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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, JULY 13, 2000 - SECTION B

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Return fire

The quiet July meeting of the Cranford Township Committee got a little testy and raised an interesting question over just what is protocol during the public session. Probably no one was more surprised than Frank Krause, denier of estate owner, who found himself at the microphone forced to answer questions as opposed to his normal posture of throwing the barbs.

Krause, a longtime fixture at meetings, has been, to put it politely anatomically, over the years a pain in the side to both Republicans and Democrats. His recent opposition to a township development project, known as Cranford Crossing, has been tenacious even by his standards. His questioning over Resolution 2012 regarding attorneys involved in the project finally brought some return fire by Mayor Philip Morin III.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Morin evidently had enough of what he called the "factual misrepresentations" by Krause. Morin peppered Krause with questions over any role he might have in the opposition to the project, including financial. Morin even questioned the sincerity of the dentist's proposal for a different group of lawyers to look at the project as a kind of arbitration.

At that point, the 31-year-old mayor told Krause that the public portion would be a "dialogue between the elected officials and the citizens." At the halfway point in his tenure as mayor, Morin, who grew up in the town, was "dialoguing with" a man who he had known his whole life. In fact, later a citizen got up whose daughter had attended high school with Morin.

For Morin the balance of being respectful to members of the communities he has known since his youth was tested against his advocacy for the project. To his credit, Morin emphasizes that he encourages the citizens' involvement and the confrontation is not something for which he is overly comfortable. Krause responded that he "was there to ask the questions," but it was clear that he was none too comfortable with the new question-and-answer format. For Morin, speaking a few days later, he was still contemplating the impact of the new format. He said, "When citizens speak out and are not accurate and use the public comment portion as a bully pulpit, they should have to respond and defend their position just like public officials."

While the idea of taking the argument to a citizen speaking out is not new, politically it is always a risky approach. On the one hand, if officials are perceived as overly tough the attacks will become sympathetic in the community. But as the failed candidacy of Michael Dukakis showed, the failure to respond to allegations gives them life and credibility.

Next door in Clark, Council President Rich Kazanowski, takes a different tact. "To my way of thinking, the public portion is the time for the public to speak and have their say," But Kazanowski concedes that on occasion he has "corrected the inaccuracies of a citizen." But he sees that the subsequent portion of the meeting reserved for elected officials as the time to respond to the comments and opinions of the citizenry.

A similar view is shared by Freeholder Chairman Dan Sullivan. Sullivan says, "It is important to respect people have their say and to respect opinions even when I disagree. As long as they aren't abusive and stick to the issue at hand, they should have their say."

People I like and respect would include Morin, Kazanowski and Sullivan. But on this call we see the world a little differently. Public participation is wonderful but sadly limited to too small a portion of the community. Their presence gives

See GIVE, Page B10

Trust fund recommendations to be presented tonight

Open space tax would raise \$5 million

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

An open space trust fund in Union County would raise approximately \$5 million annually for 10 years if recommendations from an ad hoc committee are approved by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. The freeholder board has until Aug. 25 to approve a nonbinding question to be placed on the November General Election ballot. Open space trust funds must receive approval from the public in the form of a ballot referendum.

A five-member ad hoc committee was created last year to study the impact of a

countywide tax dedicated to open space and recreation. Union County Alliance President Henry Ross serves as chairman of the open space committee. The bipartisan committee also includes Roselle attorney Elizabeth Brady, former Hillside Mayor Ralph Milteer, Summit Councilman Henry Ogden and Westfield Councilman Carl Salisbury.

Ross is scheduled to make a presentation regarding the recommendations at tonight's freeholder meeting which begins at 7 p.m. County trust funds range from \$0,005 to \$0.04 per \$100 of assessed value, but \$0.02 would address Union County's open space

needs. Once a county sets up a trust fund, Milteer said, it is the first step toward getting more grant monies from the state. Counties cannot begin to access certain state funds until they "take their own initiative."

Municipalities also would be able to apply to Union County for matching funds for capital recreation projects under the committee's recommendations, similar to the freeholder board's Pocket Parks grants distributed in 1998 and 1999.

The proposed \$45 million to \$50 million raised over 10 years is in the ballpark of what the county's 10-year, \$46-million Open Space and Recreation Master Plan calls for. The plan,

completed last summer, makes recommendations for improvements and upgrades throughout the county's 26 park facilities.

Once the trust fund expires after 10 years freeholders would have to ask voters to approve trust fund again.

Union County is in the minority when it comes to open space trust funds. Only four counties in New Jersey have yet to implement such an open space tax.

Municipalities also have the ability to establish their own open space trust fund. Scotch Plains voters approved one last year and Cranford officials are contemplating a ballot question this November.

County given control of local freight service

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

An agreement between Union County and the Department of Transportation was formalized last month, officially declaring the county's control over local freight service on the Staten Island Railroad and the Rahway Valley Railroad.

"It helps in bargaining with the Port Authority," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. In Union County, the railroad begins at the base of the Goethals Bridge in Elizabeth and runs through Cranford. "The state is letting us call the shots."

The DOT granted Union County a "right of access" to permit access to lines for the purpose of rehabilitating tracks and the storage of rail cars for Tosco, to serve the Bayway refinery, said DOT spokesman John Dourganian. It is not an agreement to reactivate the rail lines but ultimately could be a precursor, he said.

The agreement between the county and DOT will permit some rehabilitation and storage of rail cars, he said, and while it does not impact whether an agreement will be reached with the Port Authority, it may be a precursor.

In related business, the freeholders awarded a \$10,000 contract last month with Oppenheimer Wolff & Donnelly of Washington, D.C., for "legal assistance in the area of negotiation of freight railroad services and related STB filings."

Two years ago, the county had plans to refurbish more than five miles of the old NJ Transit line near portions of the Arthur Kill drawbridge in Elizabeth to create a short line rail service and spur revitalization of industrial properties along the line. Union County officials backed out the plan then because they believed only New York would benefit from the Staten Island Railroad Rehabilitation Project, simply using the county as a pass-through.

'Forum' takes on aging

The freeholder board's new initiatives to benefit senior citizens are subjects of the latest "Freeholders Forum" television show sponsored by the Board of Chosen Freeholders. This program's guest is Freeholder Lewis Mingo, liaison to the Advisory Council on Aging.

The county budget for 2000 keeps the county's tax levy flat, reduces the tax levy in eight municipalities and continues county services at or above their current levels. Union County is providing new services for a growing senior citizen population, improving schools, providing new opportunities for a free higher education, and investing in parks and open space.

Entitled "Serving Union County," the show will be aired through July 21 according to the following schedule:

- Union County, except Plainfield and Elizabeth: Channel 57, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.
 - Berkeley Heights, New Providence, Springfield, Summit: Channel 36, Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon.
 - Elizabeth: Channel 10, Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
 - Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 36, check cable listings.
 - Linden, Roselle, Roselle Park, Winfield: Channel 36, Daily, 5:30 p.m. and 9 p.m.
 - Westfield, Scotch Plains, Fanwood, Mountainside: Channel 36, check cable listings.
- Anyone wanting more information or to comment about "Freeholders Forum" can call the Office of Public Information at (908) 527-4746.

Runnells Hospital Foundation golf outing raises \$6,500

The Runnells Hospital Foundation held its inaugural golf outing at Union County's Oak Ridge Golf Course in Clark recently, one of the fund-raising events implemented toward the long-range goal of building a therapeutic rehabilitation pool for Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County in Berkeley Heights.

The outing was a success, with \$6,500 raised, according to Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, liaison to the hospital's Advisory Board of Managers.

"Besides raising money for the pool, we are building awareness of the Runnells Foundation, which also has short-term goals to help the residents and patients at the hospital," Scanlon said.

The Runnells Hospital Foundation also has raised funds to bring computers into the facility, allowing the residents and patients to join the age of the Internet.

"It's great to see the fun they have playing video games, surfing the Internet and especially using the e-mail, allowing them the ability to communicate with their family and friends in other states and countries," said Freeholder Alexander Mirabella, who played in the tournament.

Freeholder Lewis Mingo, an avid golfer, freely gave his advice to all, and he must have taken his own words to heart since he won the prize for low net score for men.

"This is a great tournament for a wonderful cause," said Mingo. "I'm already looking forward to next year's event, and I hope we can help the foundation reach its goal of a pool for Runnells Hospital."

Runnells Advisory Board members Charles Mansano and Ed Moltagge approached the foundation's executive director, Mary Lou Marcino, with the idea of the golf outing, and the stage was set.

"Everyone had a great time, and I'd like to thank Charles and Ed, co-chairs of the tournament, and everyone involved for helping the foundation toward its goal," said Marcino. "I'd also like to thank Parks Department Director Chuck Sigmund and his staff at Oak Ridge. The course was in perfect condition, as always."

Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan and Freeholder Chester Holmes also played in the tournament and had nothing but praise for the event and the cause.

"The skies were cloudy at times, but that didn't cloud the enthusiasm of the players," said Sullivan. "I want to thank all the individual and corporate sponsors who helped make this day possible."

Holmes also lauded the efforts of the foundation and those involved in making the outing a success. "The food was excellent, the good-natured ribbing a lot of fun, the staff at Oak

Academic excellence



Joan Adamowitz presents an academic achievement award to Gregor Valent for overall excellence at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools awards ceremony last month.

Traffic cops attend seminar

Approximately 30 officers from surrounding police agencies attended a seminar June 22 at the University Hospital Trauma Unit in Newark, sponsored by the Union County Traffic Officer's Association.

Officer Donald Wilkenfeld of the Hillside Police Department Traffic Bureau made the arrangements with Trauma Nurse Coordinator Patricia Wallace, R.N., and Dr. David Levinington, professor of surgery, for a tour of the trauma unit and a presentation on how fatal and serious injuries are treated as they arrive at the trauma unit.

Sgt. Kenneth Grady of the Kenilworth Police Department Traffic Safety Bureau, who serves as president

of the UCTOA, said the seminar was part of ongoing training programs the UCTOA has been doing.

The training is important when dealing with motor vehicle accidents and to help save lives, he said. Hospital officials explained to officers the "golden hour," the time period of one hour in which the lives of a majority of critically-injured trauma patients can be saved if definitive surgical intervention is provided. Only 60 minutes from the moment of injury to notify the police; dispatch an ambulance to the scene; transport the victim to a hospital; summon the appropriate surgical and support staff, and perform the necessary life-saving surgery.

Manahan said the solicitation even asked for a mother's maiden name—something that should not be provided ever on a written form.

Lt. Patricia Leonard, unit commander, said her detectives often receive complaints referred to them from citizens and business firms and they urge that credit information not be sent through the mail, on the Internet or by phone without checking the company and making proper inquiries.

She said anyone who feels they have been victimized by credit card theft or unlawful taking of a person's credit information should call the unit at (908) 527-4500 or contact their local municipal detective bureau.

Prosecutor warns of mail scams

Authorities in Union County are urging residents who receive unsolicited requests for credit information in the mail to take action that would prevent them from becoming victims of identity theft.

Re-emphasizing warnings to the public that have been issued concerning consumer credit card fraud, Union County Prosecutor Thomas Manahan said members of the Special Prosecutions Unit brought the matter to his attention during an investigation involving "credit card renewal services" being offered in a mail solicitation to a group of residents in Scotch Plains.

Manahan said one woman in the group was sent a notice asking for detailed information from a bank card service company asking for detailed salary, income sources and a Social Security number so that her credit card account could be "reviewed for approval."

The prosecutor said an investigation by Detective Vincent Gagliardi revealed that the corporation had no official address, telephone number or legal letter but only a post office box in Delaware. Authorities there are aware of the source of the inquiry, he added.

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Ridge Golf Course did its usual great job, and we got some exercise, all for a worthy cause."

"The Runnells Hospital Foundation has only been in existence a few years, but the staff is working hard to improve the quality of life for our residents and patients."

An artists' rendition of the proposed therapeutic pool was unveiled by Marcino and Peter Repetti of T&M Associates, the engineering firm.

Prizes were awarded for Longest Drive, Male, Joe Cryan, Union, and Female, Marie Sevell, Westfield, received putters; Closest to the Pin,

Male, Jim Reilly, and Female, Kay Turner, putters; Low Score Gross, Male, Jack Tuite, Clark, and Female, Kathy Villaggio, Garwood, golf shoes; Low Score Net, Male, Freeholder Lewis Mingo, Plainfield, and Female, Honey Hegy, Linden, golf shirts.



Mary Lou Marcino of Linden, executive director of the Runnells Hospital Foundation, right, and Peter Repetti of T&M Associates unveil an artists' rendition of a proposed therapeutic rehabilitation pool for the hospital during the foundation's first golf outing.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

'Gravity' is a journey like no other

As French impressionist Claude Monet observes in "Defying Gravity," Jane Anderson's brilliant play about Christa McAuliffe, we as humans seek "not just a bird's eye view, but God's view."

Wait a minute! A 19th-century painter in a play about a tragic heroine of the late 20th century?

OK, I've got your attention. And that's exactly what this powerfully thought-provoking and surprisingly personal play will do from the minute the action begins in the Roy W. Smith Theater on Union County College's Cranford campus, courtesy of The Theater Project.

Anderson's script uses narration,

On the Boards

By Bill Van Sant
Associate Editor

Flashback and quite a dose of the surreal to take us into a moment indelibly etched in our memories, but from the back door as well as a few side doors. Her use of overlapping scenes and segues clearly underscores that these events in 1986, singularly cataclysmic though they were, are merely part of a much bigger picture — one of which each of us in a microscopic yet integral part.

Gary Wood is simply magnificent as Monet, weaving in and out of the action, and serving as narrator and kindred spirit to McAuliffe. In his scenes with the other characters, a surreal magic takes over the proceedings. The subtle intensity in Wood's eyes as he holds the audience in his spell is like very few performances one is likely to see on the local stage. This man is incredible!

