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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2000 - SECTION B

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Grudgingly

I had a laser beam focus as Bridgewater Bill approached me last week at a Trenton party and casually said, "Hi, don't I remember you from Union County?" The interest in this chance meeting is that for a good 10 years I have thought often about that person, a newspaper man and his unfair treatment toward myself, friends and the clashes they evoked.

It turns out that while I'm expending all the effort at plotting revenge, I didn't even register on his radar screen. The encounter left me uncommonly speechless and rethinking the effort necessary to keep a grudge going.

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Author Dr. Louis Carter, one of the self-help gurus, describes "healthy anger with boundaries." In an almost spiritual path, he concludes that "choosing to forgive means releasing justice to God" and getting on with your life.

But the "all is forgiven approach" is not a unanimous view. I recall a former Democratic chairman in Union County a decade ago, who, upon taking power, told his opponent, "to err is human, to forgive divine. But baby, I ain't divine."

Tony Mack, the Independent candidate for Township Committee in Cranford, who ran an impressive effort in this year's election and is a successful businessman in his own right, said, "When someone hurts you or treats you unfairly, you have to respond and even the score. You just have to."

I suspect the Cranford Republicans whom he broke away from would concede he had evened the score.

Hillside redevelopment czar Sal Antonelli takes a reflective approach on the subject. He asks, "What's a grudge?" adding, "I have gotten much better. I only hold a grudge for a year now."

Winfield Mayor Dave Wright proclaims, "I love all and I have no grudges."

In his book, "Making Peace with Your Past," Dr. Harold Bloomfield suggests an exercise where you make a list of the "culpits" who have unjustly treated you from childhood to adulthood. You can even draft a letter summarizing the reason for your anger.

Outside of the quantity of such a list I question the utility of the effort. Heck, what good is a grudge if the best you end up doing is sending a nasty letter?

A friend actually provided me with the full script of "The Godfather," with a quote from that master of grudge payback, Michael Corleone.

In addressing his soon-to-be deceased brother-in-law, he says, "Barzini's dead. So is Phillip Tagaglia. Moe Greene, Strachi Cunzio. Today, I settle all family business."

Carmine Giordano, the Democratic chairman and director of public works from Clark, no shrinking violet by all accounts, surprised me with his philosophical approach.

"Grudges aren't healthy. You have to let it go. In the long run, you end up forgetting what the grudge was in the first place."

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Freeholders approve \$26 million in bonds

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The Board of Chosen Freeholders approved bond ordinances in excess of \$20 million last week while cancelling more than \$4 million in bonds.

A bond ordinance of \$26.7 million will go for improvements and equipment purchases for various county departments while a second bond ordinance will loan \$350,000 to the Union County Improvement Authority to cover such items as preconstruction costs and engineering, for which the county will be reimbursed. The larger bond of more than \$26 million appropriated with \$849,697 adding to the county's debt. State grants and a contribution from Morris County will fund the remaining \$4.2 million. The Morris County contribution of \$785,288 is for a joint project: the replacement of the Snyder Avenue Bridge between Berkeley Heights and Chatham Township.

The county's debt — authorized, issued and unissued — is now \$256.6 million with approval of the latest

ordinance, according to Finance Director Lawrence Caroselli. The debt represents 0.80 percent of the county's average equalized value of the last three years. The county's bond capacity is 2 percent of its equalized value. Caroselli said the county usually pays off approximately \$13 million in principal annually.

The big-ticket items in last week's bond ordinance include:

- \$4.37 million for capital improvements to Union County College. Improvements include new roofs for buildings as well as a new gym floor and scoreboard at the Cranford campus and upgrading computer equipment and "information technology support infrastructure" at all four campuses, among other things.

- \$2.4 million for the Division of Building Services. The funds will help convert the former Addiction Recovery Unit at Runnells Specialized Hospital to a psychiatric unit as well as construction of new court rooms and renovations of offices at the courthouse complex, and replacement of roofs at various public buildings.

See DEBT, Page B2

Appointments made to Open Space Committee

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

Freeholders Linda Stender, Deborah Scanlon and Mary Ruotolo will be part of the Open Space Standing Committee formed to direct policy and fiscal matters involving the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund. Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan will serve as the chairman of the committee.

The Board of Freeholders last week established the standing committee and its appointments. The committee will be the freeholder board's fifth standing committee, joining the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Policy/Administrative Code Committee, Economic Development Committee, and Inter-Governmental Cooperation & Legislative Affairs.

See COMMITTEE, Page B2

Churches begin annual fund-raising drive for religious

By John Celock
Staff Writer

Churches throughout Union County have launched their annual fund-raising drive for the Retirement Fund for the Religious.

Sister Thomas Mary Salerno, the chancellor of the Archdiocese of Newark, said the drive is used each year to collect money to fund the retirements of nuns, monks and non-dioecesan priests.

"We feel that it is a way of saying thank you to those sisters, brothers and priests who served with such dedication for so many years," Salerno said.

The retirement fund is for all religious personnel who are not affiliated with the archdiocese. This includes nuns, monks and priests who are members of orders, such as Jesuit or Franciscan.

"Congregations are responsible for their religious. The archdiocese is responsible for the priests," she said.

Sister Arleen Crimmins, pastoral associate of St. Michael's Church in Cranford, said the retirement fund came into being after a shortfall in the retirement of religious.

Crimmins said that religious who belonged to congregations for many years received only a stipend and were not eligible for Social Security.



Photo By Barbara Kókkaitis

HE'S EVERYWHERE — Santa Claus has been making the rounds throughout Union County during the holiday season. St. Nick was busy on Sunday giving out candy to kids like 5-year-old Kevin O'Brien of Cranford, above, during Skate with Santa at Warranoco Skating Center in Elizabeth-Roselle. Below, Santa gets a helping hand as he dismounts his sled upon his arrival at the county's annual tree lighting ceremony earlier this month in the stables at Watchung Reservation.



Photo By Milton Mills

Position	1997 salary	1998 salary	1999 salary	2000 salary	Increase
Director, finance	\$89,335	\$92,461	\$96,697	\$102,395	\$8,698/7.0%
Freeholder clerk	\$57,782	\$69,782	\$72,573	\$77,853	\$5,080/7.0%
Director, human services	\$83,569	\$90,254	\$93,413	\$98,083	\$4,670/5.0%
County manager	\$119,500	\$123,682	\$127,392	\$132,499	\$5,106/4.0%
Deputy county manager	\$96,250	\$99,840	\$103,334	\$107,467	\$4,133/4.0%
Director, administrative services	\$84,378	\$87,331	\$91,261	\$93,771	\$2,510/2.8%
County counsel	\$109,233	\$113,056	\$116,448	\$119,650	\$3,202/2.7%
Administrator, Runnells	\$93,885	\$96,109	\$101,543	\$104,335	\$2,782/2.7%
Director, public safety	\$85,000	\$87,975	\$91,055	\$93,559	\$2,504/2.7%
Director, operational services	\$101,810	\$105,374	\$109,039	\$113,890	\$4,851/3.0%
Freeholder chair	\$25,500	\$27,000	\$27,875	\$27,875	\$0/0.0%
Freeholder vice chair	\$24,500	\$26,000	\$26,875	\$26,875	\$0/0.0%
Freeholders	\$23,500	\$25,000	\$25,875	\$25,875	\$0/0.0%
Director, parks and recreation	n/a	n/a	\$83,065	\$84,015	n/a

"The director of the Department of Operational Services was promoted last year from director of the Division of Public Works. The 1997 and 1998 salaries represent the previous director's salary. The Department of Parks and Recreation was a division within the Department of Operational Services until earlier this year.

Directors get average pay hikes of 4 percent

By Mark Hrywna
Regional Editor

The county's department heads and other top officials will receive average salary increases of more than 4 percent after the Board of Chosen Freeholders last week unanimously approved a salary ordinance last week, retroactive to Jan. 1. For the first time in four years, freeholders will not see their salaries rise.

Historically, wage hikes for department heads always have been retroactive, according to Chairman Daniel Sullivan, no matter which party has been in control. The board is currently made up of all nine Democrats.

"Whether it occurred in February or June, it would cover the entire year," Sullivan said of the raises. Since department heads usually do not receive their raises until at least November, "it's only fair that they're retroactive. The money is not any different when it's implemented."

"There are a lot of other things that get done," Sullivan said. Department heads are always the last in line, he said, as contracts with the county's labor unions are resolved first.

Labor unions generally settled contracts with the county this past year that included average wage increases of approximately 3 percent.

Last year the freeholder board received salary increases of \$875, bringing their salaries up to \$25,875, fifth highest in New Jersey. The chairman earns \$27,675 while the vice chairman earns \$26,675 annually. A freeholder is considered a part-time position. Freeholders also approved raises in their salaries of \$1,000 in 1997 and \$1,500 in 1998.

Department heads and the county's top officials received average raises of just under 4 percent in 1999 and 4.6 percent in 1998.

They have to purchase their own cars," Crimmins said, noting that her car is parish owned. "Because the diocesan priests paid into Social Security all their lives, they receive Social Security. They also pay into a retirement plan."

Currently 44 percent of men religious and 15 percent of women religious do not receive Social Security benefits.

In addition to the Social Security ban, Crimmins said the religious were largely funded by their orders through the stipend. She noted that diocesan priests received a salary over a stipend and pay taxes.

"They do not take vows of poverty.

Currently the average age of active nuns is 68, while the average age of active male religious is 62. Retirement Fund office statistics show that the average cost to care for religious over the age of 70 is \$22,254 a year.

Sister Rosemarie is a retired nun living in the St. Michael's Convent in Union. She has found the retirement fund to be beneficial to funding her retirement.

"I think that it is very necessary and that it is very beneficial for all communities."

Salerno said the retirement fund collection is one of the largest in the archdiocese.

Cultural planning under way with focus groups

Leaders from four specific community sectors recently participated in focus groups to share their experiences and ideas on how the arts and culture contribute to sustainable economic growth and a vibrant quality of life in Union County. Input was sought from local employers and members of the education, human services, and business development sectors of the community.

The focus groups were convened as a component of the Union County Cultural Planning Project, spearheaded by the Union County Division of Cultural & Heritage Affairs, Department of Economic Development, and its partners: the Gateway Institute for Regional Development at Kean University, the Union County Alliance and the Union County Economic Development Corporation. The project is being guided by a steering committee comprised of 33 community leaders in the arts, history, education, business, economic development, and social and human services.

"The data gained through this phase will lead to development of a county-wide culture and arts strategic plan for Union County," said Freeholder Mary Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board and a member of the steering committee.

For the purpose of this project, the words "arts" and "culture" are interchangeable and are used broadly to include the visual, performing, literary and media arts; the humanities; history and historic preservation; folk and ethnic art forms, and other forms of expression that represent the diversity of the county's residents and myriad communities.

"The ultimate goal of the Community Cultural Plan is to increase the effectiveness of the arts and cultural community as a key contributor to the economic development and overall quality of life in the county," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. "It is the intention of this project that Union County's many communities and voices will be included in the process of assessing the current needs and creating the county's cultural vision which will benefit residents, businesses and the cultural community."

Future components of the project will include a survey of Union County's nonprofit cultural organizations, a survey of individual artists, and public forums.

To put your name on the list for any of these components, call the Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202, at (908) 558-2550. New Jersey Relay Users may dial (800) 852-7899 or e-mail: Scoen@unioncountynj.org.

Free flu shots today

Residents of Union County 60 years of age and older can receive free flu shots at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County, 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights, today from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The supply is limited, so the shots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and you must be a county resident.

The flu shots will be available at the hospital clinic. For more information call the clinic at (908) 771-5904.

Debt reaches \$256 million

(Continued from Page B1)

- \$2.5 million to construct a new building at 2328 South Ave. in Scotch Plains for the Engineering Department, as well as purchase furniture and equipment.
- \$1.5 million for the acquisition of new communication and signal systems equipment for the Department of Economic Development, Division of Information Technologies.
- \$1.5 million for design and engineering phases of the reconstruction of the running track at Meisel Avenue Park in Spruce Run, design and engineering phases of the resurfacing at the tennis courts at Rahway Park, replacement of the roof at the Watching Stables, and design and engineering phases of the restoration of various lakes at county parks.
- \$1.2 million for various design and engineering work for culvert and bridge projects throughout the county.
- \$1.15 million for physical improvements at the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools.

- \$1.1 million for new vehicles for various departments, offices and agencies.
- Other items in the bond ordinance include replacement of sidewalks outside the courthouse complex, new or replacement furniture, equipment and machinery, environmental monitoring at underground storage tanks and former landfill sites, traffic signal and intersection improvements, rehabilitation of dams at Echo Lake Park in Mountainside-Westfield, Jackson Pond in Clark and Milton Lake in Rahway, and a loan to the Union County Improvement Authority for the acquisition of property in Elizabeth to be used for a new Union County College building.
- As for the cancelled bond ordinance of \$1.3 million, most of the items were for a new juvenile detention center which the freeholders scrapped several weeks ago. Just over \$1 million was approved in bond ordinances dating to 1996 and 1998 for architectural, engineering and design work for a new detention center.

Committee appointments made

(Continued from Page B1)

The appointments, made by the freeholder chairman, are effective for 2001, but the standing committee will exist until the Open Space Trust Fund expires in 2020. Sullivan said the appointments were made based on who expressed interest in serving on the committee.

The board must approve an ordinance after Jan. 1 to authorize the collection of funds, Sullivan said, with the standing committee to recommend how much, in terms of percentage, should go toward open space, recreation and historic preservation.

The freeholder board, the chairman said, is currently studying what other counties have implemented for their open space trust funds. "We're looking at some models and there are a couple of things we're considering." He also mentioned the possibility of a separate advisory board for historic preservation. The committee will make its recommendation after looking at other counties.

Voters last month approved a countywide referendum by a 60-to-40 percent margin to dedicate \$0.15 per \$100 of assessed value annually until 2020 for purposes of open space, recreation and historic preservation. The average household in Union County would pay approximately \$24 annually over the life of the trust fund. A property assessed at \$100,000 would pay approximately \$15 each year.

A large portion of the funds likely will be used to implement recommendations in the county's Open Space and Recreation Master Plan, which call for improvements throughout the county parks system as well as open space acquisition.

Photo IDs available from county clerk

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has announced the inauguration of a photography and county identification card service at her Westfield office, 300 North Ave. East, which is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Thursdays until 7 p.m.

Rajoppi added that I.D. cards, especially for those people who travel domestically or young people who need identification for work, are available to all Union County residents 14 years of age or older. An original birth certificate, U.S. Passport or naturalization certificate is necessary as well as proof of Union County residency which may include a driver's license, voter registration card, or phone, electric or utility bill.

COUNTY NEWS

Blood drives scheduled

The Blood Center of New Jersey will conduct the following blood drives:

- Dec. 29, 3 to 7 p.m., Union Hospital, 1000 Gallopung Hill Road, Union.
- Dec. 29, 1 to 6 p.m., American Legion Post 328, 78 Westfield Ave., Clark.

For more information call (800) BLOOD NJ.

'Holiday Lights' to benefit local Scouts

Hundreds of volunteers from over four counties in New Jersey have come together to present "Holiday Lights," a 1.5-mile drive-through light display in Bridgewater. The event is taking place every night from 6 to 10 p.m. until Jan. 2. Located at Duke Island Park in Old York Road the holiday display features larger-than-life holiday images, tunnels, sports and animated toy scenes. The cost is \$12 per car.

All proceeds will benefit the Patriots' Path Council, Boy Scouts of America, which serves over 22,000 youth in Union, Morris, Sussex, Somerset and portions of Middlesex counties.

The council, working along with various businesses and community organizations, is presenting this display for the first time this year. "We are looking forward to continuing this tradition for years to come, thanks to the support of so many Scouts, community volunteers, and area businesses that have helped to make this possible," said Catherine Zanotti, the Holiday Light Coordinator for the Council.

For more information, directions and a special coupon, call (908) 654-9191 or log on to www.holidaylights.nac.net.

Books raise funds for annual We Care awards

The Union County School Councilors Association is selling the Entertainment 2000 Books to fund the We Care awards granted to high school students within Union County.

Each book contains hundreds of discounts for fine dining, fast food, sports activities, special attractions, hotels, airlines and movies. Books are available covering the northern, central, and southern sections of New

Jersey, as well as New York City. The books range in price from \$20 to \$30.

To obtain a book call Carmine Venes at (908) 233-1036 or (732) 936-1077.

Wrapping for literacy

Literacy Volunteers of America-Union County (LVAUC) is wrapping for literacy again this year, at the Barnes & Noble in Clark during the holiday season. The organization which offers free tutoring to adults in Basic Reading and ESL is wrapping books during the holidays to promote the need for literacy in Union County.

Volunteer wrappers are urgently needed to fill the schedule. All donations from wrappings go toward LVAUC.

Call the Literacy Volunteers of Union County office at (908) 518-0800 to sign up to Wrap for Literacy.

Celebrity bartenders to raise funds in Union

The 2001 Union County St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee recently held a planning session for the annual Celebrity Bartenders Fund-raiser which will be Jan 21 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Union Township Knights of Columbus Hall on Jeanette Avenue.

All proceeds from the event will be used to fund the fifth annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Township of Union. This parade is the fastest growing in the state, attracting more than 10,000 people for the last several years.

The Celebrity Bartenders Fund-raiser will feature various celebrities from the sports world and daytime television. Last year's event drew close to 1,000 donors. Organizers of this year's event will look to top that figure.

Clerk to work on revising state land recording laws

Union County Clerk Joanne Rajoppi has been invited to work with the New Jersey Law Revision Commission to assist with revision of New Jersey Land recording statutes in light of recent national legislation permitting electronic signatures.

"The E-Sign Bill the president recently signed gives legal status to electronic documents, including property documents, as well as signatures and was passed in an effort to spur economic growth," Rajoppi said. "It

will dramatically change the way business is conducted for homeowners, banks, mortgage companies, attorneys and others."

Rajoppi said her office is well-equipped to begin receiving electronic signatures because of the long-term technology program she has developed including posting of recorded documents on the Internet.

In an effort to conform to the national legislation, the Legislature is currently considering enabling legislation for the state. Rajoppi said it is critical that consumers be informed of their rights and protections under the new legislation to avoid fraudulent use and theft of identity.

"We have taken strong steps to protect documents on the Internet installing several levels of security," Rajoppi said the system will be operational shortly. This is the latest program in her state-of-the-art office which has computerized all deed and mortgage data so they are quickly accessible to property owners and title searchers; initiated a new computerized electronic title system which is both cost-efficient and quick as well as computerized passport applications. Rajoppi's office is the recipient of seven national awards for innovative programming.

The county clerk is an elected constitutional officer responsible for administering election laws within and for the county and 21 municipalities; responsible for recording, filing and preserving all property transactions within the county and processes applications for United States passports, swears in notary publics, and issues public orders.

Vo-tech cancellation information on the web

With the recent implementation of Cancellations.com, the Union County Vocational-Technical Schools can now post vital announcements on a web site giving parents and students convenient and speedy access to all sorts of school information. Included are full closings or delayed openings due to inclement weather, activity schedules, special events as well as any other notable notices and pertinent postings.

