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WORRAL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1998 • SECTION B

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Doubting Franks

I have always liked Congressman Bob Franks, even though we are of different political parties. From his days in the General Assembly, his State GOP chairman and now in the House of Representatives, his easy smile, accessibility and first rate staff operation, left me not uncomfortable having him as my representative.

Lately, the trauma over depicting him has heightened the key point I don't like his new friends, and it may be time for him to choose between them and folks back home.

Left Out

By Frank Ciopece

In the past, I rationalized his closeness with Newt Gingrich. After all, on issues such as port facilities and transportation needs, it was good to have an advocate in the enemy camp. I totally believed he was covering our back.

Earlier this year, the flap over the census count sent out a warning signal. While many like Alton McWilliams in Plainfield and Chris Bollwage in Elizabeth fought for a statistical, random, sampling approach to ensure Union County got its fair share of funds, Franks was too quiet. Rather than offending the right wing leadership, he did not support statistical sampling. The battle lines were starting to be clear.

With the prospect of impeachment, if the time on cable, I have come to see clearly the views and records of representatives such as Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Henry Hyde of Illinois and Spencer Bachus of Alabama. They are extremists, and they cause me concern. Most disturbing is the majority whip Tom DeLay whose intimidation tactics have not been seen since the era of Sam Rayburn. They will only be an up or down vote on impeachment. The election results in November seemingly didn't matter.

When the question of what would happen if Republican Moderate do come impeachment, was raised, Bob Franks' vote was not in question. After some party banter by him on President Clinton, he was in the parade, a sure vote for the leadership.

It'd like to think I am a consistent person. The only time I ever voted my elected senators was in support of the losing effort of naming Republican John Tower as chief arms.

See FRANKS, Page B2

Even pilots are confused about runway plans

Pilots file reports in response to plan

By Sean Dally
Staff Writer

Union County residents apparently aren't the only people who don't like how departing planes are routed out of Newark International Airport.

According to several anonymous safety reports, the pilots flying those planes find the routing plans confusing.

More than 30 pilots have filed reports with the Aviation Safety and Reporting System, run by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, about the Suberg Mitigation Plan. The Suberg plan is an attempt to reduce airplane engine noise in Union County.

These ASRS reports focus on one

recent change to the Suberg plan, the so-called "250-degree turn" and "260-degree turn" plans.

Basically, the pilots didn't know what to do. They found it confusing, said Jerome Fisher of the county government's Air Traffic Noise Advisory Board.

Jim Peters, spokesperson for the Federal Aviation Administration, said he had not seen the ASRS reports and therefore could not comment on them. Under the Suberg plan, developed by the FAA, planes leaving Runway 22 of Newark International Airport are supposed to skirt around Union County and gain altitude before flying over heavily populated land. They do this by turning right low

and the highly populated Arthur Kill almost immediately before takeoff.

They then turn to a heading of 220 degrees — almost straight east — and follow the Arthur Kill until they hit the "100 radial" out from Suberg Airport in Freehold. The 100 radial is an imaginary line 100 degrees from magnetic north that stretches out from Suberg Airport until it intersects the plane's course.

The point where the 100 radial and the planes course intersects is about six or seven miles away from Newark International Airport. It's also where the planes turn back over land. By that time, the plane should have gained enough altitude to make it sound quieter on the ground.

The 250-turn and 260-turn plans were tested from March 15 to Sept. 15, Union County residents gave these two plans the raspberry because, supposedly, made airplane noise worse off the ground.

These two plans only applied to planes leaving Runway 22 for groups in the Deep South — about 25 percent of the traffic leaving the airport.

They had planes turn to headings of 250 or 260 degrees instead of 220 degrees. These changes were supposed to decrease aircraft noise in Rahway and Carteret, even though the planes would no longer be following the Arthur Kill.

However, according to Federal air traffic controllers, Union pilots to make the turn over land when they get to the 100 radial.