Serving as the other primary narrator is McAuliffe's now-adult daughter, Elizabeth, played by Kim Manion. An excellent actress, Manion's performance does reach a certain "one-note" level of resentment, only to be completely defused by Monet's recollections of his own mother's garden. As her understandable anger and self-recriminations give way to forgiveness of herself and her mother, the moment is breathtaking. The air in the space literally seems to gain the weightlessness of the helium balloon he sweetly hanks her. And you will never again look at a cherry Lifesaver without a certain bittersweet pang.

It is through these two, and an interesting assortment of others, that we see not a lionized heroine, but a gifted, passionate and flawed human being. And it is by McAuliffe herself that we are drawn into her dream, quite effectively communicated in flashbacks of her lessons on man-



Gary Wood, as Claude Monet, reaches through time to connect with Kim Manion, who plays Christa McAuliffe's now-adult daughter Elizabeth in 'Defying Gravity,' on stage at Union County College through July 23.

kind's greatest achievements. Sandra Toll is compelling as this fascinating and complex woman.

Four talented actors deliver solid performances in the other roles. Deborah S. Pires and Brian Kennedy are absolutely hysterical as Betty and Ed, a middle-aged couple traveling to Florida for their first space launch. They display their impressive range when they later view the explosion from the roadside — their silent reactions are chilling and numbing. Daiah Talley combines a fascinating mix of tough and tender as Donna, a local bartender involved with a senior member of the ground crew. In a very simple and sweet scene wherein McAuliffe helps her overcome her fear of heights, we see into each woman's greatest fears and most fervent dreams at once. A truly effective moment. In his stage debut, Christopher McCabe admirably holds his own among a cast of more-seasoned actors as Ed, the NASA technician, delivering a very effective performance as he thinks a gut-wrenching apology out loud to the six-year-old Elizabeth.

Director Mark Spina has once again turned his deft hand to a well-known and expertly crafted script, delivering one more powerful piece of theater of which this remarkably talented company can be proud. It comes as no surprise that actors as gifted as Wood, Pires and Talley regularly populate Spina's stage. Of the shows I've seen at UCC, this is without a doubt the most powerfully crafted.

The Theater Project has outdone all past efforts in technical terms, using the Smith Theater in reverse, as usual,

with the audience seated at the back wall of the stage. But this show brings the playing area right off the stage via a network of platforms, scaffolds, ladders and steps extending out over the seats of the audience. Julia Hahn's inspired set design is rendered in a monochromatic cream and completely squared off — all right angles and perpendiculars, horizontals and verticals. In counterpoint is the huge PowerPoint-like screen about halfway back in the empty audience, used as a back-drop of impressionistic paintings, a classroom's slide show, the flashing neon sign of a bar and, of course, the heavens for which we all reach on some level.

Sound design by Michael Magnifico and lighting by Lewis Perlmutter were ingeniously conceived and expertly executed resulting, with the sets, in the most technically brilliant and challenging show the Project has mounted in its seven-year history.

This is easily one of the best pieces of theater I've ever been fortunate enough to experience. "Defying Gravity" takes a moment in history, personalizes it and then soars deep into our souls and far into the stratosphere, taking us with it every touching, painful and inspiring step of the way.

And no one who takes this trip will return quite the same person. Now, that's theater!

"Defying Gravity" runs through July 23 at Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information on tickets and show times, see the "Theater" listing in the Stepping Out calendar on Page B5.

Rae has 'no time' to slow down

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

Charlotte Rae — who dominates the stage in the role of Berthe when she sings, savors, dances and charms audiences of all ages with her "No Time at All" in the musical hit "Pippin" at the Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn — loves everything she does.

Perhaps that is why her public returns that love — whether it be stalwart fans of Mrs. Garrett in the long-running television series, "Facts of Life," veteran fans of Broadway's "Threepenny Opera" or "Li'l Abner" or just generally devoted fans of every media in which she appeared.

"I decided to do 'Pippin' because I love the music," Rae declared over lunch recently. "I love the music and lyrics of Stephen Schwartz. I just love his work. You know, the song that I sing in the show had been written when Stephen was 24 years of age. He must be a genius to have that kind of depth at that age. And when they asked me, I said to myself, 'Go for it! Let's have a good time.'"

"For me," she explained, "it's like a spiritual experience — to be that close to the audience and to make the people laugh."

She explained that when her agent told her the Paper Mill wanted her for "Pippin," Rae said, "I really went for it. You know, I loved the original, with John Rubenstein as Pippin, and Ben Vereen and Irene Ryan as Berthe, and when she sang 'No Time at All,' I remember laughing and crying at the same time. She was so great, and it's such a wonderful song. This is quality stuff. So, I said I'm going to go for it!"

Rae, who has starred in comedies, dramas and musicals, mentioned that she believed that acting is the most difficult activity to do. "I love them all. It depends on the material. But I really like to make people laugh," she said, "to get the message across without preaching. It is a blessing. God wants you to have joy out of life — to live. My prayer is to live life. I wake up each morning and I say, 'Thank you, God, for this day.' I've done a lot of serious stuff, too. But God knows we all need to get some laughs. It manages your digestive system. That's not mine; it's Norman Cousins!"

Rae, who hails from Milwaukee, Wis., graduated from Northwestern University. "I knew that everyone interested in the theater came to New York, so I did, too. Right away I got work in the theater." She originated the role of Mrs. Bachman in the "Threepenny Opera," singing on the original cast album. She was featured as Mamey Yokum — turning suitor's upside down as she chewed on her pipe and muttered, "Ah has spoken!" in the Broadway musical, "Li'l Abner."

"I did theater on and off Broadway," she recalled. Rae appeared in Joe Papp's Shakespeare in the Park, as the nurse in "Romeo and Juliet" and as Mistress Quikly in "Henry IV, Parts I and II." On Broadway, she received a Tony nomination for



Charlotte Rae as Berthe in 'Pippin'

"Morning, Noon and Night" and for the musical, "Pickwick." There were other prestigious award nominations — Obie, Drama Desk, Outer Critics Circle. "I did a lot of TV, including 'Car 54,' appeared on the Ed Sullivan show, 'Different Strokes,' 'Facts of Life,' did lots of voice-over cartoons, and then in 1974 we moved to California." The family, John and Charlotte Rae Strauss, and their two boys, Andy and Larry Strauss, settled in California. "It turned out to be a work movie for all of us."

There were happy times and sad times, particularly when Andy "died suddenly of congestive heart failure last Dec. 8. Then, suddenly, from out of the blue, in the middle of January, '70 Girls '70' was offered to me. I got a call, 'come and do it,' and I did, performing alongside such greats as Helen Gallagher, Jane Powell, Jane Connolly, George S. Irving, Mimi Hines. We played five performances at the York Theater."

Rae sighed: "Maybe it was meant to be. There was nothing to keep me from doing it. We had a short rehearsal and five performances at the York Theater. They were all great. I was alive and full of B and B. Then my agent said they wanted me for 'Pippin.' The Paper Mill has the most wonderful, loveliest people to give them every praise. They do everything to make to feel at home and comfortable. They are so gracious. You know, my friend, Elizabeth Franz, who got the Tony for 'Death of a Salesman,' told me that

they are just lovely. The whole cast is wonderful. I'm very grateful to God that it doesn't go to my head. When you remember that, you don't get caught up in ego. My sister, Mimi Gutten, will be visiting me. You know, she wrote a children's book called 'Wally Kowala,' and I recorded it. I'm very proud of her. She is so talented."

Rae considers her own talent "a gift from God. You have to know your craft, and you learn through experience. Do I have a preference of comedy or drama? As long as the material is good," she said. "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. If the material is good, you're in seventh heaven. So much depends on the writers."

"And when people recognize you on the street? I find that heartening. I feel it's part of the package. You may as well enjoy people recognizing you on the street." She laughed. "Or at any airport when I'm traveling. I went to Barbados once, and I wasn't quite off the plane, when I heard a woman say, 'Hello, Mrs. Garrett.' I'm in China, or in Israel, and people walk up to me to greet Mrs. Garrett."

The 74-year-old woman said that "instead of being a senior, I prefer the expression, elder. I'm an elder."

"I wouldn't mind doing another recurring series," she said pensively. "But not to be on TV every week. If something comes along, perhaps? But I have a life outside of New York, you know. I'm busy — doing life — being a mother and grandmother. I'm busy doing life with friends and family."

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County artist 'waxes' artistic in exploration of new medium

By Joe Lugara
Staff Writer

Francesca Azzara doesn't waste much time when she runs across an idea she likes.

Azzara, a Westfield artist, developed her interest in the hot-wax painting medium of encaustic after viewing work in the technique at Newark's City Without Walls.

"I said, 'My God, I want to do that,' and I went right home and literally started melting candles," Azzara recalled. An exhibiting artist for the past seven years, Azzara has moved from figurative work to pure abstraction, from traditional painting techniques combined with collage to non-representational pieces incorporating thread, candle wax and nails.

An important step in Azzara's creative development came from her work in charcoal. "I went from collage with drawing elements to charcoal because I was interested in abstraction," Azzara pointed out. "I was reading about Georgia O'Keeffe, and how she got to abstraction through watercolor, letting the shapes guide her."

Azzara's moody charcoal drawings sometimes echo O'Keeffe's own

black-and-white works with their intimidatingacing shapes. Depth is communicated through the traditional means of light and dark; but with encaustic, the artist has the chance to suggest depth through layers, by separating each successive painted or drawn layer with a covering of transparent wax.

The use of encaustics dates back to the ancients; its name is derived from a Greek word meaning "burnt in." Less brittle than paraffin, encaustic is purchased, colorless, in block form. Pigment, when desired, is added to the heated wax by the artist. Azzara's large works are executed not on primed canvases, but on canvas drop cloths, which the artist glues to hollow-core doors purchased from Home Depot. Although it sounds like it might be a fragile medium, encaustic is durable enough to tolerate temperatures as high as 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

Azzara is a recent recipient of Union County's HEART Grant. The grant, given only to county residents, will allow Azzara to exhibit her encaustic works while demonstrating her technique in three locations: the

Arts Gallery of Rahway, the Les Malart Guild in Union and the Palmer Gallery at the Springfield Public Library. The painter will also spend a day of instruction at Westfield High School.

Azzara's touch is gentle; her lines are wispy, like fine hair, her colors thin and practically stamed, similar in style to the work of the abstractionist Helen Frankenthaler. Not coincidentally, a book on Frankenthaler sits on a shelf in the painter's small upstairs studio.

The abstractions manage to sidestep the typical pitfall of simple decoration. "That's the issue I'm always grappling with," she said. "I don't want the work to just be decorative wallpaper. I'm trying to create visually what I feel emotionally, and I want the viewer to get that without looking at a picture of a woman holding a baby."

Although the shapes in Azzara's paintings are a puzzle to the uninitiated, the artist is, for the most part, highly conscious of their various meanings. But her working method is less about devising deliberate, obscure symbols than it is about improvising, about finding one's way through the painting. The process begins with establishing a balance between opposites, what Azzara described as "the yin and the yang,

male and female, the positive and negative."

"Everyone has a hard side and a soft side," the artist said. "I'm endlessly interested in having those opposing forces co-exist on the same surface. Hard or soft — it depends on what you want to show to the public."

Azzara admits to being "sort of possessed right now with these tiny little circles," which she said looked to her like "little clusters of heads." Other shapes are vaguely sexual.

"There's a lot of emotional tension and sexual tension, but the sexuality is very, very veiled," the artist said. "I'm not blatant about things. I let the work speak quietly about things, but you have to look long enough and quietly enough."



'Concurrent Evolutions' is among the work by Westfield artist Francesca Azzara being exhibited at galleries throughout Union County.

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Marco Polo Restaurant & Tavern
By Bill Van Sant Associate Editor

The charm of the Neopolitan ambience that greets visitors to Marco Polo restaurant in Summit is but a hint of the delights that lie in store. Whether dining in the family-style lower dining room or in the more elegant upstairs hall, each with its own bar, the same menu is offered, featuring a wealth of sumptuous Italian treats.

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Rather than choose one appetizer, my dining companion and I started off with the hot antipasto platter, a sampling of Marco Polo's hot appetizers which includes stuffed mushroom caps Carbonara, mussels, sauteed calamari, and fried mozzarella and zucchini sticks.

The house dressing is a tangy red wine vinaigrette with rich, flavorful olive oil and herbs, while the tasty house merlot is full-bodied and highly tannic.

Of the many enticing entrees, we chose the veal medalliera and flounder Florentine. The sauteed veal scallopine, in a medalliera wine sauce with prosciutto and mushrooms, was served in a hearty portion, and it's a good thing — even after finishing, you want more. The flounder — broiled to a tender, flaky consistency — is stuffed with spinach and shrimp, making for a seafood lover's fantasy.

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Capping off a wonderful meal requires an equally wonderful dessert, and visitors to Marco Polo will not be disappointed. Our selections were the tartuffo and a slice of cappuccino torte. The tartuffo, a bon-bon of spiced ice cream surrounding a cherry and coated in rich chocolate, is served in quarters and attractively decorated with whipped cream.

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Perfectly accompanying our desserts were espresso and cappuccino. The espresso is full-bodied, featuring a strong coffee taste without any bitterness, while the richness of the cappuccino begs to be lingered over.

For the health conscious, Marco Polo offers Brummel and Brown yogurt spread as an alternative to butter and, even in the smoking section, excellent air circulation guarantees a relatively smoke-free meal.

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HOME IMPROVEMENT



The Peanuts gang, from left in back row, Caitlin Mehner, Vince Balzano, Greg Trimmer; and in front, Forrest Peralta, Kristen Pasterczyk, Emily Pistell and Justin Nako, prepare for the opening of the musical comedy, 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown.'