Cancellations.com is a free Internet web site powered by Accu-Weather.com. According to Heinz Ricken, coordinator of special projects at CVTIS, with the use of a password-protected log in, school administrators can securely post announcements on a Cancellations.com web page. Once posted, they will become immediately available to information-seekers utilizing the web site thus insuring accuracy and the most up-to-date information possible.

To utilize the service, visit Cancellations.com and search for postings by zip code, city and state or by school name for added convenience, register to receive "Postings By E-Mail" a free service that sends the e-mail notification to your electronic mailbox.

Cancellations.com also provides access to the Accu-Weather.com's 5-day weather forecast.

Full details about Cancellations.com can be received by calling Ricken at (908) 889-2931.

Free veteran ID cards

The Union County Clerk's Office has announced the continuation of a public service program to provide free identification cards to all Union County veterans. The card includes the veteran's name, location of recorded document and date of recording.

The card has a raised seal certifying proof of recording from the Clerk's office. Proof of service is critical for veterans to receive the additional property tax rebate which went into effect this year as well as educational, license and death benefits.

The distinctive red and blue cards will be a reminder to veterans where copies of these important documents are recorded. To request military service at the County Clerk's Office, the original document must be brought to the main office in Elizabeth. Photocopies are not legally acceptable. The documents will be recorded in the Index of the Union County Veteran's Index and the original will be returned to the veteran.



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Novel's twist ending is more like a 'machine of the devils'

OK, when a prime time soap does it, you grumble and grouse and chalk it up to the over the top nature of the medium.

When a respected novelist and playwright does it, it should be a punishable offense.

Last week I finally got around to pulling a book off my shelf, namely "Son of Rosemary," Ira Levin's sequel to his monstrously popular novel, "Rosemary's Baby."

In this novel, written in 1997, the premise is compelling. After a 27-year, witch-induced coma, Rosemary Woodhouse awakens on the eve of the millennium to find her 33-year-old son, the devil's spawn, a world leader for peace.

Using Reilly, the maiden name she re-adopted after divorcing Guy Woodhouse sometime before she lapsed into the coma when her son was five, Rosemary becomes an active part of the charismatic Andy's circle. He confides in Rosemary about his disenchantment with his father's plans, and explains how he is using his worldwide corporation — originally designed to bring about Armageddon — as a tool for peace and global harmony.

Levin weaves this spell with a finesse the witches of his creation would envy. Parallels to Christie's Passion are not lost in the shuffle, including a cleverly named traitor among Andy's inner circle, Andy's rebellion against his "dad" is something you don't have to be the Antichrist to appreciate, the reader shares Rosemary's rapture at having inculcated goodness in her son in their time together during his childhood, as well as her concerns that he might take after his father and therefore tie to her, and the pace of the novel is breathtaking, right up to the harrowing climax.

Right up to the climax, but not including, for in the last three pages of the book — read no further if you're thinking of searching the novel out —

State of the Arts

By Bill VanSant
Associate Editor

we make a startling and completely infuriating discovery.

It was all a dream. And not only the 255 pages you've just made it through — the whole enchilada, folks, going all the way back to Guy and Rosemary's days before they ever even moved into the Bramford in the first book.

Shades of "Dallas" from the 1980s? Perhaps, but not for my money. When Bobby Ewing smiled and said, "Morning, darlin'," with shower water running over him, I was irritated enough to stop watching the show. And this sentiment was not unshared: "Knots Landing," the more successful "Dallas" spin-off, had created entire long-range story arcs based on Bobby's death a year before and, as far as the folks at "Knots" were concerned, Bobby was and stayed dead to the show's final episode.

But Bobby Ewing and all his relatives on two prime-time soaps aren't quite the same thing. For some of us, Rosemary Woodhouse was and remains one of the classic tragic heroines of late-20th century fiction. As embodied by Mia Farrow in Roman Polanski's film, Rosemary was a fragile and terrified woman, trapped in a living nightmare that stopped her breathing. That's nearly four decades many people have invested in believing in this woman and her nightmarish plight.

But it's not terrifying if it really is a nightmare. That's because we all know nightmares aren't real; we wake up from them, perhaps a little shaken, and move into the light of day.

The concept of the *deus ex machina*

the "machine of the gods" goes all the way back to the days of classic Greek drama. Usually somewhere near the end of a piece, some event occurs which wraps everything up neatly, with the righteous vindicated and the guilty punished.

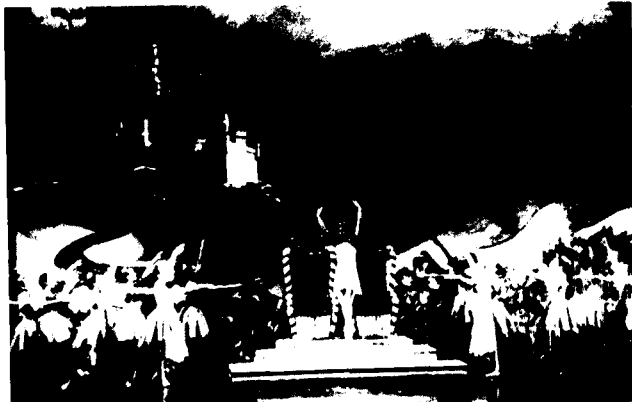
This device is still used in the present day. Take, for example, the knock on the Kramden's apartment door in the last minutes of an episode: "It was all a big mix-up," Ralph announces. After rolls her eyes, music in, fade to black. But in the case of "The Homeowners" and many other sitcoms which effectively use the device, we expect to be handed the ridiculous and often welcome if for its very ridiculousness.

However, in order for the horror genre to work, we must believe. We must forego our informed, rational way of thinking and surrender our fates, as it were, to the "reality" we have chosen to believe in while we read or view. I believed that the devil himself visited the Black Devil to chat with Manic and Roman Castleville. I believed that the witches had silenced Rosemary's dear friend, Hutch, before he could warn her. I believed that this mother loved this child, despite his paternity. And because I believed, I was terrified.

But that's all gone now. Ira Levin — whose work I have always admired — took it all away in those last pages of "Son of Rosemary." He made Rosemary's nightmare nothing more than our wasted time, and laughed at our terror when we cringed at her desperation.

No matter how clever a writer — or theater or film director, for that matter — thinks he is, he betrays his audience when he gives in to such an easy out. He dupes them, making them feel the fool for having invested time — any amount of time — in believing in the creation.

And no one likes to be laughed at. Not even by a "machine of the gods."



The cast of the New Jersey Ballet Company's production of 'The Nutcracker' graces the stage at the Paper Mill Playhouse through Dec. 27.

'The Nutcracker' is 'the best ever'

Dance Notes

By Bea Smith
Staff Writer

"The Nutcracker" this year at the Paper Mill Playhouse is a gem of a production — as sparkling with gaiety and music and ballet as the new Christmas tree that brightens the stage in the first act.

It is a marvelous celebration this cultural endeavor, marking its 30th anniversary at the Millburn theater, offered in all of its glory by Carolyn Clark, artistic director of the New Jersey Ballet Co., and Angelo Del Rossi, president and executive producer of the Paper Mill, who has been instrumental in bringing this Tchaikovsky masterpiece annually at Christmas time to his theater.

And for his contribution to an enriched culture that has enhanced the lives of children and adults alike, Del Rossi was honored before Saturday evening's performance by Clark and the New Jersey Ballet Co. He was presented with a plaque by Assemblyman Joel Weingarten for this theatrical aspect, not only statewide, but nationally.

This production — which, as usual, held its audience of adults and children quietly mesmerized with its magical goings on, its magnificent music marvelously brought forth by the Paper Mill Orchestra and its director, Gary S. Fagin, and ballet numbers and imaginative characters — is the best "Nutcracker" ever staged at the Paper Mill. It truly gets better every year — if that is at all possible. Its new sets, thanks to the ingenious Michael Anania, scenic designer, have offered a major change from the previous productions. Anania has brightened and enlightened an already outstanding ballet stage and given a new flair to the elegant sets.

And speaking of ingenuity, the incredible versatility of the New Jersey Ballet's Rosemary Sabovich-Bleich — on Saturday evening, she danced the role of Sugar Plum in Grand Pas De Deux — had the audience gasping as she danced with skills that never change, in graceful movements opposite Konstantin Doumev, an equally versatile dancer. It has been reported that she has always considered Sugar Plum her favorite role. The lovely smile that remains con-

stant on Sabovich-Bleich's face remained with the spectators and followed the smiling audience right out of the theater at the climax of the production.

The fact that Carolyn Brown of Monclair, the ballet company's first Clara in 1971, returned to coach the four Claras in this production, gave the Clara of Saturday night, Katie Canavan, an opportunity to perform in all of her glory. This lovely young prima ballerina was beautiful to watch as she enacted with excellence her adventures throughout her world of mice, clowns, snowflakes, sugar plum faeries, soldiers and angels, and of course, a handsome Nutcracker prince, ably played by David Tamaki.

In the first act as a Christmas party unlike any other, the audience was delighted to see the famous Paul McRae repeat his role as Clara's father. And George Tomal, both menacing and charming as Clara's godfather, Drosselmeyer, brought his own magical quality to the role that is so much a part of him, it seems like he has always been playing it. It really was like being at home with friends and family rather than with actors and dancers.

In Act Two, "The Magic Spell," the Nutcracker doll, which Clara had received as a gift, comes alive and fights off the horrible army of mice and kills its leader with lots of noise and blinking and shadowy lights; extremely effective.

In "In the Forest," Julia Vorobyeva as the Snow Queen was beautifully partnered with Tuvshin Bold, who exhibited his own special skills by way of his training in the Russian School of Ballet.

In Act Two, "The Kingdom of Sweets," watching the angels, courtiers, and the Spanish and Chocolate dancers, the Arabian, Andrei Jouravlev, dazzled the audience with his spits during the dance; the Coffee dancers, the Chinese and Tea dancers, and the Mirijtons in the "Dance of the Reed Flutes" were amazing, and the outstanding Russia Dancer, Alexander Antochoutine, brought the house down with his specialized bounces — the audience was in a quiet uproar.

"The Waltz of the Flowers," starring Christina Theouyoung as Dew Drop, and two soloists amidst the solo flowers and flowers, waltzed through the hearts of the audience. Theouyoung is really a very good dancer. She has come a long way since joining the New Jersey Ballet Co., and her sprightly quality is a joy to behold.

The real magic in "The Nutcracker" at the Paper Mill is the reaction of the children in the audience. They are quiet, extremely well behaved, joyfully entertained and one can almost see their own magical imagination in their eyes. And for the adults, "Nutcracker" moves quietly, concisely, turns the adults into children, and then it is over. But the traditional attraction around holiday time will remain forever at the Paper Mill Playhouse. It will strikingly continue to be the very best in the entire Metropolitan area.

Linden Art Assoc. continues classes

The Linden Art Association, a non-profit organization for all ages, recently began its 46th year of weekly evening classes Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Sunnyside Recreation Center, on Melrose Terrace at Orchard Terrace.

Anyone interested in joining this group to discover and/or develop their talents in visual arts is welcome to stop by on a class night to see the members working on their varied projects under the guidance of a very versatile professional instructor.

Classes are held in a five-week segments, as follows:
• Jan. 3 and 10, already in progress.
For information, call (908) 486-1408.

Society's guide makes state history easy

The New Jersey Historical Society has published a comprehensive guide to nearly 200 historical organizations, museums, historic sites and institutions across the state that will assist residents and visitors in discovering the Garden State's rich heritage.

Each listing contains visitor information such as address, admission fees, hours of operation; information about collections, programs and publications; and e-mail and web site addresses.

The publication, "Centers for History," is available from The New Jersey Historical Society at 52 Park Place in Newark for \$2.50. Alternatively, the publication can be sent to interested parties by contacting the Historical Society and sending payment of \$3.50 to cover shipping. The Historical Society also accepts Mastercard and Visa for publication orders. For more information, call (973) 596-8500.

"We are proud to bring this guide to the residents of New Jersey, to enhance awareness of the many sites and organizations dedicated to preserving and interpreting our state's history," said Sally Yerkovich, president and CEO of The New Jersey Historical Society. "As part of our man-

date as the state's historical society, our goal is to produce publications that are useful and informative to New Jerseyans and that encourage ongoing exploration of what makes our state unique."

The New Jersey Historical Society, in conjunction with the New Jersey Historical Commission and the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey, surveyed organizations across the state to create the guide. The project was sponsored in part by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

The New Jersey Historical Society, founded in 1845, examines New Jersey history through exhibitions, publications and programming. The Society is located at 52 Park Place in Newark, within a block of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center. The Historical Society is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free of charge. Family programs take place Saturdays and workshops and lectures are offered through the "Lunch Times series every Wednesday. The Society can be reached a variety of public transportation, including the Loop, from Newark Penn Station and Broad Street for \$1. For more information, contact the Society at (973) 596-8500 or NJ Relay Service — TTY/TDD — at (800) 852-7899.

Current exhibit features Christmas in miniature

Plainfield's Swain Galleries will showcase small-scale art by 22 noted gallery artists through Dec. 31 in the annual "Christmas Miniatures" exhibit.

Among this year's 17 exhibitors are

first-timers Timothy W. Jahn, noted for architectural landscapes, and Karen McCormack, who reveals personalities in her animal portraits.

"Christmas Miniatures" will be on exhibit Tuesdays to Fridays, 9:30 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays to 4 p.m., and Sundays, noon to 4 p.m. at Swain Galleries, 703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield. For details, call (908) 756-1707.

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New Jersey Theater Group updates its calendar of 2000-01 events

The New Jersey Theater Group, the alliance of the state's professional theaters, announces publication of their free, statewide 2000-01 theater calendar, listing theater events from Teaneck to Cape May.

The fall season across the state is bustling with excitement as the stars of Broadway come to New Jersey. The state's 21 professional theaters and 10 affiliate theaters across the state are offering something for everyone.

The New Jersey Theater Group continues to offer its popular discount ticket program, the Theater Sampler Series. (Those three different plays at three different theaters) for the low price of \$60 and save as much as 50 percent off regular ticket prices.

Theatergoers contacted to the web

can now subscribe to the New Jersey Theater E news, a weekly publication listing special offers and discounts at member theaters only available to online subscribers. The E news, sponsored by Verizon, also contains listings of "What's Playing" across the state.

Highlights of the upcoming season include the incomparable Lily Tomlin in "The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe" at McCarter Theater.

New Jersey stages will also feature world premieres of the new Athol Fugald play at McCarter Theater and the new musical "The Spiffire Grill," on stage now at George Street Playhouse. New Jersey is solidifying its reputation as the first-class region for developing and premiering new

works. This year's season is no exception with 10 world premieres, one American premiere, two East Coast premieres and nine New Jersey premieres scheduled throughout the state.

To receive a free schedule of events, for more information on the Theater E news, call (973) 593-0189 or e-mail njtg@nj.com.

The New Jersey Theater Group is proud to welcome New Jersey Repertory Company in Long Branch and the What Exit? Theater Company in Maplewood as its newest member theaters. They join American Stage Company in Teaneck, Cape May Stage in Cape May, Century Stage in Hackettstown, Crossroads Theater Company in New Brunswick, The East Lyme Company in Cape May, Forum Theater Com-

pany in Metuchen, Foundation Theater in Pemberton, George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, The Growing Stage Theatre in Neoking, Luna Stage Company in Montclair, McCarter Theater in Princeton, New Jersey Shakespeare Festival in Mahwah, Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, Passage Theater Company in Trenton, Playwrights Theater of New Jersey in Madison, Pushcart Players in Verona, TheaterFest in Montclair, 12 Miles West Theater Company in Montclair, and Two River Theater Company in Red Bank as part of a growing group of extraordinary theater companies.

"As we enter the 21st century, New Jersey's theaters have moved into a position of national leadership in the development of new works," says Laura Aden, executive director of the New Jersey Theater Group. "We can

boast of having two Tony Award-winning regional theaters right here in our home state. We are proud of the art created on New Jersey stages, and will continue to do our best to promote the exceptional work that our theaters are creating."

Funding for the New Jersey Theater Group, a not-for-profit organiza-

tion, is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals. American Airlines is the official airline of the New Jersey Theater Group.

Paper Mill Playhouse seeks evaluators for awards

The Education Department of Paper Mill Playhouse is seeking qualified evaluators for its Rising Star Awards Program for Excellence in Production of High School Musical Theater.

This nationally recognized program, introduced in 1996, seeks evaluators to review high school musical productions throughout New Jersey. Evaluators submit nominations in 21 performance and production categories and then Paper Mill hosts a Tony Awards-style ceremony to honor outstanding students and productions and award scholarships. Evaluators should hold a degree in music, theater or dance; have extensive work experience in one of those disciplines on a professional or

academic basis; or should be a performing arts professional or educator with a wide knowledge of American musical theater. Evaluators must attend a required orientation session in January 2001 and be available to attend a minimum of six performances between February and April. Finally, they must be available to attend the Final Evaluators' Meeting May 19, 2001. A small stipend is offered to evaluators and transportation charges are reimbursed.

Interested individuals should contact Lisa Cooney, education associate, at Paper Mill Playhouse at (973) 379-3636, ext. 2748 for additional information and an evaluator application form.

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Summit's Broadway Diner offers all-star, award-winning treats

By Pamela Isaacson
Staff Writer

The Broadway Diner, the home of the "World's Best Pancakes," receives a standing ovation. Located at the corner of Morris Avenue and River Road, the Broadway Diner is appropriate for a matinee or an evening meal. The diner's 24-hour wait staff is just as helpful and energetic at 3 a.m. as they are for the lunch, dinner or Sunday brunch crowd.

No matter what time the curtain opens, walking into the restaurant is like taking a tour of Broadway's best. Posters from hit musicals line the walls as diners feel they are enjoying everything from waffles to steaks with a star-studded cast. The menu's variety is at its first overwhelming, but appeals to the taste buds of a wide audience.

The pancakes, served with whipped butter and syrup, come in 11 varieties from French Style — buttermilk pancakes topped with orange sauce and powdered sugar — to chocolate chip, raisin, strawberry, pineapple and ham. The French Apple pancakes are a group favorite for breakfast and dessert — they're sliced in a cinnamon raisin glaze and topped with whipped cream.

Hearty appetites are encouraged to try the "Famous Country Sampler," which includes two pancakes, a wedge of French toast, a wedge of a Belgian waffle, one sausage link and two strips of bacon. All omelets, served in almost any style imaginable, are made with three extra-large eggs; all egg orders come with homemade potatoes and toast.

Light breakfast eaters can opt for individual cereals, bagels or a variety of breads and muffins.

The number of items, and the taste, makes the wait during lunchtime worthwhile. Everything from triple-decker sandwiches to salads to burgers to wraps are prepared fresh. The "Stars of Broadway" include the Happy Waffles, an open-faced grilled cheese sandwich with bacon, tomato, French fries, onion rings and cole slaw. The Philadelphia cheese steak deluxe, New York-style Sloppy Joe, and hot pasarma and corned beef combo on rye are diners' selections for Tony Awards.

