

Union County

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County trees need our help

One of the most striking features of the Union County landscape is our trees. Whether you enjoy their beauty in parks or backyards, along narrow neighborhood streets or busy city streets, on hill-sides or from windows, trees are a feast for our senses.

Bur apart from their beauty, the ancient Union County trees serve a number of other important roles in our lives. Trees generate oxygen and clean pollution from our air and waterways. They increase residential and commercial property values. They reduce soil erosion and traffic noise. Properly placed trees provide privacy for homeowners and they shield our homes and businesses against wind, snow and summering heat.

Freeholder Forum

By Linda Stender

For these and other reasons, the health of our trees is an important part of the quality of life issue throughout Union County. But their environmental and financial benefits to the residents of Union County are, in fact, far greater.

Hundreds of trees were damaged or destroyed last year by a terrible March 15th storm. Other mature trees in the county's older communities are getting old and dying.

As the freeholder board session to the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board, I am informed to report that we give our trees the same respect and care that we give our people. That is why the freeholders are sponsoring a comprehensive Shade Tree Education Conference last month to discuss our shade tree inventory and efforts to replace aged and storm damaged trees in Union County.

The conference attracted dozens of municipal officials and shade tree commission representatives from throughout the county to hear several expert speakers: James Nighandrewicz of the Rutgers Cooperative Extension of Union County spoke about the Master Tree Steward Program. Michael D'Ercole, a forester with the New Jersey Forest Service, discussed the State's Community Forestry Act. Les Gillman, a representative of Bunette Tree Experts, talked about the care and planting of street trees, and Frank Dunn, Director of Union County Division of Public Works, spoke about the renewed efforts of the Union County Shade Tree Advisory Board.

It is encouraging to see that so many people recognize that trees are an important part of our ecosystem. Together we are taking steps to ensure that future generations may enjoy the wonders of Union County's trees.

See REPLANTING, Page B2

Budget to be introduced

By Mark Heyman
Regional Editor

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is expected to introduce the 1999 county budget at its regular public meeting tonight at 7 p.m. at the freeholder meeting room on the sixth floor of the Administration Building in Elizabeth. A public hearing and adoption of the county budget is scheduled for May 13.

Eleven of the county's 26 towns are expected to see their county taxes increase while others will "notice a moderate increase" if any, said Al Mirabella, chairman of the board's Fiscal Affairs Committee. More than \$100,000 was trimmed from the executive budget proposed by County Manager Michael Lapolla in January.

The town that will receive county tax increases are Cranford, Clark, Fairwood, Garwood, Mountainside, Plainfield, Roselle, Roselle Park, Springfield, Union and Westfield.

The county tax rate will decrease from 47.1 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 1998 to 46.5 cents per \$100 of assessed value in 1999. Based on the assessed value of a municipality, the county taxes will rise or fall.

Lapolla presented a \$285.6 million executive budget which kept the county tax rate the same for the second consecutive year. The board's

Tax decreases

Clark Roselle
Cranford Roselle Park
Fairwood Springfield
Garwood Union
Mountainside Winfield
Plainfield

These 11 municipalities will experience decreases in the county portion of their tax bills. Other towns will have a moderate increase. Of all, the freeholders will introduce the county budget tonight.

Fiscal Affairs Committee met with county officials during budget hearings in February and early March to examine individual department budgets.

The original budget proposal was \$333.5 million, more than the \$282.1 million budget adopted by the all-Democratic freeholder board last year.

The county tax levy — the amount to be raised through property taxes — declined approximately 1 percent last year and 0.5 percent in 1999. The proposed tax levy is the lowest since 1994. The changes in county taxes will vary among towns depending on the individual tax rates set by the county tax board.

Last year, 15 municipalities experienced a decrease in their portion of the county tax levy: Clark, Cranford, Elizabeth, Hillsdale, Kenilworth, New Providence, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle, Roselle Park, Scotch Plains, Springfield, Union, Westfield and Winfield.

Barbershop Harmony Month



The barbershop quartet *Work in Progress*, featuring, from left, baritone Ken Taylor of Plainfield, lead vocalist Tom Jones of Rahway, bass Dick Haig of Bridgewater and Paul Reussille of Manalapan, singing tenor, perform during a recent freeholder meeting to mark April as Barbershop Harmony Month.

Garbage transfer case ends

With more than \$2 million in restitution paid back in shared portions to all 21 municipalities in Union County, the Automated Modular Systems garbage transfer theft case is now officially over.

Union County Prosecutor Thomas Madaluna said Wednesday the release of the indictments of a letter from the county's assigned judge, Superior Court Judge Edward W. Ryan III, after the judge signed an elaborate restitution and payment arrangement that totaled back \$2,780,000 from LRP-River Associates and monitored the actions of the company, participants in their work under the Union County Solid Waste Management Plan.

Madaluna said the letter not only discharged the trustee from further obligations of supervising AMS and the J.C. Madaluna Disposal Inc. firm, also highlighted the arrangement established by the late Prosecutor Andrew K. Ruppolo Jr. to reimburse money by taxpayers in the county and continue supervision of the corporations and their principals: James C. Madaluna and Frank Capone.

The court ruled in its favor of discharge that a compliance officer established under a merger agreement set up last fall now oversees the work of Madaluna in his day to day activities at the transfer station.

"We are grateful as I'm sure the 21 municipal governing bodies that the court was able to oversee this period of supervision that way all five years ago through the foresight and creativity of Deputy Attorney General Robert J. Mangan in this case," Madaluna said.

Capital projects moving forward

By Mark Heyman
Regional Editor

Renovations of the Union County Police Headquarters and prosecutor's office in Westfield likely will break ground in the fall following the approval of the Board of Chosen Freeholders to begin the design phase of the projects.

The \$13-million renovation project is expected to last 18 months. The headquarters is part of the county complex at 300 North Ave.

The freeholders approved a change order to include the design development phase of the police headquarters for a new contract amount of \$500,000 with Lawrenceville-based Joseph J. J. & Son Inc., an increase of \$210,000.

The change order allows for engineering and design work so construction can begin in a timely fashion, said County Manager Michael Lapolla.

"We're pushing hard to ensure the facility is upgraded," said Freeholder Chairman Nick Scutari. The project, said Scutari, is just another example of the freeholder board's continued commitment to law enforcement.

The chairman said employees are on top of each other in the headquarters as it stands. The Westfield police officers serve about 60 county police officers in addition to the crime lab and garage for county vehicles.

The county garage has been consolidated at the former Smith Cadillac site in Elizabeth which the county is leasing. Harold Gibson, director of public safety, said there is no comparison in terms of size between the garages. The former Smith Cadillac site has much more space and will handle a vast majority of the vehicles, he said.

Lapolla said the county soon will offer municipalities the opportunity of bringing their vehicles to the county garage for repair.

The freeholders authorized a contract with Jingo for construction management services for the Union County Courthouse new atrium and rear entrance for \$177,846. Scutari, the chairman of the board, said the work is necessary for work to begin on the atrium, said Lapolla.

The board is expected to introduce a \$20-million bond ordinance at its meeting tonight for renovation work on the tower portion of the courthouse. The project is expected to take up to four years to complete. Freeholder Al Mirabella, chairman of the board's Fiscal Affairs Committee, said a 5-percent downpayment on the bond will be included in the 1999 county budget, also slated for introduction tonight.

The freeholders last month approved a \$15,000 agreement with The Mural Group, an architectural firm in Mountainside, to develop plans for first-floor renovations at

Abandoned village to be toured

Did you know that Union County's largest park, the Watchung Reservation, is home to a village that dates back to the pre-Civil War era? The area of the park known as the Deserted Village of Fittsville was first settled in the early 1700s. It was built into a thriving milltown in 1845, and was converted into a summer resort in the late 1800s.

On Sunday at 2 p.m., there will be a tour of the Deserted Village, led by Daniel J. Bernier, chief of the Union County Bureau of Park Operations. Bernier is coordinating the county's program to restore the village's 10 buildings and 130-acre grounds.

The tour will explain the village's historic restoration process, as well as what the future holds for this area of the Watchung Reservation.

This tour is part of the regularly scheduled Sunday Family Programs presented by the county's Trailside Nature and Science Center. No pre-registration is required. There is a \$3 per adult program fee. The program is recommended for persons over the age of 12.

Participants should meet at Trailside's Visitors Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside. Carpools will be utilized to get visitors to the Deserted Village after the slide presentation. Shoes suitable for walking in the woods are encouraged.

For more information call Trailside at (908) 787-3670.

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Downtown grants available to towns

Municipalities interested in upgrading and beautifying their downtown areas can receive assistance from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders through Project Pocket.

The program began this year and will involve allocating grants to municipalities that meet criteria criteria for the aesthetic and economic activity of their downtown areas.

The downtown areas are the heart of the community, said Freeholder Chairman Nick Sciarra. "It is where people congregate and meet with their friends and neighbors. It is an important generator of jobs and economic activity, and in many ways it defines the community."