'Good grief!' Summit preps musical

Kaleidoscope Theater, for Youth, sponsored by the Playhouse Association of Summit, is presenting "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," a musical based on the comic strip "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schultz, staged and directed by Vincent J. Balzano with musical direction by Paul Tukey. The story is just an average day in the life of the much-beloved and beleaguered Charlie Brown. The day is made up of little moments picked from all the days of Charlie Brown, from Valentine's Day to the baseball season, from wild optimism to utter despair, all mixed in with the lives of his friends, both human and non-human.

These days are weaved together in story and song from bright uncertain morning to hopeful, starlit evening. The show shares the fun and openness of early childhood and shows that, despite a person's foibles and a friend's willingness to tell exactly what they are, friendship, love and caring remain constant.

This production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" features a talented cast of young people led by Greg Trimmer as Charlie Brown.

Caitlin Mehner as Lucy, Forrest Peralta as Linus, Vince Balzano as Snoopy, Kristen Pasterczyk as Sally, Justin Nako as Schroeder and Emily Pistell as Patty, and enthusiastically supported by Emily Balzano, Tom Bell, Christine Danielson, Lisa DeRobertis, Jordan Duffy, Elizabeth Espinoza, Chris Frascella, Tim Lynch, Joanna Mautbeck, Kristel McGhee, Catherine Piasio, Max Rissman and Amanda Selwyn. "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" will be performed at The

Summit Playhouse, 10 New England Ave., Summit. Performances are scheduled for July 21, 28 and 29 at 7:30 p.m. and July 22, 23, and 30 at 1:30 p.m. Tickets for all seats are \$8. For reservations, call (908) 273-2192, or tickets can be purchased in person at the theater box office Wednesday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m. and Saturday afternoons from 3 to 5 p.m. Additional information about this production and the Playhouse Association can be found on the website at www.summitplayhouse.org.

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Artists in various media agree on 'humanity bath'

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

Interesting, creative people abound in the arts. Some are world renowned, others are local and not yet well known. They usually become significant because what they do or create connects with us. If not, their fame based on the moment of publicity or notoriety fades. Here are a few examples of the genuine article that I have encountered this summer.

Saul Bellow, at 80 years old, has produced a major work, "Ravelstein." Based on the life of a famous colleague at the University of Chicago who is revealed to be dying of AIDS, the most memorable character is the storyteller himself embracing life, who most certainly is Bellow thinly disguised. This Nobel Prize-winning American Jewish author — originally Canadian — is obsessed with, as he puts it, "rejoicing humankind, humanity bath." Ravelstein is a distinguished and absorbing tale of the modern condition by one of the great interpretive writers of the past century.

On themes not completely connected to Bellow's book, although filmed in an epic story of three generations, Hungarian director Istvan Szabo's movie "Sunshine" embraces life, too, while detailing the horrors of the Holocaust and foolishness and vanity of flawed generations in pursuit of happiness.

The British actor Ralph Fiennes finely crafts Szabo's romantic elegy with a serious performance that equals his work a few years ago in "The English Patient."

Gwyn English Nielson's poetry is sensitive and deeply felt. Not yet well

known, this New Jersey artist has made her presence felt in areas as disparate as cabaret singing and children's books. Her latest accomplishment is a book of intense poetry to be published this fall in which this multi-talented woman shares a teacher's despair, a lover's sensuous emotion and lessons of life in poetry which warms and stimulates us. I believe Nielson in her writing demonstrates a deep commitment to sharing her experiences with her readers with another local female writer of unusual creativity, Jeanne D'Haem, who, two years ago, published a funny, moving collection of stories about her Peace Corps years in Somalia. D'Haem, like Nielson, Szabo and Bellow, reaches quite engagingly to universalize her tales.

Finally, there is the quality expressive and brilliant first novel of Daniel Jones, "After Lucy." Jones writes of family and the ties that bind father to children, where too often those connections weaken. Jones is a member of a writing family. His wife, Cathi Hanauer, has authored a highly readable semi-autobiographical novel about growing up in the suburbs, called "My Sister's Bones." Individually and together, they hold great promise for further connection to Bellow's "humanity bath."

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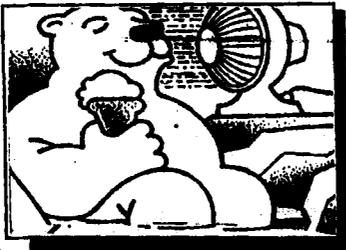
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Valerie Ramsberger, R.N., of Hillside Outcomes Management Director at Trinitas Hospital, left, and animal teammate Liberty share some happy moments with resident Connie Signorelli during a visit to the Brother Bonaventure Extended Care Center as part of the recent "National Take Your Dog to Work Day." Ramsberger and Liberty are a registered Person-Animal Volunteer Team with the nationwide Pet Partners Program, a non-profit organization created by the Delta Society that works to improve health and well-being by promoting beneficial contacts among people, animals and nature. Volunteer teams undergo complete health and temperament screenings, receive extensive training and are qualified to provide animal-assisted activities or animal assisted therapy to hospital patients, nursing home residents and people in other facilities.

With precautions, mosquitoes present no threat

The warm summer months provide an ideal breeding ground for mosquitoes. In the summer of 1999, when mosquitoes were potentially responsible for transmitting the West Nile Virus to adults and children in the tristate area, they went from being a nuisance to a serious health threat.

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites this summer by following these guidelines offered by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and Newark Beth Israel Medical Center's Department of Epidemiology and Infection Control.

To reduce the population of mosquitoes around your home:

- Eliminate all stagnant water on your property.
- Remove all discarded tires.

- Change the water in birdbaths every few days.
- Dispose of tin cans, plastic containers, ceramic pots and other water-holding containers that are outside, or turn them upside down when not in use.
- Clean clogged roof gutters.
- Clean and chlorinate swimming pools that are not being used.
- Drain water from pool covers.
- Turn over plastic watering pots, wheelbarrows, and buckets when not in use.
- Aerate ornamental pools, or stock them with fish.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water which last more than four days after a rain.
- Eliminate standing water from crawl spaces and basements.

Contact your county mosquito control agency for further information about mosquito control on or off your property.

To reduce your risk of mosquito bites:

- Make sure that the window and door screens are in good repair.
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn, dusk and in the early evening, when possible.
- Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants whenever you are outdoors, weather permitting.
- Apply an insect repellent to exposed skin, taking care to follow all directions for use on the product label.
- Do not use products which contain more than 35 percent DEET, particularly on children.

Repellents should not be applied to children younger than 3 years old.

- When applying DEET to a child, apply to your hands and then put it on the child.
- Clothing may be sprayed with repellents containing permethrin or DEET, but some fabrics may be damaged.
- Wash all treated skin and clothing when returning indoors.
- Electromagnetic and ultrasound devices and Vitamin B are not effective in preventing mosquito bites.

If you have questions about controlling mosquitoes this summer, contact your local health department or Newark Beth Israel Medical Center at (973) 926-GERM.

Swimming's dangers can be easily avoided

With the summer in full swing, children are spending their days enjoying the warm weather by swimming. Whether swimming in the ocean or at a pool, children require close supervision from parents because drowning and near-drowning are major causes of childhood death and injury.

"It is vital that parents and caregivers be aware of the dangers associated with swimming," says Jeanne Weintraub, R.N., M.S.N., coordinator for the Pediatrics Ambulatory Center at Saint Barnabas Medical Center, Livingston. "Attention to the available safety tips can avoid tragedy in most instances."

According to studies done by the American Academy of Pediatric's Committee on Injury and Poison Prevention, drowning is the third most common cause of unintentional death for children younger than 5 years old each year in the United States.

Studies have found that children younger than 1 year old most frequently drown in bathtubs and buckets; children between the ages of 1 and 4 years old most often drown in home or apartment swimming pools; and children and adolescents between the ages of 5 and 19 years old most frequently drown in lakes, ponds, rivers, and pools.

A study conducted by the U.S.

Consumer Product Safety Commission showed that most children younger than 5 years old drowned or nearly drowned by entering the pool from their home through the unprotected side of the pool — the side that directly faces the house, with no intervening fence. Most children were last seen in the home, but were out of eye contact for only a moment, and caregivers reported that they heard no screams or splashing. According to the USCPSC, installation of four-sided fencing that isolates the pool from the house and the yard has been shown to decrease the number of pool immersion injuries by more than 50 percent.

be used appropriately and consistently.

- Parents should learn CPR; and they should keep a telephone and equipment approved by the U.S. Coast Guard — e.g., life preservers, life jackets, shepherd's crook — at the poolside.
- For children 5 to 12 years old.
 - Children need to be taught to swim. In addition to rules for safe swimming in pools, children need to know the requirements for swimming in lakes, rivers and oceans. Increased drowning risk arises from changing environmental conditions — e.g., depth and currents — and hazards concealed in murky water.
 - Children need to be taught never to swim alone or without adult supervision.
 - Children should use an approved personal flotation device whenever riding on a boat or fishing, and preferably while playing near a river, lake or ocean.
 - Children need to understand why jumping or diving into water can result in injury. Parents should know the depth of the water and the location of underwater hazards before permitting children to jump or dive.
 - For adolescents 13 to 19 years old.
 - Teenagers need counseling about the dangers of alcohol and other drug consumption during swimming, diving, and boating activities.
 - Because boys are at much higher statistical risk of water-based injuries than girls, they warrant extra counseling.
 - Teens should learn CPR.

Overlook's Emergency Room receives national recognition

Overlook Hospital's Emergency Department ranked in the 100th percentile for patient satisfaction in a survey conducted by Press, Ganey Associates, which compared hundreds of hospitals across the country during the last quarter of 1999.

Despite a steady increase in patient volume, Overlook's Emergency Department ranked highest for patient satisfaction based on factors such as courteous and attentive nurses, consistent and prompt treatment, information from attending physicians, and accessibility to family and friends during treatment. Survey results revealed a high percentage of patients would return to Overlook for treatment and would recommend the hospital to a friend or relative.

"We are proud of this important achievement," said David Freed, president of Overlook Hospital. "Our Emergency Department is dedicated to meeting the personal needs of our patients. We provide patients with as much timely information as possible regarding all aspects of their treatment."

James Espinosa M.D., medical director of the Emergency Department, and Linda Diesterich R.N., the nurse manager of the ED, both credit the cooperative efforts of all areas of the ED and hospital for the high patient-satisfaction ranking.

"We are constantly working on improving ED services," said Linda Kosnik R.N., chief nursing officer at Overlook Hospital, and former nurse manager of the Overlook ED. "This

month, we begin the groundbreaking on a new Pediatric Emergency Department." The "Peds ED" will be open to children in the fall of 2000.

Winner of the 1999 New Jersey Governor's Award for Performance Excellence — the highest state honor an organization can receive for quality and performance — Overlook Hospital is an Atlantic Health System 400-bed major teaching hospital in Summit, Home of New Jersey's first stereotactic radiosurgery program for the treatment of cancer. Overlook's specialty services include the Neuroscience Institute and Brain Tumor Center of New Jersey; the Valerie Center, a pediatric oncology cancer program. The Children's Medical Center of Atlantic Health System, a Chest Pain Center; the Same Day Surgery Center and Hernia Center. Overlook also provides maternity services and provides care services to high-risk newborns at the new Frank and Mimi Walsh Maternity Center.



Warsh is appointed to board

The New Jersey Organ and Tissue Sharing Network, New Jersey's organ procurement organization, announced that Jeffrey A. Warsh, executive director of New Jersey Transit Corporation and a resident of Westfield, has been elected to the board of trustees of the organization.

Warsh is executive director of New Jersey Transit Corporation, Newark, the third-largest — and only statewide — mass transit agency in the United States. As chief operating officer of the holding company, New Jersey Transit Corporation, Warsh serves as president of the corporation's three wholly owned subsidiaries: New Jersey Transit Rail Operations Inc., New Jersey Transit Bus Operations Inc. and Menzer Bus Company Inc. Together, these entities encompass a 10,500-person workforce and a \$3 billion annual budget. The position entails extensive corporate and fiscal management responsibilities, strategic plan development, intergovernmental



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Port-wine stains are birthmarks that appear most often on the face although they may occur anywhere on the skin. These are permanent pink flat stains in infants which grow as the child grows. They may thicken and become bumpy over time. They should be differentiated from hemangiomas and salmon patches which look similar but would disappear spontaneously with time. Port-wine stains may occur as isolated birthmarks or may be associated with other defects. When they appear on the forehead, eyelids, or face, there may be increased risk of glaucoma and/or disease inside the brain. A disfiguring facial stain may yield psychological and social problems if left untreated.

This column is presented as a community service by NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SERVICES located at 2780 Morris Ave., Suite 2A, in Union. We are always happy to answer any questions we can, and guide our families towards finding the answers they need. We are known for our good listening skills and for our focus on prevention as well as treatment. To schedule an appointment, call (908) 687-3300. Most major insurance plans are accepted.

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Gathered to celebrate Occupational Therapy month are, from left seated, Catherine Zambito, COTA, of Cranford; Charles Muhando, OTR, North Plainfield, and Josephine Clapcich, OTR, Stirling. Standing are Kevin McCabe, COTA, Park Ridge; Cathy Boyer, OTR, director of occupational therapy, Cranford; Judi Errico, COTA, Scotch Plains; Krista Lynn, occupational therapy aide, Roselle; Kathy Wargo, COTA, Rahway; Kathleen Lombardo, COTA, North Plainfield; and Nicole Bruccoleri, OTR, Montville. Not pictured is Elaine Jugon, OTR, of Edison.

Occupational therapists are lauded

The Occupational Therapists of Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County hosted a reception this spring, celebrating April as Occupational Therapy Month. Employees, residents and patients enjoyed refreshments and gained a better understanding of what Occupational Therapy is all about by competing in several Occupational Therapy tests, including hand strengthening and application of wheelchair adaptations and splints, announced Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, liaison to the hospital's Advisory Board of Managers.

