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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2000 - SECTION B

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They told us so

We owe some thanks to transit advocate Bill Wright from Cranford and Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan. Over the years they have constantly spoken for enhancing our mass transit opportunities. In recent years, their words were sometimes ignored as we enjoyed cheap crude oil prices. Lately, they look like prophesies.

Recently, U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli ruined my dinner one night when he said he envisioned the real possibility of gas lines in August. In a split second he sent my mind hurtling back to the '70s. It was 6 a.m. and with friend Linda Lugars, I waited patiently on line at Ugone's Exxon on Locust Street in Roselle Park for that most precious gift, a full tank of gas.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

This was not a fun trip down memory lane. Heck, Ugone's is now a 7-11. I went searching for direction and some answers.

Sullivan in his role on the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority has led the charge for funds for light rail transit monies for the Plainfield and Elizabeth shore. His efforts to press for the use of state and federal discretionary dollars may very well have saved the project.

For Wright, the battle to protect the transit rider has become a crusade. Wright leads his charge through membership on the NJ Transit Advisory Committee, director of New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers and the Union County Transportation Advisory Board. Wright fights the fight everyday to protect mass transit.

Back when gasoline was less than a dollar a gallon, Wright supported an additional tax on gasoline to fund mass transportation opportunities. He said we needed to "bite the bullet while we still had time."

Wright likes to talk about a "level playing field for mass transit opportunities." To Wright, these opportunities include new transit to the Meadowlands, expansion of the Newark subway system and no increase in the cost of riding trains and buses.

If the gasoline news wasn't bad enough, the New Jersey Institute of Technology issued a report on mobility and the cost of congestion. The report quantifies the loss in dollars to citizens caused by traffic congestion.

Surprisingly, they see annually only a \$450 cost for each Union County resident caused by congestion. In Somerset the number is a staggering \$2,110 and the Essex County number is pegged at \$620.

But the report gets technical with a formula called the Travel Rate Index, a.k.a. "TRI." While the formula reminds the why I needed a tutor in Algebra, it provides an estimate that the average driver in Union County loses 19 hours a year because of congestion. I have the car phone bills to show just how much above average I am in terms of waiting in congestion.

More telling, the economic loss of traffic congestion is pegged at \$150 million annually to Union County. We all pay for traffic jams.

But the NJIT report like Sullivan and Wright searches for some solutions. In addition to the obvious, like improving infrastructure, they make a good case for staggered work scheduling and the identification of future congestion and bottle necks as critical based on the projection of increased population in the state.

It all comes down to the words of the old car repair commercial. We can pay now or pay later.

As some experts already have figured out, it is already later.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Weingarten gets county's nod in Congress Falls one vote short of victory on first ballot

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

As expected the Union County Republican line in the race for the 7th Congressional District seat came down to Assemblyman Joel Weingarten of Millburn and Thomas Kean Jr. of Westfield. It took a second ballot but not by much.

A first-ballot victory escaped Weingarten by just one vote but in a second ballot versus only Kean, the Essex County assemblyman captured 211 delegates, 54 percent, to 180, 46 percent, for the son of the former governor.

Needing 50 percent of the delegates plus one to secure the line, Weingarten tallied 214 votes — exactly 50 percent — on the first ballot. Kean was his closest competitor, collecting 186 delegates, 43 percent.

Michael Ferguson of Warren Township, who earned the organization lines in Middlesex and Somerset counties the preceding week, finished third with 21 votes, 5 percent. Patrick Morrissey of Westfield had 5 votes and Green Brook Mayor Patricia Walsh tallied 2 votes.

To stay on the second ballot, a candidate was

required to secure at least 25 percent of the 28 delegates at the party's annual convention in Summit.

At the Somerset convention last week, Ferguson earned the nod but not until he garnered 81 votes, 55 percent, on a third ballot, to Weingarten's 58 votes, 39 percent. Kean finished a distant third with 9 votes, 6 percent.

Weingarten called the Union County convention "a tremendous victory," given the strength of the vote from the first ballot. "I'm gratified we won by such a significant margin."

Ferguson and Weingarten are the only candidates to secure organization lines for the June primary within the four-county 7th District. While Ferguson has Middlesex and Somerset, Weingarten earned Union and Essex. Union County accounts for more than half of the registered voters in the entire district.

Ferguson lost to incumbent Frank Pallone in the 6th District in 1998. He moved from Red Bank to Warren Township last year to run in the 7th District.

Despite receiving endorsements from some of the county's heavy hitters, including Senate President Donald DiFrancesco, R-Scotch Plains, Kean will now have to run off the line in all four counties.

"I wouldn't want to run off the line with anyone except Tom Kean Jr.," said his campaign manager Kerry Koeh. Since filing for the race in December, there has never been a thought of dropping out, she said.

As for other candidates, Morrissey continues his strategy of concentrating more on attracting voters than trying to win the lines among convention goers. Walsh plans to meet with advisors later this week to examine all options and determine if he will continue in the race.

In the U.S. Senate race, the current 7th District Congressman, Bob Franks, continued to rack up endorsements from county organizations as he swept through his home county of Union with 407 of the 455 delegates, approximately 90 percent.

Essex County Executive James Treffinger collected 35 votes, followed by Murray Sabrin

with seven votes and state Sen. William Gormley of Atlantic County received six votes. Gormley had sent a letter to Union County GOP leaders that he would not seek the Union County line since it is Franks' home county.

Franks has now collected party lines within his home base of Union, Somerset and Middlesex counties as well as several southern counties, including Burlington, Cumberland and Salem.

On Monday night, Gormley edged Franks by a 56 to 44 percent margin at the Mercer County Republican Convention but the two will share the line. In Mercer, if a candidate collects 40 percent of the vote, they may share the organization line.

Bergen County Republicans will choose their lines Saturday. The convention is significant because Bergen is the largest Republican county to award preferential ballot positions, said Franks' campaign manager Charlie Smith.

The county executive and state senators in Bergen County have endorsed Gormley, he said, but the Franks campaign is "enjoying tremendous momentum" going into Saturday.

Public offers input on trust fund

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

A committee to examine the idea of a county open space trust fund solicited input from the public during two hearings last week. Citizens argued for the preservation of open spaces but at the same time called for a limit on the scope of a dedicated tax.

While many residents advocated the acquisition of open spaces to preserve wildlife for passive recreation, others stressed the shortage of athletic fields and the need to offer people active recreation.

"The Board of Freeholders created the ad-hoc committee last summer to study the feasibility of an open space trust fund and gather public input before placing it on the ballot in November. Trust funds must be adopted by voters via a referendum.

The freeholders last year adopted a 10-year, \$46-million Open Space and Recreation Master Plan which calls for improvements to existing facilities as well as construction of new ones. A dedicated tax has been mentioned as a potential method to fund the master plan. A trust fund can help gain access to other monies such as loans or matching grants from state and federal agencies.

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The committee is chaired by Hank Ross, president of the Union County Alliance, and includes Westfield Councilman Carl Salsbury, Summit Councilman Henry Ogden, former Hillside mayor Ralph Miltner and Elizabeth Brody, an attorney from Roselle.

Union is one of only four counties in New Jersey without an open space trust fund. For each \$0.01 per \$100 of assessed value, the tax would generate approximately \$3.2 million.

The committee is expected to submit a report to freeholders later this month with its findings and recommendations.

The county, in its master plan, identified nearly 100 acres for acquisition within Union County. Among those are the 11 acres adjacent to Kean University in the Township of Union where officials are in the process of designing a new county park.

Union resident Frank Budney said the county's master plan calls for the

acquisition of playing fields at the expense of wildlife. "The demand far outweighs the needs."

There is more land available than first thought in the master plan, Budney said, with land available for acquisition in each town. He suggested a comprehensive study to inventory which land is suitable for wildlife and which for playing fields.

He said there are 130 acres suitable for purchase for recreational use within Scotch Plains. Officials from Scotch Plains last fall approached the freeholders about entering into a long-term lease to develop 25 acres within the county's Ash Brook Reservation into athletic fields.

Linden resident Beatrice Bernzotti, executive director of New Jersey Concern, said her organization has spent three years identifying high-priority projects for acquisition. She hopes a trust fund would target endangered areas.

See ATHLETIC, Page B2



Elizabeth High School senior Ludgero Esteves watches as his bridge slowly collapses during Union County College's "Great Bridge Building" contest last week.

Freeholders privatize compost facility

Tipping fee for municipalities will be no more

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Municipalities no longer will have to pay tipping fees to dispose of leaves and grass at the Union County Conservation Facility in Springfield. The Board of Freeholders last week entered into a three-year contract with Nature's Choice Corporation of Lyndhurst to take over operations of the compost facility.

The county will continue to supervise the site and keep the two employees who run the composting facility, but Nature's Choice will pay \$30,000 per year to lease equipment and a guaranteed \$43,000 per year at a rate of \$3,600 per month for disposal of leaves, grass and wood chips. A permit for the county to take grass clippings and wood chips is pending with the Department of Environmental Protection.

The \$2.25 per cubic yard tipping fee for municipalities will be eliminated, which county officials declared will be an enormous savings for towns. The county began recycling leaves more than a decade ago.

Last year, the county's compost facility handled approximately 80,000 cubic yards but it is permitted for as much as 150,000, according to Frank Dann, director of Operational Services. The county has been competing with private contractors for years and has never maximized its permit.

"The money is in the end product," Dann said, which will go to the contractor. The composting material is eventually sold to large companies.

After the state mandated composting as opposed to sending leaves to landfills, "it took awhile to refine" the product, Dann said, which both public and private entities accomplished.

The county is not in the business of marketing the product, however, which is something a private contractor can do better, Dann said. Nature's Choice operates the largest composting site in the state, he said, and has an enormous amount of experience in the field.

Not all municipalities take their leaves and grass clippings to the county facility. Some towns have a private contractor haul their leaves and grass clippings while others have a "cut and leave grass clippings" policy.

The Township of Union last year paid more than \$250,000 to take care of its leaves and grass clippings while Westfield paid more than \$100,000. Other municipalities paid anywhere from \$10,000 to \$70,000.

One of the reasons the county was looking to privatize the facility was the aging equipment, according to Dann. "It was time to start thinking about buying new equipment." The past three years have seen major breakdowns of equipment causing the facility to run on a deficit.

Bridge builders converge on Union County College

Nine high schools from throughout Union County competed last week at Union County College's "Great Bridge Building" contest. Teams of four to six students were required to build six-foot long model truss bridges using specified materials such as tongue depressors, wooden dowels, plastic wire ties, a spool of string and wood glue. In its fifth year, the competition is a collaboration between the Minorities in Engineering grant, the School-to-Career grant, the Tech-Prep grant and the Union County College Engineering Department.

The three grants all are housed at Union County College under the supervision of Project Director Ivan Rubin. The competition guidelines and instructions are the brainchild of Professor Lou Campo, chair of the Physics, Engineering and Technology Department at Union County College.