"We want this grant program to bring communities to recognize their downtowns as vibrant, lively areas," said Sciarra. "Small businesses, such as the ones we find in our downtowns, represent two-thirds of the nation's new jobs each year and represent nearly 40 percent of the nation's gross domestic product."

As downtown business districts are improved, this county and investment will see strong returns on every dollar we invest through this grant.

Union County has allocated \$5 million for the downtown program, and is administering them through its Department of Economic Development. There is no minimum or maximum amount available for the grants but the county will use a rigorous selection process to determine which municipalities will receive funds.

"Each municipality must have a central business district," said Sciarra. "The central business district is the core of the downtown area. Grants can be used for the downtown area. Grants can be used for the downtown area."

These grants can help municipalities to replace aging sidewalks, street features and roads in their downtowns, or to removing dilapidated or abandoned structures, said County Manager Michael Lapolla.

The Department of Economic Development will recommend projects to the Board of Chosen Freeholders on the basis of their importance to their downtown areas and the availability of matching dollars from the municipalities.

Project Downtown Union County is one of three initiatives proposed by Sciarra when he was chosen as chairman of the freeholder board. It is part of the board's overall effort to encourage economic growth and activity by improving the quality of life for the residents of Union County.

Freeholders present views on cable show

What the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders is doing to lower taxes and provide the best of freeholder Forum "television show. The program, shown on local cable channels, features Freeholder Chairman Nick Sciarra and County Manager Michael Lapolla updating county residents on the freeholder board's 1999 agenda and initiatives.

"We're continuing to lower the tax burden on homeowners while deve-

loping new, innovative programs," said Sciarra, of Linden, Lapolla, who summarizes the day-to-day functions of County government added.

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lopment and a Mobile Immunization Clinic for child vaccinations.

"Last year's initiatives brought new computers and technology to schools, new parks for our communities and other benefits to the people of Union County. We're building on this success in 1999," Sciarra said.

In each biweekly, 30-minute program, Sciarra and guests discuss new events and issues affecting the lives of Union County residents. "Freeholders Forum" is presented by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and made possible through the facility and technical director of Union County College.

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO MICHELLE JOHNSON

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to appear in the Superior Court of the State of New Jersey, County of Essex, at 1:00 p.m. on April 15, 1999, at the Essex County Courthouse, 25 Gallows Hill Road, Westfield, New Jersey 07091, to answer to the complaint captioned as above, in which VAMIE CAPITAL CORPORATION is the plaintiff and MICHELLE JOHNSON is the defendant. The complaint alleges that you are indebted to VAMIE CAPITAL CORPORATION in the amount of \$10,000.00.

PUBLIC NOTICE
Sally Morgan was originally assigned to the plaintiff, JAMES CAPITAL CORPORATION.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION
PURSUANT TO N.J.S. 9:27-10, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, BY AND THROUGH ITS ATTORNEYS AT LAW, BUYER PLEASE CASH INTERESTED PARTIES MUST APPEAR AT 1:00 P.M. ON APRIL 15, 1999, AT THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY, COUNTY OF ESSEX, 25 GALLOWES HILL ROAD, WESTFIELD, NEW JERSEY 07091.

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Alzheimer's Support Group meets today

The next Caregiver/Alzheimer's Support Group of Rumlins Specialized Hospital of Union County meets today from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Family Conference Room of the facility, 401 Wanchung Way, Berkeley Heights.

This professional support, education and information group for caregivers and family members, held the third Thursday of each month, is open to the community, free of charge, and facilitated by Kathleen Balsacci, a Rumlins Specialized Hospital Licensed Social Worker.

The support group shares information on the disease, research updates, practical care techniques and a list of community resources. An important part of the meetings is the time devoted to discussing the frustrations patients feel at caring for those stricken with Alzheimer's disease.

Rumlins' Specialized Hospital of Union County sponsors the meetings in conjunction with the Northern New Jersey Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association, an organization committed to easing the burden and finding a cure for Alzheimer's, the nation's fourth leading fatal disease among adults, afflicting some four million Americans.

For more information on the biweekly, accessible program call (908) 771-5835.

The schedule for 1999 is as follows: May 20; June 13; July 15; Aug. 19; Sept. 16; Oct. 21; Nov. 18; Dec. 16.

Viulet society gets 'Back to Basics' today

The Union County Chapter of the African Violet Society of America meets today at 1 p.m. in the Scotch Plains Library, 927 Barile Ave. The program will be "Back to Basics. Anyone interested is welcome.

Council sponsors free prevention workshops

- The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a free Prevention Education Workshop—Series each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- Find out information about the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse in your community.
- Berkeley Heights: New Providence, Springfield, Summit: Channel 10, Tuesday and Thursdays, noon.
- Elizabeth: Channel 10, Wednesdays, 2:30 p.m.
- Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Wildife: Channel 36, Daily, 5:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.
- Plainfield: Channel 74, Wednesdays, 1 p.m.
- Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountaineer: Channel 76, 6:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

COUNTY NEWS

- Topics will include the following: "Community Resources" on Wednesday.
 - "Drug Use Among Youth" on April 28.
 - "Facilitation Skills" on May 5.
 - "Medications Management" on May 12.
- For more information, or to register to attend all or one of the workshops, call (908) 233-8810.

Monthly vendor sale at Rumlins Hospital

The Volunteer Guild of Rumlins Specialized Hospital of Union County holds its monthly vendor sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 22, in the multi-purpose room of the facility, 401 Wanchung Way, Berkeley Heights.

Continuum Unlimited, Inc. will offer new lines of designer style suits, lab coats, dresses, skirts, pants, jackets, shoes, sweaters, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs, name pins and hats, all below catalog pricing. Name brands include Cherokee, White Swan, Meta, Barcoff, Landau, Crest and EWC. Major credit cards, personal checks and cash will be accepted.

The Office of Volunteer Services of Rumlins Specialized Hospital of Union County is in need of volunteer, flexible hours and a variety of opportunities exist with resident contacts as well as performing other tasks.

For more information call the Rumlins Office of Volunteer Services at (908) 771-5842.

Household Waste Days slated for three sites

Union County will sponsor three "Springs House, Special Waste Day" collection events, the first scheduled for Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kenilworth Public Works Yard located at 14th Street and Sheridan Avenue.

All Union County residents are eligible to participate at no cost. Pre-registration is not required for any of the collection days. Contractors are not eligible.

The second event is scheduled for May 15 at the Linden Recycling Center, 2000 Donatone Place, near the center of Elizabeth Avenue and Stiles Street.

Acceptable household special waste includes oil-based paint and varnishes, antifreeze, pool chemicals, solvents and cleaners, pesticides and herbicides, caustics, solvents and thinners, aerosol cans, asphalt sealers, fire extinguishers, flammable liquids and solids, motor oil and motor oil filters, gasoline, transmission fluid, automotive products, batteries — dry cell and lead acid, propane tanks, unbroken fluorescent bulbs, thermoses, thermometers and mercury watches.

Scotch Plains will host the third spring collection event June 12 at the Scotch Plains Public Works Yard on Plainfield Avenue.

Schools must schedule appointments and provide an inventory list in advance. For more information call Union County Environmental Services at (908) 654-9890.

Replanting must begin now

(Continued from Page B1)

One of the first coordinated steps to be taken by the Union County Treekeepers and the Shade Tree Advisory Board is a coordinated planting of 21 white oak trees at noon on April 30 in observance of Arbor Day. One white oak tree will be planted at each of the 21 municipalities to honor the country's 21st anniversary for symbolic effort to make a greener, healthier 21st century.

Project to plant seedling growth from seeds and cuttings of historic New Jersey trees. The seedlings include offsprings of trees that were standing during the Revolutionary War at the battles of Springfield, Monmouth and Princeton.

It will take years to replace the mature trees we lose each day. That is why we have to begin the replanting process now, without any further delay.

Other plans are being developed, such as lining up with Union County College's Historic Tree of Chosen Freeholders.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Union performer catches the spirit of success

By Ned Smith
Staff Writer

Cookie Price Drayton, a soft-spoken, religious, ambitious singer-songwriter-poetess, who bails from Union, has a specific goal in life — to be successful in the eyes of God. Drayton, who has devoted about 10 or 12 years to writing songs and poetry, recently created her own CD called "I Mean Heaven." During a recent visit to this office, the friendly, ever-smiling woman explained that since writing poetry and songs for about 10 years, I've leaned more toward gospel music. That's my first love — and I love to sing. My goal — I mean, the reason for putting out 12 songs on my CD, is to help people reach and love God the way I do.

"I'm also self-published the CD, and my own publishing company, called Dotted Lines Productions. I put 'I Mean Heaven' into under my own distribution, and my album can be heard on three major radio stations, which are KISS (98.7 FM), WBLS (107.5 FM) and WNJR (14.30 AM). Drayton was raised up in church, sang in the junior choir in Deliverance Evangelistic Center in Newark under the leadership of the late Apostle Arturo Skinner. After leaving under his ministry, she recalled, "I learned under the leadership of the late Bishop Jeff Banks of Revival Temple, Newark. And after his passing, I went up to St. Paul Calvary in Vauxhall under the leadership of Bishop Claude L. Campbell. There, where my gift was given more to exercising," Drayton admitted. "He encouraged me to do my books of poetry. In fact," she smiled, "he insisted as well as encouraged the lay go ahead and do something while my gift."