"Occupational Therapy provides services to people who have had their ability to perform daily activities decreased and altered by physical injury, disease, development deficits, psychological and social disability, and the aging process," said Scanlon. "Our professional therapists and assistants at Runnells aid the individual in achieving and maintaining a maximum level of independent functioning in everyday activities."

The therapists focus on the individual as a "whole person," which includes cognitive, motor, sensory-integrative, psychological and social functioning skills, and the extent to which each part plays in the daily activities of that person. Occupational

therapy pertains to being occupied, or engaged in, goal-directed exercises and/or activities.

Through the use of a collaborative approach, the resident/patient, therapist and physician establish a treatment plan to meet individual objectives and needs. This participation in the treatment planning increases the individual's motivation for therapy. The therapist continuously encourages the individual to perform to their maximum potential, stressing the importance of independence versus dependence at the hospital and at home.

The education of the resident/patient regarding their disability is an important part of the plan, as well as educating staff on following through on the goals and objectives and a maintenance exercise program to maintain function. Equally important is educating family members and/or caregivers prior to discharge to home. Occupational therapy instructs and trains the individual on the purpose of their goals and objectives, proper execution of exercises, wheelchair safety techniques, and performing transfers, such as from wheelchair to bed and back.

Occupational therapy uses various methods to aid the individual in accomplishing daily living tasks, such as strengthening, range of motion,

endurance, balance, coordination, and exercise to improve physical function.

The use of adaptive equipment to compensate for loss of function, such as in one-handed dressing techniques: using a zipper pull, a long-handled shoehorn, a dressing stick, a button hooker, or elastic shoe laces, and eating equipment such as a scoop plate and weighted utensils. For transfers, leg lifters, sliding boards, grab bars, raised toilet seats and transfer tub benches are used.

Those who need a wheelchair are measured to ensure they receive the appropriate size and type, as well as any necessary adaptations such as leg or head rests, lateral supports, arm trays or cushions.

To maintain proper position of an extremity, a splint may be fabricated and applied by OT, with a wearing schedule established and the fitting staff instructed on proper usage. Bed and wheelchair positioning devices may also be needed and provided by OT.

Runnells' registered occupational therapists are called OTR's and have bachelor's degrees and six months of internship experience. The certified occupational therapy assistants have associate's degrees — two completed years of college — plus six months of internship experience.

Cardiac transport team meets a variety of patient needs

Heart patients from all over New Jersey are benefiting from a unique transport service that safely delivers them to Saint Barnabas Health Care System facilities for the highest level of cardiac care.

The Cardiac Transfer Center arranges and provides for the safe transport of cardiac patients who are in other hospitals and need the higher level of care that is provided at The Heart Hospital of New Jersey at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center and Saint Barnabas Medical Center, both affiliates of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. In the past two years, the center has coordinated the transfers of more than 2,183 patients without a single negative outcome during a trip.

The Cardiac Transfer Center was introduced at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in December 1997 to help improve access to the specialized cardiac services provided there. Last spring, when Saint Barnabas Medical Center began a new cardiac surgery program, the center began transporting patients to that facility as well.

The demand to bring patients to both hospitals has grown so much that today the team is on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Cardiac Transfer Center team includes Brenda Robatino R.N., coordinator; Mary Verrinder R.N.; Jose Coty R.N.; Bud Lavin R.N.; Ben Monserrat R.N.; Tony Lucania MTC; John Oliveira EMT, and Dave Siangrecci EMT. Since the Transfer Center's inception, the team has received high marks from patients, family members and physicians.

"This team is one of the highlights of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. It has become a model for other institutions to follow," said Fred Auerton M.D., director of Invasive Cardiovascular Laboratories for the Saint Barnabas Health Care System. "With tertiary cardiac services now available at The Beth on a 24-hour basis, the Cardiac Transfer Center's ability to bring patients here around the clock has greatly enhanced the care we provide."

The team is specially trained to detect and treat cardiac emergencies and ensure rapid and efficient transfer. To initiate a transfer, the referring physician calls (888)

8-HEART-1 and the team coordinates the arrangements for each patient to be transported and admitted to an appropriate patient care unit, saving time for the physician and the nursing staff on the unit. Patients are transported in cardiac ambulances, accompanied by an ACLS-certified registered nurse, a paramedic and an emergency medical technician. If needed, emergency transport by trained professionals using a similarly equipped helicopter is also available. The team members frequently maintain contact with patients throughout their hospital stay.

The team's medical expertise is matched by a compassionate and caring nature that is evident to the patients and families they come into contact with every day. The Cardiac Transfer Center has maintained a consistently high level of patient satisfaction through education and simply "talking to the patient as a person" during each transport, according to Robatino. They have also performed many extra duties that are beyond the expected level of service.

"Last June, the team transported a heart transplant candidate from Newark Beth Israel to her son's high school graduation ceremony at the PNC Arts Center in Holmdel, and stayed with her throughout the day in case she needed emergency care," Robatino said. "A few months ago, our ambulance was flagged down on the Garden State Parkway where a motor vehicle accident had just occurred. They found the driver in cardiac arrest, successfully resuscitated him and transferred him to a nearby hospital."

The greatest compliments to the Cardiac Transfer Center come from the patients, families and physicians the team has encountered during the last two years. The center's patient satisfaction surveys are returned with consistently high scores and positive comments.

"This has to be the best transport team there is. They made my trip very pleasant and safe," one patient wrote on his survey. Another commented, "The team that transported me was very concerned about my condition. They took their time, made sure everything was right, made me comfortable and explained my procedure. They did a very excellent job."

Proper prenatal care begins before conception

Everyone knows how important prenatal care is for pregnant women. But taking care of yourself shouldn't begin only when you are pregnant.

If you are a woman who would like to have children in the future, there are steps you can take now to help reduce risks of future birth defects, low birthweight, and other pregnancy problems. These steps are called "Pre-conception Care." Call your healthcare practitioner for more information.

• Get help now if you drink too much or use drugs. Drugs and alcohol

have been linked to a variety of complications including low birthweight, developmental disabilities and birth defects.

- Stop smoking now. Smoking can cause low birthweight in babies.
- Get annual gynecological exams and get tested for STDs and HIV.
- Improve your eating habits and, if necessary, take a vitamin supplement that contains folic acid. This mineral can reduce the risk of spina bifida, which may cause paralysis and disability in a baby.

• If you are sexually active, protect yourself from STDs and unplanned pregnancies by using contraception. Remember, abstinence is the only 100-percent effective way to avoid both pregnancy and STDs.

Planned Parenthood of Greater Northern New Jersey can help women throughout their reproductive years. The Elizabeth Center, 208 Commerce Place, offers high quality, comprehensive reproductive health services for women. The center is affordable and confidential. Call for more information at (908) 351-5384.

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The inpatient unit is for Short Term care to manage acute symptoms, adjust medications, or to stabilize residential situations. The first licensed Hospice in New Jersey, we also provide home care services in various health care facilities. We recently opened a second office in Tom's River, N.J.

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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.

Stepping Out

In the popular "Biscuit" book series, Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, for information, call (973) 376-8544.

AUTHOR DR. BRUCE SCHNEIDER will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield July 25 at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies of the book "Relax, You're Already Perfect."

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP at Barnes and Noble in Clark will meet July 25 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver.

MYSTERY "THRILLOLOGY" will take place at Barnes and Noble in Springfield July 29 at 7:30 p.m. Authors Nancy Tessier, Jessica Speart and Lee Harris will appear to sign copies of their books, "Golden Eggs and Other Deadly Days," "Barber's Pray," and "Mother's Day Murder," respectively.

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME & ART will exhibit American paintings from the mid-19th century and 20th century.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL in Mountainside will exhibit the artwork to Elaine Schnoor, Lydia R. Watson and Rita Keizer throughout the month of July.

TWO BROTHERS AND A SISTER will feature the work of Dr. K. Johnson, Eugene Johnson and Maureen Lassiter, all of Elizabethton, in an exhibit through Wednesday at the Les Malenat Art Gallery in Union Public Library.

THE SKULSKI ART GALLERY at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark will exhibit the works of two Polish artists, Hanna Mizeracka and Jack K. Ziinski through July 28.

SWAIN GALLERIES in Plainfield will exhibit the multi-media works of 19 prize-winning student artists through July 29.

THE ARTWORK of Richard Titus of North Plainfield will be on exhibit July 26 to Sept. 6 at the Les Malenat Art Gallery in Union Public Library.

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NEWARK BOYS CHORUS SCHOOL, a fully accredited fourth-through eighth-grade academic school, will conduct auditions for September 2000 enrollment.

AUTHOR LINDA STRANGIO will appear at Barnes and Noble in Clark July 20 at 7:30 p.m. to sign copies of her new book, "Nurse Notes."

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will debut at Barnes and Noble in Clark July 21 at 7:30 p.m.

CHILDREN'S AUTHOR ALYSSA SATIN CAPUCCILI will appear at Barnes and Noble in Springfield July 22 at 2 p.m. to sign copies of her book, "Biscuit's New Trick," the latest installment

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free Saturday afternoon concerts at the Main Branch in the coming weeks.

Saturday, Modern Jazz with The Andy Middleton Quartet July 22, Chamber Music with Frederick Katzenberg and Gary Klein Aug. 5, Latin-American Music with Inhi Raymi Musica Latinoamericana Aug. 19, Music Masters with Mark "Fozz" Favolo Aug. 26.

MUSIC IN THE CAFE in Barnes and Noble in Clark and Springfield will feature free musical performances in the coming weeks.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER MICHAEL GELB will lead a discussion based on his book "How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day" July 28 at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS CIRCLE will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Aug. 14 at 7:30 p.m. The

breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call (908) 889-5269 or (908) 889-4761.

THE ART OF SPIRITUAL DREAMING, a workshop on remembering and understanding dreams, will take place at Barnes and Noble in Clark July 27 at 7:30 p.m.

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER MICHAEL GELB will lead a discussion based on his book "How to Think Like Leonardo da Vinci: Seven Steps to Genius Every Day" July 28 at 7:30 p.m.

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PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will conclude its 1999-2000 season with an all-new production of Stephen Schwartz's "Pippin," playing through July 23.

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) 379-3636.

THE THEATER PROJECT at Union County College will present "Dangling Gravity," a play by Jane Anderson dealing with Christa McAuliffe's deci-

22 in the auditorium of Linden High School on St. Georges Avenue. Shows are at 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, and July 20, 21 and 22; and 3 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10. For information, call (908) 925-8809.

THE BACK PORCH in Rahway will present Open Mike Night every Tuesday at 9 p.m.

CROSSROADS in Newark presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-8666.

EAT TO THE BEAT Coffeehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during the summer. Eat to the Beat Coffeehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment at various times throughout the summer. Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1482 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-4700.

HILLTOP CAFE AND GRILL in Summit presents "From Broadway to the Silver Screen" every Sunday at 6 p.m., preceded by an all-day Sunday dinner from 5 to 8 p.m.

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Tasty Tunes in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 W. Westfield Ave., Roselle Park.

VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE in Union will present a series of musical events in the coming weeks. Tuesday nights are "Acoustic Tuesdays" with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians.

Sunday: Framework Tuesday: Jason Fryslak July 23: The Dan Crick Trio July 25: "Open Mike Spotlight" with Jill Cagney and Amyrta Kellar July 30: The Ginny Johnson Band Aug. 1: Catherine Moon Aug. 6: The John Patton Trio Aug. 8: Vesper Aug. 12: Groove Apparatus Aug. 15: Joe Rathbone Aug. 20: The Joe Knipes and David Hassel Quartet Aug. 22: Kieran Kelly Aug. 27: The Steve Menier Trio Aug. 29: Andy and Denise Sept. 3: The Hal Hirsch Trio Sept. 10: The Joe Talino Trio Sept. 17: Pam Purvis and Bob Ackerman Sept. 24: Monkeyworks

Van Gogh's Ear is located at 1017 Stockton Ave. in Union Center. For information, call (908) 610-1844.

THE WAITING ROOM in Rahway will present musical entertainment during the summer. The Waiting Room is located at 1431 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of Lewis Street. For information, call (732) 815-1042.

CLASSES

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS will sponsor "Fun With Music" classes Wednesdays now through July 26 in three afternoon sessions — 1:30 to 2 p.m., 2:15 to 2:45 p.m., and 3 to 3:30 p.m.

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.

UNION MUSIC SCHOOL will offer classes to students in grades Pre-K through 12, now through July 30. Tuition is \$300 per child, with discounts for families.

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CONCERTS

2000 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, will take place at the amphitheater in Echo Lake Park, Mountainside, 7:30 p.m. every Wednesday through Aug. 30.

WEDNESDAY: The Brooklyn Bridge featuring Johnny Maestro, The New Hearts July 26: Pop hits with New Power Soul Aug. 2: Oldies Night with Shirley Aston Reeves of The Shirlettes, Who's Johnny Aug. 9: Country Music Night with The Bluebelles Aug. 18: An Evening of Motown with Sensational Soul Crusaders Aug. 23: Big Band Night with The Brass Tacks Big Band Orchestra Aug. 30: The Party Dolls Echo Lake Park is located off Route 22, between Springfield Avenue in Mountainside and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. Admission is free. For information, call (908) 527-4900.

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DISCUSSION

DR. CYNTHIA GREEN will lead a workshop titled "Total Memory Workout" this evening at 7:30 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Springfield.

LIFE COACH JAMI NOVAK will lead a new women's discussion group — "Take Time for Your Life," based on the book of the same name by Cheryl Richardson — sponsored by Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The group

will subsequently meet July 20 and Aug. 17, all at 7:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

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INTERFAITH BINGLES

INTERFAITH BINGLES, for single adults older than 48 years old, will meet every Sunday from 8 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) 889-5269 or (908) 889-4761.

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The Potting Bench

Plants need 'controlled watering'

Talk to any plant owner, including the "green thumbs," and they'll tell you the most significant problem in caring for their potted plants and flowers is the guesswork involved with watering them. Statistics prove that more indoor and outdoor plants die from improper watering than any other cause. Watering too generously can suffocate the roots and lead to root rot, killing the plants.

