more money in the county on this. It should be up to individual towns to be responsible," Russitano said, adding that towns should be encouraging residents to walk rather than drive as a cost-saving measure. Ward agreed that with an economic crisis looming, the county must be frugal, but also expressed that going green is important.

"We need to spend money wisely," Ward said. She suggested giving more grants to schools and letting students come up with new, eco-friendly ideas.

Recreation is another topic that the candidates seem to agree is important in the county. Yakubov expressed concern in the alarming numbers of childhood obesity in the county and throughout the nation.

"We have many public parks in the county," he said. "We need to allow and encourage our kids to get off the couch and go outside."

Ward pointed out the fact the the current Freeholder Board has made some significant strides in recreation in the past, including the building of skate parks in Linden and Elizabeth.

Russitano, who spent most of the forum advocating less spending and lowering tax increases, believes the one area more money should be spent is on maintaining the county roads.

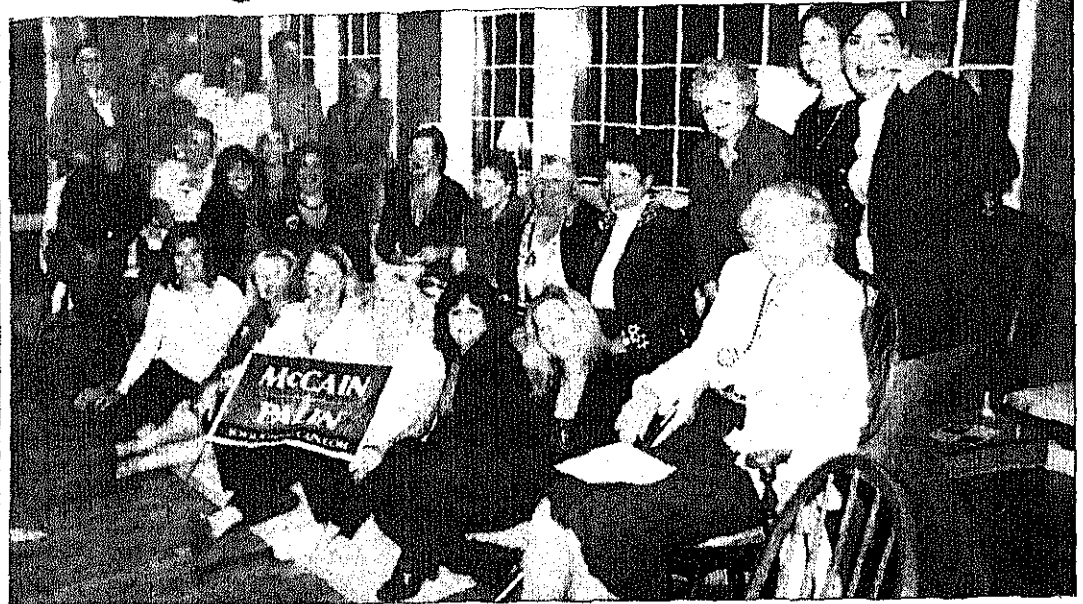
"We need more lighting and police presence," Russitano said. We need to pave these roads and not just let them go."

Estrada disagreed, stating the county roads are maintained regularly and are not in bad shape. "Ten percent of the county's 170 miles of roads are paved yearly," Estrada said.

Franchino agreed that working with the towns is the right approach to road maintenance. He also made it known in his opening remarks that the county as a whole is not fully represented, and certain sections seem to be ignored. He feels that reorganizing the Freeholder Board into districts may solve that issue. During the forum, Ward said eliminating gang violence in the county has become a priority. Estrada feels this problem will take several years to fully solve.

"For anyone to believe gangs can be eliminated in one year is not the case. The Prosecutor's Task Force is currently addressing the issue in all of Union County, not just in Elizabeth and Rahway," Estrada said.

Showing their support



The Union County Republican Women gather at the home of Kelly and Jim Hatfield's in Summit to watch the vice presidential debate between Republican Sarah Palin and Democrat Joe Biden. New UCRW officers were sworn-in earlier in the evening.

\$33 million bond earmarked for infrastructure improvements

By Jackeline Leon
Staff Writer

Union County freeholders have decided to spend \$33.4 million on improvements to county infrastructure and safety with half of the funds earmarked for the historic county courthouse.

According to a press release issued by the county last week, the total amount includes \$750,000 in state grants.

"The remainder of the ordinance is from authorized debt of 31.1 million and 1.5 million from the operating budget as a down payment against the authorization of debt," Union County Chief Financial Officer Lawrence Caroselli said. "What this ordinance does is authorize projects to allow departments to begin their work."

He explained that the debt may not be issued for a few years and

that the typical term of the bonds are 10 to 12 years.

"We really can't provide an estimated impact on taxpayers at this time since we won't be issuing the debt until later years," he added.

The ordinance was approved Oct. 9 during a meeting of the freeholder board.

According to New Jersey fire safety laws, the courthouse requires that an additional stairwell be built next to the 80-year-old courthouse tower on Broad Street in downtown Elizabeth.

In addition, \$3 million has been set aside to upgrade public facilities in accordance with fire safety laws and the Americans with Disabilities Act and county parks which have been in operation since the 1920s, will receive \$4.4 million for additional lighting and restoration.

County roads should also expect

to see traffic signal replacements, and the Vocational Technical School located in Scotch Plains will receive \$800,000 for campus-wide upgrades.

"The new bond ordinance will enable the county to move forward with measures that protect the public welfare and continue to meet the demand for high quality public services," Freeholder Chairman Angel Estrada said in the release.

He said the county has been receiving positive feedback on its management of public finances.

Fitch Ratings, an international financial ratings agency gave the county a positive rating in September for this year's General Obligation refunding bonds.

The GO bonds are municipal bonds issued with the assurance that they will be repaid through taxes or project revenue.

Presidential race may be cause of increase in voter registrations

(Continued from Page 17)

young people come in with pre-printed forms (from the Rock-the-Vote Web site) and adults getting absentee ballots for their kids in college."

According to Union County Clerk

Joanne Rajoppi, Union County has by the end of last month seen a sudden increase of more than 14 percent — 1,680 out of 11,479 new voters — in registrations of 18-year-olds since the June primary election.

Summit Deputy City Clerk Rosemarie Licatase said there has been a significant

increase of new voter registrations in the city in particular.

"We usually get one and if we get two, we get excited but this time we've had 50 for change of address or change of name or new registrations," Licatase said.

In Cranford, the increase wasn't seen as

sharply. "A lot of the registrations may have been sent directly to them (the board of elections)," Township Clerk Tara Rowley suggested.

"The last day 50 (registrations) came in and some adults came in for absentee ballots for their kids in school."

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008 — PAGE 19

Talent flows freely in CDC's 'Urinetown'

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

It was difficult to know who had more fun during a production of "Urinetown, the Musical," this past Sunday afternoon at the Cranford Dramatic Club Theater — the audience or the cast.

It seems that the audience got caught up in the cast's ideosyncracies and musical nonsense and laughed its way through two misguided acts. As Bobby Wolfe, the narrator, who also plays Officer Lockstock — his partner, by the way, is Officer Barrel, played by Kevin Kessler — asks at the beginning of this most unusual stage musical, "What is Urinetown?" the audience also seems to ponder the question while enjoying the entertainment.

Actually, it is a satire-comedy, with underlying and chilling predictions of what can happen to the human race when natural resources, such as a water shortage, takes place in this world.

This outrageous musical play was written by Greg Kotis, after a trip to Europe to find that one must pay to use public toilets. As a result, he wrote "Urinetown, the Musical," and some of the lyrics in cooperation with Mark Hollmann who wrote the music and some of the lyrics.

Kotis set it in the future, where



Charlie Del Risco as Hot Blades Harry and Jared Picone as Little Becky Two Shoes bind and gag Andrea Brooks who plays Hope Cladwell, the daughter of the corrupt corporation owner Caldwell B. Cladwell in the Cranford Dramatic Club's production of 'Urinetown, the Musical.' The show continues through Saturday.

after a 20-year drought, the government has put a ban on public toilets, and citizens must pay a fee in order to be admitted to public amenities. The fee is paid to a corporation called Urine Good Company, and if a citizen doesn't pay it, or tries to find other means, he or she will be exiled to "Urinetown" and never heard from again.

The Cranford Dramatic Club, whose imaginative director, Becky Randazzo, loosely held the reins on her wonderfully funny cast, who made a mockery of the theme while showing off their singing and dancing talents. Outstanding is Allison Acquafredda, who plays Little Sally, one of the poor people, with a great deal of energy, singing,

dancing, making clown faces and asking a lot of questions of the cynical Officer Lockstock. Acquafredda could easily find a comfortable place in any Paper Mill Playhouse musical. She's that good!

The others, whose voices are resoundingly splendid, and who can dance up a storm, leaving an audience exhausted, include

Andrea Brooks, as Hope Cladwell, the daughter of the wealthy, corrupt corporation owner, Caldwell B. Cladwell, played by Joe Vierno; Brian Hall as Bobby Strong, the young man who tries to right the wrong, and who finds Hope attractive, and Melissa Loderstedt, as Penelope Pennywise, who collects fees at Amenity No. 9, the poorest, filthiest urinal in town, adorned in a uniform that contains a change dispenser. Corinne Chandler, Charlie Del Risco, Raven Dunbar, Chris Grimm, Greg Hedler, Colleen Kraft, A.J. Meeker, Michael Miguel, Alicia and Jared Picone and Joel Redmount, are to be commended for giving their best to the comedic, musical and dancing moments. They all are especially effective during such absurd musical numbers as the title song, and "It's a Privilege to Pee," "Cop Song," "Follow Your Heart," "What Is Urinetown?" and "We're Not Sorry."

For something different, something special and a reason to ponder about what can happen to the world when everything dries up and there are no more resources, a theater goer should hurry and visit "Urinetown, the Musical" in Cranford. It will be there until Oct. 25.

Bea Smith can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 122, or editorial@thelocalsource.com.

Celebrating fall, history in Summit

By Joseph M. D'Alise
Staff Writer

SUMMIT — Once again, as the leaves began to change colors and children began preparing for Halloween, Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit invited the community to visit its gardens and help observe autumn during its annual Celebrate Fall event.

This year, the event, which took place on Oct. 19, featured the popular pumpkin carving contest for children, as well as face painting, games, honey tasting, scavenger hunts, and the opportunity to roam the 13-acre historic estate and gardens.

"We look forward to this event every year," said Beth Karp, the facility's development director. "We are lucky we got a beautiful day today. It gives us an opportunity to show off our beautiful gardens."

The arboretum also offered photographer Bruce Lorenz for family photos and artist Jenny McNutt, who spoke about her artwork titled, "Why I Call My Baby Honey," which was created to celebrate the coming of a new family of honeybees to the arboretum. It has been on display since June. According to Executive Director Mary Beth Cooney, the festivities also coincided with Union County's "Four Centuries in a Weekend" event. Molly Watson was hired to visit the arboretum and perform turn-of-the-century songs in authentic garb from the early 1900s.

The arboretum is listed on both the National and New Jersey Historic Registries. According to Cooney, in 1974 the grounds were preserved by the owners, local residents and the city of Summit. The non-profit arboretum protects and maintains its grounds, which include century-old buildings, five and a half acres of formal gardens and a mile-long trail through its hardwood forest.



Photo By Barbara Kokkalis

Jack Winsatt, 3, and his sisters Reagan, 4, and Hadley, 8, work together to retrieve the pumpkin they planned to carve during the 'Celebrate Fall' event at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit last week.

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: *Worral Community Newspapers*, 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083 or editorial@thelocal-source.com.

Stepping Out

adults will be Wednesday or Thursday mornings at 10:15 a.m. through Oct. 30. Pre-registration is required for this program, and siblings are invited to attend. Registration for this group must be made in person by a parent at the library beginning Tuesday. Each 2-year-old must be accompanied by an adult in story hour.

COMEDY

SPRINGFIELD P.B.A. LOCAL 76 will be hosting a **COMEDY NIGHT Friday** at the Kenilworth V.F.W. For ticket information, e-mail PBALocal76@gmail.com. This show will feature comedians Mike DeStefano and Jeff Norris and will be hosted by Kenny Michaels.

CONCERTS

The First Presbyterian Church of Rahway, at the corner of West Grand Avenue and Church Street, has scheduled a **COMMUNITY AUTUMN PIANO CONCERT** of classical music for Sunday at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary. Adonis Gonzalez, the current music director/church organist, will perform selections by Wolfgang Mozart, Frederick Chopin, Sergei Prokofiev, Cuban composers and others. Also performing at the concert is the group, The LatinSax Quartet. For information, call the church at 732-382-0803.

The Kenilworth Public Library will host a performance by **SAXOPHONIST SHANNON PIERCE** on Nov. 7, at 7 p.m. This program is free and open to all members of the general public. Because space is limited, preregistration is required and can be done at the library or by calling 908-276-2451 during regular library hours. The Kenilworth Public Library is located at 548 Blvd.

SUMMIT FIAT LUX CHAMBER PLAYERS will perform piano trios by Beethoven and Chausson in the Life Hall Concert Series on Nov. 8 at 8 p.m. at Christ Church, 561 Springfield Ave. For information about the concert, go to www.FiatLuxChamberPlayers.org or call 908-273-5549

CRAFT SHOWS

Townley Presbyterian Church, located in Union on Salem Road, will host its annual holiday bazaar Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free.

The Presbyterian Women's Association of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Union, has scheduled its annual **HOLIDAY BAZAAR** for Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors are welcome. The Holiday Bazaar will feature a variety of new merchandise as well as hand-crafted seasonal merchandise. For information or to rent a table, call 908-245-0562. Proceeds from the Holiday Bazaar will go to the many mission projects of the Presbyterian Women's Association.

The **KENILWORTH SENIOR CITIZENS** organization will be having a **CRAFT SHOW** on Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will take place at the Senior Center, 526 Blvd., Kenilworth. Admission is free. The event will include a bake sale, holiday items and a 50/50 raffle. Admission is free. For information, call Dottie at 908-276-4262.

The **ANNUAL HOLIDAY GIFT AND CRAFT SHOW** at the **LINDEN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** will be Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The church is currently seeking vendors to display and sell their new items for holiday shopping, including handmade crafts, beauty items, jewelry, holiday items, candles, decorative accessories, gift baskets and more. Tables are available for your display. The church is located at 1506 Orchard Terrace, Linden. For information contact the LPC Special Events Hotline at 908-486-3066.

The **ROSELLE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION, INC.** will be sponsoring **OKTOBERFEST 2008** at the Casano Community Center on Nov. 1 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Bernie's Orchestra, an authentic German Oompah Band, along with German dancers, German cuisine and beverages and a 50/50 raffle will all be part of the evening's festivities. Admission tickets must be purchased prior to the event, and are on sale now at the Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut St. Tickets will be on sale until Oct. 29 and will not be available that evening for purchase. Beer and wine will be sold separately. For information call 908-245-0666.

FESTIVALS

The **ROSELLE PARK COMMUNITY CENTER ASSOCIATION, INC.** will be sponsoring **OKTOBERFEST 2008** at the Casano Community Center on Nov. 1 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. Bernie's Orchestra, an authentic German Oompah Band, along with German dancers, German cuisine and beverages and a 50/50 raffle will all be part of the evening's festivities. Admission tickets must be purchased prior to the event, and are on sale now at the Casano Community Center, 314 Chestnut St. Tickets will be on sale until Oct. 29 and will not be available that evening for purchase. Beer and wine will be sold separately. For information call 908-245-0666.

KIDS

ART CLASSES FOR LINDEN YOUTH in grades one through nine will take place Saturdays from Saturday through March 7. There is a fee. Registration ends Friday. For information, contact the Recreation Department at 908-474-8600 or visit www.linden-nj.org.

The Summit Department of Community Programs will sponsor **KIDZ ART**, an inspiring kids program that uses drawing to help children in grades K-5 develop confidence and become creative thinkers and problem solvers. Classes are held at the Recreation Center on Thursday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. or 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.

MOVIES

The **UNION PUBLIC LIBRARY** continues its **FALL 2008 INTERNA-**

TIONAL FILM FESTIVAL on Nov. 18 with a French film, "2 Days in Paris." Other films in the series include: Dec. 09, a German film, "The Lives of Others." Admission is free, films are subtitled, and light refreshments are provided. The library is located at 1980 Morris Ave. For information, call the Reference Dept. at 908-851-5450, ext. 2.

Cranford Public Library is continuing its ongoing **CLASSIC FILM NIGHT**. Films are shown on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m. The films run the gamut from mystery, comedy and romance, to thrillers and melodramas. Upcoming films are: Tuesday, "Invasion of the Body Snatchers," 80 minutes. The films will be shown at the Cranford Community Center, 220 Walnut Ave. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For information about the series, call 908 709-7272 and ask for Fran Houston or e-mail cranfordlibrary@gmail.com.

MUSEUMS

THE WOODRUFF HOUSE/EATON STORE MUSEUM & PHIL RIZZUTO BASEBALL HALL OF FAME SPORTS EXHIBIT located at 111 Conant St., Hillside includes a 1735 Farm House, a 1900s general store, privy, well, water pump, mini apple orchard, barn, farm equipment and a display of memorabilia from the late Baseball Hall of Famer, Phil Rizzuto, who was a short stop for the New York Yankees, in the Phil Rizzuto Sports Exhibit Room. The museum is open every third Sunday of the month from 2 to 4 p.m. and by appointment. For information call 908-353-8828 or visit www.woodruffhouse.org. This museum is operated by the Hillside Historical Society.

TRIPS

A bus trip to see the **RADIO CITY CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR** will take place Nov. 24 at 8 p.m. The cost includes orchestra seating, transportation via bus and food. For information, contact Stephen Frost at 732-986-4048 or frost4acure@yahoo.com. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Clark.

The **DEBORAH HOSPITAL FOUNDATION** is sponsoring a **TRIP TO MOUNT AIRY CASINO** in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania on Sunday. Pick-up time is approximately 10 a.m. at the parking lot across from the Kenilworth Veterans Center on South 21 Street. The bus will leave Mt. Airy Casino at 6 p.m. for the return trip to Kenilworth. This is a fundraiser for the Deborah Hospital Foundation. For information, call Rosemary Palmer at 908-272-1705.

A trip to see **"WICKED"** on Broad-

way on Jan. 14 at 8 p.m. and another trip to see **"MAMMA MIA!"** on Broadway on March 12 at 8 p.m. will both benefit the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. The cost for both trips includes orchestra seating, transportation and food. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Stephen Frost at 732-986-4048 or e-mail him at frost4acure@yahoo.com.

Holy Comforter Church of Rahway will sponsor a trip to **COLORADO AND THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS** from May 29 to June 8, 2009. The trip will include motorcoach transportation, 10 nights of lodging including four consecutive nights in scenic Colorado, 18 meals; 10 breakfasts and eight dinners, a tour of The Garden of Gods, a visit to the U.S. Air Force Academy, seeing the Royal Gorge, a visit to historic Manitou Springs at the foot of famous Pike's Peak, gaming at Cripple Creek in a historic western setting and much more. For information and reservations, contact Dot Edwards at 732-396-0695.

VARIETY

Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield will host its annual **HAUNTED HOUSE** Saturday and Sunday. Free babysitting will be available to parents and siblings touring the Haunted House. The Haunted House will be open Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. A special Haunted House session for children will take place Sunday from noon to 4 p.m. There is a fee for admission.

A **BULL DOG BASKET AUCTION** will be offered by the Jonathan Dayton High School PTO to benefit Project Graduation for the Class of 2009. The event will open at 6 p.m., Nov. 19 in the school's east gym, 139 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For ticket information, call Ricki Model at 973-376-6387 or Donna Strober at 973-912-8789.

The second annual **DINNER AND SHOW TO BENEFIT THE TOURETTE SYNDROME ASSOCIATION** of New Jersey will take place Nov. 30 at Temple Emanu-El, 756, East Broad St., Westfield. Johnny Maestro and the Brooklyn Bridge will perform along with Steven Maglio, who will perform a tribute to Frank Sinatra. Doors open at noon, the program starts at 1 p.m. In addition, attendees will have an opportunity to meet **CAST MEMBERS** from the hit Sci-Fi Channel show **"GHOST HUNTERS"** including Dave Tango of Linden, Grant Wilson, Jason Hawes, Steve Gonsalves and Kris Williams.

For more information, call Michael Kenny at 908-232-6770, ext. 129; Bruce Tango at 256-4890 or Bernard Tracy at 732-381-0561 or go to www.idealeventmanager.com.

The Township of Union Education Foundation Inc. is selling tickets to **AN EVENING OF GIVING** at the Menlo Park Mall. This is an exclusive after-hours evening of shopping on Nov. 23 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. The mall will be open to ticket holders only. Tickets can be obtained by calling Barbara Birger at 908-687-5743.

ART SHOWS

On Nov. 7, the Edge Art Gallery in Rahway will be the site of **ROSELLE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL'S FIRST ART AND WINE TASTING**. The event is one of many going on during the year while the school celebrates its 50th anniversary. The Expo will feature the artwork of past and current students, faculty and friends of Roselle Catholic High School. It will run from 7 to 10 p.m. and will include hors d'oeuvres, and fine wine from around the world. As part of the night's festivities the school will showcase a photo essay entitled "Capture the Campus — Capture the Spirit." At 8 p.m., they will also unveil a special painting by Kristen Havyar that has been commissioned for the anniversary year. For information, call 908-245-2350.

BOOKS

On Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m., the Summit Free Public Library will host a lecture/discussion led by Jon Plaut, author of **"COLONIALISM: TWO BOOKS, TWO VIEWS."** Mr. Plaut will discuss two books, written more than a century apart, that address the issue of colonialism in very different ways: "Kim" by Rudyard Kipling, and "Fanon" by John Edgar Wideman. The program is free, and no registration is required. Seating is limited, and is on a first-come, first-seated basis. Doors will open 15 minutes before the start of the program. Details about upcoming programs can be found on the Library's Web site at www.summitlibrary.org. The library is located at 75 Maple St. The telephone number is 908-273-0350.

The **KENILWORTH PUBLIC LIBRARY** will host New Jersey actor, writer and radio personality **ANGELO SAVERINO** for a discussion of his recently released novel, "Seven Turns of the Key," on Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in the library's activity room. For more information, call 908-276-2451 during regular library hours.

CRANFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY has announced its fall schedule of **PRESCHOOL STORY HOURS**. The sessions will run for an eight-week period beginning Oct. 30. These programs are for Cranford residents and holders of paid Cranford out-of-town library cards. The drop-in sessions for 3- and 4-year-olds will be Tuesday mornings at 10:15 a.m. or Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 p.m. An adult responsible for the child must remain in the library during story hour. The sessions for 2-year-olds and their accompanying

'Dream' is filled with adventure

Youngsters, with lively dreams and livelier imaginations, may find "Katrina's Dream" a gem of a book.

It's the type of book that folks over the age of 9 or 10 can pick up, begin reading and excitedly forget to put down until finishing it. It contains, after all, only 67 pages — and every one of them, an exciting adventure.

Xhane Matai of Union may easily have been a devout fan of "The Wizard of Oz," because the theme of her book is reminiscent of the fabled musical film story, which had been adapted from L. Frank Baum's books.

Matai, herself, could have dreamed up some of her delightful and frightening characters, which she originated on her pages, probably, with the smokey cloud of "The Wizard of Oz" hovering over her, as she developed her literary creation.

All the same, "Katrina's Dream," is a sheer, delightful fantasy, with a touch of "Alice in Wonderland," sprinkled about and could easily be devoured in one sitting. It tells a

On The Shelf

By Bea Smith



simple story of 10-year-old Katrina, who lost her twin, Sabrina, to a fatal illness, and still talks to her through an old, discarded mirror.

