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WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2001 SECTION B http://www.localsource.com

County site would be the right choice

A while back, peering out of my front window in the morning, I observed peroxide blond patiently watching her dog do his duty in front of my house. Her angry defense to my call was to raise the bag she was going to use to clean up. My view is that anyone walking a dog without a bag should have a presumption of guilt. After all, how can you predict a dog's schedule?

Last Friday at 5 p.m. at the beginning of the holiday weekend,

Left Out

By Frank Capece

Dennis San Filippo was still at his desk in Union Township fielding calls and doing the rest of his job as he has for 28 years. As the health officer for his town, he acknowledged his town does have penalties as much as \$1,000 for unhealthy dog owners who don't pick up. The town even provides laminated signs reminding of the law if citizens request them. But, he adds, "We really do have good compliance in our community of 50,000."

My personal crusade aside, there is a much sadder situation of human cruelty to animals. Some public officials are aware of the problem and doing some good things. Last week, acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco signed a bill increasing the penalties for the crime up to the fourth degree with fines as much as \$10,000 and even jail time as long as 18 months. A sponsor of the law, Assemblyman Jack Gibson said, "Increasing penalties is the only way to send the message home that these actions will not be tolerated."

Another aspect regarding abused animals is the growing number of abandoned pets. Enter Sheriff Ralph Froehlich. For almost a year, he has been lining up forces to have the county develop a comprehensive shelter service. His efforts have brought together an impressive group of animal rights activists and health officials to urge construction of a county shelter. They argue it will be humane and, in the long run, far more cost effective.

Froehlich focused on the problem after a State Commissioner of Investigation report last year was highly critical of animal welfare in New Jersey. The number of unwanted dogs and cats are staggering. They found 14,590 dogs and cats entered into shelters in 1999. Homeless dogs and feral cats reproduce at alarming rates, exist under inhumane conditions with inadequate food and water and pose a rabies threat to humans because they are at a high risk for contracting rabies."

The animal advocate secured a grant to study the problem. They scored a coup when Linden Mayor John Gregorio announced his support for a facility on Lower Road in his community where Linden's animal shelter is located. Froehlich even offers to take people to the Atlantic County facility which is already in operation.

But I find the conduct of the private sector in the area of shelter service to be the best argument for the new facility. Last year, Garden State Kennels in Morris County, which also served some Union County towns, were shut down when it was discovered they had used banned drugs to kill some 272 animals. The \$18,000 fine to the owners seems so inadequate.

The tougher economic times and the real lack of political gain from a shelter project are realities. But if Froehlich and his friends succeed, it will be a humane victory and say a lot about us as people. Picking up after the dogs who are treated pretty well will also be a step forward.

A resident of Cranford, Frank Capece is an attorney.

Would Union County add Millburn to its ranks? Essex township threatening to secede

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

Census 2000 figures indicate Union County's population has grown by nearly 30,000 people during the last 10 years. The county may grow some more if Millburn residents vote this fall to leave Essex County.

The Millburn Township Committee last week unanimously approved a resolution to place on November's ballot a referendum asking voters if they want to secede from Essex County.

The referendum would be nonbinding, but if voters approve the idea, the township would send the matter to the Legislature, which would need to take action. If it were to leave Essex, Millburn would have to join a county contiguous to its borders, either Morris or Union.

Millburn Mayor Thomas McDermott said a task force will be appointed to investigate the pros and cons of secession and which county

might be best to join. The 12-member panel, made up of local residents and professionals, will examine three key issues: if the township does secede, which county to join; county consolidation as a whole, and the consolidation of county government.

"We always (as a proponent of eliminating county government," the Republican mayor said. While the secession issues are more immediate, he added, the long-term question is whether county government has "outlived its usefulness." County government was "established in the 1800s for reasons not present in 2001."

Incorporated in 1857, Millburn has a population of more than 20,000 residents within 10 square miles. All five seats on the Township Committee currently are held by Republicans.

The township has a total assessed value of \$1,716,532,300. Compared to Union County towns, Millburn's total assessed value ranks second behind only Summit at

\$2,324,247,700. Only Berkeley Heights, Cranford, Linden, Plainfield and Westfield have total assessed values of more than \$1 billion.

Millburn pays approximately \$31 million in taxes to Essex County. The Essex County budget this year is \$544 million with a total tax levy of \$283 million.

Union County Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella of Roselle Park said he was open to exploring the idea of Union County adding Millburn to its borders, but said more analysis would be required regarding the effects.

Millburn officials contemplated seceding in 1986, McDermott said, but that was because of taxes. Some of the people involved the first time will offer their insights, he said. This time, the idea of secession was sparked by legislative redistricting which left Millburn as the only Essex County municipality in the 21st District. The rest of the district includes towns in

Union, Morris and Somerset counties. "It makes it difficult to promote our candidates," McDermott said, noting that Assemblyman Joel Weingarten of Millburn basically was restricted out of office.

He said it is "an issue of taxation without representation."

The current 21st District includes towns in Essex and Union counties and there traditionally was an agreement between GOP leaders in both counties that the two Assembly seats and one State Senate seat be shared. Before his retirement earlier this year, C. Lewis Bassano of Union was the state senator while Weingarten and Kevin O'Toole of Cedar Grove were the 21st District representatives in the Assembly.

O'Toole has since moved to Bassano's seat while Summit Councilman Dr. Eric Munoz has taken O'Toole's seat. Redistricting, however, created a new 21st District, where Munoz and Thomas Keen Jr. of Westfield, who currently represents the 22nd District, were endorsed by Republicans to run

for Assembly in the 21st with Richard Dagher of Westfield to run for State Senate. Most Essex County municipalities will be in the new 27th District.

Summit Mayor Walter Long threatened to secede from Union County in 1997. The threat was prompted by a suggestion from Freeholder Nicholas Scurlati of Linden to construct a new juvenile detention center on county land in Summit. The freeholders ultimately narrowed the list to three potential sites, all in Elizabethtown, before abandoning the idea altogether.

In 1941, Winfield Clark seceded from what were parts of Clark and Linden to create housing for shipyard workers in Kearny. Clark Municipal Historian Bryan Toul said the move created "a nightmare" for Clark because it forced a change in government after the referendum. Secession is "very unlikely to happen in this day and age," he said, because of its major impact on municipalities and revenues.

Society seeking new home

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor

The Union County Historical Society has been looking for a permanent home for more than 130 years.

Organized on April 1, 1869, the historical society has never had a home of its own, instead renting space for meetings and offices with cramped areas for archival and library items. The society has gathered antiques from different eras over the years that also are stored in various places.

With Union County planning renovations for the clubhouse at Oak Ridge Golf Course, also known as Homestead Farm, Hazel Hardgrove, first vice president of the Union County Historical Society, has approached the Board of Chosen Freeholders several times about using the facility as a home for the society and possibly a Union County museum.

"This building is a treasure trove of Union County history," said Hardgrove, a resident of Springfield. The only counties in New Jersey without their own museums are Bergen, Essex and Union.

Freeholder Chairman Alexander Mirabella likes the idea of a Union County museum "to show off the rich history of the county."

"They should have a space," he said of the historical society, adding that he would like to try to make it part of the plans at Oak Ridge.

But Brian Toal, Clark's municipal historian, said while the county has been moving forward with the \$3.8-million project at Oak Ridge, officials have not been specific about what will be done with the old farmhouse. The freeholders "haven't been publicly specific on a timetable for the old house."



The Union County Historical Society wants to use part of Homestead Farm at Oak Ridge for, among other things, a Union County museum. From left are Clark Environmental Commission member William Fidurski, Union Township Historical Society President Michael Yesenko, Union County Historical Society Vice President Hazel Hardgrove and Clark Historical Society President Eleanor Warren.

The state-of-the-art facility for golfers, which will include a banquet facility, will generate a great deal of revenue that could take care of the cost of renovating the farmhouse, said Toal, who also sits on the Union County Open Space, Recreation and Historic Preservation Trust Fund Advisory Committee. He said there is a concern that the farmhouse would meet the same fate as the Chapman Cottage, which was taken over by the county and sat dormant for a number of years before it was destroyed by a fire this summer. "It's a priceless piece of New Jersey history,"

the 18-room farmhouse was built in three different eras: the Colonial period in 1720, an addition in Federal styling in 1820, and a Victorian section near the turn of the century. Homestead Farm sits on 200 acres where the Battle of Ash Swamp took place in 1777 between British and Hessian troops and Gen. George Washington's forces. Some believe the house may have been used for part of the Underground Railroad in New Jersey, carrying Southern slaves to freedom.

"Since acquiring it in the 1930s, previous boards of freeholders have maintained it very well, and many of the important details, such as fireplaces and mantels, woodwork, windows including glass panes, doors, floors and the large bayonet oven and the magnificent free-standing three-story staircase are in their original condition," Hardgrove said.

Before it was known as the Oak Ridge Golf Club in the early 1930s, Homestead Farm was established as a Colonial plantation in the early 1700s. The Clark Historical Society had the property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the New Jersey Register of Historic Places.

Photo by Liz Dries

Board OKs \$18 million in bonding

By Michelle Runge Staff Writer

After a comprehensive check of inventory equipment comprising computers and vehicles, Union County will be opening close to half the amount of money as last year on capital projects.

During the Aug. 28 meeting in Elizabethtown, the Board of Chosen Freeholders voted 9-0 to approve an \$18,065,200 bond ordinance, slated for infrastructure improvements, in the county budget this year.

The bond ordinance, introduced by the county member pated on July 25, is half the amount of the county's capital bond ordinance for 2000, according to county Finance Chairman Lawrence Caroselli.

The capital budget is drastically reduced this year partly because of the need for the county to raise property taxes by an average of \$44, Caroselli said, but also because officials determined the county has a sufficient amount of technological equipment such as computers and transportation vehicles in their inventory.

Caroselli said last year's capital budget was \$36 million, and the 1999 capital budget was \$42 million.

With the proposed new borrowing, the county will still be well below its \$671 million borrowing limit, the finance director said. The proposed bond ordinance will bring the county's total debt to \$272.2 million, Caroselli added.

"We pay off the debt faster than we spend it," said Union County is still rated triple AAA, and Union County Manager Michael Lapolla.

Union County College will benefit from the \$18 million-plus bond ordinance in the form of infrastructure improvements including a planned replacement of roofs at all campuses except Elizabethtown, a renovation of the basement of the Humanities Building and an upgrading of the information technology support structure at the Grandford campus, according to Freeholder Daniel Sullivan.

Sullivan said there will be bridge repairs commissioned throughout the county, signal equipment for the county police and upgrading of fire alarms and sidewalks at the courthouse complex in Elizabethtown.

"The funding from the bond ordinance will also enable us to make improvements to Phil-Rizzuto Park in Union Township, Warranaco Skating Center at Warranaco Park in Elizabethtown and Roselle, and Trailside Nature and Science Center in the Watchung Reservation," Sullivan said.

Lapolla said the state will reimburse the county for half of the proposed \$3 million improvement expected to be performed at the various Union County College campuses. Some of the college's storage rooms are expected to be converted to office space, he said.

Other school renovations will take place at the Union County Vocational-Technical School

October may be earliest for new superintendent

By Michelle Runge Staff Writer

Former Union County Superintendent of Schools Frances Lobman served the students, educators and administrators of the county for five years, and during that time, she earned the admiration of her colleagues, especially for her ability to meet challenges head-on.

The 55-year-old county superintendent announced in July she would be retiring from state service and moving to sunny San Diego, where she will continue doing what she loves best — educating young people.

In August, Commissioner of Education Vito A. Gagliardi Sr. appointed Glenn Tillo as acting Union County superintendent, and according to reports, Tillo is meeting the demands of the post just as capably as his predecessor.

Richard Vespucci, New Jersey Department of Education spokesman, said although Lobman is gone, Tillo is in charge now, and with school openings scheduled for this week, no problems are anticipated.