Within a period of five years, Drayton self-published two books of poetry, "So Great a Cloud of Witnesses" and "And to None" and also released a cassette single, "Olad (God Knows All About Us)." Among the



Cookie Price Drayton

12 numbers on her "I Mean Heaven" album are Paul Rodgers singing the title song; Tim Shiner singing "Just Because," and the St. Paul Calvary Choir singing "Just Like Jesus," Drayton said. "All of Me" and "Just Because" are two separate songs, yet they go together under the umbrella title, "The Conversation." Another song from the album, "Worship & Celebrate," was written as a Christmas song, yet it turned into a song of praise and celebration into our Lord and King, Jesus Christ. And "Never Let Me" is my way of thanking

Alama (for giving me the best gift anyone could give another human being, the knowledge of Christ). She also was given the opportunity by the president of Christian Church, David Melvin, to do a column of poetry. Drayton, who was born in Newark and who graduated from East Side High School in the Lombard section, attributes her love of God and music to her "beloved mother." "My name is Aloha, but my mother named me Cookie as a stage name. After I graduated from high

school, I went to a legal secretarial school, First School of Secretaries in East Orange, a two-year course, and after I graduated, I went to work at SGU, an insurance company as a legal secretary. "My mother, Lita Reynolds, is and always will be my backbone. She's the kind of person who is uncomplaining and won't settle for less than the best. She is my best friend, first of all, and my prayer partner. Her father, Rance Reynolds, is very supportive. He's a church-going, God-fearing man; a hard-working man."

Drayton had two sons by her first marriage, Vincent and Vaughn Price, who go to the same church as I do. I remained in August to Jerome Drayton, an electrician in the United States Army Air Force.

Drayton said her mother recognized Aloha's talents "at a very young age. As a young child, I was always beating drums or the pipe in my mother's kitchen, and I had rhythm. Also, I had this thing that when I heard music, I used to rearrange people's songs and make them sound the way I wanted them to sound. These were songs I was attracted to, I was never recognized as creative until I started as an adult expression of myself."

Drayton explained that "I was always so shy. I've just always been so shy — so closed in. Sometime about what we call the Holy Ghost gives you the boldness that you need to fulfill the purpose God intended you to fulfill. "I plan to see how this album goes, and I'm hoping to be recognized as a writer and a musical artist, and more so, as a producer."



Pushcart Players in a scene from 'Wow! What A Century!' an all-new musical to celebrate the millennium. From left, standing are Stephanie Kraus, Harry Christian and Terry Burnett. Seated are Jon H. Darios and Irene Piccinini.

Audiences say 'Wow!' to Pushcart Players

Pushcart Players, the Verona-based professional touring theater company, for young audiences has announced the opening of a new musical production to celebrate the millennium, "Wow! What A Century!"

Creeted by critical acclaim from students, teachers and family audiences, "Wow! What A Century!" is a whirlwind tour of the twists and turns in history — from 1900 to the year 2000. Filled with drama, discovery, heartbreak and hope, it offers a colorful view of the 20th century as young frontiers were launched at breakneck speed. Travel moved from rail to road to air and outer space. Science and technology doubled man's life expectancy and brought the world into our living rooms with the flick of a switch. Radio, TV, film, phones, cars, computers — the list goes on and provides an endless story.

Pushcart personalized this story through portraits of people and events that moved this century forward. Beginning with a look at family life in 1900, the play quickly becomes a collection of significant moments of the last hundred years. From Henry Ford to Charlie Chaplin, the

Rooney to the Kennedy's, women's fight to civil rights — "Wow! What A Century!" captures an era of boundless optimism, opportunity and accomplishments. "Pushcart Players is a dynamic ensemble of talented artists, well-known for tackling difficult issues and bringing them to life in an innovative, lively and accessible way. Recent credits include a highly successful performance by the former Soviet Union; several performances at The White House; national tours, and both public and poor recognition through numerous awards for outstanding work in children's theater."

"Pushcart is now in its 25th season of producing and elevating the standard of theater and arts education programming for young viewers. All productions are accompanied by comprehensive study guides for classroom teachers and discussion/assessment sessions with the cast following performances. For more information regarding this or other programs, call Pushcart Players at (973) 857-1115 or write to "Pushcart," 197 Bloomfield Ave., Verona, NJ 07044.

Armchair travel series continues in Springfield

The "Lunchtime Video" series, the Springfield Public Library continues its Armchair Travel Series on non-on the following Tuesdays of every other week as follows:

April 20 — Munich, Bavaria, Berlin and Potsdam; The Alps; Tyrol; Dolomites; Milan; Lake Como.

May 4 — Paris daytrips; Alsace; Champagne; Prague; Budapest; Istanbul.

May 18 — Holland; Belgium; Luxembourg; Denmark; Sweden and Norway.

Bring a brown bag lunch to the performance. Coffee and cookies will be provided. The Springfield Public Library is located at 66 Mainland Ave., Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-4930.

Save your newspaper for recycling.

African-American Heritage Guide to New Jersey now available

Commerce Secretary, Guslinio "Gini" Medina has unveiled the first African-American Heritage Guide to New Jersey — one part of the state's mission to draw multicultural tourism and expand its \$25.5 billion tourism industry.

This initiative will be a key selling point in promoting New Jersey, the multi-billion dollar African-American convention and leisure travel market. Secretary Medina said, "We want to make sure that all decision makers, from convention planners to multi-coach operators and other group leaders, know about the diversity and richness of African-American life in New Jersey. The guide helps to illustrate that New Jersey is a state for business for everyone. I think Governor Whitman, for urging us to develop the guide and Secretary of State DeFuria-Buxer Soares for his support both prior to and after joining our administration."

The free 29-page, four-color publication showcases the tremendous array of African-American historical and cultural attractions that call New Jersey home. Throughout the guide users can trace the heritage of African-Americans in New Jersey

from the 17th century to the present. Also from beginning to end are biographies and photographs of renowned African-American icons. Among others included are Sarah Vaughan, a native of Newark, opera diva Jessye Norman; William "Count" Basie, who was born and raised in Red Bank; and Paul Robeson, one of the remarkable men of our time.

In the beautifully illustrated guide, said Secretary Medina, readers can also learn about sites of historic importance, places of cultural interest, cultural events and celebrations, jazz clubs and restaurants, and general statewide tourism information. "Convenient" features "Celebrating Atlantic City as a meeting place, for instance, will give a glimpse of the seaside resort's multicultural diversity in addition to its luxury casino resorts and gaming, world-class entertainment and The New Atlantic City Convention Center. Visitors can learn from the guide that there is an African-American History Museum of Atlantic City with movieability in 20th century African-American Atlantic City life. There's also an annual two-day Ken-

ucky Avenue Renaissance Festival, as Kentucky Avenue was once home to restaurants and nightclubs that featured jazz and blues artists.

Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority Executive Director Marshall Morduga believes the new guide will serve as an excellent collateral piece, along with its other publications, in helping to book major African-American conventions and travel shows for the city. "Incessantly destinations, like Atlantic City, are promoting heritage tours for conventions," said Morduga. "This guide enables us to further showcase our multicultural tourism product to the economic benefit of Atlantic City and the rest of the state." NJ Commerce has conducted focus groups with African-American, Hispanic and Asian residents to learn what New Jersey needed to do to reach those potential travelers. The focus groups made it clear that New Jersey needed to advertise more directly to these groups, and build awareness that New Jersey is a culturally diverse state. The multicultural initiative seeks to increase travel to New Jersey from

African-American, "Hispanic" and Asian American markets, while promoting the rich culture and history of the state's diverse ethnic communities. As part of its overall tourism promotion, the state has targeted this audience by placing advertisements in ethnic newspapers and magazines.

In 1997, NJ Commerce sponsored a multicultural television special, "Lighting New Jersey's Asian-Indian community on New Jersey Network." The 30-minute television special, "Rose's Mending Pot," featured Asian-Indian culture, cuisine and history, by highlighting New Jersey's museums, festivals and music that focus on India. NJ Commerce worked with Gloria Bryant, owner of the Writing Company in Newark, to produce the African-American Heritage Guide to New Jersey. "For a copy of the guide, call the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission at (800) 945-1111, extension 9950. Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 973-765-9411."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Birthdays are natural at Trailside center

Trailside Nature & Science Center offers birthday party programs for children 5 years and older. Group size is limited to 12 children for preschool groups and 18 for 1st grade and up. Naturalist-led programs are 45 minutes and may be scheduled two days or Saturdays. Planarium shows are also available, are limited to 25 children and may be scheduled weekdays or the first Saturday of the month.

Upon request, some group parties can also be adapted for birthday parties. Please advise in advance if your group has special needs. To schedule a birthday party, call Trailside at (908) 789-9676, weekdays, 9 am to 5 pm.