The new Alive & Well indoor and outdoor planters from Bemis employ a process called "controlled watering," or watering from the bottom, which eliminates the guesswork. And though it's commonly known that flowers such as the African violet thrive using this method, experts agree that all house plants and outdoor potted plants benefit as well.

Designed to avoid intermittent drought-or-flood conditions brought on by inconsistent watering, Alive & Well planters let the plants absorb the water they need, when they need it. Water is added to a reservoir in the base of the planter through a side opening which is positioned to prevent overflowing.

The plant and potting soil rest on a ventilated platform above the reservoir, which ensures that the plant's roots receive the air circulation they need for healthy growth. Potting soil fills columns which extend from the platform to the reservoir at the bottom of the planters. These columns carry the water to and throughout the soil above using a continuous, capillary "wicking" action.

The Alive & Well nurturing planters help regulate a plant's own water intake, so you don't have to worry about how often or how much to give them. Whether indoors or out, the planter's reservoir will provide a fail-safe marker for care.

Alive & Well planters are available in a wide variety of attractive colors, shapes, and sizes, including an urn-shaped design, hanging planter and window boxes. They can be found at Lowe's, Target, Homebase and other leading home improvement retail establishments.

Here are a few more hints from certified interior horticulturist Charles Powell to help you grow healthy and vigorous potted plants.

- Fertilize potted plants sparingly. Underfertilizing a potted plant is better than overfertilizing it.
- Temperatures lower than 50 degrees or higher than 90 can cause damage to the leaves of indoor plants. Also, the temperature of irrigation water should be between 62 and 72 degrees.
- Different plants do better in different types of soil. The finer the roots, the more coarse the soil should be, and vice-versa.

Arbors add visual variety to the landscape of a garden

Gardeners looking for new ways to make gardens more visually appealing are discovering that arbors add aesthetic pleasure and character to their home landscape. Whether looking to add simple charm or an architectural work of art, arbors provide gardens with style and elegance. Arbors are beautifully designed arches made of lattice. They are available in plastic, wood or metal interwoven to form beautiful patterns and designs. Available in a variety of styles, sizes and colors, arbors add personality to a home or garden, and add support for plants. Arbors are the perfect solution for gardeners looking for a visually appealing garden structure.

Try these four ideas to add aesthetic pleasure and personality to a garden:

- Make an inviting entryway into a garden area with an arbor.
- Add height and vertical dimension to a garden with an arbor. By

planting annual vines such as cardinal climbers and morning glory, as well as other climbing plants, a garden will have brilliant vertical color.

- Add lights around an arbor to create a stunning evening scene.
- Complement a natural garden with a bit of architecture, by utilizing an arbor for visual appeal. The arbor is a nice central focal point that captures a visitor's attention.

Projects like these are even easier with plastic arbors. Plastic arbors are durable and long-lasting. Its color will not fade in the sun, and chips and scratches will not show because the color goes all the way through. The arbors look beautifully natural and require virtually no maintenance. Plastic arbor kits are available with pre-cut, easy to assemble pieces and simple instructions, without the hassle of nails and screws. For more arbor information, call TUFF-BILT at (800) 394-6679 or visit www.tuffbilt.com.

Container planting can add beauty to garden

By Jeff Rugg
Copley News Service

The system we have had in place for sending you questions to me via an e-mail address at the Copley newspapers hasn't been the most successful. The questions have been saved and then mailed to me on a regular basis, but they also have often reached me too late to address in a timely fashion to be helpful to the writer. The new address at the end of the column will come to me directly so that I can respond more quickly.

There are a few guidelines you should understand when you write to newspaper columnists. Some of the questions received are not appropriate for the rest of the audience. They may be too specific or they may be too late in the season to do any good at this point in time. Some of the questions are saved until the following year when they do make for a good column, but if you miss the paper that week, you may miss the answer.

Like many other columnists, I have a family and another job. The writing is essentially voluntary. I answer as many questions as I can, but I cannot go out to look at your yard, even if you live close by. I do make an exception for my mom, because she feeds me when I visit. I also cannot answer every letter or e-mail that comes in. Although I do look for seasonal questions and those that will apply to larger audiences, that should not stop you from asking.

Currently, I do not have back issues of columns, a book, a website or any other way to get more information out to you, although that may change in the future.

Q. I thought a half-barrel to use as a planter, but it does not have drainage holes. Do I need holes in the pot or can I just add some gravel to the bottom for drainage?

A. If you think you might use the pot in the future for water gardening, I would not add the holes. Otherwise, you should definitely drill the holes. Gravel in the bottom of a pot does not help the drainage in a pot.

In fact, adding gravel to the bottom of the pot or hole, if planting in clay soil in the landscape, actually worsens the situation. Water moves through the soil in large and small pores. Large ones, like those made by worms, can move water quickly and they allow air to move in the soil, too.

Small pores can be microscopic and they allow water to be retained in the soil for plant roots to use. Water has surface tension that connects the molecules together. When water moving in a pore gets to a larger pore, it does not automatically move into the larger pore. It must build up pressure behind it to force it to overcome the surface tension and into the open space below.

Imagine a large flat sponge. It has lots of large and small pores just like soil. Submerge it in water to get all the air out of the pores. Take it out of the water and you will see water flow out of the pores, but then it will stop and you can see water hanging on the bottom of the sponge. There is not enough water pressure above it in the sponge to move the water into the open space below. The top of the sponge will be damp, but the bottom of the sponge will remain saturated and water-logged.

The same thing happens to the soil above the gravel in the pot or hole; water pressure will not be strong enough to force the water into the open space below. The top of the sponge will be damp, but the bottom of the sponge will remain saturated and water-logged.

The same thing happens to the soil above the gravel in the pot or hole; water pressure will not be strong enough to force the water into the large pores below. The soil above the gravel will be water saturated.

If the soil is similar in texture, it will allow the water to wick its way through. If the water can move out, then air can move in. Roots need both air and water for healthy growth. If you want to improve clay soil, use organic matter and mix it into the clay.

If you are just planting some annuals in the half-barrel, they do not need the whole barrel full of soil. Filling the bottom half of the barrel with Styrofoam peanuts or other lightweight filler can make the barrel easier to move and still give the plants enough soil to grow in. Use a weed barrier cloth between the soil and the peanuts or put them in plastic bags so they do not become clogged with dirt.

Use lightweight potting soil that has lots of organic matter in the half-barrel. It will retain moisture in the small pores and yet still allow for drainage. Plants in pots have less room for roots to grow, so lack of water is usually the most critical factor of plant health.

Q. We want to make a spiral shape out of a tall evergreen in our yard, like ones we have seen at an amusement park. How do we prune it to make it a good spiral shape?

A. Make a spiral topiary is not as hard as it looks. Topiary is the art and science of fashioning living plants

into an ornamental shape. The shape can be geometric, like spirals, balls, squares, lollipops and many others. The design can also be in the familiar shape of a character or animal. Topiaries can be created with two different methods of construction—pruning and sphagnum moss-filled wire frames.

The most familiar to most people is made through pruning a plant into the design. Many landscapes are made of improperly pruned plants that should have had a natural shape, but have been instead turned into weird little balls. The creators of these monstrosities may think they have done a good thing, but they deceive only themselves. Topiaries are created with the overall landscape design in mind and they are part of the overall theme. They are not done by accident.

In creating a pruned topiary, the

designer must decide on the shape and size to see if more than one plant is necessary. For instance, a large animal shape may require one plant be used for each leg so that there will be enough plant material to prune into the animal's body. Topiary created to look like a chess piece may only require a single plant, while a yard full of chess pieces will require many plants.

To not have a half-grown character in your landscape, you may have to plant it in a large container and grow and prune it to its final location in the landscape. Depending on the plant's growth rate, how big it is to be and how often it is pruned back, it can be a decade or longer before the plant is ready.

E-mail questions to Jeff Rugg at greenreview@altavista.com.

GARDEN TIP

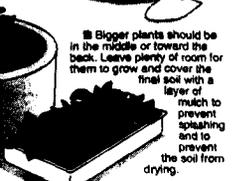
Container planting ideas

Container plants need good soil and good drainage.

Put an inch of pebbles or clean gravel in the bottom of the container. Drill drainage holes if it has none. Use a soil mixtures with one-third peat moss to prevent caking.



Bigger plants should be in the middle or toward the back. Leave plenty of room for them to grow and cover the final soil with a layer of mulch to prevent splashing and to prevent the soil from drying.



Good drainage promotes the flow of water and air through soil. An air/water cycle is important for good root health.



SOURCE: "Reader's Digest Illustrated Guide to Gardening"

Copley News Service/Dan Clifford

Our new drive-in makes banking in Clark even more convenient!

Our new 8 lane drive in facility is now open adjacent to our office at 10 Westfield Avenue in Clark. If you're in a rush and don't have time to use our lobby, just pull up, make your transaction and you're on your way. And, our expanded drive-in hours even make it easier.

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We're giving away a FREE Clark Bar, while supplies last, with every transaction at our new drive-in.

FREE DRAWING FOR 2 MOUNTAIN BIKES

To enter our FREE drawing, all you have to do is complete an entry blank and drop it in the ballot box in our bank lobby. If your entry is selected you'll win a pair of Men's Mountain Bikes. Limit one entry per person per day. All entries must be 18 years or older. Provident employees, members of their immediate families and Provident suppliers are not eligible. Winners need not be present to win. Value of the prize will be reported on IRS form 1099 for tax purposes. The drawing will be held on Saturday, August 19th at 10am in our Clark Office lobby.

Fill out the information below and bring this entry form to Provident Bank, 10 Westfield Avenue in Clark before August 19, 2000. (Please print clearly)

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 TOWN _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
 PHONE () _____
 Drawing will be Saturday, August 19, 2000 at 10am.

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Thursday 9am - 7pm	Friday 9am - 3pm	Friday 8am - 6pm	Friday 8am - 6pm
Friday 9am - 3pm	Saturday 9am - 12pm	Saturday 9am - 1pm	Saturday 9am - 1pm

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What's Going On?

FLEA MARKET

SUNDAY
 July 16th, 2000
EVENT: FLEA MARKET & PANCAKE BREAKFAST
PLACE: The Church of St. Catherine of Siena, School Parking Lot, North Broad & King Streets, Elizabeth/Hillside, NJ
TIME: 9:30am-3:30pm
PRICE: \$15 per space, \$25 two spaces \$5 table rental, (each additional space \$10) Pancake breakfast: \$4 per adult, \$3.50 children 12 and under. For further information call 908-351-1515 between 9:00am-4:30pm.
ORGANIZATION: Church of St. Catherine of Siena Rectory

SUNDAY
 July 23rd, 2000
EVENT: FLEA MARKET/CRAFT and COLLECTIBLE SHOW
PLACE: Beautiful Yanticaw Park, Park Drive, Nutley between Centre and Chestnut Sts.
TIME: 9:00am-5:00pm
PRICE: Over 100 quality merchandise dealers in a park like setting under the tree lined oval.
ORGANIZATION: Nutley Red Cross & Columbus Day Parade Committee

What's Going On is a paid directory of events for non-profit organizations. It is prepared and costs just \$20.00 (for 2 weeks) for Essex County or Union County and just \$30.00 for both. Your notice must be in our Maplewood office (463 Valley Street) by 4:00 PM on Monday for publication the following Thursday. Advertisement may also be placed at 170 Scotland Road, Orange, 266 Liberty St., Bloomfield or 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., Union. For more information call 763-9411.

HOROSCOPE

For July 17 to July 23

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Cooperate with family members in order to get an important project off the ground. Make sure that you have the proper tools for success.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a practical application of your ideas or, in other words, practice what you preach. Speak your mind, but choose your words carefully.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Mercury, your ruler, turning direct this week brings you renewed energy. In the area of money or finance, avoid impulsive spending.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): Look for smooth sailing or progress to be made in personal endeavors. Venture into new areas with a sense of confidence and no fear.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Completion is your key word for this forecast period. Concentrate on finishing a major task before considering starting on a new one.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Increased involvement in club or group activity is very likely. What is done in the spirit of togetherness and camaraderie it way above average.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): This week marks a year of professional, high cycle. Put all of your energy into making things happen in your career sector.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Expansion through thought or travel is probable. Broaden your horizons with

some exciting reading or timely excursions to ports of interest.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Investments demand your attention. Pull out your financial portfolio, and go over your options with a trusted and experienced adviser.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take time to strengthen the important relationships in your life. Commitment to a common cause or dream is a step in the right direction.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You can't lose with solid plans and the support of loved ones. Organize your thoughts and ideas on paper and clarify your objectives.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This could be a very romantic or socially satisfying time for you. Don't hold back on sharing your feelings of love and affection.

If your birthday is this week, take time to smell the roses during the coming year. You've worked hard, and now it's time to reap the rewards of your efforts. Make plans to increase your knowledge base or improve your skills in a given area. Going back to school now is not as far-fetched as it once was. Cultural or artistic interests will also peak. Renew your library card, and visit local museums or art galleries as often as possible.

Also born this week: John Jacob Astor, Nelson Mandela, Herbert Marcuse, Sir Edmund Hillary, Ernest Hemingway, Alexander the Great, and Haile Selassie.

Give and take could be helpful

(Continued from Page B1)
 them a disproportionate impact on the community agenda.
 The people who turn out should be respected and have their say. But there is nothing wrong and probably a good thing to press the speakers to justify their positions and respond to criticism, just like the citizen does to the elected officials when he approaches the microphone.
 Heck, the exchange might be helpful. At the very least, it would accurately reflect what public participation actually should be about.
 To my way of thinking, dialogue is about as respectful as one can get.
 A resident of Cranford, Frank Caputo is an attorney.