Patrons in the mood for full dinners also have a selection among seafood, chops and steamed specialties. Aside from the Italian specialties, all dinners come with soup or salad, rice pilaf or spaghetti or potato and a vegetable. Kids are welcome to select any menu items, including those in the Disney-themed children's section. But both children and adults must remember to leave room for the homemade desserts.

For anything from mozzarella sticks to fried file of sole to lemon meringue pie, this atypical Jersey diner offers a tasty trip along Broadway with prices that accommodate off-Broadway salaries.

The Broadway Diner is located at 55 River Road, Summit. In addition to walk-in meals, the owners offer professional on- and off-premise catering. For more information, call (908) 273-4353. Additional locations include 1075 Broadway, Bayonne, and 45 Mommouth St., Red Bank.

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Holiday Dining

Mother Nature's force 'darkens artist's soul'

From Jan. 19 to Feb. 22, "The Bound Brook Cycle" by artist David Ambrose, will be on exhibit at the Tommasulo Gallery, in the Kenneth MacKay Library, on Union County College's Cranford campus. This exhibition is a reflection of Ambrose's experiences during and after Hurricane Floyd ripped through New Jersey in 1999.

This natural disaster flooded most of Bound Brook to the second floor level, ruining businesses, buildings, and the lives of many people, who are still recovering from the experience more than one year later. Although Ambrose's own studio was located in the middle of an area that flooded, he considers himself extremely lucky that he suffered no water damage.

For Ambrose, this exhibition of paintings and drawings is an expansion of the themes and techniques that he has worked with throughout his career, but since his experience with Hurricane Floyd, his post flood work has become darker within the context of his imagery and techniques because, according to him, the flood had "darkened (his) soul."

Ambrose's artistic works consist of face and crocheted paintings, which, prior to the development of "The Bound Brook Cycle," were predominantly influenced by images, mostly photographs or old floor plans, of medieval or renaissance churches or cathedrals. Using the architectures of the churches and cathedrals as the basis for his art, Ambrose sews together crocheted doilies and antimacassars, lace tablecloths and occasionally simple beaded circle skirts. The face dyes these delicate fabrics into gesso in order to stiffen them, stretches them out, and paints over them. His overall color scheme on these works uses earth tones and flesh tones, depict damage and erosion, decay and crumbling — in fact, time itself.

In comparison, Ambrose's works in "The Bound Brook Cycle" have an even darker overall tone reflecting how withdrawing floodwaters leave thick, dark residue on the land. Although the colors in these face paintings are generally darker than his previous pieces, the colors are still rich and can be described as mysterious and compelling. On many paintings the textures became denser with areas of color pooling or congealing into dusky pads.

Working in this darker palette during the past year, has brought Ambrose renewed interest and emphasis on drawing, and thus, he reestablished and revitalized several techniques from his past practices in his series of "Deluge Drawings." With the use of heavy duty staples he separates sections of dark watercolor

on graphite. In fact, he creates a water motif with their use and the staple barriers serve to reinforce the flood imagery he wants to depict. Ambrose has even spoken of "building dams or levees with staples," and is able to stress the "wet" look of the graphite, and is an adhesion to sulfide water and soaked earth.

Using the materials with which he is so familiar — face, paper, oil paint, graphite, gesso, wax medium and watercolor — Ambrose is able to create new works to portray his life as it stands after the flood, yet maintaining continuity with his past works. Just as a person will experience a period of readjustment after they have experienced a crisis, Ambrose's works have experienced that transition as well.

The Tommasulo Gallery exhibit will debut Jan. 19 with an opening reception from 7 to 9 p.m. The gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays and Saturday Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Thursdays. For more information, call the Tommasulo Gallery at (908) 709-7155.

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HEART grants are currently available

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders invites local non-profit organizations, individual artists and scholars to apply for funding from the Union County HEART — History, Education, Arts Reading Thousands — grant program.

Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, 07202. For information, call (908) 558-2550, relay users dial (800) 852-7899. E-mail may be sent to scoen@unioncounty.org.

Recognizing the importance of culture and the arts to the economy and quality of life in Union County, the Freeholder Board has renewed the HEART grant program for the fourth consecutive year. This innovative program supports projects related to history, and the arts and the humanities, and demonstrates a commitment to the organizations and artists of Union County.

"The response to the HEART grant program is exciting," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel P. Sullivan. "The recipients are a wonderful mix of visual artists, historians, composers of orchestral music, cultural organizations and civic groups."

"The services provided by these artists and organizations directly benefit the residents of our county and increase appreciation for the arts, our history, and the humanities," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Union County Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "These cultural assets are a vital part of community life, economic development and cultural tourism in Union County."

Applications will be accepted three times a year: March, June and October. To request a HEART grant application and guidelines, contact the

Auditions are set

The New Jersey Theater Group, the alliance of the state's professional Actors Equity theaters, will hold auditions Feb. 26 for non-Equity performers from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in New Brunswick. More than 26 theatres are expected to be in attendance from across the state including Paper Mill Playhouse, Millburn; George Street Playhouse, New Brunswick; McCarter Theater, Princeton; New Jersey Shakespeare Festival, Madison; American Stage Company, Teaneck; TheaterFest, Montclair; and Forum Theater, Metuchen.

To enter the lottery, performers must follow the following rules and procedures:

- Send one copy of your picture with attached resume.
- A note indicating whether or not you intend to sing as part of your audition.
- Indicate on that note if you are a New Jersey resident or have access to New Jersey housing.
- Enclose a self-addressed, stamped business-size envelope. Any entry without a return envelope will be disallowed.
- Your entry must be postmarked by Jan. 19 in order to be eligible for the lottery.
- Mail all entries to the New Jersey Theater Group, P.O. Box 21, Florham Park, 07932.

If you are selected for an audition, you will be notified by mail, in your self-addressed stamped envelope, of your timeslot and other audition details. The audition site, in New Brunswick, is easily accessible by car, train and bus. Directions will be sent if you are selected for an appointment.



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Holiday Dining

Windham Hill artists will celebrate winter solstice

The spirit of the holidays will continue at the Union County Arts Center with its presentation of "A Winter Solstice Concert" Jan. 13 at 8 p.m.

Liz Story will be featured in this unique evening of Windham Hill recording artists. The Celtic harp of Lisa Lynne and the soulful guitar of Sean Harkness will round out the Windham Hill ensemble.

Story's recent Windham Hill recording, "17 Seconds in Anywhere," is a collection of 17 short works on solo piano. This album expresses a clarity and simplicity that is an integral part of her musical nature and weaves together melodic tones and flowing harmonies in compositions such as "Runners of Discipline" and "Beginner's Mind."

Surprisingly, for so gifted a musician, Story did not originally have a burning desire to compose, but that was before she heard the music of improvisational jazz piano legend Bill Evans. "I knew that I had to learn harmony," Story recalls, and began to start composing through improvisation. The influence of classical training and jazz improvisation has helped Story become one of the era's most inventive adult contemporary instrumental artists and composers.

"When I sit at the piano," Story says, "complexity dissolves. I want the music to somehow move me, simple and stripped down... I wonder at the possibility that a melody of three notes can turn the heart." Perhaps, "A Winter Solstice Concert" will provide the answer.

"A Winter Solstice Concert" offers an ensemble performance at the beginning and the end of the evening. Both Lisa Lynne on harp and Sean Harkness on guitar will break away from the ensemble for their own solo performance. Lynne's first album for Windham Hill, "Daughters of the Celtic Moon," captured the mystique of Celtic music through 10 original Lynne compositions. Her latest release, "Seasons of the Soul," continues pairing original compositions with great pop/rock musicians.

Harkness is making his solo debut with his Windham Hill recording of "Aloft." Influenced by a range of artists including Bach, Elvis and Gershwin, Harkness has created a unique trademark acoustic sound that is incorporated with classical, Latin and Celtic music.

The Union County Arts Center is a regional performing arts venue. Its wide array of offerings includes theater, music, film, dance and headliner entertainment. The Westfield Symphony Orchestra performs regularly at the arts center under its designation as resident orchestra of this vaudeville-era theater.

As a non-profit organization, the arts center is supported in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Arts Center will be site of Congress film tour

Did you know that more than half of all movies produced in America before 1951 have deteriorated and are lost forever?

Now, at the Union County Arts Center, there is an opportunity to see classic films once again in their original glory.

The Union County Arts Center, 1601 Irving St. in Rahway, has been selected as the only theater in New Jersey to offer the Library of Congress Film Preservation Tour, sponsored by American Movie Classics and featuring films from the National Film Registry. The Film Preservation Tour will play at UCAC Feb. 22 to March 16. This exclusive film festival offers 15 films, produced between 1903 and 1974 by legendary directors such as Edwin S. Porter, Alfred Hitchcock, John Huston, Elia Kazan, Orson Welles and Stanley Kubrick.

A Thursday evening reception will kick off the weekend's events Feb. 22 and be attended by a celebrity yet to be announced. All screenings are \$5 or you may choose to purchase a Film Festival pass for all 10 screenings — that's 15 films, for \$65. The Film Festival pass will include an invitation to the VIP reception Thursday evening and allow patrons to invite three guests to any movie or movies. The bulk of the films will be shown for four days, Feb. 22 to 25, and be complemented by screenings on the three following Fridays — March 2, 9 and 16. For more information, call (732) 499-8226.

On tour
The Film Preservation Tour is the centerpiece of an outreach campaign to alert the public to the diversity of

American film production and direct attention to the need to preserve America's film heritage. The National Film Registry was a result of the National Film Preservation Act of 1988. Twenty-five films per year are added to the Film Registry and are chosen based on their cultural, historical and aesthetic importance. They are recognized as unique and valuable records of our cultural experience. James H. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, commented, "Film is a powerful force in American culture and national life. Motion pictures, whether feature films, newsreels or avant-garde works, are both an art form and a record of our times."

Marsha Watson, the director of programming at UCAC, is quick to agree with Billington, saying, "This tour is about our heritage at the Union County Arts Center." The Rahway Theater, renamed the Union County Arts Center in 1985, was built in 1928 and was home to generations of moviegoers. After its demise in the second half of the 20th century, the theater found new life as a vibrant arts center. Along with the restoration of the building, the Mighty Little Warbler theater organ, original to the structure, was restored to its former grandeur and is set to accompany the silent films in the Film Preservation Tour this February.

The Union County Arts Center is a regional performing arts venue. Its wide array of offerings includes theater, music, film, dance and headliner entertainment. The Westfield Symphony Orchestra performs regularly at the Arts Center under its designation as resident orchestra of this vaudeville-era theater.

The Library of Congress
Film Preservation Tour
Presented by American Movie Classics
Featuring Films from the National Film Registry
Schedule of films
(All times and info subject to change)

- Feb. 22
- 6 p.m.: Opening Festival Reception
 - 7:30 p.m.: "Big Business," silent starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy, directed by James W. Horne and Leo McCarey, 1929; and "Dr. Stangelove Or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb," starring Peter Sellers, George C. Scott and James Earl Jones, directed by Stanley Kubrick, 1964. Feb. 23
 - 8 p.m.: "What's Opera, Doc?," animated short starring Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, directed by Chuck Jones, 1957; and "Yankee Doodle Dandy" starring James Cagney and Joan Leslie, directed by Michael Curtiz, 1942. Feb. 24
 - 4 p.m.: "What's Opera, Doc?," animated short starring Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd, directed by Chuck Jones, 1957; "Gertie the Dinosaur," animated short, directed by Winsor McCay, 1914; and "Dock Soup," starring The Marx Brothers, directed by Leo McCarey, 1933
 - 7 p.m.: "On the Waterfront," starring Marlon Brando and Lee J. Cobb, directed by Elia Kazan, 1954
 - 9 p.m.: "The Great Train Robbery," silent feature, directed by Edwin S. Porter, 1903; and "Raging Bull," starring Robert DeNiro and Joe Pesci, directed by Martin Scorsese, 1980. Feb. 25
 - 3 p.m.: "The Great Train Robbery," silent feature, directed by Edwin S. Porter, 1903; and "Safety Last," starring Harold Lloyd and Mildred Davis, directed by Fred C. Newmeyer and Sam Taylor, 1923
 - 7 p.m.: "Janmum the Blues," starring Lesley Young, Red Callender and Harry Edison, directed by Gjon Mili, 1944; and "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," starring Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston, directed by John Huston, 1958. March 2
 - 8 p.m.: "Shadow of a Doubt," starring Joseph Cotton and Teresa Wright, directed by Alfred Hitchcock, 1943. March 9
 - 8 p.m.: "Chinatown," starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, directed by Roman Polanski, 1974. March 16
 - 8 p.m.: "Touch of Evil," starring Charlton Heston and Marlene Dietrich, directed by Orson Welles, 1958.
- For tickets and information, call (732)499-8226 or visit the web site at www.ucac.org.

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Gift certificates are just the last-minute 'ticket'

The New Jersey Theater Group, the alliance of the state's professional theaters, has announced the availability of personalized gift certificates for the enormously popular Theater Sampler Series.

Perfect for any season or reason, Theater Sampler gift certificates offer the recipient the flexibility to choose three different plays at three different theaters from the 19 professional theaters across the state that participate in the program. From Teaneck to Cape May — musicals, dramas and comedies abound!

The Theater Sampler Series is the perfect gift for anyone on a holiday gift list. Recipients are given a personalized certificate along with a statewide calendar from which to make their theater selections. They

are redeemable for ticket vouchers from the New Jersey Theater Group — all for the low cost of only \$60 per Sampler, a savings of as much as 50 percent off single ticket prices.

Highlights of the 2001 season include the world premiere of A.R. Gurney's "Human Events" at George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, the world premiere of Athol Fugard's "Sorrows and Rejoicings" at McCarter Theater in Princeton, a major revival of "Funny Girl" at Paper Mill Playhouse in Millburn, and the New Jersey premiere of "La Bete" at Two Rivers Theater in Manasquan, along with many, many more exciting events across the state.

It's easy to order Theater Sampler Series gift certificates. Simply pick up the phone and call New Jersey Theater Group at (973) 593-0189 or e-mail njtheater@comcast.net and order as many gift certificates as you'd like. Gift certificates are mailed the very next business day.

Funding for the New Jersey Theater Group, a not-for-profit organization, is provided in part by the New Jersey Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals. American Airlines is the official airlines of the New Jersey Theater Group.

Your business can grow with more customers. Reach the potential customers in your newspaper with an ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

Workshop readies for winter session

With a successful fall session coming to a close, New Jersey Workshop for the Arts announces the start of registration for the winter session of the Kids 'n' Arts and Tots 'n' Arts programs.

Both classes are designed to enrich children with an arts experience and are taught by professional educators who are able to encourage children to express their natural talents through music, art and drama.

The Kids 'n' Arts class is a unique program for preschool children between 3 and 5 years old. The curriculum centers on "themes for the day" with each class providing a variety of opportunities for the children to make discoveries about themselves, their world, and others in it. Themes highlighted during the fall session included "My Name," "My Face," "Autumn," "Helping," "Family" and "Pets." The 10-week session of Kids 'n' Arts meets once a week on either Wednesday or Thursday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

The Tots 'n' Arts class is an introduction to the arts experience for children between the ages of 18 and 36 months old. This program specializes in interaction with a parent or guardian through movement, sound and music. The 10-week Tots 'n' Arts program also meets once per week on either Wednesday or Thursday at 9:15 a.m., 10 a.m. or 10:45 a.m.

Classes are held in studios at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield. The winter session for Wednesday classes begins Jan. 3 and runs through March 7. Thursday classes begin Jan. 4 and run through March 8. Class sizes are limited so early registration is encouraged!

New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, a non-profit organization established in 1972 by Theodore K. Schlossberg, Ed D. To register for Kids 'n' Arts or Tots 'n' Arts, or for information on any of the programs offered by New Jersey Workshop for the Arts, call (908) 789-9696 or visit the office at 150-152 E. Broad St. in Westfield.

Seasons GREETINGS

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All offices will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

For your convenience, the Union office will be open Tuesday evening, December 26 and Tuesday evening January 2 from 6:30 - 8 pm.



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Treasured collectibles can make for unique holiday decorations

Around the holidays, your collectibles can become even more meaningful, especially if you display them as part of your holiday decorating theme.

That's what they do at Sweetwater Farm in the rolling hills of south-eastern Pennsylvania. Now a bed and breakfast, the historic home began life as a simple Quaker farmhouse 250 years ago.

The centerpiece of Sweetwater's holiday decor is the parlor Christmas tree. The owners' collectibles surround the tree, creating a holiday scene in which it seems every possible Christmas fantasy has been fulfilled.

This year, a Clara doll with her nut cracker sits to the left of the tree, surrounded by three die cast precision models, all from the Franklin Mint in nearby Franklin Center, Pa. One of the models is of the 1957 Chevrolet Belair Sports Coupe. Another is the 1978 Silver Anniversary Corvette and the third is the Harley Davidson Heritage Softail Classic Motorcycle.

Nearby, the Marjse Nicole baby doll, Peanut, perches on an antique chair, while another Franklin Mint precision model, the B-17G bomber Shoo Shoo Baby, soars into the air on its own stand. The Mint's model of the Cessland Limited locomotive is at Peanut's feet. To her right, porcelain Mickey and Minnie Mouse dolls keep an eye on Monopoly. The Collector's Edition, with its silver and gold accented tokens and hardwood frame.

Collectibles surround the tree, creating a holiday scene in which every fantasy has been fulfilled.

Like the owners of Sweetwater

Farm, you can create an eclectic collection to display during the holidays and all year long.

One place to start is the Franklin Mint, the world's largest creator of quality collectibles and one of the largest direct response marketers. For information about the Mint's collectibles, call (800) THE MINT - (800) 843-6468 ext. "Perfect Gift". Precious collector dolls, precision models, collector plates, sculpture, collector games, historic and artistic reproduction weapons, and fine leather

enough books are all created at the Mint's in-house studios in collaboration with such internationally acclaimed designers as Bill Blass, Mary McFadden and Givency. The Mint also maintains affiliations with museums and other organizations that sponsor and authenticate its products.

One of those affiliations is with the House of Faberge, which commissions the Mint to offer its bejeweled eggs and other *objets d'art*, dolls, fine jewelry and sculpture.

Sports & toon collectibles abound

Are you an avid collector of rare cartoon memorabilia? Do you need a unique present for the sports fan in your life? Specialty art web sites may be just the answer.

These web sites offer a variety of rare and limited edition sports lithographs and one-of-a-kind animated art cells. Available by auction or through networked e-stores, incredible artwork is available through a click of your mouse. Over online auctions, artwork is bid on through a unique system of online networks. You simply register and let the bidding begin.

For the sports fan, unique art is available on several web sites. Log on to www.wsmi.com for high-quality original art. At this site, you can obtain watercolors of your favorite sports star, from Wayne Gretzky to Roger Clemens. In partnership with Bee Trade.com, a full-service community supporting e-commerce on the Internet, the Toronto-based WSMI.com partners

with several other sites also devoted to online artwork.

When you log on, www.bidway.com will bring you a selection of sports lithographs and photographs with everything from hockey to baseball. At this auction site, look for limited edition prints signed by the sports stars themselves.

For the extreme hockey super fan, visit the Hockey Hall of Fame Superstore at www.cyberstore.hhof.com. This site features fantastic prints of classic hockey moments that any true fan will appreciate. Notice rare images of the 1970's cartoon icon "Peter Puck" when browsing through the online section called "Time Capsule."