- **Trailside Grade and Up:**
 - Snakes & Turtles: Fact files about these popular animals; meet a turtle girl touch a snake, from Trailside's collection.
 - Dinosaurs: Become a paleontologist and put together a dinosaur skeleton, then create your own prehistoric creature on paper.
 - Seasonal Secrets Walk: Explore the woods and fields using various senses.
- **Mini-Bears:** Engage smaller animal neighbors such as earthworms, millipedes and slugs. April-October.
- **Animal Detectives:** Investigate the mystery of animal calls, coverings, and naturalist members of the bird and mammal programs. Trailside's Museum to get a close-up look at some sizes and shapes.
- **Busy Bees:** Explore the world of honey bees, using games and stories. Observe a live hive in action.
- **Snowflakes:** Discover fun facts about snow! Go on a snowflake hunt and draw your own snowflake December-February.
- **Rock 'N' Roll Rocket:** Planarium Show: Join Rodney the Rocket on a mission to the five planets! Explore the moon, Venus and Mars. Learn planarium basics, counting and the planet song.

REUNIONS

- Former crewmen of decommissioned USS *Garb* will gather in Norfolk, Va. from April 18-18, 1999. For information, contact John Wilbur and Helen Heslop at (515) 882-2269.
- Scotch Plains High School Class of 1989 reunion is scheduled for April 16. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Men stationed at Holesome, Va. as part of 800th AAF, 5th ASA FS, or Det. 5, 2nd Sig Svc Bn are planning a reunion for April 22-25 in Nashville, TN. For information, contact (315) 682-9460.
- **Bittin High School in Elizabeth,** Class of 1949 is planning a reunion for April 30-May 1. Contact John Gleeman, 4011 W. Westminster Drive, 15535 for an 07079, (201) 992-8456.
- Crewmen of USS *Hwy Canyon* will meet in early May in Charleston, SC. For information, contact Dan Marsh at (770) 464-8370.
- Kent University Alumni Office is planning reunions for Classes 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969 and 1974. 1984, 1989 and 1994 reunions will take place May 1. For information, call (908) 527-2526.
- U.S.S. *Smalley DD-565's* Association reunion is scheduled for May 12-16 in Hampton, Va. For information, contact George Bauerfeldt at (314) 736-6377.
- **Union County College Class of 1943,** 1959 reunions is scheduled for May 15 at the Cranford campus. Pre-registration by April 23 is required. Sign-up is at 2 p.m. Presentations and a buffet dinner are planned. Fee: \$50. Contact: Ann Bookout at (908) 709-7505.
- Former crewmen of USS *Arctic* will meet May 20-23 in Norfolk, Va. Contact Ernest W. Wasisko at (724) 104-7409.
- Former crewmen of USS *Cambria* will meet May 20-23 in Norfolk, Va. Contact Robert Baschman at (724) 652-5435.
- Crewmen from USS *Orchard* will meet in May in Virginia Beach, Va. For information, contact Tom Kelly at (757) 838-4151.
- Former crewmen of USS *Rockwell* will meet in St. Louis, MO. Contact Steve Long at (314) 724-1440.
- Former crewmen of USS *Willard* will meet May 29-31 in Norfolk, VA. Contact: RIT Contact: Charles Winkler at (301) 872-1725.
- **Union High School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for June 18 and 19 at Western Piedmont Hotel. For information, call (704) 683-9019.
- **Wooded Hill School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for July 17. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Cranford High School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for July 31. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Union High School Class of 1929** reunion is scheduled for July 31. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Society Place Park and High School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for Aug. 13. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Lincoln High School Class of 1959** will have a reunion picnic on Aug. 26 at Memorial Park, 5 Wood Avenue in Linden from 1 pm to dusk. For information, call Carl Hunk at (908) 362-4272.
- **Union High School Class of 1934** reunion is scheduled for Oct. 10. Contact: NHS Class of 1934 Reunion, 250 Coupe Ave., Union, NJ 07083.
- **Wooded Hill School Class of 1929** reunion is scheduled for Oct. 30. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Thomas Jefferson High School in Elizabeth,** Class of 1949 is planning a reunion for October in Atlantic City. For information, write to J Class of 1949 Reunion, 540 Garden St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202.
- **Dave's** Reunion Class of 1969 reunion is scheduled for November. Contact: Dave's Reunion Class of 1969, 401 Monroe Ave., Kew-Forest, NY 11413.
- **Summit High School Class of 1969** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 19. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **James Caldwell High School Class of 1969** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 20. For information, contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979** is scheduled for Nov. 26. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Union Hope School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Union High School Class of 1974** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Union High School Class of 1969** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Wynfield High School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 26. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **James Caldwell High School Class of 1978** reunion is planned for Nov. 27. For information, contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Sunrise High School Class of 1989** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 27. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Gracie High School Class of 1974** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 28. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Scotch Plains High School Class of 1949** reunion is scheduled for 1949. For information, contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **St. Joseph's School in Roselle** Class of 1950 reunions is planned for May 2000. Contact: Jane Goldinger Burke at (732) 988-7363. At Home at (201) 744-7999 or George Schuchbauer at (908) 432-4210.
- **Banion High School Class of June 1934** is looking for Classmates for a 65th reunion. Contact Dorothy M. Eitel at (561) 364-3671.

All stars are aligned in 'Sliding Doors'

What are your chances of finding Mr. Right? Is there such a thing as fate? Does true love really exist? If all the stars align aligned correctly, will your life be thrown into disarray and lead you on a road to doom? These are a few of the hot topics explored on "Sliding Doors," a sweet movie that reminds one of the charming romantic comedies of the 1930s and '40s.

Greydon Palfrey stars as Helen, an up-and-coming advertising executive who lives with her unemployed writer boyfriend, Jerry, played by John Lynch. The lady begins with Helen's entrance into the job world. This lady enters a love war with it takes from her circle of employees, who have some feelings. They have decided that she's not right for the company and are going to let her get her legs on the unemployment line.

Shocked and hurt, Helen slowly takes steps out the door. She heads for the subway, dazed and confused. For a moment, she hasn't even gotten out of her Central Station way in thought. Her voluptuous girl on the "See You" plays her beautifully, by Anne Thompson. This girl could be someone very hot, but nothing.

Helen jumps down the stairs to catch the train but trips into a young boy and starts to fall, something some people say he'll miss her. The movie proves better some magical movie plays and the moment is reversed with Helen moving backward up the stairs.

The Video Detective

In the first, Helen climbs back on the stairs and walks out into the street, where she is immediately attacked by a man after her purse. The split-second-mugging ends with Helen on the ground and a gust over her eye. She's brought to a nearby hospital and arrives home, shortly thereafter, nursing by moments for boyfriend's flippant remarks. But an ominous air fills the apartment and a seed of suspicion is planted in her head.

As for the second scenario, Helen arrives home just in time to catch her ex-boyfriend in the midst of passion. The scene continues and all the questions of pure fate and perfect timing, aligned stars, are answered beautifully.

Palfrey can currently be seen in "Shakespeare in Love," for which she took home Best Actress honors.

A resident of Cranford, Jim Rifkin is the author of "The Video Detective's Guide to the Top 100 Films of All Time."

Celebrate a special occasion at NJ Center for Visual Arts

Celebrate your child's birthday or any other occasion at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts. Each party will start with an art and craft project to show for the birthday or celebration. Items, gifts, provided by the parents or car gifts may be served in the last half hour. An instructor and art party will make this a day to remember.

There is a theme for every age range and taste. All materials are provided. Choose from among the following:

- **Puppet shows - Ages 3-6:** Children will enjoy a puppet show featuring glove puppets and a ventriloquist dummy. There will also be magic tricks featuring the birthday child. Everyone will make an Origami hand puppet to take home.
- **Colored sand bottles - Ages 4 and up:** Every child will fill a unadorned bottle with multi-colored sand, which is layered or swirling the colors.
- **Earnings - Ages 6 and up:** Each child will make three pairs of

either tignon or pierced earrings. Children will be able to choose from hundreds of different beads and semi precious stones.

- **Sand bead necklaces - Ages 5 and up:** Each child will make a sand bead necklace from semi-precious glass beads with a special center bead of their choice.
- **Caricature Cartoons - Ages 8 and up:** Each child will create a caricature which will then be mounted on a colorful poster board. No drawing ability required. Lots of laughs while you wait.

Parties can be scheduled every Friday from 3:30 to 5 pm and many Sundays from either 12:15 to 1:45 or 2:15 to 3:45. Call ahead for specific Sunday dates and times.

For further information and reservations, call NJCVA at (908) 373-9131. NJCVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit.

- **Following the 45 minute program parties will be held outside at the picnic tables behind the museum. This area is covered by a canopy and is ideal site in the spring, summer and fall months. During the winter in case of inclement weather, the party room in the lower level of the museum, the auditorium and the museum can be rented for 30 minutes. Advance registration is required and rentals are subject to availability.**
- **James Caldwell High School Class of 1969** reunion is scheduled for Nov. 20. For information, contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- **Scotch Plains High School Class of 1979** is scheduled for Nov. 26. Contact: Reunions Unlimited, Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
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- **Banion High School Class of June 1934** is looking for Classmates for a 65th reunion. Contact Dorothy M. Eitel at (561) 364-3671.