Vespucci said thus far, the issue will not be resolved until October at the earliest.

"Mr. Tillo has expressed an interest in retaining the post and we are currently considering his request as well as those of other candidates responding to the notice of vacancy we posted for a replacement for Mrs. Lobman," Vespucci said Friday. "County superintendents are appointed by the commissioner and approved by the State Board of Education."

Although interviews for a successor are still under way and a number of candidates are vying for the position, which has a salary range of \$97,810 to \$99,620, Tillo may have the inside track.

As the Union County school business administrator, Tillo served under Lobman and acquired experience "many of the other potential superintendents do not possess."

"Glenn is a very well-liked and respected business administrator," said Thomas Blyocci, superintendent of the Union County Vocational-

Technical School. "We are very pleased with his performance."

Blyocci said it is common knowledge that Tillo is supported by the Union County Superintendents Roundtable, a group of personnel that is culled from each school district in the county.

By voter decree, the Union County Regional High School District was dissolved in 1997 and the six municipalities which comprised the school district — Kenilworth, Mountainside, Springfield, Clark, Garwood and Berkeley Heights — had to assume responsibility for educating their high school students for the first time in years.

It was one of the many challenges Lobman settled during her stint as superintendent and this time Tillo worked with her, at her side, during the final phase.

"I thought she was great, and I earned a great deal of knowledge from Frances," said Tillo, who came to the office three years ago. "We got to work together as teammates, sharing information."

Part of the county superintendent's job entails overseeing \$500 million in federal and state aid annually to schools in the county and the responsibility of ensuring the education of more than 72,000 students in grades K-12.

Other administrative and fiscal challenges include school reform efforts and school budgets. Tillo's background as county business administrator may be the reason Gagliardi has not yet chosen someone else to be the county's school chief.

Gagliardi said he hoped to resolve the three-year term appointment issue by June.

The county superintendent also supervises and administers the county office of education, represents the commissioner on matters related to school law and regulations, and also provides leadership in educational planning and program improvement to local school districts.

Whoever is eventually chosen will be responsible for coordinating and approving fiscal, educational, facility and transportation services in the county, Vespucci said.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Paper Mill Playhouse opens season with landmark musical

Paper Mill Playhouse, the State Theater of New Jersey, under the leadership of Executive Producer Angelo Del Rossi and Artistic Director Robert Johnson, is currently presenting the Broadway phenomenon, "A Chorus Line."

With original direction and choreography created by Bayork Lee and musical direction by Fran Liebergral, "A Chorus Line" opened Wednesday, and will continue for six weeks through Oct. 14. For tickets call 973-376-4343, stop by the box office on Brookside Drive in Millburn, or buy online at www.papermill.org. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

For this special production, Paper Mill is proud to have Lee — who originated the role of Connie in "A Chorus Line" — was the real-life inspiration for the part — to direct and choreograph. Lee also staged Paper Mill's 1991 production to audience and critical acclaim.

The show is staged like an audition, with 24 dancers trying out for openings in the chorus line of a forthcoming Broadway musical. Zach, the choreographer, reduces this group to 17 applicants for eight jobs, and then proceeds to interrogate them about their lives, hopes, fears and fantasies. We get to know the dancers so well that by the close, when the losers are eliminated we suffer with them, just as we rejoice with the winners.

"A Chorus Line" is the collaborative creation of six men — Michael Bennett, Bob Avian, James Kirkwood, Nicholas Dante, Marvin Hamlisch and Edward Kleban. However, the concept of the musical was the work of Bennett, a 32-year-old dancer turned choreographer and director.

With a "perch of an idea for a show about people like us," Bennett invited 22 dancers to a studio in January 1974. The session began at midnight and, after an hour of dancing, the participants talked for 16 hours. Bennett wound up with 30 hours of tapes, which he listened to for months. "Then I realized," he said, "that what those kids had been doing was auditioning their lives for me." The audition idea took hold, and with writer Nicholas Dante, a script was pro-

duced. Although no music or lyrics had yet been written for the show, Joseph Papp liked what he saw enough to provide the money and space for a workshop at the New York Shakespeare Festival/Public Theater, a crucial factor that enabled Bennett to continue.

For the score, he turned to friend Marvin Hamlisch, who had just won Oscars for "The Way We Were" and "The Sting." Edward Kleban, a former Columbia Records executive with no theater credits, was chosen as Hamlisch's lyricist. Together they would write the musical's memorable hits songs, including "One (Singular Sensation)" and "What I Did for Love." Another friend of Bennett's, Bob Avian, was asked to help with the choreography. James Kirkwood, a novelist, playwright and former actor, was called upon to smooth out the show's book. After months of work at a stipend of \$100 a week, the creative team was ready to show the musical to the public.

"A Chorus Line" premiered Off-Broadway at the New York Shakespeare Festival's 299-seat Newman Theater April 16, 1975, and was an immediate smash hit. On July 25, 1975, "A Chorus Line" opened at Broadway's Shubert Theater and ran for 15 years, when it became one of Broadway's most successful and longest-running musicals before taking its final bow April 28, 1990, after 6,137 performances. "A Chorus Line" won nine Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, five Drama Desk Awards, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the Best Musical and a special Tony Award as the longest-running show in Broadway history.

Bayork Lee's artistic ventures as a director, choreographer and producer span five continents around the globe. She has been an original cast member in a dozen Broadway shows and originated the role of Connie in "A Chorus Line," which is based on her own life. She also served as assistant choreographer to Michael Bennett. To date, she has directed more than 35 national and international companies and continues to oversee major productions of the show. A partial list of her directing credits includes "Porgy and Bess" at

the Rome Opera, which has toured for seven years. In Italy, she co-directed and choreographed "A Chorus Line," "La Cage aux Folles," "Cabaret," "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," "The Day of the Turtle," "Singin' in the Rain," and "Fregoli." She directed "Barnum" for Cy Coleman in Sydney, Australia. Lee is the co-author of "On the Line: The Creation of a Chorus Line," published by William Morrow in the United States and by Kodansha in Japan. Lee is excited about her newest venture, www.achorusline.org, the official "A Chorus Line" web site.

This special production reunites the original creative team for "A Chorus Line" with sets by Robin Wagner; costumes by Theoni V. Aldredge; lighting by Tharon Musser, recreated by Richard Wandler, and sound by Abe Jacob.

Featured in the Paper Mill production are Mark Bova as Zach, Paul Buschman as Don, Charles Carr as Maggie, Caitlin Carter as Cassie, DJ Chase as Al, Eric Dyrast as Richie, Tim Federle as Mark, Colleen Hawkes as Judy, Nadine Isenegger as Val, Kari Kelly as Ryan, Cindy Marchionda as Diana, Reagan Price as Kristine, Shane Rhoades as Mike, John Salvatore as Greog, Kim Shriver of Plainfield as Sheila, Robert Tunstall as Bobby, Lois Villabon as Paul, Lauren Wagner as Bebe, and Miki Yamashita as Connie. Also appearing

are Miguel Angel as Butch, Britt Freund as Tomm, Cheyenne Gross as Roy, Michael Gorman, Brenda Hamilton as Vicki, Lauri Kraft, Jennifer Lewis as Lois, Halden Michaels as Frank, and Michele Tibbitts as Tricia.

Michael Bennett — original director/choreographer, whose work will be recreated at Paper Mill by Lee — choreographed "Promises, Promises," "Coco," "Company," "Follies," which he co-directed with Harold Prince, and "Seesaw," which he also wrote and directed. In 1973, he made his debut as a dramatic director, with "Twigs," which starred Sada Thompson. "A Chorus Line," which he conceived, choreographed and directed, won nine Tony Awards. In 1976, he and the other authors of "A Chorus Line" were awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. In 1979, he produced, directed and choreographed "Ballroom," which was nominated for eight Tony Awards and won Bennett his sixth Tony. He won his seventh Tony in 1981 for the musical "Dreamgirls," which he directed and choreographed.

The performance schedule for "A Chorus Line" is as follows: Wednesday through Saturday evenings at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m.; Thursday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.; and Saturday matinees at 2:30 p.m. A performance has been added Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. There is no Sunday evening per-

formance Oct. 14. Tickets are \$29 to \$59, and may be purchased by calling 973-376-4343, or by directly online at www.papermill.org. Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

American Airlines is the official airline of Paper Mill.

"A Chorus Line" is made possible in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Paper Mill Playhouse is a member of the New Jersey Theater Alliance.

Did you know?

- "A Chorus Line" Tony Award winners Donna McKechnie and Kelly Bishop have both starred and stopped the show at Paper Mill with performances in "Follies" in 1998 — McKechnie was as Sally Durant Plummer — and "Mame" in 1999, when Bishop was Mame's "bosom buddy," Vera Charles.

Special performances

- The Conversation Series is free and open to the public. Participants meet in the theater's mezzanine on the following Thursday evenings: Sept. 13, 20 and 27, and Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. Audiences meet and ask questions with members of the cast and staff. This is an ideal way to further enjoy the Paper Mill experience.
- Audio-Described performances

In addition to regularly priced tickets, \$15 student rush tickets are available the day of performance with a current student ID. For group sales — groups of 20 or more — call 973-379-3636, ext. 2438.

— with sensory seminars 90 minutes prior to curtain — are Oct. 4 at 2 p.m., Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m., and Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m.

- Sign-Interpreted/Open-Captioned performances are Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 12 at 8 p.m.
- Gay and Lesbian Night is Oct. 10 at 8 p.m., with a post-show reception.
- Singles Night is Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. with a post-show reception.

About the theater

Paper Mill Playhouse, located on Brookside Drive in Millburn, is easily accessible by car from both New York and New Jersey via the Garden State Parkway, New Jersey Turnpike and I-76. Paper Mill Playhouse is barrier-free and completely accessible to people with disabilities; TTY box office number is 973-376-2181 for patrons who are hearing impaired. For each production, Paper Mill offers audio-described performances for the visually impaired, as well as sign-interpreted and open captioned performances for the hearing impaired. Braille and large-print programs, as well as infrared listening systems are also available for selected performances.

'Fair Winds, Clear Water' marks gallery's reopening

On Aug. 22, The Newark Museum opened its completely reinstated Japanese Gallery for the first time in more than a decade with the exhibit "Fair Winds and Clear Water: Japanese Poetic Calligraphy."

The opening coincides with a year-long celebration of calligraphy in Asia. The use of calligraphy as decoration is a long-standing tradition in Japanese art and is a particularly fitting subject for this reinstatement.

Among the 30 objects in the exhibition, there are included screens and hanging scrolls in the classical tradition with work by famous Japanese poets and intellectuals of the 17th

through 19th centuries. These pieces represent calligraphy for Japan's elite. One outstanding example of such work is the six-panel screen by Rai Sanyo, 1780-1832, which features the striking effect of 12 lines of bold black ink characters. The artist who created the screen was part of a special milieu active in Kyoto in the 17th to 19th centuries, the bunjin. These "literary men," descendants of samurai, were gifted amateurs with lofty ideals, who created music, poetry, calligraphy and paintings in the style of Chinese literati. Rai Sanyo exemplified this tradition.

Another highlight from the museum's permanent collection is a hanging scroll by Hakuin Ekaku, 1685-1768; a priest who is considered one of the greatest revivalists of the Zen sect of Zen Buddhism in the Tokugawa period. A talented poet, gifted writer and a leading artist in the style of painting known as Zan ga, he used his talents to try and awaken the common people to the way of spiritual enlightenment.

Valrie Reynolds, curator of Asian Collections, is the project director for this exhibition.

About the Newark Museum

Admission is free at the Newark Museum, located at 49 Washington St. in the Downtown/Arts District of Newark. Public hours are Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m., and Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m. The Museum Cafe is open Wednesday through

Sundays from noon to 3:30 p.m., and Thursday evenings beginning in the fall.