The most comprehensive collection of limited edition and vintage animation art cells is available on www.artcells.com. They are authorized representatives of nearly every

major animation studio. Art is available from all of your favorite cartoons and characters. Art cells.com has cels and comic strip lithographs from 43 television series and feature films plus 132 well-recognized principle cartoon characters including "Star Trek," Beate Barley, Blondie and more.

You can bid on everything from storyboard drawings to actual production cels that are the final product of the animated film process. Thumbnail-sized pictures make it easy to choose an image that you like.

In addition, a site selling original Asian art will be launching soon at www.b-artisanart.com. Look for a one-of-a-kind 250-year painting which took the artist 25 years to complete and has a value of more than \$3 million.

For more information on buying art online, call (877) 811-WSMI, or log on to www.wsmi.com.

Things go better with Coke collectibles

Today, nearly 40 percent of us order a soft drink with our meals at restaurants.

In the 1920s, advertising for Coca-Cola began to proclaim it was "A Great Combination" with food. In addition to print advertising, local bottlers of Coca-Cola made available to soda fountains and diners many items that helped make that perfect combination. Whether you ordered a hot dog, tuna fish sandwich or a steak, Coca-Cola was, and is, the perfect refreshment to accompany any meal.

Since then, many of today's collectibles such as china plates, flatware, and bell-shaped fountain glasses bearing the Coca-Cola trademark were distributed to eateries around the world.

Q: I have a round, china plate that has a bottle and glass of Coca-Cola, "Refresh Yourself," and three, white Coca-Cola trademarks in red boxes printed on the front side. Were these sold in stores? What is it worth? L.K., Paris, Tenn.

A: The ceramic plate you describe is most likely from the 1930s. The 8-inch-diameter plate was manufactured by The Crockery City Ice and Products Company for a local Coca-Cola bottler. This was one of many plates used by many bottlers at the time to promote the sale of Coca-Cola with meals. According to Petretti's Coca-Cola Collectible Price Guide, one of these plates in mint condition can be worth as much as \$700.

Q: At a garage sale, I came across a spoon and fork

with the Coca-Cola logo embossed on the silverware handle. They look rather old. I would like some information about them. R.B., Edon, Ohio.

A: Your spoon and fork were part of a complete set of flatware produced in the 1920s, the set was part of a promotion run by bottlers and the many retail outlets that sold Coca-Cola. The seven-piece place setting contained salad and dinner forks, table, tea and dessert spoons, and a butter knife. Today, a complete place setting has been valued at around \$1,100.

This was not the first time the Coca-Cola trademark appeared on silverware. In the 1890s, when Coca-Cola was served in soda fountains it was mixed to order. The soda jerk would combine the correct amount of Coca-Cola syrup and carbonated water in the glass, and stir. The company gave to soda fountains a silver plated spoon with "Drink Coca-Cola, Delicious, Refreshing" embossed on the bowl to ensure a perfect glass of Coca-Cola was served to the customer.

Today, three collectibles have contemporary counterparts. The new Centour Bell glasses are flatware and table settings would be a perfect complement to any home meal, and they make great gifts, too.

They are available at any of the Everything Coca-Cola stores in either New York at 711 5th Ave., Atlanta's Harrisfield International Airport, World of Coca-Cola Atlanta or World of Coca-Cola Las Vegas, and from The Coca-Cola Collector's Catalog. For a free catalog, call (800) 872-6531.

Clever hand-made gifts give new life to old family photographs

Your precious photos need not waste away in shoeboxes. You can transform these standard photos into personalized gifts that are terrific for any occasion.

All you need is a touch of creativity to extend the life of your photos and make fun crafts your entire household will love.

Holiday ornaments
Turn those holiday ornaments into a walk down memory lane with this easy craft idea. Carefully select high-quality prints that you will be proud to display within your home. If you've struggled unsuccessfully to take good

photos, you may want to consider purchasing a digital camera such as Sony's DSC-P1 Cyber-shot camera with user-friendly features like an LCD display and powerful digital zoom to take some of the guesswork out of photography.

Glue the photos onto posterboard and cut them into festive shapes. Write the calendar year and a personal message onto the back of this shape. Finally laminate the item, and add a ribbon for a perfect holiday ornament.

Photo placemats
Spice up traditional table settings with colorful photo placemats.

Arrange the photos between two placemat-sized sheets of clear Contac paper. Use durable, glossy photos that can endure the daily wear-and-tear of meals without losing their original luster. If you are using digital images, the typical PC printer won't suffice to achieve this level of quality. You'll need a home photo lab such as Sony's UP-DP10 to deliver prints of digital images that possess outstanding detail and durability.

If needed, bare spots in this collage can be filled in with messages like, "I Love You," "Happy Holidays," "Thinking of You," etc. Secure the

photos into place by pressing the two sheets of Contac paper together. The finished placemat is now ready to be the centerpiece of your next family meal.

Virtual family tree
Put a high-tech twist on those hand-drawn family trees with digital imaging. Upload digital snapshots of each family member onto your personal PC, such as Sony's VAIO J120 PC which offers digital still editing software like DVgate still for creating advanced multimedia presentations in a snap. If you don't have this type of desktop, however, use software appli-

cations like PowerPoint or Microsoft Windows. Simply drop the images into these applications and then add names, connecting bars, graphics, etc. The finished product can be e-mailed to friends and family for a unique, virtual gift that will last for years.

Mugs, Bookmarks, Mouse Pads and more
Make your digital still photography last forever with tons of personalized gifts. Select from a wide assortment of gift options on Sony's ImageStation web site — www.imagestation.com. Simply

upload your digital images onto this free online picture-sharing service, and let your imagination run wild. Whether it's virtual photo albums, T-shirts or mugs — users can create customized and inexpensive gifts with their cherished photos.

The UP-DP10 home photo lab has a suggested list price of about \$389; the DSC-P1 Cyber-shot camera has a suggested list price of about \$800; and the VAIO J120 PC sells for an estimated selling price of \$999. These products are available for sale in retail stores and online at www.sonystyle.com.

Start the kids collecting

According to Ira Gallen, an authority on toys and popular culture, one way parents can ensure their gifts will be enjoyed long after the holidays is to select collectible gifts for their kids.

"The holidays are the perfect time to start a collection for your child," says Gallen. Collectible gifts have true staying-power, particularly if they are high-quality collector's items that spark a child's interest.

"Building a collection is a fun activity for kids that teaches them important lessons about setting goals and investing for the future," continues Gallen. "And best of all, parents can start a collection for their kids fairly inexpensively."

"Collectible gifts are very special to kids," says Gallen. "Kids are more likely to take good care of a gift that is part of their collection than they are of some fad toy. If it is something the child truly loves, a collectible gift will never go out of style."

Gifts for hobbyists run the gamut of interests

Need help shopping for the crafters, collectors and other hobbyists on your holiday gift list? You'll find it in another favorite American pastime: catalog shopping.

"There are catalogs to suit every hobby, from old favorites like gardening to rapidly growing trends like scrapbooking," says Amy Blankenship, director of the Shop-at-Home Information Center of the Direct Marketing Association.

The DMA's consumer web site, www.shopnet.org, offers tips on smart shopping and links to web sites

of favorite catalog and online retailers. Consumers who shop from companies listed on www.shopnet.org have assurance that the companies adhere to the ethical guidelines of the DMA, including posting of policies regarding the use of consumer information.

One out of every five American

households now enjoys scrapbooking, preserving family pictures and other memories in highly personalized scrapbooks. Buy your favorite scrapbooker an assortment of stickers from Sticker Planet, www.stickerplanet.com. Designed to add colorful borders to scrapbooks and other items, the stickers are avail-

able in every style, from original art to licensed reproductions.

Craftsmen will love Delphi, www.delphiglass.com. It features more than 1,000 types of glass, along with free patterns, projects and instructions for creating items like unique stained glass lamps, coasters, frames or mosaic cafe tables.

Solomon Schechter Day School of Essex and Union, Cranford Campus, and the JCC of Scotch Plains

Natalie Eiman, Director of Child Development Center, and Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore, child psychologist

Preparing Your Child for First Grade: Strategies for Parents

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Healthy Living

Health experts advise on combining holiday safety with fun

By Alison Ashton
Copley News Service

Yuletide hazards

The holidays are a cheerful time, but the same decorations and parties that make this a festive season also can be hazardous to small kids and pets. The good news is, knowing potential dangers makes it easier to sidestep trouble.

"Plants and products usually not seen or available during the first 10 months of the year account for many problems during the holiday season," said Anthony Manoguerra, director of the San Diego Division of the California Poison Control System.

Parents and pet owners should avoid two yuletide favorites: mistletoe and English holly. Both are toxic, and rubbing 20 to 30 holly berries can cause very serious poisoning. Safer choices are pycnantha, eugenia and California holly. Poinsettias are OK, but they can cause an upset stomach if eaten, and the plant's sap can irritate skin. Christmas cactus and pine cones are safe decorations.

Christmas trees are essentially safe, though constituting large amounts of pine, spruce or juniper needles can cause an upset stomach. Remember to place the tree away from the fireplace or any candles, and don't let it dry out. Hang glass ornaments and light bulbs out of reach of curious hands or paws. Also, avoid angel hair or spun glass, which irritate skin and eyes. Take care with imported ornaments, since these may contain lead paint. Very old tinsel — manufactured before 1972 — also contains lead, but the real problem with tinsel is ingesting the stuff, said Manoguerra. In large amounts, it can obstruct the gastrointestinal tract.

Alcohol poisoning among children increases during the holidays. Adults shouldn't allow little tykes to drink from their glasses, and clean up drink glasses promptly, since kids are tempted to sample leftover cocktails. If munchkins are on your gift list, be sure to read toy package labels closely. Follow the recommended age guidelines, and for small children especially, avoid tiny toys that are easily swallowed by kids or pets. Dart guns, slingshots and BB guns are best left off kids' wish lists.

Walk it off

For many of us, the holidays are all about overindulging and packing on a few extra pounds that we vow to lose after Jan. 1. One expert says it doesn't have to be that way.

Charles Corbin, a professor of exercise science and physical education at Arizona State University, says the key to maintaining your weight through the holidays is balancing your consumption with enough physical activity. His suggestion: accumulate 10,000 steps a day.

"It sounds like a lot, but steps can add up very quickly, and they don't have to be taken all together," he explained. "It's important to remember that even something as simple as walking from your car to your office is enough to burn off a few calories. Add in a walk to get the mail, a few new upstairs to make a delivery, and a few trips to the restroom and your 10,000 steps begin adding up."

"For long-term health benefits, continuous exercise is of value, but when your goal is to expend extra calories to make up for the extra calories you consume over the holidays, counting steps can be useful."

In addition to eating more than usual, he adds, people tend to be less active during the holidays. Either they skip exercise because they're too busy or they miss out on everyday activity when they take time off from work. Combine that with eating more high-calorie foods, and it's no surprise you put on weight.

"Most people aren't aware of the amount of activity they expend at work, and, since many of us take vacation during the holidays, we should make an effort to compensate for the decreased physical activity that happens when we stay home," said Corbin.

There are other strategies to keep your consumption in check. Don't eat anything you don't really like. Eat a

small meal before hitting the holiday party circuit. When faced with a party buffet, fill up on lower-calorie fare: crudites, fruit, broiled or grilled meats, and avoid anything creamy or fried. If you're the host, offer guests plenty of health alternatives.

Peer pressure

It's no fun to spend time with people who don't like you, but living with them can be downright unhealthy. A new study of college students finds that those who are well-liked by roommates are happier and have fewer physical problems than those who weren't as beloved by their roommates. Less-loved students reported more mental and physical problems, including low self-esteem, depression and illness.

"Self-esteem and other health factors were hurt if a student lived with someone who disliked him," said Brad Schmidt, the study's co-author

and a psychology professor at Ohio State University.

Researchers studied 143 undergraduates and their roommates. Students completed a questionnaire to measure their feelings of depression, aggression, anger and self-esteem, plus physical illness, alcohol and cigarette use. Their roommates filled out a questionnaire to determine how much esteem they had for the study subjects. Both students and roommates completed follow-up questionnaires three weeks later.

Students who were disliked by roommates were more depressed, angry, physically ill and had lower self-esteem than others. Their self-esteem also deteriorated over the three-week period between questionnaires.

"This relatively quick change in self-esteem suggests that a lack of social interaction can create immediate emotional distress and physical consequences," said Schmidt.

Exercise requires defying genetic history

By Jack Williams
Copley News Service

Left to our own devices — or vices, as the case may be — we would rather eat than exercise and sleep than sweat.

Call it the energy-conservation instinct, the path of least resistance, where the footprints of our hunter-gatherer heritage are permanently implanted in our DNA.

So the next time you declare your body a fat-free zone, honor tradition and allow a little margarine for error. Just don't slather it on too generously.

Some of those genes you're carrying around like excess baggage were designed more for surviving in the wild, where the next meal was a rumor, than in an industrialized society where our needs are virtually at our fingertips.

Without a refrigerator at their disposal, those resourceful ancestors stored what we would consider leftovers as fat, the better for lean times ahead.

As Jay Phelan, a researcher in evolutionary genetics and aging, puts it: "Our genes haven't had a chance to catch up to the world we're living in, with all the extra food."

That may not be the source of obesity, eating disorders or sloth — especially in a society where health advice is as abundant as exercise equipment — but it's a likely contributor.

Phelan, a UCLA biology professor, collaborated with fellow scholar Terry Burnham in writing "Mean Genes," Perseus Publishing, which examines, among other things, why we're sometimes more prone to use a remote control than self-control.

In a genetic context, survival of the fittest translates to survival of the hunter-gatherers who moved when they had to and ate whenever they could.

The irony is that extra food in the wild increases longevity. In our society, it limits it. "But our ancestors were expending calories to get food, and, too often, we don't," said Phelan, who has a doctorate in biology.

That genetic component, however valid, has been overcome by generations of health-conscious individuals who have learned not to trust their instincts even as they acknowledge them. In a sense, they've reinvented themselves.

For Phelan and Burnham, whose doctorate is in economics, willpower isn't enough. There has to be a worthy goal involved — a means to an end that can neutralize what some have labeled our laziness gene.

Burnham, who studied at San Diego State before earning his doctorate from Harvard, went without a car

for a while, so he was forced to ride his bike. He also discovered that team sports were a better exercise option than the gym.

"Teammates are counting on you," he said. "I don't think of it as a workout. I just go. Exercise is part of my transportation and part of my social life."

Burnham took a trip back in time in researching his book, studying wild chimpanzees in the rain forest of Uganda and visiting primitive societies where food is a luxury.

"I saw one black woman running in Uganda," he said. "As it turned out, she was from Switzerland. No Ugandan jog. There's no way they can

understand an eating disorder like bulimia. Their problem is exactly the opposite — they're hungry all the time."

Phelan once tamed his mean genes on a long-distance flight by smearing a small packet of mayonnaise on the brownies provided on his airline meal. Instead of being tempted, he was repulsed.

Now he dreads the day when a Krispy Kreme doughnut shop — there are nearly 150 of them nationwide — could be within sniffing distance of his environment.

And so are we if we live in those primal instincts too often.

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SAFETY FOR CHILDREN WITH EPILEPSY

There are several safety considerations for children with epilepsy. Avoid top bunk or high beds. A life vest is a good idea whenever the child is near water. They should not swim alone. Contact sports are permissible when epilepsy is controlled. Older children who bathe themselves should take showers to decrease the risk of drowning. Review first aid steps with other caregivers in the event of a seizure. First aid involves protecting the head from dangerous objects, keeping the head safe, loosening shirt collars, and turning the child on his side to keep airways clear. Do not put anything into the mouth.

At NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SERVICES, we are committed to giving parents and their children the time and consideration they deserve. We won't rush you through appointments, but will focus on the issues that matter to you, and work closely with you to find viable solutions. To schedule a consultation to discuss your parenting concerns regarding your child's health, development, or behavior, please call 908-687-3300. You'll find our offices conveniently located at 2780 Morris Avenue, Suite 2A in Union. Most major insurance plans accepted.

Photo: Try to avoid supervising children with epilepsy. They can develop a sense of independence.

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SUMMIT'S PREMIER ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNITY

Summit - Spring Meadows Summit, an assisted living community, managed by Capitol Senior Living Inc., is now open.

Spring Meadows is a unique community that accommodates senior adults and enables them to maintain a fulfilling lifestyle with the helping hand of caring staff.

At **Spring Meadows**, residents may select from studio and one-bedroom apartments. For one monthly fee, residents at **Spring Meadows** are provided with spacious and cheerful living accommodations, three meals daily in the community's elegant dining room, and activity programs coordinated by a full time activities director. Scheduled transportation is provided for doctor appointments, entertainment and shopping.

Apartments feature a kitchenette and wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the living and bedroom areas. Weekly laundry and housekeeping services also are provided.

All utilities are included in the monthly fee, except personal telephone. Residents enjoy the use of the common areas featuring the library with cafe, fitness center, wellness center, computer and media room, activities room, living room with fireplace, club/TV room, arts and craft studio, and beauty/barber shop.

A professionally trained nursing staff will be on duty 24 hours per day to assist residents in all aspects of daily living. Routine health assessments will be made for each resident.

Spring Meadows also offers respite care apartments for short term stays when an elder adult's family needs time away to "recharge their batteries." Respite care stays include all of the community's amenities.

Spring Meadows Summit is located at 41 Springfield Avenue in Summit, adjacent to scenic Briant Park. Tours of model apartments can be made Monday through Sunday.

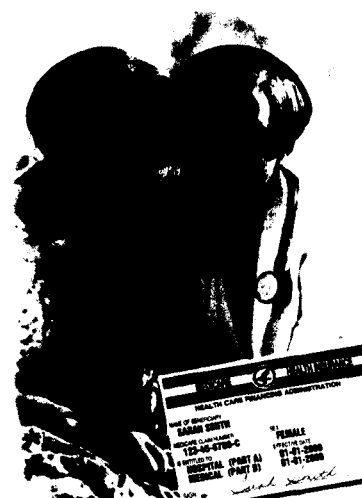
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Free Report

Stepping Out is a weekly calendar designed to guide our readers to the many arts and entertainment events in the Union County area. The calendar is open to all artists and organizations in the Union County area. To place your free listing, send information to Arts and Entertainment Editor Bill Van Sant, Worrall Community Newspapers, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083

Stepping Out

ART SHOWS

SUMMIT FRAME AND ART will exhibit the artwork of Geoffrey Mawby through the holiday season.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Sundays and 7 p.m. The gallery is located at 465 Springfield Ave. in Summit. For information, call (908) 232-8655.

OUR VIEW: A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE on life in Union County, a traveling exhibit sponsored by Community Arts Unlimited, features the work of 10 adults with developmental disabilities.

The exhibit will tour the county through Saturday Community Arts Institute, 88 W. Grand St., Elizabeth.

For information on the reception call (908) 354-3040 ext. 304.

ARTIST RON HEDRICK will have his work on exhibit at Evelyn Dunn's Gallery in Westfield.

Gallery hours are Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and by appointment. The gallery is located at 549 South Ave., Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-0412.