Arts council sponsors a hotline to culture

The Elizabeth Arts Council sponsors and promotes the work of Elizabeth's artistic community and cultural institutions. Membership is open to all those directly involved in the arts - artists, writers, students, teachers and performers, and those who enjoy the arts and want to see their flourish in and around Elizabeth.

Last fall, the Elizabeth Arts Council, with the support of Mayor Bollweg and the city of Elizabeth, inaugurated the Elizabeth ARTS LINE. The phone number of the ARTS LINE is (908) 320-4122. Calls made on the line involve representatives of cultural events in and around the city of Elizabeth.

For more information about the Elizabeth Arts Council, call (908) 289-1354 or leave a message on the ARTS LINE.

Your abilities can earn extra to come. Advise their with a clear feel all by calling 1-800-564-5912.

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HOROSCOPE

For April 19 to 25

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Watch out for losing your temper over financial matters. Your learning capacity is unlimited. Keep an open mind and absorb all kinds of new and different information.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Avoid power plays or manipulation involving business associates. Past investments may pay off big now. Go back and harvest some of those old seeds you planted.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): You will feel the pull of two different opportunities. Why choose? Find a way to go after both of them. Friends and partners are very supportive and helpful.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): A little competition or opposition on the job is healthy. Play along and concentrate your efforts on achieving a desired result. Staying focused is the key.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your attention turns to career matters. How can you realize the sky is the limit, set your goals to match your current expectations. Travel is probable.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look for and take advantage of sound investment opportunities. Step up to a new level of professional involvement and enjoy playing with the big boys.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Foreign places are calling your name. Hop a plane and let the adventures begin. Keep the lines of communication open between you and partners in business associations.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): This is a good period for learning. Academic new assignments or input on the job

member chooses a book after a month to read it, it is discussed.
 "Once a year, guest speaker, Elliot Engel, professor of classical languages from North Carolina State University visits the group. His presentations are entertaining, witty and very interesting, regarding the masters of American and British authors and their works.
 Also born this week: Al Unser Jr., Ashley Judd, Andie MacDowell, Rajeev Ramnani, Jessica Lange, Roy Orbison, Barbra Streisand, Shirley MacLaine, Al Pacino and Anthony Quinn.

Arts center season salutes 'Work-Memory-Spirit'

Building upon the unprecedented success of its inaugural World Festival celebration, "Portuguese Words and Ways," Stephanie S. Hughley, New Jersey Performing Arts Center vice president of programming, has announced "World Festival II."
 "Inventing America: Memory-Work-Spirit — A Festival of Pan-African America," is the theme of the celebration, which begins with the triumphant return to the United States of legendary singer Nina Simone, explores the identity and legacy of people of African descent in the United States and their enrichment of the American cultural landscape.
 "NJPAC's World Festival II will feature more than 20 performing arts events — including music, dance and theater — from across the country and around the globe. The performance are complemented by education, residency and humanities programs that promote intellectual curiosity in the ways in which the arts intersect with and dignify the human experience.
 "This year, we are specifically trying to tie in to African-influence as it has migrated and then been transformed here in the United States," Hughley said. "The festival's mission is to bring world-class performers to

America, who are then not only integrated into the full season at NJPAC, but also into the community. Like our exploration of the Portuguese-speaking world, our second festival is a curated event which will examine and celebrate cultural origins and assess their impact. The festival offers a chance to explore and learn about what it takes to come to us as well as to reintroduce artistic expressions that will be familiar to others."
 Festival Producer Baraka Selig noted the thematic components of this year's festival, "Memory-Work-Spirit," are each quite significant. "Memory refers to the rich and deep rooted traditions maintained to preserve collective and individual remembrances. Work, among people in Africa, was an expression of creativity and an extension of one's identity. Spirit, considers how religion for the people of Africa has been and is the source of life and meaning." All three components will be reflected in the various performances, recitations and interactions with audiences, schools and community based organizations.
 Artists participating in World Festival II hail from Nigeria, Mozambique, Cole d'Ivoire and across the United States.

"We do not believe that people have come to the United States with the desire to assimilate themselves into a society where they would become less culturally and spiritually," Selig said. "On the contrary, those who ventured to the New World came to explore and have the freedom to express their various cultural, religious and artistic practices. The World Festival will try to recreate those impulses that stimulated migrations, transformations and creation of new habits and customs."
 A running theme throughout the festival is the pairing of African and American performers for memorable evenings of hip contemporary and traditional street dance music and physical theater.
 Other special World Festival II events include the African Arts American Dance Theatre, April 15-18, return of the Presidential Hall Show from their NJPAC inaugural season triumph, film screenings, long-standing affiliations with NJPAC having participated in early Arts Education initiatives long before the center opened its doors. The Artley company, an NJPAC principal artistic affiliate, will stage "Prodigal Prince," a recreation of the stirring dance work

originally choreographed by the multi-talented actor/choreographer Geoffrey Holder.
 "Waramba: A Mandinka Opera" takes the stage of the Victoria Theater from April 21-25. Performed by the Ensemble "Korcha," (DRA) African folk musical plays holds a mirror to the continent's history and culture. "Waramba" a blend of Mandinka epics, pagentry and byzantine was cited by *The Atlantic Journal* as one of the most dazzling images and expressive dances.
 Additional special events planned under the World Festival II banner include a Sacred Music event, April 3, an Outdoor Festival of Pan-African Arts, June 16-20, and "Labors of Love: The Life of Sarah Vaughan," March 27, the second in NJPAC's Low Jazz Series series saluting the Newark-born legend on the anniversary of her 75th birthday. A number of prominent artists will participate in each of these NJPAC exclusive events.
 More World Festival II events will be announced as acts and dates are confirmed. For more information on additional events and ticket prices and availability, call (888) GO-NJPAC.

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Great Expectations of Literature is a group of people from all walks of life who have one thing in common: a love for classical literature. Choices in reading range from "Two Gentlemen of Verona" by William Shakespeare to "The House of Mirth" by Edith Wharton. Meetings are the first and third Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The first Friday, favorite poems are shared. On the third Friday, a

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By Jacquie McCarthy, Associate Editor: I think I was a kid, but I was all I wanted to eat — As an adult, I have discovered my diet considerably, but maintain an affinity for my former favorite food. That it was with much trepid that I began to lunch at Charlie's Italian Hot Dogs in Kenilworth.
 Owners Joe and Valerina Casella run a nice, clean place where good food is served fast, with all the appropriate fixings. The restaurant, located at 18-S. Michigan Ave. right off the Boulevard, was established in 1962 at Jimmy Bull's last time in a year lease, according to Joe, now owner Charlie Fiorello changed the name. Joe also grew up eating hot dogs and having them, as he worked at the restaurant since the age of 12, taking over the business in 1977. Freely, smiling Joe explains many lessons from the area, and is proud of the quality service provided by all.
 Lunch began with fried succini from the appetizer menu, which includes such specialties as mozzarella sticks, chicken nuggets, hot wings, fried ravioli, and jalapeno peppers. The succini was fried just right, in cholesterol-free oil that was light and tasty. The creamy horseradish sauce went over well, and the honey mustard sauce was delicious as well. Succini choices also include tortilla, pizza, and blue cheese.
 For those who love the taste of genuine Italian hot dogs, Charlie's serves steak and veggie and sausage are available on all.

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What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY
April 17th, 1999
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church
132 Prospect Avenue, Irvington
TIME: 8am-5pm
PRICE: New and used clothes, shoes, records, housewares, books, jewelry, etc. Tickets available for \$15.00 per laborer. Call 973-325-4443 or 973-363-9261 between 9am-5pm.
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church

SATURDAY
April 24th, 1999
EVENT: Flea Market and Rummage Sale
PLACE: Sacred Heart Church, 132 Elmwood Avenue, Irvington
TIME: 10am-2pm
PRICE: Free Admission. Something for everybody: Clothes, Books, Records, Housewares, Lamps, Jewelry, Collectibles and a "Bake Sale"
ORGANIZATION: Sacred Heart Church

SATURDAY
May 1st, 1999
EVENT: Flea Market
PLACE: Sacred Heart School, Valhalla, New Jersey
TIME: 8:00am-4:00pm
PRICE: Free Admission. All vendors must purchase tables in advance. \$25.00 table. Call 973-372-4443 for details.
ORGANIZATION: Sacred Heart School

RUMMAGE SALE

FRIDAY, SATURDAY
April 16th, 17th, 1999
EVENT: Rummage Sale
PLACE: Linden United Methodist Church, 241 North Wood Avenue (next to City Hall), Linden, NJ
TIME: 9am-2pm
PRICE: Clothing, toys, books, linens, white elephant items
ORGANIZATION: Linden United Methodist Church

SUNDAY
April 18th, 1999
EVENT: Rummage Sale
PLACE: 56 Grove Avenue Verona, NJ
TIME: 9-4pm
PRICE: Clothing, housewares, books
ORGANIZATION: Congregational Ben Am

FRIDAY, SATURDAY
April 16th, 17th, 1999
EVENT: Spring Rummage Sale
PLACE: Glen Ridge Congregational Church
TIME: Friday 5-9pm, Saturday 10am-1pm
PRICE: Free Admission
ORGANIZATION: Glen Ridge Congregational Church

Orchestra collaborates with young musicians

AN Symphony Orchestra continues its Master Teacher Collaborative program. This program recognizes excellence in teaching by identifying teachers, highlighting them in an expanding network and asking them to share their expertise. By creating, multi-disciplinary lessons for distribution to teachers who bring their students to NISO performances.

