Friday, January 17, 2003



Undefeated

South Plainfield High's Viet Vo (top) works over Yevgen Popov of J.P. Stevens during a 10-4 victory in the Tigers' 36-32 triumph over Stevens Jan. 8. South Plainfield also defeated Piscataway and Delaware Valley during the weekend and Monroe Monday to improve to 5-0. For story see page C-1.



He's The Man

Francis Kinney has been named acting police chief in Highland Park. See story on Page B-1.



Stepping up

Jim York demonstrates country line dancing for children and their parents at Knollwood School in Piscataway Tuesday. For more details see Page A-2.

REMINDER

Recycling Center closed on Tuesday

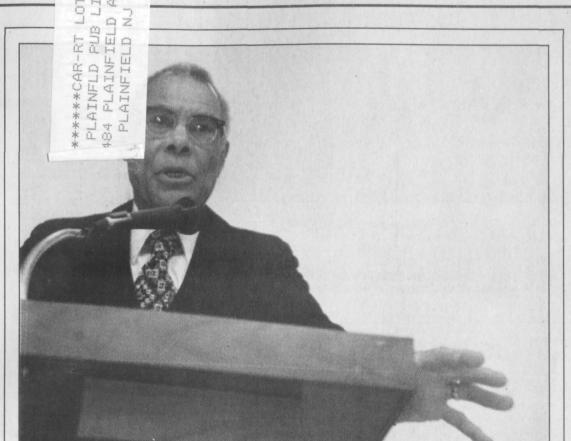
SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The borough Recycling Center on Kenneth Avenue will be closed Tuesday because of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday. It will be open instead on Wednesday from noon to 7 p.m. The regular schedule at the Recycling Center is: Tuesdays, noon-7 p.m. and Fridays and Saturdays 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The Yard Waste Site at the end of Kenneth Avenue will be on its regular winter schedule that week, open only on

Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

(908) 226-7620.

For updates, call the Recycling Hotline:

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NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Weeklong tribute

Paul Robeson Jr., son of the All-American athlete, singer, stage performer and civil rights activist Paul Robeson, speaks at the Highland Park Community Center Sunday to kick off a weeklong tribute to Martin Luther King Jr.

Residents kept in dark are furious

Homeowners not notified before zoning board acts

By CHERYL ORSON

CORRESPONDENT

PISCATAWAY — High Street area residents complained Tuesday night to the Township Council that they were not notified about a variance that was being sought on their street. The variance was approved by the zoning board, and the residents want that approval rescinded.

None of the 11 households within a 200-foot radius of the property was notified of the application.

Mayor Brian Wahler sympathized with the residents saying

that they had "a valid concern" and were "entitled to notice." Short of rechecking procedures to make sure such an accidental omission doesn't happen again, Wahler said there is nothing that can now be done to rectify the

Township Attorney James Clarkin admitted the township failed to notify the 11 households. He said the homeowners were not included on a list given to the applicant by the Tax Assessors Office. Clarkin said state law allows an applicant to rely on the

(Continued on page A-2)

Jail guard arraigned on murder charges

By CHERYL ORSON

PISCATAWAY — Former prison guard Michael Lewis, 35, was arraigned on murder charges in the death of his longtime lover Monday morning in Superior Court in New Brunswick.

Appearing before Superior Court Judge Lorraine Pullen, Public Defendant Richard Barker pleaded "not guilty" for

The case now goes to a grand jury. Should he be indicted, a

decision will then be made on whether the prosecutors should seek the death penalty. For now Lewis remains in the Middlesex County Adult Correctional Facility in lieu of \$500,000 bail.

Thomas Kapsak, Middlesex County assistant prosecutor, confirmed Lewis is being confined in a "special needs" unit where he is being closely monitored.

On Jan. 7, after being notified by Lewis' uncle, township police found the body of Lewis' lover, 46year-old Debra Gatewood, in the upstairs bedroom of a townhouse at 209 Hidden Woods Court, off

She had been stabbed repeatedly, including in her left lung and heart, with a knife. All the knives were removed from the home to be tested.

Lewis, who had worked as a senior corrections officer at East State Prison in Woodbridge since January 1988, was arrested on the afternoon of Jan. 7 after he surrendered to Georgia authorities. Police speculate he was headed to his Georgia relatives at the time.

Lewis, who was immediately suspended without pay, earned

Authorities speculate that the couple argued over ownership of the townhouse that was put up for sale on Jan. 3 for \$190,000.

Investigators said Lewis, who controlled the couple's finances, had purchased the townhouse in 1996 for \$136,000. Though the couple lived there along with their 8-year-old son, the deed was recorded in Lewis' name only. Gatewood was said to be upset about the situation and had recently moved out of the townhouse and was staying with rela-

ing with Lewis' relatives in Bethlehem, Pa.

Gatewood, who worked as a surgical sterilizer at the Surgi-Center on Route 22 in Mountainside, was described by relatives as a "a good woman ... a devoted, loving mother." Her neighbors, who declined to give their names, described her as quiet and said she generally kept to herself.

Her funeral was held Tuesday morning at Second Baptist Church, on East Milton Avenue, in Rahway.

Boro cop takes off for Kuwait

By CHERYL ORSON

CORRESPONDENT

SOUTH PLAINFIELD Borough Patrolman John McConville, 32, a Reserve Marine officer, received the good wishes of the council Monday night as he prepares to serve his nation in Kuwait.

McConville, who also served in the Gulf War in 1991 and received an Artillery Combat Ribbon for valiant service under fire, will be serving with Supply Division of the 6th Motor Transport Battalion.

"I give you a directive as mayor, I fully expect you to come back here

safely. Six More military months news on A-2. maximum,"

said Mayor Daniel Gallagher, who added that he was concerned for all troops being sent to the troubled

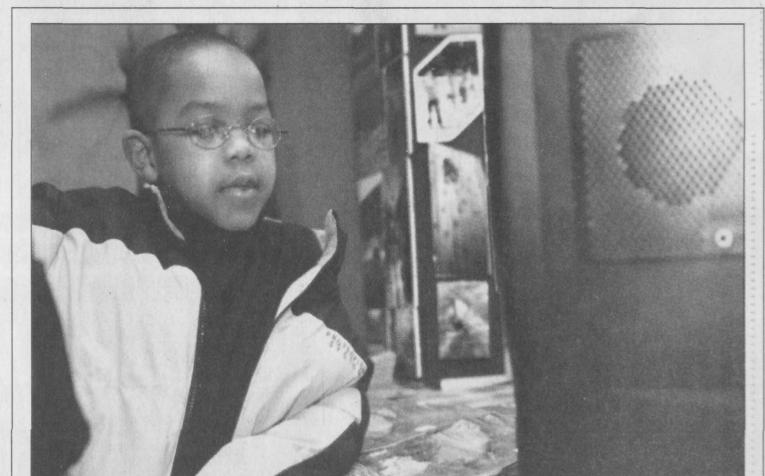
Raymond Petronko, whose son is also serving in the region on the Navy combat ship Carolina that is currently transporting Marine troops into the area, jokingly advised the two branches of the military, Navy and Marines, to put aside their competitive differences and get along for the rest of their tour together. "Good luck and God bless," said Petronko, who added that it was the Navy which was taking the Marines where they needed to

"When you're over there," Councilman Bob Cusick said to McConville, "look up, because my brother will be flying over there

"I wish you the best. I just hope you come back soon," said Councilman Dennis Cerami.

"I also wish you the best. You'll be in our prayers and

(Continued on page A-2)



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Dreaming of summer

Chester Elliott, 6, of Bridgewater, watches a video Sunday about Fairview Lake YMCA Camp in Stillwater at the 19th Annual ORT Summer Camps Fair at the Sheraton Hotel in Raritan Center, Edison.

Couple giving \$2M to Wardlaw-Hartridge

EDISON - The Wardlaw-Hartridge School has received school's 120-year history.

Donna Sarkison Lackland and her husband Fred have committed to giving the school \$2 million to honor her father, Harold June at the age of 91.

Mr. Sarkison was born in Butler, but grew up in Michigan. He returned to New Jersey to work for Johnson & Johnson and later became director of bulk

products for Merck Corp.

"This is the largest single gift the largest single gift in the ever made to an independent school in Middlesex County. The gift is truly a transforming one and will make a significant difference in the life of our school," said Kathleen Smythe, director Phillip Sarkison, who died in of development for the school.

Head of School Chris Williamson noted, "We are so grateful and honored by the Lacklands' generosity. Their confidence in the future of Wardlaw-Hartridge will allow the school to

move forward immediately to to do something for the school meet components of the Master Plan for Facilities that was approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2002."

He praised the continuing tradition of philanthropy exhibited at the school. "It will also add the Sarkison name to those prominently displayed at the school, among them Prentice C. Horne, Raul and Heath Pantaleoni, Joseph and Nancy Plumeri, and Lee Hill Snowdon," he said.

"It feels wonderful to be able

that has meant so much to me for over half of my life. It would bring a smile to my father's face," Mrs. Lackland told Williamson.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Lackland are members of the Emeritus Board of Wardlaw-Hartridge, having served as members of the Board of Hartridge, Wardlaw, and the merged Wardlaw-Hartridge School for more than 40 years in combination. Their

(Continued on page A-2)

Pro Vita rite Sunday

who discovered a link between induced abortion and breast cancer, and a bishop will be honored at noon Sunday at the Diocese of Metuchen's 2003 Respect Life Mass and Pro-Vita

The Most Rev. Paul G. Bootkoski, bishop of Metuchen, will celebrate the Mass at St. Francis Assisi Cathedral.

The Pro-Vita Awards recognize the accomplishments of outstanding individuals who have had a major impact on the prolife movement on the state and national level.

Dr. Joel Brind, who is recognized as the world expert on the abortion-breast cancer link will receive the National Pro-Vita Award for his research. Metuchen Bishop Emeritus Vincent DePaul Breen, will be presented the state award.

Brind is a professor of biology and endocrinology at Baruch College of the City University of New York. His research has been used by the Royal College of OB-GYN doctors in their abortion information bulletin to physicians. In addition, his testimony has been used by legislators and in the courts on issues such as parental notification, consent laws and right-to-know laws.

Breen, the third bishop of Metuchen, is a leader in the prolife movement. He instituted the annual Pro-Vita Awards as a way of recognizing individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the movement.

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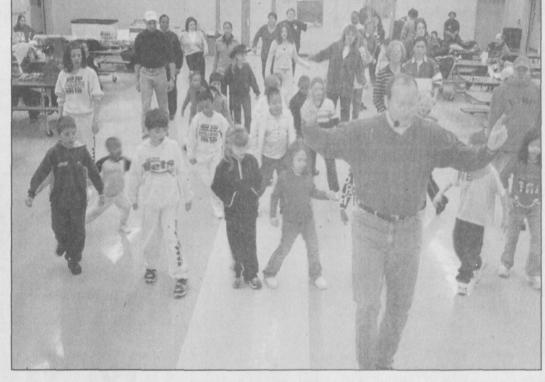
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Housing



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Stepping up

Jim York demonstrates country line dancing for children and their parents at Knollwood School in Piscataway Tuesday. The performance was part of the Partners in Education Group program at the school.

Couple giving \$2M to Wardlaw-Hartridge

(Continued from page A-1)

three children are graduates of

Because the first priority from the master plan is major renovation of the Upper School science facilities, this past fall the school began seeking sup-

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port to provide state-of-the-art ence project over the summer of biology, chemistry and physics 2003." said, "The Lackland gift will be a catalyst for considering additional projects as part of a larger effort. We are delighted that we can now complete the sci-

classroom labs. As this fund-raising continues, Williamson co-educational, independent school in Edison, for Pre-K through grade 12, and serves 450 students from more than 47 communities throughout the

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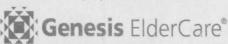


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Cop takes off for Kuwait

(Continued from page A-1)

please come home safely," said

Councilman Charles Butrico. "I can't say anything except you'll be in our prayers," said

Councilman Ed Kubala, who lost an older brother in World War II. "Just take care of yourself," said Council President James Vokral, who also asked McConville to "let us know how

you're doing. "I'm looking forward to going and doing what I got to do and

getting back," said McConville

Chief Robert Merkler admitted "I hate to lose him," if only temporarily. Temporary staffing reassignments will be made to provide coverage until he returns, Merkler said.