The important thing to remember is that, under the 250 degree and 260-degree turn plans, at least, it was the pilots' responsibility to decide when their planes had reached the 100 radial. It is normally the air traffic controllers' jobs to watch for landmarks like the 100-degree radial; it was specified to the pilots to reduce the controllers' workload.

"In any case could they make it work," he said. "In most cases pilots just flew right by it."

The controllers were therefore using the pilots over land "way before" the 100 radial, according to Feder.

"The controller just gave up on the procedure," he said. "I think they said we're going to let them turn manually, like we've always done."

Praising peak performances



Charles S. Maneuso, right, president of the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools Board of Education, was on hand to congratulate three Union County Magnet High School students for exemplary achievements outside of the classroom. From left, Daniel Vissani of Union, honored by the Liberty Science Center in Jersey City for his efforts as a member of its Volunteer Services Department; Alyshia McGuire of Rahway, chosen as the outstanding junior member of the National Association of Fashion and Accessory Designers; and Brian Raiff of Westfield, who spent three weeks in China as a member of the People To People Student Ambassador Program.

Two counties unite for arts conference

Cultural Tourism, a major part of New Jersey's economy, is the subject of a conference on Jan. 9. Sponsored by the Middlesex County Cultural and Heritage Commission, in association with the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, the conference will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the College Center of Middlesex County College, 155 Mill Road, Edison.

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is delighted that two major county cultural agencies are collaborating to bring this important message, the outstanding arts and historical groups in central New Jersey, said Freeholder Mary-Rose Russo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board.

Union County is fast becoming a destination for day trippers and this information will help us spread the word about our cultural sites," Russo said.

Scheduled to speak at the conference are four seasoned professionals who are well versed in the concept of Cultural Tourism. Conference attendees will come away with the knowledge necessary to develop new ideas for promoting local arts and cultural events through collaborations, partnerships and innovative programming.

Paul Taylor, deputy director for the Virginia Commission for the Arts, will use successful campaigns done in his home state to illustrate the basic philosophy of Cultural Tourism and the benefits to local groups. Donna Bakelaar, deputy director for the New Jersey Division of Travel and Tourism, will discuss statewide tourism campaigns and how to become a part of them.

For more information on Partnerships for People's Volunteer Program, call Barker at (973) 367-9808.

"Union County is fast becoming a destination for day trippers and this information will help us spread the word about our cultural sites," Mary-Rose Russo, Freeholder

draw upon her experience with that project to highlight development of a campaign strategy, identifying resources, and the expected results of a Cultural Tourism Campaign.

Dr. Guy C. McCombs, president of Third Power Development Inc., will address marketing for small institutions with an emphasis on how to determine market feasibility, as well as strategies for marketing to a diverse audience.

Pre-registration is required and must be accompanied by a \$7.50 fee, made payable to: Treasurer, Middlesex County, Office and refreshments are included. No refunds of registration fees will be given after Dec. 31.

Funding for the Cultural Tourism Conference has been provided in part through a grant from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and the Middlesex County Board of Chosen Freeholders.

The conference site is fully accessible, and the conference brochure is printed in large type and available in Braille. A sign language interpreter is available. A notification of need is made two weeks in advance. For registration, information or to receive a brochure on the conference, contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202, (908) 558-2350. Relay users call (800) 852-7899.

Volunteers sought to assist disabled

Partnerships for People is recruiting volunteers to serve as companions to individuals with developmental disabilities throughout Union County. Help an individual become an active member of the community and offer the gift of friendship eight hours a month.

Simply by spending time with an individual, taking them shopping, attending church or temple services together, or enjoying a whole host of recreational or community activities, volunteers can make a tremendous difference in someone's life, said Michelle Barker, coordinator of Self Determination at Partnerships for People. "When better way to begin the New Year than with a commitment to making a positive difference in someone's life?"