One night, during her own illness, Katrina and her dog, Samson, are suddenly absorbed into a pink fog on the other side of the mirror. It is there that she finds Sabrina, and the twins and their dog take off on one scary adventure after another to find the right path to home.

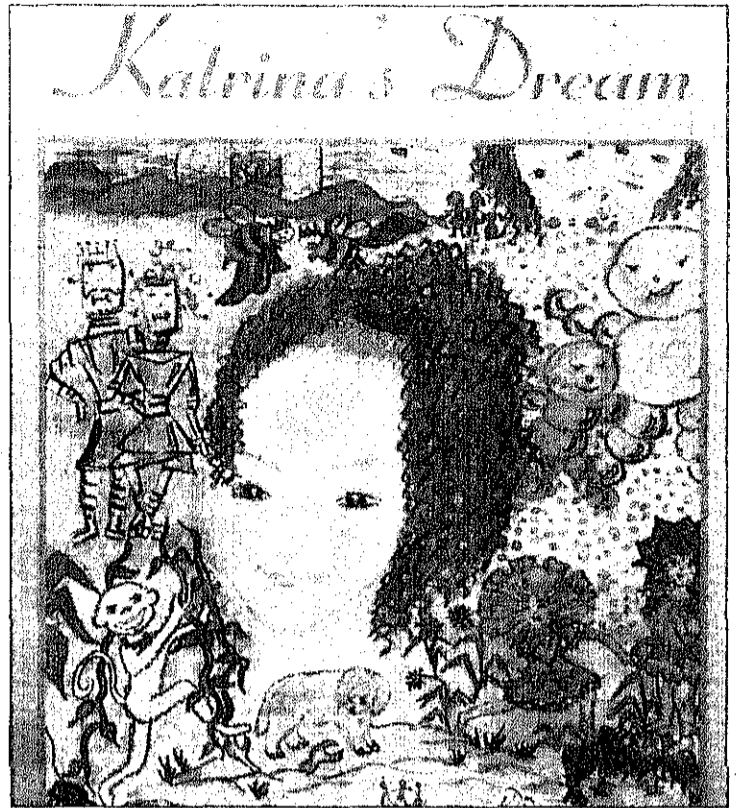
With a diamond crystal in hand — and just as Dorothy's ruby slippers in "The Wizard of Oz," magic emanates from the diamond crystal — they are on a quest seeking the white swan on Crystal Island, that will help them find their way home.

It isn't exactly the yellow brick road route taken by Dorothy and her dog, Toto, but they travel through intriguing and frightening sites. They encounter bubble people, mud people, eskimouses, countless bees, ruled by the Queen Bee and the King Bee, fish people, giant people — all of whom, after scaring the wits out of the trio, find ways to guide them to Crystal Island.

Much more can be discovered in "Katrina's Dream" to uphold one's own fantasies.

It is excitingly and interestingly written by the book's new imaginative author, Xhane Matai, who should continue to bring additional fantasy stories to whet a youngster's appetite.

Certainly, "Katrina's Dream," which is a dream of a book, should be read by young people — it wouldn't hurt adults to glance at it once in a while — it's well worth it. And undoubtedly, it will find its way on the shelf of a new section of books set aside for a children's book case.



'Katrina's Dream,' written by Union resident Xhane Matai, teaches children not to fear death and to cope with the loss of a loved one.

Union author's book tells children: Don't be afraid

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

It was the last thing on her mind — to write a book. After all, Xhane Matai of Union spent her life busily raising children, taking care of her sisters, one of whom had been very ill, watching over her grandchildren, working as a nurse's aide and working as a waitress in a family business in Roselle Park.

Still, Matai had an undeveloped talent for writing. Her high school essays were recognized by teachers with an A-plus mark. She worried about the reaction of the children when there was a death in her family and wanted to reassure them that "when someone dies, they are in a better place. And for the children not to be afraid."

Then one day, less than a year ago, her 8-year-old great-niece, Katrina Husenaj, "inspired me to write 'Katrina's Dream.' It was a book about a 10-year-old girl, who had lost her identical twin, Sabrina, to an illness. She is reunited with her in a dream, and the dream takes them through many unusual adventures. And this wonderful niece of mine, who is very mischievous and full of life, and who, actually, has a



Xhane Matai

dog named Samson, just as my Katrina in my book, inspired me to write this book."

Matai explained that "I wanted to make this book as fun as possible. I wanted to make this original, and I wanted both children and adults — especially children — to understand the underlying theme and to enjoy the book and its fantasies."

Even though it may remind a reader of the movie, "The Wizard of Oz," or the books, "Alice in Wonderland" or "Gulliver's Travels," Matai mentioned that "it has a different meaning. It's mostly about

dealing with losing someone you really love, and that you will reunite some day. I just wanted it to be original," she said. "And to inspire children to learn how to deal with the death of a brother or a sister, or a parent or grandparent, and to realize there is something about death that is not frightening; not to be afraid."

Matai also credits her sister, Ziz Husenaj, who had been very ill, but "is much better now, with inspiring me to write the book. Even though I was older than her, she had taken care of me when I was a child."

Matai's refugee family was born in Albania, "and they moved to Italy because of communism. I was born in Italy, and then we came to England, where I went to school," she said. "I used to make up stories, and write them in school, and people loved them. But then we came to the United States, and I got married very young and had four children. I was hoping to have identical twins, but that didn't happen. So, years later, I wrote about identical twins."

Her character in the book, Katrina, has so inspired her that Matai admitted, "I had an idea for a

sequel to 'Katrina's Dream,' and it is called 'Katrina's Dream Revisited.' I have been inspired to write this book," she said, "because of my grandchildren, and by my two nephews, who also inspired me. The book will be based on them

and their adventures with their grandmother, Katrina, who is now an old lady. That's about all I can say about this for now."

She indicated that this is good news for a first time author. "Now, all I need is the time."



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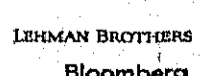
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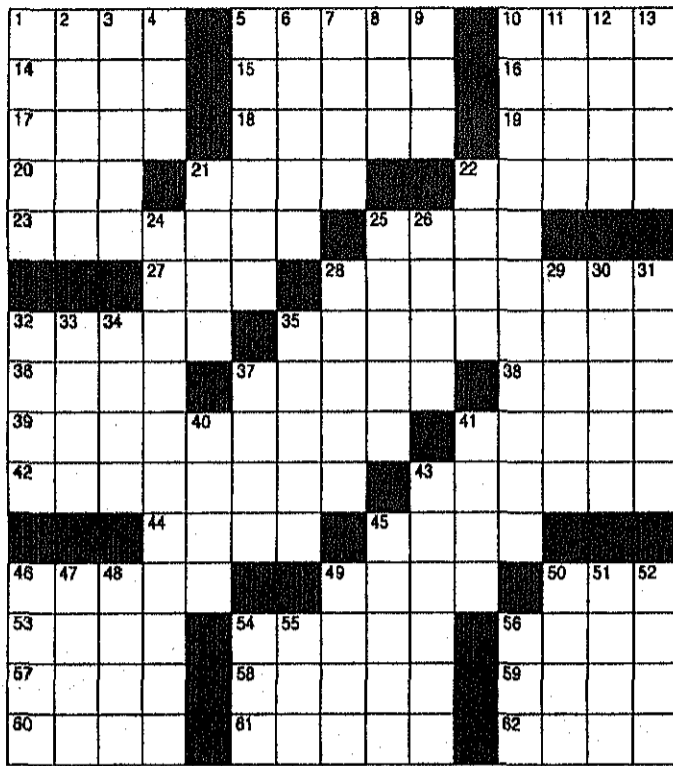


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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Syrian city on the Orontes
- 5. Barbera's cartoon partner
- 10. Clean clothes
- 14. Sour
- 15. Any plant of the family Araceae
- 16. M____ Lanza
- 17. Canadian law enforcers
- 18. Corn proteins
- 19. Same as 12 down
- 20. ____ Lanka
- 21. Semitic fertility god
- 22. Boot country
- 23. Havens
- 25. Nailed to a horse's hoof
- 27. Radioactivity unit
- 28. Virginia creeper
- 32. 1949 Nobel Physiologist
- 35. Papa of a moth
- 36. Dry
- 37. Forces to open
- 38. Groups of tennis games
- 39. Kinsmen
- 41. Figure or roller
- 42. An abrupt failure of function
- 43. Medulla
- 44. Brand of metal polish
- 45. Command to stop
- 46. Aldehyde alcohol
- 49. ____oft; barn area
- 50. Expresses surprise
- 53. Legume seed vessel
- 54. Arid S. Am. plain "Gran"
- 56. Type of avocado
- 57. Copyread
- 58. Passover feast and ceremony
- 59. Se____gid: somewhat stiff
- 60. Hyphen
- 61. Long hikes
- 62. Olive tree genus

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unpleasantly rough
- 2. Capital of Ghana
- 3. Norse guard of the well of wisdom
- 4. Data processing by a computer
- 5. An obstacle on a golf course
- 6. Regions
- 7. Short fiber in yarn-making
- 8. ____compoop
- 9. Public promotions
- 10. Trash container
- 11. Opera solo
- 12. Door threshold
- 13. Most sacred
- 21. Ruth's husband (Biblical)
- 22. Per____: sentence enders
- 24. June
- 25. Open skin lesions
- 26. Flatboats
- 28. Whimper
- 29. Refers to end of small intestine
- 30. Frank "The Enforcer"
- 31. Ruhr industrial center
- 32. Brandy made from grape residue
- 33. Filled chocolate cookie
- 34. Nonexistent chance
- 35. Intersect
- 37. The Surinam toad
- 40. Afrikaans
- 41. ____abus: Curriculum
- 43. City executives
- 45. Diacritical mark
- 46. In bed
- 47. Queen of Sparta
- 48. A prominent platform
- 49. Color tint: s____
- 50. Acclaim
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. First Chinese dynasty (alt.)
- 54. Time of the 90th meridian (abbr.)
- 55. Of she
- 56. Type of health coverage

ANSWERS
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HOROSCOPE

Oct. 26 to Nov. 1

ARIES, March 21 to April 20: You can be unusually persuasive, Aries. Your biggest opponents are those who question your timing. Act as if you already know the answer and you'll be right.

TAURUS, April 21 to May 21: Taurus, you find deeper meaning in the most casual remarks lately. Introspection causes you to do some self analysis. Believe in your potential and you can do anything.

GEMINI, May 22 to June 21: A surprising question catches you off balance, Gemini. Yet you don't miss a beat. Cosmic forces are pushing love in your direction. Enjoy the rush.

CANCER, June 22 to July 22: Cancer, a confrontation ends early when the opposing party gives in to your wishes. The crab got lucky this time so make the most of it. Confusion arises midweek.

LEO, July 23 to Aug. 23: Leo,

when you see the shortcut this week, take it. There would be no entrepreneurs, pioneers, or inventors if everyone waited for permission to push on.

VIRGO, Aug. 24 to Sept. 22: Virgo, it takes only one kind word from a friend to remind you how wonderful you are. There are many willing partners who are waiting for you to jump into the mix.

LIBRA, Sept. 23 to Oct. 23: Expect a sudden reversal in your life, Libra. Everything is still going your way, but it changes somehow. As long as you can adapt quickly you'll be fine.

SCORPIO, Oct. 24 to Nov. 22: Being timid is not in your make-up, Scorpio. This is your week to shine and get noticed. The scorpion's desires will not be denied and pity those who stand in your way.

SAGITTARIUS, Nov. 23 to Dec. 21: Be careful about getting worn out this week, Sagittarius. It

may be time to pass the torch to another able person. You have to remember you're only human just like others.

CAPRICORN, Dec. 22 to Jan. 20: Capricorn, you've had enough of being alone. You like to be around people even if they are quite different from you. Wear your heart on your sleeve this week.

AQUARIUS, Jan. 21 to Feb. 18: Avoid problems by making peace with troublesome individuals early on, Aquarius. The best compromise is a combination of everyone's best ideas — go with it.

PISCES, Feb. 19 to March 20: It's finally time for Pisces to yell, "I told you so." But wait until there is a larger audience to experience it. Tuesday is a good day.

Also born this week: John Heder, Scott Weiland, Julia Roberts, Winona Ryder, Gavin Rossdale, Peter Jackson and Jenny McCarthy.

What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY

November 1, 2008

EVENT: Big Indoor Flea Market
PLACE: Roselle Catholic High School,
1 Raritan Road, Roselle
TIME: 9am-4pm
DETAILS: Call for information 908-245-2350
ORGANIZATION: Roselle Catholic High School.

OTHER

FRIDAY

November 7, 2008

EVENT: FALL TRICKY TRAY
PLACE: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church,
315 Main Street, West Orange. Street parking available on Franklin Avenue. Additional parking in the Washington Street School parking lot, off Washington Street.
TIME: Doors open at 6:00PM. Starts at 7:00PM.
PRICE: Admission \$15. Price includes One sheet plus, food, Dessert, hot & cold beverages. Additional tickets may be purchased at the event.
DETAILS: For additional information call Andrea Ott 973-419-0515, Mary Bloshock 973-673-4364/Cell 973-651-6788, Michele Bloshock 973-876-8279.
ORGANIZATION: Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

OTHER

SATURDAY

October 25, 2008

EVENT: Monthly Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: Frank V. Marina, Passaic Avenue (next to Applebee's), Kearny, NJ 07032
TIME: 9AM - 5PM Outdoors
ADMISSION: FREE
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles & garage/tag sale items! An array of bargains for everyone. For information call 201-998-1144
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by Pathways to Independence

SUNDAY

October 26, 2008

EVENT: Monthly Flea Market & Collectible Show
PLACE: New Jersey Transit Lot, New York Avenue, (off Ridge Road, by Shop Rite), Lyndhurst, NJ 07071
TIME: 9AM - 5PM Outdoors
ADMISSION: FREE
DETAILS: New merchandise, crafts, collectibles & garage/tag sale items! An array of bargains for everyone. For information call 201-998-1144
ORGANIZATION: Sponsored by Lyndhurst American Leagon

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Local health departments will offer flu shot clinics

Health departments throughout Union County will offer influenza vaccinations in the coming weeks. Following is a list of the flu shot clinics that are scheduled:

• In Union, flu shots will be available on Nov. 24 at the First Baptist Church located at 5 Hilton Ave. in the Vauxhall section of the township, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. No prior registration is necessary.

The shots are available to township of Union residents ages 18 and older and proof of residence is required.

There is no charge for seniors with Medicare Part B, Medicare cards and identification must be provided. There is a fee for those without Medicare Part B.

• The Cranford Board of Health has scheduled the annual influenza immunization clinic for Oct. 30, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Cranford Recreation Center, 220 Walnut

Ave., Cranford.

Residents who are Medicare eligible are required to bring their Medicare cards to the clinic since the township of Cranford has been designated as a Medicare provider. There will be a charge for the flu shots this year for non-Medicare residents.

The flu immunization is recommended for those persons over 65 years old, those with chronic heart or lung problems, kidney disease, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, anemia, or severe asthma. In addition, people with immunological disorders or certain types of cancer that lowers the body's normal resistance to infection are also urged to receive the immunization. Also, minor children 9 years or older can be immunized with parent or guardian present.

This year's flu shot contains the following flu strains: A/ Brisbane/59/2007(H1N1); A

/Uruguay/716/2007-like strain (H3N2) and B/Florida/04/2006. These are the types of flu which have been circulating in the past year or thought to be most likely to occur in the United States this winter.

Those who are ill and have a fever should delay vaccination until the fever and other temporary symptoms have subsided.

In order to aid in the administration of the vaccine and the orderly running of this clinic, residents are

encouraged to wear loose-fitting clothing. For information, contact the Cranford Health Department at 908-709-7238.

• The Linden Board of Health is currently registering Linden residents for the annual Influenza Immunization Program.

While no definite clinic dates have been set, you can register to receive a flu shot by calling the Linden Board of Health Office at 908-474-8409 between 10 a.m. and 5

p.m. Once registered, you will be notified of the clinic time and date.

Influenza, also known as the flu, is a viral infection which is spread from person to person.

Symptoms of influenza include fever, headache, sore throat, body aches and a severe and often prolonged cough. Health Officer Nancy Koblis encourage all Linden residents age 60 and older and all Linden residents with chronic illnesses to be vaccinated.

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HATHA, ASHTANGA, KUNDALINI, RAJA, MEDITATION

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LIFESTYLE



Beth and David Rivera

Gates and Rivera are wed

Both Eve Gates, daughter of the late Donna L. and Lawrence H. Gates and David Rivera, son of Angela and Eleuterio Rivera were married May 25 in Summit. Rabbi Stuart Berman officiated the ceremony.

The bride was given in marriage by Helen Krantzow, a close family friend who was "like a second mother to the bride."

The bride's matron of honor was Betsy Dooley of Lancaster, Pa. and the maid of honor was Jennifer Philippi of Milford, Conn. The bridesmaid was Raquel A. Rivera of Linden, the daughter of the groom.

The best man was David Joe Clayton of Linden, the nephew of the groom. The ushers were Cassiano Almeida of Carteret, the nephew-in-law of the groom, and David J. Rivera of Clinton, the son of the groom.

A reception was held at The Grand Summit Hotel in Summit. The couple spent their honeymoon in San Juan, Puerto Rico. They reside in West Orange.

The bride earned her bachelor's degree from Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass. She is a senior program director for Precept Medical Communications, a subsidiary of Young & Rubicam, Berkeley Heights.

The groom attended Kean University, Union. He is an enterprise sales account manager for Mimeo.com, New York, N.Y.



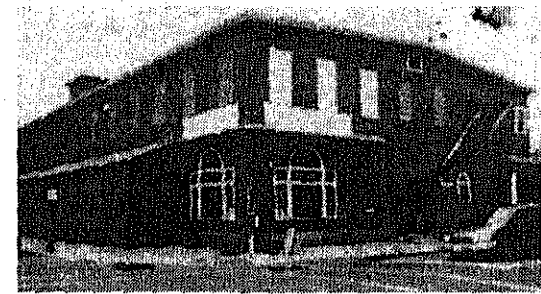
TWICE AS NICE — Cranford twins Taylor and Adrianna Miller recently turned 4 months old. They celebrated with their parents, Dennis and Roseanne Miller and grandparents, Ed and Jean Miller and Rich and Dorothy Sileo, all of Kenilworth.

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For those people interested in antiques, it can be argued that there is no better place on earth to be than central New Jersey, conveniently located in such a way that many of the county's largest antique centers are all within and easy morning's drive. One such location is the beautiful town of Red Bank, New Jersey. In the idyllic water front community you will find countless shops, restaurants and cafe's to relax in and explore. The main draw, however, remains to be the abundance of truly special antique shops both large and small. This is a treasure hunter's paradise.

The centerpiece of the Red Bank antique market is aptly named "The Antique Center of Red Bank". Housed in what seems to be an enormous two story red barn, this continues to be the focal point of much attention for day-trippers visiting the area. In business now for over 43 years, this is the place to be if you want that certain something that's not to be found in any strip mall. In fact, you would have to go to garage sales from sun up to sun down for the next twenty years before you could begin to have the same sort of selection that they have there.

Can't find what you're looking for? The long time owner, Guy Johnson, can usually be found behind the counter and he is happy to assist any and all people in need. His ability and knowledge of the current antique market is amazing. It is obvious that he really enjoys his job. In fact, his success has also given him two more antique markets that are both just right across the street.

While many people, have gone through a phase of antique hunting in online auction sites, nothing will ever replace the joy and satisfaction of holding a treasured antique or collectible in your hands. The thriving antique markets of Red Bank are proof of this. We highly recommend spending an afternoon here, but remember to bring some extra money because you will surely find something that you can't live without, even if you plan on "just looking".

**Lafayette Mill Antiques Center
Flea Market • October 25**

www.localsource.com

Internet Directory

- Burgdorff ERA.....<http://www.burgdorff.com>
- Crossroads Christian Fellowship.....<http://www.ccfou.org>
- DaunnoDevelopmentCo.....<http://www.daunnodevelopment.com>
- ERA Village Green.....<http://www.ervillagegreen.com>
- Forest Hill Properties Apartments.....<http://www.springstreet.com/propid/389126>
- Jewelry Vault, The.....<http://www.thejewelryvault.net>
- JRS Realty.....<http://www.century21jrs.com>
- Mountainside Hospital.....<http://www.AtlanticHealth.org>
- Summit Area Jaycees.....<http://www.angelfire.com/nj/summitjc>
- Suburban Essex Chamber of Commerce.....<http://www.suburbanessexchamber.com/secc>
- Summit Volunteer First Aid Squad.....<http://www.summitems.org>
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SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Borough hosts 'monster' bash

By John O'Reilly
Staff Writer

ROSELLE — Bustling inside Grace Wilday Middle School Oct. 17, students were anxiously waiting for classes to end.

All the fun was taking place at the Anthony Amalfe Community Center down the street, however, as the children's grandmas and grandpas were carousing with ghouls, goblins and fairies.

The 50 or so senior tricksters were treated to a Halloween bash last Friday, courtesy of the borough's Senior Advisory Committee.

The attendees were welcomed into the soiree by an unusual doorman — a 6-foot-tall skeleton wearing a rainbow-colored wig. Inside, partygoers could skip past "Madame LaBaba" as she told fortunes, grab a quick cookie or snack and mingle with a giant Hershey's Kiss, an astronaut, Groucho Marx, or even a walking Lipton tea bag.

Aside from games like "pin the tail on the donkey," bingo and other favorites, the main event was a costume contest, which was eventually won by a mobile slot machine. Winner Nancy Cassidy said her entire slot machine costume was homemade, including the blinking hat that topped off the ensemble.

"My favorite holiday is Halloween. You get dressed up and get to be creative," Cassidy said.

Cassidy pointed out that she still dresses up every year, and has won numerous contests for her creative designs. She wouldn't divulge some of her top-secret costumes, but she did note one past favorite: an Indian on a horse. Like quite a few other partygoers, Cassidy said she goes to more Halloween parties and dances now than when she was a child.

"I had more fun as a grown up going out than before," she said.

Another old pro when it comes to Halloween costumes is Patricia Fields, 63 — also known as the giant Hershey's Kiss. A former teacher, she remembers dressing up for her classes every year. Now retired, she still loves to go out with her four grandchildren. But going out these days can be a bit spooky for trick-or-treating, she said.

Some of Fields' favorite Halloween memories were "when you could really go from home to home and not be afraid to get anything people gave you. That was, of course, in the good old days," she recalled.

As for herself, Fields said she was thrilled that the Senior Advisory Committee hosted a Halloween party and was impressed by some of the creative costumes. Fields considered it a "blessing" that she was able to make it to the party.

This was the first annual Halloween party hosted by Roselle's Senior Advisory Committee. Created in early 2007, the committee is comprised of 14 senior citizens who advise Mayor Garrett Smith and the Borough Council on issues regarding seniors. The council also works with the community center to run events they would like to see, such as line dancing, roller skating and dramatic productions. Councilwoman and committee liaison Samantha Dow said working to provide adequate recreational activities for senior citizens is more important now than ever with the baby boomer generation reaching retirement age.

"I think seniors need it. It allows them to interact in a fun relaxed setting and shows this town really cares," she said.

The key is to allow seniors to customize events to their own interests, not to just tell them what to do, Dow said.

"They're all so creative," she said, noting the high turnout and gaggle of costumes. "They have such an energy."

John O'Reilly can be reached at 908-686-7700, ext. 116, or editorials@thelocalsource.com.

Outstanding seniors



Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes, center, congratulates, from left: Liz Weishapl of Union, Fannie Stephens of Elizabeth, Ed Evans of Scotch Plains and Manny Ochoa of Elizabeth on being honored as Outstanding Volunteers at the Community Access Unlimited 2008 Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Recognition Luncheon in Mountainside last month.

Linden AARP 1894 will meet

AARP Linden Chapter 1894 will meet on Friday at the Linden Presbyterian Church 1506 Orchard Terrace, Linden at 1 p.m. with Florence Stefanick presiding. The Board of Directors will meet at noon at the church.