Those who want to write McConville may do so through the police department.

Other borough residents serving in the region can be contacted through the VFW, American Legion and Borough Hall.

Military notes

Navy Seaman Recruit Anthony J. Melillo, son of Antoinette J. Barile of Meuchen, has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. Melillo is a 2002 graduate of John F. Kennedy Memorial High School, Iselin.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard W. Rivera, son of Hipolito Rivera Sr. of South Plainfield, has begun a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf on the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Nolan J. White, son of Suzanne and Richard White of Edison, has completed a six-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf aboard the USS Laboon, based in Norfolk, Va.

Air Force Airman Bryan L. Cruz has graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He is the son of Olga and Lazaro Cruz of Edison and a 2002 graduate of Edison High School.

Army Pvt. Christopher P. Camacho has graduated from basic combat military training at Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla. He is the son of Patrick and Charlotte Camacho of Piscataway and a 2002 graduate of Piscataway High School.

Residents are furious

(Continued from page A-1)

accuracy of the list despite any

errors contained in it. So, the "approval still stands,"

The Reporter

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Clarkin said. "There is no basis to rescind the approval. It's an unfortunate error out of the hands of either the council or zoning board."

Clarkin told the residents they are entitled to appeal in state Superior Court; however, they would have to go it alone without any help, advice or financial support from the township, even though it was the township's error that prevented the homeowners from being notified about the appli-

Clarkin said, the matter must be filed with the court within 30 days of the variance approval. Residents objected to the township's lack of responsibility for its own error and its lack of concern for the effect the variance will have on them.

They repeatedly said that since the township made the error, it should be made to bear the cost of

Wahler and Clarkin disagreed, saying the residents were on their

Giving up in disgust, residents angrily stormed out of the council chambers and vowed to take their case to court and make the town-ship pay for its mistakes.

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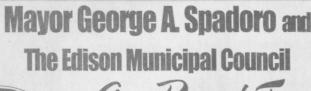
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Briefs

Baptist church to break ground

METUCHEN — New Hope Baptist Church will break ground for its new \$3 million ministry complex at 6 p.m. June

10,000-square-foot expansion will include a new fellowship hall, additional classrooms, a new administrative wing and a larger parking lot.

Columnist to make King Day speech

HIGHLAND PARK — David J. Harris, columnist for The Home News and executive director of the Mae J. Strong, Child Development Center in New Brunswick, will give the keynote address at the borough's annual Martin Luther King Jr. pro-

There will be musical contributions by choirs and the reading of poetry prepared by students of the borough's Irving and Bartle schools.

The event will begin at 11 a.m. Monday at Bartle School.

King event planned Sunday

METUCHEN — The community Martin Luther King Jr. celebration will be held at 4 p.m. Sunday at New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton St.

Program focuses on relaxation

EDISON — The Center for Complementary Medicine, an affiliate of Solaris Health System, will offer a free informational program about an upcoming four-session course on advanced relaxation skills for pregnancy, labor and breastfeeding. The program will be from 7-8:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the JFK Conference Center at 70 James

For additional information on services offered at the Center for Complementary Medicine, call (908) 668-2796.

Edison to host tribute to king

EDISON — The community will observe the birth and life of Martin Luther King Jr. at the Minnie B. Veal Community Center, 1070 Grove Ave, from noon to 2:30 p.m. Monday.

The program will include a presentation Friendship Choir, an oral presentation by Abdul Chamblis, the play "A Stitch in Time" by the Seven Quilts for Seven Sisters. Also, a hand-signing presentation by the Worshipping Hands, presentation of King poster awards and keynote speaker, Bishop C. Nathan Edwers.

For more information call the Recreation Department, (732) 248-7309 or (732) 248-7316.

Metuchen Library elects its officers

Metuchen Public Library has

elected its officers for 2003.

Christopher They are Blejwas, president; Beverly Passantino, vice president; Bernard Ackerman, secretary; Barbara Kieser, treasurer; Marion O'Connell, trustee; and Catherine Totin, Borough Council liaison.

Library board meetings are scheduled Feb. 4, March 4, April 1, May 6, June 10, Sept. 9, Oct. 7, Nov. 10 and Dec. 2. All meetings begin 7 p.m. in the library at 480 Middlesex Ave.

Pinewood Derby

slated for Jan. 25

PISCATAWAY — Eighty Cub Scouts from Pack 20 will participate in the Pinewood Derby at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at Theodore Schor Middle School on North Randolphville Road.

The Pinewood Derby is a skills contest. The boys each get a kit with a block of wood, four nails, and based on the rules, he shapes and paints his block of wood into a form to race down the 32-foot-long track.

Registration is from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24, at the

Chbosky book to be discussed

Metuchen Public Library on Middlesex Avenue sponsors a book discussion group 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 9.

"Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky is the book to be discussed. Patrons are asked to read the book before participating. Copies are available for checkout.

Registration is recommended; (732)632-8526. Refreshments will be served.

Club to discuss ear infections

EDISON — The MGK Club is support group for "Mothers, Grandmom and Kids.'

Parents are welcome to learn Infections: Symptoms, Treatment, Prevention" 11:45 a.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the main branch of the Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave. A question and answer period follows the

Cost is \$2 for adults and free for children. Bring a brown-bag

For MGK Club information, e-mail abreuen@earthlink.net or phone (732) 549-6065.

Y initiates fitness groups

METUCHEN The Metuchen-Edison YMCA wants to encourage "Fit Boys" and "Fit

These programs are open to children 10-16 years old. "Fit Boys" is a weightlifting club and

"Fit Girls" is a workout club. Both groups meet 3:30-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, Jan. 21-March 20 at the YMCA on High Street. For registration, visit the YMCA or phone Skip Fuller at (732) 548-2044.

Police boost patrols after abduction scare

PISCATAWAY

Someone entered a home on West Seventh Street Jan. 8 or Jan. 9 through a basement window and garage door. A large generator was taken from the garage and other hand tools were taken from inside the home.

A couple was robbed about 10:30 p.m. Jan. 9 on Brotherhood Street. The two had left Dunkin Donuts on Stelton Road near Haines. proceeding down International Avenue before making a right turn onto Brotherhood. Two black males emerged from the high grass and demanded the victim's purse and money. No weapons were shown. One of the suspects was described as thin, 160 pounds, 5 feet, 10 inches, medium skin tone, wearing a black doo rag on his head and blue Timberline boots. The other was 6 feet, 3 inches, heavy set, about 250-350 pounds, dark skin, wearing a sweatband around his head and tan Timberline boots.

A patrol was sent to Oakwood Way Jan. 9 to investigate an activated burglar alarm. The officers check the exterior and found it secure. When the homeowner returned home, he found a patio chair under the kitchen window. The alarm activation was for the kitchen window.

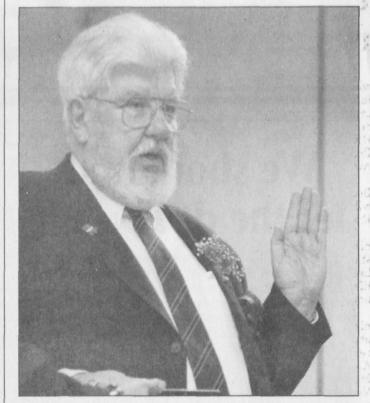
A girl walking to school in the morning was approached Jan. 9

Police Log

by a white female in a small red car who offered her bubble gum and asked if she wanted a ride. The girl said no and ran away. She then called her father with a cell phone. She said the vehicle headed west on Curtis toward South Washington Avenue. No attempt was made to grab the child. The woman was described as 30 years of age with shoulderlength wavy blond hair and brown eyes. The vehicle may have been a Taurus with a temporary registration. Police increased patrols in the area, but have not spotted the car.

resident of North Randolphville Road noticed that his outdoor motion-detector light was activated about 1 a.m. Sunday. He went out the front door and walk around to the back where he saw a man next to his smashed glass storm door. The resident yelled and the suspect struck him in the eye. The wouldbe burglar, described as a white male wearing a red-hooded sweatshirt, then ran south on North Randolphville toward Grandview.

An attendant at Ted's Texaco on Stelton Road said two Hispanic males in a green Mercury requested \$10 worth of gas at 9 p.m. Jan. 1 and then drove off south on Stelton Road without paying.



NICOLE DIMELLA/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Starting over

Councilman Ed Kubala is sworn in at South Plainfield's annual reorganization meeting on Sunday, Jan. 5.

Campus notes

Nicholas Hogan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dodd Hogan of South Plainfield, has been named student of the month at the Oratory Preparatory junior high school in Summit. He is a two-year member of Oratory's Campus Ministry Program and a member of the cross country team and

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Mark J. Simko is certified by the Supreme Court as a Workers' Compensation Law Attorney.

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Local Dentist Has Just Released A Report For Having a Prettier Smile

EDISON, NJ - Local Dentist Dr. Avi Weisfogel offers a just released Free Report called the "5 Common Misconceptions of Cosmetic Dentistry And What You Need To Know About Having A More Beautiful

Dr. Weisfogel, a longtime resident of Highland Park. When Dr. Weisfogel is asked why he decided to write these educational reports for people, he replies, "It's actually really simple. As I kid, I always dreaded the idea of going to the dentist. The thought of the needles or drills would give me nightmares. But that was a long time ago, and going to

the dentist can now be practically a pain-free, and an enjoyable experience. "Most importantly, people need to be knowledgeable and know what the procedure they're having done means, and what the pros and cons are, so they feel good about the choices they make."

Also, he's added 2 bonus Consumer Information Guides, "The New Art Of Pain Free Dentistry" & "Raising Cavity Free Children". To receive your free copy, call tollfree (877) 839-8489, 24 Hrs., FREE Recorded Message and your report will be shipped out immediately. Call now to get

Photo exhibit PSAK, GRAZIANO, PIASECKI & WHITELAW on China continues ATTORNEYS AT LAW

EDISON – "A View Through the Moon Gate," original photography of China by Kirstin Calamoneri, will be presented by Middlesex County College through Feb. 3 Presidential Art Gallery, Chambers Hall. Calamoneri has Gallery, been an amateur photographer since the age of 13 and this is her first public exhibit.

Calamoneri taught conversational English at a summer camp in Shanghai during the summer of 2002. The five weeks spent in China offered her the opportunity to experience its culture and visit the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Suzhou, Zhouzhaung and Hong Kong. The gallery is open from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Monday through



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Commentary

We should not let the dream die

On Monday this country will celebrate the birthday of Martin Luther King, perhaps the most influential American of the second half of the 20th century. Yet, aside from the stock market and government offices being closed and a scattering of stories in the media, there will be little to separate Monday from the other cold days of January.

That's unforgivable.

The legacy left by Dr. King should never be underestimated or forgotten It is inconceivable to a younger generation that just 40 years ago segregation was the rule in many parts of this country. African-Americans were forced to sit at the rear of the bus and to drink from separate water fountains. They were not allowed to stay at many hotels and they were refused service at many restaurants. This country's treatment of African-Americans was truly shameful.

The courage demonstrated by Dr. King and his followers brought about the most sweeping change in this country's history. Centuries of injustice ended with historic Supreme Court rulings often enforced by federal troops and the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Most of these changes were prompted by Dr. King's insistence on non-violent protest; the peaceful demonstrations that he led delivered the message to all Americans that all men are created equal and, more importantly, should be treated equally. And Dr. King never gave up the struggle, despite the ugly hatred of ignorant racists and the despicable and inexcusable harassment by a rogue FBI.

Dr. King's achievements should not go underappreciated. By achieving equal rights for African-Americans, he made all of our lives better. Though his life was tragically ended by an assassin's bullet, the struggle for racial justice continued. And it continues to this day. There is still too much racism and intolerance in this country and the stench of discrimination still lingers. The outrageous remarks last month by former Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott was an ugly and uncomfortable reminder about the undercurrent of racism still rampant throughout the

To properly remember Dr. King, we should dedicate ourselves once again to the principles he espoused — the pursuit of justice for all through non-violent means. That dedication should be the root of how we celebrate this national holiday.