Partnerships for People, a non-profit agency which has been providing residential, vocational and case management services for individuals with disabilities since 1982,

provides an in-depth training program prior to the person-centered match. Volunteers will be trained by the person-centered approach to working with individuals with developmental disabilities, as well as an overview of disabilities.

"Our mission at Partnerships for People is to provide person-centered services which enable individuals with disabilities to be active members of their communities," said Barker. "Our volunteer program aims to create those important connections that link an individual to the community in which he or she lives."

Matches are made based on personal interests, geographic location and unique skills.

For more information on Partnerships for People's Volunteer Program, call Barker at (973) 367-9808.

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Stepping Out is a weekly calendar, designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all groups and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Associate Editor Jacqueline McCarthy, Worral Community Newspaper, P.O. Box 3104, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

LSM GALLERY in Elizabeth will display works by painter Thomas Kinkadee through tomorrow.
Gallery hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday to 7 p.m., Saturday to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. The gallery is located at 124 Elmora Ave. East. For information, call (908) 351-2633.

OUT-OF-BODY EXPERIENCE will be on display through Wednesday at the Center for Visual Arts in Summit.
Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. NJVOA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

SKULSKI ART GALLERY in Morristown Cultural Foundation in Clark will exhibit the paintings of Polish artist Stanislaw Kunz through Dec. 31.
Gallery hours are Tuesday through Friday from 5 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The location is located at 171 Broadway, Clark. For information, call (973) 382-1191.

NIJ STATEFREN ARTS featuring Elizabeth will be on display through December at the NJ State Aqueduct in Camden.
The aqueduct is located at River Drive in Camden. For information, call (800) 616-5297.

JACOB TRAPP GALLERY in Summit will display color photos by artist Lella through Jan. 5.
Gallery hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 12 a.m. to noon. The gallery is located at Waldron Ave. in Summit. For information, call (973) 467-8669.

EDITIONS TEN: Speculations will be on display through Jan. 6 at NJ Center for Visual Arts in Summit.
NJVOA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

IMAGES OF THE AMERICAN WEST by photographer Hal Norman Krogstad will be on display through Jan. 7 at Donald B. Palmer Museum of the Springfield Union.

Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 1 to 3:30 p.m. The gallery is located at 66 Mountain Ave., Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-4933.

YES MALAMUT Gallery at Union Library will exhibit images of the Malamut through Jan. 15.
Library hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The library is located at Finberg Park, Union.

EUGENE GALLERY in Scotch Plains will display "Art Visions from the Heart of Scotch Plains" one art aerial photo through Jan. 15.
Gallery hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The gallery is located at 501 Park Ave., Scotch Plains. For information, call (908) 332-6333.

ART AT OVERLOOK HOSPITAL in Summit will feature "Works in Progress" by student members of Morris County Art Association through Jan. 16.
The hospital is located at 89 Beaver Ave., Summit.

THE ARTIST INTERPRETS exhibit will be on display through Jan. 17 at NJ Center for Visual Arts in Summit.
Gallery hours are Monday through Friday from noon to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. NJVOA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will feature paintings by Dorothy Haman and Margot Trost, and photography by Dana Benoit through January.
Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Exhibits are displayed in the East Wing, accessible by the Ambulance Entry. The hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road in Mountainside.

CLARK LIBRARY will display the oil paintings of "Railway Station" and "Snowy Mountain" by Thomas Kinkadee.
The library is located at 303 Westfield Ave., Clark. Information is created by students grades 1-12, to be on display through January at NJ Performing Arts Center.
NJPAAC is located at One Center St., Newark. For information, call (908) 530-NAPAC.

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART is currently featuring Puffy-Poney dating from 1900 to 1920.
Hours are Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. The store is located at 465 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8665.