The Newark Museum is easy to reach by car and by public transportation. Attended parking is available for a nominal fee in the adjacent lot. For general information or directions, call 1-800-7-MUSEUM or 973-596-6355, text-telephone services. Information is available online at www.newarkmuseum.org.

The Newark Museum, a not-for-profit museum of art, science and education, receives operating support from the City of Newark, the State of New Jersey, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State and corporate, foundation and individual donations. Funds for acquisitions and activities other than operations are provided by members of the museum and other contributors.

Exhibit opens with gallery talk Sunday

There will be an opening reception Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts at 68 Elm St., Summit, showcasing "Unmarked Lives" a touring exhibition of tapestries, textiles and paperworks by artist Joanne Soroka.

At 3 p.m., the artist will be giving an illustrated talk about her work and this event is free and open to the public. Sign language interpreting is available, with two week's prior notice.

Patricia Malachuk, editor of Surface magazine, will give a talk — "The Contemporary Quilt: A Pattern Evolution" — at 3 p.m. Oct. 21. This event is also free and open to the public, and again, sign language interpreting is available with two week's prior notice.

Born in Montreal, Canada, Soroka currently lives and works in Edinburgh, Scotland. "Unmarked Lives" began touring in Canada and was received with great interest and critical acclaim.

In his review for the *Montreal Gazette*, critic Henry Lehmann wrote: "Woven into Joanne Soroka's tapestries and collages are her complex family roots... For instance, 'The Shattered Roof' indeed recalls a traditional roof of the type that might have sheltered Soroka's forebears in Lithuania... One of the fascinating aspects of this show is Soroka's daring when it comes

to scale, which ranges from almost microscopic to near monumental."

Soroka is the recipient of many prestigious awards, including designation as a "Selected Maker" on the British Crafts Council Index as well as a British Council Grant in 2000. She has had numerous solo and group exhibitions in Canada, the United States, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, the Ukraine, Lithuania, Finland and Japan.

This arts program is made possible in part by a HEART Grant — History, Education, Arts, Reaching Thousands — from the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, under Chairman Alexander Mirabella.

The exhibition will continue through Oct. 28.

Founded in 1933 by a dedicated group of local artists, NJCVA has evolved into a major regional art center. It has a full-scale art school taught by award-winning faculty. There are two interior galleries and an outdoor exhibition space/sculpture garden. NJCVA is the largest visual art center in the state. It is specifically devoted to contemporary art. Programs include Artists With Disabilities, docent tours, lectures, demonstrations, art trips, workshops and other activities. The non-profit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts is wheelchair-accessible and is funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

Bill Van Sant, Editor
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DINING REVIEW

Chestnut Chateau
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The food here is beautifully presented on fine china, elegant silverware and served by gracious servers. Our waitress was Joanna Kanadimas, a very courteous, charming server who was very attentive to all our needs.

For the main course my companions & I ordered the Porterhouse Steak, Broiled Shrimp Stuffed with Crabmeat and the Broiled Seafood Combination Platter. In between courses I looked around and many of the tables were filled with families and all the children were very content with their meals.

One of my companions had the 22 oz. Porterhouse Steak - he couldn't stop raving how wonderful this Black Angus steak was. It was very tender you could almost cut it with a fork. Many only serves Black Angus Beef which is the best in quality (immediately you can taste it's a fine cut of beef). My other companion had the Shrimp Stuffed with Crabmeat. The Shrimp were very tender & the hearty stuffing was very good. I had the Broiled Seafood Combination Platter. The Scallops & Shrimp were served in clam shells beautifully presented. The fish of the day was Tuna. Just caught. The Lobster Tail was very sweet & tender. All the dinners were accompanied by baked potato or rice and a fresh vegetable medley (asparagus, string beans, brussel sprouts and carrots).

I noticed we weren't doing much talking

everyone was busy eating. Now was dessert time. Homemade chocolate mousse - light as a feather. Rich homemade rice pudding not overly sweet - Just perfect. Cheesecake topped with peach melba sauce & Tiramisu. After the desserts we were so full & content. The portions of Chestnut Chateau were large we had leftovers to take home. As always we enjoy dining at this fine restaurant & for what you order the prices are very reasonable. Manny & Sophie Noia are masters of their craft. I can't say enough about this restaurant - make reservations today - you'll agree Chestnut Chateau is the place to go for birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions or anytime you want a special treat. Reservations suggested.

This column is intended to inform our readers about dining opportunities in the area.

Photography is on exhibit at NJCVA

Beginning Aug. 31, the Member's Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts, 68 Elm St., Summit, will feature recent photographs by fine art photographer Richard A. Nelridge. The exhibition will continue through Sept. 27 and there will be a reception for the artist Sept. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. The reception is free and open to the public.

The title of the exhibition is "Tranquility in Nature." Nelridge specializes in nature, landscape and wildlife photography. He attended Rutgers University, where he received bachelor's and master's degrees in geology, and a master's degree in zoology/ecology. In a recent artist's statement, Nelridge said, "As a child from the age of about 7, I found I had an interest and an aptitude for photography, which went hand-in-hand with my appreciation for nature and wildlife. When possible, he works primarily with early morning or late afternoon light. He photographs landscapes on both the grand and more intimate scale."

All the images on display in this exhibition were recorded on slides film with Leica 35mm R series cameras and optics or Linhof 4x5-inch cameras and printed on archival photo paper by digital printers. He has found that "digital technology allows the maintaining of the detail, edge-to-edge clarity, crispness, color..." that make these images so intense.

Nelridge has won 89 photographic awards in competitions and juried art shows. His photographs are in private collections in 35 states in the U.S. as



"Morning Run," a 1998 photograph, is among the works by Richard A. Nelridge to be exhibited in the Member's Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit.

well as collections in Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Israel, Japan, Mexico and the Netherlands. In addition to his photographic career, he teaches workshops and classes at the New Jersey Center of Visual Arts in Summit.

Founded in 1933 by a dedicated group of local artists, NJCVA has evolved into a major regional art center. It has a full-scale art school taught by award winning faculty. There are two interior galleries and an outdoor exhibition space/sculpture garden.

NJCVA is the largest visual art center in the state. It is specifically devoted to contemporary art. Programs include Artists with Disabilities, docent tours, lectures, demonstrations, art trips, workshops and other activities.

The nonprofit New Jersey Center for Visual Arts is wheelchair accessible and is funded in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a partner agency of the National Endowment of the Arts.

Bill Van Sant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07093.

Stamp show is coming

Atlantic Coast Exhibition's of Palm Coast, Fla. have announced that it will present the Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo in conjunction with the Westfield Stamp Club Sept. 22 to 23 at the Holiday Inn, Springfield, 304 Rt. 22 Westbound. Show hours are Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission and parking are free and the general public is invited to attend.

The Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo has run continually since 1982. It is present four times yearly at this location. Atlantic Coast Exhibitions currently produces 25 stamp events yearly with the goal of introducing stamp collecting — philately — to the general public. To date these efforts have brought more than 3,000 new or re-interested persons into the hobby. Stamp collecting is the nation's No. 1 hobby. The United States Postal Service estimates that there are more than 22 million Americans who currently collect stamps. Any interest can be combined with stamps through the many topics illustrated on them.

The Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo is New Jersey's largest and best attended stamp event. The expo features exhibitors from nine states, displaying a combined total of more than 55 million in stamps. Several exhibits are the lifelong accomplishments of their owners. In addition, a course of 40 stamp dealers buying and selling stamps of the world will be present. Free door prize drawings for more than \$500 in merchandise will be held. A large Youth Area with free stamps and collecting materials will be available for all kids that attend. A Boy Scout merit badge registered counselor will be on duty to answer questions concerning the acquisition of the Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Several area stamp clubs will have displays and members on hand to offer guidance and extend a welcome to people interested in becoming new members of their groups. Free appraisals of stamps and stamp collections are being offered by licensed appraisers.

A special exhibit of the rare 1901 Inverted Train Stamp will also be on display. This stamp which was issued to commemorate the 1901 Pan-American Exposition held in Buffalo in that year, was mistakenly printed with the center upside-down. Of the 160 million of this stamp produced, only 140 were printed in this manner. Of those, only 98 are now accounted for of these this is one of the two best examples of this rare stamp. The stamp has been valued \$75. Recently many record prices have been obtained for some of the world's rarest stamps. A stamp was recently purchased in a New York auction for \$2.7 million.

Information about the Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo can be obtained from Atlantic Coast Exhibitions by mail at 42 Baltimore Lane, Palm Coast, FL 32137-8850; by phone at 386-445-4550; or by e-mail at mrsstamp2@aol.com. Locally information is available from Fred Lisandro at 732-750-8937, or at the Holiday Inn Springfield at 973-376-9400 on the show days. Detailed information including a listing of the dealers attending, show features, directions with maps may be found at the Beach Philatelics website at www.beachphilatelics.com.

Rahway gallery to open two-man exhibit

From Sunday to Oct. 5, the Arts Guild of Rahway will present "The Whole and the Many Parts", an exhibit of assemblages, collages and mixed-media constructions by Rahway artist Marcel Truppa and Leonard Merlo of North Plainfield. An opening reception is Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free.

Truppa is a Rahway artist who has been making collages and mixed-media constructions since the mid-'60s. His relatively small works combine painted decoration, images from the history of art and seemingly endless array of unusual found object. His work over the years has gone

through many evolutionary stages, each distinctive and often charming in style. This exhibit features a variety of works completed over many years and offers a mini-retrospective of the accomplishments of this very talented artist.

Merlo of North Plainfield is a long-time art teacher at Livingston High School where he holds classes in a variety of arts including ceramics. His ability with clay is an integral part of many of his assemblages for which he fashions abstract shapes or objects which he glazes and fires. Merlo's work often tends to be very symmetrical design. In content these pieces fre-

quently contain social or political themes. Says Merlo of his art: "I would like to see my work instigate thought-provoking public discussion and awareness of issues that affect the quality of our lives and our relationships with our fellow men and women... Through open dialogue and discussion, the barriers that separate us as people can be broken down."

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

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REUNIONS

• **Railway High School Class of 1977** is searching for classmates in preparation for the 25th reunion. Members of this class are asked to contact **Charles Rankins-Jackson** at 908-490-1543 or **Bob Brandler** at 732-821-5774.

• **Union High School Class of 1936** will conduct its 65th reunion Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. at the **Waterview Pavilion, 800 Route 35, Belmar**. Cost is \$20 per person and includes gratuities. For information, contact **Jack Jordan** by email at 38-C Poplar Court, Brielle, 08730; by phone at 732-528-7251; or by e-mail at John881@wobtv.net.

• **Summit High School Class of 1991** will conduct its 10th reunion Oct. 5. For information, call **Reunions Unlimited Inc.** at 732-617-1000.

• **Union High School Class of 1951** will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 6. For information, call **Reunions Unlimited Inc.** at 732-617-1000.

• **Jonathan Dayton High School Class of 1951** will have its 50th reunion at the **Somerset Holiday Inn, Somerset, Oct. 6**.

The Reunion Committee needs help in locating the following missing classmates:

From **Kentworth, W. Chapman, M. Chester, A. Ciemiecki, S. Dempsey, D. Easton, K. Golden, E. Izzo, G. Laskey, J. Leberthal-Missner, D. M. Kenna, A. Rizzo, and N. Roberts**.

From **Clark R. Einesmann, L. Miller, C. Staveland, and M. Strangham**.

From **Mountainside: D. Davighi, M. Giomella, and G. Salvatorello-Cum**.

From **Springfield: L. Berner, P. Bowman, B. Clark, R. Colby, R. Franklin, J. Keller, F. Lafond, V. Leone, D. McCoy, J. McNeer, R. Powell, J. Preston, C. Reddington, I. Rodriguez, J. Ruszcansky, I. Showell-Fonny**.