Send us your news

The Review-Herald-Reporter is here to serve you. The following information should help you see your ideas and community news in print:

Michael Deak is editor. Please call him at (908) 575-6685 with story suggestions, questions or comments. Our fax number is (908) 575-6683. To send us your news, our address is: P.O. Box 699, Somerville, N.J. 08876. Our email address is middlesex@njnpublishing.com. The newsroom is at 44 Veterans Memorial Drive East, Somerville, and is open weekdays 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Correction policy

The Review-Herald-Reporter will correct errors of fact, context or presentation and clarify any news content that confuses or misleads readers. Please report errors to Editor Michael Deak at (908) 575-6685.

Announcements

Wedding, engagements, anniversaries and births are printed without charge in Reporter-Herald-Reporter. Send your news and photo to the above address.

If you would like help organizing your announcement, call at

(908) 575-66 and ask for a form.

We accept color or black and white photographs. Please do not send irreplaceable photographs. If you would like your photo returned, send along a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Photographs

We welcome submitted photos - color or black and white of community events. If possible, we ask that individuals in the photos be identified and clearly visible.

If you would like to request a photographer at a community event, call at least 48 hours prior to the event and we will do our best to schedule a photographer.

The Reporter

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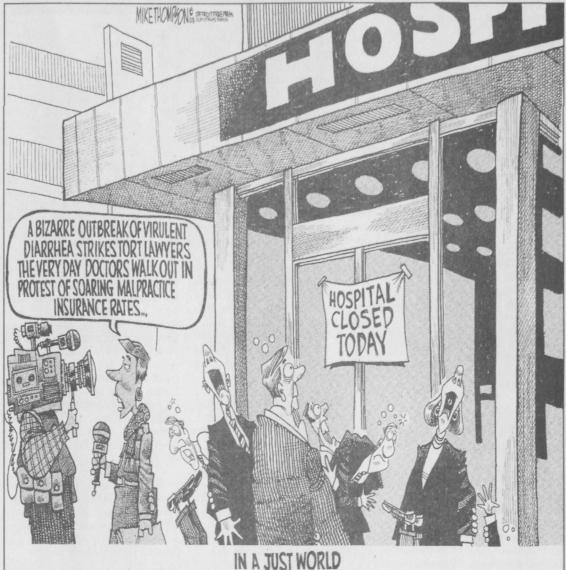
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Letters to the editor

Bill gives credits for hiring disabled

To The Editor:

I have sponsored a bill in the state Senate to provide tax credits to businesses that employ disabled workers. This bill would help operations like Easter Seals to compete with businesses that contract similar work out to foreign workers. Brian Fitzgerald, chairman and chief executive officer of Easter Seals, said this tax credit will improve the alternative which is the need to outsource the work overseas. When only half of all working-aged citizens with disabilities can find work, it is not helpful to allow the few organizations that provide sheltered workshops for the developmentally disabled to fail. According to Fitzgerald, there are more than 2,000 disabled individuals in need of work in New Jersey.

Rather, my bill would provide businesses with incentives to employ disabled workers. My goal is to help those that do employ the developmentally disabled and encourage that same act from those that

Fitzgerald said it best: "The tax credit will help the bottom line for New Jersey companies ... Wages will increase for the workers with disabilities, and revenues will increase to the workshops. This will offset the need for increased tax dollars to support these programs.

I recommend that your readers who feel the same way about this issue should contact the committee co-chairmen and urge them to join me in support of S. 2110. In the Senate Health, Human Services and Senior Citizens Committee, the chairmen are John Matheussen (P.O. Box 8019, Turnersville, NJ 08012) and Joseph Vitale (87 Main St., Woodbridge, NJ 07095).

BARBARA BUONO Senator, 18th District

The writer and Sen. Stephen Sweeney (D-3rd Dist.) are the primary sponsors of S. 2110. Vitale (D-19th Dist.) is a co-sponsor of that bill.

Locked exits are very dangerous

To The Editor:

Has anyone else noticed the practice of many banks, stores, malls and even government buildings which lock right-hand exit doors? This is clearly in violation of all fire codes.

The worst case scenario for this practice is a fire in which citizens are trampled or burned in a fire because they cannot get out of a burning building. The safety of citizens must supercede the interests of building managers and businesses who are attempting to slow the exit of individuals

who may have stolen something from their estab-

The safety and security of people who enter properties are the most important responsibility of property owners and managers. Anyone who is in the building management business who does not know this must be so informed by fire marshals and certainly by those of us who encountered locked exit doors.

Robert A. Brown

Library-goers are most generous

To The Editor:

The South Plainfield Public Library would like to thank all the contributors to the Middlesex County "Books to Keep" program. The response to the program, in particular the letter so graciously written by Sarah Hageman, has resulted in donations of over 600 individual books and \$200 which will supplement the book donations. This year has been a record year for donations. Besides the "Books to Keep" program the library has accepted

donations of winter coats for Boy Scout Troop 124 and toys as part of Joseph Helgesen's Boy Scout Eagle project. All three efforts have been outstandingly successful. Thank you to all who have been so generous with their money and goods. You have made many children very happy this Christmas.

SUNDRA FENN Director, South Plainfield Public Library

Superchiefs were superb in parade

I moved to Piscataway right after graduating from college in June 1980 as my job was located here. And well, I liked the township so much, I never moved out! The public schools here are outstanding and second to none I feel.

At this time, I had to write in to convey that I have never been so proud being a Piscataway resident upon seeing the superb job the Piscataway

(High School) Superchief Marching Band did at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The formations were complex yet fluid, the song choice "I Got Rhythm" was awesome and the color guard had to have made the Rockettes fearing for their jobs. It was a most magnificent performance and appearance.

Thanks so much!

DANI H. MOLLENKAMP Piscataway

What is your favorite way to get rid of cabin fever?



"To get out and walk."
Steve Levin



"I go to the gym. Mike Raevis Sayreville



"I do aerobics or if it's a nice day I go outside. Gloria Caccavale

Manville



"I work." Rose Rauch East Brunswick



"I definitely shop. Pam Keppel South Plainfield

Jersey Boy

Mike Deak

It's time to stop reality on the tube

There are many great things about winter - snow, ice, wind, colds, the flu, frigic temperatures and, optimistically, more snow.

But the worst part of winter is staying inside and watching

When the yawns of hibernation cause the eyes to droop in the middle of the last Christmas gift book, you turn your attention to television, especially if don't have any indoor hobbies, like macramé or stamp collecting.

But I can't tolerate more than an hour or two of television. Other than the inane and wisecracking sitcoms, the cookie-cutter police shows and the overblown and flatulent talk shows, there are the "reality" shows, the network's corporate answer to cutting investment in creativity.

If the mass media mirrors our culture, then the reality shows paint a pretty dismal picture of life.

Everyone on a reality show seems to suffer from an overdose of self-indulgence. The latest version of MTV's "Real World," set in a suite at a ghastly Las Vegas hotel, has its prurient pleasures — everybody seems to have trouble putting on the right amount of clothes and naughty romps are captured for the posterity of posteriors - but the 20-something cast members are hopelessly addicted to satiating their own rapacious egos. Every generation of adolescents and young adults can comfortably called the "Me Generation" but these people take the moniker to an extreme (which, of course, is fashionable judging by the number of things stuck with that label, like 'extreme macramé."

The "Real World" cast is not alone in elevating shameless selfexposure and overwrought melodramatics to the level of cheap thrills that keep down the cost of talent. MTV's "Road Rules," where everybody has the perfected physique and pout of professional models, is just as insipid. In fact, last weekend, there was a worthless reunion of cast members from both "Real World" and "Road Rules" engaged in a battle of sexes on, not surprisingly, a hot and steamy tropical island. Like "Baywatch," it was better to watch the show with the mute button permanently depressed.

The reality of these shows is the culture of the narcissist. It's no coincidence we often see the cast members prancing and preening before bathroom mirrors. They are so drunk with their own images that they fail to see the "real" real world where people have to struggle to make a living and have no time to obsess over problems that are trivial. What do they pay for auto insurance? Do they have to set aside a percentage of residuals for property taxes?

The "reality" shows that feature "real" people like the Osbornes and Anna Nicole Smith are a little better. Obviously, like professional wrestling, there are winks and nods that all may not be on the up and up. The key to tolerating these shows is to remember these are professional celebrities who know how to perform for the camera; the line between reality and pretend is intentionally blurred. And at least there is no exploitation of extreme narcissists.

And what is more degrading than shows — "The Bachelor," The Bachelorette" and "Joe Millionaire" — that exploit the ruthless and desperate search for love and wealth? How can these people display their appetites in front of millions of their fellow countrymen? Is the pursuit of fame — even the fleeting sort — so ingrained into our cultural genes that people willingly make such fools out of themselves? Were they born without dignity? Are they truly unaware that they are being exploited by integrity-starved networks too parsimonious to invest in talent and creativity? It's time to get "reality" off tele-

vision. We watch television because we want to forget that which annoys us. And, quite frankly, "reality" television reminds us of what really is annoying about the real world.

Emeth

Adult

Bernstein's

Briefs

Jewish music

concert Feb. 8

choruses,

Memorial

Volunteer

NEW BRUNSWICK — Three

Anshe

Chamber Chorale, and Mostly

Motets will present a concert of

Jewish choral music at Anshe

Emeth Memorial Temple, 222

Livingston Ave., at 8 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 8. Featured works

Cohen's "V'higad'ta L'vincha"

(And You Shall Tell Your

Children). The concert is made

possible in part by the Mary and

Samuel Hamelsky Concert

advance by calling Anshe Emeth

Memorial Temple at (732) 545-

6484. Advance sale tickets are

\$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors/students. The deadline for

advance sale tickets is Jan. 31.

Tickets at the door are \$18 for

adults and \$15 for seniors/stu-

dents. The performance venue is

accessible to those with disabili-

For more information, call

Anshe Emeth Memorial Temple

at (732) 545-6484 or Cantabile

Chamber Chorale at (732) 560-

7132, prompt 2. Information is

also available at Cantabile's web-

site, http://community.nj.com/cc

Hebrew speakers

Tickets may be purchased in

Leonard "Chichester Psalms" and Gerald

Endowment Fund.

Temple

Choir, Cantabile

This week

FRIDAY JAN. 17

BALLROOM DANCE Latin and swing too. VFW hall, 1970 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 9 p.m.-midnight Jan. 17, 24, 31. \$12; couples, singles welcome. (732) 388-4605.

SUNDAY **JAN.** 19

PERFORMANCE - poetry and music. Highland Park High School, 102 N. Fifth Ave., Highland Park, 4 p.m. (732) 572-

KING DAY — Martin Luther King Jr. program of New Hope Baptist Church, 45 Hampton St., Metuchen, 4 p.m. (732) 549-

BOWL-A-THON — second annual benefit of Metuchen Rotary Club. Brunswick Edison Lanes, 1665 Oak Tree Rd., 8:30 p.m. Edison. Registration: (908) 791-4685.

MONDAY

JAN. 20

KING DAY — "MLK: The Legacy and the Challenge.' Bartle School, 435 Mansfield St., Highland Park, 11 a.m. (732) 572-4208

SOCIAL DANCE salsa/merengue dance lessons.

VFW hall, 1970 Woodbridge Ave., Edison, 7-9 p.m. Jan. 20, 27. \$10; couples, singles welcome. (732) 388-4605.

TUESDAY

PREVIEW - of day trips and exercusions from South Plainfield. South Plainfield High School, 5A Lake St., South Plainfield, 7 p.m. Registration required: (908) 754-4620, Ext.

LOSING WEIGHT? - preview of "Learn Program." Metuchen-Edison YMCA, 65 High St., Metuchen, 7 p.m. Free. (732) 548-2044 or (732) 494-

WEDNESDAY JAN. 22

EMPLOYER SPOTLIGHT - on real estate. Jewish Family and Vocational Service, 515 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 9:30 a.m. Registration: (732) 777-1940.