AUDITIONS

FUNCTION 10 will have auditions for singers, dancers and actors age 12

and over for a musical showcase on Monday and Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Paulus Evangelical Lutheran Church in Roselle Park.
Performances are Feb. 13, 14 and 15, 1999. The church is located at 83, Wooding Hill Road in Roselle Park.

STONY HILL PLAYERS will have auditions for "The Odd Couple" on Sunday and Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Oaklea Municipal Outreach Center in Summit.
Needed are 6 men and 2 women age range 30-50. The church is located on Russell Place in Summit. For information, call (973) 376-0901.

THE ESSEX CHORALE OF SHORT HILLS seeks members on all voice ranges. It is a small group ensemble directed by G. M. Phillips with a wide repertoire of baroque and renaissance music. Meetings are at 45 Elm St., Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Summit. Community thank party, refreshments, and social activities are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the year. Group activities are held at the home of the choir. For information, call (973) 376-0901.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB seeks male singers to perform and sing at rehearsals on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at the Westfield High School in Westfield.

COMEDY
JOE'S BASEMENT at Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park presents comedians featured on HBO and VH1 on Fridays.
Admission is \$8 for show only. \$25, one hour package. \$30 all night. Show

group will feature "One True Thing" on Jan. 25.
Advance registration is suggested. The library is located at 303 Westfield Ave., Clark. For information, call (732) 388-5999.

FILM
ELIZABETH LIBRARY will screen "Starway to Heaven" today at 10 a.m. The library is located at 11 S. Broad St. in Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 254-6040.

GOLF
WINTER HOURS at Ash Brook and Oak Ridge golf courses are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Galloping Hill Golf Course is closed through April.
Ash Brook is located on Rantan Road in Scotch Plains. Oak Ridge is located on Oak Ridge Road in Clark. For information, call (908) 765-7670.

KIDS
BOOK VALE in Westfield will host a Nancy Drew scavenger hunt today at 6:30 p.m.
The book store is located at 1010 South Ave. West in Westfield. For info, call (973) 317-0783.

ZANY BRAINY in Springfield will present "Madness: Winter Yearbook" on Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.
For ages 4 and up. The store is located at 295 Route 22 East in Springfield. For information, call (973) 467-9444.

RADIO
WCNJ 89.3 FM features Leslie and Simon's "Put God in Your Life" every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The soundcheck you hear in your radio as you find the talent that you just didn't see and don't remember until that lonely tune reminds you of the Arms of Morpheus. But like who's playing that crazy organ? RIX, Bob Flax, WFUM 91.1 FM. Sundays, midnight to 3 p.m.

PIPERDREAMS a program featuring pipe organ music is aired every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. on WNYE-FM 91.5.

SOUL BEGINNINGS is a weekly feature on KISS-FM 98.7, airing on Sundays from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. It's a nostalgic look back at classic rhythm and blues, along with historic events that shaped the music.

WBGO 88.3 FM serves the metropolitan area with mainstream jazz, blues and public affairs programming. License to Newark Public Radio: the award-winning, non-commercial station was founded in 1979. WBGO is supported by over 12,000 members and serves about 350,000 listeners each week. WBGO cybercasts on the internet at www.WBGO.org. WBGO programming will present the following shows this week:
Monday: "Spiraling Piano Jazz" 7 p.m.
Tuesday: "Evening Jazz" 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday: "Portraits in Blue" 7 p.m.
Saturday: "Jazz Classics" 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Sunday: "The Blues" 1 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jazzfest: "The Bradford Marcks" 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday: "Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center" 7 p.m.
Tuesday: "Jazz Pops" 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday: "Evening Jazz" 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

INTERFAITH SINGLES
Interfaith Singles, 100 singles, 24-year age 45+ will have Continental breakfast meetings on Sundays in December from 9:10 to 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Westfield.
Donations \$15. The church is located at 170 Elm St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 333-2279.

CROSSROADS Christian Singles offers 23 singles, meet on Friday at 8 p.m. at Evergreen Church in Scotch Plains.
The church is located at 1251 Temple Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call (908) 322-9300.