If anyone can provide a current address or phone number on any of the above or would like more information, call **John J. Mozart** at 732-477-1577 or send e-mail to bjazzart@netnet.net.

• **Railway High School Class of 1951** will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 13 at the **Woodbridge Sheraton**. For information, call **Andrey Celeman** at 732-388-2083.

• **Classmates are being sought from the Class of 1961** from **Jonathan Dayton and Governor Livingston regional high schools** for their 40th reunion Oct. 13 at L'Affaire, Route 22 East, Mountainside. For information, call **Beverly Rustock (Grush)** at 908-245-4333 or 800-424-5439; **Michelle Beuer (Sorensen)** at 908-276-8283; or **Donna Sayka (Prince)** at 973-425-0633.

• **Abraham Clark High School, Roselle, Class of 1951** will conduct its 50th reunion Oct. 26 at **Costa's** in Roselle Park. For information, call **Mary McLeod** at 732-381-3584 or send e-mail to achs1951@yahoo.com.

• **Union High School Class of 1977** will conduct its 30th reunion Oct. 27. For information, call **Reunions Unlimited Inc.** at 732-617-1000.

• **Roselle Catholic High School Class of 1991** will conduct its 10th reunion Nov. 3 from 8:15 p.m. to 12:15 a.m. at **The Westwood in Garwood**. For information, or to provide details on classmates, send e-mail to **Michelle Matthes** at Nucida1@aol.com.

• **Westfield High School Class of 1981** will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 10. For information, call **Reunions Unlimited Inc.** at 732-617-1000.

• **Jonathan Dayton Regional High**

School Class of 1976 will conduct its 25th reunion Thanksgiving Weekend. Classmates are currently being sought. For information, call **Nancy Frichtman** at 908-580-0878 or send e-mail to murrayco@tdi.net.

• **Hillside High School Class of 1981** will conduct its 20th reunion

Nov. 23. For information, call **Lori Jackson-Williams** at 800-342-2848, ext. 461 or **Dawn Mayo-Hutchison** at 732-398-0975, or e-mail at dj1981@tdi.net.

• **Linden High School Class of 1981** will conduct its 20th reunion Nov. 23 at **The Westwood in Gar-**

wood. Alumni are asked to send mailing addresses to **Linden High 1981 Committee, P.O. Box 4425, Metuchen, 08840**, or via e-mail to LindenHigh1981@aol.com.

• **Jonathan Dayton Regional High School Class of 1976** will conduct its 25th reunion Nov. 24 in **The Sher-**

wood Room at Forest Lodge in Warren. Classmates and addresses are needed. For information, call **New England Reunions** at 877-600-6694 or 860-693-8179.

• **Saint Mary's High School, Elizabeth, Class of 1951** is in the process of forming plans for a 50th reunion in

2001. For information, call **Jim Fowler** at 908-272-8049.

• **St. Mary High School, Jersey City, Classes of 1960, '61, '62 and '63** are planning a reunion. For information, call **Ken Giordano** at 732-349-6600 or 732-946-7075.

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Fall Fashion & Bridal

Couple provides growing Internet service to engaged couples

The Internet has made it easier and more convenient than ever before to plan your wedding in New Jersey, and brides and grooms have found the web site that really helps: NJWedding.com — The Internet Wedding Directory of New Jersey, a local New Jersey wedding "search engine," located at www.njwedding.com.

In addition to magazines and newspapers, couples have recently been turning to the Internet to find wedding planning information in New Jersey during their engagement, and we've made it as easy as possible to locate and then contact a potential wedding vendor," stated Erik Kent, co-publisher with his wife, Beth. "We

want to help the engaged couple and the wedding vendor start a relationship through the Internet, and this search engine is designed to connect them," he added.

How does the New Jersey wedding search engine work? Visitors to the web site can choose the service they are interested in and then choose the area where they are looking for this service. After activating the search, a number of vendor listings are displayed. Visitors can choose the listing that best fits their needs and view information about the company, including a photo, description, contact information and-link to the company's web site. Visitors can also receive more

information by filling out an online form, telling the company what they are specifically looking for. That information is then sent to the company immediately via e-mail.

NJWedding.com — The Internet Wedding Directory of New Jersey was founded by New Jersey couple Erik and Beth Kent Feb. 14, 1997 as a response to the growing need for a web site that would consolidate New Jersey wedding services and help future brides and grooms find these services. The web site currently features more than 475 New Jersey wedding businesses that future brides and grooms can choose from, as well as a wedding store featuring wedding books, music and movies and links to helpful advice and wedding-related information.

The Kents have seen a tremendous increase of usage since the launch of the site, starting from 380 hits in the first month to more than 275,000 hits per month currently, and still continues to grow. They have also seen the direct impact it has on the wedding services that are featured, producing new inquiries every day.

You can visit NJWedding.com — The Internet Wedding Directory of New Jersey directly at www.njwedding.com to use the search engine and start planning your New Jersey wedding. For more information, contact Erik and Beth Kent at 908-874-0417 or e-mail them at info@njwedding.com.

'We want to help the engaged couple and the wedding vendor start a relationship through the Internet, and this search engine is designed to connect them.'

— Erik Kent, co-founder, NJWedding.com

ings and other functions for wedding professionals in New Jersey, learn more about the organization, contact the association for a membership application and view helpful resources to help them promote and grow their wedding business. There is also an opportunity for members to submit articles for the association newsletter, published quarterly, through an interactive forum.

The Association of Bridal Consultants, founded in 1981, is the only organization dedicated exclusively to serving brides-to-be and wedding professionals worldwide. The association now has more than 2,100 members in 25 countries, with about 150 members serving the state of New Jersey. For more information about the Association of Bridal Consultants' New Jersey Branch, contact Toni DeLisi, state coordinator, at 201-251-3767, or visit the web site at www.wedding.com/abcs.

Gifts can be unconventional

Today's soon-to-be-weds are expanding the conventional bridal registry and including less traditional items they can enjoy together on their wedding wish lists.

Since couples are more established than they were in the past, many already have the items goud on a conventional gift registry. This allows savvy couples to ask for items ranging from home entertainment to home improvement.

"Now-a-days it's acceptable and common to ask for unconventional gifts," said Diane Forden, editor in chief, Bridal Guide magazine. "With brides and grooms looking for other registry options it's not surprising to see home entertainment systems or innovative appliances from companies such as Philips Electronics on the wish lists of modern couples."

• Complete the newlywed nest with a home entertainment system from Philips Electronics. Some popular electronics gifts include a Mini System with integrated DVD player; Personal Video Recorder with TiVo Service; as well as home spa items for both bride and groom.

• Luxurious bedding remains a much-appreciated gift. Go for quality with sheets made from a high thread count or a synthetic comforter that has the look and feel of down.

• The latest gadgets for the kitchen make getting breakfast on the table more like breakfast in bed. Consider Philips coffee maker with thermos carafe or a synthetic comforter that has the look and feel of down.

• The latest gadgets for the kitchen make getting breakfast on the table more like breakfast in bed. Consider Philips coffee maker with thermos carafe or a synthetic comforter that has the look and feel of down.

Some of the new registry trends include:

- Visit www.honeyluna.com and give the lovebirds part of their honeymoon airfare of a night in the honeymoon suite.
- A gift of camping or outdoor equipment such as an Eddie Bauer multi-temp sleeping bag is great for the outdoor couple.

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'Troubadour at Castello di Santa Maria Novella Marcialla,' 2000, is among the works which will be included in the exhibit 'Benvenuti in Toscana: Photographs of My Father's Homeland,' opening Monday at the Kent Place Gallery in Summit.

Exhibit pays homage to father's homeland

The Kent Place Gallery will open its 2001-02 season with "Benvenuti in Toscana: Photographs of My Father's Homeland," a collection of photos from Mendham artist and photographer Judi Benvenuti. The exhibit opens Monday and will run through Oct. 5.

Notes the artist, "This present body of work is part of an ongoing love affair with Italy." Benvenuti's father, George, was born in Tuscany in the city of Florence, and came alone to America when he was 24. His stories were the family still there in Italy. She eagerly wanted to meet them.

Over the years, she has come to know and appreciate her father's people and homeland. When she is in Tuscany, the traditions that she grew up with come alive. The gestures, faces, body language, temperaments, artistic style and recipes seem to become living frescoes, paintings and sculptures.

Benvenuti is a professional photographer, living in Mendham with her husband and two children. She has

studied with some of the best in the field, including Ansel Adams in Yosemite, and with George Tice, Robert Mapplethorpe and Lynn Davis in New York. Her work has been featured in National Geographic and in 1980, the National Park Service published her first full-color book, "Mourntown, The War Years: 1775-1783." In addition, she has an extensive array of published works that include books, portraits, note cards, fine art photographs and annual reports for corporate, industrial and educational entities. She is a member of the American Society of Media Photographers and is currently an adjunct professor at Drew University in Madison.

A reception in honor of the artist will be held Sept. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the gallery. The exhibit and reception are free and open to the public. The Kent Place Gallery, located in Summit on the campus of Kent Place School, is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, or by appointment with Judy Lapides, director. For more information, call 908-273-0900, ext. 332, or visit Kent Place on the web at www.kentplace.org.

Amish quilts return for Westfield show

Amish Country Quilts and Crafts will sponsor a quilt and craft sale Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Westfield Armory, 500 Railway Ave., Westfield.

The sale will feature a large selection of more than 250 quilts for twin, full, queen and king beds; more than 500 wall hangings, such as smaller quilts used like artwork on a wall; pillows, dolls, artworks, toys, furniture, rugs, books, and much more from the Amish and other craftspeople of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

Amish Country Quilts and Crafts is a cottage-type industry. Jane Benton formed the business 14 years ago to hold quilt sales around the country. She goes to the Lancaster County farms of her Amish friends and neighbors to collect their handmade items to take to the sales.

In the past 14 years, she has held well received sales in Rochester, White Plains, and Stony Brook, N.Y.; Amandale, Va.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Lowell, Mass.; Raleigh, N.C.; Austin, Tex.; Seattle and Spokane, Wash.; Colorado Springs, Col.; and Hayward and Roseville, Calif. This will be the third sale in Westfield.

At this time when many are being forced to leave farming, the Plain People still follow their ways of a farming life. Many of them are also skilled craftspeople. It gives Benton great satisfaction to be able to help her Amish friends at a time when the family farm is disappearing.

There is no admission charge to get into the sale. For information, call Amish Country Quilts and Crafts at 717-786-8487.

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Bill Van Sant, Editor

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Organizations submitting releases to the entertainment section can mail copy to 1291 Stuyvesant Ave., P.O. Box 3109, Union, New Jersey, 07083.

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Parents' influence is still felt today

I grew up in New York City, and my mother and father regularly took me to the theater. I was a child and then a young adult going to plays and musicals. I was lucky. My parents treated me as an adult or at least a young person — their young person, not to be protected from the theater — so I essentially saw everything they saw with them at Saturday matinees.

My favorites were Gilbert and Sullivan, Rogers and Hammerstein, and courtroom-style plays like "The Caine Mutiny Court Martial." Like a lot of boys and girls of the 1940s forties, sex went pretty much over my head for a long time, and I never really believed the cooked up violence of the movies was real or scary.

This nurturing of my taste was often a product of my parents' benign neglect, extended to movies and books, too. For example, we alternated our Friday nights between progressive Jewish religious services and French new wave, Italian neo-realist and British angry young man cinema. In those days, I had a greater understanding of Tom Courtney's class underpinnings in "Loneliness of a Long Distance Runner" than of any television sitcom.

My parents had a book club with the other club and after my 13th birthday, I was allowed to sit in on the discussions. While we knew I was not even close to being an adult, my parents encouraged my intellectual development and being a part of an adult community by drawing me into their reading circle. While there were few expectations and I was hardly an ostentatious child, I can remember my mother encouraging me in a discussion of Irving Stone's "Lust for Life" to say what I wanted to say about Van Gogh's isolation, with which as an adolescent I empathized.