FLOWERS designed by Barbara Hartman. North Edison branch, Edison Free Public Library, 777 Grove Ave., Edison, 7 p.m. (732) 549-

SATURDAY

Fax us your news! (908) 575-6683

Legal Notices

DP# 02450

The Department, in accordance with Title VI Civil Rights mortgaged premises.

Act of 1964, 78 Stat. 252 U.S.C., 49 C.F.R., Parts 21 and You, MONTCLAIR COMMUNITY HOSPITAL, are made 23 issued pursuant to such Act, and Section 504 of the party defendant to this foreclosure action because you Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will afford minority business may have an interest in the subject property by reason of enterprises full opportunity to submit bids in response to a liein, encumbrance, or otherwise which may be perfect-this invitation and will not discriminate against any bidder ed against the property being foreclosed and for any on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin, or right, title, claim or interest you may have in, to or against handicap in the contract award. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of PL. 1975, c. 127 NJAC

T.727. Torawings, specifications, and bid documents may be inspected or obtained for a fee of \$15.00, for full size \$28.79

Art 11 1/17/03 drawings, at the NJDOT Plans Distribution Building #8

Thickol P.O. Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08625 during Trenton, New Jersey 08625 during NOTICE OF ABSENT DEFENT es and addresses of prospective (L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: transport to the state of th

November 12, 1996, in Book 5186 of Mortgages for MID-DLESEX County, Page 573, and (2) to recover possesunder N.J.S.A. 27.7-35.1 et seq., in the NJDOT MULTI- HALL AVENUE, PERTH AMBOY, NJ 08861.

PURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may compare the new Jersey State Bar Association by 1/28/03 and opened and read for:

CALLIEG AVENUE. PAYEMENT MARKINGS

November 12, 1996, in Book 5186 of Mortgages for MID-DLESEX County, Page 573, and (2) to recover possession of the concerned premises commonly known as: 445

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by 1/28/03 and opened and read for:

CALLIE AVENUE. PAYEMENT MARKINGS

REPROFESSION OF THE PAYEMENT MARKINGS REPROFESSION OF THE PAY PURPOSE ROOM, New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1035 Parkway Avenue, until 10:00 AM on Vize Maintenance and read for:

MAINTENANCE LONGLIFE PAVEMENT MARKINGS REPROVED THE COUNT CENTRAL 2003, VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE COUNTIES OF HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MON-Venue by calling 908-249-760.

MOUTH, OCEAN, SOMERSET AND WARREN SOUTH HUNTERDON, MERCER, MIDDLESEX, MON-Venue by calling 908-249-760.

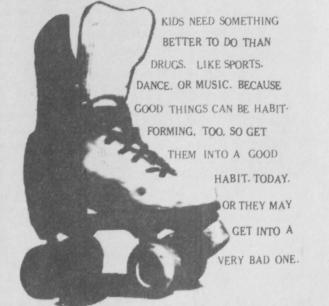
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DONALD F. PHELAN Clerk of the Superior Court M7 1T 1/17/03

Training to the NUDOT Plans Distribution Building #8
Thiokol PO. Box 600 Trenton, New Jersey 08628 during business hours. Names and addresses of prospective bidders for this project may be acquired by telephoning 509-530-8547 or 609-530-8547. Drawings, supplemental specifications, and boring logs may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organiogations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations: our various Design Field Offices at the following locations: Their fax number is 609-530-8347. Drawings, supplemental specifications, and boring logs may also be inspected (BUT NOT OBTAINED) by contracting organiogations at our various Design Field Offices at the following locations: The fact of the following locations: The fact of the following locations: The fact of the fa

ENCOURAGE YOUR KIDS HABIT.



Partnership For A Drug-Free New Jersey

In Cooperation With The Governor's Council On Alcoholism & Drug Abuse THE NEW JERSEY DEFARTMENT OF HEALTH & PARTNERSHIP FOR A DRUG-FREE AMERICA

PINEWOOD DERBY annual event of Cub Scout Pack 20. Schor Middle School, North Randolphville Rd., Piscataway, 10 a.m. Registration 7-9 p.m.

SUNDAY

Jan. 24. (732) 752-3127.

JAN. 26 BIG BAND

Steven Marcone on the stars of that era. South Plainfield Public Library, 2484 Plainfield Ave. South Plainfield, 2 p.m. (908) 754-7885.

PARENTS PROGRAM -Ear Infections: Symptoms, Treatment, Prevention." Main branch, Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 11:45 a.m. Jan. 27. Adults \$2; children free. (732) 549-6065.

LUNCH & LEARN "Learning to Say 'No' and Reaping the Rewards." Metuchen Inn, 424 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, noon Jan. 30.

Edison

Activities for senior adults

Tuesday, Jan. 21 — Cole

Thursday, Jan. 23 — Senior

Lounge Day, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mahjongg, bridge, Scrabble

and chess are available. Cost

is \$2 and guests are welcome.

Knowledge, 10:30 a.m. Gerald

Pomper speaks on "Ordinary

Democracy." Cost of \$9

Thursday, Jan. 30 —

"Cowboy Cafe" at Hunterdon

Hills Playhouse. Cost of \$51

for members and \$55 for non-

members includes lunch. The

bus leaves the Inman Grove

Senior Citizens building 9:15

Tuesday, Feb. 4 — Movie,

returns 5 p.m. Reservations Center.

Borough residents Robert and local private school.

"Left Luggage," 1:30 p.m. Cost

Diane Heaslip and their two

children, Sheri Heaslip and

Cynthia Romano, have stepped

forward to claim the second

half of the \$3.1 million jackpot

from the Pick 6 Lotto drawing

The winning numbers were:

The Heaslips have been mar-

Mr. Heaslip has worked on the assembly line at the Ford

Motor Co.'s facility in Edison

for more than 20 years. Mrs.

Heaslip is currently employed

09, 11, 12, 17, 20 and 25. The

other winning ticket was claimed by Maria A. Rizzo of

Ocean Gate, Ocean County.

ried for 34 years.

held on Thursday, Nov. 7.

a.m. and the JCC 9:30 a.m.

and

Heroes

is \$3.

includes lunch.

Tuesday, Jan. 28 — Nosh n'

American

Porter music and jazz with a

trio, 1:30 p.m. Cost of \$3

includes dessert 12:45 p.m.

at the Jewish Community

Center of Middlesex County,

JCC Senior Adults

1775 Oak Tree Road:

Golden Nuggets S E N I

\$45. Registration: (732) 549-6000

HOCKEY NIGHT — Flyers-Devils game at Continental Arena. Bus leaves Dorothy K. Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 5 p.m. Jan. 30. \$36. Prepayment required: (732) 248-7313

BOOK TALK — discussing "The World Below" by Sue Miller. Main branch, Edison Free Public Library, 340 Plainfield Ave., Edison, 10 a.m. Jan. 31. (732) 287-2298, Ext. 1.

LOCAL HISTORY — Day, annual event of Metuchen-Edison Historical Society, Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 1-4 p.m. Feb. 2. (732) 906-0529.

EXPECTING? - "in-depth relaxation techniques" for pregnant women. JFK Conference Center, 70 James St., Edison, 7 p.m. Feb. 3. Registration required: (908) 668-2796 by Jan. 29.

DAR PROGRAM — the life of Mrs. Richard Stockton. Buccleuch Mansion, Easton Ave., New Brunswick, 1 p.m. Feb. 8. (732) 548-7116.

Tuesday, Feb. 11 — "When

Tuesday, Feb. 11 - Movie,

March 12 — Philadelphia

Art Museum. Cost of \$75

includes admission to the

Degas exhibit and lunch.

required for most activities.

For more information, phone

Piscataway

Volunteers are needed to

help prepare income tax forms

for seniors between February

and April 15. If you are inter-

ested, phone (732) 562-1133

or visit the Senior Center at

700 Buena Vista Ave., off Hoes

The Senior Center sponsors

a trip to Las Vegas from June

2-6. Transfers, tips and bag-

gage handling are included.

Cost is \$515 per person, dou-

South Plainfield family collects

as a school bus driver for a

Heaslip selects the couple's

numbers based on those

assigned to the overhead car

9, as they were preparing to go out for dinner. While Mrs.

Heaslip was getting ready, her husband went to the store to

After realizing he had the

winning ticket, he called his

wife and told her to come to the

store. When she arrived, they

checked the winning numbers

together three times before

concluding they had actually

won. According to Mrs. Heaslip,

check the winning numbers.

They realized they won Nov.

carriers at the auto plant.

A regular lottery player, Mr.

its share of lottery top prize

membership

Reservations are required.

(732) 494-3232.

Lane

Like It Hot" at New Jersey ble occupancy. A \$100 deposit

Performing Arts Center. Cost is required by Feb. 15. For full

of \$88 includes lunch. The bus information, phone (732) 562-

Library.

Senior Center

Radio Was King" with Dave

Zwengler, 10:30 a.m. Cost is

"Mr. Klein," 1:30 p.m. Cost is

are required.

THEATER TRIP Thoroughly Modern Millie" on

Broadway. Bus leaves Municipal Complex, 455 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, noon Feb. 9. \$90. Reservations: (732) 562-

OPEN HOUSE Metuchen-Edison YMCA, 65 High St., Metuchen, 1-3 p.m. Feb. 9. (732) 548-2044.

BOOK TALK — discussing "Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky. Metuchen Public Library, 480 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 2 p.m. Feb. 9. (732) 632-8526.

ROUND-ROBIN — bridge for Borough Improvement League, 491 Middlesex Ave. Metuchen, 1 p.m. Feb. 12. (732) 985-3914.

SHOW TUNES - "Almost Broadway" with Brenda Day. Borough Improvement League, 491 Middlesex Ave., Metuchen, 1:30 p.m. Feb. 20. (732) 548-

SABBATH SPEAKER -"Participatory Midrash" with Melinda Levinson Zalma. Temple Neve Shalom, 250 Grove Ave., Metuchen, 8:15 p.m. Feb. 21. (732) 548-2238.

Highland Park Senior/Youth Center

The Senior/Youth Center at 220 S. Sixth Ave. is open 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Transportation is available; phone (732) 819-0052 before 3 p.m. the previous day.

Breakfast is served 8:30-10:30 a.m. Monday-Friday. General programs:

Sunday - Bingo, 12:30

Monday — Beginners English, 9 a.m. Sewing and quilting, 10 a.m. Exercise, 11 a.m. Beginners bridge, 1:30

Tuesday — English, 9:30 a.m. Woodcarving, 9:30 a.m. Chorus, 10 a.m. Bridge, mahjongg and pinochle, 1 p.m. Crafts, 1 p.m.

Wednesday Conversational English, 10:30 a.m. Bereavement-loss class, 11:30 a.m.

Thursday - Pain management, 11 a.m. Rockettes rehears'al, 1 p.m.

Friday — Beginners English, behind Kennedy 9 a.m. Painting, 9 a.m. ESL English, 9:30 a.m. Exercise, 11 a.m. Bingo, 1:15 p.m.

South Plainfield **AARP Chapter 4144**

The AARP chapter meets 12:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 20 at the Senior Citizens Center, 90 Maple Ave. Nancy Connor speaks about custom floral leaves the JCC 10:30 a.m. and 1133 or visit the Senior designs and interior decorating. All are welcome.

"...we started jumping up and

down and dancing around, just

The family chose the cash

each received

option. Robert and Diane

\$340,279, while daughters Sheri and Cynthia each

received \$37,808, less the 27

percent mandatory federal

withholding tax. Had the fami-

ly opted for annuity, they would

have received their full share of

the jackpot payable over 30

diate plans for the lottery win-

chased at The Corner Deli,

1200 Hamilton Blvd.

They said they had no imme-

The winning ticket was pur-

like on the commercials."

Heaslip

planning meeting Chug Ivrit (Hebrew speakers' club) sponsored by Raritan Valley

/cantabile.