This year there were two competitions: advanced for students who had participated in previous years, and novice, for newcomers to bridge building competition.

The top finishers were:
Novice
First place — Cranford High School: students Ben Brown, Jon Ellis, See CRANFORD, Page B2

Second freeholder line to join with Florio, Connelly

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

White Republicans officially nominated their candidates Saturday, a second Democratic state has emerged in the county-wide race for freeholder and clerk that will run on a line led by U.S. Senate candidate Jim Florio and 7th Congressional District candidate Maryanne Connelly.

Democrats for Real Change, an Elizabeth group running candidates for mayor and City Council, were close to naming the three individuals at presstime who will run for freeholder. They would face incumbents Alexander Mirabella of Roselle Park, Chester Holmes of Rahway and Deborah Scanlon of Union in the June primary.

When the three incumbents first ran in 1997, they also faced some competition in the June

primary but it wasn't very stiff: the trio outpolled the six other candidates by a 40-percent margin.

Democrats for Real Change did name one of its candidates: Stan Moskal of Elizabeth will go up against incumbent Joanne Rajopli of Union in the June primary for county clerk. Rajopli was elected to a five-year term in 1995.

The filing deadline for the June primary is April 13 at 4 p.m.

"We're ready for the challenge," said Mirabella. "We've worked hard over the past three years as part of a team and I think the voters will recognize that in the primary and the general election."

Union County Democratic Chairman Charlotte DeFilippo did not return a phone call seeking comment.

At their convention on Saturday, Republicans voted by acclamation for the Wally Shuck-

ett of Cranford, At Dill of Summit and Esther Guzman-Malcom of Roselle to run for freeholder. Dill and Shuckett ran for freeholder last year with Richard Revilla of Elizabeth.

Connelly's campaign manager, Sujata Tejwani, said Connelly and Florio share the common cause of not investing Social Security in the stock market. Both also are up again the establishment in Union County. Union County Democratic leaders are backing Jon Corzine of Summit in the U.S. Senate race against Florio.

The Florio-Connelly line will not have a full complement of candidates in other counties, Tejwani said, but the Union County line is the most complete.

In the 7th District Congressional race, which includes 17 of the Union County's 21 towns, County Manager Michael Lapolla of Westfield

will run on the organization lines in Union, Middlesex and Essex counties.

Warren Township Committeeman Jeffrey Golkin secured the line in his home county of Somerset, beating Lapolla by only eight votes on the second ballot, and making Connelly the only candidate in that race who will run on a line in all four counties.

In Elizabeth, Democrats for Real Change are challenging two-term Mayor J. Christian Bollwage with running Rafael Fajardo, president of the Elizabeth Board of Education.

The group also has a slate of at-large City Council candidates: former freeholder Donald Goncalves, the Rev. Anthony Wilcox and Board of Education member Jim Ford. They will compete against incumbents Edward Jackson and Patricia Perkins-Auguste, who are running with Frank Cuesta.

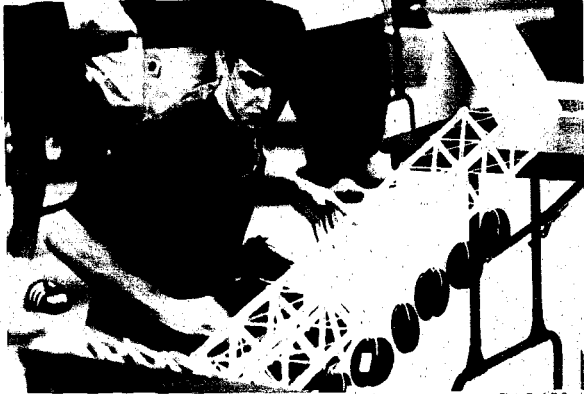


Photo By Jeff Grant

Nick Bell of Roselle Park High School can't react fast enough to save his bridge as it falls. Bell joined students from nine high schools throughout the county at Union County College's Great Bridge Building competition. Bell, along with teammate Surup Desai and their instructor Frank Saccenti, took second place in the advanced competition.

Cranford and Vo-Tech are victorious

(Continued from Page B1)
 Bryan Farrell and Dan Rowan, and instructor Ed Narkiewicz.
 Second place — Union County Vocational-Technical Schools: students Gustavo Balcazar, Francisco Escobar, Michael Jankowski, Jahad Jones, Olanude Odujumo and Luis Zambrano, and instructor Ken Klein.
 Third Place: Linden Academy of Science and Technology: students Sergio Amaral, David Tavares, Chris Ij, Wojtek Hadem and Slawek Pajak, and instructor Sol Starkman.
 Advanced
 First place — Union County Vocational-Technical Schools: students Timothy Falese, Lincio Goncalves, Nick Gonzalez, Jason Holmes Jamaal Jackson and Brenton Saunder, and instructor Klein.
 Second place — Roselle Park High School: students Nick Bell and Surup Desai, and instructor Frank Saccenti.
 Third place — Rahway High School: students John Ferrell, Scott Hemenway, Timothy Rieder, Bonnie Ward, Kevin Wronski and James Wilson, and instructor Ray Candloro.
 The nine schools that participated in the competition were Cranford, Elizabeth, Linden Academy of Science and Technology, Plainfield, Rahway, Roselle Park, Union and Union County Magnet High School.

UCC Foundation hosts golf, tennis tournament

There are still a few spots open for one of Union County College Foundation's most popular fund-raising events, the eighth annual Golf and Tennis Tournament, to be April 24, at Echo Lake Country Club, in Westfield.

Benefiting UCC student scholarships and programs, the Golf & Tennis Tournament is conceived and organized by the UCC Foundation and features the overall sponsorship of the Schering-Plough Corporation.

Many local firms are sponsoring special aspects of the event, such as the dinner by Meeker Sharkey Financial Group, the locker room by PMK Group, the cocktail reception by VILU Construction, the buffet brunch by Tesco Refining Company, golf carts by First Union National Bank, golf prizes by William E. Simon & Sons, gift bags by Pepsi, and the raffle prize sponsor is Johnson & Johnson.

In addition, scholarship sponsors are Albanese, Mango, McGlyn & Penza, Cosmar, IKEA Retail Management, and Severyn Fur Salon, the program sponsor is Instructional Systems, Inc., the sign sponsor is Cosmar, and the firm of Peterpaal, Clark, Corcoran and Costello Esqs. is the practice green sponsor. Workforce Advantage is the driving range sponsor, Affiliated Travel International the multi-ligian sponsor, Lanser Electric Company the printing sponsor, PSE&G the tennis award sponsor, Peerless Beverages the refreshments cart sponsor, and Moto Photo of Westfield will provide souvenir photos.

Bruno "Bud" Ziolkowski, a member of the UCCC Board of Trustees and a UCC Foundation Trustee, is serving for a four year as the Tournament Chairman overseeing a 29-member committee of UCC Governing Board and Foundation members, administrators, faculty, staff and outside business leaders.

The day will begin at 10 a.m. with registration, followed by a buffet brunch at 10:30 a.m. The golf tournament will kick off at Echo Lake at noon and the Round Robin Tennis Tournament, will start at 12:30 p.m. at the Mountainside Indoor Club with a tennis pro on hand.

At the conclusion of both tournaments, a cocktail recep-

Gregorio named Mayor of Year

Linden Mayor John T. Gregorio Sr. was honored as Mayor of the Year by the Union County Chamber of Commerce March 27 for the aggressive and dedicated support he has given to business in his community.

Gregorio was praised for his efforts in redeveloping Tremley Point and for his work in attracting businesses to the city.

The award was made by Kathleen Murray, president of TERA, an environmental consulting firm in Springfield and chairwoman of the Local and County Affairs Committee for the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

The award was made at the 11th annual Mayor's Dinner sponsored by the Union County Chamber of Commerce at The Westwood in Garwood. The event was the largest of the series of dinners and counted mayors or representatives of all 21 municipalities in the county in attendance.

Kennilworth Mayor Michael A. Tripodi and Rahway Mayor James J. Kennedy were the two runners up for the Mayor of the Year award. Tripodi was cited for his work in bringing restaurants and other businesses into Kennilworth and Kennedy was nominated for the honor because of his work in redeveloping Rahway's downtown and renovating the Rahway railroad station.

The chamber presented Gregorio with a portrait of George Washington, designed by Portraiture of Pamoos, a company formed by chamber member William Sanders, who wants to return the portrait of the United States' founding father to the classroom. A check for \$500 was given to the Linden Board of Education for the district's scholarship fund.

Chamber President Jim Coyle thanked those in attendance for making the annual dinner a success.

"The Union County Chamber of Commerce has now grown to be the sixth largest chamber in the state through the efforts of people such as yourselves, and we are still growing," Coyle said.



Linden Mayor John Gregorio accepts his Mayor of the Year award March 27 from the Union County Chamber of Commerce.

Each mayor or representative of a municipality in attendance was given an opportunity to tell the gathering about new projects in their respective towns.

Clark Mayor Robert S. Ellenport and Cranford Mayor Philip J. Moran II said the newly developed Hyatt Hills Golf Course, located on the site of the former GM ball bearing plant, is on schedule to open part of the facility this summer and the rest next summer. Ellenport said Clark had the largest increase in rates last year that the township has seen in more than a decade.

"Clark has realized unprecedented growth and expansion and the work of the Union County Chamber of Commerce has played a crucial role in helping us do that," Ellenport said.

Elizabeth Councilman Bob Jaspian touted the coming of the light rail system which will connect Elizabeth and Newark International Airport. In addition,

more development is planned on the Jersey Gardens Mall site, which will bring additional rates and more commercial development into the city, he said.

A portrait of George Washington also was presented to New Providence Mayor Allen Morgan for being the last in the series of mayors to address the gathering. A newcomer to the dinner this year, Morgan said New Providence, like a lot of municipalities in the county is experiencing a resurgence of growth and the borough is complementing that with the development of parks and community beautification projects.

Westfield Mayor Thomas C. Jardim said he and some of the other mayors in the county meet once a month to discuss shared concerns and projects. He invited those who have not participated in the past to join the group.

Athletic fields versus wildlife preservation

(Continued from Page B1)

"It's nice to have money but it's important to identify" what is needed. She urged individual municipalities to do an open space inventory within their boundaries.

"We're all overburdened with soccer man," said Barbara Krause of Cranford. "We need to be aware of natural habitats" rather than convert current land to sports fields.

"I think there's a need for more cooperation versus pitting groups against one another," said William Fidurski, chairman of the Clark Environmental Commission.

Fidurski also expressed concerns about the ability to distinguish between different types of open space. There is not much commitment within the county to acquire of natural open space, he said. A distinction must be made to save sensitive areas within Union County.

The Union County Rugby Club has been pursuing 11 fields for years,

and has had as many as 900. The club's home field is county-operated Unami Park in Garwood, where, according to Petrella, they have enjoyed a "great relationship." Lights, however, are not the answer at Unami Park, he said.