My parents were gems, and at least as far as I was concerned, wonderful role models. My dad, Abe, a Brooklyn boy, was a high school English teacher and baseball coach throughout my youth. He wrote very idealistic camp-

On the Arts

By Jon Plaut

ing and sports books, perhaps inspired by his association with Lou Gehrig, his college roommate at Columbia, and his years of directing and writing a premiere boys' summer camp. He volunteered himself into the Second World War — he was over age — and served in the South Pacific until he was sent back to Australia and then home with malaria.

My mom, Bev, was an intellectual rebel, which first manifest itself in her marrying my baseball-playing Dad — minor leagues — at age 20 and separating herself from her father's strict orthodox religious practice. My mom danced ballet at President Calvin Coolidge's inauguration ball in Northampton, Mass., her hometown. Until she physically failed at life's cruel end, my Mom regularly gave play, movie and book reviews to clubs, libraries and schools.

Out of this almost relentless dipping into culture, came my proclivi-

ties. But I was not a mimicked or aesthetic child; just one who loved and still loves all forms of theater, movies and books, especially when they don't pander or pontificate.

Thus, to me Nathan Lane's Yiddish theater comedy style in Mel Brooks' "The Producers" is hilarious, while Cherry Jones' ensemble teaming with the other actors in George Bernard Shaw's "Major Barbara" left me cheering. One is perhaps on a lower road than the other, but they both reached me and my cultural aesthetic. So I can also smile at Reese Witherspoon's simple parody in "Legally Blonde," and be totally entranced by the film of Henry James' "The Golden Bowl," with its deeply layered performances. And I can enjoy the easy read and escape of a John Grisham novel, while Phillip Roth's "American Pastoral" leaves me gasping with the thrill of encountering a modern masterpiece focused on the great disappointments and disconnects of the Vietnam era.

Jon Plaut is a resident of Summit and a frequent contributor to this newspaper.

Something to tell? Telephone 1-800-564-8911.

Fair is Sunday

The Garwood Chamber of Commerce will have its annual Kid's Festival and Street Fair Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. on Center Street, Garwood; raindate is Sept. 16.

For information, contact Alice Lefebvre at The Crafty Kitchen, 477 North Ave., Garwood, 908-789-0217 for an application form.

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Noah's Ark Learning Center announces new Westfield location

A new pre-school, Noah's Ark Learning Center, has docketed at its third location, 836 Mountain Ave. in Westfield, a fully-renovated 4,500-square-foot two-story building with 4000-square-foot outdoor playground. At present, they are accepting applications for September programs with limited space still available.

Noah's Ark offers a challenging curriculum for preschool children 18 months to 5 years old. Full-day programs are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Half-day mornings from 8 a.m. to noon or afternoons from 1 to 3 p.m., as well as before- and after-school programs are available.

With state-licensed and certified preschool programs, Noah's Ark has developed an atmosphere that encourages creative thinking through a variety of different classrooms. These include a Computer Lab, Imagination Center, Art and Music and a Science and Academic Center. The philosophy is based on three principle goals: to help children develop self-confidence, to impart a strong sense of community and to foster a true love of learning. They provide a warm, nurturing and consistent environment where the children are encouraged to explore, make choices and gain independence. Noah's Ark Learning Center is committed to an overall program of early childhood development that

not only respects, but also celebrates the individuality of each child. Registration for fall classes is now under way. Classes are filling quickly so don't miss the boat! For more information or to make an appointment to tour the school, call 908-232-7011.

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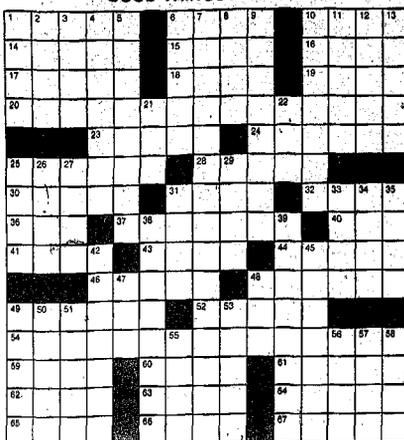
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BACK TO SCHOOL

GOOD THINGS AND BAD



ACROSS

- 1 Aligned
- 6 Cobras
- 10 Genus of humans
- 14 Unit of prevention
- 15 Whip mark
- 18 *Omnia vincit* ... love conquers all
- 17 ... box: TV set
- 18 Maitlain
- 19 Epsilon follower
- 20 Evocation in Genesis
- 23 Our Miss Brooks star
- 24 Swabby's yes
- 25 Fly-to-be
- 28 Water walls
- 30 TV DeGeneres
- 31 "If ... you ..."
- 32 Aedile's garb
- 36 Romance
- 37 Elgar and Murrow
- 40 Veggie-tray item
- 41 Phys. or Psych
- 43 Pitches in ...
- 44 Some USN officers
- 46 1040 time
- 48 Noble Brit
- 49 Early Jamaican
- 52 Belgian site of WWI

DOWN

- 1 Drugery
- 2 Ill-mannered
- 3 Work group
- 4 Environmental vandalism
- 5 Unchron
- 6 Cognizant
- 7 Envy, lust, etc.
- 8 Commoner
- 9 Smeary
- 10 Least clear
- 11 Symbol for omnia

- 12 Infested with teneids
- 13 Harangue
- 21 Summer time, in D.C.
- 22 Lutesif tendizer
- 25 Kilty sounds
- 26 Pilpe, Jesus or Matty
- 27 Amorphous mass
- 29 Some disc. clothes
- 31 V-J Day ended it
- 33 Bookie's forte
- 34 Belied
- 35 Lhasa ... dog breed
- 38 Turned guilty
- 39 Blocked from view
- 42 Apply verbal pressure
- 45 Err. judicially
- 47 Cohort
- 48 Forelimb
- 49 Feverish states
- 50 Musical form
- 51 Viper
- 53 Gay ...
- 53 Passable
- 56 Pastoral poem
- 57 ... /a vie such is life
- 58 Under sail

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See ANSWERS on Page B11

What's Going On?

FAIR

SUNDAY
September 16th, 2001
EVENT: Belleville Street Fair
PLACE: Held along Franklin Avenue from Belmont Avenue to North 7th Street, (off Franklin Avenue), Belleville
TIME: 10am-6pm
PRICE: A day of fun with food, kiddie rides, pony rides, petting zoo, merchandise vendors, DJ Mike with Karaoke all day and much more! For information call 201-997-8535.
ORGANIZATION: The District Partnership of Silverlake.

FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY
September 7th, 2001
EVENT: FLEA MARKET
PLACE: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 134 Prospect Avenue, Irvington, NJ
TIME: 9:00am-12:00pm
PRICE: For information call 973-744-4377
ORGANIZATION: Redeemer Lutheran Church

SUNDAY
September 9th, 2001
EVENT: Flea Market, Craft & Collectible Show Outdoors (Indoors if rain)
PLACE: Belleville High School, 100 Passaic Avenue, Belleville (OFF JORALEMON STREET)
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: Over 100 Quality Dealers Selling a Variety of Unique Merchandise For information call 201-997-8535.
ORGANIZATION: Belleville Football Parents

SATURDAY
September 8th, 2001
EVENT: "Bloomfield on the Green", Outdoor Flea Market, & Collectible Show
PLACE: Broad Street (off Bloomfield Avenue) Bloomfield
TIME: 9am-5pm
PRICE: All local civics organizations are invited to participate with over 75 vendors in the Bloomfield UNICO event. Civic groups please call 201-998-8331. For information call 201-997-8535.
ORGANIZATION: Bloomfield UNICO

SATURDAY

September 15th, 2001
EVENT: FLEA MARKET FUNDRAISER
PLACE: 841 Mountain Avenue, Springfield
TIME: 8am-2pm
PRICE: Free. All monies raised from this FLEA MARKET will be used for educational outreach awareness projects, promoting the importance and need for organ and tissue donors. 15 people die a day waiting! For information call 973-379-4535.
ORGANIZATION: The NJ Organ and Tissue Sharing Network

RUMMAGE SALE

THURSDAY-SATURDAY
September 6, 7, 8, 2001
EVENT: Gigantic Annual Rummage Sale
PLACE: Prospect Presbyterian Church, corner of Prospect Street and Tuscan Road, Maplewood.
TIME: Thursday & Friday 9:45pm-9pm, Saturday 9:30am-2pm.
PRICE: Free Admission, Great bargains! Clothing, antiques, collectibles, toys, housewares, sports and exercise equipment, shoes, furniture, small appliances, more! \$5 bag sale on Saturday. For further information call 973-783-2090.
ORGANIZATION: Prospect Presbyterian Women's Association.

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

CRAFT

SUNDAY
September 9th, 2001
EVENT: 27th Annual Festival in the Park
PLACE: Memorial Park, between Chestnut Street & Vreeland Avenue, Nutley.
TIME: 10am-5pm
PRICE: Free Admission - more than 100 crafters and collectible vendors.
ORGANIZATION: Kingsland Trust & Nutley Historical Society

OTHER

THURSDAY THROUGH SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 6th-9th, 2001
EVENT: GREEK FESTIVAL
PLACE: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 721 Pathway Avenue, Union, (off Morris Avenue)
TIME: Thursday-6pm to Midnight; Friday-6pm to Midnight; Saturday-Noon to Midnight; Sunday-Noon to 8pm
PRICE: \$1.00 Donation, Children Free. Lunch under the tent on FRIDAY, 12:00pm-2:00pm. Greek food/pastries, live Bouzouki music, souvlaki, folk dancing, games/rides for the children, more. For information call 908-964-7957 or 732-381-3681.
ORGANIZATION: St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

SATURDAY
September 8th, 2001
EVENT: Original Munich Oktoberfest
PLACE: Deutscher Club Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, Clark
TIME: Doors open at 4:00pm
PRICE: \$5.00 Admission. Children under 12 free. An evening of wonderful German food and entertainment. Music by "Fusion Music" a band directly from Germany and performances by the Bayern Verein Newark Schupplatters. For information call Ralph Menke at 908-276-7745 or Dan Shaver at 908-412-9277.
ORGANIZATION: Bayern Verein Newark, Inc.

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

Filmmakers Symposium kicks off this month in Mountainside

Imagine seeing a major motion picture before anyone, then the lights come up, and there in front of you are the creators of the film, ready to answer questions and discuss their work. Widely praised as one of the best film series in the world, Filmmakers Symposium has hosted 748 movie premieres in the past two years.

Confirmed films and those under consideration for the upcoming fall session include: "Annie" with Audrey Tatou, Mathieu Kassovitz, director Jean-Pierre Jeunet; "A Beautiful Mind" with Russell Crowe, Ed Harris, director Ron Howard; "Behind Enemy Lines" with Gene Hackman, Owen Wilson, director John Moore; "Chelsea Walls" with Uma Thurman, Marsia Tomei, director Ethan Hawke; "City By the Sea" with Robert DeNiro, Frances McDormand, director Michael Caton-Jones; "Gangs of New York" with Leonardo DiCaprio, Daniel Day Lewis, director Martin Scorsese; "Gosford Park" with Kristin Scott Thomas, Maggie Smith, director Robert Altman; "Hearts in Atlantis" with Anthony Hopkins, Hope Davis, director Scott Hicks; "Heli" with Gene Hackman, Danny DeVito, director David Mamet; "High Crimes" with Ashley Judd, Morgan Freeman, director Carl Franklin; "Human Nature" with Patricia Arquette, Tim Robbins, director Robert Conroy; "John Q." with Denzel Washington, Michael Dondy, director Nick Cassavetes; "Lilting Me Softly" with Heather Graham, Joseph Fiennes, director Chen Kaige; "K-Pak" with Kevin Spacey, Jeff Bridges, director Iain Softley; "The Man Who Wasn't There" with Billy

Bob Thornton, Frances McDormand, James Gandolfini, director Joel Coen; "Oceans 11" with George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Julia Roberts, director Steven Soderbergh; "The Panic Room" with Jodie Foster, Forest Whitaker, director David Fincher; "Possession" with Gwyneth Paltrow, Aaron Eckhart, director Neil LaBute; "Simone" with Al Pacino, Catherine Keener, director Andrew Niccol; "The Spinning Wheel" with Kevin Spacey, Catherine Blanchett, Judi Dench, director Lasse Hallstrom; "Spy Game" with Robert Redford, Brad Pitt, director Tony Scott; "Storytelling" with Salma Hayek, John Goodman, director Todd Solondz; "Unconditional Love" with Kathy Bates, Rupert Everett, director P.J. Hogan; "The Weight of Water" with Sean Penn, director Kathryn Bigelow; "Windtalkers" with Nicolas Cage, Christian Slater, director John Wood; and "Zoolander" with Ben Stiller, Jerry Seinfeld, director Ben Stiller.