Chapter of Hadassah, will meet at 10:15 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 23, at a home in the Highland Park area. This group is for intermediate to advanced Hebrew speakers, and is free and open to the public. Guests chat in Hebrew and read a short photocopied article.

For more information, contact Rachel Weintraub at (732) 819-9298 or email: rachel@weintraubworld.net.Y programs just for girls METUCHEN

Metuchen-Edison YMCA sponsors a new program for "Girls in Real-Life Situations." Any girl 11-14 years old who is

in Grades 6-8 is eligible. The program begins Jan. 26 and meets every third Sunday at the YMCA on Elm Street through February For registration, phone Skip

Fuller at (732) 548-2044.

Relaxation class offered at JFK

EDISON — The Center for Complementary Medicine is sponsoring a course on advanced relaxation skills for pregnancy, labor and breastfeeding.

Expecting and nursing mothers are invited to a free preview 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3 in the JFK Conference Center at 70 James St., across from JFK Medical Center.

The program will show how "deep relaxation" techniques, such as visualization, positive thinking and hypnosis, can work to manage labor or improve breastfeeding. Each woman will also learn how to write a "personal relaxation plan."

Instructor Lesly Federici is a Lamaze certified childbirth educator and advanced clinical hypnocounselor.

Registration is required; phone (908) 668-2796 by Wednesday, Jan. 29.

The Center Complementary Medicine has units at JFK Medical Center in Edison and Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield. All are divisions of Edison-based Solaris Health

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Create an invitation as lovely as the bride

vey by Conde Nast's "Bride's" magazine, the average cost for an American wedding is \$22,360.

Most of that budget is taken up by big-ticket items such as the reception, the ring and the photographer/videographer, leaving not very much for a highly personal and highly visible wedding ingredient — the invitation.

However, it's quite possible to create an inexpensive, uniquely personal invitation by following a few simple suggestions from the graphic design faculty of The Art Institutes. According to Christine David of The Art Institute of Ft. Lauderdale, "wedding invitations are the first glimpse your guests

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the perfect opportunity to set the style and tone for your big event."

With the availability of home computers and printers, making your own wedding invitations is not only a possibility, it's a great idea. That way, say the experts, you can customize your invitation as much as you'd like.

For example, says David, if it's a traditional wedding, then "you wouldn't dare go any color other than natural white/ecru, with formal wording, for example, '[the names of the couple], together with their parents, request the honor of your presence at their marriage.' If you're a diva bride, David suggests gold ink with colorful and

(ARA) - According to a 2002 sur- will get of your wedding. They are bold artwork. Play with the wording too, she says; for example "Love is in the air/we make a great pair! /You're invited to attend/our wedding affair."

For the outdoorsy, loving couple, invitations can take their inspiration from items found in nature, like shells, acorns or leaves, with raffia bows as accents. Hand-made papers work especially well with this kind of approach, says David. She offers this suggestion for invitation wording for the nature couple: "As autumn leaves/turn their brilliant hue/two lovers will join and say I do.'

Once you've decided the tone and theme of your invitation, it's time to start shopping for paper. Andrea Brenner, a graphic design instructor with The New England Institute of Art Communications, says off-white, heavy paper stock works best for formal, elegant weddings. "No matter how small or big the wedding,

choose the best quality paper you

can, something that feels substantial in your hand," she advises.

Unique paper styles can be found at art stores or specialty paper stores. Brenner says many of these locations have prototypes of handmade invitations for ideas and inspiration. For paper styles, consider Vellum, Strathmore Natural White, Strathmore White, Laid Natural White, Laid White or Deluxe Parchment. Don't be afraid to mix and match papers in the invitation and try layering papers for an interesting effect.

For font choices, Dan Hanners with the Visual Communications department of The Illinois Institute of Art - Schaumburg, suggests using more than one font but not more than three. "Usually a good script font works best for headings, and a more traditional font for the body copy," he says. Keep the font size legible. After all, says Hanners, "if you can't read it, then Great Grandma will have difficulties as well." Nine-, 10- or 12-



The invitation should be designed with the same care as the bridal gown.

ers offer many options. If you're not

comfortable creating your own art-

work, design experts suggest

downloading clip art images (cli-

part.com, or use a search engine to

ocate other sources) or photogra-

Gwendolyn

Huddleston, the academic director

of graphic design for The Art

Institute of California - San

Francisco has created wedding

invitations that have used a cou-

ple's picture or photos of their

rings. "I've also incorporated flow-

ers that the bride was using in her

wedding, as well as created a logo

type imagery which married the

letters of the couple's names," says

Huddleston.

point fonts work the best. Any size

over 12 can look elementary and

unprofessional. Hanners recom-

mends scouting the Internet for

fonts and downloading them for

an invitation. Kim Lyles, a graphic design instructor with The Art

Institute of Philadelphia, says col-

ors are "purely an artistic choice,

but you want whatever colors you

select to be aesthetically pleasing."

For ideas, there are "color books"

(check out Barnes & Noble) that

can help you to select the right

For printing your own invitations, home computers and print-

color choices for your invitation.

Color can make a big impact on

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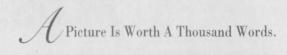
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Community Life

Acting chief takes center stage

By VALERI DRACH WEIDMANN

CORRESPONDENT

HIGHLAND PARK - The walls of the office of new acting Police Chief Francis Kevin Kinney are blank accept for the photos of about 25 previous Highland Park police chiefs. Soon he will add his portrait.

When Kinney was growing up on the streets of Highland Park, attending borough schools and playing in its summer camps, he never dreamt of being chief of

During the years 1970 through 1974 when he was a student at Highland Park High School, it was the grease paint and the stage lights that caught an eager blond-haired, blue eyed adolescent boy's attention.

"I was attracted to everything that had anything to do with the workings of the stage," Kinney "I built stages, scenery, handled lighting, sound and would do anything that applied to the technical.

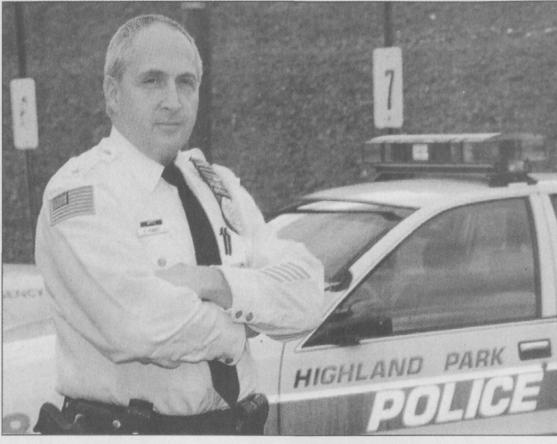
Kinney, who has been with the Highland Park Police Department since 1978, remembers working on a lot of Shakespearian plays including "Hamlet," "Twelfth Night" and the "Taming of the Shrew" as well as "Medea," "Our Town" and "Summer and Smoke."

He is particularly proud of a stage he helped to build that actually extended out into the audience. The checkerboard extension provided an optical illusion that made the audience feel as if the action were propelled into their seats.

His English classes with Robert Stevens, whom the auditorium was named for, also made an impact on the young Kinney.

"History and literature always remind us of the human drama around us," Kinney said. "I think that was what drew me to police work.'

Kinney attended Middlesex County College where he selected technical theater art classes. It was also when he was a college freshman that he joined the



GEORGE PACCIELLO/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Francis Kinney has been named acting police chief in Highland Park.

Highland Park Volunteer Fire Department. While at the firehouse, he saw someone filling out a police application and Kinney also decided to apply. He was accepted and was sent to the Police Academy and has been with the force ever since.

Kinney talked with pride about two new officers joining the department this month. Antoni Grasso and Nicole Young both bring diverse interest and talents to the department and like Kinney were attracted to a community that has a small town feel and a diverse popula-

Grasso studied political science with a concentration in criminal justice at Kean University where he earned a bachelor's degree. Fluent in both Spanish and Italian, he graduated from the Union County Police Academy and served as a

Middlesex County park ranger. Young, who also graduated

from Kean University, earned a degree in criminal justice and also attended the Union County Police Academy where she computerized the library database and assisted in the public information department. Young is a commissioner for the Union County Human Relations Commission.

According to Kinney, the two newest members of his force of 29 are people-oriented, like himself. The work that he is most proud of during his 25 years of service to the Highland Park Police Department is his involvement in the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program, (DARE), that he and Sgt. William Ducca brought to Highland Park schools for more than a decade. The program includes a fifth-grade curricu- drama on the streets.'

lum in which police officers visit the schools every week.

"The biggest strength of the program is that you build a relationship and bond with children," Kinney said. "They see you as people like themselves and their family instead of as distant authority figures. What I'm most proud of is that grown students still come to visit us today to tell us that we made a difference in their lives."

As for his love for drama, plays and history, Kinney claims he hasn't given any of it up.

"I'm constantly visiting Manhattan to see plays, I would eventually like to teach history and I'm involved in human drama everyday in working in the police department," Kinney said. "My years listening to Shakespeare's plays gave me a lot of insight into the human

Briefs

Cub Scouts plan Blue, Gold Dinner

HIGHLAND PARK - The annual Cub Scout Pack 5 (Highland Park's Shomer Shabbat and kashruth pack) Blue and Gold Dinner will be held at Congregation Ahavas Achim, 216 First Ave., at 5 p.m. March 9.

A kid-friendly pasta meal will be served. Cost, if paid by Feb. 26, is \$10 for adults, \$6 for children under 17, with a family maximum of \$40. Make checks out to Cub Scout Pack 5 and send to Leora Wenger, 133 N. Seventh Ave., Highland Park NJ

Adults are asked to write down their favorite Cub Scout memories and hand them in at the dinner. To volunteer to help, call (732) 572-3242 or email bluegold@hpcubpack5.org.

State of Township dinner in Edison

EDISON — The Edison Chamber of Commerce will sponsor its 12th Annual State of the Township dinner at 6 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, at the Clarion Hotel, Route 27 south. A cocktail hour will precede a surf and turf dinner-featuring filet mignon at 7 p.m. Cost is \$40 per person.

Mayor George Spadoro will discuss his vision for 2003 and the accomplishments made in

Reservations can be made by calling the Edison Chamber of Commerce at (732) 738-9482.

Sponsors sought for Rec programs

HIGHLAND PARK - The Recreation Department is seeking corporate sponsors to support youth programs this year.

Sponsorship for the entire year is \$150. Funds "will be used to help purchase equipment, shirts, and hats for youth programs," according to a fundraising letter signed by recreation Director Norm Arshan.

Each donor will receive a plaque to display inside the sponsor's place of business.

Recreation sports programs Women's group include basketball, wrestling, baseball, softball, soccer, track weightlifting. Summer playground activities and other events are included as well.

Checks payable to "Borough of Highland Park" should be mailed or hand-delivered to Highland Park Recreation Senior-Youth Department, Center, 220 S. Sixth Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904.

For more information, phone

(732) 819-0411.

Kids invited to skill contest

SOUTH PLAINFIELD Boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2003 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship.

Competition starts Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Riley School gym-

Boys and girls ages 12, 13 and 14 will start at 10 a.m. Children, 10 and 11, will start All participants are required

to furnish proof of age (birth certificate) and written permission. Winners go to the Continental Arena for the championship at a later date.

For more information, call John Salerno at (908) 755-1425. Registration is at 9 a.m. Feb. 1 at the school.

Food pantry has new hours

The Highland Park Food Pantry has changed its hours of operation.

On the second and fourth Thursday of every month the pantry is open from 9 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. (from October to March) and from 7 to 9 p.m. (from April to September).

For more information contact the Mayor's Office at (732) 777-

Big Band era topic at library

SOUTH PLAINFIELD - The South Plainfield Free Public Library will host The Big Band Era at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The speaker will be Dr. Stephen F. Marcone, a former professional trumpet player and the current graduate studies coordinator program director of the music management program at William Paterson University.

The audio/visual program is presented by the South Plainfield Historical Society with funding from the N.J. council for the Humanities.

awarded grant

Helping Women, a nonprofit social service agency serving more than 5,000 women, girls and teens each year with affordable therapy and support services, has been awarded a \$49,552 grant form The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

For more information, call (732) 549-6000.