The club practices two nights per week and play games on weekends in the fall and spring.

Lit playing fields would be good for area soccer clubs and softball teams too, Petrella said.

"There are not enough sports-related facilities in the park system. We would like to see more money earmarked for that."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Who could ask for more than NJ Ballet's dancing couples?

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

One of the most unusual and breathtaking performances ever staged by the New Jersey Ballet Co. in Wilkins Theater, Kean University, Union, was a new duet last Saturday night called "Calling."

The audience was entranced by the very dramatic, very emotional and very suspenseful pas de deux in the second act by Valentina Kozlova, New Jersey Ballet's artist-in-residence, and Timour Bourtasenkov. "Calling" was created last year to celebrate Kozlova's defection from her homeland 20 years ago. Choreographed by Margo Sappington, with a strange array of music by Mautick, Hinson, Brown, Otodom, Hancock, Chaparyan and Brook depicting middle and far-eastern styles of dancing, "Calling" called for the entwining of bodies and legs beginning slowly and ridding the tempo, dancing together in an appearance to simulate the act of copulation. The audience had gasped as one at the climax of the performance and needed to take a break before the oncoming third act.

The "Gala Evening of Pas de Deux," New Jersey Ballet's Saturday Night Concert Series, offering an evening of delightful and entertaining pas de deux performances that certainly brought a special pride to its director, Carolyn Clark.

In "Emeralda Pas de Six," choreographed by Agrippina Vaganova after Marius Petipa, with music by Cesare Pugni and Riccardo Drigo, Tutshin Bold demonstrated his special skill by dancing alone and with Julia Vorobyeva, Tatiana Iatsenko, Orel Khorodava, Michelle De Fremery and Gabriella Noa, all enjoyable to watch.

Debra Sayles and Konstantin Doumev danced beautifully to "Les Sylphides Pas De Deux," choreographed by Mikhail Fokine with music by Frederic Chopin and costumes by Paul H. McRae. Sayles was exquisite in a flowing white costume to generate an ethereal spirit. She danced with delicacy, skill and lightness.

The ever-lovely Lori Christmas was welcomed back by the audience when she performed "Grand Pas Classique" with Timour Bourtasenkov to the choreography of Vlastav Gsovsky with music by Francois Auber. The bravura display of technical fireworks for the elegant Christmas and the extremely skilled Bourtasenkov was thrilling.

"Le Corsaire Pas De Deux" was inspired by a poem by Lord Byron about a princess and a pirate shipwrecked on a desert island, and an excerpt of the complete ballet was danced by the inseparable Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich and Andres Niera. Both demonstrated tremendous



Rosemary Sabovick-Bleich and Konstantin Doumev dazzle audiences in New Jersey Ballet's latest outing, 'A Gala Evening of Pas de Deux.'

dancing skills, with Niera doing a lot of powerful dancing himself, and, with Sabovick-Bleich as a partner, enslaved both her and the audience. The choreography was after Marius Petipa with music by Riccardo Drigo and costumes by Vasia Benusi.

"Swan Lake," a pas de deux from Act II, choreographed after Petipa-Ivanov with music by Peter I. Tchaikovsky, and costumes by Benusi and McRae, is a fascinating tale of an enchanted lake upon which Prince Siegfried is hunting swans at midnight. The Swan Queen Odette appears and is transformed into a beautiful young girl when the prince saves faithfulness to her. Tatiana Iatsenko and Bold danced extremely well together. The role of the prince is one of the most dramatic dancing roles in a ballet and Bold is perfect as a partner to a great ballerina. They perform gracefully and are a joy to watch.

There is much unusual dancing in "Reflections on the Pond," choreographed by Andrei Jouravlev with music by David Arkenstone. Jouravlev also dances with his wife, Era Korotava-Jouravlev, and their chemistry electrified the audience, especially when he lifted her off the ground on one arm. He is an extremely strong young man, and the audi-

ence actually cheered when he repeated this act.

In "Don Quixote," choreographed by Marius Petipa with music by Ludwig Minkus, there is a combination of a classical ballet with a Spanish flavor. Both Sabovick-Bleich and Konstantin Doumev demonstrate great skills in dancing together and alone. Her Fougere-turns by shifting her position, which made it more difficult than usual, were absolutely amazing and virtually stopped the show as the audience shouted, "Bravo!"

In a change of pace by the ballet company, "Who Cares?" was staged with music by George Gershwin. It was choreographed by George Balanchine, with arrangements by Herhey Kay and costumes by Chrisman. There were a "Who Cares? Pas De Deux," beautifully danced by Sayles and Niera; "My One and Only," a wonderful solo by Julia Vorobyeva, and the climax, "I Got Rhythm," with six performers, Sayles, Vorobyeva, Michelle De Fremery, Niera, Bold and Qing Guo You, performing ballet a little more in the jazz style, which would have delighted the late composer Gershwin.

With such a compelling evening of dance, music — Tchaikovsky and Gershwin — top performers and the actual beauty of ballet at its best, who could ask for anything more?



Thomas E. Bethman III



Antonio Buonauro



Enrico Di Giuseppe

Manor's tenors offer opera 'at its best'

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Bravo, Manor! Bravo, tenors Antonio Buonauro, Enrico Di Giuseppe and Thomas E. Bethman III! And bravo, opera lovers, who can appreciate and cheer with heartfelt happiness three magnificent tenors, who all rose to the occasion to provide an unforgettable "Night With Three Tenors" last Thursday evening up in Le Dome's cabaret room.

Never before, in the history of the Manor in West Orange, has there ever been so great an offering of opera at its best, with an aura of fine classical arias and selections from the best of the Broadway stage, with chandeliers trembling to their sounds, the skyline and walls reverberating, and the crowd cheering and shouting, "Bravo! Bravo!"

These three tenors — all different, all superb, all making an audience feel that it is in Carnegie Hall or the Metropolitan Opera House or the New York City Opera — certainly provided a varied program, singing together and alone. It really was something to which one looked forward during a wonderful dining experience a few hours before the show.

With Sammy Odeh politely guiding my companion and me to a table near Bobby Richards' piano, and head waiter Raul seeing to our every need, the night of March 30 was very special indeed. Raul brought forth a delicious, chef's special, tomato mousse with cucumber salad and pesto sauce, and later while I savored the un-

lively delicious cream of wild mushroom soup, and my companion, the equally delicious Manor smoked salmon carpaccio with caviar creme fraiche, Richards offered his own delicious style of Beethoven and Chopin on his magic piano.

"Love Story" was served by the pianist while a fine salad of mixed baby greens with Portini vinaigrette was served by Raul. To a medley of Duke Ellington, including "I'm Beginning to See the Light" and "It Don't Mean a Thing If It Ain't Got That Swing," this reviewer savored the roast Muscovy duck breast with sweet vanilla-scented wild rice and Clementine-brandy sauce, and my companion, the truly tasty cilantro-rosemary crusted filet of halibut with oriental stir-fry vegetables in a lemon grass sauce. Wonderful coffee served with a divine chocolate terrine trio, petits fours, and an additional personal dessert, something quite unexpected, were accompanied by a splendid piano piece, "Laura," a real specialty of Richards' and a special favorite of this reviewer.

Engulfed in the beauty of the dining experience and Richards' "Claire de Luna" and "The Emmentaler" from "The Sting," we were reluctant to leave.

But once upstairs in that glorious Le Dome cabaret room, filled to capacity, the three handsome gentlemen looked even more handsome in their tuxedos, and were accompanied by a gloriously talented pianist, Liya Kobokova. In one number, Buonauro's lovely and talented wife,

Donna, joined him and they offered their own special heaven — 'way up in Le Dome.

Singly and together, the tenors filled the room with arias from "Tosca," "La Traviata," "Rigoletto." Buonauro sang "La Donna e Mobile," Bethman, "La Boheme," di Giuseppe, "Marta," a special favorite of this reviewer, which made the walls and me tremble with ecstasy. Buonauro moved on to a French opera from "Roméo and Juliet," a beautiful piece of music and when Bethman sang "Be My Love," a la Mario Lanza, the power of his voice reached deep into our very souls.

Buonauro introduced the others and himself and said to his sharply attentive audience, "We're lucky to have our families and friends in the audience and we thank all of you for your support." He proceeded to sing "Bring Him Home" from "Les Miserables," which brought the audience to its feet with applause and shouts of "Bravo." He explained that "a tenor is a very divine gift. And we're going to do this very 'tenoresque' number for you."

And the three tenors sang "Tonight" from "West Side Story," and after it was over, the glasses on the little tables clinked their own applause, while the audience stood as one and clapped uncontrollably. The trio had to come back for an encore, and it had to be "O Sole Mio." Then, at the invitation of the tenors, the audience sang along.

Bravo, Manor! Bravo, tenors! Bravo — great music!

Cabaret to benefit two local theaters

John Schweska, a member of the Westfield Community Players and the Cranford Dramatic Club, is reprising his New York City cabaret show "Love and Other Things" as a benefit to help both community theaters.

Schweska will be joined by Cranford resident Joanne Guida and vocalist Robert Duffy of Berkeley Heights.

The show takes its audience through the whirlwind of love "in all its explosive as well as its many-sided and zany aspects." Joining the vocalists will be accomplished pianist and arranger Andrew Cooke.

Cooke directed this New York cabaret and has extensive credits in New York and regional theater. He has been the associate conductor of Broadway's "Sweeney Todd" and pianist for the Broadway production of "Aspects of Love" and the Off-Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Company." Most recently, Cooke was musical director for the Guthrie Theatre's professional production of "Sweeney Todd."

Productions including "She Loves Me" and "The Wizard of Oz" at the Cranford Dramatic Club and "Romance, Romance" at the Westfield Community Players. Duffy has been seen in many local productions and will soon be heard on the concept album for the new musical "A Tale of Two Cities." Guida has also sung and acted in many local musical productions, most recently in WCP's production of "Romance, Romance." She philosophically sums up "Love and Other Things" very neatly: "There are many things that will catch your eye, but few that will capture your heart — pursue those!"

Cabaret is a special art form that has richly developed; it has its multiple big-name stars, and vast numbers of fans follow its circuit closely. Cabaret usually blends a wide variety of songs from Broadway and Off-Broadway, standards, original material, folk and pop.

Show time for this benefit is April 8 at 8 p.m., and all tickets are \$12. The performance, followed by a reception, will be at the Cranford Dramatic Club, 78 Winsans Ave. in Cranford. For reservations, call the CDC box office at (908) 276-7611.

Students' artwork tours area schools

Have residents been wondering where their children's artwork is? The Springfield School District is hosting a touring art show of student work. The compiled work is a sample of the best painting, printing, drawing, computer graphics, and multimedia within a variety of classes per each grade level. The show includes work from Pre-K to high school and will be touring all of the schools and the board offices. The schedule is as follows:

- P.M. Gaudinier Middle School, now through April 20.
- Jonathan Dayton High School, May 1 to 19.
- Springfield Board of Education Offices, May 22 to June 2.