A social period with refreshments will begin at noon. The guest speaker will be Professor William Dunscombe.

He will show points of interest slides of New Jersey.

A trip is planned to the Tropicana in Atlantic City on Nov. 21. For information call Jean Di Leo at 732-388-9189 or Flo Sibilski at 908-931-6502.

A Christmas party is planned for Dec. 5 at the Grand Centurion, 440 Madison Hill Road, Clark from noon to 4 p.m.

Local chapter dues for 2009 will be accepted at the October meeting. With the holiday season approaching there is a great need for non-perishable food to be distributed by the church.

The local chapter of AARP is open for anyone to join provided one is a member of the national organization. Guests are welcome to attend any meeting.

Seniors can get help managing finances

Do you know a senior whose bills are piling up? If you know someone who is able to make responsible decisions about their financial affairs but has trouble keeping up with bill paying due to illness or physical limitations, or has recently lost a spouse who was the sole manager of the household finances, Sage Eldercare's Bill Paying Service can help.

Sage Eldercare's experienced volunteers offer a wide range of bill

paying services that include sorting mail, reviewing bills to determine proper payment, preparing checks for client signatures, reconciling checking accounts, budgeting monthly income and expenses, setting up files, organizing paperwork, and organizing financial records for use in tax preparation or estate planning.

In addition, Sage's volunteers can also provide instruction for managing finances independently

and efficiently.

The Bill Paying Service is available to people age 60 and older who are residents of Union County.

For information on the Bill Paying Service, call Sage at 908-598-5514. Sage Eldercare is located at 290 Broad St., Summit. To learn more about the many programs and services offered by Sage to seniors and their caregivers, visit www.sageeldercare.org or call 908-273-5550.

SENIOR NEWS

Don't miss the 'boat'

The Men's Club will host a trip to Showboat Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City on Nov. 3.

The bus will leave from the YM-YWHA, 501 Green Lane, Union at 8:30 a.m.

The trip includes cash back and a food voucher plus a boxed lunch on the return trip and snacks on the bus to and from Atlantic City.

Those who plan to attend should sign up as soon as possible. For

information, contact Bobbi or Max Barth at 908-688-2360.

Future trips to Atlantic City will take place Dec. 1 and Jan. 5.

Handyman Program available in Cranford

The Cranford Senior Citizen Handyman Program provides seniors who are on a fixed income and living in their own home, alone or with a spouse/family member, with minor repairs to their home.

Falls is the time of year when smoke alarms are essential to our safety. If you need to have an alarm installed or need the batteries changed to existing alarms, a handyman can provide assistance. Senior citizens pay only for the cost of the materials needed. The program covers the cost of labor.

Any Cranford resident who is 62 years of age or older who meets the income requirements is eligible. To request services, contact the Senior Handyman program at at

908-709-7294, Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

No work can be performed without a complete application on file.

Clark Senior Club

The Clark Senior Club will meet today at 1 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Senior Citizen Center, 430 Westfield Ave., Clark.

At that time, members can sign up for the holiday party. Refreshments will be served.

Join the team

The Senior Citizen Mixed Bowling League, sponsored by the Linden Department of Recreation and Community Services, began its 2008-09 bowling season Sept. 4 at 9:30 a.m. at Linden Lanes on Stiles Street in Linden.

Any Linden senior citizen interested in joining the league as a team member or substitute bowler should call the John T. Gregorio Recreation Center at 908-474-8627.



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NEW-2009 MERCURY Milan

2.3L I4 Engine, 5-Speed Auto Trans, V-6, Pwr Str/ABS/Wind/Locks/Seats/Mirr, All Season Tires, 16" Alum. Wheels, Sun & Sun Pwr, Pwr Moonr, a/b, Air, Am/Fm/Cd, MSRP \$21,875, Sika#9028, VIN#9M0607679. †Lease 39 mo w/closed end lease w/10,500 mi/yr, †20 thereafter. Payment based on \$1000 cust cash, \$178 1st pymnt, & \$0 Sec.Dep if qualified & \$595 acq. Fee= \$1773 Due at Signing, TP=\$4942, TC=\$5537, Residual \$11,822.50. Includes \$500 RCL Customer Cash, \$1000 RCL/RCD Renewal, \$500 Manufacturer College Grad Rebate*. *Buy Price includes \$2500 Factory Rebate, Exp. 10/31/2008.

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lease for **\$398** per mo x 39 mos or buy for **\$32,999** **SAVE \$7756**

MERCURY




NEW 2008 MERCURY Mariner

Front Wheel Drive, 6-Speed Automatic Transmission, 4-Cylinder Engine, Power Steering/Power Brakes/Power Windows/Power Locks/Power Mirrors, Air conditioning, a/b, Am/Fm/CD Player, Sun & Sync Value Package, Power moonr, Roof Rack, MSRP \$23,785, Sika#9E7, VIN#9KJ01601. *Buy Price includes \$1500 Retail Customer Cash, \$1500 RCL/RCD Renewal, \$500 Manufacturer College Grad Rebate*. Exp. 10/31/2008.

\$19,363 **SAVE \$4512**

MERCURY



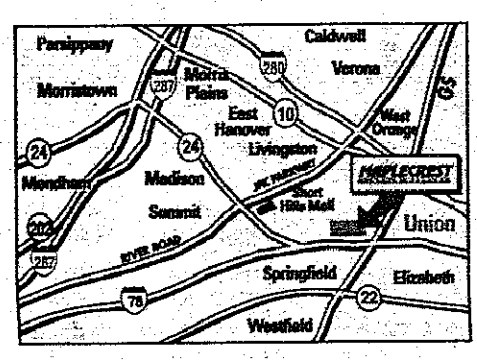
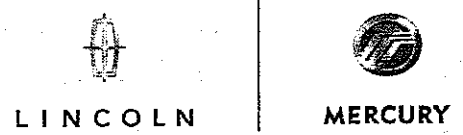
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All 'fired' up about safety



Children from the 3-year-old classes at the Community Presbyterian Nursery School in Mountainside learn about fire safety when members of the Mountain-side Fire Department visit the nursery school during Fire Prevention Week.

Grace Church will observe Reformation

Grace Lutheran Church, 2222 Vauxhall Road, Union, will observe reformation.

Reformation began on Oct. 31, 1517, the day on which Martin Luther nailed his so-called 95 theses on the church doors in Wittenberg, Germany, detailing the reforms he thought were needed in the church at the time based upon his reading of the Bible.

Unintentionally, Luther's reform effort ultimately led to the formation of the Lutheran church. Following the reforms of this movement, the Lutheran church has always stood firmly on the Biblical truths that mankind is saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus as one's "personal Lord and Savior."

Appropriately, the sermon for this festival service, delivered by the the Rev. Donald L. Brand, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, will be titled, "This Blood's for You." Everyone in worship on this day will receive a free magnet of Luther's seal.

Grace Lutheran worships on Sunday mornings at 8 and 10:30 a.m., with the 10:30 a.m. worship service interpreted for the deaf, as St. Matthew's Lutheran Church for the Deaf worships with Grace.

As always, the members of Grace Lutheran Church in Union have extended an invitation to the members of the community to join them in worship and fellowship activities.

For information about the church and its services or programs, contact the church office at 908-686-3965, the TTY line at 908-851-2004 or e-mail the church at gracelu4u@yahoo.com. The church's Web site is www.gracelutheranmj.org.

RELIGION

JWI will welcome 'Mary Todd Lincoln'

Elaine Ratner, president of the Jewish Women International-Batim Union Chapter, has announced that a meeting will be conducted Tuesday at the Burnet Middle School, Union.

A meeting of the board will be conducted at 7 p.m. She also announced that "important issues will be discussed, and that members of the board are urgently requested to attend."

Immediately following the board meeting, a regular meeting will take place at 8 p.m.

Jeanne Major, program chairman, has invited Judi Fox, who will portray Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of President Abraham Lincoln, to tea.

Members, spouses and friends are invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

Presbyterian Women to host bazaar Nov. 8

The Presbyterian Women's Association of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church, Union, is seeking vendors for its annual holiday bazaar on Nov. 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The holiday bazaar will feature a variety of new merchandise and seasonal hand-crafted merchandise.

For information or to rent a table, call 908-245-0562.

Proceeds from the bazaar will go to the many missions of the Presbyterian Women's Association.

Holy Hour for Life

The Holy Hour for Life will take place Nov. 5 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church in Union.

Temple has special services for children

Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, will host a monthly Community Kid's Kabbalat Shabbat Service.

The community service will

take place Fridays from 6:30 to 7 p.m. in Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael. An Oneg Shabbat will follow with light refreshments.

The child-friendly service will include blessings with Rabbi Mark Mallach, singing and an instrumental parade for the children.

The 2008-09 Community Kid's Shabbat will be held on the following Fridays: Oct. 17, Nov. 14, Jan. 16, 2009, March 20, April 24, May 15 and June 19.

For information, call the temple office at 973-376-0539.

Pray, meditate

The First Presbyterian Church of Cranford is sponsoring a series of open Labyrinth Walks.

Walks will be held in Bates Hall in the First Presbyterian Church, 11 Springfield Ave. Participants can walk the Labyrinth any time between 1 and 4 p.m., but should begin by 3:30 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Theodore Berglund

Theodore J. Berglund, 79, of Linden died on Oct. 12.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. Berglund moved to Linden. He was educated through the Elizabeth school system and Seton Hall University, South Orange. Mr. Berglund was a decorated veteran and served in the Army during the Korean War. Following his military service, he spent 37 years working as a sales counselor for General Electric Co. before retiring in 1990.

Mr. Berglund was elected in 1979 as an Elizabeth City councilman for the Third Ward, where he served for three terms and spent one year as the president of city council. He also was a member of the Board of School Estimate and Elizabeth Democratic Committee. In addition, Mr. Berglund was co-founder and director of the Elmora Youth Girls Softball League. He was equally active in his involvement with the Catholic community and served on the boards of many organizations.

Surviving are a son, Theodore; four daughters, Karen Scrib, Ellen Gabriel, Susan Colicchio and Alison Martin; a sister, Norma Sisk, and 11 grandchildren.

The Higgins and Bonner Funeral Home, Westfield, handled the arrangements.

Maria Cetola

Maria Cetola, 93, of Springfield died on Oct. 16.

Born in San Bartolomeo, Galdo, Italy, Mrs. Cetola moved to the United States in 1959. She settled in Springfield, 45 years ago. Mrs. Cetola worked as a seamstress for many years before retiring in 1974. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Rose of Lima Church, Short Hills, and also was a member of the Madonna del Assunta.

Surviving are two daughters, Angelina Russillo and Carmela Tomei; five grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The Bradley Smith & Smith Funeral Home, Springfield, handled the arrangements.

Philip Clarke

Philip J. Clarke of Clark died Oct. 18 in Overlook Hospital, Summit.

Mr. Clarke lived in Bloomfield and Union before moving to Clark 38 years ago. He was employed by Philips Lighting, Somerset, in the sales and finance department for 43 years. Mr. Clarke graduated from Bloomfield High School, class of 1955 and St. Peter's College, class of 1968. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees for the Gran Centurions, Clark.

Surviving are his wife of 45 years, Joan; a son, Scott; two daughters, Tara Clarke and Alicia Clarke; a sister, Elizabeth Clauberg, and three brothers, Patrick, Brian and George.

The Walter J. Johnson Funeral

Home, Clark, handled the funeral arrangements.

Gloria Cochario

Gloria V. Cochario, 84, of Summit died Oct. 15 in the Berkeley Meadows Nursing Home, Berkeley Heights.

Born in Mount Carmel, Pa., Mrs. Cochario lived in Danville, Pa., for many years, and in Union for 10 years before moving to Summit in 1968. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit. Mrs. Cochario worked as a waitress in Summit Sweet Shop and was the owner and chef of Gloria's Luncheonette, Summit, for six years before becoming a short order chef at Old Glory Restaurant, New Providence, for 12 years. She retired in 1991.

Surviving are her husband, Earl; a daughter, Linda Ann Swanson; a son, Joseph; a brother, Eugene Concini, and two grandchildren.

The Paul Ippolito Summit Memorial, Summit, handled the arrangements.

Ruth Hunter

Ruth D. Sheridan Hunter, 97, a longtime resident of Cranford, died Oct. 13 in the Center for Hope Hospice and Palliative Care, Scotch Plains.

Born in Jersey City, Mrs. Hunter moved to Elizabeth, and for the last 29 years in Cranford, as one of the original residents of the Edward K. Gill Apartments. She was a 1928 graduate of St. Mary Commercial School, Elizabeth, and received an honorary high school diploma from its descendant, St. Mary of the Assumption High School in 2003. Mrs. Hunter was an executive secretary for Thomas Loughlin Marine Supplies, New York City, for eight years, including several during which she had been in charge of the office after her boss's death. She later held a similar position at Diehl Manufacturing, Elizabeth. Mrs. Hunter eventually left the work force for her family.

Mrs. Hunter had been a member of the Tuesday Club of Cranford Senior Citizens and the Rosary Society of St. Michael's Church, Cranford, where she had been a parishioner since 1941.

Surviving are two daughters, Jean M. Hunter and Kathleen R. Hunter.

The Dooley Funeral Home, Cranford, handled the arrangements.

Robert Lang

Robert Lang of Roselle Park died Oct. 11 in Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth.

Born in Newark, Mr. Lang lived in Roselle Park for 14 years. He was a warehouse supervisor for J.L. Hammett and Co., Union, for 12 years.

Surviving are his mother, Concetta "Tina" Lang; a brother, Stephen, and two sisters, Phyllis

Dunn and Lisa Pagano.

The Mastapeter Funeral Home, Roselle Park, handled the arrangements.

Alessandro Liotta

Alessandro Liotta, 99, of Union died Oct. 18 at home.

Born in Petruro, Avelino, Italy, Mr. Liotta settled in Newark in 1956 before moving to Union in 1967. He was a mason for Albert Romano & Co., Union, for 25 years before retiring 34 years ago.

Surviving are his wife of 71 years, Felicia; three daughters, Yolanda Russo, Flora Gialanella, Mena Del Virginia; two sons, Luigi and Francesco; two sisters, Yolanda Liotta and Michelina Derita; 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The Galante Funeral Home, Union, handled the arrangements.

Walter McLeod

Walter McLeod, 76, of Rahway died Oct. 12 in Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital at Rahway.

Born in Elizabeth, Mr. McLeod was a longtime resident of Rahway. He was a section chief at Western Electric Co., Kearny, for 30 years and retired in 1985. Mr. McLeod then worked for the Housing Authority of Rahway. He served as a 4th Ward councilman, councilman at large and city council president. Mr. McLeod was a Union County freeholder and council president in Rahway. He was a member of the 4th Ward Civic Association, Rahway Planning Board and Board of Directors of the Rahway Housing Authority.

Mr. McLeod was a member of the Rahway Geriatrics Center, the Human Services Advisory Council, the Senior Citizens and Disabled Resident Transportation Advisory Board, the Advisory Board of the Status of Minorities, the Mental Health Advisory Board, the Private Industry Council and the Runnells Hospital Board. He was an organizer of BEADO, Black Elected and Appointed Democratic Officials. Mr. McLeod was a life member of the NAACP and served as chairman of the Religious Committee for the Rahway Branch.

Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Mary Louise Hall; two daughters, Helene Shearer and Adrienne Simmons; three sons, Walter Steven, Michael and Gregory; a brother, Robert; three sisters, Lacie Slater, Ruth Herriott and Jessica Dixon, and seven grandchildren.

The G.G. Woody Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Brian O'Connor

Brian W. O'Connor, 67, of Roselle died Oct. 17 at home.

Born in New York City, Mr. O'Connor lived in Elizabeth before moving to Roselle in 1986. He worked as a security officer at Chil-

OBITUARY LIST

BERLUND — Theodore J., of Linden; Oct. 12.
 BOTTA — Ardene, of Summit; July 13.
 BULLOCK — Calvin M., formerly of Roselle; Oct. 11.
 CANGIALOSI — Theresa Salierno, of Hillside; Oct. 12.
 CETOLA — Maria, of Springfield; Oct. 16.
 CLARKE — Philip J., of Clark; Oct. 18.
 COCHARIO — Gloria V., of Summit; Oct. 15.
 HUNTER — Ruth D. Sheridan, of Cranford; Oct. 13.
 LANG — Robert, of Roselle Park; Oct. 11.
 LEVIN — Edythe, of Clark; Oct. 15.
 LIOTTA — Alessandro, of Union; Oct. 18.
 MC LEOD — Walter, of Rahway; Oct. 12.
 MESSINEO — Leonard P., of Union; Oct. 14.
 O'CONNOR — Brian W., of Roselle; Oct. 17.
 PODGURSKI — Walter, formerly of Union; Oct. 11.
 RINALDO — Matthew J. Jr., of Union; Oct. 13.
 ROGERS — Forrest, of Linden; Oct. 14.
 SALAYKO — Susie E., of Cranford; Oct. 1.
 SCHWEIKARDT — Walter F., of Cranford; Oct. 18.
 SELK — Peter H., of Roselle Park; Oct. 14.
 SWINDEN — Mary Ellen, of Rahway; Oct. 13.
 UNTERWALD — Nancy R., of Union; Oct. 16.
 WILDER — Rosalind J., of Rahway; Oct. 12.
 WILSON — Ercell, of Hillside; Oct. 11.

Editor's note: Not all of the names included in this listing will appear as full-length obituaries.

dren's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, and previously worked in the same capacity at St. Elizabeth Hospital, now Trinitas Hospital, Elizabeth. Mr. O'Connor also worked as a paralegal at various law firms. Prior to that, he was a funeral associate at Higgins and Bonner Funeral Home, Elizabeth. Mr. O'Connor received a bachelor's degree in English from Seton Hall University, South Orange, and a master's degree in English from the State University of New York. He was a member of the James Joyce Society of New York.

Surviving are a son, Sean F.; a brother, Kevin, and two grandchildren.

The Higgins and Bonner Echo Lake Funeral Home, Westfield, handled the arrangements.

Peter Selk

Peter H. Selk, 70, of Roselle Park died on Oct. 14.

A lifelong Union County resident, Mr. Selk was born in Elizabeth, and lived for many years in Roselle before moving to Roselle Park in 1986. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, and spent four years in the Navy. People in Kenilworth remember Mr. Selk as "Mr. Sub," owner of the Kenilworth Sub Shop, for more than 30 years. He retired in 2004. Mr. Selk was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 2153 in Elizabeth. He also was a member of the Roselle Catholic High School Dads Club.

Surviving are his wife, Melanie; two sons, David and William; a daughter, Suzanne Garges; a stepson, William Tinson; a sister, Peggy Ashton, and four grandchildren.

The Mastapeter Funeral Home, Roselle Park, handled the arrangements.

Mary Ellen Swinden

Mary Ellen Swinden, 59, of Rahway died Oct. 13 at home.

Born in Glen Ridge, Mrs. Swinden had resided in Rahway for the past 30 years. She was a plant clerk for Verizon of Spotswood and other locations for 32 years. Mrs. Swinden most recently worked in the cafeteria at Union Catholic High School of Scotch Plains. She was a longtime parishioner of St. Agnes Church, Clark. Mrs. Swinden was a member of the Telephone Pioneers Club of New Jersey.

Surviving are her husband of 35 years, Bruce E.; a son, Jonathan, and two brothers, Thomas McCabe and James Hallman.

Nancy Unterwald

Nancy R. Unterwald, 60, of Union died on Oct. 16.

Born in Sayre, Pa., Mrs. Unterwald resided in Union since 1953. She was a graduate of Geneva College, Beaver Falls, Pa. Mrs. Unterwald was a social service worker for the Union County Welfare Office in Elizabeth for 25 years and retired in 2006.

She recently served as a bus aide for Transportation Care, Clark. Mrs. Unterwald was a deacon with Osceola Presbyterian Church, Clark, a member of the Eastern Star Cranford Chapter, Women of Faith, Women's Circle with the church. She was a former member of the choir.

Surviving are her husband of 35 years, John M.; two sons, James A. and Robert A.; her mother, Ruth Bemart Diehl, and a brother, Henry Diehl.

The Bradley, Haerberle & Barth Funeral Home, Union, handled the arrangements.

THIS IS H.S. FOOTBALL

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

After finishing 0-10 for the first time last year, the Hillside football team has a chance to be just 48 minutes away from playing for the school's second playoff championship and first since 1985.

Hillside is 5-1 after a posting an impressive 27-6 Mountain Valley Conference-Mountain Division win last Friday night at Governor Livingston.

The Comets — back in North 2, Group 2 this year after spending the past three seasons in Central Jersey, Group 2 — have clinched their first playoff season since last qualifying in N2, G2 in 2003.

One more win would clinch a first winning season since posting a 6-4 mark in 2003.

More importantly, if Hillside beats Group 1 Robbinsville (2-4) this weekend and then Group 3 Iselin Kennedy (1-5) next weekend — the games will be tough, with both on the road — the Comets might not only be the top seed in North 2, Group 2, but they might get a first round bye because it appears that eight teams might not qualify in the section this year.

That would mean that Hillside would host Roselle on the playoff cutoff date — which is a game that will not count toward playoff positioning for Hillside since it will be the Comets' ninth — and then get a week off before hosting a sectional semifinal game.

Hillside also does not play on Thanksgiving this year after competing against Brearley on the holiday from 2000-2007. That would mean that after the Roselle game, Hillside could get a week off and then just be a home semifinal victory away from playing for the North 2, Group 2 title.

Hillside won its only playoff title in 1985 when it won N2, G2. The Comets first reached that section's championship game first in 1983.

The Comets just missed reaching the N2, G2 final in 2000, falling at home to Pequannock in the semifinals. Hillside won its first playoff game since 1985 that year.

Also, West Essex was moved to North 1, Group 2 this year. During the past seven seasons from 2001-2007, West Essex reached the N2, G2 championship game six times and won it five times.

Not only has Hillside really turned things around this year, but there's a great chance the Comets could be playing for a state title one year after not winning a single game.



Photo by Barbara Kakkalis

Junior running back Dwaine Dabney (No. 5 with ball) scored four touchdowns to help lift Summit past Chatham 28-6 last Saturday at Tatlock Field. Other Summit players include Joe Jaskolski (No. 6) and Kevin McNany (No. 34).

Summit football back as a player in Hills Division

Wins 4th straight and qualifies for playoffs

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

SUMMIT — If you attended Summit's football game last Saturday at Tatlock Field and saw how the Hilltoppers performed against neighboring rival Chatham, you might have asked this question: How did Summit go two straight years without winning a conference game?

Surprisingly — to many — it did happen. Two and three years after playing at home in back-to-back North 2, Group 2 semifinal contests, the Hilltoppers went 1-9 in 2005 — beating only Harrison in a sectional consolation game — and then 0-10 for the first time in 2006.

Something was wrong.

In came John Liberato — who had success as a head coach at Hanover Park and was a highly thought of assistant at New Providence — to shake things up.

Summit won three games last year, including its first two conference wins in three years. Liberato set the stage.

Now the Hilltoppers have won four in a row. Suddenly, they are a player again in what will be the final season of the Iron Hills Conference's Hills Division.

The latest win was Saturday's convincing 28-6 conference triumph over Chatham, which was a team Summit lost to the last three seasons and had only defeated once — in 2004 — since the Morris County squad moved into the IHC.

Leading the way were junior standouts Dwaine Dabney — who had his first four-touchdown game — Joe Jaskolski, Matt Rea and Kevin McNany, which also bodes well for next season.

McNany, from his linebacker position, was all over the field and produced many of Summit's tackles.

"We worked hard all week for this game and we got a lot of tackles for losses," McNany said. "We did great."

After Chatham senior Kyle Hagens returned the opening kickoff 65 yards to the Summit 17 — Hilltopper kicker Alex Melendez did well to tackle him — Summit's defense rose to the occasion by not letting the Cougars reach the end zone.