ART FOR GIFT-GIVING, an exhibit of 17 artists work by the Westfield Art Association, will be on display at the Westfield Art Gallery through Saturday.

Gallery hours are Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Sundays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Westfield Art Gallery is located at 150 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 769-9696.

SMALL WORKS by members of the Westfield Art Association will be on exhibit through Dec. 30 at the Town Book Store of Westfield.

Hours are Mondays and Tuesdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesdays through Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 5 p.m. The Town Book Store is located at 255 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call the store at (908) 233-3535.

CHRISTMAS MINIATURES will be on exhibit at the Swan Galleries in Plainfield through Dec. 31.

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

PHOTOGRAPHER ANNE ROSS will have her work exhibited throughout the Wisner House at the Reeves-Reed Arboretum in Summit through December.

The Reeves-Reed Arboretum is located at 155 Hobart Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 273-8787.

NEW OUTLOOKS: "The NJCVA Faculty Exhibition" will be on display at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Jan. 3.

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

CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE, works from the Merck 2000 Union County Juried Art Show, will be on exhibit at the Freeholders' Gallery on the sixth floor of the Union County Administration Building in Elizabeth through Jan. 12.

Gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, as well as Thursday evenings. Admission is free. The Union County Administration Building is located at Elizabeth Plaza at Broadway Avenue in Elizabeth. For information, call (908) 558-2550.

RECENT WORKS by artist William C. Sturm will be on exhibit at the Lee Malamut Art Gallery in Union Public Library through Jan. 17.

Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; and Fridays and Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Union Library is located at 1980 Morris Ave., Union. For information, call (908) 851-5450.

NEW JERSEY PHOTOGRAPHY FORUM sixth annual Juried Show will be on exhibit at Children's Specialized Hospital during the months of December and January.

Exhibit hours are 8:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily. CSH is located at 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

3 WOMEN: ELEMENTS OF THE ABSTRACT will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Jan. 10 through Feb. 2. An opening reception will take place Jan. 10 from 1 to 4 p.m.

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

THE BOUND BROOK CYCLE by artist David Ambrose will be on exhibit at the Tomasulo Gallery in the Kenneth McKay Library on the Cranford cam-

pus of Union County College Jan. 19 through Feb. 22. An opening reception will take place Jan. 19 from 7 to 9 p.m. Gallery hours are Mondays to Thursdays and Saturdays, 1 to 4 p.m., and Tuesdays to Thursdays evenings from 5 to 9 p.m. UCC's Cranford campus is located at 1033 Springfield Ave., Cranford. For information, call (908) 709-7155.

AUDITIONS

AUDITIONS for 7th- to 12th-graders for "Gadsby" by John Michael Tebbel and Stephen Schwartz will be conducted Jan. 6 at 3 p.m. at the First Congregational Church of Westfield, 125 Elm St. and Jan. 13 at 3 p.m. at the United Church of Christ, Congregational, 220 W. 7th St. in Plainfield. The show runs March 17 to 25. For information, call the Westfield church at (908) 232-0494 or the Plainfield church at (908) 756-8658.

NEW JERSEY INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA is accepting applications and will conduct auditions for instrumentalists for the 2000-01 season. For information, call (908) 709-0084 or (609) 208-0029.

WESTFIELD GLEE CLUB will welcome student and adult male singers for its 76th season. The Glee Club rehearses Mondays from 8 to 10 p.m. in the choir room of the Westfield Presbyterian Church, Broad Street and Mountain Avenue in Westfield. For information, call (908) 232-0673.

BOOKS

THE WOMEN'S READING GROUP at Barnes and Noble in Clark will meet Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the last Wednesday of each month to read Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

BOOKS BY WOMEN, ABOUT WOMEN, a book-discussion group at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, will meet Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. The group meets the first Wednesday of each month. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

JANE AUSTEN MYSTERY SERIES Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 11 at 7:30 p.m. The group will meet the second Thursday of each month through January to discuss books by Stephanie Barron, skipping the month of December. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 19 at 7:30 p.m. The group led by Kevin Muller, will meet the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play out loud. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

JEWISH BOOK LOVERS will meet at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. The group meets monthly. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

CLASSES

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for the fall session of its Music Studio. Lessons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginning through advanced classes. The fall session begins in early September and lasts 15 weeks. Additional courses include art classes for children and toddlers, the Westfield Fencing Club and the Drawing Workshop. Classes take place at 150-152 E. Broad St., Westfield. For information, call (908) 789-9696.

WESTFIELD YOUNG ARTISTS' COOPERATIVE will offer professional classes in the performing arts.

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

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

LINDEN ART ASSOCIATION will offer classes in visual arts in five-week segments on Wednesday evenings. The sessions are as follows:

- Jan. 3 and 10 — already in progress
- Jan. 17, 24 and 31, and Feb. 17 and 14
- Feb. 21 and 28, and March 7, 14 and 21
- March 28, and April 4, 11, 18 and 25
- May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30

Classes meet at the Sunnyside Recreation Center, Melrose Terrace at Orchard Terrace. For information, call (908) 486-1408.

MUSIC FOR CHILDREN in Westfield offers various music classes to children between the ages of 10 months and 8 years old. For information on class offerings or to reserve a space at either open house, call (908) 232-4881.

CONCERTS

BARNES AND NOBLE in Clark will present musical performances throughout the winter. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, including a concert schedule, call (732) 574-1818.

MUSIC IN THE CAFE in Barnes and Noble in Springfield will feature free musical performances in the coming weeks. All concerts will take place in the coffee lounge area of the store from 8 to 10 p.m. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West, Springfield. For information, call (973) 376-8544.

DANCE

THE NUTCRACKER, performed by The New Jersey Ballet, will be presented by the Paper Mill Playhouse in Milburn Friday to Dec. 27. Tickets are \$18 to \$38. Performances are as follows:

- Friday, 8 p.m.
- Saturday, 3 and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 1 and 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, 6 p.m.
- Today, 6 p.m.
- Friday, 3 and 7 p.m.
- Saturday, 3 and 7 p.m.
- Sunday, 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, 1 and 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, 1 p.m.

The Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Milburn. For information, call 376-4343.

SUMMIT FOLK DANCERS will meet Friday at 7:30 p.m. at The Connection in Summit. Fee is \$2. For information, call (973) 467-8278.

DISCUSSION

THE EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITERS CIRCLE will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 8 at 7:30 p.m. The Writers Circle meets the second Monday of every month and new members are always welcome. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

FILM

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch in the coming weeks. All films begin at 10 a.m.

The Main Branch of the Elizabeth Public Library is located at 11 S. Broad St. For information, call (908) 354-6060.

KIDS

UNION RECREATION Department will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation building, 1120 Commerce Ave., Union from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For information, call 964-4829.

POETRY

POETRY OUT LOUD, a creative forum for poets, will meet at Barnes and Noble in Springfield. Barnes and Noble is located at 240 Route 22 West in Springfield. For information, including meeting date and time, call (973) 376-8544.

OPEN MIKE POETRY NIGHT will take place at Barnes and Noble in Clark Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. Open Mike Poetry Night is sponsored the second Sunday of every month in the Music Department. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Rantian Road, Clark. For information, call (732) 574-1818.

RADIO

TRI-COUNTY RADIO ASSOCIATION will meet at the Willow Grove Presbyterian Church on Old Rantian Road in Scotch Plains. The group meets at 8 p.m. the first and third Mondays of every month. For information, call (908) 241-5758.

SINGLES

INTERFAITH SINGLES, for single adults older than 45 years old, will meet every Sunday from 9 to 10:30 a.m. for discussion and continental breakfast at the First Baptist Church, 170 Elm St. in Westfield. Donation is \$2. For information, call (908) 889-5269 or (908) 889-4751.

THEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE will continue the 2000-01 season with "Art" by Yasmina Reza, directed by and starring Judd Hirsch. The show runs Jan. 3 through Feb. 4 at the theater on Brookside Drive in Milburn.

Evening performances are Wednesdays to Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m. Matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., and Saturdays at 2:30 p.m.

Special performances are audio-described performances Feb. 1 at 2 p.m., Feb. 3 at 2:30 p.m. and Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m., each with a sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain; and a sign-interpreted performance Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$37 to \$60. For information, call (973) 376-4433, or buy tickets with Visa, MasterCard or Discover at www.papermill.org.

VARIETY

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

Also appearing will be Not in That Order, Friday.

The Back Porch is located at 1505 Main St. in Rahway. For information, call (732) 381-6455.

CROSSROADS in Garwood presents a series of jazz, blues and comedy concerts. Every Sunday is Comedy Night at 7:30 p.m. Every Tuesday is the Jazz Jam. Every Wednesday is The Juggling Sons. Every Thursday, ladies drink half-price.

Today: Day One
Friday: Budoo
Saturday: Everlong
Wednesday: Rooster
Dec. 28: Salygraha Persun and Hollywood

Dec. 29: Juggling Sons
Dec. 30: Funky Black Widows
Dec. 31: Grant Green Jr. — open until 5 a.m., call for information.

Crossroads is located at 78 North Ave. in Garwood. For information, call (908) 232-5666.

EAT TO THE BEAT Caffehouse in Rahway will feature appearances by musical artists during December.

Eat to the Beat Caffehouse is located at 1465 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of East Cherry Street. For information, or to sign up for Open Mike Night, call (732) 381-0505.

FLYNN'S IRISH PUB and Steakhouse in Rahway will present entertainment

Picture the whole family enjoying special events on video, and you may see why home movies can be a fun way to preserve the past. The next time family and friends come together, try making the moment last by capturing it on film.

This holiday season, following a few simple steps, the camera experts at JVC Company of America, might help turn your home movies into blockbuster events.

Change camera angles. Different angles can dramatically change the scene. Shooting up at the scene, for example, causes the subject to appear larger, while shooting down can make objects seem smaller than they actually are.

Zoom away from distractions. Zooming in on a subject can change the entire situation of a scene. The zoom feature on your camera can help keep the audience's attention where you want it.

Use the camera's features. JVC National Product Specialist, Allan Holland, suggests using built-in faders and wipes that are included on many video cameras for an easy way to upgrade production quality. This might give your home video a more professional appearance.

Avoid the shakes. When filming,

at various times throughout December. Flynn's Irish Pub is located at 1462 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-you-can-eat dinner from 5 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$29.95 and reservations are required. The Hilltop Cafe and Grill is located at 447 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call (908) 277-0220.

TAVERN IN THE PARK in Roselle Park will present Teddy Hialek in "An Evening of Frank Sinatra" Saturdays at 9 p.m. Tavern in the Park is located at 147 Westfield Ave., Roselle Park. For information, call (908) 241-7400.

VAN GOGH'S EAR CAFE in Union will present a series of musical events in "Acoustic Tuesday," with open mike from 8 to 9 p.m. for folk singers, poets and comedians, followed by a featured folk performer. Open mike participants sign up at 7:30 p.m., and get 10 minutes at the microphone. Jazz and blues are featured Sundays at 8 p.m. Cover charge is \$3 for all Sunday concerts.

Van Gogh's Ear is located at 1017 Stuyvesant Ave. in Union Center. For information, call (908) 810-1844.

THE WAITING ROOM in Rahway will present musical entertainment during December. Every Wednesday night is Open Mike Night.

The Waiting Room is located at 1431 Irving St. in Rahway at the corner of Lewis Street. For information, call (732) 815-1042.

THE WASHINGTON AVENUE PUB in Linden will present karaoke and the 100-Proof Duo Band every Saturday night. In addition, Monday features a Football Food Specials, and Thursday is Ladies Night. The Washington Avenue Pub is located at 704 Washington Ave. in Linden. For information, call (908) 925-3707.

Tips are offered to help make home videos blockbuster films

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Use the camera's features. JVC National Product Specialist, Allan Holland, suggests using built-in faders and wipes that are included on many video cameras for an easy way to upgrade production quality. This might give your home video a more professional appearance.

Avoid the shakes. When filming,

it's a good idea to use a tripod or the picture stabilizer option that is available on many video cameras. A shaky camera can detract from the action of your film.

Be a part of the action. If your camera has an LCD monitor, using it while shooting a scene can help the videographer enjoy the event more. In addition, the rotating monitor can make it easier to videotape infants and toddlers from their eye level.

Be prepared. It's a good idea to have extra videotapes and charged batteries set aside prior to taping an important event.

Shed new light on a situation. If your subject is standing in front of bright lights, serving to darken the shot, open the iris of the camera to allow more light to enter the lens. Also, some cameras feature a "back lit" switch which can be used to help lighten up a situation.

Use your camera. Keeping a video camera on the top shelf of the closet does not guarantee that life's precious event will be caught on tape. Try to remember to use your camera as often as possible.

For more information on JVC's full line of video cameras, visit www.jvc.com or call (800) 252-3722.

Exhibit will take a look at 3 women's abstract visions

The gallery at The Arts Guild of Rahway will present "3 Women: Elements of the Abstract" from Jan. 10 to Feb. 2, featuring work by Judy Lyons-Schneider, Marjorie DeAngelo and Miriam Stern. There will be a reception with the artists from 1 to 4 p.m. Jan. 14. Admission is free.

Lyons-Schneider is a painter, printmaker and mixed media artist. She utilizes exploratory imagery with her camera; the telephoto lens allows her to zoom in on objects she can incorporate into her work. Her Polaroid image and emulsion transfer pieces occur as a result of her explorations with image and various mixed media. The unpredictability of the transfer technique has great appeal to Lyons-Schneider, allowing free rein to imagination and an opportunity to develop a dialogue with her work by the viewer. These works, often with unusual juxtaposition of images, are without a specific narrative but include numerous visual clues with which the viewer may connect. Pieces in this exhibit utilize photographs taken in Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal, Thailand, Papua New Guinea, West Africa, Egypt, Vermont and Staten Island.

Stern uses her computer to manipulate her photographs and transform them into something other than the obvious image. These transferred computer images become the basis for her monotypes, but the artistic process and aesthetic of handwork done by the artist would be lost if the computer were the only implement used. It is the hands-on print making process which she finds to be a new way of creating a unique image from her computer-manipulated images. The elements of spontaneity and surprise as well as the painterly touch are what make this combination of techniques and media so exciting for her.

DeAngelo does the major portion of her photography outdoors. She does her cropping in the camera whenever possible, and uses focus, color and close-ups to achieve different effects and give impact to the photographs.

She shows primarily in 35mm color format. She seldom uses filters or teleconverters, but uses soft focus to give her pieces the appearance of a painting. Due to the unusual nature of her abstracts, some viewers think they have been digitally altered. However, none of the work in this exhibit has been changed on the computer.

To achieve her unique abstract compositions, DeAngelo extracts from the environment minute details of color, texture, line and pattern. They are difficult to identify in their isolation, yet they become powerful images and stand on their own bold statements of our surroundings.

Gallery hours are Wednesdays, Friday and Saturday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Thursday, 1 to 3 and 5 to 7 p.m., or by appointment. For information, call (732) 381-7511.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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This piece by artist David Ambrose will be included in "The Bound Brook Cycle," the exhibit his work which opens at the Tomasulo Gallery in the MacKay Library on Union County College's Cranford campus Jan. 19. For information, see the Art Shows' listing on this page, or the story on Page B5.

HOROSCOPE

For Dec. 25 to Dec. 31
ARIES (March 21-April 19): The climb up the career ladder has been difficult, but worth every ounce of the effort. Sit back now and enjoy the success and recognition you've earned.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can have just about anything you want if you are willing to work hard to achieve it. Stop and set your goals for the coming year.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Travel with a partner or mate translates into fun and adventures this week. Watch out for extra expense or loss from a speculative venture.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): In a tug of war over finances with a joint partner, he who is the most practical wins. Get your budget or monetary game plan in order.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Finish up a time-consuming assignment and make room for social activities. Explore a special art or cultural exhibit at your local library or museum.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): An unexpected romantic encounter is like a dream come true. Throw caution to the wind, and follow your heart. You deserve to be happy.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Express your thoughts and feelings without fear or reservation. A financial deal finally goes through. Thank your money manager or assistant.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Avoid an unnecessary misunderstanding.

The view from outside is sometimes the clearer one

Perhaps the most famous outsider in the arts is the Dutch painter of two centuries ago, Vincent Van Gogh. Although exhibitions of his paintings are wildly successful these days, during his lifetime he was ignored in his painful, lonely life of almost continuous creativity.

These facts are not new and they are hardly unknown, but the current exhibition of Van Gogh's portraits at the Philadelphia Museum reestablish to us afresh the marvelous genius of this tortured and neglected giant of Dutch and French painting and our modern receptivity of his perceptions.

Being a reprobate outside is hardly contradictory to the exercise of genius, as the off-Broadway play "Cobb" elucidates. Ty Cobb was a racist and a violent man, which makes him to us an unpleasant, even repulsive outsider to society's norms, but he was also among the greatest athletes of the 20th century, and perhaps its first professional. In the play "Cobb," this Hall of Fame baseball player is presented in three simultaneous views: as the young, rising star, as the wheeling and dealing businessman capitalizing on his success and fame, and as the old man trying to protect his image. Women into this highly challenging play is an "everyman" black ball player who reminds us of Ty Cobb's and his era's prejudice and injustice to the black outsiders of the American way of life.

Two of the books on the *New York Times* Best Books of the Year list deal with outsiders of their own making: an adolescent Hamlet in John Updike's "Gertrude and Harold," unmindful of the lives or feelings of those who love him while he upsets

you are going to need them. Friends come to you with problems, stories or concerns all beginning to be heard.

If your birthday is this week, learning tops your list of things to do during the coming year. Your mind operates like a sponge, soaking up information as quickly as it can be presented. You may choose a more traditional route for expanding your mental horizons, like going back to school for graduate studies. Think of new and unusual ways that you can increase your income. There's a jack pot idea within your reach just waiting for you to cash in.

Also born this week: Rod Serling, Steve Allen, Cokie Roberts, Edgar Winter, Andrew Johnson, Tiger Woods and Val Kilmer.

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

apple carts with his willfulness, and a black professor in Phillip Roth's "The Human Stain," passing for white who is ostracized by the academic community on a phony charge of racism and then victimized by a vicious anti-Semite. These two books remind me that two of the greatest characters of the novel are each the ultimate outsider: the murderer and intellectual Roskolnikov in the Russian "Crime and Punishment" and the existential Mersault in the French "The Stranger."

Stanley Tucci's off-beat New York City film, "Joe Gould's Mystery," about a New Yorker writer and philosopher man of the streets is interestingly enough about two outsiders. The obvious one is the unattached and lithe erudite drifting within the city, Joe Gould, who is played wildly but under tight control by Ian Holm, while the other is the searching, family-man, southern journalist, kept under raps by Mr. Tucci.

The sociologist David Reisman wrote several generations ago that we in the urbanized, post World War west, are The Lonely Crowd. Perhaps these exquisite evidences of our cultural taste are evidences of our dissatisfaction, or of our empathy for the outsider.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit.

Deadline approaches in art contest for children

Arts and Kids has announced that \$38,000 in prizes and scholarships will be awarded this year in its annual Art Competition.

Students from the Union County area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of more than 115 prizes.