Filmmakers Symposium can be taken at either of two locations: Loews Mountainside on Monday evenings starting Sept. 24, second session begins Nov. 5, or at Loews Monmouth Mall on Tuesday evenings starting Sept. 25, second session begins Nov. 6. For information or to register, call 800-531-9416.

The series is open to anyone, but seating is limited, so early enrollment is advised. Subscription at Loews Mountainside is \$121 for six weeks or \$229 for 12 weeks plus \$20 registration fee. Subscription at Loews Monmouth Mall is \$113 for six weeks or \$249 for twelve weeks plus \$20 registration fee.

Oscar winners and nominees Danny Aiello, Alan Arkin, James Cromwell, Frank Darabont, Richard LaGravenese, Niki Marvin, Ann Reihl, John Sayles, Mack Shtainman, Howard Shore, Patrick Palmer and Fred Zello have joined Zuyis Amis, Dylan Baker, Bob Balaban, Bruno Barreto, Gil Bellows, Philip Bosco, Al Franken, Ethan Hawke, Fankle Janssen, Delroy Lindo, Kevin McCarthy, David Morse, Viggo Mortensen, Austin Pendleton, Mary Kay Place, Kevin Smith, David Strathairn, Henry Thomas and Wendy Wasserstein as guest speakers who have come to share their insights with symposium participants.

"The series will always be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities as they arise," symposium director Chuck Rose said. "Wonderful surprises can pop up out of nowhere, so I try to keep the schedule as fluid as possible. Last year, we premiered 51 movies which later earned a total of 21 Oscar, 36 British Academy, 23 Golden Globes and 33 Independent Spirit Award nominations."

HOROSCOPE

Sept. 10 to 16

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't walk away from the chance for a romantic adventure. If the experience doesn't break your heart, the regret of missing out certainly will.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Success is unexpected in the professional arena. Follow a hunch and cash in on an unusual and fascinating opportunity to make your mark.
GEMINI (May 21-June 21): Put an idea or personal belief to the test. As a master of the spoken and written word, you can unleash a powerful and effective proposal.
CANCER (June 22-July 22): Hang a "gone-fishing" sign on your door and break away from the rat race. Relax with music or other artistic forms of expressions.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Partnerships are highlighted. Surprise a loved one with tickets or trinkets. Go to bat for a friend who has stood and battled in your corner.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Use all of

your skills, talents and experiences to get ahead in your career. It helps to outline all of your thoughts and plans on paper.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): Excel in debates or friendly arguments. Present your case with facts and logic, and anyone who didn't do their homework doesn't stand a chance.
SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): It's time to get your financial affairs in order. Review your resources and come up with a plan that will allow you to reach your monetary goals.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Certain events in your life are worth writing about. Document recent experiences with the intention of publishing your personal account.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be sure to use your time and energy this week productively. Joint accounts are subject to increase with much effort on your part. Celebrate!
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take on a role of instructor or mentor and impart valuable lessons to children or

misguided peers. Make it fun and keep it interesting.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get centered and go with the flow during this very emotional period in your life. Take a close look at family history, values and expectations.
If your birthday is this week, careful thinking and planning will help you to get on track or in sync with your life's purpose during the coming year. Listen to the advice of a mentor or elder and benefit greatly from their experiences.

Women's chorus opens doors to new members

The Hickory Tree Chorus has invited all women who love to sing to join the chorus for an evening of fun and songs starting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the New Jersey Youth Symphony Music Center, 570 Central Ave., New Providence.

The 85-member chorus sings four-part a capella harmony from old standards to contemporary sounds, and one does not have to read music to become a chorus member.

The group has performed throughout New Jersey for community events, charity benefits, first nights and baseball games.

For more information call Bettie at 908-522-1934, e-mail at HickoryTC@aol.com, or visit the web site at www.angelfire.com/hickorytree.

www.localsource.com
Internet Directory

Agape Family Worship Center.....http://www.agapecenter.org
American Savings Bank.....http://www.americansavings.com
Big Planet Phone.....http://dwp.bigplanet.com/rrm/rdialtry
Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce.....http://www.computa.com/bcc
Broad National Bank.....http://www.broad-national-bank.com/j
Crossroads Christian Fellowship.....http://www.ccoloc.org
Eye Care Center of NJ.....http://www.eyecare.com
First Night of Maplewood/So. Orange.....http://community.nj.com/coll/firstnight2001
Forest Hill Properties Apartments.....http://www.springstreet.com/propid/3881128
Grand Sanitation.....http://www.grandsanitation.com
Holy Cross Church.....http://www.holycrossnj.org
Hospital Center at Orange.....http://www.cathedralhealthcare.org
LaSalle Travel Service.....http://www.lasalletravel.com
Mountainside Hospital.....http://www.AtlanticHealth.org
NJ Avenue.....http://www.njavenue.com
Nutley Pet Center.....http://www.nutleypet.com
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Plets Institute.....http://www.rels-institute.com
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Tireless Hospital.....http://www.tirelesshospital.com
Turning Point.....http://www.turningpoint.org
Union Center National Bank.....http://www.uncnb.com
Union Catholic High School.....http://www.unioncatholic.org
Unionarian Universalist Church.....http://www.union.essex.nj.us.org
United Way of Bloomfield.....http://www.uwcomet.com/unitedway

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

Stepping Out

Ave., Union. For information, call 908-851-5450.

ALIEN BEINGS SERIES, the works of Stephen McKenzie, will be on exhibit at the Tommaso Gallery in the Kenneth Mackay Library at Union County College, Cranford, Sept. 21 through Oct. 25. An opening reception will take place Sept. 21 from 7 to 9 p.m.

UNMARKED LIVES, a touring exhibit of lapelists, textiles and paperworks by artist Joanne Soroka, will be on display at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit Sunday through Oct. 28. An opening reception will take place Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.; the artist will offer a Gallery Talk at 3 p.m. during the reception. Patricia Melcher of Surface magazine will present the talk "The Contemporary Quilt: A Pattern Evolution" Oct. 21 at 3 p.m.

ARTIST RON HEDRICK will have his work on exhibit at Evelyn Dunn's Gallery, 549 South Ave., Westfield. Gallery hours are Mondays to Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursdays until 7 p.m. Summit Arts and Art is located at 465 Springfield Ave., Summit. For information, call 908-273-8665.

TRANQUILITY IN NATURE, photographs by Richard A. Nalidge, will be on exhibit in the Members' Gallery at the New Jersey Center for Visual Arts in Summit through Sept. 27. A reception with the artist will take place Sept. 14 from 6 to 8 p.m.

CHILDREN'S SPECIALIZED HOSPITAL, 150 New Providence Road, Mountainside, will exhibit the photography of Joseph Zielinski of the Raritan Valley Arts Association throughout the month of September.

THE WHOLE AND HIS MANY PARTS — assemblages, collage and mixed-media construction by Marcel Tuzo and Leonard Merlo — will be on exhibit at the Gallery at the Arts Guild of Rahway Sunday through Oct. 5. An opening reception will take place Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.; admission is free.

BEJENVENTI IN TOSCANA: "Photographs of My Father's Homeland," works by Juv Benvenuti, will be on exhibit at the Kent Place Gallery, 42 Norwood Ave., Summit, Monday through Oct. 5. A reception will take place Sept. 14 from 6 to 9 p.m.

ARTIST MIROSLAW RYDZAK will have his work on exhibit at the Skulski Art Gallery, at the Polish Cultural Foundation in Clark, Sept. 14 to Oct. 12. An opening reception will take place Sept. 14 from 6 to 10:30 p.m.

IN PRAISE OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, a photo exhibit of landscapes by Kubir Singh Shaha, will be on display at the Les Malamati Art Gallery in Union Public Library Saturday through Oct. 17. An opening reception will take place Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

EDISON ARTS SOCIETY WRITER'S CIRCLE, led by Cheryl Racine, meets at Barnes and Noble in Clark the second and fourth Monday of each month. Barnes and Noble in Clark is located at 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

JEWISH BOOK/LOVERS meets at Barnes and Noble, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, the third Monday of each month. For information, call 973-376-8544.

MYSTERY READING GROUP will

meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

SHAKESPEARE OUT LOUD Reading Group will meet at Barnes and Noble, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, at 7:30 p.m. on the third Friday of each month to read a Shakespeare play aloud. The group is led by Kevin Muller.

WOMEN'S READING GROUP will meet at Barnes and Noble in Clark the last Wednesday of each month. Barnes and Noble in Clark is located at 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

CLASSES

NEW JERSEY CENTER FOR VISUAL ARTS in Summit will offer classes and workshops for adults, teens and children Monday through Nov. 30. Classes and workshops include: "Col-

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.

COLLECTIBLES

GREATER NEW JERSEY RECORD SHOWS will sponsor the Record and CD Expo Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 304 Route 22 West, Springfield. Admission is \$5; children younger than 12 years old are admitted free. For information, call 908-225-9687 or 908-486-3303; send e-mail to GNJRecordShows@aol.com, or visit www.jzzy.com.

GREATER NEW JERSEY STAMP EXPO will take place Sept. 22 and 23 at the Holiday Inn, 304 Route 22 West, Springfield. Show hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sept. 22 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 23. Admission and parking are free. For information, call 732-750-8937, send e-mail to

p.m. at the Westfield Armory, 600 Railway Ave., Westfield. Admission is free.

THE HARVEST QUILTERS of Central New Jersey meet the first Monday of each month at 7 p.m. at Cozy Corner Creations Quilt Shop, Park Avenue in Clarks Plains. For information, call 908-765-7653.

DISCUSSION

THE WRITER'S EYE: Open Mic and Literary Study Group will meet Friday and Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. at Barnes and Noble in Clark, 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

JOURNAL WRITING GROUP, led by professional life coach Jam Novak, meets the fourth Thursday of each month at Barnes and Noble in Clark. Barnes and Noble is located at 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP will meet Sept. 17 at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West. The

FILM

ELIZABETH PUBLIC LIBRARY will sponsor a series of free film classics at the Main Branch. 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.

JAZZ

4TH ANNUAL JAZZ BY THE LAKE will be sponsored by the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders. Sept. 15 and 16 at Nonahagan Park on Springfield Avenue in Cranford. Admission is free. For information, call 908-438-2900 or 908-561-4062.

KIDS

CHILDREN'S WRITING GROUP, for children in grades three and up, will be sponsored Sept. 17 at 7 p.m. by Barnes and Noble in Clark, 1180 Raritan Road. For information, call 732-574-1818.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield will sponsor Tales for Tot's Preschool Storytime, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m., and Kids Writing Workshop, Saturdays at 10 a.m. Also scheduled is:

Tuesday, 11 a.m.: Storytime with Moogle the Clown

Sept. 15, 10 a.m.: Craft Hour

Sept. 18, 10:30 a.m.: Singing and dancing with Candy Hutton

For information, call 973-376-8544

UNION RECREATION DEPARTMENT will sponsor weekly ceramics classes for children between the ages of 7 and 12 at the Recreation Building, 1120 Commerce Ave., from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

For information, call 908-964-4828

MUSEUMS

LIBERTY HALL MUSEUM in Union offers several events throughout the summer:

Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.: "Tea Served" on the grass porch, \$20 per person.