Participating teachers are Holly Callahan, coordinator; Marilyn Schneider; Barbara Delikaris, and Suzanne Dobrowski.

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Julius La Rosa preps for Manor appearance

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Folks will be flocking to the Manor in West Orange tonight to see and hear Julius La Rosa — once a handsome young singer, now a handsome senior citizen — whose voice, according to witnesses, has not changed all that much.

best in American music — songs by Oscar Hammerstein, Johnny Mercer, Henry Mancini, a lovely man who left us recently. I'll be singing from the great American artists' work — men who wrote beautiful and intelligent songs."

guess they remember me when I first started on 'The Arthur Godfrey Show.'"

La Rosa explained that "I started with Godfrey when I was in the Navy. I was on a ship in Pensacola, Fla., and I was doing shows for the sailors. Godfrey heard about the kid. 'When you get out of the Navy,' he said to me, 'look me up.' So, I did. I went right over to him, and said, 'I'm out.' And he gave me a job as a singer on his television show."

jockey in New York for eight years. He did a stint on the TV soap opera, "Another World," for which he was nominated for a Best Supporting Actor award. "Last year," he recalled, "I sang in Iowa and Denver and in Palm Springs, a beautiful, beautiful place. I did night club acts."

The talented vocalist — who has been entertaining audiences for years in night clubs and cabarets, theaters, studios, ball parks and concert halls and in such cities as Miami, Minneapolis, Hollywood, New York, Philadelphia, Phoenix, and more — will bring his own style of popular music to Le Dome.

La Rosa explained that "when I don't like a job that I'm offered, I stay home. If they pay me what I ask for, then I work. Otherwise, I stay home. As a senior citizen, I have plenty to do. I'm a frustrated writer, and I love my computer, but I keep crashing it."

And the rest is history. La Rosa, who was 70 years old Jan. 2, said he was born in Brooklyn, but "actually, I was born in a New York hospital and raised in Brooklyn." He graduated from Grover Cleveland High School in Ridgewood, Queens, in 1947 joined the Navy, in which he served from 1947 to 1951. He married Rosemary "Rory" Meyer in 1956, and they had two children, Maria Lucia and Christopher Charles.

"And I've even written professionally," he reminded. "I wrote a piece on Sammy Kahn for a trade magazine, and it was published. And a few years ago, I wrote for a religious newspaper. I'm also getting together material about my 45-year career, and to a great extent, I'm trying to get it all in some kind of order."

"I'm really looking forward to appearing at the Manor," said La Rosa during a chat the other morning. "It'll be singing with just a piano. You know, there's wonderful freedom in singing with just a piano and not a whole orchestra."

La Rosa explained that "essentially, I'll be doing a cross section of the

Over the years, La Rosa has performed in night clubs, theaters, studios, ballparks, bars, fairs, auditoriums, concert halls and tents. He did summer stock, which included musicals, dramas, comedies, brief stints on and off Broadway and served as a disc

When he is home, La Rosa said he likes "to play an occasional game of golf. I like TV quiz shows."

"I have no favorite songs," he admitted, "but I do have a favorite line from one of the songs that I like to sing called 'My Funny Valentine.' My favorite line is 'You make me smile with my heart.' Each song, you know, has its own personality. And the best of all in life is to smile with your heart."

Three Dog Night to hit Union County Arts Center

Three Dog Night, the '70s supergroup, will appear at the Union County Arts Center April 15 for a roller coaster ride to the pre-disco hits of the decade.

Ray Mogenis, will perform at 8 p.m. April 15. Tickets for this concert are \$28, \$35 and \$20. Support for The Dog Night has been provided by Comcast Digital Cable.

Following Three Dog Night, the Union County Arts Center will present Patu LPone in the New York area premiere of her new one woman show, "Matters of the Heart," May 12. Tickets are currently on sale for Patu LPone.

Smile with his heart.

Originally founded in 1968, Three Dog Night brought together a unique sound, blending the driving rhythms of rock and pop with tightly-knit vocal harmonies. This sound made them distinct and unforgettable, and is the major feature of classic hits like "Shambala" and "Joy to the World," often referred to by band members as "The Frog Song." The lyrics also contributed to the timeless nature of the music. With songs like "Old Fashioned Love Song," "Easy to Be Hard" and "One," Three Dog Night offered audiences an escape from the reality of America during the Vietnam War. The pure bowling of their music still garners airplay on radio stations across America and continues this time-honored band's charge of bringing joy to the world.

The Union County Arts Center, a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to presenting the best in the performing arts, is located in the recently restored Railway Theater, a 1928 vaudeville and silent film house in downtown Rahway. The arts center is handicapped-accessible, and listening devices are available to patrons upon request. Major support the arts center and its programs comes from the City of Rahway, Merck & Co., the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union, Comcast Digital Cable, and the Railway Savings Institution. Tickets may be purchased by phone with a Visa, Mastercard, or Discover, or in person at the Irving Street box office. In addition, tickets for concert and theater events are available online this season through the website at www.uccac.org, and through ETM Ticket Kiosks located in the Menlo Park Mall and Edwards Supermarkets. For more information, or ticket availability, call the box office at (732) 499-8266, or after 5 p.m. at (888) ETM-TLXS. Film series tickets are only available directly from the arts center's box office.

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WYACT makes preparations for a second two-show summer

The Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theatre has announced its Year 2000 summer season. Following two enormously successful, sold-out summer productions at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center — "Carousel" in 1998 and "Oliver" in 1999 — this coming July WYACT and NJPAC will co-produce the enchanting musical "Brigadoon," with book and lyrics by Alan J. Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, authors of "My Fair Lady" and "Camelot."

Following WYACT's sold-out production of "The Threepenny Opera" in Kean University's 1999 Arts Incubator Festival, Kean is welcoming WYACT back into the 2000 Incubator Festival in early August to present Cole Porter's "The Gay Divorcee," the hysterically funny song-and-dance frolic boasting Porter's incomparable hit, "Night and Day." Fred Astaire starred in the stage version of this musical and went on to make the notable film with Ginger Rogers, Eric Blore, and Edward Everett Horton.

'The mist of May is in the gloamin'...
"Once in the Highlands, two weary hunters lost their way." As the mist lifts in a glen in Scotland, two exhausted men, American hunters Tommy Albright and Jeff Douglas, are witness to the awakening of Brigadoon, a village which comes into being for only one

day each century. At first taken aback by the strange dialect and 18th-century costumes of the villagers, the two men and the audience come to care for Brigadoon's inhabitants. Jeannie MacLaren, the shy bride of the day, is to be married to the boyish Charlie Dalrymple; Jeannie's lovely sister, Fiona, becomes the object of Tommy's affections, and Meg Brockie is a lusty maid determined to capture the cynical, disinterested Jeff... or any lad, for that matter. The blissful occasion is tinged with gloom as Harry Beatson, Jeannie's rejected suitor, threatens to leave Brigadoon. This desperate act would cause the end of Brigadoon forever. Confronted with the choice of remaining at the side of Fiona or returning to the unsatisfying world familiar to him, Tommy is unable to commit himself to Fiona and returns with Jeff to New York. Restless and unhappy, in the city, Tommy finally yields to the haunting memory of Fiona, and guided by the strength and faith of love, finds his way back to Brigadoon.

The superb Agnes DeMille choreography and timeless songs such as "Almost Like Being in Love," "The Heather on the Hill," "Come to Me, Bend to Me," "There But for You Go I," and the title song have made "Brigadoon" a favorite for many years. Auditions for the July production will be held at Westfield Community Players, 1000 North Ave. in Westfield, April 29, and in Newark at NJPAC April 30. Callbacks will be May 6 at WCP and May 7 at NJPAC. Auditions will be asked to sing, dance, and, if appropriate, called back to read from the script. As an additional note, Westfield Community Players will be presenting its own production of "Brigadoon" May 13 through June 10.

'Night and day, you are the one'
Written in 1932; "The Gay Divorcee," music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

book by Dwight Taylor, brought levity, good humor, and an art-deco ambience to a society suffering from the Depression. The plot is light and silly. Mimi is trying to divorce her geologist husband by having her lawyer arrange a very civilized, phony, "clandestine affair" with a "professional correspondent," in this case, a married Italian buffoon. Unfortunately, she mistakes Guy, the man she loves, for said correspondent and the result is chaos. Besides "Night and Day," the exciting score includes numbers ranging from the energetic "How's Your Romance?" to the sophisticated "Mr. And Mrs. Fitch" to the beautiful "Why Shouldn't I?" and more.

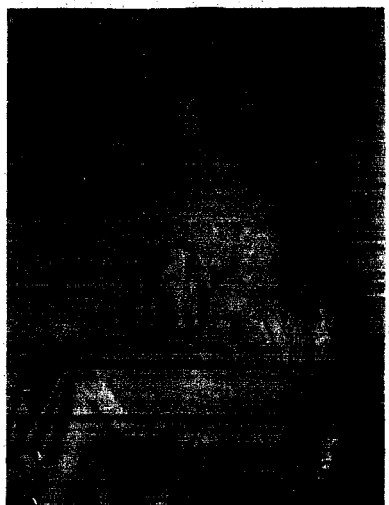
Cynthia Meryl — WYACT's artistic director and stage director for both productions — played "second banana." Honore Howard Mimi's friend, in the 1978 New York revival of "The Gay Divorcee" and again in 1983 at the Goodspeed Opera House in Connecticut. Meryl said, "Taking part in 'The Gay Divorcee' — hands down — the most fun I've ever had in my performing career. I would like young performers to enjoy this same experience. In addition, since so many of them are unfamiliar with any works or songwriters before 'Les Miserables,' I'd like to introduce them to the wonderful work of Cole Porter."

The Cole Porter Estate and Tamara Wittrock Music Library are working together to provide WYACT with the same version of "The Gay Divorcee" in

which Meryl took part years ago. Meryl added, "We will be doing a search for a young 'Fred and Ginger,' two triple-threat performers to fill those famous roles."

Classes continue
As the winter season's second semester begins, WYACT classes continue at Centennial High School — (formerly Lincoln Grammar School) — on Westfield Avenue in Westfield. Meryl and her staff teach five levels of drama, three levels of musical theater, voice, ballet, tap, and jazz. Meryl also teaches musical theater for the Gifted and Talented Program at Somerset Vo-Tech. Somerset Superintendent of Schools David D'Alonzo and Sheila Buttermore, theater arts director, have offered their beautiful auditorium as home to this year's annual "WYACT Cabaret." The theme for "Cabaret 2000" is "war years," featuring scenes from plays written between 1930 and 1950 such as Thornton Wilder's "The Skin of Our Teeth," Edna Ferber's "Stage Door," scenes from works that deal with the subject of war or take place during war years, such as "The Diary of Anne Frank" by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, and musical numbers of the World War II period such as "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," "A Couple of Swells," and "Shuffle Off to Buffalo."