The deadline for the contest is Dec. 31, 2000. The contest is open to everyone 17 years old and younger and entry is free.

"Everyone will enjoy an equal chance of winning the contest since entrants will be judged using age-appropriate standards," stated Contest Director Deirdra Hamp. "Many of the artists who enter the contest will gain national recognition through the publication of their artwork."

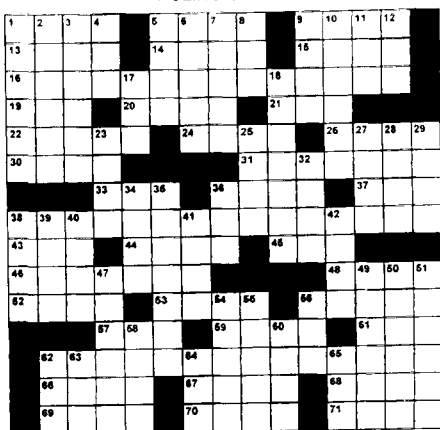
In addition to the 115 scholarships and prizes totaling \$38,000 that will

be awarded to young artists, a \$1,000 grant will be awarded to the schools of the five finalists for art education or to provide supplies or art-related technology.

To enter, send one original work of art, any style and any medium. All entries must include the child's name, address and age on the back. Artwork should be sent to: Arts and Kids, Suite 101-2112, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2000. Artwork cannot be returned.

Arts and Kids in an organization dedicated to bringing the work of young artists to the public's attention. In the last 10 years, they have awarded more than \$100,000 to talented artists, most of whom have never before entered — or expected to win — any type of artistic competition. The web site can be visited at www.ArtsandKids.com.

RULING CLASS



ACROSS

- 1 Commemorative
- 5 Berg opera
- 9 Church area
- 13 Chief Norse god
- 14 The finish
- 15 Siree
- 16 Wilhelm Gullberg novel
- 19 Before, to plants
- 20 Busy
- 21 Author name
- 22 Happier again
- 24 Branch
- 26 Campus figure
- 30 Italian ink-keeper
- 31 On in years
- 33 Bailey of Grant
- 36 Words of comprehension
- 37 Peer Gynt's mother
- 38 O'Neill drama
- 43 Attention
- 44 Cow's offering
- 45 Uncle
- 46 Issue from
- 48 See 10 Down
- 52 Oscar — Benji
- 53 In the center of
- 56 Cubic meter
- 57 Vitality
- 59 Mighty — Rose
- 61 A third of a movie dog
- 62 Robert Penn Warren novel
- 66 Sly look
- 67 Urn
- 68 Headless cabbage
- 69 Sit
- 70 —, sow, so shall ye
- 71 Meet Me — Louis

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DOWN

- 1 Ravel favorite
- 2 Really likes
- 3 Emulate Kazan
- 4 Piernant
- 5 Brush elevator
- 6 "Woe — Dark"
- 7 Actress Christine
- 8 Sail Lake City player
- 9 In a competent manner
- 10 With 48 Across
- 11 Understand
- 12 Begley and Sullivan

- 17 Scull
- 18 Tale teller
- 23 African river
- 25 — for the Bible tells
- 27 Algerian port
- 28 I no
- 29 Changes the color
- 32 — u
- 34 Austen novel
- 35 Eulogizing inscription
- 36 Trouble
- 38 — off rate
- 39 Harsh part
- 40 Of an age
- 41 Kind of school abbr
- 42 Skip
- 47 Italian port
- 49 Bach, for one
- 50 Bay windows
- 51 Milk curdler
- 54 Ms. Chase, et al
- 55 Judith Krantz's "Princess —"
- 56 Droup
- 58 French infinitive
- 60 Joint
- 62 Matheroff, e.g
- 63 Composer Debises
- 64 A Gabor
- 65 Enjoy the slopes

See ANSWERS on Page B14

County web site offers a 'cultural connection'

The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders has announced the August edition of the Union County Calendar of Events, "Cultural Connections," is available on the county's website.

"The Cultural Connections Calendar is an instant link to Union County's broad range of artistic, musical, educational and historical programs," said Freeholder Mary P. Ruotolo, liaison to the Cultural and Heritage Programs Advisory Board. "The website not only highlights our talented county organizations and individuals, but also makes it easy to plan ahead so you don't miss any special events."

Union County is rich in culture, history and arts activities. The calendar reflects this broad spectrum with a variety of events, from concerts to lectures, children's programs to theatrical performances and dance.

To access the Union County website, type in www.unioncounty.org. When the homepage is downloaded, notice the department listings on the left side of the page. Click on "Calendar of Events" and then "Cultural Connections Calendar."

For more information on the Calendar of Events or other services of the division, call (908) 558-2550; send e-mail to acem@unioncounty.org; or contact the Union County Division of Cultural and Heritage Affairs, 633 Pearl St., Elizabeth, NJ 07202.

REUNIONS

- Union High School, all classes, will take part in a reunion beginning with luncheon Feb. 3, 2001 in Kissimmee, Fla. For information, contact Jack Jordan, class of '36 at (516) 966-8585 or john881@webtv.net; John or Ellie Truhe, class of '45, at (609) 698-3621 or johnardme@aol.com; Dick Walter, class of '48, at (561) 395-3274 or dick1150@aol.com; or Tom Ryan, class of '51, at (561) 483-7494 or tartje@aol.com.
- Hillside High School's Florida Alumni Reunion will take place Feb. 25, 2001 at noon at the Holiday Inn Catalina, 1601 N. Congress Ave., Boynton Beach, Fla. Admission, through advance registration only, is \$35 per person. For information, contact Marvin Kaleky at 466 Briarwood Circle, Hollywood, FL 33024, or call him at home at (954) 967-0199 or at work at (954) 967-8500. He may be faxed at (954) 967-0890 or contacted via e-mail at hhaafa@yahoo.com or emkay18@yahoo.com.
- Union High School Class of 1991 will conduct its 10th reunion April 21, 2001. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Class of 1956 will conduct its 45th reunion May 5, 2001, at the Embassy Suites in Piscataway. For information, write to Class of '56 Reunion Committee, 26 Orms Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854.
- Union High School Class of 1966 will conduct its 35th reunion May 5, 2001 at the Woodbridge Hilton. For information, call (908) 964-5477 or send e-mail to jwsp@aol.com.
- Summit High School Class of 1981 will conduct its 20th reunion

- July 21, 2001. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Union High School Class of 1951 will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 6, 2001. For information, contact Reunions Unlimited Inc. at (732) 617-1000.
- Linden High School Class of 1990 is seeking class members for an upcoming 10th reunion. Members of this class are asked to send name, address and phone number to Linden High School, Class of 1990, P.O. Box 1990, Linden, NJ 07036, or send e-mail to lhs1990-rc@yahoo.com.

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- Agape Family Worship Center <http://www.agapecenter.org>
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- Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce <http://www.commerce.com>
- Broad National Bank <http://www.broad-national-bank.com>
- Camp Horizons <http://www.camphorizons.com>
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- Essex County Clerk <http://www.essexclerk.com>
- Eye Care Center of NJ <http://www.eyecare.com>
- First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange <http://www.community.nj.com/firstnight-some>
- Forest Hill Properties <http://www.rent.net/direct/foresthillproperties>
- Grand Sanitation <http://www.grandsanitation.com>
- Holy Cross Church <http://www.holycrossnj.org>
- Hospital Center of Orange <http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org>
- Mellemium Homes <http://www.mellemium.com>
- Mountainside Hospital <http://www.atlantic-health.org>
- NJ Avenue <http://www.njavenue.com>
- Nutley Pet Center <http://www.nutleypet.com>
- Prudential White Realty Co. <http://www.whiterelty.com>
- Rets Institute <http://www.rets-institute.com>
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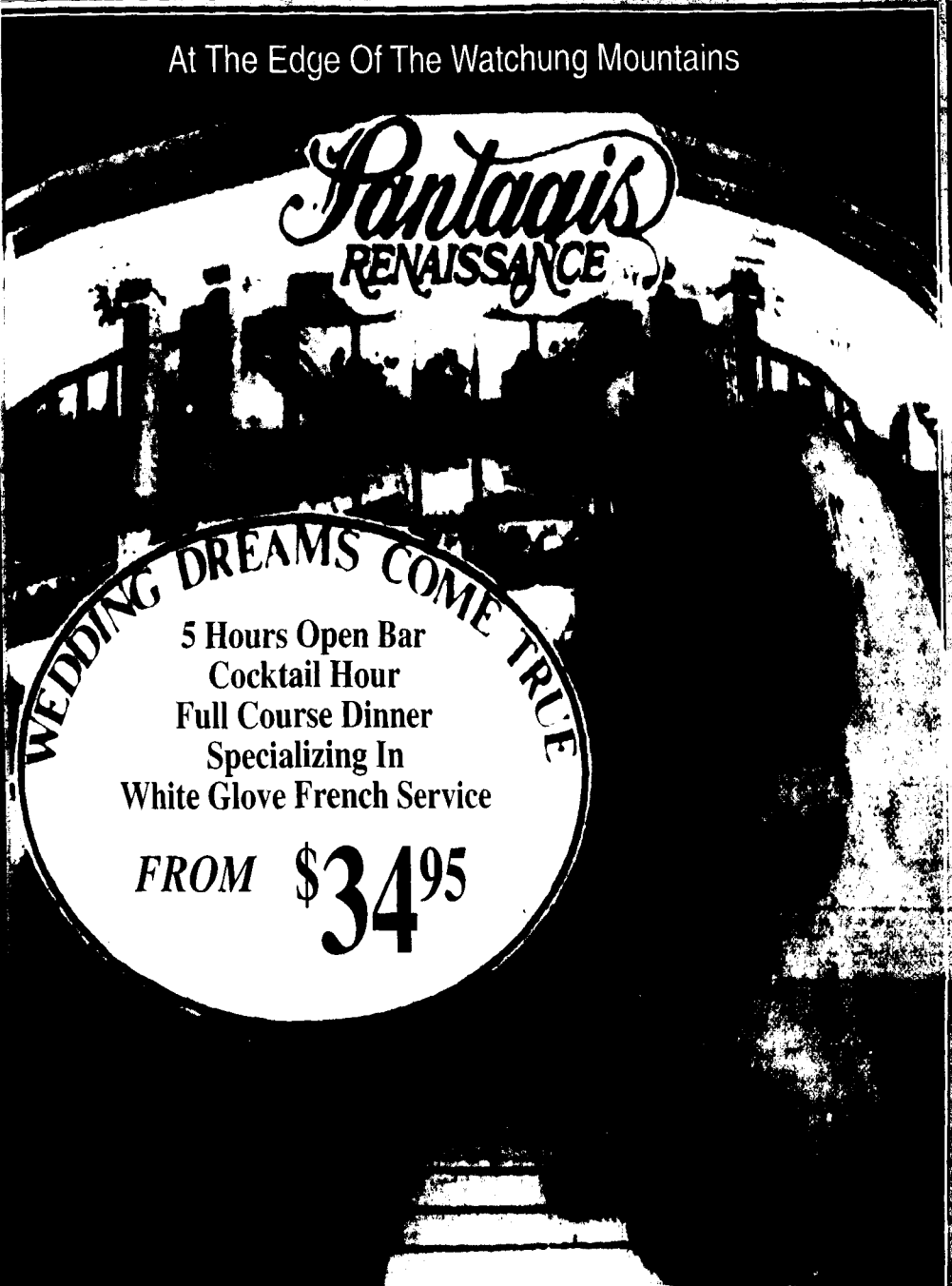
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MEDICAL ASSISTANT, full time West Orange MD office. Monday thru Friday. Knowledge of computers and medical billing helpful. Salary commensurate with experience. Fax resume 973-669-3835 or call 973-669-1111

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MYSTERY SHOPPERS needed in your area for retail and restaurant industries. Apply on the internet at www.secretopport.com

NANNY NEEDED Seeking loving & responsible nanny part time. Position available immediately. References & transportation needed. Call 973-313-0340

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PAYROLL ANALYST
 Runnels Specialized Hospital is currently seeking a full time person to manage electronic time and attendance for the Nursing Department. Ideal candidate will have payroll accounting experience and computer literacy. Union County residency required. Please send resume to the Director of Finance, Runnels Specialized Hospital, 40 Watchung Way, Berkeley Heights, NJ 07922. Fax 908-771-0376

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We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person to assemble (paste up) newspaper pages.
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British packaging company opening sales office in the Maplewood area seeks an experienced sales assistant/customer service representative to solely manage office and to assist USA Sales manager.

Position requires good rapport with customers, computer skills, independence and office management experience.
 Salary is commensurate with experience.

Please submit resume and salary history to:
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Walsh & Jenkins plc
One Exchange Place
Suite 1019
Jersey City, NJ 07302
Or fax to: (201) 309-3063

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We are a group of weekly newspapers with an office in Maplewood looking for a person with good typing skills. You will compose ads from advertising layouts, build editorial pages following page layouts. Along with all phases of the production department.
 Newspaper publishing and Macintosh experience helpful, but not required. Benefit plan with paid holidays. Call for an appointment.
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REAL ESTATE

TRANSACTIONS

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

Clark
 Peter D. and Kathryn B. Jacobi sold property at 217 East Lane to Harry and Victoria Decabo for \$225,000 on June 12.
 Joyce A. Furness sold property at 63 Stiemmer Drive to Ann M. O'Connell for \$380,000 on June 15.
 Anne P. Cierniecki sold property at 62 King St. to Peter and Mercuro L. Karam for \$272,000 on June 16.
 Joseph and Tara Varenelli sold property at 2 Terry Lane to Morroso Edmund and Stacyrm for \$180,000 on June 16.

Elizabeth
 Rui M. and Aderita Corcica sold property at 33 S. 5th St., to Jose and Maria Malave for \$224,540 on June 9.
 Jacqueline Espinoza sold property at 601 4th Ave., to Raul A. Chavarria for \$239,000 on June 9.
 Antonio Henriques sold property at 319 Magnolia Ave., to Jose L. Rosa for \$108,150 on June 9.
 Mika Props Inc. sold property at 236 Port Ave., to Brian Maliszewski for \$132,500 on June 9.
 Derose Viam sold property at 24 Jacques St., to Carlos and Bernard Q. Diaz for \$184,000 on June 12.
 Patrick and Camille Nocera sold property at 719 Van Buren Ave., to Alfredo and Maria Cunha for \$170,000 on June 12.
 Maryanne Garbowsky sold property at 641 Garden St., to Samuel Theramis for \$95,000 on June 13.
 Valentin and Martins A. Vieira sold property at 517 Livingston St., to Esteveo and Maria Vieira for \$102,000 on June 14.
 Curtis and Erminida M. Mervine sold property at 41 S. Westfield Road to Eileen Monzono for \$120,000 on June 14.
 Wilbur and Mary Volker sold property at 135 Summit Road to Kathleen M. Magnus for \$150,000 on June 14.
 Jose M. Airosa sold property at 1008 Julia St., to S and N Developers for \$155,000 on June 14.
 Solomon J. Salat sold property at 80 Palisade Road to Robert K. and Mary C. Jennings for \$196,500 on June 14.
 Walter R. and Maria Weidrick sold property at 110 Hillside Road to Lathley L. Wirkus for \$152,000 on June 15.

Linden
 Mary A. Mitrik sold property at 220 Morningside Ave., to Steven and Kathryn M. Hodquist for \$75,000 on June 8.
 John and Evelyn Thompson sold property at 1805 N. Stiles St., to Jenell Nieves for \$150,000 on June 8.
 Salvatore P. and Loretta Livolsi sold property at 1302 N. Stiles St., to Edward and Ewa Deregowski for \$165,000 on June 9.
 Hans A. and Lilo F. Schaeffer sold property at 14 Pallant Ave., to Thomas G. and Lorraine C. Krug for \$165,000 on June 9.
 Dominick R. and Toni M. Prino sold property at 56 Robbinwood Terrace, to Donna L. Fabrizio for \$164,000 on June 12.
 Edward J. and Barbara B. Doherty sold property at 422 Fairway Road to James M. and Rebecca E. West for \$165,000 on June 15.
 Stefan and Wanda Audinis sold property at 303 W. 16th St., to Joseph and Norma Egua for \$106,000 on June 15.
 Irene Kaplowitz sold property at 51 Birchwood Road to Bryan F. Anderson for \$180,000 on June 16.
 Ruth D. Slater sold property at 824 N. Stiles St., to Maria Costa for \$89,900 on June 16.
 Mary E. Damiano and J.M. Caccamo sold property at 425 Grant St., to Joaquin Clemente for \$118,000 on June 19.
 Joseph D. Qaribaldi sold property at 511 Clinton St., to Triple D. Const. Inc. for \$95,000 on June 20.
 Maxime Pearl sold property at 228 Springfield Road to Roman and Ewa Krupa for \$134,000 on June 20.
 Giraldo and Delia Garcia sold property at 210 Gesser St., to Ramseh and Sudesh Sood for \$212,000 on June 21.
 James A. and Henrietta Alston sold property at 1516 Hussa St., to Tiesha Reid for \$130,100 on June 22.
 Lillie Ashe sold property at 701 Carnegie St., to Alfred D. Hargrove for \$134,000 on June 22.
 Steven and Sandra Primich sold property at 119 Morristown Road to Daniel J. and Michelle Pitts II for \$165,000 on June 22.

691 Grove St., to Justin and Lisa McIntyre for \$152,700 on June 15.
 Charles and French B. Gural Jr. sold property at 599 Seminary Ave., to James G. and Susan Kauffmann for \$174,000 on June 15.
 NJ Affordable Homes Corp. sold property at 1019 Thorn St., to Cynthia and Minder C. Miner for \$159,000 on June 15.
 Charles and Christine M. Ribaldo sold property at 465 Madison Ave., to Patricia A. Kahn for \$170,000 on June 16.
 Willis H. and Joyce S. Gibbs sold property at 1319 Stockton St., to Osborne and Bridgette Bey for \$146,000 on June 16.
 Frances A. Driscoll sold property at 284 Wilson Ave., to Thomas F. and Patricia L. Bell for \$112,500 on June 16.
 John and Elizabeth M. Stancheck sold property at 7 Leonard Ave., to Bernadette Nandor for \$165,000 on June 20.
 Ronald Ondish sold property at 1456 Valley Road to Bobby and Claudette Forbes for \$160,000 on June 21.
 Bradford and Susan Paskewitz sold property at 2239 Allen St., to Olubunmi J. Adoola for \$152,000 on June 22.
 Carl J. and Sandra H. Stallone sold property at 347 Concord St., to Shaheed and Kelly A. Jackson for \$187,000 on June 22.
 Peter and Olga L. Schullinger sold property at 2099 Prospect St., to Srinivasan Rangarajan for \$146,000 on June 23.
 John R. Eshelman Jr. sold property at 1420 Church St., to Astrid Chica for \$110,000 on June 23.
 Kenneth G. Bogash sold property at 2070 Price St., to Glen M. and Sharon Hudson for \$125,000 on June 23.
 Vincent J. Caldaro sold property at 305 Sparrow Court to Frances Abrams for \$63,067 on June 26.