NISO's Young Artist Auditions identify and encourage the most gifted and accomplished young musicians in the state, and concludes with four finalists performing at a gala public performance with the full NISO by the Lawrence Lightfoot Smith. It takes place on May 15 at 8 p.m. at the NJPAC in Newark. The winner of the auditions will perform with the

orchestra during the 1999-2000 season.

Greater Newark Youth Orchestra, an orchestra training program which provides musical training for talented young people in and around Newark. The young people are recruited by members of the NISO. NYO performs two to three times annually.

NISO educational programs are supported by Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, Frank and Lydia Bergen Foundation, J. J. Fund and Victoria Foundation. For more information on NISO education programs, contact Judith Nashon at (973) 624-3713, ext. 216.

NISO will continue to execute its Reach program. Resources for Education and Community Harmony during the 1998-99 season.

Community music center receives grants for outreach arts projects

The Suburban Community Music Center received two grants from Union County for the 1998-1999 school year.

Union County Arts Grant of \$2,000 will fund music made possible by the NJ State Council on the Arts. Department of State is helping support the center's outreach projects at Jefferson Park Day Care Center in Elizabeth, where 65 underserved preschool children attend given weekly music classes by one of SCMC's early childhood music specialists.

A HEART Grant in the amount of \$2,250 has been awarded by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Nicholas P. Scutari, Chairman, will help support two arts projects. One is a weekly class for preschoolers with special needs, taught at the music center by a music therapist on the faculty; the other is a five-part music appreciation lecture series to take place in April for mentally capable but perhaps physically handicapped children. The series to be taught by John Sighel will be free for those 62 and older, and transportation to the handicapped-accessible music center may be provided for those who need it. Adults under 62 will pay \$50 for the five-lecture series.

These three projects help the center fulfill its mission to make music accessible to all. The SCMC, 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill, is a full member of the National Guild of Community School of the Arts and provides quality instruction for all ages and backgrounds in a supportive, professional environment.

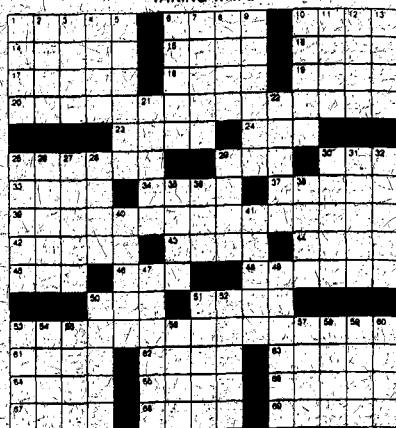
For more information on the center, call 908/790-0700.

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ACROSS

1. Jester
16. Pansifer oasis
10. Lobster part
14. Grenoble's river
13. Frig
17. Frig and Needles' composer
17. Part of LCD
18. Frig soil
19. Greek competition
20. Be indifferent to something
23. NBA's Thurmond or Archibald
24. Highway
25. Philosopher Blaise
29. Siamese temple
30. Playing card
33. Cavalli
- Instrument in Arazzo
34. Pledge
37. Insect adult stage
39. Considered
42. German seaport
43. Aware of
44. Hosea in Douay Bible
45. Comedian Charlotte
- Resistance unit
48. Generic code
50. Generic code letters
51. Thru
53. Accept as a charge
51. Tamarisk
62. Proper's companion
63. Subsequently
64. Ogle
65. Wagnerian goddess
66. Arm bones
67. Joint
68. Negatives in PERTH
69. Incendiary site

TAKING WAYS



DOWN

2. Room at the top
25. Author Walter
26. CD
27. Fire china
28. Tonic or batika
29. Reporter's question
30. Hesitation
31. Choreographer
8. Arousal
9. Alge's device
10. Desire strongly
11. Theater part
12. Mine in Armiens
13. Lull
21. Chain

47. Occur
49. Dagger in printing
50. Farm machine
51. Idiom
51. Derivative
52. Mania's University
53. Of Sanio
53. Gossip
54. Solar disc
55. Swiss partner
56. Extra in the Orneys
57. Season
58. Sight
59. Accidental crack
60. Loosen

(See ANSWERS on Page B11)

NJPAC proves artists, students are perfect together

The New Jersey Performing Arts Center has been collaborating with 26 public schools, Head Start centers and community preschools throughout the state during the 1998-99 school year to provide preschoolers with basic academic and life skills utilizing the performing arts. The number of participants in this unique program for pre-K students ages 3-5 has more than doubled since 1997. Its inaugural year.

NJPAC's Early Learning Through the Arts — The New Jersey Wolf Trap Program made possible by the generous support of the Prudential Foundation, arranges for professional artists specializing in creative dramatics, puppetry, music, storytelling, and theater to engage and inspire young children in the learning process.

Arranged with a residency design developed with input from classroom teachers and including subject-matter teachers, these arts-based classes meet twice each week for a seven-week period.

The program, which was developed by the Virginia-based Wolf Trap Institute for Early Learning Through the Arts, a program of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, is administered by NJPAC as a regional program participant.

The Early Learning Through the Arts program also includes student attendance at an NJPAC performance as well as compositions for parents, teachers and school administrators, helping them in the practical application of arts-related techniques.

"The ultimate goal of this program is not only to inspire the children for the time the artist is with them, but to encourage teachers and parents to use and expand on the performing arts techniques used in the classroom," explained Philip S. Thomas, NJPAC's vice president — arts educator.

"The arts should be an integral and ongoing component of the education of young children. NJPAC's program is proud to be a regular participant in this important program, and we look forward to this continuing arts adventure with New Jersey's children. Learning through the arts has been shown to help young children improve their self-confidence and socialization skills; their ability to concentrate and remember; their gross and fine motor control and their conceptual and verbal skills," added Thomas.

"Current Early Learning Through the Arts sites are Texas Avenue School in Atlantic City; Dr. John

Howard Jr. School, East Orange YMCA Pre-School, George Washington Carter Institute, Gordon Parks Academy and Langston Hughes Academy in East Orange; Stepping Stones in Livingston; Belmont-Rutten School, Lafayette Street School, Newark Preschool Council and St. Mary's School in Newark; Preschool Council and St. Mary's School in Newark; Preschool Council for the Exceptional in Northvale; Cleveland Street School, Holywood Avenue School and Park Avenue School in Orange; Concerned Parents for Head Start in Paterson; The Goddard School in Piscataway and Brick Head Sign Ocean Inc. in Tom's River.

Full 1998 sites were C.H. Walden P.E. and Mitchell Capital School in Jersey City; Children's Academy, La Casa de Don Pedro, Newark Day Center and South Street School in Newark; Central Avenue Elementary in Orange; The Dionne Warner Institute in East Orange; and in Hudson County, the current spring sites.

Early Learning Through the Arts residencies begin with professional development sessions for educators and artists. Each artist takes part in a week of training with a Wolf Trap Master Artist.

Artists participating in the 1998-99

residencies are storyteller Beth Phillips, Brown of Media, PA; dancer Eli Doss of New York, NY; M'Bebe Escobar of Mine Hill, NJ; Jeanne Koob Brown of Teaneck, NJ; and Kristina Verboort of Hoboken, NJ; theater specialist Ann Pasquale of New York, NY; Arthur Wil son of Roselle and Judy Warner of Montclair, creative movement specialist Camina Rubaya of Brooklyn, NY; and visualist Winicy Terry of Naumhant.

NJPAC Arts Education Department is made possible by the generous support of the Victorio Foundation, The Prudential Foundation, Allen and Joan Hilgert and the Biltmore Family Foundation, the Perle Foundation, NJPAC Arts Education Endowment Fund, and First United National Bank. Additional support has been provided by Bell Atlantic, City of Newark, Robert and Patricia H. Curwin, Flegler Bank, N.A., Friends of St. Francis Wynona brian, Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, The Star Leader, The United Way of Essex and West Hudson, Creative Investment, LLP, New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, and the New Jersey Department of Education, the Andrew J.W. Mellon Foundation, Smart Family Foundation/Freedman and Stober Toys 'R' Us, Burgidoff Realtors/ERA and The Turrell Fund.