CONVERSATIONS BY CANDLELIGHT is a group of single professionals who meet every week for a traditional after-party on Fridays at 8 p.m. at Evergreen Church in Scotch Plains.
By invitation only, telephone interview and membership required. Fees: \$75. For information, call (201) 567-2082.

TELEVISION
NEWARK BOYS CHORUS - Roots will air today at 6 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m. and Jan. 1 at 9 p.m. on New Jersey Network. "State of the Arts" are Thursdays at 9 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m.
EGGTV a diverse comedy show based at Scotch Plains will be their newest show on Comcast Channel 57 on Saturday at 9:30 p.m.
THE ARTS is a half-hour cable television program about the visual and performing arts in New Jersey. Each week, the first and third Fridays of every month are produced by the creative people and nonprofit organizations directly involved in promoting cultural events. An additional feature is the monthly calendar. Each program is done, captioned for people who are deaf or have hearing impairments, as well as for those who may need assistance with the English language.
The program is carried on Comcast Cablevision Channel 57 on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. and will be carried on CHNJ at 8:05 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Comcast Channel 57. For information, call (908) 475-4444 for a broadcast schedule.

Thursday, Grant Green, at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Jazz from 7 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, The Blue Monsters. The club is located at 78 North Ave. Gateway. For information, call (732) 212-5666.

THE COVE in Roselle will feature the following bands:
Sunday, Catco, 7:30. One Cool Guy, Fox Professor Plum, Step Lively, Leggy Ground. Shows are at noon and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.
Tuesday, One-4-One, Me vs Me, 7 p.m., 37 cover.
The club is alcohol free. The Cove is located at 108 Chestnut St., Roselle. For information, call (908) 241-7226.

CLASSES
LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION will hold classes at Sunnyside Recreation Center, 100 Chestnut St., Roselle Park. Shows are at noon and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$8.
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The program is carried on Comcast Cablevision Channel 57 on Wednesdays at 10:30 p.m. and will be carried on CHNJ at 8:05 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays at 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. Comcast Channel 57. For information, call (908) 475-4444 for a broadcast schedule.

COMEDY
JOE'S BASEMENT at Tavern in the Park in Roselle Park presents comedians featured on HBO and VH1 on Fridays.
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NEW YEAR'S
ELIZABETH LIBRARY will host a New Year's party featuring Super Magician! E.Q. Neil on Monday at 7 p.m.
For ages 6-12. Registration is required. The library is located at Finberg Park in Union.

ELIZABETH LIBRARY, La Corte, Branch will host a Family New Year's party on Tuesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
The branch is located at 408 Palmer St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 260-0201 ext. 4.

LINDEN KNIGHTS of Columbus will host a New Year's Eve dance from 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.
The hall is located at 118 Park Ave., Linden. For information, call (908) 662-9696 or (908) 587-1357.

ST. THOMAS PARISH in Rahway will host a New Year's Eve Party from 7:30 p.m. to 12 a.m.
Tickets are \$55. The church is located at 1407 St. Georges Ave., Rahway. For information, call (732) 388-3532.

RADIO
WCNJ 89.3 FM features Leslie and Simon's "Put God in Your Life" every Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
The soundcheck you hear in your radio as you find the talent that you just didn't see and don't remember until that lonely tune reminds you of the Arms of Morpheus. But like who's playing that crazy organ? RIX, Bob Flax, WFUM 91.1 FM. Sundays, midnight to 3 p.m.

PIPERDREAMS a program featuring pipe organ music is aired every Sunday at 8:30 p.m. on WNYE-FM 91.5.

SOUL BEGINNINGS is a weekly feature on KISS-FM 98.7, airing on Sundays from 10:00 to 11:30 p.m. It's a nostalgic look back at classic rhythm and blues, along with historic events that shaped the music.