Thursdays, 11 a.m. and 1 and 3 p.m.: "A Child's View of History" tours and activities for children 7 to 12 years old.

Sept. 22 and 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.: "Apple Harvest Weekend."

Liberty Hall is located at 1003 Morris Ave., Union. Tours are offered Wednesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with the last tour beginning at 3 p.m. Tour admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens, \$3 for children; children younger than 6 are admitted free.

For information, call 908-527-0400.

THEATER

PAPER MILL PLAYHOUSE in Millburn will present "A Chorus Line" through Oct. 14. Evening performances are Wednesdays through Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 7:30 p.m.; matinees are Thursdays and Sundays at 2 p.m., Saturdays at 2:30 p.m. plus Oct. 10 at 2 p.m. There is no performance Oct. 14. Tickets are \$29 to \$59.

Special performances are the Conversation Series, Thursdays, Sept. 13 to Oct. 2, at 7 p.m.; audio-described performances, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m., Oct. 6 at 2:30 p.m., and Oct. 7 at 7:30; each with a sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain; sign-interpreted performances, Oct. 7 at 7:30 p.m., Oct. 12 at 8 p.m., each with a sensory seminar 90 minutes prior to curtain; Gay and Lesbian Night, Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. with post-show reception; and Singles Night, Oct. 11 at 8 p.m. with post-show reception.

Paper Mill Playhouse is located on Brookside Drive in Millburn. For information, call 973-376-4343.

THE ELIZABETH PLAYHOUSE will present "The Late Christopher Bean" by Sidney Hoad Sept. 14 through Oct. 14. Shows are at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$55 for general admission, \$8 for students and senior citizens. The Elizabeth Playhouse is located at 1100 E. Jersey St., Elizabeth. For information, call 908-355-0077.



24TH ANNUAL GREEK FESTIVAL, sponsored by St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Union, will take place today through Sunday. Church members Georgia Gerarakis of Union, left, and Kalliopei Stavarakis of Westfield will be among the many participants. For information, see the 'Festivals' listing on this page.

or Harmony in Watercolor," "Watercolor — Cityscape," "Capturing Light in Watercolor," "The Art of the Pop-Up," "Critique," "People Photographing People," "Landscapes in Watercolor," "Pottery Potentials," "Beginning/Intermediate Basketry," and "Partners in Art."

NUOVA is located at 68 Elm St., Summit. For information and a brochure detailing the courses, call 908-273-9121.

NEW JERSEY WORKSHOP FOR THE ARTS is currently accepting registration for its Music Studio. Lessons include instrumental, voice and music theory, with beginner through advanced classes. 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 908-789-9695.

WESTFIELD YOUTH 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 focus on song selection and interpretation, ensemble work, voice and musical theater movement and dance. Private lessons in voice and/or acting are available.

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

mrstamp@aol.com, or visit www.beachphotiatrics.com.

COMEDY

ON-THE-SPOT Comedy Troupe will appear in the Cafe at Barnes and Noble in Springfield, 240 Route 22 West, Sept. 21 from 8 to 9 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call 973-376-8544.

CONCERTS

RAHWAY VALLEY JERSEYANES CHORUS will present a concert of barbershop music, Sept. 13 at 7 p.m. at the Roselle Library, Chestnut Street and Fourth Avenue.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 240 Route 22 West, Springfield, will present musical performances throughout the summer. All concerts are from 8 to 10 p.m. in the cafe section.

Friday: Kevin Brooks
Saturday: Laura Diamond
Sept. 14: West of Eden
Sept. 22: Nick Bukovelas
For information, call 973-376-8544.

BARNES AND NOBLE, 1180 Raritan Road, Clark, will present musical performances throughout the summer. All concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the cafe section.

For information, including a concert schedule, call 732-574-1818.

CRAFTS

AMISH QUILT AND CRAFT SALE will take place Sept. 22 from 9 a.m. to 5

group meets every other Monday. For information, call 973-376-8544.

FESTIVALS

24TH ANNUAL ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK FESTIVAL will be today through Sunday at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church of Union, 721 Railway Ave. Hours are today, 6 p.m. to midnight, Friday, 6 p.m. to midnight, Saturday, noon to midnight, and Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Donation is \$17. For information, call 908-964-7957 or send taxes to 908-964-6975.

ORIGINAL MUNICH OKTOBERFEST will be sponsored by the Baywin Varian Newark at the Deutscher Club in Clark, 787 Featherbed Lane, Saturday at 4 p.m., rain or shine. Admission is \$5. Featured will be Fashion Music, a five-piece German band. For information, call 908-276-7745, 908-412-0877, or 732-574-8600.

SUBURBAN COMMUNITY MUSIC CENTER STREET FAIR will be sponsored Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The center is located at 570 Central Ave., Murray Hill. For information, call 908-790-0700.

KIDS' FESTIVAL AND STREET FAIR will be sponsored by the Garwood Chamber of Commerce Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. on Center Street in Garwood. The rain date is Sept. 16.

Crafters are being sought to participate. For information, call 908-789-0217.

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Inglis Herald • Walbridge Leader
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OFFICE ASSISTANT for service company in Union, NJ. Requires good organizational skills to perform various office tasks and a cheerful personality to greet all customers by phone. Full time, excellent benefits, including 401K. Or direct parking. Monday-Friday 7:00am - 4:00pm. Salary negotiable. P.O. Box 903-964-5008, or mail resume to P.O. Box 748 Union, NJ 07083.

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APPOINTMENT SCHEDULER needed for newly merged and relocated orthopedic practice. The candidate must be well spoken and able to handle a heavy phone volume. Experience with Medical Manager a plus. Benefits available. Please fax resume with cover letter, including current salary to 973-669-0198.

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HELP WANTED

CHAIR-SIDE assistant for busy orthopedic practice in Millburn. Experience & vray license a must! Full time, benefits good salary. Call Cheryl D. 973-376-7131.

CHILD CARE: Responsible person needed to care for 2 school age children in an Oakley Heights home. Light housekeeping. Week days, Monday-Friday 11:00am-5:00pm. English speaking, references: 908-965-7957 after 9:00am.

CLERICAL Part Time Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9:00am-7:00pm for busy chiropractic office in Hillside. Please call 908-289-6667, between 10:00am-5:00pm.

CLERICAL/ACCOUNTS PAYABLE Department for Real Estate Developer in Short Hills. General clerical, filing, light data entry and possible messenger duties. Part time position. Sent resume to: 81, P.O. Box 746, Short Hills, NJ 07078.

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DISPATCHER - The Livingston Mall needs a Dispatcher for part time evening and weekend hours. Pleasant phone manner and ability to work independently. Call 973-994-8391 or apply in person at The Livingston Mall Management Office, EOE.

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Verna Tillman led the office in revenue units throughout July.

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Services meet clients' needs

Coldwell Banker New Jersey, a company that takes pride in providing full-service to all of its clients, has unveiled numerous new value-added services to meet client needs, according to Coldwell Banker President and COO Maureen Passerini.

"Today's real estate consumer is very busy with work and family obligations, and expects their Realtor to provide one-stop shopping to simplify the process of buying or selling a home," Passerini said.

"Previously, consumers would have to go to many different companies to complete the buying or selling of their home, and Coldwell Banker has made many of those services available to the consumer in one place," she continued.

Coldwell Banker recently launched Coldwell Banker Mortgage, which saves clients the time they would normally spend looking for a mortgage company, according to Passerini. "This new mortgage company offers a pre-purchase approval that is issued the same day, an easy application process, and a guaranteed closing date for conventional purchase money mortgages."

Online users have even more options through the Coldwell Banker website, www.coldwellbanker.com. Through our Personal Retriever Services, sellers can log on and browse recent home sales in their neighborhood, and then choose and e-mail a Realtor in their area, to request a current market analysis to help them make an informed decision," Passerini said. "Buyers have the opportunity to enter the attributes of the home they want, and e-mail information about current listings."

Another service needed while conducting any real estate transaction is a dependable title agency. "We have added NRT Title Agency, which is necessary as a client's attorney must order a title search on any property that is about to be purchased. Having a dependable title agency that is dedicated to best-in-class service will ensure a smooth real estate transaction."

These aren't the only value-added services offered by Coldwell Banker New Jersey, Passerini continued. "We have a mortgage service that sends information to buyers about their new community, and also has a network of local-approved vendors to help with any renovations or improvements needed on a new home."

"When considering buying or selling a home, make sure to work with a full-service real estate agency, Passerini said. "A full-service agency provides all of the services needed to effectively sell a home. Consumers should be wary of agencies that call themselves 'full-service' but require the customer to market or show their home themselves. These are the responsibilities of the Realtor."

For more information about buying or selling a home in your area, call 1-800-REALTOR.

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15 YR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.66	15 YEAR FIXED	6.63	0.00	6.50
1 YR ARM	5.88	0.00	5.78	30 YR JUMBO	6.26	3.00	6.47
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Commonwealth Bank	800-924-5061			Lean Search	800-591-3279 INF000	1757	
30 YEAR FIXED	6.88	0.00	6.88	30 YR FIXED	7.00	0.00	7.03
15 YEAR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.38	15 YR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.55
30 YR JUMBO	7.13	0.00	7.18	30 YR JUMBO	7.00	0.00	7.03
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30 YR FIXED	6.25	0.00	6.54	30 YEAR FIXED	6.50	0.00	6.62
15 YR FIXED	5.38	0.00	6.38	15 YEAR FIXED	6.00	0.00	6.16
30 YR JUMBO	6.38	0.00	6.30	1 YR ADJ.	4.00	2.00	5.83
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30 YEAR FIXED	7.65	0.00	7.69	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.79
15 YEAR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.84	15 YR FIXED	6.25	0.00	6.31
1 YR ADJ	6.00	0.00	6.28	30 YR JUMBO	7.00	0.00	7.03
Investors Savings Bk	800-252-8119			Synergy Fed'l Savings Bk	800-693-3828		
30 YEAR FIXED	7.13	0.00	7.21	30 YR FKED	7.00	0.00	7.08
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7YR-30 YR	6.75	0.00	6.47	10Y-30 YR	7.00	0.00	6.81
Loans to \$1 million - percentages down varies on Jumbo							
Other products available please contact us for full details & restrictions							
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30 YEAR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.88	30 YR FIXED	6.75	0.00	6.77
15 YEAR FIXED	6.38	0.00	6.50	15 YR FIXED	6.25	0.00	6.37
30 YR JUMBO	6.00	0.00	7.13	30 YR JUMBO	6.50	0.00	6.73
Call us! We'll do the loan shopping for you!							
Rates compiled on August 30, 2001							
Contact lenders concerning additional fees which may apply. C.M.I. and The Weichert Mortgage Rates are estimates only. Actual rates may vary. All rates are subject to change. Copyright 2001. Comparative Mortgage Rates.							

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AUTOMOTIVE

Mazda roadster has drivers looking for the long way home

By Mark Maynard
Copley News Service

If everyone drove a Mazda Miata there would be no road rage, all streets would seem to be wide as boulevards, the gas crisis would be merely a gas pain and there would be a parking space at the mall even during the holidays.

Special Edition 1 came to the same conclusion that I always do driving this simple little roadster: It's therapy on four wheels.

Everyone should have one of these tucked into a corner of the garage for regular counseling sessions. It is difficult to be an angry driver behind the wheel of a Miata. Throw back the top, slip it into gear, and before you've

gone three blocks, your Miata is sending subliminal messages to take the long way home.