Cranford
 Margaret H. Crane sold property at 2 Mohican Place to Mark and Roberta Kleckner for \$224,000 on June 9.
 Michael R. Flynn and M.E. Flynn sold property at 171 N. Lehigh Ave., to Giampiero Pisano for \$165,000 on June 13.
 Michael and Jacqueline Plick sold property at 99 Bloomingdale Ave., to Robert and Conny J. Gossett for \$240,000 on June 13.
 Donna M. Deluca sold property at 89 Centennial Ave., to Ellen G. Corcoran for \$148,000 on June 13.
 Janet Randall sold property at 16 Doering Way to Michael and Jacquelyn Plick for \$336,000 on June 14.
 Ercolina Bufalini sold property at 214 South Avenue East to Michael and Allison Ricciardelli for \$100,000 on June 15.
 Maria G. Bufalini sold property at 212 South Avenue East to Michael and Allison Ricciardelli for \$185,000 on June 15.
 John and Linda Helmske sold property at 410 Elm St., to Edward S. and Andrea M. Baker for \$225,000 on June 15.
 David N. and Mary R. Brown sold property at 211 Columbia Ave., to James E. and Diane K. Sanders for \$233,000 on June 15.
 Ann Mickelson sold property at 38 Roger Ave., to Nadav D. and Amy M. Kaufman for \$250,000 on June 19.
 Ramkumar and Hemwati Panhani sold property at 128 Benjamin St., to Vincent and Antonina Frenzozoli for \$235,000 on June 20.
 Vincent E. Delgado sold property at 94 Winans Ave., to Douglas and Susan Haussein for \$36,725 on June 22.
 Katherine A. Pender sold property at 210 Arbor St., to Francis D. and Margaret E. Nock for \$268,900 on June 22.
 Louis J. and Helen L. Moran sold property at 1 Doering Way to Katherine A. Calabretta for \$350,000 on June 22.
 Eleanor Remo sold property at 9 Georgia St., to Leslie Somillon for \$238,000 on June 23.
 Thomas Nakashima sold property at 37 Lewis St., to Ronald and Lourdes P. Nakashima for \$165,000 on June 23.

Hillside
 Edward D. Pearce sold property at 1837 Springfield Ave., to Petii and Renna Inv. Co. LLC for \$70,000 on June 19.
 Johnnie L. Lawrence sold property at 1474 Compton Terrace to Anthony Hatcher for \$110,000 on June 23.
 David and Maria Rodriguez sold property at 532 McMichael Place to Judy C. Downey for \$137,000 on June 23.
 Bairrada Liberty Const. Co. sold property at 518 Harvard Ave., to Victor Garzon for \$177,000 on June 23.
 David A. and Tatiana A. McIntosh sold property at 423 Leo St., to Edward G. and Frances Nichols for \$96,000 on June 26.
 Randolph and Norma Gordon sold property at 20 Eastern Pkwy., to Randolph S. and Frances D. Murray for \$165,000 on June 29.
 Michael and Jacqueline Johnson sold property at 73 Wolf Place to Stefania Leverett for \$181,000 on June 29.
 Joe L. and Alice F. Tarlton sold property at 284 Florence Ave., to Rodney H. and Kelly A. Gilyard for \$215,000 on June 30.
 Thomas A. Devansy sold property at 1007 Westminster Ave., to Emmett Lewis for \$150,000 on June 30.

Mountainside
 Michael D. and Christine W. Cassu sold property at 548 Woodland Ave., to Rui M. Decampas for \$235,000 on June 16.
 Paul E. and Eleanor McMahon sold property at 316 New Providence Road to Anthony B. and Linda Minner Jr. for \$371,000 on June 23.
 James B. and Cheryl A.P. Fine sold property at 1540 Long Meadow to Richard S. Schkolnick for \$429,000 on June 24.
 John J. and Diane Olock Jr. sold property at 1137 Sawmill Road to Stephen F. and Nina M. Colona for \$389,900 on June 26.
 Alfred and Eitriche G. Stiefel sold property at 415 Ackerman St., to James B. and Cheryl A. Fine for \$586,000 on June 27.

Roselle
 Anna Ferio sold property at 568 Trinity Place to Patricia J. Melvin for \$126,500 on June 14.
 Kevin M. and Karen Wetherell sold property at 727 Wood Ave., to Marie F. Berger for \$130,000 on June 15.
 Hermine Graber sold property at 447 E. 5th Ave., to Curtis L. and Andrea Perkins for \$135,000 on June 15.
 Vera H. Nies sold property at 447 E. 3rd Ave., to Olga L. Cano for \$127,500 on June 22.
 Victor and Theresa Huljak sold property at 734 Baltimore Ave., to Eugenio A. Colon for \$135,900 on June 23.
 Mark N. and Yaecko Knaus sold property at 529 W. 5th Ave., to Alan V. and Rita Alessio for \$158,500 on June 23.
 Joseph J. and Joan M. Montaperto sold property at 33 Gallop Hill Road to James and Roseann Stalling for \$120,000 on June 25.
 John R. and Sharon D. Gaylor sold property at 387 Douglas Road to Jose and Layla H. Acosta for \$124,900 on June 26.
 Hector and Nydia Berdugo sold property at 414 Stockton Ave., to Modesto Canino for \$128,000 on June 27.
 Stefania Klezyczynski sold property at 652 Galvin Ave., to Mariela Oliveri for \$148,000 on June 27.

Kenilworth
 Edward and Dana Dillon sold property at 650 Union Ave., to Keith and Rebecca M. Tantillo for \$186,500 on June 29.
 Joseph S.M. Miller sold property at

Mountainside
 Michael D. and Christine W. Cassu sold property at 548 Woodland Ave., to Rui M. Decampas for \$235,000 on June 16.
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 Alfred and Eitriche G. Stiefel sold property at 415 Ackerman St., to James B. and Cheryl A. Fine for \$586,000 on June 27.

Roselle Park
 Donna M. Padosh sold property at 710 Hamilton Place to Marc P. and

"Play the peace and joy of the holiday season be with you throughout the coming year."



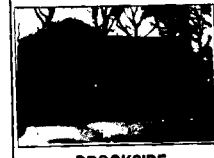
VICTORIAN
 Beautiful 4 Bedroom home with wrap around porch, fabulous wood flrs, molding and built-ins, large rooms, Elk, fireplace, new Playground and 2-car garage. Large landscaped lot in WESTFIELD at \$469,900.

\$469,900



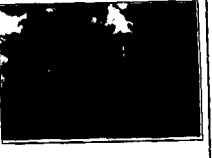
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\$1,690,000



BROOKSIDE SCHOOL AREA
 Spacious 4 Bedroom, 2.5 bath CRANFORD Split. Living Rm with fireplace, Dining Rm, new Country Kitchen, Family Rm, basement and large screened porch. Updates include furnace, central air, appliances and landscaping.

\$379,900



INCOME PRODUCER
 10-Room Westfield Victorian with high ceilings, beautiful moldings & details, open front porch and large lot. Near shopping. Currently used as a 2-Family, but could be used for single-family living.

\$419,000



MOUNTAINSIDE
 Beautifully maintained 10-room Split with many updates. 4 BRs, 3 full baths, hardwood flrs, Fam Rm w/pt, Great Rm, office or 5th BR. Possible au-pair use. Multi-zone heat, cent air, 2-car garage & more.

\$519,000



DUTCH COLONIAL
 3 Bedroom CRANFORD home with fireplace & bookcases in Living Rm, Kitchen with breakfast bar, Dining Rm, den, full basement, walk-up attic and attached garage. Near parks & schools.

\$267,500

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welcome home

An American classic, Montero is made for long-term ownership

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

The Mitsubishi Montero has been a top-selling utility vehicle around the world where it was a champion off-road racer, yet it was a stranger in the North American marketplace.

Boxy, tall and expensive, it was a little too quirky to fit into the mainstream.

Not anymore.

After 17 years of Montero sales in the United States, Mitsubishi has adapted to this country's expectations for a truck and applied them to the third generation 2001 Montero.

It is one of the best sport utilities in the low \$30,000 price range to come out this year, and a surge in sales indicates that others would agree. July sales of the 2001 model are up 675 percent over 1999, at 3,124 trucks sold.

The new Montero is only slightly larger than an Explorer but it is a much better expression of American truck preferences — big seats, thick steering wheel, a bonanza of storage nooks, plenty of cup holders, gutsy suspension, standard four-wheel drive and a long checklist of standard equipment.

The redesigned truck is recognizable as a Montero, but nothing like the old model.

Its husky stance and bulging fenders give an exaggerated image of a sturdy and stable truck. It looks big, but it's not clumsy.

Visibility for the driver is wide open, and passengers have 10 grab handles to ease their entry and exit.

And the scooped-in sides allow an easy step to the floor without dragging a leg over a running board that typically has three concrete apertures for foot placement.

The Montero is larger than the Chevy Blazer and 10 inches shorter than a Chevy Tahoe — splitting the size classes and coming with seats for seven. There's spacious back seat room, wide door openings and a decent size forward-facing third row bench that folds busily into the floor.

Sold in XLS or Limited models, the XLS test truck had a base price of \$31,492, including a \$495 destination fee.

Only two factory option packages are offered: a limited-slip differential with sunroof for \$11,500 and comfort package for \$900 that adds automatic climate control and rear AC/heater with second row controls, which is a good feature if there will be frequent back-seat passengers.

Both models come with the same

200-hp, 3.5-liter V-6 engine. The XLS has a 4-speed automatic transmission and part-time four-wheel drive.

Amenities include remote locking, air conditioning, 6-speaker stereo with CD, power windows/locks/mirrors, split-folding rear seatback, and a manually adjusted driver's seat.

The Limited starts at \$38,492 and adds a 3-speed Sportronic transmission — for auto-stick shifting — and Active Trac four-wheel drive. Interior conveniences equal most luxury-class

sedans and include a 7 speaker, 175-watt stereo, wood-grain trim with wood and leather steering wheel, leather upholstery, heated seats and a power driver's seat.

Safety equipment is the same on both models, too: front and front-side air bags, 4-wheel ABS, door beams, height-adjustable shoulder belts and 3-point belts at all door-side seats.

The price separation between models is small, but even the XLS has

integrity and style without gimmicks. The test truck — with fabric seats — was luxury class in quality and durable parts and pieces.

The Tonka-like toughness of the exterior design is a creative wrap over the unibody chassis that is four times stronger than the ladder frame it replaces. The added stiffness is a long-term guard against squeaks and rattles and contributes to steady handling in unsteady conditions.

The Montero is no sport sedan but the independent suspension is tuned for a sturdy but predictable ride, rolling along as if riding on carpet.

Compared to the old Montero, the new offering has a chassis that's about 4 inches wider, 2 inches lower in height and more than 3 inches wider in the track.

Track is the distance between the wheels, and wider is better for on-road stability. And even with a wheel-base that's 2 inches longer, the turning circle is smaller at 40 feet, or just a bit longer than the Blazer or Volvo station wagon.

The Montero is an American classic. It's got horsepower, truck image and a comfortable interior with flip-and-fold innovation, and it's a truck for long-term ownership.

It is clear why sales are up 600 percent.

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

2001 Mitsubishi Montero XLS

Body style: 4-door, 7-passenger sport-utility vehicle
Drive system: Front engine, rear or 4-wheel drive
Engine size and type: 3.5-liter, 24-valve SOHC V-6
Horsepower: 200 at 5000 rpm
Torque: 238 foot-pounds at 3000 rpm
Transmission: 4-speed automatic
EPA fuel economy estimate: 14 mpg city, 17 highway (Limited, 13/18 mpg)

Fuel capacity: 23.8 gallons, premium unleaded recommended

Dimensions

Cargo space: 42.1 cubic feet behind rear seat; 96.4 second seat folded
Front head/leg/shoulder room: 41.4/42.7/58.5 inches
Middle head/leg/shoulder room: 40.2/37.6/58.5 inches
Rear head/leg/shoulder room: 37.0/19.4/59.1 inches
Length: 188.9 inches
Height: 73.1 inches
Wheelbase: 109.5 inches
Curb weight: 4,540 pounds (Limited, 4,675)
Tow capacity: 5,000 pounds with trailer brakes, 1,500 pounds without
Ground clearance: 9.3 inches

Features

Standard equipment includes: Air conditioning, 6-speaker stereo with CD, power windows/locks/mirrors, variable intermittent wipers, split-folding rear seatback and a 12-way manually adjusted driver's seat, remote hood

and fuel door releases, center console with sliding armrest and dual storage bins, cargo-area tie-down hooks and cargo cover, front door and seatback storage pockets, map and cargo-area lights, floor mats, remote keyless entry with security system, rear window defroster, full-size spare tire and cover, mud flaps (front and rear), skid plates for front transfer case and fuel tank, tow hooks (front and rear), halogen headlights and roof rack.

Safety features include: Front and front-side air bags, 4-wheel ABS, door beams, height-adjustable shoulder belts, 3-point belts at all door-side seats

Chassis

Brakes: 4-wheel disc with MultiMode 4-channel ABS (11.4-inch discs front, 11.8 rear)

Steering: Power assisted rack and pinion

Suspension: Front: Independent double wishbone with coil springs and stabilizer bar; Rear: Multilink with coil springs and stabilizer bar

Tires and wheels: P265/70R 16-inch mud and snow on aluminum alloy wheels

Bottom Line

The competition: Dodge Durango, Ford Expedition, Chevy Tahoe/GMC Yukon, Isuzu Trooper

Where assembled: Japan

Base price: \$31,492, including a \$495 destination fee; price as tested, \$32,642

Options on test truck: Limited-slip rear differential and power sunroof, \$1,150

Passat provides adventure, excitement in challenging driving

By Jerry Garrett
Copley News Service

The Volkswagen Passat, a flirtatious TV ad notwithstanding, will not empower drivers to meet beautiful people at stop signs.

A babe-or-guy magnet, it's not. But, with the new all-wheel-drive Passat, what you could get is a few drag races, a slalom championship and maybe a hill climb trophy or two.

The new Passat, equipped with VW's new 4Motion AWD system, is VW's first such system available in the United States since the little-missed and even less-sold Quantum 12 years ago.

VW hopes to peddle about 12,000 4Motion-equipped Passat sedans and wagons a year, which would push over all marks of the Passat beyond the once-unthinkable 80,000 mark.

While it might be overkill for tame driving conditions, 4Motion could be a secret weapon to have in the most challenging driving conditions.

This 4Motion system, which just debuted, is all-wheel traction management in the tradition of Audi's refined

quattro system: efficient, seamless and confidence-inspiring.

The level of sophistication in the 4Motion system should not come as a complete surprise, since VW owns Audi, but the Passat version is a little different.

For instance, the AWD Euro-spec VW Golf varies from the Passat 4Motion system in that its engine, like the Audi TT, is mounted transversely and is hydro-mechanically controlled. Also, 4Motion operates all the time, on all wheels, at all speeds.

Front to rear, 4Motion utilizes a mechanically operated power apportioning system, with an auto-lock Torsen center differential. Side to side, it has an electronically controlled unit, called an Electronic Differential Locking system.

Together, these two components sense road conditions, and increase or decrease traction to each wheel accordingly.

Try it next winter when the first snowstorm hits. You'll love it. While the TV news vans are sliding off into the trees, you'll be whizzing along through the slush and mush without a hitch.

Passat's bump-smothering suspension complements the system, giving the car impeccable road manners. Torque-

steer is virtually non-existent, due to a four-link front suspension that creates a center-point steering axis.

Most other annoying aspects of SUV-like AWD or 4WD systems — high, wide and ugly — are almost absent from this Passat, as with similarly equipped Audis.

Turning radius remains the same as the Passat front-driver. Ground clearance is only a half-inch higher with AWD. Drag coefficient is the same.

Gas mileage is just a mile or two a gallon worse on the highway, compared with 2WD Passats with the same 2.8-liter V-6.

The torque-rich 30-valve engine, another feature that creates similarities between this Passat and an Audi, is a new feature for Passat in the 2000 model year.

It churns out 190 horsepower — compared with the Audi version's 200 — and seems lavishly more powerful than the past, passive Passat power plant, the 1.8-liter turbocharged four.

Stomped on the gas, and it's guaranteed you will take a deep breath before the engine dies. And triple-digit speeds feel as comfy and secure as any double-digit velocities.

Makes you long for an Autobahn around.

On the whole, the 4Motion Passat probably will have

you humming that swishy love song from the TV commercial. But there are nit-picks.

Sadly, the 4Motion Passat is available only with the five-speed automatic transmission, with the gimmicky Tiptronic tap-shift feature. A five-speed manual — or the in-house six-speed — coupled with the 2.8-liter engine, would be in violation of your state's Anti-Fun Ordinance.

Curb weight is up by 210 pounds, courtesy of the 4Motion system, and 0-60 times are a full second or more slower.

The optional sunroof, like those on other most V-Dubs and Audis, howls like a Shop-Vac sucking up standing water.

The electronic door locking system locks all four doors upon take-off, but only unlocks the front two upon landing. That's constantly irritating when you want to retrieve your coat, briefcase or recalcitrant children from the back seat after stopping.

And the telescoping cup holder is fun to play with — for awhile — but not very versatile or functional.

Jerry Garrett is a San Diego-based free-lance auto writer.

Souped-up engine and aerodynamics help Ford achieve record

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

Ford gave J. Brittle a Ford Focus wagon to play with. In return, he gave Ford a land speed record.

Brittle's 2001 Focus set the speed record for G-Production Class vehicles when it averaged 141.8 mph at the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah recently.

Brittle, the head of JBA Racing in Mission, Calif., is well known for cranking out V-8 powered American cars and trucks.

Ford approached Brittle — he has a reputation for making parts for high-powered Mustangs — last year and asked him to craft a smog-legal and high-performance exhaust system for the Focus.

Brittle finished that project and a smog-legal turbo, which he sells through his shop "Ford basically brought us into the small car market," Brittle says.

Ford returned to Brittle in July and asked him to develop a Focus for this year's Bonneville time trials. The car was built in less than a week.

The G-Production Class is for import cars with engines with less than a 2.0-liter displacement. Engine modifications are limited to what most enthusiasts could afford to do on their own vehicles; no aerodynamic adjustments can be made to the body.

The wagon was preferred because it has a "slipper" shape, or lower coefficient of drag — 0.30 — vs. the Focus sedan — 0.31 — or 3-door hatchback — 0.36.

Highway time started with a stock, double-overhead-cam Ford Zetec engine, then engineered a unique camshaft, valve train, pistons, rods and crankshaft.

The four-cylinder's aluminum head was designed for 8,500 rpm durability vs. 6,500 to 7,000 rpm on the stock Focus. Airflow was improved with an European-spec Focus manifold, a JBA racing header and a free-flow exhaust system.

JBA got the car back from the body shop Aug. 8 after the luggage rack, body side moldings and mirrors had been removed — the only concessions allowed to streamline the body.

Brittle's team removed the seats, added a roll cage, lowered the suspension, built the fuel, fire bottle and ignition systems and switched to a five-speed transmission from the four-speed automatic.

Car enthusiasts who live in glass houses might like the CarCapsule, a clear vinyl bubble for storing or showing a car, boat or motorcycle.

Manufactured by PDK Automotive, bubbles are available for garage or outside storage. Just drive the vehicle onto the heavy gauge plastic base and zip the bubble shut.