For information regarding any WYACT event, class, or audition, call (908) 233-3200.



Cynthia Meryl appears as Hortense Howard in the 1978 New York revival of Cole Porter's "The Gay Divorcee." Under Meryl's direction, the Westfield Young Artists' Cooperative Theater will produce "The Gay Divorcee" this August in the Kean University Arts Incubator Festival.

Bill Van Sant, Editor
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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1251 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3108 Union, New Jersey, 07083.

Student musicians are sought for '4 Strings!' summer classes

Application forms are now being accepted for "4 Strings!" A Summer Chamber Music Academy for string students in grades 4 to 12, which will take place July 10 to 21 at the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit. Sessions will run weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., with final concerts July 21. Chamber groups will be formed according to age and ability. Participants will be taught works from the standard repertoire by cellist Marnie Kaller of Morristown, violinist Nance Lederer of West Caldwell, and violinist/violist Mary Babiarz of South Orange. Supplementing this will be master classes and special sessions with a variety of guest artists, including performers, conductors, composers and instrument makers. A music field trip is projected for the second week. Prospective violinists and violists should have a knowledge of third position, cellists should have a knowledge of first through fourth positions, and all are required to be studying with a private teacher. Previous participants have come from Morris, Essex, Union, Somerset and Sussex counties. Auditions will take place in late May. Application deadline is May 6. "4 Strings!" is a nonprofit organization. Those who are interested in applying should call Babiarz at (973) 762-1416.

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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 **Art and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant**, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, NJ 07083.

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit five newly acquired paintings by W.P.A. artist Louis Wolochow. Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Thursdays until 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 465 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8665.

COLOUR SYSTEMS. COLOUR INTUITION, the work of Pate Mountford, will be on exhibit at the Westfield Yoga and Wellness Center through Wednesday.

The center is located at 102 Elm St., Westfield. For information, including exhibit hours, call (908) 232-8956.

RESPECTIVE, the work of Mark Metcalf, will be on exhibit at the Tomaso Gallery at Union County College, Cranford, through April 13.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Tuesdays to Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. The gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the Cranford campus, 1033 Springfield Ave. For information, call (908) 725-7415.

CONTEMPORARY FIGURE PAINTING and **Portraits** will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway through April 14, featuring the works of Loreta Kiehl, Tim Gaydos and Lora Shetty.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

ANTIQUE ARCHITECTURE DETAILS OF ELIZABETH will be on exhibit at the Freshloides Gallery, featuring the works of photographer Owen Kander, through April 20.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays, and Thursday evenings. The gallery is located on the 6th floor of the Union County Administration Building, Elizabethtown Plaza, Rahway Avenue, Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

REFLECTIONS: "Memories, Mountains, Rocks and Water", the clay and mixed media works of Carole Wong Chesek, will be on exhibit at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit through April 21.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday, or by appointment. The gallery is located at 42 Norwood Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 272-0909.

CHILD'S PLAY is the theme of the art exhibit at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside through April 28. An opening reception will take place Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Viewing hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily. Children's Specialized Hospital is located at 150 New Providence Road in Mountainside. For information, call (973) 635-6730.

ACRYLIC STILL LIVES by James Wolanin will be on exhibit at the Swain Galleries in Plainfield Saturday through April 29. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays to Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Swain Galleries is located at 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For information, call (908) 756-1707.

HOMAGE will be on exhibit at the Les Malami Art Gallery in Union, showcasing the work Jeanette Chubutovsky and other artists associated with the gallery, through May 3.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Public Library is located in Finbar Park on Morris Avenue, next to Union Town Hall. For information, call (908) 851-6545.

INTRICACIES, an exhibition of art from "Cycles: Women in the Arts," will be on display in the Members' Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through May 4.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. CVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

ARTIST-PHOTOGRAPHER NEAL KORN will have his work on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway April 28 through May 19. An opening reception will take place April 30 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 1 to 4 p.m., Thursdays from 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m., and by appointment. The Arts Guild is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

ON THE HORIZON: Landscapes at the Millenium will be on exhibit in the Palmer Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through June 11.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Fridays from noon to 4 p.m., Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m. CVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-9121.

AUDITIONS

NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL, a fully accredited 4th- through 8th-grade academic school, will conduct auditions for September 2000 enrollment. There are 16 openings for 4th grade, limited space in 5th grade. There are no resident requirements. For information, call (973) 621-8900.

NEW JERSEY YOUTH SYMPHONY will conduct auditions April 14 and 15 for its summer music camp, June 25 to July 1 at the NJYS Music Center in

New Providence, with other programs June 1 to 23. The camp is designed for grades 4 through 9. Deadline for audition applications and application fee of \$25 is April 1. For information, call (908) 771-5544, ext. 15.

CARNIVAL PRODUCTIONS of Rahway will conduct auditions for "Joined at the Head" by Catherine Butterfield Sunday and Tuesday at 3:30 p.m. at El Bodogon Restaurant, 169 W. Main St., Rahway. Being sought are two women and one man, late 30s; plus three women and three men, various ages, to play assorted ensemble roles. For information, call (732) 389-0647 or send e-mail to camivaltpr@aol.com.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE THEATER will conduct auditions for the July production of "Brigadoon" by Lerner and Loewe at Westfield Community Playhouse, 1000 North West in Westfield, April 29, and in Newark at NJPAC April 30. Callbacks will be May 6 at WCP and May 7 at NJPAC.

BOOKS

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR JOANNE SCHWARTZ, author of "Bunny and Ma," will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield April 15 at 12 p.m. to sign copies of her book, "New Jersey's Great Gardens." Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

AUTHOR ARLENE ZATZ will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield April 18 at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies of her book, "New Jersey's Great Gardens." Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

CLASSES

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts. Beginners, intermediate and Advanced Acting classes will concentrate on improvisation, character development and scene study. Also offered are four levels of tap and three levels of musical theater, which focuses on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice, and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available.

The Westfield High School is located at 728 Westfield Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-3200.

THE WESTFIELD "Y" will be currently offering classes in studio box and kick, art appreciation, and bellydancing. The "Y" is located at 220 Clark St. in Westfield. For information, call (908) 233-2700.

COMEDY

COMEDIAN DAVID BRENNER will be presented at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway April 29 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$30 and \$36. UCAIC is located at 1601 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

499-8226 or visit the website at www.ucaic.org.

CASUAL THIRDS restaurant features comedians on Saturdays, at 8:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

The restaurant is located at 1065 Central Ave., Clark. For information, call (908) 388-6511.

CONCERTS

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA will be presented in concert today at 4 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Admission is free. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

ARS VITALIS: The New Jersey Music Forum will present its annual concert today at 8 p.m. in the Wilkins Theater at Keen University, Union. Admission is free. Keen University is located on Morris Avenue in Union. For information, call (908) 527-2107 or (908) 527-2337.

ATASTE OF SOUTH AMERICA, featuring Trio Nacional, Yas-Cortes and Festival Unanero Group, will be presented at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway Saturday at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$25. UCAIC is located at 1601 Irving St., Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226.

COMPOSER-MUSICIAN OPHELIA will appear in concert at Barnes and Noble in Springfield Saturday at 8 p.m. Admission is free. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

TRIAD ARTS ENSEMBLE, a Vauxhall-based chamber vocal ensemble, will appear in a benefit concert Sunday at 7 p.m. at the Chatham United Methodist Church, 460 Main St., Chatham. Tickets are \$15 for general admission, \$12 for students and senior citizens, and \$25 for contributors. Tickets all proceeds will benefit AIDS-related charities. For information, call (908) 810-1548.

MUSICAL CLUB OF WESTFIELD will present its spring concert Wednesday at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St., Westfield.

VINCE DI MURIA AND THE GEORGE ST. PROJECT will appear in concert at the Arts Guild of Rahway, 1670 Irving St., April 14 at 8 p.m. All tickets are \$10. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

THREE DOG NIGHT will be presented in concert at the Union County Arts Center in Rahway and at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Tickets are \$25, \$20 and \$28. UCAIC is located at 1601 Irving St. in downtown Rahway. For information, call (732) 499-8226 or visit the website at www.ucaic.org.

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA will be presented in concert with jazz pianist Rio Clemente April 16 at 8 p.m. at Cranford High School, West End Place, Cranford. A pre-concert "Meet the Musicians" will take place at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 709-0084.

DISCUSSION

LUNCH AND LEARN is the topic of a discussion sponsored by the Sixty and Sixty Sat of the Westfield "Y" Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. Physical therapist Larry Book will be the speaker. For information, call (908) 233-2700.

FILM

UNION COUNTY ARTS CENTER in Rahway continues its Film Series through May. Unless otherwise noted for double and triple features, tickets are \$3 for 1 p.m. screenings, \$5 at 8 p.m.

The series continues with the following schedule:

• Wednesday: "Ben Hur," 1 and 8 p.m.

• May 3: "Leave 'Em Laughing" Comedy Double Feature — "A Night at the Opera" and "Some Like It Hot," 7 p.m., \$7 for both films.

UCAIC is located at 1601 Irving St. in Rahway. For information and reservations, call (732) 499-8226 or visit the UCAIC website at www.ucaic.org.

FILMMAKERS SYMPOSIUM will be sponsored by Monmouth University at the Leewards Mountainside Monday evenings, now through May 8. Cost is \$103 for six weeks. For information, call (800) 222-7719.

JAZZ

VINCE DIMURIA WORLD MUSIC, featuring the jazz of Charlie Mingus and John Coltrane with Ralph Bowen on saxophone, will be presented by the Arts Guild of Rahway April 14. Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for students and senior citizens. The Arts Guild of Rahway is located at 1670 Irving St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

KIDS

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present a series of children's shows every weekend in April and May.

April 15 and 16: "Peter Rabbit," ages 3 to 7 years old.

April 29 and 30: "Amelia Bedelia Goes Camping and Other Stories in a Story Salad," ages 5 to 10 years old.

May 6 and 7: "Hansel and Gretel" and "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," ages 3 to 7 years old.

May 13 and 14: "Snow White," ages 3 to 7 years old, and "Wolf" ages 5 to 10 years old.

All performances are at 10 a.m. at the Paper Mill Playhouse, Brookside Drive in Millburn. Tickets are \$9 for orchestra seats, \$6 for mezzanine. For information, call (973) 376-4343 beginning Monday.

11TH ANNUAL WILDLIFE SUNDAY will be observed Sunday by Union County's Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside from noon to 5 p.m. Admission is \$2 per person; children younger than 6 years old are

admitted free. Trailside is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside. For information, call (908) 789-3670.

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4828.

SINGLES

SINGLE FRIENDS will sponsor a Rock 'n' Roll Night Friday at Cryan's, 24 First St. in South Orange. The group will meet at 8:30 p.m. behind the bar area. Cost is "pay as you go." For information, call (973) 762-2638.