Chatham had to settle for the first of two field goals by senior Pat Butler, which were the only points Summit allowed the Cougars to score on the day.

"They had a big kickoff and we just kept playing," McNany said. "Not allowing them to score a touchdown really set the momentum of the game. We just kept playing hard."

Chatham didn't get to enjoy its 3-0 lead that long. Dabney took the ensuing Cougar kickoff, found a hole to burst through right away and then sprinted down the left sideline for six points. The first of four Melendez extra points gave Summit a 7-3 lead. The Hilltoppers never trailed again.

"Our linemen blocked and the hole was wide open," said Dabney, who also scored on runs of two, one and 17 yards and who carried the ball 27 times for a game-high 145 yards. "They spread it wide open and it was just clear from there."

Hagens, amazingly, managed to return the next kickoff 93 yards down the right sideline — breaking a couple of tackles at the end — for a touchdown. Unfortunately for Chatham, the play was called back by a holding penalty.

See DABNEY, Page 33

THIS WEEKEND'S UNION COUNTY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 24 (7 games)
Kearny at Union, 7 p.m.
Plainfield at Elizabeth, 7 p.m.
Newark East Side at Linden, 7 p.m.
Cranford vs. Newark Central, 7 p.m.
at Untermann Field in Newark
Johnson vs. Iselin Kennedy, 7 p.m.
at Woodbridge
Dunellen at Brearley, 7 p.m.
Dayton at Roselle Park, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 25 (6 games)
Westfield at Irvington, 1 p.m.
Scotch Plains vs. Shabazz, 1 p.m.
at Untermann Field in Newark
Governor Livingston at Rahway, 1 p.m.
New Providence at Roselle, 1 p.m.
Summit at Morris Hills, 1:30 p.m.
Hillside at Robbinsville, 2 p.m.

LAST WEEKEND'S UNION COUNTY RESULTS

Thursday, Oct. 16 (1 game)
Roselle Park 28, Newark Cental 20
Friday, Oct. 17 (8 games)
Westfield 55, Newark East Side 29
Irvington 29, Elizabeth 21 (OT)
Plainfield 34, Linden 21
Scotch Plains 48, Kearny 24
Rahway 41, North Plainfield 8
Hillside 27, Gov. Livingston 6
Brearley 21, Cranford 9
New Providence 10, Johnson 7
Saturday, Oct. 18 (3 games)
Dayton 14, Cardinal McCarrick 0
Summit 28, Chatham 6
Union 34, Shabazz 0 Off: Roselle.

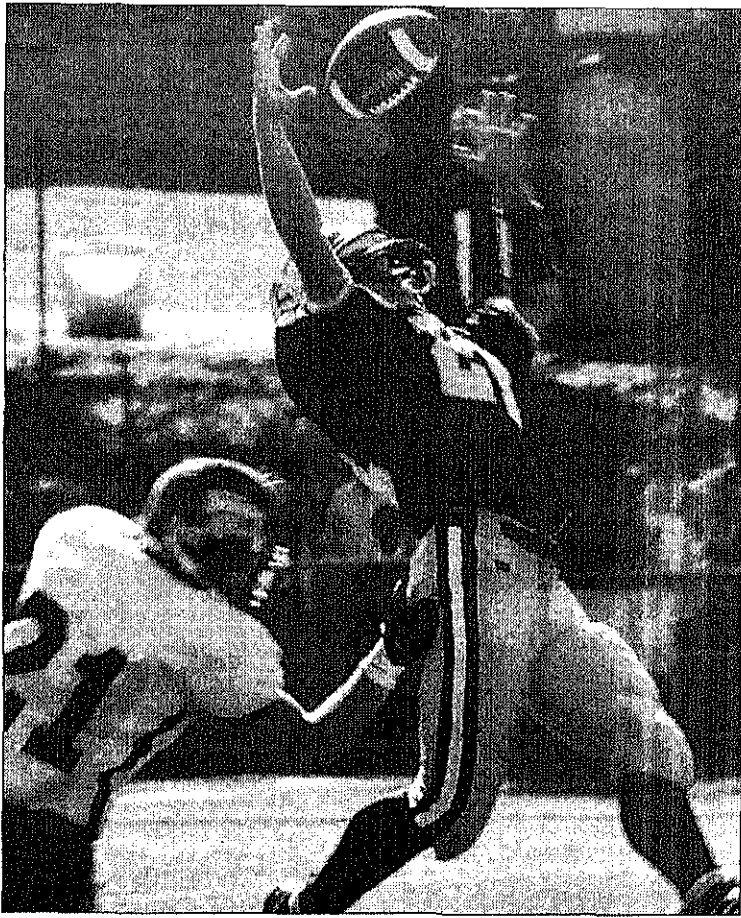
JR'S PICKS THIS WEEK (13)

Union over Kearny
Elizabeth over Plainfield
Linden over Newark East Side
Cranford over Newark Central
Johnson over Iselin Kennedy
Brearley over Dunellen
Roselle Park over Dayton
Westfield over Irvington
Scotch Plains over Shabazz
Rahway over Governor Livingston
New Providence over Roselle
Morris Hills over Summit
Hillside over Robbinsville
Best bet: Union over Kearny
Upset special: West. over Irvington
Last week: 10-2
This year: 57-12 (.826)
Best bets: 5-1, five in a row
Upset specials: 4-2, three in a row

JR'S UNION COUNTY TOP 10

1. Elizabeth (4-1)
2. Westfield (5-0)
3. Union (3-2)
4. Plainfield (3-2)
5. Hillside (5-1)
6. Brearley (6-0)
7. Rahway (4-1)
8. New Providence (4-1)
9. Johnson (4-2)
10. Summit (4-2)

Others: Scotch Plains (2-3), Linden (2-4), Gov. Livingston (3-2), Dayton (4-2), Roselle Park (2-4), Roselle (1-3), Cranford (1-5).



Photos by Barbara Kokkalis

Above, Summit junior running back Matt Rea (No. 24) is about to come down with an outstanding reception against Chatham. Below, junior linebacker Kevin McNany (No. 34) makes one of his many fine tackles.



Springfield Roadrunners improve to 5-0

The Springfield Roadrunners 13-and-under boys' soccer team defeated the Long Valley Timberwolves 5-0 Sunday at Dayton High School to improve to 5-0.

Austin Lopes scored in the first half and Asmar Johnson, Jason Barreira, Nile Gregory and Tyler Citrin in the second. Andrew Maldonado earned an assist on Lopes' goal. Goalkeeper Danny Micolta played well and made three saves for his second consecutive shutout.

Also playing well for Springfield were Johnny Chumbiauca, Patrick Zahn, Kevin Shulca, Stephano Gonzaga, Arrington Joyner-Corniffe, Noah Guber, Roy Bahar, Tristen Fekete, Eric Pereira and Kevin Casteblanco.

The Roadrunners are at the Hopatcong Spiders this Sunday at 3 p.m. in the "Shake at the Lake."

Springfield Warriors blank foe for 2nd win

The Springfield Warriors improved to 2-1-3 after defeating second place Lenape Valley 2-0 Sunday at Ruby Field in Springfield.

Joseph McDonough scored his second goal of the season and Ariel Gohar his first. Ethan Levy and Anthony Machado combined for the shutout in goal. Also playing well for Springfield were Bryant Wang, Mat Nelson, Alex Sirotkin, Gabriel Calandri, Mefanie Schickler, Sean Martin, Jake Zeiman and Matthew Hammer.

The Warriors will next play Chatham this Sunday at 3 p.m. at Ruby.

Dabney scores 4 TDs to help lift the Hilltoppers

(Continued from Page 32)

Still, Chatham was able to move the ball from its own 21 to the Summit 17 before having to settle for a second field goal.

In a scenario you don't see quite often at all, Chatham returned the opening kickoff 65 yards that set up a field goal, then Summit returned the next kickoff for a touchdown and then Chatham returned the next kickoff for a touchdown, but it was called back. Despite that, the Cougars still managed to drive down the field and get another field goal.

So, with only a minute to go in the first quarter and Summit still without an offensive play - and the Hilltoppers used two of their first-half timeouts already - Summit had a 7-6 edge.

At this point, Summit's defense was in bend, but not break mold. It improved as the game went along and did not allow a single point in the second, third and fourth quarters.

Liberato gave a lot of credit to assistant coaches Mike Judge and Jim Dietz for their fine work with the defense. McNany's performance paved the way.

"Kevin was outstanding on defense," Liberato said. "He had the job of making sure they didn't run the ball on us."

Chatham was contained on the ground, carrying 38 times for 146 yards, which is a 3.8 average.

"Our defensive front did a great job of keeping the linemen off the linebackers so that Kevin could screen or get to where he needs to be," Liberato said. "He was reading real fast and playing downhill the way a linebacker is supposed to play."

Meanwhile, Dabney closed Summit's first possession with the first of his three rushing touchdowns. The Hilltoppers did well to increase their lead to 14-6 after a seven-play, 71-yard drive that took up almost two minutes.

Dabney scored again in the second quarter and once more in the fourth.

"Dwayne is one of those backs that the more times he touches the ball, the better he's getting," Liberato said.

Rea carried eight times for 64 yards and caught two passes for 29.

"You can't say enough about Matt Rea," Liberato said. "Matt Rea is a playmaker. When that kid puts his hands on the ball, he's a playmaker. He's not a big (5-6, 150) kid, but he's got a huge heart. He's someone that I trust and someone that I believe in."

Jaskolski carried five times for 33 yards and completed six of 11 passes for 81. Those are the numbers.

What they don't show is his poise under center and his ability to drop back and hit a receiver in stride, in the number- including junior split end Shawn Hillas twice.

"Joe's doing a great job," Liberato said. "He understands the offense more and more and more as him and I meet. We'll meet once a week for a length of time and just go over what we need to do. We go through pre-practice and I let him look at the game plan and I let him make suggestions because he's the one who is out there on the field."

"If he's taking a little bit of ownership with some of the playcalling, it's going to work a little bit better. He's getting more comfortable and more confident and he understands my thinking now and the way I attack."

With Summit, sometimes you don't know who is under center or who is going to take the ball and run with it or pass it.

Liberato used multiple names to describe his offensive scheme.

"It's a mixture of a shotgun, Wing-T, single wing and power I," Liberato said.

"When we slide guys back and forth it is power I football downhill. The best part about it is the defense has to stay balanced."

"Because you got Rea coming back, you got (Thomas) Baker coming back and then we can pass off it. It puts defenses in a bind."

"We've been working on this for about two years now, since we got here. We went to it a little bit last year and we called it the flex. We wound up saying, let's have two quarterbacks back there and who's going to know if they are two quarterbacks or two running backs and then have our wing guys. Who knows who's the pass receiver or who's the runner or who's the blocker? We're using everyone equally."

"How about we call it the fun gun, because we're having a lot of fun with it?"

Chatham head coach Don Dayon described it as one tough offense to get a hold of.

"Is Dabney running with it, or is Jaskolski keeping it? Sometimes you don't know and that makes it tough to defend," Dayon said.

Summit went no huddle right away on offense to try to offset Chatham coming at them from all different directions.

"Joe did a great job of making the checks on the line of scrimmage and you just take what the defense gives you," Liberato said. "We weren't at that point the first two games or maybe even the first three games of the year, but we're getting there."

"We're not where we want to be as far as the offensive execution, but we're getting better."

Summit's fourth straight win for the first time in five years improved its record to 4-2. Chatham fell to 1-5 and lost to Summit for the first time since 2004.

The Hilltoppers clinched their first playoff season since going 9-1-1 in 2003. They will now attempt to post their first winning campaign since that same 2003 season.

"For five years they've been killing us and (Kyle) McDonough is a fine running back," McNany said.

McDonough, a junior, led all Chatham running backs with 64 yards on 14 attempts.

"For the last time to play them, stuffing McDonough was great," McNany said. "It was a great feeling."

Summit started 0-2, but the second setback was a not-so-bad 21-0 loss to Hills Division leader Mendham at its place. The score was 0-0 at the half.

"We knew Mendham was a great team and they're top in the conference, but we thought our defense could play with them," McNany said. "We just realized that we could play with anyone in the conference."

Summit will be back in the playoffs in North 2, Group 2 for the first time since 2003. Two more games still count toward playoff positioning, with the first one at Morris Hills (3-3) Saturday at 1:30 p.m. in Rockaway. Then the Hilltoppers will return home to face Hanover Park (4-2) on Nov. 1.

"We always talked about if we could win one game against Chatham," McNany said. "To win it and get into the playoffs at the same time just feels great."

Dayon, a 1991 Brearley Regional of Kenilworth graduate in his sixth season as the head coach of the Cougars, guided Chatham to the 2005 North 2, Group 2 final and the 2007 semifinals.

This will not be a playoff season for the Cougars, who are now preparing for home game this Saturday against 0-6 Parsippany.

"I've got to give Summit a ton of credit," Dayon said. "They played real well in that first half. We had a ton of opportunities and we didn't take advantage."

"They get a kick return for a touchdown and I still think ours was a touchdown, but it gets called back. We still drive, we don't score. We had to settle for two field goals as opposed to putting the ball in the end zone. It really changed the momentum of the game."

Coaches sometimes go lengthy periods of time without smiling.

That was not the case for Liberato moments after the game as he cracked a big grin when he saw his players band together in front of one of the goalposts.

"The kids are doing a great job and I'm really proud of them," Liberato said.

• See complete game agate on JR's Sports Blog at www.localsource.com.



Photo courtesy of Johnson coach Samantha Werres

The Johnson gymnastics team placed fourth in last Friday night's Union County meet at Westfield with 100.425 points. Gymnasts include Angela D'Adamo, Brianna Ferdinandi, Jennifer Glassen, Kelsey Herbig, Samantha Mazzucco, Jessica Racanelli, Sara Rocha, Patty Sinoradzki and Dana Smith.

ALJ, Cranford gymnasts impress at county meet

Ferdinandi, Walch, Buontempo in top 6

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

WESTFIELD — Not only did Westfield junior Lacy Cummings prove to be the best gymnast in Union County once again, she stole the show.

At last Friday night's Union County Interscholastic Athletic Conference Gymnastics Championships, Cummings repeated as the All-Around champion after winning three of the four events.

She also helped Westfield capture a third consecutive team championship, ensuring that the Blue Devils will host the event for a third straight year in 2009.

Westfield won this time with 110.525 points. Last year the Blue Devils won at home with 109.425 and in 2006 won at Union with 105.6.

Cummings, a junior, placed first in the vault, uneven parallel bars and balance beam and tied for second in the floor exercise. Her highest score was a 9.650 to win the vault, while her lowest score was a 9.100 to win the uneven parallel bars.

On the beam, Cummings jumped up and did a complete flip in the air and landed cleanly back on the beam. She did this twice in a fashion that the judges had no choice but to give her the highest score of 9.600.

"One of my best friends and gymnasts Jenna Rodrigues hurt herself, so I knew I had to step it up," said Cummings, whose All-Around score of 37.650 was better than last year's winning total of 36.850. "I'm really comfortable with beam. It's one of my favorite events."

Rodrigues, who just captured her third consecutive Cougar Classic at Cranford All-Around title, placed second in the beam event at 9.300.

"I went out there and did what I've been trying to do for the past year and it just happened," Cummings said of her success on beam.

Cummings also said it was her best score on beam this season.

According to the back of the event's program, the balance beam is four inches wide, 16 feet long and four feet high. A routine consists of dance, balance, flexibility, leaps, acrobatics and tumbling. The routine must be between 60 and 90 seconds long.

"I've been doing really bad on beam until this meet, basically, falling all over the place," Cummings said. "I finally got it together."

Cummings never approached a score of 9.0 on beam, so this was a good night for her in the event.

"I really stepped it up," Cummings said.

Teammate Tina Chabrier placed first in the floor exercise with an impressive 9.425 score.

The uneven parallel bars event is a bar routine that consists of various circling movements, kips, handstands and frequent bar changes. Multiple hand changes and fluidity of movement is required. Form breaks are the major cause of deductions.

"On parallel bars I got a higher score than normal," Cummings said. "Vault is my favorite event and I went out there and did well and got a real high score."

"I messed up the first half on floor (exercise), but I still came out solid with a decent score."

If Cummings was the favorite to repeat this year as the All-Around champion, then she will definitely be favored to three-peat next year.

"I knew there were a bunch of other girls that are really good out there, so, no, I wasn't expecting this," Cummings said. "I didn't know what was going to happen."

Cummings was more thrilled with her team winning another championship.

"We started well and that boosted our confidence," Cummings said.

See COUGARS, Page 35

UNION COUNTY TOURNAMENTS

BOYS' SOCCER:

SEMIFINALS AT JOHNSON IN CLARK

Saturday, Oct. 25

(team records are through last Saturday's matches)

6-New Prov. (12-0-2) vs. 2-Elizabeth (10-4), 5 p.m.

9-Gov. Livingston (8-6) vs. 5-Summit (11-3-1), 7 p.m.

FINAL AT JOHNSON IN CLARK

Saturday, Nov. 1

Semifinal winners, 5 p.m.

QUARTERFINALS

Saturday, Oct. 18

Summit 2, Union 1 — at Union

Gov. Livingston 2, Westfield 1 (PKs 4-3) — at Westfield

Elizabeth 1, Cranford 0 — at Elizabeth

New Providence 3, Scotch Plains 1 — at Scotch Plains

GIRLS' SOCCER:

SEMIFINALS AT JOHNSON IN CLARK

Friday, Oct. 24

(team records are through last Saturday's matches)

6-Cranford (9-5-1) vs. 2-Scotch Plains (12-2-1), 6 p.m.

4-Johnson (11-0-1) vs. 1-Westfield (10-1-2), 8 p.m.

FINAL AT JOHNSON IN CLARK

Saturday, Nov. 1

Semifinal winners, 7 p.m.

QUARTERFINALS

Saturday, Oct. 18

Johnson 2, New Providence 1 (PKs 4-1) — at Johnson

Westfield 2, Union 0 — at Westfield

Cranford 1, Summit 0 (PKs 4-3) — at Summit

Scotch Plains 3, Union Catholic 1 — at Scotch Plains

GIRLS' VOLLEYBALL:

PRELIMINARY ROUND

Thursday, Oct. 16

Dayton def. Plainfield 25-9, 17-25, 25-15 — at Plainfield

FIRST ROUND

Friday, Oct. 17

at Rahway Recreation Center

Cranford def. Dayton 25-8, 25-6

Union Catholic def. Oak Knoll 25-8, 25-7

Rahway def. Roselle 25-14, 25-15

Roselle Catholic def. Johnson 26-24, 25-12

at Union High School

Westfield def. Union 25-22, 25-15

New Providence def. Linden 25-10, 25-18

Kent Place def. Summit 25-16, 25-21

11-Elizabeth vs. 6-Scotch Plains

QUARTERFINALS

Friday, Oct. 24

at New Providence

8-Westfield vs. 1-Cranford, 5:30 p.m.

11-Elizabeth/6-Scotch Plains vs. 3-Roselle Catholic, 5:30 p.m.

7-Kent Place vs. 2-Union Catholic, 7 p.m.

5-Rahway vs. 4-New Providence, 7 p.m.

SEMIFINALS

Tuesday, Oct. 28

at Union Catholic

Top side of the bracket (the 1 seed side), 5:30 p.m.

Bottom side of the bracket (the 2 seed side), 7 p.m.

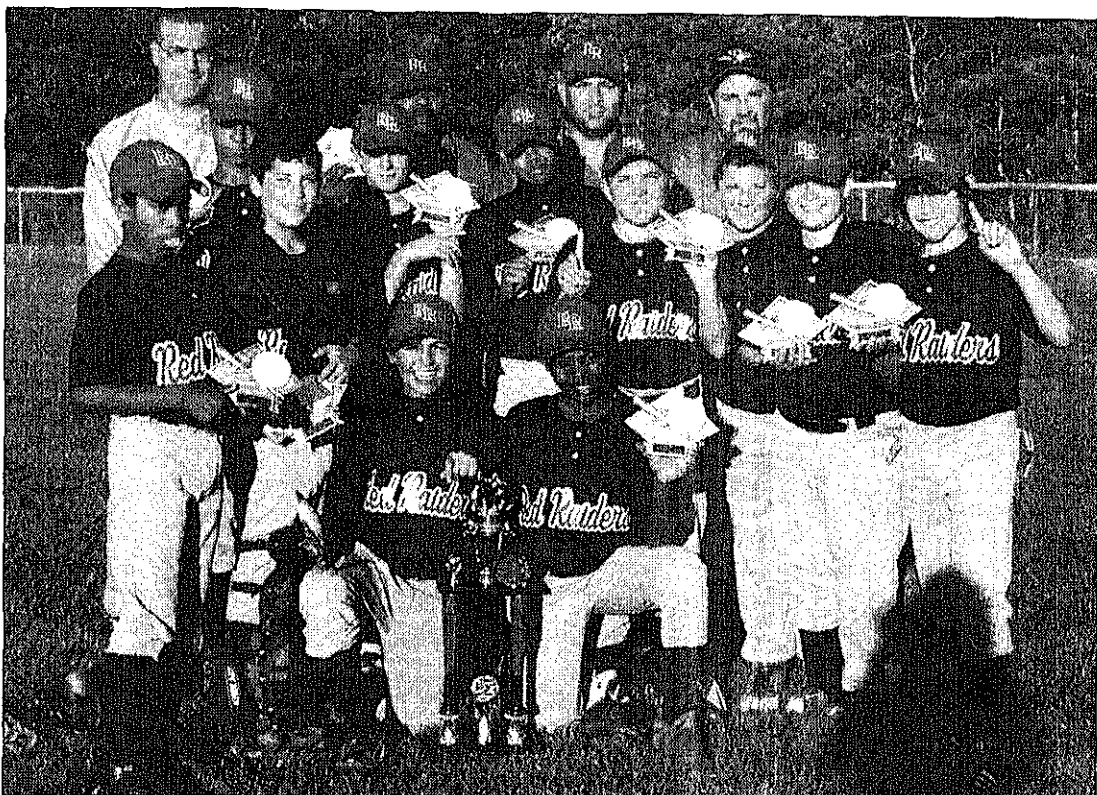
FINALS

Thursday, Oct. 30

Junior varsity, 5:30 p.m.

Varsity, 7 p.m.

Baseball team scores



The Union-based NJ Red Raiders 12-and-under AAU baseball team captured the Columbus Day Tournament in Brick, going 3-1 and beating Robbinsville 7-2 in the final. Kneeling, from left, are Jonathan Brignoni and Dwayne Marshall. Standing, from left, are Jay Sanford, Will Sangster, Andy SantaMaria, JR Hilcher, Jeffery Lara, Joey Fuenello, Stephen Smith, Mike Gibbons and Albert Gargiulo. Coaches, from left are John Hilcher, Dwayne Marshall, Alex Rodriguez and manager Glenn Smith.

Cougars shatter school record for most points

(Continued from Page 34)

Johnson junior Brianna Ferdinandi also put on quite a show, placing second in the All-Around standings with a quality total of 36.625. Ferdinandi was second in vault, fourth in uneven parallel bars, tied for sixth in beam and tied for second in floor exercise.

Last year she did not place in the All-Around standings and only placed in vault, finishing fifth with a 9.375 score.

"I think I did pretty well," Ferdinandi said. "My vault was really solid and so was my bars."

Ferdinandi's best score of the evening was her mark in vault at 9.475. She tied Cummings for second on floor exercise, with each scoring a 9.300, and had a score of 9.025 in uneven parallel bars.

"I think that was my highest score in bars so far this year and my floor was really good too," Ferdinandi said.

Ferdinandi also excelled at the Oct. 4 Cougar Classic, placing second in the All-Around standings with a score of 35.925.

"I knew I did well in the Cougar, so I knew I could do even better here," Ferdinandi said. "I trained really hard for this the last week and I tried my best."