NJ Shakespeare Festival brings Shakespeare to schools

Shakespeare Live! the New Jersey Shakespeare Festival's educational touring program offers a new production for younger audiences. Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" (Shakespeare Live!) runs 45 minutes to one-hour adaptations of Shakespeare's plays performed by the festival's young company of 10 professional actors to schools, day camps, other community organizations. Performances are followed by a discussion between students and the Shakespeare Live! The Shakespeare Live! also includes productions of "Romeo and Juliet" and "Macbeth." For more information or to book a performance, call Brian Crowe, director of education, at (973) 408-3964.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream" captures all the beauty and magic of Shakespeare's love story with love and colorful scenes, his lyrical

rhiniks of a music troupe of amateurs, and the comical mishaps of young people in search of love. This unique bridged version runs 30 minutes and is recommended for grades 4 and up.

Also available for grades 7 and up is a one-hour version of Shakespeare's most popular tragedy "Romeo and Juliet." This impassioned adaptation brings his tale of love, violence and coming of age vibrantly to life.

"Shakespeare's "Macbeth," recommended for grades 8 and up, is also available. Encoded prophecies, vaulting ambition and a wife's desire lead a noble lord to his demise in Shakespeare's classic tragedy.

Shakespeare Live! was inaugurated in 1997 and is funded in part by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation, A&T and the National Endowment for the Arts. Shakespeare Live! is

New Jersey's only in-school touring program singularly devoted to Shakespeare's works.

The Shakespeare Live! company is comprised of 30 festival actors and includes Drew University graduates Geoffrey Wilson from Westfield, who was last summer in the festival's Next Stage Ensemble and Justin Stone, who appeared in the festival's Mainstage production of "Locrine" and "Our Town."

Also in the company are Alison

Zedro, a native of Australia now living in New York City, who studied Shakespeare at London's Royal Academy of Dramatic Art; Michael Stewart Allen, who appeared in the festival production of "Henry IV" and appeared in an NBC-TV's "Law and Order"; Kate Ward, who appeared in the festival production of "The Taming of Shrew"; and Laura Fleegman, a graduate of the Carnegie Mellon/Moscow Art Theatre program. Also in the company are New

York actors Corey Sijeb, Joe Upton, Mark Alhadeff and Grant Goodman.

The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival is the state's only professional theater dedicated to the presentation of Shakespeare's canon and other classic masterworks, and has a long-standing commitment to the development and education of young audiences. Located on the campus of Drew University, the festival is housed in the 308,600 sq. ft. Kirby Theatre.

The festival also has an in-school

residency. "The Shakespeare Experience" which brings theater professionals into the schools to collaborate on a fully staged production Shakespeare play.

The New Jersey Shakespeare Festival is a not-for-profit organization and is funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State and the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as many corporations, foundations, businesses and individuals.

Access Paper Mill Playhouse online

Access Mill Playhouse online if you're in the audience area with the selection of online ticket buying on the site of the festival. Available to patrons through the theater's Web site.

Through the Advantix ticketing system, patrons will now be able to purchase tickets via the Internet when they log on to:

www.papermill.org. Visitors to the Web site will be able to click on the "Buy Online Now" icon, which is located in several positions throughout the site.

Those taking advantage of this new service simply select the show, date and time and select location they prefer. By clicking an e-mail address, ticket buyers are guaranteed an easy, safe, no-line confirmation. The theater's box office still remains the only place to buy tickets or to pick up tickets in the box office for pick-up. There is a limit of six tickets per transaction.

Paper Mill Playhouse accepts Visa, MasterCard and Discover credit cards. For more information on tickets call: (973) 336-6545.

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HEALTHY LIVING

Environmental Protection Agency phases in new ozone level standards

The lungs' constant interaction with the environment — the air we breathe — makes the impact of that environment inescapable. How well, or how poorly, our lungs perform depends directly on the state of the air around us. And air pollution, we have realized, has come to signify not only the condition of the atmosphere over homes and workplaces but that of the atmosphere within, as well.

Most abundant — outdoor — air pollution stems from industrial and automotive sources of combustion. In the 1990s, there was a gratifying drop in one of air pollution's major components, between 1966 and 1995, but emissions fell by 32 percent during essentially the same time period. Smaller decreases in emissions of sulfur dioxide, 18 percent; particulate matter, 18 percent; polycyclic organic compounds, 9 percent; and nitrogen dioxide, 3 percent, were observed.

Ozone pollution is of particular current concern. Ozone is a little-understood pollutant (frequent

media references to it. Ozone is a variant of oxygen — O₃ rather than O₂ — because it's a photo-chemical, created as a result of the action of sunlight. Most news stories have warned of a hazardous lack of ozone, citing holes in the "ozone layer" ten to 30 miles above the earth's surface — gaps permitting penetration by deadly levels of ultraviolet radiation, implicated as a cause of cataracts and a trigger of skin cancer. But ozone poses a peril at ground level, as well — not by its absence, but by its presence; it is, in fact, our nation's most widespread air pollution problem.

In the troposphere, that part of the atmosphere in which we live and must breathe, "standard" oxygen is what we need. When sunlight acts upon such byproducts of industrial and automotive activity as hydrocarbons and nitrogen oxides, ozone is created in the form of an intensely irritating gas which can have devastating effects on respiration, perpetrating lung damage similar to that caused by cigarette

smoking. Tissues in the walls of airways become inflamed and swollen, scar-like deposits called "blebbing" capacity is diminished. In the short term, ozone causes both diminished lung capacity and "flowered" lung defenses, increasing the susceptibility to infection.

Among recent scientific reports, current National Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone draw the line at 0.12 part per million. In 1995, an estimated 70.8 million U.S. residents lived in counties classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as having air quality that violated the national standard for ozone. In some parts of the country, levels can at times approach twice the federal health standard. Healthy, nonsmoking adults exposed to such concentrations for two hours responded with acute inflammation of the lungs and frontal sinus.

Even ozone levels well below those officially accepted may be hazardous

in repeated studies, outdoor exercise of healthy, nonsmoking adults, confined in relatively low traffic areas, has shown measurable effects at levels as low as 80 ppb. An extensive 1993 review of the medical literature concluded that the primary standard for ozone contains no margin of safety against short-term adverse effects and the standard may also be inadequate to protect the public from effects resulting from chronic exposure. A Dutch study of young, healthy cyclists, reported in 1994 in the American Lung Association publication *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, correlated "shortness of breath," chest tightness, and "slowing" with ozone levels less than half the official danger level. Children are at even greater risk because they breathe in more air per pound of body weight; they spend more time outdoors and they're less

likely to be aware of warning signs. Pulmonary function in a group of more than 150 fifth and sixth graders, measured over a two-year period, showed marked deficits correlated with ozone levels; the maximum concentration during the study period was 78 ppb.

A report published by the American Lung Association in 1995, entitled "Danger Zones: Ozone Air Pollution and Our Children," estimated that 53.9 percent of America's children aged 13 and under live in areas with unhealthy air, but are not protected by the current federal air quality standards for ozone and smog.

Ozone levels in the United States have tended to be highest during the period from May to September, in warm weather and — since sunlight plays a part in ozone formation — during afternoon hours.

By all measures, the researchers

found pollution episodes "significantly and consistently" correlated with acute exacerbations of asthma, chest symptoms and measurable deficits in lung function.

As noted, current federal standards have not proved adequately protective. The current standard for ground level ozone, 8 ppb, set almost two decades ago, is 0.12 parts per million, averaged over a one-hour period; an area is considered to have unhealthy air quality if it exceeds the standard at least four times in a three-year period.

In July 1997, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced revised, stricter standards of 0.08 parts per million averaged over eight hours. Compliance would be based on the fourth highest reading per year averaged over three years. The current one-hour average standard of 0.12 ppb would be phased out over the next several years.

Advice to employers, employees about fitness

Recent studies reveal an alarming fact — 25 percent of Americans don't exercise and 60 percent do not exercise often enough. Insufficient exercise and poor eating habits are blamed for the increasing prevalence of obesity in the U.S. Obese individuals, or people who have an excess of body fat, are at a greater risk of developing heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and several forms of cancer.

According to a new study by Kaiser Permanente, a California-based health maintenance organization, medical costs for obese individuals are 44 percent higher than those of Americans whose body fat is within recommended guidelines. Unlike weight, body fat is often invisible and goes undetected.

While obesity carries with it high price for employees, it greatly affects employers as well. Missed workdays and higher health-care claims by workers lead to greater insurance premiums and lost productivity for companies.

To incorporate better fitness into work life, the experts at Tardis Corporation, the leading global manufacturer of precision body fat monitor scales, offer the following advice to employers and employees.

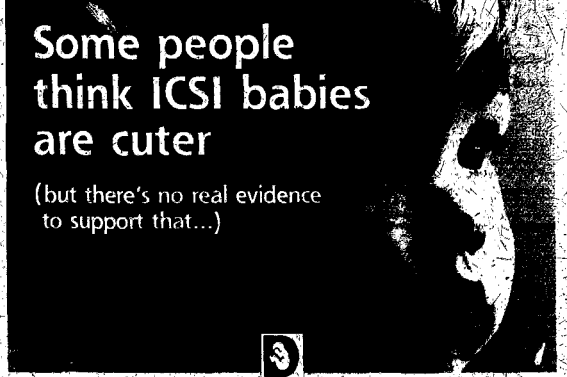
- Participating in a fitness program will improve employees' well-being and reduce the company's overall

health care costs. One company gives employees \$500 discounts on insurance premiums if they agree to have their blood pressure, cholesterol and body fat checked regularly.