SINGLE FRIENDS will sponsor brunch Sunday at the Elmwood Barn, 435 River Road in Elmwood Park. The group will meet at 11:15 a.m. Cost is approximately \$20, and reservations are requested by Saturday. For information, call (973) 762-2638.

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call (908) 828-2269 or (908) 889-4751.

KISMET SINGLES will sponsor several events in the coming weeks. For information, call (908) 232-8872 or visit the website at www.thatiskismet.com.

THEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present a new season with Sigmond Rubinsky's opera "The Student Prince" Wednesday through May 27. Audio-described performances are May 11, 13 and 14; sign-interpreted performances are May 14 and 31. Singles Night is May 18.

Evening performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information and reservations, call (973) 376-4343; for groups of 20 or more, call (973) 379-9636, ext. 2438. Information is available online at www.papermill.org.

ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Foreigner," a comedy by Larry Shue, through Saturday. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for general admission, \$5 for students and senior citizens. The playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 355-0077.

CRANFORD REPERTORY THEATER will present "Fiddler on the Roof" Saturday at 8:25 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 for reserved seating, \$10 for general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens, and \$5 for children younger than 10 years old. Performances will take place at Cranford High School, West End Place. For information, call (908) 276-9231 or (908) 276-5053.

Cross-country trip offers glimpse at the roots of the presidents

The Victorians believed that travel was broadening. In the go-go age of today, that may seem quaint, but in that earlier era if you could afford the leisure to travel it was expected you would learn from the experience. Thus, the upper classes targeted cultural centers for their visits.

Now we travel in short hops to Caribbean islands, or spas, or the like. Very few but the retired venture off to experience and learn at a more leisurely pace. And many of the retired simply opt for warm weather sores or motoring about in their RVs.

Recently made such a leisurely trip across the country, admittedly with some very purposeful stops and tasks, but lots of time to spare. As in those Victorian days past, I found much to learn and new perceptions forming. Perhaps the most interesting to share are the insights I gained about our nation's presidents.

The first stop on this trip of the

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

presidents was at Abe Lincoln's birthplace near Hodgenville, Ky. It sounds like a cliché, but our highest-rated president by most historians really was born in the wilderness. He was nurtured in a childhood without conveniences or even many basic necessities. His thirst for wisdom and self-reliance were undoubtedly engendered by these early days in a log cabin — which is still there to behold.

In comparison to Lincoln, a little further down the road in Nashville, Tenn., is the plantation home of that self-proclaimed populist, Andrew Jackson. Jackson was rough-hewn

and a product of the frontier, like Lincoln, but he was almost without humility and governed, in comparison to Lincoln, in a ruthless manner.

Moving further south, one reaches Little Rock and then Hope, Ark., childhood home to our present president. What values were taken from his single mother in view of the sensational revelation of the last few years: we do not know, but Mr. Clinton certainly rose from a poor childhood as a result of his tremendous desire of intellect. In that regard, the boy is clearly stamped upon the man.

Across Texas, one encounters Lyndon Johnson, who rose from the Texas Hill country to a position of great political fortune in the United States Senate, and then, terrible conflict as president. His roots in a help that needed the government's help so desperately in the 1930s pushed Johnson toward a great accomplishment in

education and civil rights, while the ambition and certainty that had been engendered into him from youth made him unable to see the calamity that the Vietnam War was bringing on the country and his presidency. These dual themes are so apparent at the Johnson Library in Austin.

John Kennedy's dynamic presence can be experienced in El Paso, where a treaty with Mexico over border issues was proclaimed: Kennedy's youthful attraction shines out from a mural right at the border, but it is not lost on the visitor to this national park that there was as much to regret in this president's personal life, as to admire. And while in Houston, one is never far from the fact that George Bush, who served his country in so many ways culminating in his presidency, now lives quite quietly on a suburban street, while promoting his son's candidacy for the same office with an

aggression that belies the son's modest accomplishment.

As you travel west, you encounter wildlife areas and parks which were created under the conservation genius of Teddy Roosevelt. It is interesting to be reminded that at the turn of the century, Roosevelt was not only signing the acts that established these parks, but visiting them and riding about on horseback to enthusiastically re-experience nature himself. What a contrast! Fell from the exuberance of Teddy Roosevelt and even the blemished accomplishments of Lyndon Johnson versus the studied, self-aggrandized library of Richard Nixon in California.

Returning east, I ventured to the home of Jefferson Davis in Bloxie, Miss. Here was a stiff-necked, stubborn man who almost led the nation to disunion, causing great personal and national suffering by his countless

wrong decisions. I couldn't help but compare that fabled life to the George Washington and Thomas Jefferson I was reminded of in Savannah and Charleston. In Charleston, there is the irony of a wonderful statue to a young George Washington, father of his country, in front of a massive ugly monument to the Confederacy.

Finally, in Washington, D.C., I made my first visit to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial on the Tidal Basin, between the Jefferson and Lincoln memorials. This Roosevelt Memorial is a complex one, covering the Depression and the war years. It is an inspiring rebuke to those who distort government, and I believe the words found on the Memorial, from Roosevelt's pen, would have made the young Abe Lincoln of Hodgville, Ky., proud of the union he preserved.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.

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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

Real estate transactions are recorded in the office of the county clerk. **Worrald Newspapers** publishes an abbreviated version of all transactions recorded in the 12 Union County municipalities the newspapers cover, using the recording date. The information is provided by TRW Property Data, a Fort Lauderdale, Fla., information service, and is published approximately six weeks after it is filed in the county clerk's office.

Clark
 Danielle D. Nora sold property at 132 Smoke Rise Drive to Bonnie Marshall for \$239,900 on Sept. 14.
 David S. and Rachel Markowitz sold property at 72 Macbelle Drive to Nicola and Elisa Palumbo for \$415,000 on Sept. 15.

Cranford
 Walter C. and Marie D. Newhard sold property at 15 Balmeire Parkway to Colleen and Lapadura L. Liddy for \$240,000 on Aug. 30.
 Ronald and Greta Sobelson sold property at 5 Rutgers Road to David K. and Maria E. Matthews for \$360,000 on Aug. 12.
 Catherine A. Crandall sold property at 805 Callows Hill Road to David and Linda Williams for \$329,900 on Aug. 16.
 Eugene and Marilyn Belli sold property at 42 Lewis St. to Claire Silber for \$292,500 on Aug. 27.
 Richard B. Wagonblast sold property at 128 N. Leigh Ave. to Gregg A. and Michelle E. Onofri for \$152,500 on Sept. 2.
 Rachel Rios sold property at 1004 Clinton St. to Antonio and Maria D. Cruz for \$109,000 on Sept. 2.

Hillside
 Nathan Closs sold property at 1437 Parkway Terrace to Nicole Closs for \$115,000 on Aug. 19.
 Earl and Dorothy Thompson sold property at 1406 Leslie St. to Zerida and Denise Phillips for \$125,000 on Aug. 27.
 Marino and Dulce M. Caraballo sold property at 317 Conant St. to Scott C. and Joan C. Hagan for \$159,000 on Sept. 1.
 Frank Winkiel sold property at 197 Crane St. to Manuel A. and Julia G. Tavares for \$118,000 on Sept. 8.

Kentworth
 Elio M. and Frances G. Rossy Jr. sold property at 622 Kelly Ave. to Anthony Martinez for \$164,000 on Sept. 20.

Linden
 Benoit C. Charleston sold property at 1156 Passaic Ave. to Benoit C. and Yvonne Charleston for \$111,000 on Aug. 25.

William M. Hasko Jr. sold property at 513 Stone Place to Vincent Thomas for \$168,000 on Aug. 27.
 Christina Karol sold property at 133 Princeton Road to Richard and Urban D. Hernandez for \$137,000 on Aug. 30.
 Arnold C. and Miriam Wesser sold property at 1824 Lenape Road to Maksym K. and Lidia Rozek for \$162,500 on Aug. 30.
 Julia Hegedus sold property at 226 Husa St. to Nicholas and Maria Geneva for \$117,000 on Aug. 31.
 Many Lembo sold property at 1513 Bergen Ave. to Matthew Brown for \$118,000 on Aug. 31.
 Joseph S. and Julia A. Grombely sold property at 1011 W. Henry St. to Carl Lee for \$139,000 on Aug. 31.
 Francis G. Sedia sold property at 2100 Grier Ave. to Luis and Maria Tangarife for \$164,000 on Aug. 31.
 Bertram O. Christensen sold property at 711 Amherst Road to Gregory and Fides Ildro for \$178,000 on Aug. 31.

Mountainside
 Eleanor H. Chodczak sold property at 1378 Oak Tree Court to Robert J. and Jayne M. Murphy for \$240,000 on Aug. 25.

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Rita Hansen sold property at 1214 Georgia St. to Onchari A. and Wachira A. Siicha for \$94,800 on Aug. 27.
 Ethel A. Bianco sold property at 845 Hillside Road to Lawrence and Barbara A. Pereira for \$181,000 on Aug. 30.
 Curt and Carol A. Groder sold property at 890 Jaques Ave. to Frank Forelli for \$130,500 on Aug. 30.
 Joseph and Grace M. Kurasz sold property at 2011 St. Georges Ave. to Joseph A. and Patricia M. Kurasz for \$180,000 on Aug. 30.
 Joseph A. and Marjorie T. Pisapia sold property at 512 Sycamore St. to Tui Jerry for \$152,000 on Aug. 31.
 Ronald C. and Loretta Matusaus sold property at 1143 Stone St. to John N. and Theresa F. Waters for \$150,000 on Aug. 31.
 Jeffrey Dioceto sold property at 761 W. Inman Ave. to Amada Ginsberg for \$161,500 on Aug. 31.

Roselle
 Catherine G. Hanlon sold property at 325 Hanlon Ave. to Sigma Ledford for \$117,000 on Aug. 27.
 Harry W. and Renée E. Banks II sold property at 231 E. 7th Ave. to Myron Cooper for \$90,000 on Aug. 30.
 Joseph E. and Katherine Messina sold property at 127-129 E. 2nd Ave. to Gasinda and Brodus Davis for \$128,000 on Aug. 30.

Secretary of HUD sold property at 7 Charles St. to John G. and Echeagaray M. Dillerio for \$68,100 on Aug. 31.
 Rebecca Williams sold property at 227 Main St. to Affordable Homes Corp. for \$78,500 on Aug. 31.
 Charles H. Degrau sold property at 729 Wood Ave. to Philippe and Marie Joachim for \$100,000 on Aug. 31.
 Arnold K. Collins sold property at 1332 Crescent Ave. to Ellen Mroczek for \$110,000 on Aug. 31.
 Steven Daczynski sold property at 313 Wood Ave. to Felix Fjiter for \$153,900 on Aug. 31.