WBGO 88.3 FM serves the metropolitan area with mainstream jazz, blues and public affairs programming. License to Newark Public Radio: the award-winning, non-commercial station was founded in 1979. WBGO is supported by over 12,000 members and serves about 350,000 listeners each week. WBGO cybercasts on the internet at www.WBGO.org. WBGO programming will present the following shows this week:
Monday: "Spiraling Piano Jazz" 7 p.m.
Tuesday: "Evening Jazz" 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Wednesday: "Portraits in Blue" 7 p.m.
Saturday: "Jazz Classics" 5 a.m. to 8 a.m.
Sunday: "The Blues" 1 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Jazzfest: "The Bradford Marcks" 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Monday: "Billy Taylor's Jazz at the Kennedy Center" 7 p.m.
Tuesday: "Jazz Pops" 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Wednesday: "Evening Jazz" 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.

INTERFAITH SINGLES
Interfaith Singles, 100 singles, 24-year age 45+ will have Continental breakfast meetings on Sundays in December from 9:10 to 10:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Westfield.
Donations \$15. The church is located at 170 Elm St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 333-2279.

CROSSROADS Christian Singles offers 23 singles, meet on Friday at 8 p.m. at Evergreen Church in Scotch Plains.
The church is located at 1251 Temple Road in Scotch Plains. For information, call (908) 322-9300.

CONVERSATIONS BY CANDLELIGHT is a group of single professionals who meet every week for a traditional after-party on Fridays at 8 p.m. at Evergreen Church in Scotch Plains.
By invitation only, telephone interview and membership required. Fees: \$75. For information, call (201) 567-2082.

TELEVISION
NEWARK BOYS CHORUS - Roots will air today at 6 p.m., Friday at 8 p.m. and Jan. 1 at 9 p.m. on New Jersey Network. "State of the Arts" are Thursdays at 9 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m.
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TV 36, featuring Berkeley Heights, will burn New Providence, Springfield and Summit, will broadcast "Kean Forum" Mondays at 11:30 a.m. and Fridays at 12:30 p.m. "Storylines," Mondays, 12:30 p.m. "Wednesdays," 5 p.m. - Fridays, 9:30 p.m. "Allie Treasures," Mondays, 5 p.m. - Thursdays, 9 p.m. "Family Solutions," Mondays, 6:30 p.m. - Tuesdays, 12:30 p.m. - Fridays, 7:30 p.m. "Vintage Visions," Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m. - Fridays, 11:30 a.m. "Gourmet Lifestyles," Tuesdays, 6 p.m. - Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. "Into the 90s," Wednesdays, 9:30 p.m. - Fridays, 9 p.m. "Art Self Presents," Thursdays, 5 p.m.

OVATION cable channel will broadcast "The Western World" on Mondays at 11 a.m. On Tuesdays, "American Cinema" at 10 a.m. "Faces of Culture," 11 a.m. On Wednesdays, "Powerworks," 12:30 p.m. "Total Entertainment," 5:30 p.m. On Saturdays, "On Back Cinema," 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. On Sundays, 5:30 p.m. "Golden Age of TV," 5 p.m. On Sundays, "Music and You," 8 a.m. "Asian Variety Show," 10 a.m. "Souls of Gospel," 6:30 a.m.

CTM cable channel will broadcast "The Western World" on Mondays at 11 a.m. On Tuesdays, "American Cinema" at 10 a.m. "Faces of Culture," 11 a.m. On Wednesdays, "Powerworks," 12:30 p.m. "Total Entertainment," 5:30 p.m. On Saturdays, "On Back Cinema," 6 a.m. and 2 a.m. On Sundays, 5:30 p.m. "Golden Age of TV," 5 p.m. On Sundays, "Music and You," 8 a.m. "Asian Variety Show," 10 a.m. "Souls of Gospel," 6:30 a.m.