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Survey finds state residents rely on newspapers most

In what may be the most comex and competitive media marof a research study of New Jersey on New Jersey's daily and weekly the national average of 73 pernewspapers, according to the cent. plex and competitive media market in the nation, newspapers rate as the most used, relied upon and trusted source for all types of advertising, news and informa-

Compared with other media such as television, radio and the Internet, New Jersey residents say newspapers have the:

Most information about

where they live - Most believable advertising Best coverage of news from

New Jersey Best ideas of places to go

and things to do

- Best information about where to shop, prices and items

These are some of the findings

Opinion Research, Princeton.

This study proves what we in the industry have been touting for years: that New Jersey is 'The Newspaper State'," said John O'Brien, executive director of the New Jersey Press Association. "Since New Jerseyans' electronic media mostly originates from someplace other than New Jersey, newspapers here play an even more critical role in providing the citizens of this state with information they need and desire.'

Even with state-focused electronic outlets such as CN8, New Jersey 101.5 and News 12 New Jersey, and local Internet initiatives in the picture, New Jerseyans confirmed they count

study's findings.

"It's gratifying to know New Jerseyans are avid consumers of news and advertising and newspapers continue to set the pace in this critical market," O'Brien added.

American Opinion Research study, based on interviews with 1,250 adults selected at random from across the state, showed that the vast majority of New Jersey adults read a newspaper, and that newspaper readership is higher than across the

— More than three in four New Jersey adults (77 percent) read a weekday (Monday through Friday) newspaper, higher than

73 percent of adults read a newspaper on an average Sunday, 14 percent higher than the national average of 64 percent.

- Almost seven in 10 New Jersey adults (69 percent) read a weekly or community newspaper.

In addition, adults turn first to newspapers for hometown news: 82 percent of adults read hometown news every time or usually when they pick up a newspaper. This is followed closely, however, by readership of advertising inserts and supplements; 78 percent of all adults read advertising inserts or supplements every time or usually when they pick up a newspaper.

The research also looked at the

shopping behavior of New buyers read a newspaper during Jersevans.

For example:

More than 4 million adults say they or someone in their household have purchased hardware or home building supplies in the past 12 months, an indication of the growth in the home improvement industry also occurring in other parts of the United

More than 3.6 million have purchased home electronics.

- More than 2 million have purchased furniture or major appliances.

- More than 2 million adults have purchased a new or used car, truck or van.

Asked about their media usage, more than eight in 10 of these

an average week.

Newspapers were also rated as the main source of local shopping information overall. Almost three in four adults (74 percent) cited newspapers as their primary source, compared with 5 percent for the Internet, 6 percent for television (cable and network combined) and 2 percent for direct mail and radio.

New Jersey consumers are also heavy advertising users: Almost two in three (63 percent) say they look at advertising before going out to shop.

The study, conducted by American Opinion Research for the New Jersey Press Association, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Author discusses boro through the ages

By LIBBY BARSKY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD -Richard Velt took his audience on a tour of historic South Plainfield through photographs of homes and businesses at a special South Plainfield Public Library program Jan. 5.

All the pictures were from "Images of America: South Plainfield," a recently published book for which Velt wrote the text.

He is the director of the Center for New Jersey History, Monmouth located at University in West Long Branch. Velt also is an assistant professor of history and anthropology at the Jersey Shore school

Using a reproduction of an old map of Piscataway he described the first pre-Revolutionary settlement startas Samptown, Native American for ground cornmeal and New Brooklyn. South was part of Piscataway before incorporating as a municipality in 1926.

The pictures show how South Plainfield grew from small farms to industry to suburbanization. Once the railroad tracks were laid manufacturing followed. Spicer Manufacturing Co. built joints

automobiles. Cornell-Dubilier Corp. produced condensers and electronic equipment. Harris Structural Steel Corp. turned out steel for the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New

No display of the borough's history would be complete without Hadley Field, site of

serving their homes.

"We have a great many still in the town. I understand the development pressure but it would be a shame to lose them.

"These homes give us a sense of place and show us what the history of the area was," he said. "My hope is to raise inter-

Asked why none of South

"It's my hope that people are more aware of the historic homes we have and that private homeowners will take more an interest in preserving their homes. We have a great many still in the town. I understand the development pressure, but it would be a shame to lose them.'

> -Richard Velt author, historian

the first nighttime air mail flight on July 1, 1925.

The library program emphasized the many historic houses that are standing today. These included the Isaac Boice farmhouse on Montrose Avenue, built in 1808; the Tappan-Faulks house, on Maple Avenue; and the Maltby house, on Tompkins Avenue.

"It's my hope that people are more aware of the historic homes we have," Velt said, "and that private homeowners will

Plainfield's historic homes is on the National Register of Historic Places, Velt said none of them was identified as such when a survey was conducted 20 years ago.

He said the judges took a "windshield tour" of the borough and didn't see all the homes in the area as those dwellings were off some of the main roads.

According to Velt, houses on the National Register are usually associated with a famous take more an interest in pre- person or an important event in

American history. These homes are representative of a particular style of architecture

Being listed on the National Register does not always provide legal protection, he added, and such a listing is "an honorific." He said such a listing provides protection if you use government funds to develop a tract.

"If you own a National Register home and you want to tear it down ... you can do what you want," Velt said.

"I loved the program and the book," said Dawn Toth, who brought a copy of "Images of America: South Plainfield" for the speaker to sign.

She bought additional copies that she gave to brothers and sisters with an inscription on one photo that stood out for her. The photo, which begins the "Suburbanization" section, was taken around 1960 from the third floor of a house at 715 Garibaldi Ave.

Toth said the picture caption improperly located the house as "415 Garibaldi Place.

"I found a picture that was the view from my bedroom in my parents' home looking out on Garibaldi Avenue," Toth said. "After I saw the picture I went back to the street and there were the three homes I

Artist shares vision of hometown

HIGHLAND PARK - Artist and teacher Coleen Tyler of Highland Park will display her landscape watercolors in the main hall display case at the Highland Park Public Library, 31 N. Fifth Ave., throughout January.

Since the spring of 2002, Tyler has been canvassing her neighborhood for subject matter to render in her art. Her watercolors represent a journal of every day life in the borough and she has documented the seasonal changes in vivid paintings.

The Highland Park artist has been displaying her paintings at the library throughout the years and she has shared her impressions of Europe, local scenes and still life subjects.

Tyler has taught art in Highland Park as well as in other communities. She has also traveled to Europe to share workshops with other painters.

For more information about exhibits at the library call (732) 572-2750.

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Homeowners - Because your home may well be your largest asset, selling it is probably one of the most important decisions you will make in your life. And once you have made that decision, you'll want to sell your home for the highest price in the shortest time possible without compromising your sanity. Before you place your home on the market. here's a way to help you to be as prepared as

To assist homesellers, a new industry report has just been released called "27 Valuable Tips That You Should Know to Get Your Home Sold Fast and for Top Dollar." It tackles the important issues you need to know to make your home competitive in today's tough, aggressive marketplace.

Through these 27 tips, you will discover

important investment, reduce stress, be in control of your situation, and make the most In this report you'll discover how to

avoid financial disaster when selling your

home. Using a common-sense approach, you get the straight facts about what can make or break the sale of your home. You owe it to yourself to learn how these important tips will give you the competitive edge to get your home sold fast and for the

most amount of money. To hear a brief recorded message about how to order your free copy of this report, all 1-888-305-3085 and enter ID# 1023. You can call anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days

This report courtesy of: Tom Curtis Century 21 Moretti Realty

Builders' group is awarded grant to promote construction industry

Contractors Association of New good candidates for the profes- the required examinations. Jersey has received funds from sion. New Jersey Labor Department to design a program that will help high school guidance counselors promote careers in the construction

The Resource Guide," the core of the program, will provide accurate and comprehensive information about careers in the construction trades. Guidance counselors will be able to provide direction to students interested in construction as a career and

The program was developed with all students in mind; it focuses on attracting women and minorities to trade careers. It also will be directly promoted to all schools within the so-"School Counselor called "Abbott Districts."

A kit is used to house all materials provided. These include brochures for students; posters that can be hung around the school; a resource guide that lists the various construction trades; how to apply for apprenticeship or training; admission

EDISON - The Building identify students who may be requirements; and preparing for

The Edison-based agency plans to put up a corresponding website early this year.

"This program is an excellent way to promote the construction industry as an attractive career option for bright students, even those currently thinking about college," said Executive Director Jack Kocsis Jr.

"With the guide," he said, "counselors will be able to provide direction to students interested in a career in the trades and identify the trade best suited for them.

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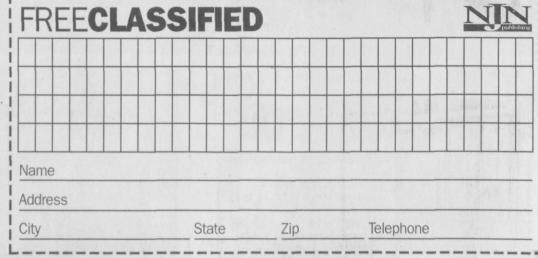
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Adult school plans annual Trip Night

SOUTH PLAINFIELD — The South Plainfield Adult School holds its annual "Trip Night" 7 p.m. Tuesday at South Plainfield High School.

This program is a preview of day trips and excursions sponsored by the Adult School. Included on this schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 1 — "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway. Feb. 6-11 - "London Super Saver" to England.

Saturday, Feb. 8 -Miserables" on Broadway. March 1 - "Movin' Out" on tour. Broadway.

March 2 - Philadelphia Albany, N.Y. Flower Show. March 4 — "Mamma Mia!" on

Broadway. March 8-9 - Cape May and

Smithville. March 19-25 - Scottsdale, Tucson and Sedona, Ariz.

March 24-April 5 - Rhine River cruise. March 31-April 8 — Italy and

Edison planning dance for disabled

EDISON - The Recreation Department is sponsoring a "Winter Wonderland Dance" for physically and mentally challenged teens and adults.

The dance is 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Dorothy K. Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave. Cost is \$5. Payment must be received by Friday, Jan. 24.

For more information, phone (732) 248-7312.

the Tuscan Valley.
April 5 — "Champions on April 5-6 — Washington, D.C.

April 6-11 - "Springtime in Charleston (S.C.) and Savannah" (Ga.). April 11-12 -Lancaster

County, Pa. April 26 — Culinary Sept. I Institute of America plus al parks. Vanderbilt or Roosevelt estate.

April 26-May 13 — Australia and New Zealand. May 4 — Manhattan walking

May 9-10 — Tulip festival in Madeira. May 10 — New Jersey State

Aquarium and USS New May 17-18 — Delaware resort.

May 18 — Greenwich Village walking tour. May 18 - Bronx Zoo.

June 1 — Tribeca walking

Nantucket.

June 27-29 — Rhode Island. July 15-24 — Canadian

July 15-27 — National parks July 27-Aug. 4 — Canadian

Rockies by train. Aug. 22-24 — Cape May. Sept. 1-9 - Northern nation-

Sept. 26-30 — Maine coast. Oct. 6-18 — Hawaii cruise. Oct. 17-21 — Indian Head resort in New Hampshire. Nov. 6-15 - Portugal and

Nov. 6-16 - "French Impressions.' May 7-10, 2004 — Mother's

Day cruise aboard the Queen Nov. 6-16, 2004 — Caribbean cruise aboard the Queen Mary

Registration is required to attend Trip Night; phone (908) 754-4620. Ext. June 1-4 - Cape Cod and Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.



SPONSORED BY THE NEW JERSEY ASSOCIATION OF ORTHODONTISTS

BEST BETS THIS WEEK

College planetarium reopens for season

BRANCHBURG — The Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College has reopened for its winter sched-

View "Winter Wonders" 2 and 7 p.m. every Saturday through March 22. See Orion the hunter, Taurus the bull, Canis Major the great dog and Gemini the twins as they glide across the sky. Learn where to spot Jupiter, Saturn and Mercury in the evening sky. Find out where you can find Venus in the early morning sky. There's also news from the International Space Station and the astronomy world.