Roselle Park
 Marion F. Bigger sold property at 115 Butler Ave. to Esther Morales for \$127,500 on Aug. 25.
 Walter F. and Laurie A. Albee Jr. sold property at 6 E. Sumner Ave. to Sean P. and Julie L. McCormick for \$168,000 on Aug. 27.
 Karin Ryan sold property at 230 Chestnut St. to Nikolas Moukizas for \$90,000 on Aug. 31.
 David and Linda Williams sold property at 130 Bender Ave. to Ruben Gonzalez for \$185,000 on Aug. 31.

Springfield
 Jennie A. Arena sold property at 4 Fernhill Road to Albino Iellimo for \$280,000 on Aug. 25.
 Philip and Josephine Carlson sold property at 114-8 Lofferia Blvd. to Rosamen Henry for \$217,500 on Aug. 26.

Union
 Joseph A. and Marisa Lafano Jr. sold property at 344 Dogwood Drive to Alan R. and Kim T. Babbitt for \$230,000 on Aug. 16.
 Dinesh and Nita Dural sold property at 1252 Coolidge Ave. to Kochi-thea Augustine for \$178,000 on Aug. 16.
 Angel and Joann Torres sold property at 125 Woolley Ave. to Aidan and Malteza Cancio for \$153,000 on Aug. 17.
 Joseph J. and Jeanette Iuzzolino sold property at 559 Stratford Road to Anthony B. and Lee Weeks for \$193,500 on Aug. 17.
 John and Eva Knight sold property at 273 Reynolds Ave. to Enrique Omorovicz for \$221,500 on Aug. 20.
 Wesley Rosalima sold property at 1202 Carlton Terrace to Gladys Stowers for \$235,000 on Aug. 20.
 Angelo Digiovanni sold property at 1719 Woolley Ave. to Salvatore and (Continued on Page B11)

Maples C. Bohan sold property at 106 Hawthorne Ave. to Robin Tarullo for \$169,000 on Aug. 27.
 Philip B. and Gay L. Artman sold property at 52 Golf Oval to David and Edna Goodman for \$350,000 on Aug. 30.
 Sanford and Judith Lieb sold property at 24 Gail Court to Robert and Lauren Yellin for \$307,000 on Aug. 30.

Summit
 Secretary Of Va sold property at 124 Morris Ave. to Richard Hahn for \$175,210 on Aug. 20.
 Joseph F. Maher sold property at 11 Gloucester Road to Steven A. and Anne C. Lier for \$765,000 on Aug. 23.
 Karl P. and Lydia A. Svoboda sold property at 106 Maple St. to Ronald and Mary E. Alsop for \$665,000 on Aug. 24.
 James C. and Mary L. Kingsbery sold property at 1 Colony Drive to David H. and Elizabeth R. Sharpe for \$705,000 on Aug. 25.
 Pascal J.L. Landi sold property at 41 Evergreen Road to Russell and Geraldine A. Alber for \$432,500 on Aug. 26.
 Ronald J. and Mary E. Alsop Jr. sold property at 45 Locust Drive to Christopher A. and Suzann Watson for \$532,500 on Aug. 26.

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REAL ESTATE

TRANSACTIONS

(Continued from Page B10)

Shirley Ferrara for \$160,000 on Aug. 20.

Todd V. Casumano sold property at 700 Bald Way to Marc Ashmies for \$209,000 on Aug. 23.

John and Diane Maurer sold property at 1064 Nicholas Ave., to Thomas Pollard for \$230,000 on Aug. 24.

Daniel and Patricia Kanderack sold property at 937 Arnet Ave., to Mauricio E. and Alma L. Posso for \$135,000 on Aug. 24.

Alice M. Merson sold property at 1385 Oakland Ave., to Justin Klausner for \$138,500 on Aug. 24.

William and Doreen Lederman sold property at 1238 Victor Ave., to Manuel and Elizabeth Montero for \$142,000 on Aug. 25.

Charles and Helen Salzer sold property at 910 Ray Ave., to Jose J. and Ana M. Bernardino for \$145,000 on Aug. 25.

Magdy F. and Zahia F. Morsi sold property at 2638 Burns Place to Annette Puro for \$160,000 on Aug. 25.

Lisa M. Yurgel sold property at 9 Deen Terrace to Nathaniel P. and Dolores U. Rana for \$147,500 on Aug. 25.

Joshua Plisky sold property at 764 Pinewood Road to Carlos and Luisa Pinho for \$150,000 on Aug. 26.

Omega Vaughan sold property at 335 Tower St., to Yvener and Guerville M. Moise for \$120,000 on Aug. 26.

Joao and Olga Ferreira sold property at 2453 Ogden Road to Alberto and Gloria Lijo for \$239,000 on Aug. 26.

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Anilkumar and Suryas Patel sold property at 1630 Van Ness Terrace to Charles and Miramene Luna for \$145,500 on Aug. 27.

Helen T. Tomasitis sold property at 2147 Tyler St., to Pierre J. and Marie Y. Lima for \$150,000 on Aug. 27.

Pedro and Maria Carmen Gascon sold property at 1040 Warren Ave., to Pablo and Rodriguez L. Taberna for \$157,000 on Aug. 27.

William S. and Helen T. Coronado sold property at 521 Anderson Terrace to John C. and Paula A. Voltero for \$175,000 on Aug. 30.

Maria Krauth sold property at 1385 Vauxhall Road to Edwin and Aracely Reyes for \$177,900 on Aug. 30.

Carlos and Anabela D. Melo sold property at 630 Palisade Road to Roberto and Maria F. Blanco for \$190,000 on Aug. 30.

Rita and Dipak Patel sold property at 308 Clermont Terrace to Daryl and Karen Sessoms for \$199,000 on Aug. 30.

Laurence J. and Christine Berman sold property at 689 Pinewood Road to Jessie English for \$172,500 on Aug. 31.

Elizabeth Jakosic sold property at 446 Millburn Ave., to Manuel Goncalves for \$145,000 on Aug. 31.

Sushilaben Patel sold property at 1011 Greger Ave., to Roseline Vonderstorf for \$180,000 on Sept. 1.

Elaine D. Skart sold property at 478 Salem Road to Donald K. and Barbara A. Wade for \$197,000 on Sept. 2.

Robert M. and Florence Heuschkel sold property at 89 Parkview Drive to Alexander and Jean Baranello for \$165,000 on Sept. 3.

Gerald A. Grillo sold property at 463 Wheaton Road to Kemal and Shabreem Rahaman for \$195,000 on Sept. 7.

Virginia Vitale sold property at 2744 Audrey Terrace to Aleksandr Tarashchinsky for \$200,000 on Sept. 8.

John M. Seery sold property at 366 Foxwood Road to Denis and Ana Magras for \$210,000 on Sept. 10.

Margaret McCann sold property at 566 Thorsau Terrace to Fernando Santos for \$163,000 on Sept. 10.

RENTAL

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AUTOMOTIVE

Ford Excursion stands tough against the competition.

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service
Sticks and stones can break its windows, but names will never hurt the Ford Excursion.

Ford's newest utility vehicle — the biggest passenger-type vehicle on sale today — has been scrutinized by consumers and media since production plans were announced last February. The Sierra Club called it a "4-ton suburban supertruck," and its competitors have nicknamed it "Extortion" or "Exponential."

It is easy to criticize such a big target, but after a week behind the wheel of a two-wheel-drive XLT with V-12 engine, I can say to Henry Penny, "The sky is not falling."

The Excursion is big, and it's heavy, though not quite four tons. Curb weights range between 6,650 pounds for a base two-wheel-drive V-8 to 7,668 pounds for the top-line four-wheel-drive with diesel engine. It measures 226.7 inches long, 80 inches wide and 77.4 inches tall with the roof rack or 80.4 inches in four-wheel-drive form.

Parked next to a Chevy Suburban, it is 7 inches longer, 3.3 inches wider and as much as 6 inches taller depending on tires and AWD.

Excursion is also 20 inches longer than its Expedition stable-mate built off the F-150 platform. Compared with Ford's 15-passenger Econoline van, Excursion is 5 inches shorter, half an inch wider and not quite as tall.

Still, don't expect to park an Excursion in your condominium one-car garage, unless it is at least 20 feet and the door is at least 7 feet high. You'll have to look twice at the opening to an underground parking lot, and many times you'll have to park outside and walk.

It comes in XLT and top-line Limited B-se prices start at \$31,145 for the XLT and go to \$40,880 including destination for the top-line Limited, which adds Arizona-beige body cladding with wheel-lip moldings, chrome front bumper with Arizona-beige valance, Arizona-beige seat pad on rear bumper, illuminated running boards in Arizona beige.

Also added are aluminum wheels, rear-seat audio controls, wood-grain

trim, trip computer, power rear quarter windows, captain's chairs with leather and 6-way power driver's seat.

Ford's Excursion starts will be limited by its size, not to mention its 44-gallon gas tank. Multiply that by 51.69, and the masses who would love to pile into this behemoth are drastically whittled down to the hardcore truckers who want the biggest rig available (or by) have something really big to tow.

The government doesn't require a fuel-economy rating on trucks with a gross vehicle weight in excess of 8,500 pounds, but Ford estimates that the 5.4-liter V-8 will deliver 10 to 11 miles per gallon city/highway, the 6.8-liter 15 to 16 mpg, the 7.3-liter turbo diesel 17 to 18 mpg. The diesel will make the most of the fuel, but it is a \$4,600 premium over 2WD trucks and \$4,005 on the AWD.

The V-10 test truck gave brisk acceleration at all speed ranges, but I'd question how handily the V-8 would horse around the curb weight. The average mpg readout from the test truck's trip computer held fairly constant at 12.2 to 12.6 mpg. I also remember noticing the readout for "Distance to Empty" when it was at 635 miles, and the tank was not full!

Ford says it can build 50,000 Excursions a year, which is a shadow of the 30,000 Explorers it sells every month.

Technically, it is a new model, but it is a borrowed rib from the Super Duty pickup trucks — a Crew Cab with a steel shell over the cargo area.

Like General Motors' pair of Suburbans, it makes a workhorse of a family vehicle, but it is almost too big to fill the role of family station wagon. The turning radius is expansive, and it can be a handful to maneuver in small parking lots.

Excursion is a use-specific truck. It makes sense for anyone who loads up a couple of kids and regularly heads to the mountains or to Baja California with a travel trailer or boat. And, unlike the pickup, your belongings can be locked inside and protected from the elements.

Smaller "utes" just don't cut it for this kind of travel. When you try to pack two adults, two kids, the dog,

luggage, cooler and sporting gear into an Explorer, something gets left on the curb or strapped to the roof.

Moving up to the larger Expedition gets you more elbow room, but your trailering is constrained by horsepower, from either the 215-horsepower 5.4-liter V-8 or 260-horsepower 4.6-liter V-8 or 260-horsepower 5.4-liter V-8.

This is where Excursion excels. Its three engines cover the need for power, and all are rated a slow-emission — or better — in all 50 states, producing as much as 43 percent less smog-forming exhaust emissions than permitted by law. Both of the gasoline engines run on regular unleaded.