VARIETY
RAHWAY SENIOR CENTER will host a "Senior Memorabilia" and "Senior Bazaar" on Wednesday, Jan. 27.
The bazaar is located at 1306 Elm Brook Ave., Rahway. For information, call (732) 827-2094.

LINDEN LIONS (features Later Life Bowling to the music of the 70s every Sunday night) until 10 p.m.
Games cost \$3 per player. Linden Lions is located at 741-N. Siles Ave., Linden. For information, call (908) 989-3550.

SPORTLAND Union's indoor family fun center offers bumper cars, basketball, video games, air hockey, pool tables, redemption games, basketball games, and more. The center is located at 1000 Route 2A, Arena available at a cost of \$5 per person.

Privacy, safety tips for Internet purchases

The Internet is an exciting tool that puts vast information at your fingertips. With a click of a mouse, it lets you buy an airline ticket, book a hotel, send flowers to a friend or purchase your favorite Shock G CD's, conveniently and cheaply.

Shopping online offers both benefits that you can't find elsewhere and a few risks. Here are some tips to help you shop safely. The Internet is always open 24 hours a day, and bargains can be had on the Internet.

Anyone can set up a shop online, and almost anyone can steal your credit card information. If you're not familiar with a merchant, ask for a paper catalog or brochure to get a better idea of their merchandise and prices. Also, determine the company's refund and return policies before you place your order.

Be cautious when you establish a password and never give it to anyone. Avoid using a telephone number, birth date or a portion of your Social Security number. Instead, use a combination of numbers, letters and symbols.

Be sure you're a profit or charge cardholder. Verify that you will be protected by the Fair Credit Billing Act. Under this law, consumers have the right to dispute charges under certain circumstances and temporarily withhold payment while the creditor is investigating. In the case of unauthorized charges, you're liable for a maximum of \$500 if you report the charges only once a year.

Be sure to print a copy of your purchase order and confirmation number of your records. Also, you should always know that the letter 'M' or 'TelePhone Order Meridian' 'R'ule covers orders made via the Internet. This means that unless stated otherwise, merchandise must be delivered within 30 days, and if there are delays, the company must notify you.

Some companies let you pay bills and check your account online. Before you sign up for any service, establish how the company is securing your financial and personal information. Many companies explain their security procedures on their Web site. If you don't see a security description, call or e-mail the company and ask.

Don't disclose personal information such as your address, telephone number, Social Security number or e-mail address, unless you know who's collecting it and how they'll use it. If you have children, teach them to check with you before giving out personal or family information online.

Many companies add privacy practices to their privacy policies in their Web site. A company's privacy policy should disclose what information is being collected on the Web site and how that information is being used.

Community cable station seeks volunteers

TV-36 Communities of Cable, Inc. is a legal non-profit cable access television station serving Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Millburn, Springfield and Summit. TV-36 is offering a class in the basics of television production. The fee for this course is \$75 for adults and \$45 for seniors and students. Upon completion of this class, students are eligible to work with other volunteers on programs produced by TV-36. Contact Station Manager Ginger MacMahon at (908) 277-6110 or e-mail tv36@catworldnet.att.net.



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Shopping index reports an increase in holiday spending

According to the fourth annual American Express Index on holiday shopping, consumers expect to spend an average of \$1,442 on holiday gifts, entertaining, travel and other related expenses this year. This represents an 8 percent increase from spending indicated by a similar survey last year, which revealed holiday budgets at \$1,333. The Annual Express Retail Index is designed to reveal consumer shopping and spending trends, and is based on a national opinion survey of more than 800 consumers.

The survey found that despite stock market volatility, only 5 percent of respondents said they would spend less this season than previously anticipated. When asked about the stock market's impact on planned holiday spending, 90 percent of consumers said they did not expect to adjust their holiday shopping budgets. In fact, the average holiday shopper expects to spend more this year than last.