No matter that there are 500,000 of these on the road worldwide, people still smile as you breeze past and other Miata owners give a flash of the headlights in a show of brotherly and sisterly love.

This generation Miata has a quieter ride than the top up, seats that don't leave your bottom feeling buzzy, and a trunk that will hold luggage for weekend getaways or a couple of beach chairs.

For 2001, Mazda added more horsepower, more structural stiffness, modest cosmetic adjustments to the front and rear and a step up to 15-inch tires on base models and 16-inchers for the LS and Special Edition, today's test car.

Pricing has continued to creep upward since the Miata debuted in the United States in 1990, but you can get into a base model with 5-speed manual transmission for \$21,660. Standard equipment includes power steering, power windows and mirrors, 15-inch alloy wheels, a Mazda leather-wrapped steering wheel, air conditioning, wind-blocker, fog lights and an AM-FM-CD sound system with power antenna.

The mid-range LS model starts at \$24,410 and adds tan leather seating surfaces, tan top, cruise control, power door locks, 16-inch alloy wheels, limited-slip differential, strut tower brace, remote keyless entry system and a 200-watt Bose AM-FM-CD stereo with four speakers.

The 2001 Mazda Miata Special Edition, in British Racing Green, is \$26,119, including the \$480 destination charge. Special features include a Nardi wood steering wheel and shifter knob, tan cloth-lock vinyl convertible top, chrome-plated aluminum fuel door, wood center console, 4-speaker AM-FM-CD stereo with clock, power windows/locks/mirrors, glass rear window with defogger, halogen headlights, fog lights, stainless steel split plates, wind-blocker anti-draft panel, power antenna and intermittent wipers.

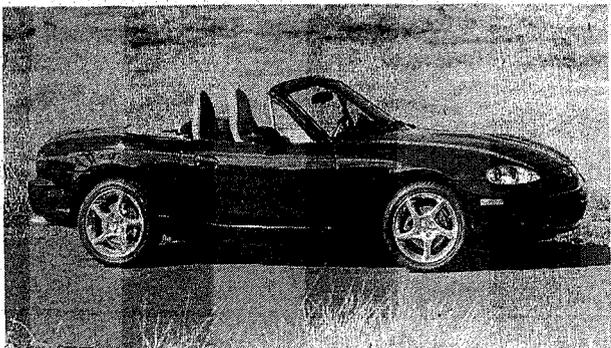
Safety equipment includes front air bags with passenger deactivation switch, door beams, engine immobilizer.

Chassis
Suspension: 4-wheel independent; front double wishbone with coil springs; front and rear stabilizer bars
Tires and wheels: P195/50 15-inch V-rated high performance and alloy wheels
Steering: Rack-and-pinion; turning diameter, 30.2 feet; turns lock to lock, 2.7
Brakes: Power-assisted 4-wheel disc; 10.6 inch ventilated discs front, 10.9 inch solid discs rear

Pricing
Base price: \$26,195; price as tested, \$26,745
Option on test car: Anti-lock brakes, \$550

Pluses
Sweet driving, low wind turbulence with the top down, mechanical dependability, room in the trunk for beach chairs or weekend getaway luggage and glass rear window.

Minuses
Hollow sound to the doors when slammed.



Interior changes for the 2001 Mazda Miata include white-faced gauges with chrome rings and sportier high-back seats.

2001 Mazda Miata Special Edition

Body style: 2-seat, rear-drive roadster
Engine size and type: 1.8-liter DOHC 16-valve in-line 4 with variable valve timing
Horsepower: 142 at 7,000 rpm
Torque: 125 foot-pounds at 5,000 rpm
Fuel economy: 23 mpg city, 28 highway; auto, 22/28

Dimensions
Length: 155.7 inches
Width: 66 inches
Height: 48.3 inches
Wheelbase: 89.2 inches
Minimum ground clearance: 4.0 inches
Head/leg/shoulder room: 37.1/42.75/49.7
Trunk: 5.1 cubic feet
Fuel tank: 12.7 gallons
Wet weight distribution: 50/50
Curb weight: 2,447 pounds; auto, 2,429

Features
Standard equipment includes leather-trimmed and reclining bucket seats, air conditioning, remote keyless entry, Nardi wood steering wheel and shifter knob, tan cloth-lock vinyl convertible top, chrome-plated aluminum fuel door, wood center console trim, shift lever and parking brake handle, special floor mats and badge, 4-speaker AM-FM-CD stereo with clock, power windows/locks/mirrors, glass rear window with defogger, halogen headlights, fog lights, stainless steel split plates, wind-blocker anti-draft panel, power antenna and intermittent wipers.
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Nissan's profits will go toward new vehicles

As of March 31, Nissan is out of debt and \$2.7 billion in the black.
Profits are being plowed back into a revival plan that began with the Frontier Crew Cab pickup and Xterra sport utility.

Worldwide, the carmaker is in the process of launching 35 new or full-changeover cars and trucks through 2003. That's 15 in Japan, 10 for North America and 10 for Europe.

After that, the plan is to launch seven vehicles a year. Nissan showed auto writers five models for 2002. Most went on sale in August and prices were not set at press time.
"We are starting to do the right things — and doing them consistently," says Nissan's Jed Connelly, senior vice president of sales and marketing.

- New for 2002:
- An all-new Altima.
 - A face-lifted and more powerful Maxima.
 - The Sentra SE-R and SE-R Spec V compact sport sedans.
 - A major exterior and interior redesign for Xterra.
 - A long-bed Frontier Crew Cab.

The long-awaited Z car is due next summer, but I was able to get more details on the upcoming full-size pickup that will be built at a plant under construction in Canton, Miss.

Larry Dominique, product specialist for the new pickup and SUVs, knows that size matters for his truck: The Nissan pickup can't be one centimeter smaller than the domestic competition.

Coke-named Alpha T, the big pickup was introduced to the public at the Detroit auto show in January. That design was penned at Nissan Design America in San Diego, but the futuristic styling of the "AT" isn't likely to be a part of the final design.

The pickup and a full-size SUV will debut as 2003 models. Also in line for 2003 are a new Frontier, car-based SUV and Quest minivan.

The pickup will come in two- and four-door configurations with a V-8 engine, based on the double overleaf cab built 4.5-liter engine used in the Q45 sedan.

Given Nissan's recent love of power, expect 300 hp. The engine will accommodate everything from a 6-cylinder to a V-8 turbo diesel, Dominique says, and a gas-electric engine is also a possibility down the road.

"We may come to market with the most fuel-efficient V-8 in the market," Dominique says.

Sales of full-size pickups are leveling off, but Dominique expects to take some scratch from the domestics. "We are starting from scratch," he says, "and expect a lot of loyal Nissan buyers." That means Frontier sales will take a hit, but he's also studied the sales affect of the Toyota Tacoma and Tundra and found the move-up rate was as high as the thought.

The length of the bed determines "tuckiness," he says. "King Cab owners do want a full-size truck, but the short-bed Crew Cab buyer is more careful," Dominique says. "They are image- and style-conscious and don't really see it as a truck."



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Aztek weighs in with all-wheel-drive option

By Mark Maynard
Copy News Service

The Pontiac Aztek might just have had its 15 minutes of fame — and it could emerge as a survivor.

I recently spent a week in a yellow all-wheel-drive Aztek GT and it was an experience quite unlike the one I had about a year ago when this so-called Sport Recreation Vehicle was just going on sale.

It took thick skin to drive the awkward-looking Aztek before its debut on this season's "Survivor: The Australian Outback." People made rude comments and saluted it with the finger-down-the-throat gesture.

This time around, it was almost a hero's welcome. People walked up to it and said things like, "Tight!" or "Hey, it's Colby's car!" and "Cool, an Aztek!"

Colby Donaldson, 26, a custom auto designer from Dallas, was the runner-up in this season's "Survivor" show, but in Episode 13 he won a night in an Aztek with the tent and airbed option.

The praise for the Aztek was totally unexpected. The car doesn't look any different now than when it debuted, but the sight of it has become more familiar and, perhaps, more acceptable.

It took thick skin to drive the awkward-looking Aztek before its debut on this season's 'Survivor: The Australian Outback.' People made rudg comments and saluted it with the finger-down-the-throat gesture.

Aztek's styling helps disguise its origins in the standard Montana minivan, which is 1 1/2 inches wider, 5 inches longer and weighs 15 pounds more than all-wheel-drive Aztek.

Adding Versatrak all-wheel drive is a good idea, but pricy at \$2,300 extra.

Versatrak is an on-demand four-wheel-drive system that powers the front wheels until they lose grip and power is piped to the rear tires. It's mostly for improved traction in inclement conditions, not climbing mountains. In fact, Pontiac recommends not taking Aztek off the highway.

All-wheel drive helps trim the two-wheel-drive Aztek's noticeable understeer, meaning that in sharp turns or enthusiastic cornering the front tires tend to slide. That's not too scary when the driver is expecting it, but the fear factor increases dramatically when understeer is combined with panic braking.

All-wheel drive seemed to better

balance the tall shape and allowed the front tires to get a better grip through sharp turns.

The added weight of Versatrak also may have given Aztek more poise in evasive maneuvers. With the weight low in the body, sudden moves at highway speeds could be made without frightening consequences. The front-wheel-drive model feels more top-heavy and squiggly in evasive actions.

Weight gain can be an issue for Aztek. With Versatrak, the top-line GT model weighs 4,043 pounds, or 265 pounds more than the already full-bodied two-wheel-drive model. Pontiac boasts of Aztek's 185 horsepower, but it takes at least that to carry passengers and all their stuff.

Consequently, the five-passenger Aztek isn't as sporty to drive as a Pontiac should be, but the performance will be acceptable for most users. The standard and only driveline is a

3.4-liter V-6 and 4-speed automatic transmission. Fuel mileage of the all-wheel-drive GT is 19 mpg around town and 25 on the highway or 1 mpg less than the two-wheel-drive version.

Pricing for a two-wheel-drive Aztek starts at just less than \$22,000 for an entry-level model and goes up to \$24,000 for the up-level GT with all the power conveniences.

The GT with Versatrak starts at \$27,315, including a \$550 destination charge. The test truck came with one beefy option package for \$2,265 that boosted the sticker to \$29,580.

That's a lot of money for an Aztek, at least for the young, outdoorsy buyer Pontiac hopes to reach.

The ISC option pack included leather seating surfaces, a dual playback cassette and CD with equalizer, power driver's seat, head-up display — for speed, radio, etc. beamed onto the lower edge of the windshield — and the sliding rear cargo tray.

The cargo tray seems like a nifty idea — a bin with flip-up doors that can be rolled in and out of the cargo area. The bin has mesh separators for grocery bags or other stuff, but loading groceries into the bin took extra effort to slip the bags into the compartments.

Note to dog owners: The flat-top bin is a skating rink for your pet unless covered with some kind of carpeted mat. Also, the cargo area could turn into an easy-bake oven when exposed to sunlight through the expansive glass in the sloped tailgate.

Built in to the base price of the GT are many standard features, including 4-wheel disc brakes, tinted glass, roof rack, split folding back seat, air conditioning with dual zone controls, power mirrors/windows/locks, 6-speaker AM-FM-CD, remote locking, utility packs in the front door slots and a removable front console cooler.

Safety features include dual front and side air bags, anti-lock brakes, automatic headlights and battery run-down protection.

Despite its car-by-committee design, Aztek embodies many good ideas and innovations, but it took a corporate investment in "Survivor" to throw it a lifeline.

Mark Maynard is driving in at mark.maynard@uniontrib.com.

Time for a check-up

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 Consumer's 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.

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NISSAN MAXIMA, 1989 manual, 68k miles, AM/FM radio, cassette player, sunroof, power windows, AC, \$2,000. Call 973-762-4691. Best Offer Considered.

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The new Pontiac Aztek with Versatrak all-wheel drive and bright yellow paint is just like the one Colby slept in on "Survivor: The Australian Outback."

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