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 - 5 News-release opener
 - 6 Bristle
 - 7 Key point
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 - 11 Scandinavian war god
 - 12 Tube holder
 - 13 Insh —
 - 18 Hesse's river
 - 19 ERA group
 - 24 Chaste
 - 26 Lift the spirits
 - 27 Garden pest
 - 28 Erect
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 - 31 The pits?
 - 32 Slips away
 - 34 Type of skirt
 - 35 Chimney sweeps condition
 - 36 Past, present or future
 - 38 Gal — of yourself
 - 42 Down-to-earth types
 - 43 Thoroughfares
 - 49 Puncture
 - 52 "The Three Faces of —"
 - 54 Dating service's goal
 - 55 Sudan's neighbor
 - 56 Nap
 - 57 A "Death in the Family" writer
 - 59 Needle case
 - 60 Beach souvenir
 - 62 Beehive
 - 63 Slow away
 - 64 Tolkien creatures
 - 66 Haw's mate
 - 67 West or Murray

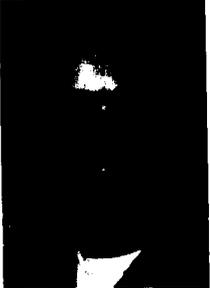
See ANSWERS on Page B12

Malmut exhibit set

The next exhibit at the Les Malmut Gallery in Union will be "The Art Work" of Richard Titus of North Plainfield. The show will open with a reception at the gallery in the Union Public Library, 1980 Morris Ave., July 26 from 7 to 9 p.m. The exhibit runs through Sept. 6. Titus studied at the Massachusetts College of Art and the Art Students League in New York City. He worked as a graphic designer and served as an art director for publications in Boston. The exhibit is open during library hours, Monday to Thursday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The library is closed on Saturday during the summer.

REUNIONS

- Union High School Class of 1940 reunion is scheduled for today. Luncheon will be served at noon at the Galloping Hill Inn, Five Points in Union. For information, contact Evelyn Sieudle Borshay at (407) 647-8119 or send e-mail to epeborshay@worldnet.att.net.
- Summit High School Class of 1990 will conduct its 10th reunion July 29. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Aug. 19. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Classes of 1950 to 1959 will conduct a "50 Reunion Picnic Aug. 26 at Memorial Park on South Wood Avenue, Linden, from 1 p.m. to dusk. For information, call Gail Hudak at (908) 862-4272.
- Roselle Park High School Class of 1940 reunion luncheon is scheduled from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at the Westwood, Garwood. For reservations, call George or Doris Miller Phillips at (609) 294-2144 or e-mail JHMUNIC@aol.com.
- Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1948 will conduct its 52nd reunion Sept. 22 to 24. For information, call Mary Frances (Cline) Gavey at (908) 276-3727.
- Members of Alpha Phi Delta of Upsala College interested in an early October 2000 reunion luncheon are asked to contact Irene DiBisce.
- McHugh at (732) 892-3569 or Bess Meyer Terp at (609) 296-9335.
- Summit High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Cranford High School Class of 1975 will conduct its 25th reunion Oct. 7. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1950 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 7 at the Pines. For information, contact Doris Mazur Cyran at (732) 381-6384 or Michael Pileggi at (908) 862-2497.
- Jefferson High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1945 will conduct its 55th reunion Oct. 13 at Galloping Hill Inn in Union. For information, call Frank Gargano at (908) 688-9394 or write to him at 1025 Lorraine Ave., Union, NJ 07083.
- Cranford High School Class of 1974 will conduct its 26th reunion Oct. 14. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 11. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Basie High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1955 will conduct its 45th reunion Oct. 22 at 1 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton. For information, or to advise of classmates' whereabouts, contact Reunion Committee, 32 Kalthryn St., Clark, NJ 07066.
- Rahway High School Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 18. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1970 will conduct its 30th reunion Nov. 24. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1980 will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 25. For information, call Margaret Luxich Donovan at (908) 486-7189 or send e-mail to ACSHS1980@aol.com.
- Cranford High School Class of 1980 reunion is scheduled for Nov. 25. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Roselle Park High School Class of 1970 will conduct its 30th reunion Nov. 25 at Costa's Restaurant in Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 276-6825.
- Union High School Class of 1955 has scheduled its 45th reunion for Nov. 25 at L'Affaire Restaurant in Mountainside. For information, call (732) 714-7233, send faxes to (732) 714-7234, or address e-mail to UHS1955@aol.com.



Scott Goldman

Playhouse honors Union's Goldman

At the annual meeting of the Summit Playhouse June 13, the Outstanding Student Theater Award was presented to Scott Goldman of Union.

An avid thespian and enrollee at Ithaca College, Goldman has appeared as Levy in the Playhouse's summer Kaleidoscope production of "Charlotte's Web." Last summer, he was assistant director for the Kaleidoscope production of "Narnia." Currently, he is stage manager and jack of all trades for this year's Kaleidoscope, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

This past season, Goldman received rave reviews as the quirky Eugene in Summit Playhouse's production of the Neil Simon play "Bright Beach Memoirs."

At Union High School, Goldman has been recognized for his performances in "Damn Yankees," "Grease" and "Once Upon a Mattress," and his direction of a variety show.

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 Nutley Journal • Belleville Post
 Irvington Herald • Vallburg Leader
 The Independent Press of Bloomfield

DEADLINES

Business Directory 4 PM Thursday
 Display - Space reservation 5 PM Friday
 Ad Copy 12 noon Monday
 In-column 3 PM Tuesday

ADJUSTMENTS

Adjustments: We make every effort to avoid mistakes in your classified advertisement. Please check your ad each time it appears, should an error occur please notify the classified department within seven days of publication. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc., shall not be liable for errors or omissions in cost of actual space occupied by item in which error or omissions occurred. We can not be held liable for failure, for any cause, to insert an ad. Worrall Community Newspapers, Inc. reserves the right to reject, revise or reclassify any advertisement at any time.

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 sale under \$100.00 One item per ad price
 must appear.

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20 words - 10 weeks \$31.00 or \$44.00
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CATHOLIC ELEMENTARY School in Elizabeth/Hillsdale area looking for maintenance staff. Full time, benefit used required. Also part time positions. Call for information and application 908-301-1818.

HELP WANTED

CASHIER Part time in Elizabeth area. Must be reliable. Available Saturday and Sunday. Call 908-264-2948

CHILDREN'S SERVICES Librarian. Full Time. 35 hour week with excellent benefits. One evening a week, one Saturday a month included. Position includes programming and book selection for ages 2 to 15, as well as general reference assistance. Candidate for M.S. will be considered. Salary \$34,000 dependent on experience. Union County residents given preference. Send resume and three references to Meg Kolvey, Director, Clark Public Library, 303 Westfield Avenue, Clark, NJ 07066, EOE.

DENTAL ASSISTANT: Responsible, dependable, enthusiastic, people oriented assistant for friendly general dentistry practice in Livingston. Will train. Call 973-823-9500.

DENTAL RECEPTIONIST/ Patient Coordinator: Full-time permanent position entails scheduling, responsible, well organized individual with good phone and computer skills. Generous salary, benefits package and bonuses included. 973-467-2887.

DIVORCE LAWYER in two lawyer partnership in Millburn, NJ needs full time secretary. You must be an energetic, willing to learn, computer literate, good with people, willing to work for a woman. You will not be bored. No legal experience required. Free parking. Friendly atmosphere. Fax resume to 973-256-1204 or call at 973-256-1200 for interview.

DRIVERS GOVERNMENT Assistant, Coast to Coast route. Teams start 5:45 - 8:45. \$1000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-841-4344, for other operators, 1-877-848-4818. For products students, 1-800-339-8438.

DRIVERS, DEDICATED rural CDL training available! Van & Flatbed opportunities! Also general operator! Ask about our \$1000 sign-on bonus! For more information, 1-800-879-5765, www.SureTrans.com (see-nr)

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HELP WANTED

LOSE WEIGHT while earning extra cash around your schedule. International Company seeking full time or part time help. Call Today! Ask us now! 1-877-507-8781.

MEDICAL ASSISTANT to work in Westfield Medical Office. Please call 908-232-3793

MEDICAL BILLER: Great income potential! Earn up to \$400 per year. Full training provided. Home computer required. Call Tran toll free: 888-860-9850, ext. 4313.

MEDICAL DATA Entry: New computer with billing software. Growing national company. Full income. Flexible. Internet. Website. email. To qualify? Call 1-800-291-4880 ext. 407.

MILLBURN: small mammal/otolaryngology seeks experienced legal secretary with WP experience. Salary and benefits negotiable. Call 973-378-9232 or fax resume to 973-378-9210.

MILLBURN: FULL time part time position available for experienced file clerk for small mammal/otolaryngology firm. Monday thru Friday, hours flexible. Call 973-378-9232 or fax resume to 973-378-9210. General office and computer experience helpful.

HELP WANTED

MODELS, KIDS, kids, kids, and adults needed for textbooks, catalogs, and commercials. No portfolio necessary. For information, 973-981-0300.

NANNY WANTED part time for 1 infant. Must be responsible and nurturing and have driver's license and references. 973-781-4118.

NOW HIRING: companies desperately need employees to assemble products at home. No selling, any hours. \$800 weekly potential. Information 1-504-848-1700, Department NJ-2848.

OFFICE ASSISTANT P/T-F/T SUMMIT

Sales company looking for bright, energetic, detail player for shipping (heavy lifting) packing, clerical tasks, phones, personal errands. Please call Pat at Sales inc. 908-808-0500

OFFICE HELP in medical practice. General duties: filing, typing, copying. Flexible hours. Please call 973-768-9638 or fax resume 973-768-9638.

HUMAN RESOURCE ADMINISTRATOR

Marriott Senior Living Services in Florum Park is seeking: P/T HR Representative (30 Hours per week)
Responsibilities include: recruiting, interviewing, processing payroll, maintaining employee records, AP/AR knowledge a plus
 Computer & strong people skills a must.
 We offer flexible hours, competitive salary, excellent benefits, tuition reimbursement, hotel discounts, + more.
 Fax resume to: 973-966-8998 or mail to Brighton Gardens by Marriott
 21 Ridgedale Ave.
 Florum Park, NJ 07932
 Attn. Laura

NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION - CAMERA DEPARTMENT FULL TIME

We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person to work in our production department. Primary duty will be to produce art work, halftones and negatives on our Camera. Experience helpful, but not required. Entry level position. Benefit plan.
 (973) 763-0700 or send your resume to Production Director
 Worrall Community Newspapers
 P.O. Box 158, Maplewood, N. J. 07040

A free press is the strength behind democracy.

At Worrall Community Newspapers, reporters learn what it takes to become good reporters. Why? Because reporting for one or more of our weekly newspapers means becoming involved in the communities we serve. From news stories to features, from council coverage to police blotter, from community events to the Board of Education, reporters are the eyes and ears of all of our readers.
 Worrall Newspapers, which publishes 18 newspapers serving 26 towns, has openings for reporters in its Essex and Union County regions. Only those with a talent to be a reporter, and the time and drive to Ray Worrall, P.O. Box 3109, Union, N.J., 07083, or fax to (908) 686-4169.
Be part of a company whose mission is to preserve democracy.
 Worrall Newspapers is an equal opportunity employer.

We are looking for people with various levels of experience to join us in the following roles:

- Branch Managers
 - Assistant Branch Managers
 - Tellers
 - Customer Service Representatives
 - Commercial Lending Assistants
 - Credit Analysts
 - Human Resources Representatives
 - Clerks
- Opportunities are available throughout our branch network including our new Springfield and Ramsey locations.
- Commerce Bank**
 America's Most Convenient Bank

HELP WANTED
OFFICE HELP Receptionist, telephone, computer skills and general office duties. Call 908-964-6800

PARKING ATTENDANTS
GOOD PAY - FLEXIBLE HOURS
ALL SHIFTS AVAILABLE
1-800-545-1984

PART TIME Receptionist Light clerical duties for nonprofit organization. Responsible and detail oriented. A must for immediate consideration. Please send resume to: Terri L. Demory, 511 Cranford, NJ 07016, 908-276-4816

SECRETARY
tele-SOLUTIONS, a 51 Sprint Telephone system dealer, has an immediate part time opening for a Secretary to the Sales and Accounting Department. Other responsibilities include processing & maintaining Sprint PCS orders. 40 hours a week, Monday-Friday, 9:30am-2:00pm or 10:00am-2:30pm

tele-SOLUTIONS
1100 Broadway Blvd. 2nd Floor
Union, NJ 07083
E.O.E. M/F/D/V

PART TIME Child Care for 2 children ages 4 and 5, Monday-Thursday, 8:30am-4:30pm. Monday-Thursday, Summer preferred, need July 17th-August 31st. Teenagers OK. Reference: 908-276-4816

PART TIME Custodian position available with light maintenance experience in local church. Approximately 20 hours per week. Alternate weeks. Interested persons should send resume to: Rev. Dr. Robert L. Johnson, 1000 Main Street & Scotland Road, Orange, NJ 07066

Part time doctor's receptionist Office in Union Center. Light duties, ideal for senior citizen. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:30pm-2:00pm. Call 908-276-4816

PART TIME Medical Receptionist/PLN for busy pediatric office in South Orange. Must have experience in flexible days, 4:30pm-6:00pm. 908-276-3535. Fax: 908-276-3538

PART TIME Medical Biller. Experience in processing COB's, medical insurance. Flexible hours. Please call 973-782-9335 or fax resume 973-782-5530

PART TIME Evenings/Weekend Shifts. Landed/Unlashed. Call Manager. Call Manager at 908-925-7265

PART TIME Help needed for Union County. Insurance Agency. Flexible daytime hours. Please call for advancement. Call Doug 908-964-9556

Payroll Assistant
Saint Barnabas Medical Center at Livingston has an excellent opportunity for a Payroll Assistant. You will review and input data, distribute payroll reports, and manage files in this fast-paced, experienced environment. A minimum of 1 1/2 years advanced payroll experience including working with Sage and Word required. Some overtime necessary. Please send or fax your resume, indicating salary requirements, to: Larry Farver, Human Resources Generalist, Saint Barnabas Medical Center, 201 North Branch Road, Livingston, NJ 07033. Fax: 973-322-2403. or E-mail: lfavere@sbm.com

Saint Barnabas Medical Center
An affiliate of the
Saint Barnabas Health Care System

PERMANENT PART TIME positions. Customer service, clerical, receptionist, call center, Manager, and Accounts Payable/Receivable. Afternoons. Concessionary Candidates in: 1143 North Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07201-3300

POSTAL JOBS \$48,323.00/year. Now hiring, no experience, paid training, great benefits. Call 800-428-2686 ext. 2000 National Resource

POSTAL JOBS \$48,323.00/year. Now hiring, no experience, paid training, great benefits. Call 800-428-2686

YOUR AD could appear here as little as \$16.00 per week. Call for more details. Our friendly classified department would be happy to help you. Call 1-800-545-1984

QUALITY CONTROL/CUSTOMER SERVICE
REPAIRS/TECHNICALS
Neiman Marcus has positions available for On Call, Short Hour, & Full Time individuals. Our Service Centers located in Mountainside, Totowa, Gladstone, The Corner, and Fairview. Candidates must have excellent communication & data entry skills. Must have 1-2 years retail experience. For salary and testing information, please call: 609-683-9243 extension 1324, 8am-5pm, 7 days a week.