Cranford finished second again, but broke the school record for points with a total of 106.725. Head coach Michele Charney Hulse said the previous high score was 105.75.

Hulse had two of the top six All-Around finishers in seniors Margaret Walch and Jenny Buontempo.

Walch was fourth with a score of 35.475 and Buontempo fifth at 35.175.

"I'm just happy that I went out and did everything," said Walch, who is considering gymnastics in college. "It's my senior year so I got to get a medal."

Walch tied Kelsey Mahoney of Linden for fourth in floor exercise at 9.275.

"It couldn't have gone any better," Walch said of her high score in the event for the season.

Hulse was pleased with her team's performance, finding no shame in finishing second to Westfield again.

"Everyone did exactly what they needed to do," Hulse said. "They did a good job."

Cranford scored a 104.950 in finishing second to Westfield last year. Setting the school record for most points was very satisfying.

"We definitely had the potential to break it," Hulse said. "The girls just had a great meet. We didn't have any falls. The girls just had a great performance."

TEAMS: 1-Westfield 110.525. 2-Cranford 106.725. 3-Scotch Plains 104.600. 4-Johnson 100.425. 5-Union 95.825. 6-Union Catholic 73.550. 7-Elizabeth 57.400. 8-Dayton 44.650. 9-Governor Livingston 34.525. 10-Linden 33.925.

ALL-AROUND: 1-Lacy Cummings, Westfield, 37.650. 2-Brianna Ferdinandi, Johnson, 36.625. 3-Lindsay Robinson, Scotch Plains, 35.575. 4-Margaret Walch, Cranford, 35.475. 5-Jenny Buontempo, Cranford, 35.175. 6-Gina Pelosi, Scotch Plains, 34.700.

VAULT: 1-Lacy Cummings, Westfield, 9.650. 2-Brianna Ferdinandi, Johnson, 9.475. 3-Jenny Buontempo, Cranford, 9.425. 4-Gina Pelosi, Scotch Plains and Kelsey Greenfield, Westfield, 9.250. 6-Jenna Rodrigues, Westfield, 9.225.

UNEVEN PARALLEL BARS: 1-Lacy Cummings, Westfield, 9.100. 2-Jenny Buontempo, Cranford and Jenna Rodrigues, Westfield, 9.050. 4-Brianna Ferdinandi, Johnson, 9.025. 5-Gina Pelosi, Scotch Plains, 8.850. 6-Julie Scales, Governor Livingston, 8.800.

BALANCE BEAM: 1-Lacy Cummings, Westfield, 9.600. 2-Jenna Rodrigues, Westfield, 9.300. 3-Danielle McAuliffe, Cranford, 9.250. 4-Margaret Walch, Cranford, 9.025. 5-Lindsay Robinson, Scotch Plains, 8.950. 6-Brianna Ferdinandi, Johnson, and Jessica Colineri, Scotch Plains, 8.825.

FLOOR EXERCISE: 1-Tina Chabrier, Westfield, 9.425. 2-Lacy Cummings, Westfield, and Brianna Ferdinandi, Westfield, 9.300. 4-Margaret Walch, Cranford, and Kelsey Mahoney, Linden, 9.275. 6-Kelly Bohlinger, Westfield, 9.150.

RC and Johnson harriers impress

Also seek to star at UC meet

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

The Roselle Catholic and Johnson cross country programs have been making a habit lately of being very successful in the Mountain Valley Conference meet.

Both RC teams captured Valley Division crowns, while Johnson's girls' team repeated as Mountain Division champion in last week's competition at Warinanco Park in Elizabeth.

The Lions and Crusaders will also be seeking continued success at next week's Union County meet at Warinanco, scheduled for Oct. 29. The girls' race has a starting time of 3:30 p.m. and the boys' race 4:30 p.m.

Johnson's girls' team won the MVC-Mountain Division title for the first time last year and then went on to win the Union County meet also for the first time.

Leading the way last week for the Crusaders - who were 10 points better than second-place Cranford at 31-41 - was sophomore Sara Vagie, who at this time last year was playing soccer. She finished first in a personal record time of 19:20.8.

The Mountain Division and Valley Division runners ran in the same race. "She was trying to stay as close to the girl from Roselle Catholic (Valley Division winner Ines Simoes, who finished in 18:58.9) as she could," fifth-year Johnson coach Cindy Calnen said. "I was very pleased with how she did."

Johnson had four girls in the top 10, including senior Cathy Goncalves second in 19:27.0, junior Kathleen Mulligan sixth in 20:19.8 and senior Darianna Fraser 10th in 21:31.5.

"I was pleased with our performance," Calnen said. "It was our goal to defend our title. A lot of individual goals were met, so I was pleased with that as well as our team success."

Vagie came out for track last spring and did quite well, which spurred her on to make the switch from soccer to cross country this fall.

"I know she was a good soccer player her freshman year, playing in the midfield," Calnen said. "When she came out for track she was successful, so she decided to continue that success in cross country."

Sara's older sister, Stephanie, was Johnson's No. 2 runner last year. She is now a member of the women's cross country team at Rowan University in Glassboro.

Goncalves won the MVC-Mountain Division race last year in 20:18. Johnson's Union County meet victory last year was obtained on a tiebreaker criteria.

Johnson tied Scotch Plains in the team standings with 104 points, but won the tiebreaker because its sixth runner - sophomore Megan Brattole - had a better time than that of the sixth runner from Scotch Plains - Chana Biner.

Brattole finished 52nd in 23:12.75. Biner placed 60th in 23:42.08. "I wanted to PR (get a personal record) and I wanted to push up to my friend Michelle (Avena who finished 38th in 22:25.26), who was in front of me," Brattole said last year. "I wanted to stay with her, I wanted her in my sights."

"I wanted to pass every green person I saw, every New Providence runner, every Summit person. I just wanted to get out there and run my hardest and I wanted it to hurt. I wanted to hurt so bad that I knew at the end of the race that, no matter what happened, that I couldn't have done anything else."

Calnen would love to repeat in the UC meet, but with a little more breathing room this time.

"We're, obviously, hoping for another win, but this one straight out," Calnen said. "The kids are more competitive now and want more than just the conference."

"Winning the conference and county titles last year was a ground breaking experience. Now it's time to move on and see what we can do in the sectionals and the states."

Johnson finished a perfect 6-0 in regular season competition, beating Mountain Division teams Governor Livingston, Cranford, Union Catholic, Roselle, Hillside and Rahway.

Johnson roster: Sara Vagie, sophomore. Cathy Goncalves, senior. Kathleen Mulligan, junior. Darianna Fraser, senior. Megan Brattole, junior. Becky Bartolick, senior. Jenna Fraser, freshman. Michelle Avena, senior.

RC captured its first MVC girls' title since 1996. Simoes, a sophomore from Newark, led the way.

"It was Ines' personal best and she was out there running by herself from the half-mile mark on," RC coach Paul Irwin said.

"She made a move a half mile into the race and pushed the rest of the way."

See REPEAT, Page 36

Repeat winners highlight MVC races

Nicastro and Simoes are first for Roselle Catholic; Vagie for Johnson

(Continued from Page 35)

Also in the top 10 for RC were junior Tara Sandlin third in 21:04.0, junior Catie Cohen fifth in 21:07.0 and junior Briana Smith 10th in 22:13.7.

"Catie also had a personal best and Brianna was close to one," Irwin said. "Brianna and Jessica Fonseca were sick leading up, so we were nervous. The girls ended up running real well."

Irwin mentioned Johnson, Summit, Westfield and Scotch Plains as the top teams in the county.

"We're looking to be among the top five teams," Irwin said. "It's a strong county on the girls' side."

RC fashioned a 7-0 record in the regular season, which is now complete for the Lions.

Roselle Catholic roster: Ines Simoes, sophomore from Newark. Tara Sandlin, junior from Roselle. Catie Cohen, junior from Union. Briana Smith, junior from Union. Jessica Fonseca, freshman from Union. Gabby Mesaros, senior from Linden. Samantha Castrelos, junior from Union.

RC BOYS' HAVE TOP 4 FINISHERS TO WIN VALLEY DIVISION FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE TIME

RC's boys' team won the Valley Division for the fifth consecutive year by having the top four finishers.

Vinny Nicastro, a senior from Elizabeth, won in a time of 16:55.2, capturing the race for the second straight season. Nicastro won last year in 16:46.

"It was nice for him to come back and repeat," Irwin said. "It wasn't his personal best, but it's not a bad place to be for the second week in October."

Tommy Masko was second in 17:30.5, Travis Boscia third in 17:39.9 and Tyler Boscia fourth in 17:54.3.

"Overall, our first four guys went out too hard," Irwin said.

"They were a little too excited and paid for it at the end of the race."

Andy Jonathan placed 10th in 19:14.0.

Travis Boscia, a senior from Union, was RC's top finisher in last year's UC meet at Warinanco, finishing eighth in 17:02.

Nicastro was next, in 10th place at 17:09.

RC was fifth with 121 points, with Westfield first at 65, Summit second at 66, Scotch Plains third at 90 and Governor Livingston fourth at 94.

"Our first four guys should be up there and will carry us," Irwin said.

"We need a fifth guy to step up and have a good time. If that happens, we should be a top three team."

Irwin said that Summit and Westfield are strong again. RC completed its dual meet season with an unblemished 6-0 mark.

Roselle Catholic roster: Vinny Nicastro, senior from Elizabeth. Tommy Masko, senior from Union. Travis Boscia, senior from Union. Tyler Boscia, sophomore from Union. Andy Jonathan, junior from Roselle. Alessandro Acieto, sophomore from Elizabeth. Victor Porse-na, sophomore from Roselle.

MOUNTAIN VALLEY CONFERENCE MEETS OCT. 15 AT WARINANCO PARK, ELIZABETH

MOUNTAIN DIVISION BOYS': 1-Gov. Livingston 44. 2-Union Catholic 48. 3-Cranford 57. 4-Johnson 104. 5-Rahway 117.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-D.J. Thornton, Union Catholic, 16:10.8. 2-Chris Johnson, Gov. Livingston, 16:16.3. 3-Danny daCosta, Union Catholic, 17:15.9. 4-Matt Calo, Johnson, 17:16.1. 5-Curtis Johnson, Rahway, 17:25.3. 6-Roy Colicchio, Cranford, 17:34.2. 7-Matt Fargione, Gov. Livingston, 17:49.0. 8-Bryan Sobel, Gov. Livingston, 17:53.8. 9-Mike Cahill, Union Catholic, 18:01.6. 10-William Smith, Cranford, 18:10.0.

VALLEY DIVISION BOYS': 1-Roselle Catholic 20. 2-New Providence 45. 3-Oratory 66. 4-Dayton 105. 5-Brearley 145. 6-Technology 178.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Vinny Nicastro, Roselle Catholic, 16:55.2. 2-Tommy Masko, Roselle Catholic, 17:30.5. 3-Travis Boscia, Roselle Catholic, 17:39.9. 4-Tyler Boscia, Roselle Catholic, 17:54.3. 5-Everett Price, New Providence, 18:05.4. 6-Daniel Grimm, Oratory, 18:21.7. 7-Aaron Bauer, New Providence, 18:28.0. 8-Brandon Maret, New Providence, 18:46.1. 9-Will Madsen, New Providence, 18:57.4. 10-Andy Jonathan, Roselle Catholic, 19:14.0.

MOUNTAIN DIVISION GIRLS': 1-Johnson 31. 2-Cranford 41. 3-Gov. Livingston 68. 4-Rahway 103.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Sara Vagie, Johnson, 19:20.8. 2-Cathy Goncalves, Johnson, 19:27.0. 3-Jen St. Onge, Gov. Livingston, 19:55.2. 4-Bridget Miller, Cranford, 20:00.7. 5-Nichelle Harris, Rahway, 20:15.9. 6-Kathleen Mulligan, Johnson, 20:19.8. 7-Alisa Commerato, Cranford, 20:42.4. 8-Joy Hanke, Cranford, 20:54.9. 9-Veronica Miller, Cranford, 21:12.8. 10-Darianna Fraser, Johnson, 21:31.5.

VALLEY DIVISION GIRLS': 1-Roselle Catholic 31. 2-Oak Knoll 56. 3-Kent Place 72. 4-New Providence 80. 5-Dayton 123. 6-Brearley 180.

INDIVIDUALS: 1-Ines Simoes, Roselle Catholic, 18:58.9. 2-Rachel Murray, Dayton, 20:47.4. 3-Tara Sandlin, Roselle Catholic, 21:04.0. 4-Annie Murphy, Oak Knoll, 21:04.3. 5-Catie Cohen, Roselle Catholic, 21:07.0. 6-Amanda Grywalski, Kent Place, 21:11.5. 7-Caitlin Toner, New Providence, 21:26.9. 8-Allison Eckert, Oak Knoll, 21:37.6. 9-Anne Maude Ake, New Providence, 22:01.8. 10-Briana Smith, Roselle Catholic, 22:13.7.

GL, Johnson grid teams seek road wins vs. Group 3s

By JR Parachini
Sports Editor

The Governor Livingston and Johnson football teams seek to bounce back this weekend with road games against Group 3 opponents. GL (3-2) is at Rahway (4-1) Saturday at 1 p.m.

Johnson (4-2) will face Iselin Kennedy (1-5) tomorrow night at 7 at Woodbridge.

The Highlanders have lost two straight after a 3-0 start. A win would be huge for them qualifying in North 2, Group 2. Rahway is trying to make it in North 2, Group 3 and Johnson in Central Jersey, Group 2.

PUBLIC NOTICE

HILLSIDE

Public Auction at Devon Self Storage, 625 Glenwood Ave., Hillside, N.J. 07205 on Tuesday, November 18th, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Property contents in the following units, will be sold to the highest bidder to satisfy the owners' lien for rent under N.J. code section 2A44 - 187ETSEQ. Unit #H4 Patrick Annett contains Household Goods, Clothing and Furniture; Unit #C37 Peter Baez contains Household Goods; Unit #D23 Donald E Cannedy contains Household Goods; Unit #D16 Paul A Gomes contains Household Goods; Unit #H20 Walter A Grant contains Household Goods; Unit #A13 Janna J. Williams contains Household Goods; Clothing and Furniture. Auction is with reserve. Devon Self Storage reserves the right to set minimum bids and to refuse bids. Cash only. October 23, 30, 2008 U224156 WCN (\$25.48)

PLAINFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS

Docket No. : F-26069-08
Superior Court of New Jersey
Chancery Division
Union County

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO:
Ramon A. Gomez
Jose Gomez, and each of their heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, her, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest
Mount Sinai Hospital
Saint Joseph's Regional Medical Center

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon ZUCKER, GOLDBERG & ACKERMAN, LLC, ESQS., plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is 200 Sheffield Street, Suite 301, Mountsinai, New Jersey 07092-0024, telephone number 1-908-233-8500, an Answer to the Amended Complaint filed in a civil action, in which LaSalle Bank NA as trustee for Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through certificates WMALT Series 2006-4 Trust is plaintiff, and Ramon A. Gomez, et al., are defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, and bearing Docket F-26069-08 within thirty-five (35) days after the actual date of such publication, exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your Answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex - CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08626, in accordance with the rules of civil practice and procedure. This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a Mortgage dated 12/23/2006 made by Ramon A. Gomez, a married man as mortgagors, to American Fidelity Mortgage Wholesale Division recorded on 01/30/2008 in Book 11548 of Mortgages for Union County, Page 917

which Mortgage was duly assigned to the plaintiff, LaSalle Bank NA as trustee for Washington Mutual Mortgage Pass-Through certificates WMALT Series 2006-4 Trust, by Assignment of Mortgage dated 07/28/2008; and (2) to recover possession of and concerns premises commonly known as 511-15 PLAINFIELD AVENUE a/k/a 511-515 PLAINFIELD AVENUE, PLAINFIELD, NJ 07060, also being Lot 25 in Block 768. 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.

PUBLIC NOTICE

YOU, RAMON A. GOMEZ, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you executed Plaintiff's obligation and mortgage and may be liable for any deficiency, and are a record owner of the subject property and for any right, title and interest you may have in, to or against the subject property.

YOU, MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you hold a judgment/lien/mortgage which may be against the owner/mortgagor(s) and for any right, title and interest you may have in, to or against the subject property. Upon request, a copy of the Complaint and Amended Complaint, if any, will be supplied to you for particularity.

YOU, JOSE GOMEZ, his heirs, devisees, and personal representatives, and his, their or any of their successors in right, title and interest are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you hold a judgment/lien/mortgage which may be against the owner/mortgagor(s) and for any right, title and interest you may have in, to or against the subject property. Upon request, a copy of the Complaint and Amended Complaint, if any, will be supplied to you for particularity.

YOU, SAINT JOSEPH'S REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you hold a judgment/lien/mortgage which may be against the owner/mortgagor(s) and for any right, title and interest you may have in, to or against the subject property. Upon request, a copy of the Complaint and Amended Complaint, if any, will be supplied to you for particularity. File #FCZ 105565

JENNIFER M. PEREZ, CLERK
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
This is an attempt
to collect a debt,
and any information obtained will
be used for that purpose.
U224245 WCN Oct. 23, 2008 (\$67.13)

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLAINFIELD

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANTS
SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
UNION COUNTY
Docket No. F- 37455-08

STATE OF NEW JERSEY, to:
ERNESTO CARBAJAL

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Plusee, Becker, & Soltzman, LLC, whose address is 20000 Horizon Way, Suite 900, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054, An Answer to the Complaint, filed in a civil action in which Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Inc. Greenpoint Mortgage Funding Trust 2005-AR4, Mortgage Pass-through Certificates, Series 2005-AR4, is Plaintiff and Ernesto Carbajal, et al, are Defendants, pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Union County, bearing Docket No. F-37455-08, within thirty-five days (35) after October 23, 2008 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, Judgment by Default may be rendered against you for relief demanded in the Complaint. You shall file your Answer and Proof of Service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court, Hughes Justice Complex, CN-971, Trenton, New Jersey 08626, in accordance with the Rules of Civil Practice and Procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of foreclosing the mortgage dated June 13, 2005, and made by Ernesto Carbajal, to Mortgage Corner, LLC. (The Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Corner, LLC (The) recorded in the Union County Clerk's Office, on June 21, 2005 Book 11213, at Page 0825; to recover possession of and concerning real estate located at 1217-1221 North Avenue, Plainfield New Jersey 07062.

By written assignment dated September 22, 2008, the said Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Mortgage Corner, LLC (The) assigned its mortgage and bond/note to Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Mortgage Investments II Inc. Greenpoint Mortgage Funding Trust 2005-AR4, Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-AR4, plaintiff herein, which assignment is about to be recorded.

You, Ernesto Carbajal, are made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because you are the owner of record of the mortgaged premises and because you signed Plaintiff's Note and Mortgage and maybe liable for any deficiency and for any lien, claim or interest you or they may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises being foreclosed herein by the Plaintiff.

You may contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County in which this action is pending by calling 908-353-4715. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services Office of the County in which this action is pending by calling 908-354-4340. File #83035

Continued on Next Page

JR's

SPORTS BLOG

All the latest sports chatter, opinions, and scores for Union County.

Visit my blog and keep up to date on sports around the county.

my.localsource.com/unioncountysports

PUBLIC NOTICE

400 FELLOWSHIP ROAD SUITE 100 MT. LAUREL, NJ 08054 (856) 813-5500 Sheriff: Ralph Froehlich A full legal description can be found at the Union County Sheriff's Office Total Upset: \$397,582.29 ***Three Hundred Ninety-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Two and 29/100*** October 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2008 U223726 PRO (\$188.16)

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMIT

SHERIFF'S SALE Sheriff's File Number: CH-08005823 Division: CHANCERY Docket Number: F253057 County: Union Plaintiff: U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION AS TRUSTEE FOR THE STRUCTURED ASSET INVESTMENT LOAN TRUST VS Defendant: JOSE JIMENEZ; STATE OF NEW JERSEY; YALE MATERIALS HANDLING CORP.; ALICE KARRAM; LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY; MARIA PONTIER; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA Sale Date: 11/05/2008 Writ of Execution: 09/08/2008 By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales. The property to be sold is located in the City of Summit, County of Union, State of New Jersey. Premises commonly known as: 4 Clark Street, Summit NJ 07901 BEING KNOWN AS LOT 1, BLOCK 3602, on the official Tax Map of the City of Summit Dimensions: 130 feet x 62.08 feet x 130.19 feet x 62.08 feet Nearest Cross Street: Springfield Ave The Sheriff hereby reserves the right to adjourn this sale without further notice by publication. *Subject to any unpaid taxes, municipal liens or other charges, and any such taxes, charges, liens, insurance premiums or other advances made by plaintiff prior to this sale. All interested parties are to conduct and rely upon their own independent investigation to ascertain whether or not any outstanding interest remain of record and/or have priority over the lien being foreclosed and, if so the current amount due thereon. **If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagor's attorney. Pursuant to 28, U.S.C. Section 2410, this sale is subject to a 1 year right of redemption held by the United States of America by virtue of it's lien: USA vs. Jose Jimenez, Judgment #CR-0000223, in the approximate amount of \$100.00 JUDGMENT AMOUNT: \$420,387.64*** Four Hundred Twenty Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven and 64/100*** Attorney: PHELAN HALLINAN & SCHMIEG, PC 400 FELLOWSHIP ROAD SUITE 100 MT. LAUREL, NJ 08054 (856) 813-5500 Sheriff: Ralph Froehlich A full legal description can be found at the Union County Sheriff's Office Total Upset: \$461,739.57 ***Four Hundred Sixty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty-Nine and 57/100*** October 9, 16, 23, 30, 2008 U223128 OBS (\$174.44)

SUMMIT

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Summit, New Jersey, will hold a hearing on December 1, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey, to consider an application affecting the property whose street address is known as 155 Summit Avenue, Block 2608, Lot 17. The conditions affecting this property and the reason for the application being heard are as follows: Side yard variance to replace existing air conditioning condensers

Applicant request any other waivers or variances as may be required by the Board or its professionals at the time of the hearing.

The application forms and supporting documents are on file in the Department of Community Services, 512 Springfield Avenue, and may be inspected on any workday during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and participate therein, subject to the rules of the Board.