According to the American Express Retail Index, shoppers plan to spend "monthly" on gifts and entertaining, while budgets for holiday travel and decorations remained level with last year's forecasts. Shoppers will spend another \$4 on other, unplanned, holiday expenses.

Consumers are telling us they are going to be spending more this year.

despite concerns over fluctuations in the stock market, retailers will still need to try their hardest to capture spending and loyalty at this time of year," said Felicia Smith, vice president, Retail Industries, American Express TRS.

Although projected spending on a special someone is down slightly, 60 percent of adults say they will splurge on a family member or friend this year, up 6 percentage points from 1997. Spending levels by those who splurge hold well for retailers, with 29 percent saying they will purchase higher ticket items including jewelry, perfume, jackets and dress clothing, plane tickets and fancy gadgets.

The American Express Retail Index also found that while men tend to be the most generous gift-givers and will spend a woman again this holiday season, the gap is closing. Women are budgeting 15 percent more in 1998 than they did in 1997. Anticipated spending by men on the other hand, rose only 4 percent.

Other holiday shopping trends which differ between men and women include:

- Women begin shopping earlier than men and finish earlier, while many men shop at the last minute.
- Women are more likely to buy for sales, 64 percent of women reported they would do so, versus 29 percent of men.

Twenty six percent of men plan to take advantage of gift-wrapping services, versus only 8 percent of women.

According to the American Express Retail Index, clothing tops the list as the most popular gift to give among adults, followed by electronics, CD's and videos, toys, gift certificates and antiques/performance. Among those buying electronics, the number of men consumers will purchase this year are outpacing, followed by personal household appliances, CD players and video games.

The holiday survey also revealed that 23 percent of consumers are buying gifts for children this year. Of those, 45 percent will give toys and gifts. Forty-one percent of the buyers say they will likely buy a gift from someone they know on the date of this year, including: Technicians, Your City, merchandise, Huggies, dolls and toys, Beanie Babies, Disney, Winnie the Pooh, items, and Star Wars, Godzilla, and Small Soldiers action figures. Other gift giving trends from the American Express Retail Index include:

- 51 percent of shoppers will give stocking stuffers to small gifts.

this year. Spending an average of \$14 per person.

- Thirty seven percent of respondents plan to buy a holiday gift for their pet.
- Twenty seven percent will buy a gift for their boss, spending an average of \$52.

Department stores continue to rank at the top of types of stores as the most popular place to shop for holiday gifts, due to their wide array of necessities. Catalog shopping remained popular, followed by discount department stores.

According to the American Express Retail Index, on holiday shopping anticipated online shopping by consumers rose from 8 percent in 1997 to 17 percent in 1998. Shopping at brick-and-mortar stores also rose from 47 percent in 1997 to 61 percent in 1998. Catalog shopping remained virtually unchanged at 25 percent.

Although respondents participating in the American Express Retail Index holiday shopping survey will likely wait in a line of 8.5 shopping trips, visit about 12 different stores to get their shopping done. American Express's Smith, consumers are shopping more often and spending more time in the past and are clearly taking the time to find the best value by shopping this frequently and at this many locations.

Jacquie McCarthy, Editor
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From The Staff Of

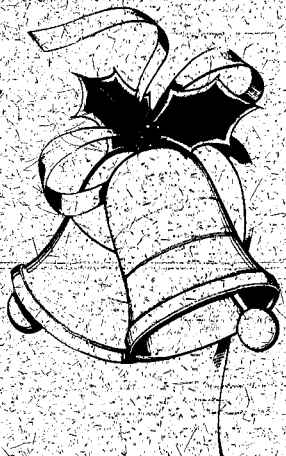


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All offices will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
All offices will close Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve at 3 pm. THE WALK-UP/DRIVE-IN WINDOWS WILL ALSO CLOSE AT 3 PM.

For your convenience, both Elizabeth offices and the Cranford office will be open Wednesday evenings, December 23 and December 30 from 6:30 - 8 pm.

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