RECEPTIONIST/RECEPTIONIST (Landscape)
Chronic office. Full time. Experience or knowledge of insurance preferred. Excellent salary. Live benefits. 908-926-1371. Fax: 908-926-0322

RESTAURANT DELI
Top notch, COOK/CHIEF and/or COUNTER. Excellent pay/benefits. Full time/weekend nights. SUNDAYS OR HOLIDAYS. Convenient to bus/train parking. Good shift. 908-276-4816. Fax: 973-322-0410

RETAIL MANAGER
MOTHER & BABY CO.
Over 1000 sq. ft. retail store. Full time. Part time. Excellent retail sales manager. Excellent salary/benefits. Very competitive salary. Benefits. Fax: 908-317-0664 or call toll free 877-824-8206

See PUZZLE on Page B10

PUZZLE grid with numbers and letters for a word search.

HELP WANTED
RETAIL
The Trust Company of New Jersey seeks aggressive, yet friendly individuals who enjoy working in sales-oriented environment. We are creating the need for an ASSISTANT MANAGER, ASSISTANT MANAGER and SALES ASSOCIATES to form a successful team at our new supermarket branch opening soon in Cranford, NJ 07016. 908-276-4816

SALES OPPORTUNITIES
Successful candidates must have very good customer service and strong cross-selling skills. In-store sales experience preferred. Banking candidates must have proven ability to sell retail products and will be trained to sell bank products to existing as well as prospective customers. Good written and communication skills necessary.

Human Resources Department
THE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY
35 Junction Square
Newark, NJ 07102
Fax: 201-420-2674
www.trustcompany.com

—ELIZABETH—
We offer a competitive salary and benefits package in an environment that rewards individual accomplishments. Please forward resume to:

Human Resources Department
THE TRUST COMPANY OF NEW JERSEY
35 Junction Square
Newark, NJ 07102
Fax: 201-420-2674
www.trustcompany.com

NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE
E.O.E. M/F/D/V

RN LPN to work in Westfield Medical Office. Please call 908-232-3793

TELEMARKETING PART TIME. Earn up to \$100 per hour. All shifts available. Call 1-800-542-0267

TELEMARKETERS PART TIME. Mature, clear speaking telemarketers needed for progressive insurance company. Referrals, homebased encouraged to respond, prior telemarketing experience a plus. Compensation call Gary Bertram at 908-352-6900

VETERINARY TECHNICIAN. Exciting opportunity in progressive hospital. Owner is former Animal Medical Center intern. Accumulate, specialize in X-ray and ultrasound routinely performed. In house blood analyzer, automatic X-ray processor and more. Experience necessary. Full time. Call Eagle Rock Veterinary Hospital, West Orange. 973-736-1655

WAREHOUSE
Pickup/Dropoff
Scanners, Hi-Lo Drivers
Day & Night Shift Available
Call for more info

Report in person
With proper ID
Employment Services
6 International Blvd
Newark, NJ 07114
973-643-1600

WAREHOUSE
Shipping and receiving
Linden district of office. Offer both products distributor has immediate full time opening opportunity for motivated person in shipping and receiving. Must have 1-2 years experience. Must have a driver's license plus excellent safety record. 908-964-9556. Fax: 908-964-9525. ATTN: Warehouse Manager.

WAREHOUSE
Full time positions available for warehouse/shipping person with good organizational skills. Good pay with good benefits including 401K. Call 908-964-9556. Fax: 908-964-9525. ATTN: Warehouse Manager.

WHEN REPLYING TO A UNION CITY CLASSIFIED BOX NUMBER please address envelope to:

BOX NUMBER
Worral Newspapers
P.O. Box 158
Maplewood, NJ 07040

EMPLOYMENT WANTED
AIDS seeks job, part time or hourly job to care for the elderly. Own transportation. Excellent references. Forward and return resume to: 908-276-1622

EXPERIENCED HOME HEALTH CARE seeks live in or night position to care for sick, elderly companion. 908-276-1622

IN HOME CARE FOR THE ELDERLY AND ELDERLY
Certified Home Health Aide
Bilingual and interested
Live in and hourly. Background Available
973-763-6184
Medical Assistant
Office Hours 9-5

PORTUGUESE lady, own transportation, good references. Forward and return resume to: 908-276-1622

PORTUGUESE LADY will clean your home or office. Own transportation. Good references. Available Monday thru Saturday. Please call 908-276-1622

REGISTERED NURSE available for full time and part time. Excellent salary/benefits. Family member. Call Carol at 973-782-8575

CHILD CARE
A-MANRY JOBS
Full Time or Part Time
Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm
Part Time 9:00am-12:00pm
Car, References, and background required
908-754-8161

CHILD CARE A + Full time, part time \$10-12/hr. Nanny Jobs. Experience & Car Required or Car Required. 908-754-8161

NANNY NEEDED for 2 children in Maplewood, 6:15am-7:15pm. Live housekeeping. Must have valid driver's license. Call Steven at 973-782-9822

ENTREPRENEUR SALE
MAPLEWOOD, 30 COLLINGWOOD Road (off Wyoming Avenue) July 14th, 14th & 15th. Original \$1200 now \$280 or best offer. Also, Sharp Samsung convection microwave oven, \$75. 908-276-4816

STILL NEED A Computer? We Can Help or do 10 Applications Approved. Credit Problems OK. New Systems on \$295 Monthly Includes 1000-704-4444

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONERS, Freebies, The Quiet One! \$1600/971/76, consumer reports "Best Buy" model 971/76, used 2 months. 973-973-4727 after 5:30pm.

REFRIGERATOR, GE, 30 inch, around \$150. 908-925-0782

SOLO/PLAID PAJAMAS, butterfly and leg. 40-42. \$12.00. 48-50. \$12.00. 52-54. \$12.00. 56-58. \$12.00. 60-62. \$12.00. 64-66. \$12.00. 68-70. \$12.00. 72-74. \$12.00. 76-78. \$12.00. 80-82. \$12.00. 84-86. \$12.00. 88-90. \$12.00. 92-94. \$12.00. 96-98. \$12.00. 100-102. \$12.00. 104-106. \$12.00. 108-110. \$12.00. 112-114. \$12.00. 116-118. \$12.00. 120-122. \$12.00. 124-126. \$12.00. 128-130. \$12.00. 132-134. \$12.00. 136-138. \$12.00. 140-142. \$12.00. 144-146. \$12.00. 148-150. \$12.00. 152-154. \$12.00. 156-158. \$12.00. 160-162. \$12.00. 164-166. \$12.00. 168-170. \$12.00. 172-174. \$12.00. 176-178. \$12.00. 180-182. \$12.00. 184-186. \$12.00. 188-190. \$12.00. 192-194. \$12.00. 196-198. \$12.00. 200-202. \$12.00. 204-206. \$12.00. 208-210. \$12.00. 212-214. \$12.00. 216-218. \$12.00. 220-222. \$12.00. 224-226. \$12.00. 228-230. \$12.00. 232-234. \$12.00. 236-238. \$12.00. 240-242. \$12.00. 244-246. \$12.00. 248-250. \$12.00. 252-254. \$12.00. 256-258. \$12.00. 260-262. \$12.00. 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AUTOMOTIVE

Nissan Sentra CA is environmentally minded without compromises

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

It's easy to wave the ecology flag with the Nissan Sentra CA. It pumps fewer emissions into the air in a 20-mile round trip commute than my '87 Suburban that sits at home tucked under a car cover.

This environmentally correct compact sedan cuts emissions at the tail pipe and under the hood — but don't hold that against it.

The Sentra CA tiptoes through its environmental mission without the typical compromise and sacrifice of driving a battery car or gas-electric hybrid.

This is gasoline-powered environmentalism for the masses. It is a car for those who would like to do their part toward clearer air but not at the expense of price or practicality.

In a week of testing, I didn't have to drive in the slow lane. The car got out on a quizzical look from passer-by and it thrummed along at about 30 miles to the gallon with a 4-speed automatic transmission.

I sat back in air-conditioned comfort with power windows and mirrors and tuned in a 4-speaker CD-stereo. I carried passengers and not one was aware of my car's technological advances.

Most consumers are just getting tuned up to speed on the California Air Resources Board's terminology for tailpipe-emission ratings, such as Low-Emission Vehicle, Ultra Low Emission Vehicle, Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle and Zero Emission Vehicle.

These have become common industry-speaking acronyms, such as "YOU-lev" — ULEV — and "SOO-lev" — SULEV. Now, the Sentra CA

adds a new term, "ZE-vap" for Zero Fuel Evaporator Emissions.

It's not enough to arrest smog from dirty exhaust. Engineers now must police the vapors that seep constantly from fuel systems, whether the vehicle is on the road or parked.

Seal up the noxious vapors and they can't react with sunlight to create smog.

The Sentra CA eliminates nearly all of those vapors, Nissan says, by using a variety of technologies, including three catalytic converters and double-wall exhaust manifolds.

The car also goes after ground-level ozone with a chemically treated radiator to convert ozone into oxygen as air moves through it.

Nissan might have been a little late in offering a consumer-level battery or hybrid car, but it's making up for it with what it calls the world's cleanest gas-powered car.

And it is the only car, so far, to meet state requirements for SULEV and ZEV, meeting emissions standards for 2004. Exhaust from the CA is about eight times cleaner than that of a ULEV.

With the blessing of the air resources board, the CA earns partial credits as a zero-emission vehicle, which before had been achieved only by an electric vehicle. Because it gets those ZEV credits, Nissan is pushing for the CA to be allowed to travel in the commuter — diamond — lane with only one occupant as electric vehicles are now permitted to do.

Strict but not preachy in its environmentalism, the CA is a fourth version of the all-new Sentra sedan, available in base XE, GXE and SE trim levels.

Except for its CA nameplate on the rear end, it looks like any other Sentra

and comes in an indulgent package for \$15,319, including the \$520 destination charge. That's about \$500 more than a Sentra GXE.

The features list for the CA is similar to the GXE and includes cruise control, power windows/locks/mirrors, 4-speaker AM-FM-CD audio system, contoured-recting front bucket seats with adjustable head restraints, tilt steering, 2-speed variable intermittent wipers and a 60/40 split fold-down rear seat.

The 122-hp 1.8-liter 4-cylinder engine is one 4 hp shy of the engine used in the XE and GXE. Equipped with the state-fuel economy estimates are 26 mpg around town and 33 on the highway.

The new 1.8-liter engine features a direct injection system, variable valve timing, timing chains and platinum-tipped spark plugs, all aimed at improving performance, cleanliness and a 100,000-mile maintenance interval.

The recommended fuel is regular

unleaded, but only because the SULEV rating can only be met using low-sulfur fuel, the only kind sold in California.

It can be driven out of state and filled up with high-sulfur fuel without damage or difference in performance, Nissan says. Low-sulfur gasoline is being considered for parts of the southeast, including Atlanta.

New and improved

The 2000 Sentra is all new and much improved over last year's model.

It's grown in size from a sub-compact to compact, but price increases were minimal to include added equipment.

The styling is mature and tasteful, somewhat like a downsized Maxima — a sales strategy that worked well two generations ago when Sentra and Maxima shared similarities in design cues.

Overall length grew by 6.5 inches, with an inch for width and height, most of which went for more rear seat knee, head and hip room.

The interior has double the storage capacity for whatever stuff you have to pack along. There are front and rear cup holders, power points front and rear and door-side map slots that are hefty enough to hold a water bottle.

I like the driver's position in which I can slide the seat back and grip the wheel comfortably with both hands. There's plenty of distance between my chin and the air bag.

Visibility is good from all angles, and the interior is nicely Americanized for easy readability and access. It is simple and clever without gimmicks.

Upgrade to the SE model and you get a 145-hp 2.0-liter 4-cylinder, tighter suspension, 15-inch tires and alloy wheels and titanium-face gauges. It's not quite the SE-R package, but package it with the 5-speed manual shifter and it's the difference between dutiful and fun.

Sentra was designed for the United States, but it is a so-called global platform that will be used for six models.

That means it has a common platform of floor panel and functional items such as the suspension components attached to the floor panel. Interiors and engines are specific for the market.

Nissan Design International worked on the exterior, but the interior was done by Nissan Design Europe in Germany. It was jointly engineered in Japan and the United States.

All Sentras are built at Nissan Mexicana in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

Last year's Sentra dragged itself into the sunset with but 58,000 sales, tormented and overlooked by bland styling and a plasticky interior.