Jon A. Bartlett, President J & L Investments, LLC c/o John J. DeFaney, Jr. Esq. Attorney for Applicant U224262 OBS Oct. 23, 2008 (\$18.62)

PUBLIC NOTICE

MOUNTAINSIDE

SHERIFF'S SALE Sheriff's File Number: CH-08005819 Division: CHANCERY Docket Number: 525408 County: Union Plaintiff: COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS, INC. VS Defendant: NICOLE CAPRIGLIONE Sale Date: 11/12/2008 Writ of Execution: 09/10/2008 By virtue of the above-stated writ of execution to me directed I shall expose for sale by public venue, at the UNION COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All successful bidders must have 20% of their bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales. The property to be sold is located in the BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE, County of UNION and State of New Jersey. Commonly known as: 170 LOCUST AVE, MOUNTAINSIDE, NJ 07092. Tax Lot No. 10 in Block No. 23.B Dimensions of Lot Approximately: .104 AC Nearest Cross Street: U.S. ROUTE 22 BEGINNING AT A POINT ON THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF LOCUST AVENUE DISTANT SOUTHEASTERLY 289.79 FEET FROM THE POINT FORMED BY THE INTERSECTION OF THE NORTHEASTERLY LINE OF LOCUST AVENUE WITH THE SOUTHEASTERLY LINE OF U.S. ROUTE 22. THE SHERIFF HEREBY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJOURN THIS SALE WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE THROUGH PUBLICATION. PRIOR LIENS/ENCUMBRANCES TOTAL AS OF September 19, 2008: \$0.00 JUDGMENT AMOUNT: \$366,453.02*** Three Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Three and 02/100*** Attorney: FEIN, SUCH, KAHN & SHEPARD, PC 7 CENTURY DRIVE SUITE 201 PARSIPPANY, NJ 07054 (973) 538-4700 Sheriff: Ralph Froehlich A full legal description can be found at the Union County Sheriff's Office Total Upset: \$413,098.73 ***Four Hundred Thirteen Thousand Ninety-Eight and 73/100*** October 16, 23, 30, Nov. 6, 2008 U223724 OBS (\$131.32)

SPRINGFIELD

PUBLIC NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD

Take notice that on the 5th day of November, 2008, at 8:00 p.m., a hearing will be held before the Springfield Planning Board at the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey on application on behalf of Oakwood Homes, Inc. Applicant shall seek preliminary and final major subdivision approval to sub-divide Lot 6.01 in Block 3901 into a total of 16 Lots which shall include 15 single-family home residential lots in accordance with S-60 standards. Application shall seek preliminary and final site plan approval for the construction of 253 dwelling units (including the single-family residences references above) of which 238 units are multi-family and 15 units are single family. Of the 238 multi-family units there will be an affordable housing component in accordance with the AH-17 Zoning District Regulations. The applicant shall also seek a de minimis exception for a sidewalk along one side of the street throughout the entire development. The applicant shall also seek any other variances that may be necessary as evidenced by the plans now on file or as may be modified at the request of the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield. This application is made for premises located at Route 22 Westbound and now known as Lot 6.01 in Block 3901 on the Township of Springfield tax map. The application, plans and survey are on file in the Annex Building, 20 North Trivett Street and are available for inspection 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any interested party may appear at said hearing and participate therein in accordance with the rules of the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield. Bruce M. Pitman, Esq. Attorney for Applicant U224265 OBS Oct. 23, 2008 (\$27.44)

SPRINGFIELD

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD COUNTY OF UNION RENT LEVELING BOARD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE, THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RENT LEVELING BOARD WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2008 AT 8:00 P.M. IN THE MAIN MEETING ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR AT 100 MOUNTAIN AVE., SPRINGFIELD, NJ 07081.

MURRAY FROMER, SECRETARY U224177 OBS Oct. 23, 2008 (\$9.80)

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMIT

YOU ARE HERBY NOTIFIED, as provided in the Municipal Land Use Law, that the Zoning Board of Adjustment of the City of Summit, New Jersey will hold a hearing on Monday, November 3, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 512 Springfield Avenue, Summit, New Jersey to consider an application affecting the property whose street address is known as 17 Plymouth Road, Block 5101, Lot 5. The conditions affecting this property and the reasons for the application being heard are as follows: First and second floor additions at the rear and sides of the house requiring Variances for Side Yard Setback, Building Coverage and Floor Area Ratio. Applicant requests any other waivers or variances as may be required by the Board or its professionals at the time of the hearing. The application forms and supporting documents are on file in the Department of Community Services, 512 Springfield Avenue, and may be inspected any workday between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Any interested party may appear at the hearing and participate therein, subject to the rules of the Board. Charles E. Allan Applicant U224264 OBS Oct. 23, 2008 (\$18.13)

PUBLIC NOTICE

CLARK TOWNSHIP OF CLARK NOTICE OF INTENTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following ordinance was introduced and passed on first reading at a Regular Meeting of the Municipal Council of the Township of Clark, County of Union, State of New Jersey on Monday, October 20, 2008 and that said ordinance will be taken up for further consideration and final passage at a Special Meeting at 430 Westfield Avenue, Clark, New Jersey on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 at 7:30 p.m. prevailing time, at which time and place all persons interested therein will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

CAPITAL ORDINANCE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK, IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, NEW JERSEY AUTHORIZING THE ACQUISITION OF NEW DIGITAL TELEPHONE SETS WITH VOICE MAIL CAPABILITIES AND ANY ANCILLARY COSTS RELATED THERETO AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF \$70,000 AND PROVIDING THAT SUCH SUM BE APPROPRIATED SHALL BE RAISED FROM CAPITAL SURPLUS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CLARK

BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Clark, in the County of Union, New Jersey, as follows: Section 1. The Township of Clark, in the County of Union, New Jersey, (The Township) is hereby authorized to acquire new digital telephone sets with voice mail capabilities and any ancillary costs related thereto. Section 2. The sum of \$70,000 is hereby appropriated for the acquisition of said equipment and ancillary costs related thereto, as described in section 1 hereof (hereinafter referred to as "capital purpose"). Said appropriation shall be funded from the Capital Surplus of the Township of Clark for the payment of the cost of said "capital purpose". Section 3. Said purpose is a lawful capital purpose of the Township having a period of usefulness of at least five (5) years. Section 4. The capital budget is hereby amended to conform with the provisions of this capital ordinance to

the extent of any inconsistency therewith and the resolution promulgated by the Local Finance Board showing full detail of the amended capital budget and the capital program as approved by the Director, Division of Local Government Services. Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect at the time and in the manner provided by law. Edith L. Merkel, RMC Township Clerk U224178 EAG Oct. 23, 2008 (\$38.22)

CRANFORD

LEGAL NOTICE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PLANNING BOARD

TAKE NOTICE that on the 14th day of October, 2008, the Planning Board of the Township of Cranford, in the County of Union took the following actions:

1. Application #SD03-08: Adopted a Resolution of Memorialization granting approval with conditions to Trinity Church Applicant, for preliminary and final minor sub-division approval with the following variance: less than the minimum required lot area on Block 315, Lot 1, as designated by the Township Tax Map, also known as 1A Hamilton Avenue in Zone O-2 and a portion of Block 315, Lot 6 as designated on the Township Tax Map, also known as 215 North Avenue East, in Zone R-3. Kevin Illing Board Secretary U224266 EAG Oct. 23, 2008 (\$13.72)

Public Notices on Line www.njpublicnotices.com Your online source for public notices in New Jersey

CRANFORD TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE OF PROPERTY FOR NON-PAYMENT OF TAXES AND OTHER MUNICIPAL CHARGES

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I, THOMAS J. GRADY, COLLECTOR OF TAXES OF THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD IN THE COUNTY OF UNION, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC SALE ON THE 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2008, AT THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING, 8 SPRINGFIELD AVE, CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY AT 10:00 AM OR AT SUCH TIME AND PLACE TO WHICH SAID SALE MAY THEN BE ADJOURNED, EACH AND ALL OF THE SEVERAL LOTS AND PARCELS OF LAND ASSESSED TO THE RESPECTIVE PERSONS WHOSE NAMES ARE SET OPPOSITE EACH RESPECTIVE PARCEL AS THE OWNER THEREOF FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF MUNICIPAL LIENS CHARGEABLE AGAINST SAID LANDS RESPECTIVELY, AS COMPUTED UP TO THE 25TH DAY OF NOVEMBER ALL AS REQUIRED UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 4, CHAPTER 5, TITLE 54 OF THE REVISED STATUTES OF NEW JERSEY 1937, ENTITLED "SALE OF REAL PROPERTY TO ENFORCE LIENS", SECTION 54:5-19 TO 54:5-111 AND AMENDMENTS THERETO

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT THE HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED LANDS AND EACH OF THE RESPECTIVE PARCELS THEREOF, WILL BE SOLD TO MAKE THE AMOUNT OF MUNICIPAL LIENS SEVERALLY CHARGEABLE AGAINST THE SAME ON THE 31ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2007 EXCLUSIVE HOWEVER OF THE LIENS OF THE YEAR AS COMPUTED IN SAID LIST AGAINST EACH PARCEL OF LAND SEVERALLY ASSESSED AS ONE PARCEL TOGETHER WITH INTEREST ON EACH OF THE SEVERAL AMOUNTS RESPECTIVELY TO THE DATE OF THE SALE AND THE COSTS OF THE SALE. PARCELS WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO IMPROVEMENT ASSESSMENT INSTALLMENTS NOT YET DUE AND ANY OMITTED OR ADDED ASSESSMENTS OF IMPROVEMENTS AS PROVIDED IN N.J.S.A. 54:4-63-2 AND 63:4-6-31

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT SAID LANDS WILL BE SOLD AT 18% INTEREST OR LESS TO MAKE THE AMOUNT OF MUNICIPAL LIENS CHARGEABLE AGAINST REDEMPTION AT THE LOWEST RATE OF INTEREST. THE PAYMENTS FOR THE SALE SHALL BE BEFORE CONCLUSION OF THE SALE BY CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER OR THE PROPERTY SHALL BE RESOLD. PROPERTIES FOR WHICH THERE ARE NOT OTHER PURCHASERS SHALL BE STRUCK OFF AND SOLD TO THE TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD IN ACCORDANCE WITH SAID ACT OF THE LEGISLATURE. INTEREST ON SUBSEQUENT LIENS SHALL BE ALLOWED AS PROVIDED BY LAW.

AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE SALE, SAID COLLECTOR WILL RECEIVE PAYMENT OF THE AMOUNT DUE ON ANY PROPERTY WITH INTEREST AND COSTS INCURRED BY CASH, CERTIFIED CHECK OR MONEY ORDER.

THE LAND AND PREMISES TO BE SOLD ARE DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: THE NAMES SHOWN ARE AS THEY APPEAR IN THE TAX DUPLICATE AND DO NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE PARTIES ARE THE PRESENT OWNERS OF PROPERTY.

THOMAS J. GRADY COLLECTOR OF TAXES

TOWNSHIP OF CRANFORD NOTICE OF 2007 TAX SALE

Table with columns: BLOCK & LOT, OWNER NAME, PROPERTY LOCATION, TOTAL. Lists property details for various lots in Cranford, including owners like Schlapak, Meliado, Varga, etc.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE: 0404 008 RCS REO I, LLC%RESIDENTIAL CREDIT 123 NEW ST \$650.00 0403 089 GARDEN STATE PROPERTIES SOLUTION 34 JOHNSON AV \$450.00

U224347 EAG October 23, 30, November 6, 13, 2008 (\$540.96)

Union County

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Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad the first day it runs! We cannot be responsible beyond the first insertion. Should an error occur please notify the classified department. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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All Help Wanted Employment ads include a fax or email link allowing applicants to apply by responding online. Resumes can be sent as attachments.

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30 words \$31.00 Garage Sale signs, price stickers, balloons, helpful hints, inventory sheet and Rain Insurance available.

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Place your classified ad online with Ad Owl 24/7 at www.localsource.com No cost for items priced under \$100.00. Limit one item per ad for 20 words, and two ads per customer per week. Heading must be Miscellaneous (745). NO PHONED IN ADS WILL QUALIFY.

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One low price to advertise - 10 weeks 20 words for \$39.00 No word changes permitted Add a photo for \$8.00



AUTO

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AUTOMOTIVE

AUTO FOR SALE

1999 PONTIAC GRANDPRIX GT, 3.8 engine, 73K miles, 4-door, red, new tires, new brakes, clean good car. \$2,800 firm. 908-477-3435

2003 FORD E-150 Econoline Cargo Van White, air conditioner, radio. 62K miles. One owner \$7,500 or Negotiable. Call 908-687-6529.

2007 FORD ECONOLINE E150. White Cargo van many upgrades, a/c, all power, running boards. 32K-miles, like new. \$13,999. Call 973-313-1443.

2005 CHRYSLER SEBRING Convertible Touring Edition, 6-cylinder 35,000 miles, fully loaded. \$9,000. Call 908-688-7222.

EMPLOYMENT

HELP WANTED

1000 Envelopes=\$12000. GUARANTEED!! Receive \$12 for every envelope stuffed with our sales material. Free 24 hour information 1-800-621-3560 code 11

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DONATE YOUR Car to Special Kids Fund! Help Disabled Children with Camp and Education. Non-Runners OK. Quickest Free Towing. Free Cruise/Hotel Voucher. Tax Deductible. Call 1-866-448-3254.

PLEASE DONATE your car. 1-800-692-1221 Childrens Hope Charities Tax deductible-free pickup-any condition. Also receive gift certificate for each car donated. Help Us, Help Children.

HELP WANTED

\$600 WEEKLY POTENTIAL!!! Helping The Government part time. No Experience. No selling. Call: 1-888-213-5225 Ad Code E. Void in Maryland and South Dakota

\$600 WEEKLY Potential \$\$\$.. Helping the government, PT. No experience. No Selling. Call Today!! 1-888-213-5225 Ad code: H Cost.

After School Aide Part Time Positions In Dayton, South Plainfield and Clark

To work with children with Autism, Will train! Start up to \$11.00! Email resume to: emmerich@nhautism.org Call 732-918-0850x 26 or Fax 732-918-0091

LOCAL JOB SEARCH

HELP WANTED

Administrative DIRECTV Home Services provides a rich benefits program where compensation matches contributions. For opportunity, growth, and rewards in the global market, it's DIRECTV! DIRECTV Home Services is currently recruiting for the following position:

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Please reference "Newspaper" as your referral source. If you are not able to access our Web site, DIRECTV.com, please mail your resume and salary requirements to: DIRECTV Home Services, 6501 E. Belleview Ave, Ste 500, Englewood, CO 80111.

Please also include the reference number for the position in which you are interested.

No phone calls, please. EOE.

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HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED Earn Extra Income, assembling CD cases from home. Start immediately. No experience necessary. 1-800-405-7619 ext 1395 www.easywork-greatpay.com

HAIRSTYLIST WANTED. Full Time or Part Time, Maplewood Store. Call 201-983-9037.

IMMEDIATE OPENING for bilingual, spanish speaking individual with medical office experience for busy Orthopedic surgeons office. General phone and office duties. Entry level position. Fax resume to Mary Pat @ 973 467-2364.

JOB GOING NOWHERE? Interested in fashion, sports, music? Start exciting sales career. Get paid while you train. Earn up to \$1,500 weekly! Travel the country. Call 1-877-646-5050

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The YMCA of Eastern Union County, Five Points Branch, is hiring role models to work in School Age Child Care. AM and PM shifts. Contact Anna: 908-688-9622. www.ymcaec.org

HELP WANTED

ADVERTISEMENT FOR AVAILABLE SEAT ON THE ROSELLE BOARD OF EDUCATION NOTICE

The Roselle Board of Education currently has a vacancy for a seat on the Board. If you would like to apply to be considered for appointment to the seat, please forward a letter of intent along with a resume by November 7, 2008 to:

Lulggi Campana, Board Secretary
 Roselle Board of Education
 710 Locust Street
 Roselle, New Jersey 07203

Those interested in seeking a seat on the Board may be required to attend a public meeting and be interviewed in public session by the full Board.

The seat will be filled by a majority vote of the present members of the Board, and the individual selected will serve until the April 2009 school election.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:12-1 et. seq., all candidates must possess the following qualifications:

- Be able to read and write;
- Hold U.S. citizenship and residency in the school district for at least one year;
- Have no interest in any contract with, or claim against, the Board;
- Not hold office as mayor or member of the municipal governing body or, in the case of county school districts, the county governing body;
- Be registered to vote in the district; and
- Not be disqualified as a voter pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:4-1.

Serving on a School Board

As a member of the Board of Education, you would be expected to fulfill certain responsibilities including attending Board and committee meetings, and:

- Establishing goals for the public schools based on student educational needs, parent and community aspirations, state and federal standards and district financial resources;
- Developing a philosophy of education that will become the basis for sound decisions that affect the governance of your community's schools;
- Developing policies to guide the administration in managing the schools and bylaws to direct the Board in carrying out its governance responsibilities;
- Developing a community understanding of educational issues and school policies through the maintenance of effective communications systems;
- Establishing conditions that enable the administration to recruit and effectively evaluate professional staff;
- Engaging in Board self-evaluation and training programs and CSA/Superintendent evaluation for the purpose of providing well-informed leadership and sound decision-making; and
- Establishing a process for the Board to negotiate in good faith with its employees, while representing community educational goals and financial interests.

GARAGE/YARD SALES

GARAGE/YARD SALES

CLARK, 33 RUNNYMEDE Road. Saturday, October 25, 9am-4pm. Bargains for all. No Early Birds. Raindate Sunday October 26

CLARK- 285 Valley Road. Saturday, October 25; 9am-2pm. Multi-Family. Clothes, household items, books, toys, kids stuff, Something for Every One.

SPRINGFIELD, 90 BATTLEHILL Avenue, (off Morris Avenue). Saturday, October 25 & Sunday, October 26, 9am-3pm. Fabric & Trim galore, antiques, women's clothing, household-items & much more.

SPRINGFIELD- 123 New Brook Lane. Sunday, October 26; 11am-5pm. Children's books & various household items, grill, picnic table. All Prices Negotiable.

GARAGE/YARD SALES

SPRINGFIELD, 34 Mohawk Drive (off Milltown Road). Saturday, October 25, 9am-2pm. Household items, exercise equipment, pictures, frames and much more.

UNION, 1788 OAK HILL Drive, (off Oakland Avenue). Saturday, October 25, 9am-5pm. Eclectic/ vintage items, costume jewelry, small household items, books, holiday decorations, and much more. No Early Birds.

UNION, 2130 LEONARD Terrace, (off Halsey Street). Saturday October 25, 9:00am-3:00pm. Raindate November 1. Oak entertainment center \$75. Accent tables \$40. Craft supplies, lamps, vintage cameras, cookbooks, records and more.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADOPTION: Faced with an unplanned Pregnancy? Loving childless couples await. Receive information/pictures; You choose. Open or Closed Adoption. Assistance Available. Call compassionate counselor 1-866-236-7838; 24/7

BUY NEW JERSEY for \$445! The New Jersey Press Association can place your 25-word classified ad in over 135 NJ newspapers throughout the state - a combined circulation of over 2 million households. Call Diane Trent at NJPA at 609-406-0600 extension: 24, e-mail dtrent@njpa.org or visit www.njpa.org for more information (Nationwide placement available) Ask About our TRI-BUY package to reach NY, NJ and PA!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EACH WEEK hundreds of Public Notices are published in New Jersey's daily and weekly newspapers! View them at www.njpublicnotices.com. Access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, sheriff sales, foreclosures, RFP, bids for schools, town meetings, variances, plus many other types. Search manually or subscribe to Smart Search and have notices sent to your e-mail automatically Go to: www.njpublicnotices.com for more information and to subscribe.

INSTRUCTION

INSTRUCTION

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- Pre-Sale Checklist
- Sales Record Form
- 2 Wooden Sign Stakes, 24 inch with Assembly Bands
- E-Z Assembly Instruction Sheet
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For More Information Call Classified At 908-686-7850

Garage Kit Can Be Purchased Separately For \$10.00

INSTRUCTION

AIRLINES ARE HIRING- Train for high paying Aviation Maintenance Career...

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MISCELLANEOUS

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

(2) \$50-off certificates for \$29. Minimum \$150 purchase in Coach store required...

20 CUBIC FEET Commercial Freezer hardly used \$250. Call 908-510-7153.

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CHERRY BEDROOM Set- Solid Wood, never used, brand new in factory boxes...

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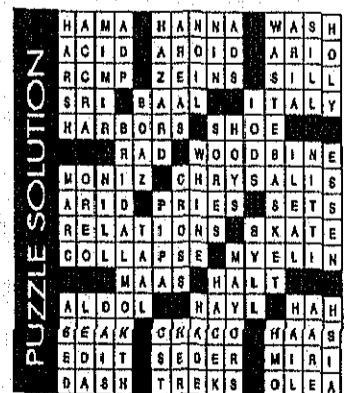
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REAL ESTATE & BUSINESS

PAGE 46 — THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2008

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UNION COUNTY LOCALSOURCE

New businesses set up shop in Cranford

By Paul Greulich
Staff Writer

CRANFORD — Several businesses are finding new homes in downtown Cranford this fall, demonstrating the town's ongoing appeal despite uncertainties in the broader economic climate.

One recent addition to the downtown will be the Italian Pantry Bistro, which opened Oct. 13 at 13 Eastman St.

Husband and wife owners Frank and Lisa Rizzo are Cranford residents who plan to offer patrons fine dining in a casual atmosphere.

"The best way to describe it is food that has an Italian influence," explained Lisa Rizzo. "It's all fresh and seasonal."

Frank Rizzo will work as the chef. Rizzo visited family in Italy each year during his childhood and hopes to create a restaurant that will capture the welcoming, familiar atmosphere.

Lisa Rizzo said the township of Cranford was an appealing site for their business because of the convenient location and the healthy downtown environment.

"It's really a beautiful downtown and its very much up and coming as well," Rizzo said.

Cranford Downtown Management Corp. Chairman Paul LaCorte, who owns the building that will house the Italian Bistro, said it seems like a promising business with dedicated owners.

"They seem like two young people truly interested in their business," LaCorte said. "They're very hardworking and have put a lot of their sweat equity into it, which is a good sign."

Rita's Ice, an Italian ice shop, has plans to occupy one of Cranford Crossing's long-empty retail slots. Public Relations Manager Kelly Banaszak did not return calls for comment on the shop's move into Cranford.

A new business that has found success in Cranford is the framing and gift store known as Simply..., which has been open about seven months.

This establishment, located at 11 Walnut Avenue, is run by Plainfield resident Gary Fletcher.

Fletcher reported fine progress

thus far, stating that most similar shops in the area offer either artwork, framing or gifts, while his establishment offers a combination of these products and services to attract a variety of customers.

"It's coming along. It's a little bit different than other places in town," Fletcher said.

He praised the downtown as a healthy place to do business.

"I love Cranford and I think it's a great town," Fletcher said.

LaCorte said local businesses seem to be bearing up under the economic strain, noting that smaller tenants in smaller units with smaller rents may be at an advantage in the current crisis.

"In this economy, I think Cranford is more than holding its own," LaCorte said. "We seem to be in a pretty good position to weather the economic storm. I don't anticipate too many problems. This is one instance where not having great big stores may be a plus."

DMC Director Kathleen Prunty said that despite economic conditions, the downtown has a vacancy rate of just 4 percent.

"The fact that people are still interested in investing here says a lot about Cranford and the downtown opportunities," Prunty said of the business district.

While the downtown continues to welcome new business, a linger-

ing down note is Cranford Crossing's retail component, which remains more than half empty, with 12,000 of its 22,000 square feet vacant.

Town officials and candidates for Township Committee have expressed a need to remedy this situation.

Prunty said that the DMC continues to promote Cranford as a good place to invest and do business, but she pointed out that neither the township or the DMC is responsible for leasing space in Cranford Crossing.

Paul Greulich can be reached at 908-686-7700 ext. 121, or editorials@thelocalsource.com.



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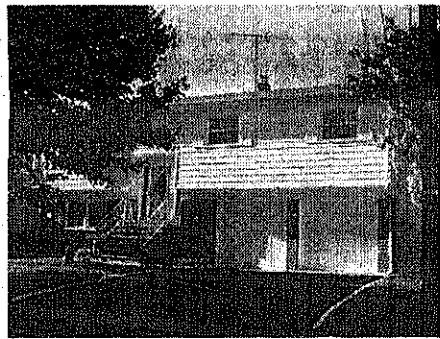
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Local credit union obtains '5-Star' rating

Bauerfinancial Inc., headquartered in Coral Gables, Fla., has announced that County Educators Federal Credit Union of Roselle Park has earned its highest 5-Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability.

Well-run financial institutions, such as County Educators Federal Credit Union, "have risen above the calamity that has befallen so many others," it was reported. Also, reportedly, the 5-Star Superior rating is based on the overall financial picture of the credit union and indicates that County Educators Federal Credit Union is one of the strongest in the nation.

"It gives me great pleasure to announce that there are still financial institutions, like County Educators Federal Credit Union that continue to build a sense of a security in this insecure world," said Karen L. Dorway, president of Bauerfinancial. "County Educators Federal Credit Union's members have the privilege of belonging to a well-run, common sense credit union. They can sleep soundly in the knowledge that they belong to one of the strongest credit unions in the country."

County Educators Federal Credit Union was established in 1935 and has been serving the financial needs of its members for 73 years. It currently operates through three offices in Lebanon, Roselle Park and Somerville and can be found on the Internet at www.countyedfcu.org.