A 12-volt fan inflates the bag and exchanges the air inside three or four times an hour to remove moisture. The fan has a 5-year warranty, and the company claims it costs only about \$1.50 a month to run.

CarCapsule prices range from \$229 to \$449 for indoor bubbles and start at about \$1,000 for outdoor use.

The team put in the racing seat, gauges, tachometer and then fired it up and loaded it on the trailer. No other break-in time was possible. They left for Bonneville at 1 a.m. Aug. 10 and drove through the night.

On the final run of the fourth day of racing, Brittle's team cracked the second oldest record at Bonneville, set in 1973 by a rotary-powered Mazda. Several other cars participated in the class this year, but none was from a manufacturer.

On Aug. 16, the JBA Focus reached a top speed of 143.8 mph with an average of 141.8 over the 3-mile course.

"Not being an experienced Bonneville guy and wanting to become a Bonneville guy, you have to understand how big this is," Brittle says. "Nobody goes to Bonneville and sets a record his first time out."

Web Stars

According to Galaxy.com, a vertical search engine, these are the top 10 automotive web sites for September, in alphabetical order:

- About.com: cars.about.com
- Autopedia: www.autopedia.com/
- Autoweb: www.autoweb.com.au/
- Car Talk: www.cartalk.com/cars/
- Department of Commerce: Office of Automotive Affairs: www.ita.doc.gov/dao/
- Edmunds: www.edmunds.com
- Kelly Blue Book: www.kbb.com
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- Sympatico: www.bc.sympatico.com
- Woman Motorist: www.womanmotorist.com

Bubble Wrap

Car enthusiasts who live in glass houses might like the CarCapsule, a clear vinyl bubble for storing or showing a car, boat or motorcycle.

Manufactured by PDK Automotive, bubbles are available for garage or outside storage. Just drive the vehicle onto the heavy gauge plastic base and zip the bubble shut.

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Advice is offered on car winterizing

Don't wait for the first whispers of cold air to start blowing before you dress your car for winter. The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club suggests the following steps to make sure your vehicle is outfitted from headlight to tail light for rain and snow.

• **Battery.** Cold weather can kill an ailing battery, the cause of many winter breakdowns. Avoid problems by asking your technician to test your car's charging system output and the battery's condition and charge.

• **Fluids.** Remember to change the oil and check the antifreeze, brake, differential, and transmission fluids. Old antifreeze in your car's cooling system may contribute to cooling system failure.

• **Lights.** Enlist a friend to help check your car's high and low beams, and its license plate, fog, parking, side-marker, hazard, turn-signal, reverse, and brake lights.

• **Supplies.** Keep a windshield ice scraper, spray lock defroster — also keep an extra defroster at home — and an extra pair of gloves in the car, and consider packing a folding shovel and some rock salt, sand or kitty litter. If you'll

be driving in the mountains, carry chains, blankets, foul-weather gear, flares, and a tarp, just in case you break down.

• **Tires.** If your tire treads are shallow, it's time to purchase a new set of tires. Consider the climate and the type of driving you do when choosing tires. Studded tires are permitted in New Jersey between Nov. 15 and April 1, but they should be used only in packed-snow conditions. During the winter, check tires regularly for correct inflation; they lose pressure as the temperature drops.

• **Wipers.** If your wipers leave streaks across your windshield or back window, the blades or tensioner arms may need replacing. Fill the washer-fluid reservoir with a nonfreezing cleaner, and always clear ice that binds your wiper blades before turning on the wipers.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union counties.

Treat repairs like a checkup at the family doctor

Taking your car to a repair shop is like taking a loved one to the doctor. You need to properly communicate your vehicle's symptoms to get it running smoothly and back on the road.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park offers the following tips for communicating effectively with your automotive technician to ensure faster and less costly car repairs:

- **Write it down.** Notes will help you remember to ask important questions and to share vital information.
- **Describe symptoms precisely.**

Explain what you see, smell, and hear. Mention any driving conditions that seem to relate to the problem. For example, do you notice a rattle under the hood when the car reaches 40 mph?

• **Avoid technical jargon.** If you use a word or phrase without understanding its meaning, you may lead the technician astray. Use technical terms only if you're sure of their meaning.

• **Provide a history.** Bring copies of previous repair orders or the car's maintenance log.

• **Read before authorizing.** Look for specifics on the repair order such as "check for hesitation

as the car warms up." If the description is vague, clarify it with the technician and ask that it be rewritten.

For a free copy of AAA's The Careful Consumers Guide to Car Repair, send a self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope to: Repair Guide, AAA Public Relations, 1 Hanover Road, Florham Park, NJ 07932.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union counties.

REAL ESTATE

TRANSACTIONS

(Continued from Page B15)
 Collette Caswell for \$165,000 on June 14.
 Gerald and Beth Culligan sold property at 213 E. Lincoln Ave. to Matthew and Mary K. Shodgrass for \$154,000 on June 15.
 Peter and Donna Fitzgerald sold property at 164 Berwyn St. to Robert and Rotunda C. Machado for \$255,000 on June 19.
 James M. Sales and S.C. Sales sold property at 115 Camden St. to Susara C. Sales for \$45,104 on June 20.
 Steven Bachrach sold property at 1112 Bergen Ave. to Abramo M. and Nancy M. Pires for \$125,500 on June 23.
 Charles F. and Mary E. Evers sold property at 55 Clay Ave. to Richard M. and Dorothy A. Shugo for \$168,450 on June 23.

Springfield

Reginald W. and Theresa Hackett sold property at 155 Pitt Road to Reid M. and Margaret L. Mitchell for \$250,000 on June 19.
 Thelma K. Passero sold property at 127 Briar Hills Circle to Thomas and Monika Shanks for \$250,000 on June 20.
 Rena E. Graham sold property at 20 Garden Oval to Ronald F. and Iris M. Schaffer for \$267,000 on June 20.
 Kara L. Davis sold property at 74 Melsel Ave. to Anthony and Lisa Phore for \$195,000 on June 23.
 Robert M. and Kathleen Sellitto sold property at 9 Christy Lane to Mark and Freeman J. Drogowicz for \$365,000 on June 27.
 Murray A. and Beth A. Bell sold property at 16 Surrey Lane to Michael and Debra Zarember for \$415,000 on June 27.
 Carol S. Cohen sold property at 73 New Drive to Isak and Tatyana Yuda for \$172,000 on June 28.
 Arthur F. Vonderlinden sold property at 14 Tree Top Drive to Frances A. Sasso for \$440,000 on June 29.

Summit

Garry and Kay L. Ronco sold property at 46 Rowan Road to Robert L. and Linda M. Schauer for \$925,000 on June 18.

Elizabeth A. Jedydy sold property at 15 Hartley Road to Daniel and Margaret Forbes for \$305,000 on June 19.
 Jeffrey R. and Cynthia L. Fazio sold property at 160 Cannon Brook Pkwy. to W. Bradford and Patricia B. Ozer for \$870,000 on June 19.
 Anthony and Sherri Wilhanson sold property at 43 Tanglewood Drive to Kevin R. and Susan E. Gibbons for \$796,000 on June 20.
 Richard J. and Patricia Tarashek sold property at 6 Baltusrol Place to Christopher M. and Mary Tarashek for \$155,000 on June 21.
 Maurice P. and Jacqueline Gaynor sold property at 22 Bedford Road to Allan and Patricia M. O'Connor for \$592,500 on June 21.
 Robert H. and Kathleen Tetrault Jr. sold property at 15 Madison Ave. to Jean M. Benjamen for \$470,000 on June 22.
 Colin C. and Christine J. Burns sold property at 15 Fernwood Road to Stephen B. and Regan Wesson for \$1,325,000 on June 22.
 Thomas and Irene Cioppettino sold property at 23 Whitledge Road to Praveen and Denise Jha for \$1,145,000 on June 23.
 Carol A. and Catalano C. Michels sold property at 594 Springfield Ave. to Edwain and Marlene Carvajal for \$290,000 on June 23.

Union

Willi W. and Monika R. Scheide sold property at 331 Winfield Terrace to Jason and Nicole Bradbury for \$171,000 on June 16.
 Julia Duback sold property at 1311 Center St. to Jose L. and Canele M. Valleroa for \$140,000 on June 19.
 William M. and Phyllis Speckhardt sold property at 1305 Liberty Ave. to Manuel and Maria Valente for \$219,000 on June 19.
 Bharat P. and Mayurika B. Patel sold property at 2016 Kay Ave. to Nikki Wising for \$179,900 on June 19.
 Xiao H. and Xiao Z. Wu sold property at 717 Greenwood Road to Bret J. and Eileen C. Musser for \$206,000 on June 22.
 Evelyn Fenlon sold property at 931 Arnel Ave. to Manuel M. and Emilia Pereira for \$148,000 on June 23.

John P. and Kathleen Kryzyski sold property at 2615 Audrey Terrace to Olga Prado for \$109,000 on June 23.
 Mahliou and Lina Gaspar sold property at 1706 Brook Ave. to Teresa and Medina A. Cabrera for \$173,000 on June 23.
 Howard and Elizabeth Grobstein sold property at 757 Salem Road to Maria Torres for \$218,500 on June 23.
 Genaro A. and Gerald Santantello sold property at 2663 Hawthorne Ave. to Ketan and Alka Vakil for \$192,000 on June 23.
 Donald Russell sold property at 2001 Churchill Drive to Humphrey N. and Joy O. Igwe for \$185,000 on June 23.

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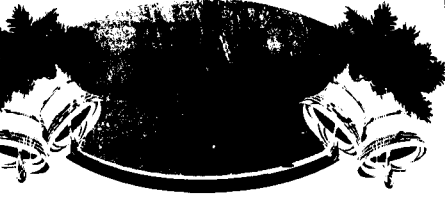
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And It's All Here Already

AUTOMOTIVE

Winter holiday travel is made safer with advice

As the holidays approach, more and more travelers are taking to the road. Whether you're running to the mall to do last-minute shopping or heading out of town for a holiday gathering, increased traffic can mean increased dangers.

Whenever your holiday plans, the AAA New Jersey Automobile Club in Florham Park wants you and your family to get there safely.

Safe travel starts before you get behind the wheel. Keep these tips in mind before starting your car.

Have a clear head. Alcohol and certain drugs, as well as over-the-counter medications, and many prescription drugs, even the common drugs can cause drowsiness. Get a good night's rest and don't drive for long stretches without a break. If you're tired, don't risk the safety of yourself and others by driving to work. Instead, designate a driver or choose another means of transportation.

Limit driving alone when tired. Driving with someone else in the car can increase your overall alertness. Driving alone, especially when sleep-deprived and at night, can be dramatic to increase your chances of having an accident.

Read the labels. If you're taking any medications, be sure to read the warning labels. If the label says the medication causes drowsiness or not to drive, heed the warning; it's there for a reason. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions or ask about substituting another medication that won't cause drowsiness.

Plan ahead. Remember, everyone's in a hurry to get where they're going, especially during the holidays. So allow yourself plenty of extra time

to reach your destination in the event of emergencies or traffic jams.

Once you're on the road, remember to:

Relax. Avoid aggressive driving by relaxing. You can't control traffic, so keep your cool. If you do encounter an aggressive driver, resist the urge to engage. Instead, back off and let him go.

Be alert to signs of fatigue. If you start to feel tired, pull over in a safe area and let someone else drive. If you're alone, pull into a safe location such as a well-lit rest stop and take a short nap or get out of the car and walk around for a few minutes. Stop as often as necessary. On longer trips, eat light since heavy meals can make you drowsy.

Practice common-sense safety rules. Always wear your safety belt and make sure all your passengers are buckled properly, even on short trips. Make sure children are always buckled up in the back seat, the safest place to ride, and are properly secured in a child safety seat and/or seat belt.

Keep your eyes on the road. Avoid taking your eyes off the road by eliminating any possible distractions ahead of time. Before hitting the road, be sure that important items such as directions, maps and sunglasses are within reach. Reduce possible dangerous diversions such as changing tapes or CDs and always pull over to a safe place if you must use a cell phone.

The AAA New Jersey Automobile Club, through offices in Florham Park, Randolph, Springfield and Verona, provides automotive, travel, insurance, financial and educational services to residents of Essex, Morris and Union counties.

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Eyesight, vehicle response figure into reaction time

An issue that's been with us almost as long as the automobile is whether or not older drivers should be tested more frequently for re-issue of their licenses. If a person's vision, reaction time and dexterity continue to be up to standard, then that driver should be safe, right?

Not necessarily, says the Car Care Council, which contends that any driver, regardless of age, is at risk if the vehicle is not sufficiently responsive. The theory that the vehicle is an extension of the driver is a valid one, says the Council. The brakes function only when the driver causes them to. A driver with good vision can see surrounding danger and respond only if lights, windshield wipers, brakes and steering all are up to par.

If a driver's reactions are a little slower, eyesight is not quite as sharp and hearing not quite as acute, he subsequently may hope for his faithful vehicle to get him through a driving crisis. This can mean steering out of a dangerous traffic situation or maintaining stability when one wheel gets out to the shoulder. It also can mean quick, steady response to emergency braking.

Average reaction time, according to the National Safety Council, is 3/4 of a second. At 60 miles an hour, for example, you'll travel 66 feet in that period of time. At that speed, you'll need 162 to 202 feet to bring your car to a complete stop.

Use the "two-second-plus" rule to determine if you're giving yourself enough space between yourself and the vehicle ahead. Count "one thousand and one, one thousand and two" as the vehicle in front of you reaches an overpass or other stationary mark. If you arrive at that point in two seconds or less, you're too close. Back off.

So, under ideal conditions, adding an extra second of lag time behind the vehicle ahead of you could make the big difference in avoiding a collision. This is assuming the vehicle's tires and braking system are in optimum condition and the driver's reaction time is normal.

The Council suggests that, in addition to paying special attention to safety functions of the vehicle and observing the two-second rule, older drivers or those with impaired vision or reaction time should pay special attention to their vehicles' special operating condition.

For a free brochure on brake safety, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Car Care Council, Department SREO-B, 42 Park Drive, Port Clinton, OH 43452. Additional information is available on the Council's website at www.carcarecouncil.org.

Your abilities can earn extra income. Advertise them with a classified ad by calling 1-800-564-8911.

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FORD TAURUS 1997 excellent condition. 78,000 miles. Side with Gray interior. \$7,999 or best offer. Call 908-687-3431. Leave message.

GMC 1500 PICKUP 1994 Blue clean 67,000 miles. power steering, power brakes, A/C. Dealer trade. \$8,500. 973-762-2115.

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JEEP GRAND Cherokee Limited 1993 6 cylinder automatic, 4 wheel drive. 87K. A/C. AM/FM cassette stereo, dual power seats, leather. Cruise control. All power. \$10,800. 732-386-9195. After 5pm.

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VOLVO 940 GLE 1997 with leather interior, automatic, leather interior, dealer installed roof rack, garage kept. Excellent package. Best interior. Trade value 12K. \$12,000. Call after 973-425-1627.

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2001 Park Avenue offers drivers 'a level of luxury'

Buick offers a special, limited-production package for the Park Avenue Ultra for mid-model year 2001. The fully equipped special model is available exclusively in Laguna Green with a two-tone Shale/Neural interior and Southern Walnut wood instrument panel and door trim inserts.

Park Avenue, which made driving easier and more predictable with the addition of the StabiliTrak system in 2000, makes parking easier and safer for 2001 with an optional Ultrasonic Rear Parking Assist system. In addition, General Motors' OnStar driver assistance and navigation system, and StabiliTrak, which helps the driver maintain control on slippery surfaces, are now standard on Park Avenue Ultra and optional on Park Avenue.

"Park Avenue provides a level of luxury and sophistication unmatched at its price in the luxury car market," said Annette K. Smith, Park Avenue brand manager. "Our special model, along with the addition of features like Ultrasonic Rear Parking Assist, give Park Avenue customers choices we think they'll appreciate."

Park Avenue also benefits from an extended recommended oil change interval that is increased from 7,500 to 10,000 miles.

OnStar, GM's 24-hour on-demand driver assistance and navigation system, is standard on Park Avenue Ultra models — optional on Park Avenue — and comes with one year of free safety and security service. Other improvements include easier-to-operate steering wheel controls for the entertainment system and climate control.

StabiliTrak, an advanced integrated vehicle stability control system that helps the driver maintain control in a skid or slide, and full-range traction control, are standard on Ultra and available on Park Avenue models. Park Avenue and Ultra come equipped with Buick's Convenience Plus package of features including delayed entry and exit lighting, theater dimming, flash-to-pass control, battery rundown protection, lockout protection, delayed locking, auxiliary power outlet, retained accessory power, theft-deterrent system and daytime running lamps. Cruise control, and power windows and door locks are also standard.

Both models also come with Buick's Driver Information Center, which provides a wide range of information including tire inflation monitor, trip computer and reminder lights for low fuel, low oil, low washer fluid and trunk and door ajar. Also available is a head-up display of basic information such as speed, turn signals, high-beam and check gauges warning.

Personal Choice features standard

on Ultra — available on Park Avenue models — include two individually programmable key fobs that control security, feedback, perimeter lighting, delayed locking and memory settings for door locks, climate control, radio presets, seat adjustments and outside mirror adjustments.

The new parking assist system sends out an ultrasonic beam from four sensors mounted in the rear bumper fascia, detecting unseen obstacles in the rear path and warning the driver of those hazards via audio and visual cues.

Three light-emitting diodes — LEDs — installed in the rear headliner, working in concert with audio chimes, alert the driver to hazards. The driver can see the LEDs through the rear-view mirror.

The system's sensors send out ultrasonic waves when the vehicle is in reverse. The four sensors pick up the "echo" of the signal when it bounces off an obstacle and an onboard computer triangulates the relative distance to the object based on elapsed time between the outgoing signal and its returning echo.

The system operates at up to 3 miles per hour in reverse; at higher speeds the driver receives a flashing red LED warning that the system is non-operational. The system views an area from 10 inches above the ground to the top of the trunk lid, allowing the driver to maneuver into parking spaces using information on the closeness of other cars and signs, without the system being triggered by objects such as parking curbs.

With the car in reverse, one amber LED is lighted and a single chime sounds to signify an object from five feet to 3.3 feet away. From 3.3 feet to 20 inches, two amber LEDs are lighted. At a distance of 20 inches to one foot, two amber LEDs and a red LED are displayed and the chime becomes continuous. Finally, at a distance of less than one foot, all three LEDs begin flashing and the chime remains continuous.

Park Avenue Ultra is equipped with a supercharged 3800 Series II V-6 engine that provides 240-horsepower at 5200 rpm and 280 lb-ft of torque at 3600 rpm. The standard Park Avenue engine is the naturally aspirated 3800 Series II V-6, providing 205 horsepower at 5200 rpm and 230 lb-ft of torque at 4000 rpm. Fuel economy is 19 mpg city and 30 mpg highway for Park Avenue and 18/27 for Ultra.

New exterior colors for the Park Avenue for 2001 are Dark Polo Green Metallic, White, White Diamond and Laguna Green, which is on the special edition only, along with the addition of the interior color Shale in Sierra-Grain Leather.

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