It appears that there was a little more budget to work with on this car, and the quality and versatility of it show that Nissan is serious about making and selling small cars — not just small pickups and sport utilities.

Mark Maynard is automotive editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune. Contact him at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com.

2000 Nissan Sentra CA

Body style: Compact 5-passenger sedan
Drive system: Front engine, front drive
Engine size and type: 1.8 liter DOHC, 16-valve, 4-cylinder
Horsepower: 122 at 6000 rpm
Torque: 122 foot pounds at 2400 rpm
Transmission: 4-speed automatic
Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 14.2 seconds
EPA fuel economy estimates: 26 mpg city, 33 highway
Fuel capacity: 13.2 gallons
Trunk space: 11.6 cubic feet
Front head/leg/shoulder room: 39/34.6/52.2 inches
Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 37/33.7/52.6 inches
Length: 177.5 inches
Wheelbase: 99.8 inches
Curb weight: 2,633 pounds

Standard features include: Air conditioning, cruise control, power windows/locks/mirrors, 4-speaker AM-FM-CD audio system, contoured reclining front bucket seats with adjustable head restraints, tilt steering, 2-speed variable intermittent wipers, cup holders, center dashboard storage box, day/night rearview mirror, remote trunk and fuel-door releasers, covered visor vanity mirrors, driver-seat height adjuster, halogen headlamps, tinted glass, electric rear window defroster, 60/40 split fold-down rear seat.

Safety features include: Front air bags, pipe-style steel side-door beams, front seat belt pretensioners and load limiters, 3-point belts at all seats, with height-adjustable upper anchors
Body: All steel unbody

Brakes: Power assisted vented front discs and rear drums (10.2-inch discs, 9.13-inch drums)
Steering: Power assisted, engine-speed-sensitive, rack-and-pinion
Suspension: Front: Independent struts with stabilizer bar; Rear: multi-link beam with stabilizer bar
Tires and wheels: P195/60R 15-inch all-season alloy wheels
The competition: Honda Civic GX, Honda Insight, Toyota Prius
Where assembled: Mexico
Base price: \$15,319, including \$520 destination
Options on test car: none
Pluses: So easy to be green. Cheap, comfortable, environmentally correct transportation without sacrifice.
Minuses: Mature styling won't encourage sales to young people; a little more soundproofing in the floor pan will quiet the freeway ride.

Nissan considers the new Sentra to be "an entry-level destination vehicle for someone younger than 35." Most buyers will be women earning \$50,000 a year. Only 10 percent of sales will be the base XE model. The GXE is expected to make up 80 percent. The specialized CA will be built to market demand.

XE 5-speed: \$12,169
XE automatic: \$12,919
GXE 5-speed: \$14,019
GXE automatic: \$14,819
CA automatic: \$15,319
SE 5-speed: \$15,419
SE automatic: \$16,299

Saab sales soar in 2000

Saab Cars USA Inc., the U.S. importer and distributor of Saab 9-3 and 9-5 automobiles, announced sales of 3,463 cars during May 2000. This compares to 3,944 cars in May 1999. Year-to-date, Saab sales are at 13,555 vehicles, down 9.8 percent from last year. However, last year's sales include a total of 1,520 fleet vehicles — of which 760 were sold in May 1999 — Saab has not recorded any fleet sales yet this year. When comparing retail sales only, Saab is on pace with last year — 13,555 versus 13,508. Saab expects an equal number of fleet sales to occur later this year.

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 <p>Brand New 2000 Chevrolet PRIZM</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$14,445. Push out at lease end \$8,950. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$14,445. Push out at lease end \$8,950. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$11,796</p> <p>*0 DUE OUT OF POCKET!</p>	 <p>Brand New 2000 Chevrolet BLAZER</p> <p>2 dr. 4 cyl. 4 dr. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$17,285. Push out at lease end \$9,775. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$17,285. Push out at lease end \$9,775. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$2,282</p> <p>*0 DUE OUT OF POCKET!</p>

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\$169

<p>97 CHEVROLET LUMINA</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$10,995. Push out at lease end \$5,497. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$10,995</p>	<p>97 FORD Taurus</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$6,995. Push out at lease end \$3,497. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$6,995</p>	<p>98 PLYMOUTH Neon</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$5,995. Push out at lease end \$2,997. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$5,995</p>	<p>98 FORD Focus</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$5,995. Push out at lease end \$2,997. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$5,995</p>
<p>97 CHEVROLET Lumina</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$10,995. Push out at lease end \$5,497. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$10,995</p>	<p>97 SUBARU Legacy L</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$10,995. Push out at lease end \$5,497. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$10,995</p>	<p>98 CHEVROLET Monte Carlo LS</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$11,995. Push out at lease end \$5,997. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$11,995</p>	<p>98 NISSAN Pathfinder SE</p> <p>4 dr. 4 cyl. auto trans. per septs. AIR, AM/FM stereo, 1000 mi. warranty, 12,000 mi. warranty, 200/70 tires, 16" wheels. Lease price based on \$9.99 per month plus tax, license, title, and dealer fees. MSRP \$11,995. Push out at lease end \$5,997. 12,000 mi. warranty. 7% financing. See dealer for details.</p> <p>\$11,995</p>

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Ford beefs up its truck line with SuperCrews & Explorer Sport Tracs

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

As General Motors works away to finalize its 2001 Avalanche, a big and beefy four-door Silverado, Ford is rolling in the clover of wide-open four-door truck territory with its F-150 SuperCrew and the Explorer Sport Trac.

The 2001 SuperCrew is an uncomplicated, four-door pickup with a 5 1/2 bed in two body styles: smooth Style-side or Flareside, with an integrated step between cab and rear fender. Prices start at \$26,755 for two-wheel drive and \$31,790 for a topline 4WD Lariat. Typical transaction prices for the Lariat run close to \$34,000.

The Super-Crew is built on the frame of the short-bed extended cab F-150 — 18.8 feet long — and has 12 more inches of cab space, which translates into a comfortable 36.8 inches of rear-seat leg room.

It will carry six people with the front 40/60 benched seat or five with the front captain's chairs and center console. There is every-day usability to the back seat.

The SuperCrew offers substantial safety and comfort in the power-adjustable pedals, a standard feature that moves brake and accelerator pedals up to three inches rearward.

In back the 60/40 split bench will fold flat. There are storage panels behind the seat, and passengers have access to a power point, reading lamps, cup holders and door pockets.

The optional runningboards ease the step-in height for children. This full-size pickup gets full-size power from two single over-head cam V-8 engines, both certified for Low Emission Vehicle status.

The standard 4.6-liter is rated at 220 horsepower and 260 foot-pounds of torque. The optional 5.4-liter has a maximum power output of 260 hp at 4,500 rpm with 350 foot-pounds of torque.

The drivetrain, chassis and braking systems have been adopted from the current-model F-150 pickup. Tow capacity reaches 8,000 pounds with the tow package.

Ford Explorer Sport Trac
One of the more different vehicles

on sale this year is the 2001 Explorer Sport Trac. Basically, it's a four-door Explorer with a frame lengthened by 14.25 inches to accommodate a 4.2-foot bed of molded composite plastic.

Prices start at \$23,050 for two-wheel drive and \$25,820 for 4WD. Each comes with a 205-horsepower, 4-liter single overhead cam V-6 and five-speed automatic transmission.

Some nifty additions make the Sport Trac special.

The composite bed feels hard as steel, but it won't rust and doesn't need a liner. You can pound rocks on it without denting or scratching the bed.

The outside top rails have three tie-downs on each side, and there are four

more inside the bed. Each can hold 700 pounds.

There's also a weatherproof power lockup built into the bed's left rear panel to plug in music, tools or even a refrigerator at the campsite or tailgate party.

An optional cargo cage — \$195 — of tubular steel is a bed extender that will support the weight of at least eight sheets of plywood.

The cage adds 22.6 inches to the bed and functions as a corral for grocery bags, luggage or whatever. It can only be removed when the taigate is unlocked and open. It also will fit inside the cab when the rear seat is folded.

A lockable two-piece hard toneau cover — \$600 — provides trunklike

protection to the cargo area. The top folds from the front or the rear.

The step bars that run the length of the cab are part of the \$709 Premium Sport Group. The textured vinyl-covered bars provide a step toward the roof rails, which are standard equipment.

Also included in the sport group are fog lamps, big all-terrain tires and alloy wheels.

The Sport Trac comes with a reinforced frame for added rigidity larger brake rotors and a specially tuned suspension, which eliminates body lean when cornering.

Other touches include a vinyl floor and Berber floor mats, a power sliding rear window, white face gauges and titanium-color trim on the face of the radio, vent/air-conditioning controls and door grab handles.

Seats are covered in a tough denim-like gray fabric, and beneath the front center armrest, there is a grab-and-go bag with zippered compartments.

Mark Maynard is automobile editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune. Contact him at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com. Plus photo: 3 by 5 1/2.



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New roadsters are ready to hit the road

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service
Among this year's auto debuts are two new roadsters.

Mazda is fortifying the Miata with a price cut and more features plus a new limited-edition model.

Toyota continues its launch of new vehicles with the revival of the MR2 Spyder—midengine, rear drive, two seats.

Here's a quick ride in each.

MR2 Spyder
Toyota is fighting back to reclaim young buyers with such cars as the economy-class Echo, redesigned Celica coupe and, now, the MR2 Spyder.

The Spyder went on sale in April with a manufacturer's suggested retail price of \$23,553, including destination charges. About 5,000 of them will be built a year.

This bantam-weight roadster weighs in at a mere 2,200 pounds and is powered by a 138-horsepower, 1.8-liter twin cam, variable-valve four-cylinder with a five-speed manual shifter.

It rides on a wide, low-slung platform and comes with air conditioning, tilt steering column, 15-inch alloy wheels, AM-FM-CD cassette audio system, manual top with flip-up wind deflector and glass rear window with deflector.

Add the embroidered floor mats for \$62, and you're set. The only options will be dealer accessories, such as an interior tonneau cover and front-end mask.

This all-new version is the continuation of the Mister 2 name-plate that debuted in the United States in 1985. As sales of sport-utility vehicles grew, MR2 sales diminished, and the car was discontinued in 1995.

This iteration is much like the old model — quick, simple and lightweight.

This iteration is much like the old model — quick, simple and lightweight.

It is an edgy little sports car that enjoys a good, hard run. More aggressive than a Miata, but not as slick as the Honda S200, it's the driving experience that separates the MR2 Spyders from the other roadsters.

The best feature of this car may be its suspension and tilt-a-whirl cornering. The suspension is compliant for occupant comfort but taut for quick maneuvering.

It takes just a nudge of the wheel to change lanes, and the rear to mid placement of the engine lets the car scoot around just about any corner you've got the nerve to try — at more than double the recommended speed limit. At higher speeds on the straight-aways, the front end feels light and tends to drift, which requires attention at the wheel.

The interior is fairly basic Toyota with bicep-powered top that drops behind the seats and snaps into place forming an attractive bouclé appearance. Raising the top requires the driver to get out and release the spring-loaded catch before it can be pulled into place. And then it can be a little fussy to re-latch. The 37.3 inches of head room isn't bad for a roadster, but taller drivers may be shut out.

Trunk space is also limited as it was on the previous model. The front trunk will hold about a half-gallon of ice-cream. All that's left for luggage, briefcases or other carry-ons are the lockable bins behind the seats, where there's room for a couple of soft travel bags.

Excess baggage, of course, isn't what the MR2 is all about.

Also available this spring was the Toyota Solara convertible with 133-horsepower four-cylinder — or optional 200-horsepower V-6.

The power folding top has a full headliner, automatic-down feature for the rear quarter windows and a large glass rear window.

Based on the Camry sedan, the drop-top version is slightly more powerful, rides a bit firmer and is more upscale and refined on the inside. It went on sale in April with a price in the upper \$20,000s.

Miata
Mazda created a niche 10 years ago with the launch of the first Miata roadster.

Today, the modest Miata is being chased by competitors from around the world. A manageable sticker price was among its initial charms, and Mazda is emphasizing that this spring. It will push in the performance bracket this fall with the debut of the more powerful Miata Sport, but until then, all Miatas come with a 140-horsepower, 1.8-liter four-cylinder engine. The standard model and LS have a five-speed manual, or, for \$900, an optional automatic transmission.

The price of the base Miata is \$20,955, including \$450 destination charge. That's \$700 less than the '99

and includes about \$1,400 in equipment packages: air conditioning, fog lights, floor mats and the Windblocker, a nifty Mazda design that trims air turbulence when the top is down.

The LS is priced at \$23,995, or \$450 less than the '99. Standard equipment includes the base model package plus a front air dam, side sills and rear mud guards.

The Miata Special Edition, a limited-edition run of 3,000, is priced at \$25,505 and comes with six-speed manual transmission and a special Mahogany Mica paint, parchment — beige — soft top and leather-trimmed seats and interior panels.

There's also a mahogany-colored Nardi wood-rimmed steering wheel, shift knob and brake lever.

The interior is set off by white-faced gauges with chrome bezels, chrome interior door handles, stainless steel scuff plates and polished 15-inch alloy wheels. Fog lights and the appearance package that are standard on the LS are not part of the Special Edition.

Mark Marynard is automotive editor at the San Diego Union-Tribune. Contact him at mark.marynard@uniontrib.com.



The Mazda Miata SE is one of two 'roadsters' ready to roll, with new features and a lower price over previous models.

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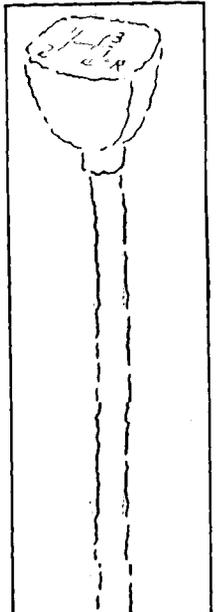
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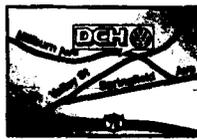
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