Bauerfinancial Inc. is the nation's leading independent bank and credit union rating and research firm, and has been reporting on and analyzing the performance of United States banks and credit unions since 1983. No institution pays for its rating, nor can they elude it. Consumers can obtain star-ratings by visiting www.bauerfinancial.com.

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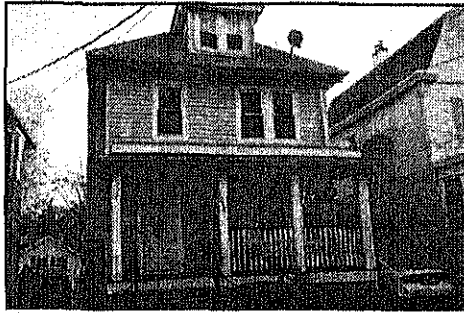
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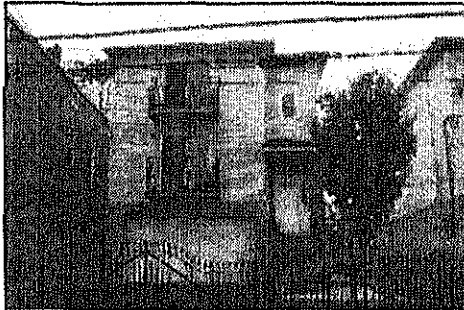
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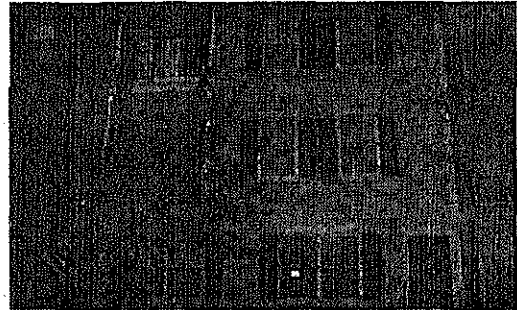
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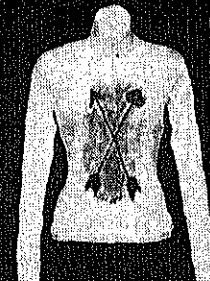
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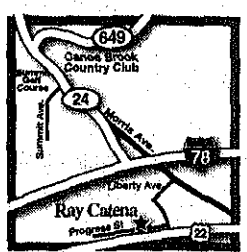


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- 2006 Mercedes-Benz S500 4MATIC Black/black, 29,143 mi.
- 2006 Mercedes-Benz CLK350 White/stone, 20,459 mi.
- 2006 Mercedes-Benz CLS500 Sport Red/black, 22,473 mi.
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- 2006 Mercedes-Benz E350 4MATIC Flint grey/ash, 20,934 mi.
- 2006 Mercedes-Benz E350 4MATIC Flint/ash, 24,916 mi.
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- 2006 Mercedes-Benz R350 4MATIC Alpine rain/black, 23,326 mi.
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INSIDE BUSINESS

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Volume Eleven, Number Eleven
November 2008

Businesses Heal Thysel and Save

By Karen Miller

"I can't afford to be sick" is no longer a joke.

As the cost of health insurance and health care continues to skyrocket, companies are finding new ways to

continue to provide these important benefits for their employees while still containing costs.

Wellness services, incentives for a healthy lifestyle, and on-site medical

clinics staffed by a doctor, nurse or nurse practitioner are becoming increasingly popular ways to contain health care costs while improving employee health, attendance and

productivity.

"We've seen phenomenal growth in the area of corporate health programs," said Jim Smith, manager of Atlantic Corporate Health. The company's corporate program has doubled in size in the last 24-30 months; they now serve about 40 locations in northern New Jersey, ranging from Fortune 500 companies to county government and mid-sized businesses.

The services for which each company contracts with Atlantic Corporate Health are unique to its needs and can range from full-time on-site staffing of a medical clinic to wellness and health education classes or special services such as administering flu shots or blood pressure screenings. Many companies do not have the budget for a full-time staff person, but still use Atlantic Corporate Health's services for "lunch and learn" programs on a variety of wellness issues, or periodic screenings and evaluations, Smith explained.

"The mission of Atlantic (Corporate) Health is to improve health care in our community," he said. "On-site clinics offer convenient, easy access to health services."

While in the past on-site employee medical clinics were often targeted to treatment of workplace accidents or dealing with minor illnesses, today's employee clinics often offer a much greater range of services.

"Companies are realizing that when an employee leaves work to treat an illness, productivity is lost," Smith said.

If employees can have their healthcare needs taken care of on-site, the company gains in several ways. Not only is less time lost on the job, but often the cost of treatment is less

than it would be if the employee was treated by an outside physician. In addition, people are more likely to use an on-site clinic for preventive medicine, taking care of health problems before they become great enough that the employee must take time off from work.

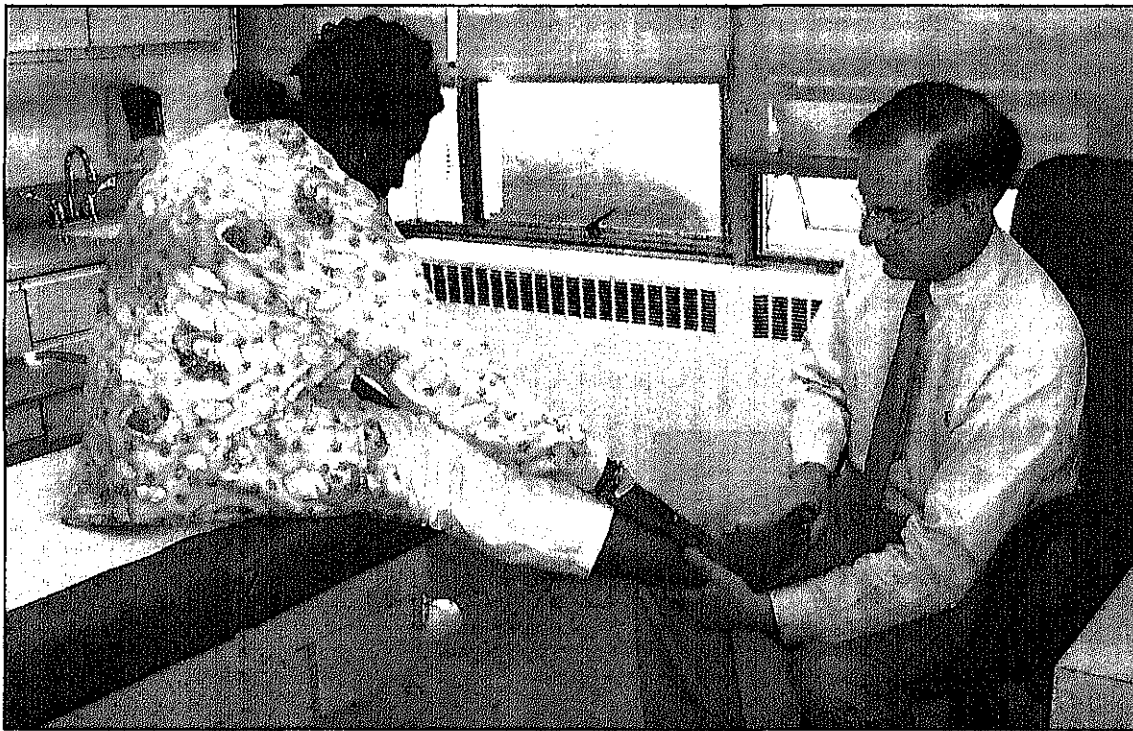
Trinitas Hospital in Elizabeth offers a variety of services aimed at workplace healthcare. The hospital has developed programs specifically for outside employers while also placing an emphasis on providing on-site wellness services, health screenings and health safety for its own employees, according to Glenn Nacion, vice president of human resources for Trinitas.

The hospital began a workplace health and safety initiative in 2006 and already has seen the benefits of this type of program. Workers' compensation claims have dropped dramatically in the last two years.

"We have saved over \$1 million in workers' compensation insurance since 2006," Nacion said. Claims dropped from 40 in 2006 to 31 in 2007, and the number of sick days decreased from 1,813 in 2006 to 935 in 2007. Nacion expects the trend to continue when the final figures come in for 2008.

Wellness programs are not just about saving the employer money, however. They also have been shown to increase employee morale and their sense of well being, leading to "happier and more productive employees," Nacion said.

Trinitas is home to the Occupational Medicine Center, which focuses on the care of patients who have been injured on the job. The center also provides pre-employment screenings



The latest trend in fighting health care costs for businesses includes both on-site and dedicated in-hospital medical care and guidance. Above, Dr. Robert Beswick, Medical Director of Occupational Medicine at Trinitas Hospital, examines a patient who suffered an injured ankle.

Where Have You Gone...My Buffalo Nickels?

By Rod Hirsch

Rolls of uncirculated 19th Century Morgan Silver Dollars, diamond earrings and Tiffany sterling. Savings bonds, travelers checks, passbook savings and mature CDs; Good old wads of cash.

This was just some of the bounty handed over to the state of New

Jersey last year by banks and savings & loan institutions simply because their rightful owners had not shown enough interest in the assets.

Last year, New Jersey returned \$85 million in unclaimed property to 36,000 residents, but not before taking a hefty cut of the loot.

The practice of "escheatment" enables states to lay claim to hundreds of millions of dollars in dormant, forgotten bank accounts and assets secreted away in safe deposit boxes. In New Jersey, 75 percent of all funds escheated to the state and deposited

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)

"Gateway to Growth"

The Gift

By John L. Picard

You can see a lot just by looking. — Yogi Berra

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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Where Have You Gone... My Buffalo Nickels?

(Continued from page 1)

into the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund are transferred to the state's General Revenue Fund.

For any number of reasons, property owners often overlook assets or do not know they exist. Typically, owners have forgotten about that college fund they started years ago, or have died. Often their heirs are unaware the assets were collecting interest or collecting dust in a bank vault. After a defined period of inactivity, by law banks turn over these assets to the state.

The practice of escheatment is not limited to New Jersey.

"The process is pretty consistent at all banks," said Brian Ziembra, regional vice president of Commerce Bank. "It's required by law. In New Jersey and Connecticut, it's a three-year window; in Pennsylvania and New York, it's five years."

Once banks verify that the last recorded activity falls within the parameters of state law, they notify the account holder at their last known address that the account has been dormant and that it will be turned over to the state according to the provisions of the law, Ziembra explained.

"If the owner or an heir responds by phone or letter, we can then help them mitigate the funds, or refer them to the state to recoup those funds or actual property," he said.

"Generally, what we hear from consumers is that they have a dormant account they've discovered," said Marshall McKnight, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance. "For example, it was a small savings account in a bank that got bought by another bank that merged into a bigger bank and merged again into a much bigger bank."

New Jersey amended its escheatment statutes in 2003 to reduce the dormant time period from 10 years to three. Not surprisingly, there was a dramatic spike in the value of assets collected that year, increasing to \$294 million. The 2003 law also required that 75 percent of all funds escheated to the state and deposited into the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund be transferred to the state's General Revenue Fund.

According to Tom Vincz, a spokesman for the New Jersey Division of Taxation, New Jersey typically averages about \$85 million in unclaimed assets collected each year. That money is held in the state's Unclaimed Property Trust Fund, and interest earned is turned over to the state's General Revenue Fund. If a rightful owner claims an asset, the principal is returned, along with interest.

The key word there being "if."

Nationwide, state governments collected \$5.1 billion in abandoned assets in 2006, up from \$3.6 billion in 2003, according to a recent article authored by Arkadi Kuhlmann, president and CEO of the online bank ING Direct USA. There are more than \$35 billion of escheated properties in state custody, and less than a third of that amount will be returned to the rightful owners, Kuhlmann said.

New Jersey sells off tangible assets, primarily from safe deposit boxes, if no claims are put in on those assets after five years. This month the state held a sealed bid auction at the Atlantic City 2008 Fall Festival in Atlantic City that featured 200 lots of unclaimed property, including: an Art Deco Cartier wristwatch, a 2.55-carat platinum and diamond ring carrying a minimum bid of \$4,000, a 19th century Tiffany & Co. sterling flatware set, an 1889 Russian gold coin and uncirculated Buffalo nickels.

For those who have lost track of assets, or are just curious, there are a number of ways to determine whether they are the rightful owners of any unclaimed funds or assets. Representatives of the state Division of Taxation equipped with laptops regularly attend expos, fairs, trade shows and ballgames throughout New Jersey and encourage residents to find out whether there are any unclaimed funds that are rightfully theirs. It takes just a few seconds to enter a name and tap into the database to see whether there is a match.

The Division of Taxation website also offers a link to an authorized website, MissingMoney.com, that helps facilitate the return of unclaimed property to its rightful owner, both in New Jersey and other states.

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Atlantic Corporate Health

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Today businesses large and small are improving their products and services while honing their efficiencies through 21st century work models and technology – saving money, increasing profits and gaining an edge on their competition.

Yet despite these advances in product and process, businesses still feel a drag on success due to employee absenteeism, reduced productivity and skyrocketing health care costs.

Cutting-edge companies are increasingly taking greater control of employee health and health care costs by applying the same business principals to this important segment of operations as they do elsewhere – assessment, design and management.

Atlantic Corporate Health is the expert hundreds of New Jersey businesses have turned to for tailored proactive employee wellness programs to help keep their workforce healthy, reduce lost time while improving productivity, and manage health care administration and compliance. Atlantic Corporate Health has designed and implemented employee health programs for businesses and government bodies covering more than 50,000 employees.

Program components include:

- On-Site Medical Services – Including assessment, management and administration.
- Employee Physicals and Testing – For new and current employees.
- Health Education and Screenings – Covering nutrition, stress management, weight control and more, and including early detection screening.
- On-Site Flu Vaccination Clinics – Only \$25 per vaccination.
- Smoking Cessation – Group treatment, including medicine and behavior modification.
- Work Injury Program – Dedicated work injury attention, affiliated with the Morristown Memorial Hospital Emergency Department.
- Travel Medicine – Preparing employees for healthy international travel.
- Employee Assistance Program – Helping employees cope before problems impact performance.
- Premiere Executive Health Program – Including 24-hour physician access.

Because Atlantic Corporate Health brings these services directly to businesses, they are

convenient for employees, increasing the likelihood of participation and effectiveness.

The pinch of employee health care costs has turned into a death grip for businesses of all sizes. U.S. businesses spend between \$300 and \$400 per year treating hypertension, heart disease, depression or arthritis, according to the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. A report cited by the American Heart Association states that overweight employees annually cost their employer an additional \$450 to \$2,500 in medical expenses and absences. And companies annually lose an average of \$3,865 in medical and lost productivity costs per smoker.

"Employers are fighting back, and they're winning," said Jim Smith, manager of Atlantic Corporate Health. "They are applying the same strategic planning to their health care management as they do to product development or sales. By incorporating wellness programs into the workplace, employers are being proactive – assessing, planning and implementing to improve."

Wellness programs have a median return on investment of more than \$3 for every \$1 spent, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. For example, every employee who gets a flu shot saves a company \$60 per year, as stated by the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Flu shot vaccination clinics are just one of the services offered by Atlantic Corporate Health, which include on-site medical services that entail customized medical, health, safety and preventive services such as health care management and early identification of health problems. On-site personnel may include board-certified physicians, registered nurses and/or nurse practitioners, health educators and registered dietitians.

"All companies are different," Smith said. "They have varying operations and work requirements, different types of employees – field, warehouse or office employees – with different behavior patterns, and health care needs unique to them. That is why custom-tailored wellness programs are so effective in helping companies contain health care costs, reduce absenteeism, improve productivity and strengthen their bottom line."

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Businesses Heal Thyselves and Save (Continued from page 1)

and annual employee physicals to local employers, said Nacion.

Employers pay for the screenings, which can be tailored to the specific needs of each company. Some companies are required to have their employees tested yearly for exposure to lead or other chemicals. Others use the center's services for pre-employment screenings for drug and alcohol use.

The value of pre-employment drug screenings far outweighs the cost to the employer, according to Nacion.

"Studies show that even one employee with a drug or alcohol problem can cost an employer thousands of dollars in lost work time, mistakes or accidents," he said.

There are added advantages to both employer and employee in Trinitas' Occupational Medicine Center. If an on-the-job accident occurs and a patient is brought to the emergency room at Trinitas, the Occupational Medical Center staff is close at hand to provide "a greater scope and breadth of expertise," as well as continuity in follow-up care.

"Having the center on-site means that procedures such as X-rays don't have to be repeated; it is both a cost savings and (is) healthier for the patient," he said.

Horizon Blue Cross/Blue Shield of New Jersey launched a new workplace wellness program, "Journey to Health," in July.

While the program was initially designed for Horizon employees, many of the components also will be offered to the insurer's corporate clients, as well. The five-year initiative includes awareness, education and behavior change components, according to Cynthia Tobia, director of compensation, benefits and human resources information systems for Horizon.

The program began with "an assessment of the overall health of the organization to use (as) a baseline," she explained. All employees were encouraged to take an online health survey. Health screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and other common preventable health issues also were offered to employees at each of the company's New Jersey sites.

Convincing employees to take part in the program was a concern, Tobia said, so incentives in the form of gift cards were given to all participants. The incentives increased with the amount of overall group participation. Each employee who participated in the survey received a \$50 gift card, with the dollar value of the cards increasing as total employee participation grew. Final participation was 68 percent, Tobia said.

The program did not stop with screenings and surveys. Employees also have been offered seminars on a variety of topics ranging from stress management to smoking cessation to dieting.

To help employees develop healthier eating habits, changes have been made in the company's cafeterias, including adding more healthy meal options, and placing healthier foods at eye level while items such as candy bars have been relocated to a less prominent spot.

Results have been mixed, Tobia said. Some of the programs have attracted more participants than others; a seminar on portion control attracted only a few hundred participants company-wide. In response, the company changed the program format to make it more attractive to employees.

"Let's face it, people don't really want to use their lunch hour, their free time, to hear about how they should restrict their diet," she said.

Tobia said she is pleased overall with the success of the initiative, and credits support from the company's CEO, William Marino, and the board of directors in making the program a success to date. Marino launched the program with a company-wide video presentation.

The program demonstrates the company's support and emphasis on the health of its employees, according to Tobia.

"After all, 50 percent of health problems are impacted by our behavior," she said. "That means that our lifestyles really do play an important part in whether or not we are healthy."

The Canterbury Sales™

The Tale of the Skeptical Prospect and Aristotle's Great Souled Man

By Andy Gole

Recently, I was invited to give a sales seminar to a group of inner city entrepreneurs. The group leader cautioned me to avoid the "corporate speak" of previous presenters, to talk "to the group, not over their head."

I had a dilemma – without interacting with the group, should I change my standard seminar for business owners? As I considered the question, I was reminded of the story of the skeptical prospect...

Some years ago, a sales consultant was invited to visit a skeptical prospect, to discuss training a team of eight salespeople. The consultant had worked for more than a year to realize this appointment. He had first identified the prospect by tracking the "help wanted" ads for salespeople where this company was advertising. Then he contacted and told the business owner, "You don't need a salesperson; you need a new selling system."

This is a tough sale – it isn't transactional, it's systemic change.

At first, the owner wasn't interested. But the consultant persisted, and eventually, a year later, he had an appointment.

After two solid meetings, both parties agreed there was a fit and started working on an agreement. The prospect conducted substantial due diligence – checking 10 of the consultant's references, both owners and salespeople who he had trained. (When was the last time you checked 10 references or someone checked 10 of your references?) The consultant was subjected to the due diligence version of a doctor's fluoroscope.

But the prospect still wasn't satisfied, as the consultant had no experience in their space, or business sector. These were the real McCoy of skeptics. The negotiation continued over two months, with several "false starts."

Finally, one fateful day, the prospect's president again articulated his skepticism. "I know

your system works for all these other clients, but how do I know it will work in my unique space?"

The consultant reflected on this skepticism and was reminded of Aristotle's great souled man. In the Nicomachean Ethics, Aristotle presents the "great souled man" as the epitome of human accomplishment – to be so respected by everyone that you command their serious attention when you speak.

The consultant told the skeptic his selling system always worked – in all spaces, at all times, for all people. At its core, the system was based on *earning the right* to be treated like Aristotle's great souled man. The reason sales teams appreciate the selling system is they want to be respected. It's a fundamental human need.

Some selling systems have contempt for the prospect. This leads ultimately to self-contempt. No salesperson can be nourished on a diet of self-contempt.

But a diet of mutual respect will fuel a salesperson's soul for a lifetime.

The consultant could never be sure if this discussion "put it over the top," but they closed the deal that day. And 18 months later, the client's sales were up more than 50 percent.

As I thought about my experience with the skeptical client, I knew what I had to do in addressing the group of entrepreneurs. My selling system is universal, so I had to present the same seminar I would give to any group.

And they loved it! They especially like the stories I told about achieving respect.

The moral of the story is: When you sell, earn the right to respect and then insist that you be treated respectfully!



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Andy Gole has taught selling skills for 13 years. He started three businesses and has made approximately 4,000 sales calls, selling both B2B and B2C. He invented a selling process, *Urgency Based Selling™*, with which he can typically help companies double their closing or conversion ratio. Learn more about Andy's method at www.bombadillic.com or by calling him at 201.415.3447.

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Trinitas Hospital Launches Occupational Medicine Center

Offers full range of workplace exams and medical programs

A new, freestanding service for employers – Occupational Medicine at Trinitas Hospital – is now available for the care of occupational injuries and illnesses. Located on the main campus of Trinitas Hospital, the center conducts pre-placement, annual and DOT/ICC exams and medical surveillance programs designed to meet the particular needs of companies and organizations for their workforces.

Among the center's many services are drug and alcohol testing with services of a certified Medical Review Officer (MRO) available on site. Also offered are pharmacy services, radiology, laboratory, physical and occupational therapy services, vision screening, hearing conservation services, pulmonary function testing and immunizations. Ergonomics and back injury prevention are key components of a work-conditioning program that is offered to help reduce the risk of recurrent injuries and improve job performance.

Explained Glenn Nacion, vice president of human resources at Trinitas Hospital, "Occupational Medicine at Trinitas Hospital offers full, 24-hour bilingual support to area employers for all of their employee health needs."

"Our staff is fully versed in providing excellent episodic and preventive occupational health care for companies in Union County and surrounding areas," noted medical director Robert Beswick MD, MPH. Dr. Beswick is Board Certified in occupational medicine and internal medicine, and has more than two decades of experience in the development and implementation of high quality occupational medicine programs throughout the state.

To learn more about Occupational Medicine at Trinitas Hospital, call 908.994.5368.

About Trinitas Hospital

Trinitas Hospital is a major center for comprehensive health services for those who live and work in Central New Jersey. Offering 531 beds, Trinitas is distinguished by no less than 10 Centers of Excellence, which include: the Trinitas Comprehensive Cancer Center; the Trinitas School of Nursing; the Center for Wound Healing & Hyperbaric Medicine; the Sleep Disorders Center; cardiology services; maternal/child health



The staff of Occupational Medicine at Trinitas Hospital includes: Robert Beswick, MD, MPH, Medical Director; Rhonda Hartley, RN (left); Patricia Thiel, RN, BS, Director, Occupational Therapy and Employee Health (right); and Rosemary Medina, office secretary.

services; diabetes management; women's services, renal care; behavioral health services; and senior services. The Department of Behavioral Health & Psychiatry offers one of the most comprehensive services in the state for the psychiatric treatment of children and adults. Trinitas serves as the Center for End-Stage Renal Care for Eastern Union County. Trinitas is a Catholic teaching hospital sponsored by the Sisters of Charity of Saint Elizabeth in partnership with Elizabethtown Healthcare Foundation. For more information on Trinitas Hospital visit www.TrinitasHospital.org or call 908.994.5138.

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Inside Views

There Is Reason to Fear

The days are getting shorter. The nights are getting longer and more dangerous.