"Laser 80's" takes place 3 and 8 p.m. every Saturday through March 22. As the title intimates, it's a laser light show set to all the hits you loved in the "Big 80's."

Three special laser concerts use classic rock for accompaniment. "Laser Hendrix" is 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1. "Zeppelin Unbound" is 9 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. "Laser U2" is 9 p.m. Saturday, March 15.

Admission is \$4.50 for "Winter Wonders" and \$5 for each laser show. A package deal of "Winter Wonders" and "Laser 80's" on the same day is \$8.50. See "Winter Wonders," "Laser 80's" and a special laser concert on the same day for \$12.

Reservations are recommended; phone (908) 231-8805. Park in Lot 1 on the RVCC campus and follow the signs to the planetarium.

Arbor Chamber sets Jan. 26 concert

WESTFIELD — The Arbor Chamber Music Society continues its 13th season with three trios inspired by gypsy, Klezmer and folk music.

This concert 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield features the Trio in G major, by Franz Josef Haydn; the "Dumky" Trio; by Antonin Dvorak; and the Trio in E flat minor, by Dmitri Shostakovich.

The Haydn trio has a Rondo movement based on gypsy music. "Dumky" is the Czech plural for "dumka," a folkloric tale of heroism and tragedy. Shostakovich wrote his trio as a reaction to the destruction of World War II.

Musicians are Lenore Fishman Davis, piano; Emi Ohi Resnick, violin; and Matthias Naegele, cello. Davis is the artistic director of the Westfield-based Arbor Chamber Music Society.

Admission is \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, free for students 18 and under. A lecture by John Sichel precedes the program 3:15 p.m. For reservations, phone (908) 232-1116.

The Presbyterian Church is at 140 Mountain Ave., near East Broad Street.

Grand opera coming to State

NEW BRUNSWICK — Set in 15th-century Spain, "Il trovatore" (The Troubador) weaves together tragic threads of obsession, violence, love, and revenge into a vibrant tapestry that is grand opera at its most thrilling. Teatro Lirico d'Europa will bring this exceptional production, performed in Italian with English supertitles, to New Brunswick's State Theatre on Thursday, Feb. 6 at 8 p.m.

Supremely melodic and breathlessly paced, "Il trovatore" is a remarkable marriage of dramatic characterization and vocal bravura in true Verdian style. Giuseppe Verdi's celebrated score is filled with arias and ensembles of extraordinary beauty and power: the rousing "Anvil Chorus," the showstopping tenor aria, "Di quella pira" and the haunting "Miserere" are just a few of the highlights.

Teatro Lirico d'Europa was

created in Paris in 1986. It is currently the only opera company that tours the U.S. with fullscale productions for extended periods of time. The company travels with an orchestra of 50 musicians, a professional chorus of 45 trained singers, and mature, experienced soloists. The company's substantial sets have won critical acclaim from both European and American critics. Teatro Lirico has completed over 3,000 performances worldwide. Giorgio Lalov, Artistic Director of Teatro Lirico d'Europa, has awarded over 250 contracts to American singers and conductors to perform with the company worldwide since 1986 and continues to engage

artists for every tour.
Since 1992, Teatro Lirico
D'Europa has completed several
highly successful tours of
Verdi's Il trovatore throughout



There is no opera grander than Verdi's "II Trovatore."

Western Europe. The company's brand-new production was presented on tour in the U.S. in winter 2002 to outstanding critical acclaim and returns to the U.S. by popular demand for the winter 2003 tour — Teatro Lirico d'Europa's fourth major U.S. tour.

A pre-performance Insight, a

discussion to enhance enjoyment and appreciation of the evening's performance, will take place at 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, just steps away from the State Theatres. Director of Education Lian Farrer will facilitate the discussion focusing on Il trovatore in particular and the art form in general. Pre-performance

Insight tickets are \$6 (\$5 for subscribers) and may be purchased in conjunction with your tickets or at the lecture site one-half hour prior to the lecture.

Tickets for this performance are on sale now for \$45 (Premium Orchestra/Loge), \$40 (Orchestra/Front Balcony), \$35 (Rear Orchestra/Balcony), or \$25 (Gallery). The State Theatre box office is located at 15 Livingston Avenue, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. For telephone ticket orders or information call 732-246-7469 or toll free 877-STATE-11 Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday through Saturday 10am to 6pm; and Wednesday 11am to 7pm

New Jersey Stamp Expo this weekend

SPRINGFIELD — Atlantic Coast Exhibitions, in conjunction with the Westfield Stamp Club, will present the Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo Jan. 18-19, at the Holiday Inn, Route 22 westbound,

Show hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission and parking are free.

The Greater New Jersey Stamp Expo is New Jersey's largest and best attended stamp event. The Expo features exhibits by exhibitors from nine states, displaying a combined total of more than \$5 million in stamps.

than \$5 million in stamps.

A bourse of 40 stamp dealers buying and selling stamps of the world will be present. Free door prize drawings for more than \$500.00 in merchandise will be held.

A large youth area with free stamps and collecting materials will be available for all youths who attend. A Boy Scout merit badge registered counselor will be on duty to answer questions about 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 that year, was mistakenly printed with the center upside down. Of the 160 million stamps produced, only 140 were mistakenly printed in this manner. Of the 140 stamps produced, only 98 are now accounted for; of these this is one of the two best examples of this rare stamp. The stamp has been yearly at \$75,000.

valued at \$75,000.

The Westfield Stamp Club, a non-profit organization, is cosponsor of this event. Members of the club will be present and a "courtesy lounge" will be available to those who wish to learn more about participating in the club.

Villagers select plays for readings

FRANKLIN — The Villagers New Playwrights Series 2003 has announced its final selections.

announced its final selections.

Approximately 100 scripts were submitted for this series, from

playwrights all over America.

Three full-length scripts and three one-act scripts are included in the 2003 staged readings. All of this year's selections are by New Jersey playwrights.

The tentative schedule is: Feb. 3 — "Generations Apart," a comedy by Marv Siegel. Feb. 10 — "Theory of

Relativity," a drama by Lynne Judd of Branchburg. Feb. 17 — "The Heirs," a play by Norma Mortimer of

Morristown.

Feb. 24 — A evening of one-act

plays: "Modern Man in Search of a Really Good doughnut," an absurdist piece by Donald Earle Howes of Chatham; "Linger," a gaythemed drama by Voltaire Balderrama of South Orange and "African Violet," a comedy that addresses issues of ethnicity by Peter Gary Brav of Princeton.

All performances will be at 8 p.m. at the Villagers Theatre, 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset, NJ 08875. The public is welcome to attend every reading. There will be no admission charge, although charitable donations are welcome.

For additional information, please contact Catherine Rowe Pherson, daytime phone (609) 730-6557, e-mail catherine@villager-stheatre.com.

Art demonstration at Somerset Library

BRIDGEWATER — The Raritan Valley Arts Association presents a watercolor demonstration and talk from Diana Wilkoc Patton 7:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27 at the Somerset County Library, Bridgewater.

This free program includes mini-watercolor demonstrations on clayboard and paper.

on clayboard and paper.
Patton is listed in "Who's
Who in America" and "Who's
Who in the East." With over 125
awards in juried and judged
shows, she has exhibited widely
around the Northeast. She has
also taught watercolors for over
20 years with the Jointure for

Community Adult Education.
In addition to covering water-

colors, Patton will give hints on simplifying your drawing before applying the actual paint. Works in progress will be shown as well as examples of finished works.

The Raritan Valley Arts
Association is among the oldest
of its type in New Jersey, founded in 1939. The group holds a
large holiday show and sale at
the Somerset County Library
every December.

For details on the Arts Association, phone Patton at (908) 722-0562 or President Linda Arnold at (908) 647-3610. For library directions, visit www.somerset.lib.nj.us or phone (908) 526-4016.

Members' show opens at the SAA BEDMINSTER — The Somerset Art Association (SAA) will sponsor its Annual Honorable Mentions. The William Nagengast Memorial Award is also being established this

Association (SAA) will sponsor its Annual Members' Juried Show from Sunday, Jan. 19 through Friday, Feb. 21. The exhibit opens with a reception 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 19.

a reception 2 to 4 p.m. Jan. 19.

Renowned artist and art educator Vincent
Nardone of Bradley Beach will serve as juror.
He is an executive board member of the Allied

Artists of America and the Audobon Artists.

Annual awards, which will be announced during the Opening Reception, include Best of Show, two Awards for Excellence and three

Memorial Award is also being established this year by the Nagengast family in memory of William. The Bridgewater artist passed away three years ago shortly before the opening of his one-man show at the SAA.

The exhibit will be held in the SAA's in-house Johnson Gallery. Hours are Monday-Thursday from 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday 9:30 am – 1:30 p.m. The SAA is located on Burnt Mills Road in Bedminster near Route 202 and 206. For more information call (908) 234-2345.

NJIO is inviting string musicians to join

CRANFORD — String musicians of any age are invited to join the New Jersey Intergenerational Orchestra.

This Cranford-based symphony has three ensembles under the direction of Lorraine Marks. Its spring schedule includes a concert outdoors in Fountain Plaza at Lincoln Center, on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

The "Nouveau Group" is for those who are just learning a string instrument. The full orchestra includes those with some music training. The chamber orchestra has more advanced and profes-

sional musicians.

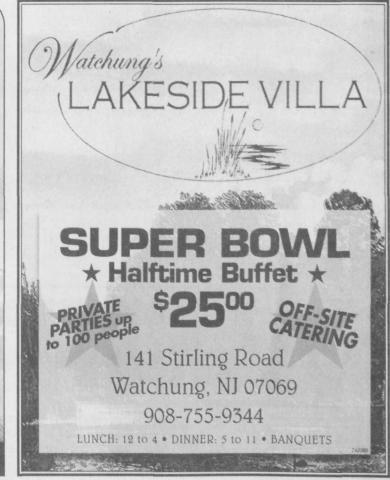
Rehearsals are held Thursday night, usually at Cranford High School.

Auditions are required for the chamber orches-

For registration, visit www.njio.org or phone (908) 709-0084. Lower fees are in effect for those who join the NJIO this winter.







Theater BROOK ARTS CENTER

10 Hamilton St. Bound Brook (732) 469-7700:

www.brookarts.org "Mary, Mary," 60's Broadway comedy by the recently deceased Jean Kerr. 8 p.m. Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25; 2 p.m. Jan. 19, 26. Adults \$15; seniors, students \$13. Group rates

CIRCLE PLAYERS

416 Victoria Ave., Piscataway (732) 968-7555

"The Lion in Winter," British royalty comedy. 8 p.m. Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, Feb. 1; 3 p.m. Jan. 19. Admission \$13 opening night, \$12 other evenings, \$11 matinee; discounts available.

GEORGE STREET PLAYHOUSE

9 Livingston Ave. New Brunswick (732) 246-7717; www. georgestplayhouse.org

"Double Play" of comedy: "The 75th" by Israel Horovitz and "The Vibrator" by Arthur Laurents. To Feb. 9. Admission \$45-\$26; discounts available. Call for showtimes

PAPER MILL

PLAYHOUSE Brookside Dr., Millburn (973) 376-4343; www.papermill.org

"Blue," musical by Nona Hendryx (from La Belle) and Charles Randolph-Wright. To Feb. 9. Admission \$63-\$26; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

VILLAGERS THEATRE 475 DeMott Lane, Somerset (732) 873-2710;

www.villagerstheatre.com "Popcorn," comedy/satire. 8 p.m. Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25; 2 p.m. Jan. 12, 19. Admission \$12.

WESTFIELD COMMUNITY PLAYERS 1000 North Ave. West

Westfield (908) 232-1221

"And the World Goes 'Round," musical by John Kander and Fred Ebb. 8 p.m. Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25. Admission \$15.

Sky Shows RARITAN VALLEY COMMUNITY COLLEGE Route 28, Branchburg

(908) 231-8805;

www.raritanval.edu/planetari-

"Winter Wonders," 2 and 7 p.m. Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission

"Laser 80's," 3 and 8 p.m. Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Admission \$5.