- Some corporations employ fitness trainers to help employees develop workout programs. One such trainer issues challenges as a motivational tool. An example involves challenging a group of employees to see who would be the first to ride a stationary bike "coast to coast" — the equivalent of biking approximately 3,000 miles.
- In certain companies, employees who pledge to exercise aerobically three times per week receive \$20 in credit. This credit is applied to a company benefit plan worth up to \$140 toward premiums, provided the employees pledge to lead a healthy lifestyle.
- Busy schedules often force peo-

ple to eat on the run or at their desks, and that often translates into unhealthy food choices and sedentary habits. But it doesn't have to if employers and employees incorporate good nutrition and fitness into their schedules. Some companies encourage office walking programs; after eating a healthy lunch, co-workers tag off for a 30-minute walk to burn calories and increase metabolism and energy.

- Corporations should educate employees about the importance of monitoring body fat. Individuals frequently place too much emphasis on weight when they should focus instead on body fat, which many experts believe is a more important measurement of good health. Educating employees about monitoring body fat — and a convenient tool for monitoring body fat weight — can further motivate them to achieve their goals.



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(but there's no real evidence to support that...)

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AUTOMOTIVE

Hone your daily driving skills on the track at Laguna Seca

Speed thrills, speed kills and speed teaches.

The daily commute to work and race driving actually have a lot in common: people hustling for position.

It may not appear to be so, as you watch the races, but racing is a good way to hone your daily driving skills in a three-day course in an open-wheel Formula Dodge at the Skip Barber Racing School at Laguna Seca Raceway, near Monterey, Calif., which is one of 20 Barber schools at tracks around the United States.

A Formula Dodge is an impressive machine for the open-wheel, open cockpit, bare-knuckled racer that is about two steps up from a go-kart. It weighs about a thousand pounds and its 125 hp, rear-engine 2.0-liter, four-cylinder — the same one used in the Dodge Neon — will scream up to 130 mph or so. It is a "Formula" racer because of its written formula for specifications, such as size, dimensions, engine displacement and rev limits. It is a single but spread in the right-hand.

You might think you are pretty handy with a manual transmission, but this four-speed gear box uses straight-cut gears that you have to double clutch to smooth shifts. It's clutch in, shift to neutral, let out the clutch, blip the throttle, clutch in, shift gear, clutch out.

Laguna Seca is a respected, world-famous racing school, is well-paced. Students are doing well in manage 30 mph, but there is no pressure to go faster or to attempt manuevers that you are not comfortable with.

Instructor and race driver Kelly Collins said, "Everything we teach here applies to every four-wheeled vehicle on the street."

The three-day racing school runs \$2,495 after tax, and you put in three exhilarating days of race training. Mornings begin with classroom teaching, and while there's more study after lunch, there is plenty of time in the cars.

If helps if you have had some kind of previous high-performance training, but several class participants are just enthusiasts.

By staying in the center of the track, or the portions that are less race-worn, you can find track-top that is less rutted by 40 and rubber and has more grip. This is also true for street driving, which is something to think about the next time you're exiting the freeway in the rain.

Groups are split, with about four instructors to each dozen students. The prime directive in racing and street driving: Look up, look ahead and not at the thing you want to avoid.

Racing tip: Warm-up laps help your brain get up to speed. On daily commutes in the real world, use your senses and talk radio. Getting a proper driving position is important.

Safety is Rule No. 1 at the school. Have fun, get home intact and don't bend the equipment. That's the instructor's enjoyment statement, anyway, but it is reinforced here and lingers after you've gone home.

If you are susceptible to so-called road rage, you are a candidate for driving school. Riding at 100 mph in a four-engine, race-up two inches off the blacktop teaches respect for speed and appreciation of good brakes. For speed junkies, this is more a treatment program than a time to binge.

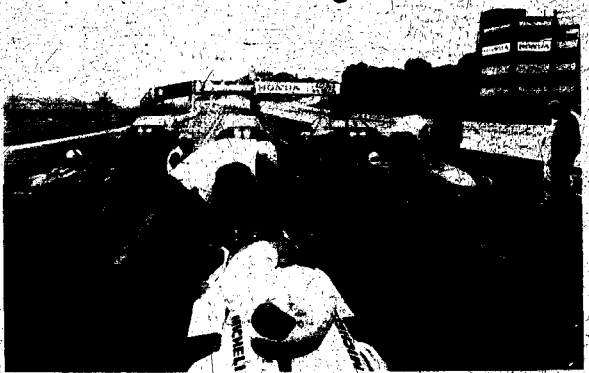
All the advocates have considered the physics and race time of your successfully complete the class, you really live at Sports Car Club of

America Regional License, which runs \$150 to gain admittance to most types of racing, including the Speed Fest, up to the national level.

Useful terms:

- Apex: The most crucial part of a turn. It is the area on the inside of a turn at which the car finishes the entry phase and begins the exit phase. The car must be as balanced as possible — the weight distributed evenly between front and rear — and accelerating toward the track exit point when it "tops" the apex.
- Contact patch: The portion of the tire tread that is in actual contact with the road surface.
- Double-clutch downshifting: A technique of down-shifting used to match engine speed with gearbox speed while continuing to brake in preparation for a corner. The sequence: apply and hold light brake pressure, then clutch in and move shift levers to neutral, clutch out, blip the throttle with the right side of the right foot, clutch in, move lower gear, clutch out. Brake pedal pressure should remain constant during the sequence.
- Load transfer: The shift in weight distribution of load on the four contact patches. This is caused by a change in the car's attitude, such as during acceleration or braking.
- Braking causes the back of the car to lighten. Acceleration transfers the load to weight to the rear. Lift off the throttle and drive weight shifts to the front tires.

In conditions of oversteer, light acceleration will add weight to the rear and give more traction to the tires to help the driver gain control. In an oversteer situation, it will transfer weight to the front tires, which will



Students prepare to take to the track in 125-horsepower Formula Dodge race cars at Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey, California.

also increase traction and driver control.

- Oversteer: The condition in which the front tires have more traction than the rear tires, causing the back end of the car to point toward the outside and the nose to point to the inside.
- Understeer: The condition in which the rear tires have more traction than the front tires, causing the front end to slide across the road toward the outside edge rather than turning or pulling the car into the corner.
- Threshold braking: The technique of applying brake pedal pressure to just before the point — the threshold of lockup and maintaining that braking force through gentle modulation of pedal pressure. Racers use this method to avoid a pile-up or to quickly scrub off speed before entering a turn. This, often precedes trail-braking.
- Commuters will use threshold braking in any severe braking situation to prevent the tires, especially the front tires, from locking up and losing steering ability to get around the object directly in their path. This is the old-fashioned anti-lock braking.
- Truck out: The area past a turn, typically at the far outside edge, at which the car has completed the turn, and stage and all the dynamic forces acting on the car are in balance and you can apply more throttle.

- Trail-braking: The technique of beginning to brake while turning in for a corner. Do this by gradually releasing off brake pedal pressure. This technique helps get the car pointed toward the apex and also allows you to carry more of the straightaway speed deeper into the corner.
- Trailing throttle oversteer: Oversteer caused by letting up on the throttle in a turn. This transfers weight from the back to the front, which increases the traction of the front tires and reduces the traction at the rear.
- Turn-in point: The spot at the entrance of a turn at which the driver first urges the steering wheel to initiate the cornering sequence.

Turn-of-the-century Lexus IS to hit showrooms in 2000

The Lexus IS is a compact European sport sedan that Lexus will bring to the U.S. market in mid-2000. The Lexus IS will be positioned as an affordable performance sedan, and is part of Lexus' effort to expand its owner base and attract younger customers.

The U.S. version of the IS will have a six-cylinder engine featuring the Variable Valve Timing with Intelligence system pioneered by Lexus. It will be positioned below the Lexus GS series to compete with the BMW 3 Series and Audi A4. It will attract

customers who want to stand out from the crowd.

This is a key product for Lexus, said Lexus group vice president and general manager Bryan Bergstrom. "With our sporty GS and an series

and successful RX 300 SUV attracting younger affluent buyers, the IS will further help Lexus to reach its full potential."

Lexus' record 1998 sales of 156,260 cars and SUVs were a 60 percent improvement over 1997, and the

IS can only improve that performance.

The IS will join Lexus' complete line-up of cars and SUVs, including the LS 400 premium luxury sedan, the GS 400/200 luxury sport sedans, the ES 300 entry-level luxury sedan, the

SC 400/400 sport coupes, the RX 300, mid-size luxury SUV and the LX 470 premium full-size luxury SUV.

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