The 5.4-liter V-8 is rated 255 horsepower and 350 foot-pounds of torque.

The 6.8-liter V-10 is rated at 310 horsepower and 425 foot-pounds of torque.

And the 7.3-liter V-8 diesel is rated at 235 horsepower and 500 foot-pounds of torque.

The only transmission is Ford's 4100 heavy-duty four-speed over-drive automatic unit, and the four-wheel drive system is a part-time, two-speed transfer case with electronic shift-on-the-fly engagement.

GM and Dodge will argue that they have smaller engines and smaller trucks with comparable power ratings, but it is more than power that separates the Excursion. It has frame rails with the best of steel girders that lay a solid foundation to endure decades of towing and hauling abuse.

Moving down the highway, Excursion has a luxury-class smoothness to its engine, four-speed automatic transmission and suspension, which is reflected from the steep used on the pickups.

At speeds as much as 80 mph, the interior is remarkably quiet with plenty of isolation from road harshness and noise from the 16-inch tires, the roof rack and the larger trailing rear-view mirrors with split lenses.

The lower convex mirror is definitely a good idea to allow visibility along low sides of the vehicle. Without that feature, the driver's head swivels like a lighthouse beam in

search of small cars following close behind or in adjacent lanes.

For those accustomed to driving big sport-utes, the Excursion has an endearing finesse, but it is still the offspring of a working-class truck. If

you want more conveniences and poishness, the Expedition is more refined. In ride quality, however, the Excursion might be better because it feels more planted on the road and less subject to body lean.

There's also more cargo space behind the third seat, and the rear Dutch doors to the cargo hold — with a glass hatch window that lifts up or pops open — simply loading and unloading groceries or concrete block.

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Saab Viggen puts driver in the cockpit

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

I've just spent a week coming some frequent flyer miles in the Saab Flight Academy, becoming schooled in Saab's high-performance Viggen 9-3.

Sweedish for "thunderbolt," the limited-edition Viggen 9-3 comes as a 3-door coupe, sedan or convertible.

Saab associates its high-performance philosophy with its aircraft division that builds the JA37 Viggen jet fighter. Before Saab built cars, it built military aircraft.

Then, after World War II, Saab put its engineers to work on automobiles, who in turn applied airplane technology to cars for safety and aerodynamics.

Early Saabs were tough and fun to drive — and quirky looking, but distinct.

The quirkiness now is being appreciated for its utility and function. The 3-door hatchback is a cavernous quick-change artist, with a rear end that will hold a refrigerator.

It's sort of a Swedish pickup, but you can squeal around corners and park it in the garage with room leftover for a refrigerator.

Viggen is a showstater for Saab's fun side. BMW has its M division, Mercedes-Benz has the AMG badge and Audi is adding the S-line — all higher-performing products that polish the company nameplates and help them shine in the luxury-class dogfight for sales.

Saab says the 9-3 Viggen coupe is the hottest production Saab ever built. The high-output turbocharged — hot — 2.3 liter 4-cylinder engine is boosted to 230 horsepower and 258 foot-pounds of torque.

You might not have to call for runway clearance, but that's a lot of thrust for a 3,050-pound, front-drive car. Jump on the throttle from a standstill and this big-bore turbo pumps on the torque from a low 2,500 rpm and stays steady up to 4,500.

Like a shot of iced aquavit, the Viggen engine lights up and lunges. The pull of the steering wheel feels very much like torque-steer, but Saab insists it is not.

The transaxle has equal-length drive shafts to cancel torque steer, which is easily tamed by a sudden pull to the left or right from a powerful engine in a front-drive car.

"It's not torque steer you are experiencing," says Saab spokesman Kevin Smith, "but weight transfer. When you launch the car hard, the weight is shifted rearward. And the front end gets light. It's then that you feel the power of the engine in the front end."

It's then that you can hear the front tires spinning like belt sanders, but some edginess is expected from a high-performance vehicle.

There is a lot of sophistication engineered into Viggen performance and with a little feathering of the throttle, the test car became a heck of a lot of fun. Tires are protected, somewhat, by engine electronics that limit the torque to 181 foot-pounds in first gear and 243 in second.

There is no option for traction control, but the Viggen would benefit from it in wet or icy conditions.

There is little so-called turbo lag to new Saabs — any turbocharged engine — but it helps to rev up the engine to 2,000 rpm before letting out the clutch. Do that and the car takes off with a clean bite. Don't do that and the acceleration seems burdened by curb weight until about 20 mph when the turbo wakes up.

To help cancel "turbo lag," the engine management system tricks the turbo into spinning up boost before it's really

needed. It's the miracle of microprocessors that detect the angle and force of the accelerator pedal and tell the turbo impeller to get cooking.

Turbo lag and higher maintenance were once common with turbocharged engines, but Saab now warrants its turbo against failure.

Give the car a good breathy launch and it cranks to 60 with the momentum of a six-cylinder car. On the freeway at 65 and 70 mph, there's a strong constant power, but the engine responds to kick out and around sluggish traffic.

The only transmission offered is a 5-speed manual and the clutch is hydraulically boosted for smooth engagement.

Safety features are also well thought out and include a lot of high-strength steel and reinforcements for protection in rollovers and side-impact collisions.

The door pillar of the 9-3 works as a pendulum in a side crash to dissipate the force of impact downward. This design helps protect the head, rib cage and torso and lets the sturdiest parts of the human body — the pelvis area — get the worst of the hit.

The Power Source

The Viggen series is a project between Saab and the well-known Tom Walkinshaw Racing Group in England. Using the 2.3-liter engine from the larger 9-5 series, engineers add a larger turbo that is oil- and water-cooled to help manage the effects of high heat and horsepower.

It gets less restrictive air intake pipes and a freer flowing exhaust system. There are sturdier connecting rods, intake valves and other elements that must bear the stress.

It gets larger brake rotors that are vented and grooved for cooling and better callipers to resist fading in heavy-duty situations.

Alloy wheels are wrapped in very low profile high-performance tires, which will require care in parallel parking to prevent scraping wheel and rubber.

The suspension is enhanced with stiffer front and rear springs, modified steering rack mounts and struts and a front stabilizer bar that has been trimmed by 2 millimeter millimeters to improve traction out of corners.

Overall, the ride is acceptably sporty, but it can become monotonously stiff over extended periods of interstate driving. It feels over-stiffened to compensate for a less than rigid chassis.

The aerodynamic aerodynamics theme works on the outside, too, with a deeper front spoiler, lower rocker panel extension, modified rear bumper cover and spoiler. Lift force at the wheels was reduced 60 percent, and the coefficient of drag was trimmed 8 percent to 0.31 Cd.

It's a handsome treatment, but the press materials don't say at what speed these modifications kick in their contributions.

No matter, it's a fun car to drive and quite different from the other European cars with signature performance logos.

At \$38,875, the Viggen 9-3 represents a substantial commitment to the shopper. It doesn't yet have the cachet of a BMW M vehicle, but then, that can be a good thing to those who wish to avoid that image.

Viggen Flight Academy

Buy a Viggen and you get an invitation to the Viggen Flight Academy, a two-day driver training session at Road Atlanta, not far from Saab's U.S. headquarters in Atlanta.

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SAAB 900SE Turbo, 1996, 5 door, automatic, green tan leather, fully loaded, 45K miles. \$16,000. 732-249-8872 (evenings)

TOYOTA CAMRY LE Sport, 1996, 31,500 miles, regular maintenance, parked, new brakes, ac, am/fm cassette. Asking \$13,000 or best offer. 973-207-6488

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WINDO WALKER for sale, 1994, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 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2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 2684, 2685, 2686, 2687, 2688, 2689, 2690, 2691, 2692, 2693, 2694, 2695, 2696, 2697, 2698, 2699, 2700, 2701, 2702, 2703, 2704, 2705, 2706, 2707, 2708, 2709, 2710, 2711, 2712, 2713, 2714, 2715, 2716, 2717, 2718, 2719, 2720, 2721, 2722, 2723, 2724, 2725, 2726, 2727, 2728, 2729, 2730, 2731, 2732, 2733, 2734, 2735, 2736, 2737, 2738, 2739, 2740, 2741, 2742, 2743, 2744, 2745, 2746, 2747, 2748, 2749, 2750, 2751, 2752, 2753, 2754, 2755, 2756, 2757, 2758, 2759, 2760, 2761, 2762, 2763, 2764, 2765, 2766, 2767, 2768, 2769, 2770, 2771, 2772, 2773, 2774, 2775, 2776, 2777, 2778, 2779, 2780, 2781, 2782, 2783, 2784, 2785, 2786, 2787, 2788, 2789, 2790, 2791, 2792, 2793, 2794, 2795, 2796, 2797, 2798, 2799, 2800, 2801, 2802, 2803, 2804, 2805, 2806, 2807, 2808, 2809, 2810, 2811, 2812, 2813, 2814, 2815, 2816, 2817, 2818, 2819, 2820, 2821, 2822, 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2989, 2990, 2991, 2992, 2993, 2994, 2995, 2996, 2997, 2998, 2999, 3000, 3001, 3002, 3003, 3004, 3005, 3006, 3007, 3008, 3009, 3010, 3011, 3012, 3013, 3014, 3015, 3016, 3017, 3018, 3019, 3020, 3021, 3022, 3023, 3024, 3025, 3026, 3027, 3028, 3029, 3030, 3031, 3032, 3033, 3034, 3035, 3036, 3037, 3038, 3039, 3040, 3041, 3042, 3043, 3044, 3045, 3046, 3047, 3048, 3049, 3050, 3051, 3052, 3053, 3054, 3055, 3056, 3057, 3058, 3059, 3060, 3061, 3062, 3063, 3064, 3065, 3066, 3067, 3068, 3069, 3070, 3071, 3072, 3073, 3074, 3075, 3076, 3077, 3078, 3079, 3080, 3081, 3082, 3083, 3084, 3085, 3086, 3087, 3088, 3089, 3090, 3091, 3092, 3093, 3094, 3095, 3096, 3097, 3098, 3099, 3100, 3101, 3102, 3103, 3104, 3105, 3106, 3107, 3108, 3109, 3110, 3111, 3112, 3113, 3114, 3115, 3116, 3117, 3118, 3119, 3120, 3121, 3122, 3123, 3124, 3125, 3126, 3127, 3128, 3129, 3130, 3131, 3132, 3133, 3134, 3135, 3136, 3137, 3138, 3139, 3140, 3141, 3142, 3143, 3144, 3145, 3146, 3147, 3148, 3149, 3150, 3151, 3152, 3153, 3154, 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BANK FEE

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VIN #YN004610, 6 cyl, 5 spd. man. trans., air, p/s, p/b, p/winds/locks, sunroof, leather, cold weather pkg, convenience pkg, wheel slide guard airbags. MSRP: \$43,400. \$1999 + 1st mo. pymt due at inception + taxes, licensing & registration.

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