And the City of Elizabeth has become a war zone.

In 2006 Elizabeth had the 24th highest homicide rate in the country for cities between 100,000 and 250,000, even though by population it is on the low end of this category of medium size cities.



Jim Coyle

Though the national comparison data for 2007 is not yet available, Elizabeth's murder rate increased by more than 20 percent in 2007 with 16 homicides in the city. Given that the national trend was down in 2007, Elizabeth's rank can be expected to jump substantially.

Even more troubling than the murder rate is the few number of murders that are solved in Elizabeth. In 2007 nine of the 16 killings remain unsolved, more than 50 percent. So far this year, eight of the 11 murders remain unsolved. That's nearly 75 percent. This means that if you kill someone, you have only a one-in-four-chance of getting arrested, let alone convicted for the crime.

Unfortunately I could not find statistics that allow for a comparison of rates of unsolved murders. However, it stands to reason to expect that a 75 percent unsolved murder rate ranks Elizabeth in the very top of any city in the country. This is not a distinction to be proud of.

Gang violence is at the root of the killings in Elizabeth. Everyone knows this. There are drive-by shootings. There are gang initiation killings. There are revenge killings. There are accidents, perhaps the saddest of all.

Everyone knows that there is a serious gang problem in Elizabeth. However, one person will not admit it. Unfortunately, that person is the mayor of Elizabeth, Chris Bollwage, and what he says carries a lot of weight in this city.

You have to feel sorry for the Elizabeth police department. When their city is in official denial of the very existence of gangs, it is hard for them to mount an effective defense against gang violence. For instance, the Elizabeth police do not even have a gang unit and they do not collect gang statistics or intelligence. It is no wonder that they have such a hard time solving gang killings when they do not even admit that there are gangs.

When you have a breakdown like this, it becomes incumbent on the county prosecutor to intervene. Ted Romankow, the county prosecutor, has tried, unsuccessfully, to provide help. Mayor Bollwage has rebuffed him at every turn.

Recently the prosecutor suggested forming a countywide homicide task force that would incorporate resources from multiple police forces to help solve all these murders. That offer, too, was rebuffed, with Mayor Bollwage decrying the interference. So emphatic was the mayor that he sent multiple carloads of uniformed police to Scotch Plains in an obvious attempt to intimidate the prosecutor into staying out of Elizabeth.

One hopes these tactics, so similar to those applied by the gangs themselves, will not work. If he has to, the prosecutor does have the authority to take control of all or part of the Elizabeth police department. If this is what it takes to put an end to gang slayings, so be it.

Each year about this time I sit down with my staff and discuss their personal safety. Our office is only a half-block from the Elizabeth police station, but the area becomes so dangerous after dark that I require everyone to be gone before dark. This is a sad statement on the state of the city.

Jim Coyle

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Where the Chamber Stands...

New Sheriff in Town?

In a recent comic strip, a pollster asks a resident of the Kingdom of Id what he thinks about ethics in government. The resident answers, "Sounds like a heck of an idea."

A heck of an idea is brewing in New Jersey – a proposal by Governor Jon Corzine to launch "bold actions" to reform ethics in government.

While most state residents generally hail the idea of tougher ethics guidelines and laws in politics, those closest to the issue – politicians and the web of political organizations and media pundits who orbit this arena – have chosen to look beyond the action and instead focus on the motive.

The governor has proposed measures to tighten ethics in politics, including pay-to-play – the practice of making political contributions in exchange for state contracts – of which state residents have had enough. While members of his party have publicly endorsed the plan, how they feel about it privately is speculative and, in fact, irrelevant. They're on board.

Republicans, on the other hand, have sidestepped discussing the value of Corzine's ideas and instead have attacked his motives and timing.

They say the proposal is a response to a confidential poll the administration conducted of state citizens that showed they would overwhelmingly support the governor fighting corruption, as reported by the *Star Ledger*. They say Corzine is afraid of running for reelection against U.S. Attorney Chris Christie, the champion of counter-corruption in New Jersey who indicts crooks like he's picking Jersey tomatoes.

All of which raises one huge question for the average New Jerseyan – who cares?

When his barn is burning, does the farmer question the motive of his neighbor bringing water to fight the flames?

Granted, critics of Corzine's motives may have some sound footing on which to stand. The fact that the Governor's pollster chose to use the words "...fighting the ethical crisis" (as reported by the *Star Ledger*) concedes there is one. In addition, only earlier this year Democratic leadership introduced legislation that would have repealed laws that had been passed to restrict pay-for-play options. And certainly no one doubts that Christie would be a worthy opponent for Corzine.

So maybe the governor's proposals are as much political survival as holy crusade.

But again, so what?

How does that make government ethics reform not a good thing?

Political observers, commentators and columnists all have weighed in, analyzing inside strategies and behind-the-scenes agendas. It is not dissimilar to the panels of talking heads that attempt to tell Americans what they just saw or failed to see during a presidential debate, and what deep meanings they should take from this misstep or that nuance. These insiders fail to see they are so close to the action that they care about details most of the nation pushes aside.

When Chris Christie indicts a corrupt politician, one suspects few residents worry that he took heat earlier this year for turning a lucrative contract over to his former mentor, John Ashcroft. For the average New Jersey resident, ethics reform is as close to a non-partisan issue as there can be this side of lowering taxes.

And if a little competition among the boys spurs it on, so much the better.

One can only imagine Jon Corzine and Chris Christie standing at opposite ends of a dirt street in an old western town, six-shooters hung low on their hips and snarls turning their lips as townsfolk watch from the side. Corzine is wearing a shiny new star, perhaps recently having abandoned the old gang of outlaws now surrounding the town. Christie's star is well worn, although perhaps a little tarnished.

They are not gunning for each other, of course, at least not with bullets. It is the outlaws they intend to bring down. Perhaps some newsmen from back east are on hand, cynically taking pot shots at both men, questioning their motives or loyalties.

At that moment, however, the townsfolk do not care. They only want to hear Corzine and Christie say one thing to each other: "I can put more bad guys in jail than you can."

But there we go back into the funny papers.

INSIDE BUSINESS

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Insight

Reflections on the Most Severe Economic Crisis in Our Lifetimes

By Dr. Susan Hume

The ink is barely dry on the Congressional bailout to fix the ailing financial system and to begin transferring underwater mortgage securities from banks to a government-run program. The aim is to restore confidence to banking and get the credit flowing back for consumers and businesses at manageable levels.

The credit markets have been locked-up, with little lending occurring in any category, whether for corporate commercial paper, cross-country bank markets, commercial lines of credit, consumer car leasing or housing. Congress was reluctant to pass the bill, as there was widespread public distrust for Wall Street. But it is clear that the problem affects all Americans.

The reaction of the global stock markets has been negative across all industries. The U.S. Dow, Japanese Nikkei, FTSE London and Euro Indices, as well as Brazil, China, India and Russian markets, are all down between 35 and 66 percent from last year's highs. In crisis, the global markets are highly interrelated and not independent as some would claim.

In addition to signaling that the economy is in recession, global fear and irrational behavior underlie these negative reactions. Investors big and small have been withdrawing monies and causing bank runs not seen since the Depression. No one wants to be the last one out the door and be left holding all the bad apples.

The current crisis began as an asset bubble from overinvestment in real estate. While the causes are complex, the banks and investment banks were encouraged by changes in the Community Redevelopment Act, in coordination with Fanny Mae and Freddie Mac, to accelerate lending to those consumers who had no down payments or income streams to make the loan payments. All parties assumed that housing prices would always rise, a hurtful assumption for lending against an asset that can drop with oversupply or weak demand.

Further propelling the growth was the assumption by investment banks that investors would always buy these bundles of mortgages. Adding more fuel to the fire was

increased competition in banking, negligence by rating agencies and fraud by mortgagees and brokers.

This is not a new story. In the Depression the housing bust reflected no equity investment by the homeowner. We saw an asset bubble during the 1970s when banks overlent to Latin America. Again, overlending happened in the 1980s in both the Japanese and U.S. real estate markets.

Too much concentration in one activity should have been addressed earlier by regulators, auditors and board of directors. But again, as in prior bubbles, this did not happen.

Locally, New Jersey is the 12th largest state in terms of mortgage defaults and is highly dependent on employment and tax receipts from financial services. We are most certainly in a recession and the underlying question is how severe will it be. Given the global shutdown of the lending markets and the lack of spending by consumers and businesses, we are facing a global recession over the next year.

However, while national unemployment is about 6 percent and expected to rise, it should rise nowhere near the Depression's 25 percent. Stock price declines have been severe but in all cases except the Depression, severe stock market drops have recovered a year later to reach new highs. Given the drop in oil prices, inflation should not be a problem.

Patience is the word with which to work out this longer-term problem as mortgage sales are packaged to longer-term investors. Estimates are that about \$50 billion will be sold to investors each month. Expect direct investments by the Federal Reserve to boost bank capital to get lending flowing again and restore confidence to the marketplace. Further expect a more coordinated global solution to calm the panic, as the real estate bubble is not unique to the U.S.

Dr. Susan Hume is assistant professor of finance and international business, School of Business, at The College of New Jersey.

What's Coming Up!

Date	Event	Times	Location
Nov 5	Post Election Breakfast - A Panel Discussion "The New Jersey Economy & the Election Results"	8:00 AM	Crowne Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road (GSP 135), Clark
Nov 6	Networking Professionals of New Jersey	7:30 AM	Perkins of Green Brook, 297 Rt. 22 East, Green Brook
Nov 6	Workforce Education Committee	8:45 AM	Gateway Chamber Office, 135 Jefferson Avenue (Bank of America), Elizabeth
Nov 10	5th Annual Taste of Kenilworth Visit www.TasteOfKenilworth.com for tickets or call 908-352-0900	6:00 PM	Hosted by Schering-Plough Corporation, 2000 Galloping Hill Road, Kenilworth
Nov 12	Kenilworth Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Visit our website for meeting location
Nov 14	Local & County Affairs Committee	8:30 AM	Roselle Borough Hall, 210 Chestnut Street, Roselle
Nov 18	Irish Business Association (IBA)	6:00 PM	Visit our website for meeting location
Nov 19	Employer Legislative Committee Meeting	8:00 AM	Lana's Fine Dining, 1300 Raritan Road, Clark
Nov 20	Gateway Association of Business Women Luncheon	11:45 AM	La Casa di Martino, 301 West Clay Avenue, Roselle Park (reservations required)
Nov 21	Somerset Hills Business Network Meeting	8:00 AM	Olde Mill Inn (Somerset Room), 225 Route 202, Basking Ridge
Nov 25	Linden Chamber of Commerce	8:30 AM	Cox Printers, 1634 East Linden Avenue, Linden
Nov 26	Clark Chamber Meeting	8:30 AM	Crowne Plaza Hotel, 36 Valley Road (GSP exit 135), Clark
TBA	Springfield Chamber Group	8:30 AM	Visit our website for meeting date and location

Happy Thanksgiving to all our members from the Chamber Staff
For additional event information call the Chamber office at 908-352-0900
or visit our website at www.gatewaychamber.com

The Inside Look...



Members of **Fazio, Mannuzza, Roche, Tankel, LaPilusa, LLC** (FMRTL), a Springfield accounting and consulting firm, recently participated in their 3rd Annual Jean Day to raise awareness for Breast Cancer and the American Cancer Society. FMRTL hosted a "Healthy Start" breakfast and held a Think PINK Raffle in exchange for donations toward Breast Cancer Awareness.

Trinitas School of Nursing has been designated as an NLN (National League for Nursing) Center of Excellence in Nursing Education for 2008-2011 in recognition of its sustained efforts to create environments that promote student learning and professional development. Trinitas School of Nursing is one of six schools of nursing in the United States to receive this designation for 2008-2011, the first school in New Jersey and the first cooperative program in the nation. There are currently 13 schools nationally with the NLN Center for Excellence designation.

Trinitas Hospital also announced that **Grant Knaggs** has joined the hospital as chief strategy officer, reporting directly to Gary Horan, president and CEO. The newly created position reflects the changing environment in healthcare and the hospital's upcoming

name change to Trinitas Regional Medical Center. Prior to joining Trinitas, Knaggs was the director of business development and physician relations at Overlook Hospital in Summit. He holds a bachelor of science degree from American College of Switzerland and a master's degree from Montclair State University.

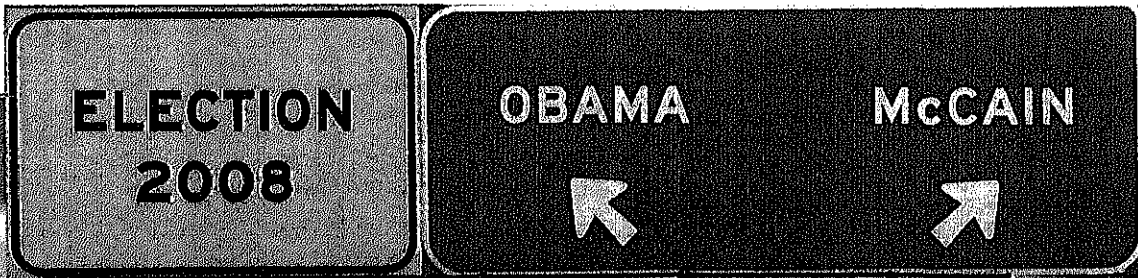
Beverly Malone, Chief Executive Officer of the National League for Nursing (left), congratulates **Mary Elizabeth Lebreck Kelley** (center), Dean of the Trinitas School of Nursing, and **Rose Santee**, the School's Associate Dean, following the announcement of the school's designation as an NLN Center of Excellence.



The Westfield office of **Lindabury, McCormick, Estabrook & Cooper** announced that **Andrew Gibbs** has joined the firm. Gibbs concentrates his practice in the areas of product liability, toxic/mass tort, professional liability, commercial litigation, general litigation, automobile negligence and insurance litigation. Prior to joining Lindabury, Gibbs was with Cozen O'Connor in New York, New York. Lindabury also announced that new to the firm are: **James Kellar**, **Jason Levoy** and **Blake Width**.



Commerce Bank announced recent donations of more than \$53,000 to central New Jersey nonprofit organizations through the TD Charitable Foundation, as part of the bank's community involvement. Recipient groups included: Merchants and Drivers Tavern Museum Association, Inc.; McCarter Theatre Center; American Diabetes Association, Inc.; Union County Educational Services Foundation, Inc.; Elijah's Promise; Morris-Union Jointure Commission Education Foundation; Housing Partnership; Seeing Eye, Inc.; Westfield Symphony Orchestra; Literacy Volunteers of Morris County, Inc.; and Cerebral Palsy of North Jersey, Inc.



The Gateway Regional Chamber of Commerce and
The Union County Employer Legislative Committee Present

The New Jersey Economy & the Election Results

A panel discussion on how the November 4, 2008 election will affect businesses in New Jersey.

Moderator: Jim McQueeney, Winning Strategies

Date: November 5th, 2008 • Time: 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM • Phone: (908) 598-2532

Crowne Plaza Hotel Clark, 36 Valley Road, Clark, NJ 07066

ELC is sponsored by VERIZON, Infineum USA L.P., Schering Plough Corp., Merck & Co., & ConocoPhillips Bayway Refinery.

Directions: Exit 135 off the Garden State Parkway

Bombadil LLC

An Urgency to Sell

Andy Gole once told an accounting firm their sales presentation could stand improvement. They ended up hiring him.

So began the story of Urgency Based Selling™ and Bombadil LLC.

At the time Gole was a veteran salesman and entrepreneur running his own consumer products company and sales agency. His new accounting firm, GB&T, had invited him to review a proprietary software product. Impressed by Gole's candor and concepts, the firm asked him to attend a sales call and were even more impressed when Gole stepped in and helped close the deal.

It was an epiphany of sorts, as it led Gole to begin leveraging off his experience in sales and business management and start a sales consulting firm.

Actually, epiphany might be too strong a word. Evolution is more accurate.

"I saw there was this gap in sales consulting," Gole said. "I started doing things differently, but I didn't know I was doing them differently. It was trial by fire and I kept on experimenting with different methods until I found a system that worked."

That system became Urgency Based Selling, with which he typically coaches clients to double their closing ratio, according to Gole. Most recently Gole used Urgency Based Selling to help medical and pharmaceutical publisher Intellisphere increase sales by 55 percent in their first year working with him.

"All firms are prospects for sales consulting, but only a small segment looks for it," said Gole, who founded Bombadil in 2004. "These firms are sales driven, systems driven, risk taking, sufficiently dissatisfied with results and willing to let go."

Firms and sales teams struggling with performance must be prepared to let go of entrenched processes and cultures, breaking familiar molds to learn new processes, Gole said. Urgency Based Selling is an 18-step sales system that comprises best practices developed during 25 years of selling and more than 4,000 sales calls. Gole tailors the process to fit each client's needs and sales sector.

There are three fatal flaws in selling, according to Gole: (1) assuming a prospect comes to a conversation with a serious intent; (2) assuming the prospect believes what he or she is being told; and (3) assuming the prospect knows how to make a decision. While these seem to be given premises, Gole asserts they are not and notes that other sales training systems also overlook them.

"Selling too often involves filling orders for people who are predisposed to buy from you," he said.

The key to Urgency Based Selling is to go beyond this safe relationship and expand the selling audience. Gole has a proven track record of teaching sales teams to do that.

"Are you having a serious conversation with the prospect?" Gole asks. "Are you convincing a skeptical audience? And are you helping the prospect make a decision?"

Gole began learning about urgency early in his career when selling decorative containers for a Georgia-based company as an independent commissioned sales agent.

"The pioneering work (on the system) was done in the field selling an inferior product to hostile customers," he said. "I never would have had the incentive to innovate and try new methods if I wasn't in that cauldron. I developed a consultative selling system, which in itself is not unique, but refined it into a unique sales process and management system that ultimately was replicable."

Replicating his success for clients requires a very strong commitment from senior management, a sales team that is both willing to take a stand and is cognitive – Urgency Based Selling requires analytical thinking, according to Gole – and at least two to three months of training for two hours per week.

"It's a radical paradigm shift for most people," Gole explained. "If a salesperson is very successful and satisfied with her performance, I believe you should leave her alone. My system is geared toward people who want to build up their business and companies that want to go beyond the low-hanging fruit."

Intellisphere wanted just that. The company's advertising sales were down 6 percent when they began discussions with Gole. But they were concerned with his lack of experience selling advertising and working in the pharmaceutical sector.

"Gole had powerful ideas," said Herbert Marek, Intellisphere president and chief operating officer. "But to be practical, they had to be tailored to the essential details of the healthcare advertising space."

With a 55 percent increase in sales the first year and an expected additional growth of 25 percent in year two, Intellisphere embraced Gole's system and expanded his work within the company.

"We went slowly with the first assignment, with a substantial amount of monitoring," Marek said. "Now that we've had two successes, we understand what Gole can do."

Which is deliver proven results.

"Sales consulting is not a fit for every firm," Gole said. "It involves disruption. But it is manageable. You have to have a vision, a hunger for exponential growth."

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- American International Group** - Peter F. Lutz 908-253-0935
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Angie Tsirkas, Vice President and Branch Manager
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Northfield Bank was established in 1887 in Staten Island, NY, and entered the New Jersey marketplace in 2002 through a merger with Liberty Bank.

The bank operates six New Jersey offices in Avenel, East Brunswick, Linden, Milltown, Monroe and Rahway. In New York, Northfield operates 11 locations in Staten Island and one location in Brooklyn.

The mission of Northfield goes beyond banking products and services. Northfield prides itself on supporting local organizations such as the Rahway Hospital Foundation, the Union County Arts Center and the Arts Guild of Rahway.

Northfield Bank specializes in providing better business banking solutions to help the local small business owner manage its deposits and commercial lending needs. To learn more, contact Angie Tsirkas, Vice President and Branch Manager of the Linden Office, at (908) 925-3755 or visit www.eNorthfield.com.

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50 years experience in management, pharmaceuticals marketing and credit management, most recently as president and a member of the board of directors of Taro Pharmaceutical Industries, Ltd.

In this capacity I managed the Israeli company, acquired the Canadian company and grew the US marketing company from \$0-250,000,000, recruited staff, motivated them, built the company's image to one of the major generic pharmaceutical companies in the US. Also, worked with the Canadians, and then bought a company in the US and then in Ireland.

I was also in charge of growing the international division in the UK and South America and Asia and in the US made a close link with the NACDS and established a scholarship for pharmacy students.

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Did You Know...

You May Be Paying Too Much for Health Insurance?

By Jim Faulkner

Are you over-insured? Most likely.

Most companies have a one-size-fits-all health plan, regardless of the number of employees. As a result, all employees generally have a pretty good hospital plan, as well as a prescription plan.

But all employees are not alike and companies may be able to save money on health insurance by better defining their coverage to better fit the needs and requirements of their employee population.

Given that companies usually have a mix of younger and older employees, does everyone go into the hospital every year? Why should a business pre-pay for hospitalization with high premiums for employees who are unlikely to need the coverage? There are less expensive health plans that have a hospital co-pay that employees pay only if they go into the hospital.

Employees like the idea of paying just a co-pay and having everything else covered with no further out-of-pocket expenses. They get nervous when they see deductibles and co-insurance on their plans, and they like the lower premium rates – especially since employees now generally pay a portion of their health insurance costs.

MOOP

The key to businesses understanding their options is the Maximum-Out-Of-Pocket cost, or (MOOP), which is clearly stated in a plan. For the most part, MOOP applies to in-hospital costs which can generate the largest expenses, often into thousands or hundreds of thousands of dollars.

MOOP can be kept to a minimal level through an expensive plan with small co-pays. Or MOOP can be up to \$5,000 for a single employee and \$10,000 for a family for services performed by doctors/hospitals within the health insurance plan network.

People generally are familiar with how deductibles on car insurance can save money. They understand the risks and make an informed decision as to what level of deductible is best for them.

Health insurance deductibles usually range from \$0 to \$2,500. The higher the deductible, the lower the premium. In essence, the insurance company is saying: "If you want to share the risk with me, we will give you a better deal."

Co-Insurance

The other factor in this "Let's make a deal" exchange is co-insurance.

With a high premium cost plan, the insurance company generally takes 100 percent of the risk associated with employees going into the hospital. However, plans are available where businesses share (or co-insure) the risk. These plans usually entail the insurance company paying 90 percent and the business paying 10 percent of the hospital cost after the employee's deductible, or the insurer paying 80 percent and the business paying 20 percent.

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Prescription Plans

Do all employees really need a prescription plan that can cost more than \$1,000 a year in premium expense for a single employee, and \$2,500 for a family? Certainly employees who are on "maintenance" drugs to maintain blood pressure levels, cholesterol levels, etc., should have a prescription plan available to them. However, businesses should consider offering a second plan without a prescription drug card, one that costs less for the employee.

Does it make sense to have more than one health insurance plan?

For both the employer and the employee, it makes a lot more sense to have the optimum set of benefits for the dollars that are spent on insurance premiums. Given increasing rates each year, businesses certainly should manage these dollars effectively. Savings and more efficient expenses could provide employees with other benefits as well as help out the bottom line that keeps the business profitable.

It makes no sense to "torch" a \$1,000 bill for a prescription card for a healthy single employee who is not on maintenance drugs. On the other hand, employees who take maintenance drugs are less likely to go into the hospital.

So why not have higher deductible/co-insurance plans?

Unlike the weather, businesses can, and should, do something about health insurance costs. At the least, they should contact their licensed insurance broker to investigate possible options for saving money. An insurance broker can advise a business about what may make good \$EN\$E for both their employees and their business.

Jim Faulkner is a member of Coastal Financial Group, Inc., a full service general/master agency for major health insurance carriers with offices in Montville, NJ; Bethlehem, PA; and New York, NY. Faulkner can be reached at 973.952.0300, ext. 109, or jfaulkner@coastalfinancialgroup.com.

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