For Kids BEAR IN THE BIG BLUE HOUSE LIVE

To Jan. 19; State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11; www.statetheatrenj.org

TV show goes live and local. Admission \$24-\$12; discounts available. Call for showtimes.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Jan. 25-March 8

Forum Theatre 314 Main St., Metuchen (732) 548-0582; www. forumtheatrecompany.com

Live and local instead of far away. Admission \$12; group rates available. Call for show schedule.

DINOSAURS! 3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway

(732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org Not the Jurassic type, but those turned up by Fossil the detective. Admission \$10.

DRAGONS DON'T SING OPERA

1 and 3:30 p.m. Jan. 26 Theatre at Raritan Valley Community College Route 28, Branchburg (908) 725-3420;

www.raritanval.edu/theatre Stories from around America. Admission \$9; tickets for Oct. 27

will be honored. A POUND OF DOG

1 and 4 p.m. Jan. 18, 19 Somerset Valley Players Route 514, Hillsborough (908) 369-7469; www.svptheatre.org

Canine-style family musical. Admission \$7

SWORD IN THE STONE

11 a.m. Jan. 18, 1 p.m. Jan. 19; Forum Theatre 314 Main St., Metuchen (732) 548-0582; forumtheatrecompany.com

An original play with Merlin, Guinevere and a young King Arthur. Admission \$12; group rates available.

Concerts ARBOR CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 Presbyterian Church 140 Mountain Ave., Westfield (908) 232-1116

Trio performs works of Haydn, Dvorak and Shostakovich. Adults \$20; seniors \$15; students 18-under free.

THE BAND OF THE GRENADIER GUARDS

3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org "The Pipes and Drums of the

Scots Highlanders." Admission \$45-\$20.

BENNY!

2 and 8 p.m. Jan. 18 Somerset County Vo-Tech Vogt Dr., Bridgewater (908) 526-8900, Ext. 7219; www.njjs.org/bridgewater.html

Benny Goodman tribute concert with the Midori Brothers in a sextet (afternoon) and big band (evening). Admission \$20 for one show, \$25 for both.

LUI COLLINS/CHRIS & MEREDITH THOMPSON 8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25



Watchung Arts Center Watchung Circle, Watchung (908) 753-0190;

www.watchungarts.org Folk singers from New England: one set a solo woman, the other set twin sisters. Admission \$12.

DOO WOP REUNION **VOLUME III**

8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

Three CBS-FM acts on one bill: Charlie Thomas' Drifters, The Orlons, The Earls. Admission \$28-

FRANCIS HOPKINSON AND HIS MUSICK

4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 Wallace House 71 Somerset St., Somerville (609) 921-8835; www. njparksandforests.org

Songs of the 18th century composer with John Burkhalter, flute, and Eugene Roan, harpsichord. Free admission.

JAMMIN' WITH POPS

8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24 Union County Arts Center 1601 Irving St., Rahway (732) 499-8226; www.ucac.org

"A Session with Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong. Admission \$25-\$15.

THE MELTING POT

3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (800) ALLEGRO;

www.njsymphony.org Music from Dvorak and three other composers, performed by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Related lecture 2 p.m. Admission \$72-\$19.

MUSIC THROUGH THE AGES II

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19 Van Wickle House 1289 Easton Ave., Somerset (732) 828-7418; www. themeadowsfoundation.org

The electronic sound of Don Slepian, keyboard. Admission \$8.

SINATRA SINGS SINATRA

8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 24 State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org Frank Sinatra Jr. sings the songs made famous by "The Chairman of the Board." Admission \$55-\$20. TOSCA

8 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23

State Theatre, 15 Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (877) STATE 11;

www.statetheatrenj.org

Puccini opera standard, sung in Italian with English supertitles by the Russian State Opera. Admission \$45-\$25. Related lecture 7 p.m.; admission \$6.

Events **NEW JERSEY TRAILER**

AND CAMPING SHOW New Jersey Convention Center Raritan Center, Edison (800) 332-EXPO;

www.macevents.com Now in its 36th year, 1-9:30 p.m. Jan. 17, 10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Jan. 18, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Jan. 19. Adults \$9; seniors \$7 (Friday only); ages 12-17 \$7; ages 11-

Museums AMERICAN HUNGARIAN **FOUNDATION**

300 Somerset St. New Brunswick (732) 846-5777

under free.

Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Admission \$5.

Festival of Trees, to Jan. 26. Recent additions "From the Old World to the New World," to

CORNELIUS LOW HOUSE Middlesex County Museum

1225 River Rd., Piscataway (732) 745-4177 Open to the public 1-4 p.m.

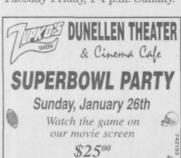
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. "UnCommon Clay: New Jersey's Architectural Terra Cotta

Industry, to May 30, 2003. EAST JERSEY

OLDE TOWNE

1050 River Rd., Piscataway (732) 745-3030, (732) 745-4489; www.cultureheritage.org Historical village in what was

once Raritan Landing. Open to the public 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday.



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www.mcateers.com

Victorian ornaments, to Feb.

MILLER-CORY HOUSE MUSEUM

614 Mountain Ave., Westfield (908) 232-1776

Open 2-4 p.m. alternate Sundays in January and February. Adults \$2; students 50 cents; under 6 free.

Early American home cures, Jan. 26.

PRINCETON UNIVER-SITY ART MUSEUM

(609) 258-3788; www. princetonartmuseum.org Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-

Saturday, 1-5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. "Lewis Baltz: Nevada and

Other Photographs," to Jan. 19. Photographs from the Peter C. Bunnell collection, to Feb. 2. "The Arts of Asia," to June 29.

Galleries MASON GROSS SCHOOL

OF THE ARTS Rutgers University, Livingston Ave., New Brunswick (732) 932-2222;

mgsa.rutgers.edu Open to the public 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday or by

appointment. RCIPP exhibition, to Feb. 6. Reception 3-7 p.m. Jan. 23. PRINTMAKING COUNCIL

OF NEW JERSEY 440 River Rd., Branchburg (908) 725-2110; www.printnj.org Open 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

Wednesday-Friday, 1-4 p.m. Saturday. Juried members show, to Jan.

SOMERSET ART ASSOCIATION

Route 620, Bedminster (908) 234-2345; www.somersetart.org Open 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday; 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday. Juried members' show, Jan.

19-Feb. 21. Reception 2-4 p.m. Jan.

SWAIN GALLERIES

703 Watchung Ave., Plainfield (908) 756-1707 Open 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday, 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday. "Images of Light" from Louis

Lanzafama, to Jan. 30. WATCHUNG

ARTS CENTER Watchung Circle, Watchung

(908) 753-0190; www.watchungarts.org Open to the public 1-4 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday,

Saturday; 1-7:30 p.m. Thursday. New Jersey Teen Arts exhibit,



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Survey finds state residents rely on newspapers most

In what may be the most complex and competitive media market in the nation, newspapers rate as the most used, relied upon and trusted source for all types of advertising, news and informa-

Compared with other media such as television, radio and the Internet, New Jersey residents say newspapers have the:

- Most information about where they live

 Most believable advertising Best coverage of news from

New Jersey

Best ideas of places to go and things to do Best information about

where to shop, prices and items These are some of the findings residents conducted by American Opinion Research, Princeton.

"This study proves what we in the industry have been touting for years: that New Jersey is The Newspaper State'," said John O'Brien, executive director of the New Jersey Press Association. "Since New Jerseyans' electronic media mostly originates from someplace other than New Jersey. newspapers here play an even more critical role in providing the citizens of this state with information they need and desire.'

Even with state-focused electronic outlets such as CN8, New Jersey 101.5 and News 12 New Jersey, and local Internet initiatives in the picture, New Jerseyans confirmed they count newspapers, according to the cent. study's findings.

"It's gratifying to know New Jerseyans are avid consumers of news and advertising and newspapers continue to set the pace in this critical market," O'Brien

Opinion The American Research study, based on interviews with 1,250 adults selected at random from across the state, showed that the vast majority of New Jersey adults read a newspaper, and that newspaper readership is higher than across the

- More than three in four New Jersey adults (77 percent) read a weekday (Monday through Friday) newspaper, higher than

of a research study of New Jersey on New Jersey's daily and weekly the national average of 73 per-

73 percent of adults read a newspaper on an average Sunday, 14 percent higher than the national average of 64 percent.

- Almost seven in 10 New Jersey adults (69 percent) read a weekly or community newspaper.

In addition, adults turn first to newspapers for hometown news: 82 percent of adults read hometown news every time or usually when they pick up a newspaper. This is followed closely, however, by readership of advertising inserts and supplements; 78 percent of all adults read advertising inserts or supplements every time or usually when they pick up a

The research also looked at the

shopping behavior of New Jerseyans.

For example:

More than 4 million adults say they or someone in their household have purchased hardware or home building supplies in the past 12 months, an indication of the growth in the home improvement industry also occurring in other parts of the United

More than 3.6 million have purchased home electronics.

- More than 2 million have purchased furniture or major appliances.

More than 2 million adults have purchased a new or used car, truck or van.

Asked about their media usage, more than eight in 10 of these

buyers read a newspaper during an average week.

Newspapers were also rated as the main source of local shopping information overall. Almost three in four adults (74 percent) cited newspapers as their primary source, compared with 5 percent for the Internet, 6 percent for television (cable and network combined) and 2 percent for direct mail and radio.

New Jersey consumers are also heavy advertising users: Almost two in three (63 percent) say they look at advertising before going out to shop.

The study, conducted by American Opinion Research for the New Jersey Press Association, has a margin of error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

thor discusses boro through the ages

By LIBBY BARSKY

SOUTH PLAINFIELD -Richard Velt took his audience on a tour of historic South Plainfield through photographs of homes and businesses at a special South Plainfield Public Library program Jan. 5.

All the pictures were from "Images of America: South Plainfield," a recently published book for which Velt wrote the text.

He is the director of the Center for New Jersey History, at Monmouth University in West Long Branch. Velt also is an assistant professor of history and anthropology at the Jersey Shore school

Using a reproduction of an old map of Piscataway he described the first pre-Revolutionary settlement started as Samptown, Native American for ground cornmeal and New Brooklyn, South Plainfield was part of Piscataway before incorporating as a municipality in 1926.

The pictures show how South Plainfield grew from small farms to industry to suburbanization. Once the railroad tracks were laid manufacturing followed. Spicer Manufacturing Co. built joints and drive shafts for trucks and

automobiles. Cornell-Dubilier Corp. produced condensers and electronic equipment. Harris Structural Steel Corp. turned out steel for the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New

No display of the borough's history would be complete without Hadley Field, site of serving their homes.

"We have a great many still in the town. I understand the development pressure but it would be a shame to lose them.

These homes give us a sense of place and show us what the history of the area was," he said. "My hope is to raise interest.

Asked why none of South

"It's my hope that people are more aware of the historic homes we have and that private homeowners will take more an interest in preserving their homes. We have a great many still in the town. I understand the development pressure, but it would be a shame to lose

> -Richard Velt author, historian

the first nighttime air mail flight on July 1, 1925.

The library program emphasized the many historic houses that are standing today. These included the Isaac Boice farmhouse on Montrose Avenue. built in 1808; the Tappan-Faulks house, on Maple Avenue; and the Maltby house, on Tompkins Avenue.

"It's my hope that people are more aware of the historic homes we have," Velt said, "and that private homeowners will take more an interest in prePlainfield's historic homes is on the National Register of Historic Places, Velt said none of them was identified as such when a survey was conducted 20 years ago.

He said the judges took a "windshield tour" of the borough and didn't see all the homes in the area as those dwellings were off some of the

According to Velt, houses on the National Register are usually associated with a famous

American history. These homes are representative of a particular style of architecture.

Being listed on the National Register does not always provide legal protection, he added, and such a listing is "an honorific." He said such a listing provides protection if you use government funds to develop a

"If you own a National Register home and you want to tear it down ... you can do what you want," Velt said.

"I loved the program and the book," said Dawn Toth, who brought a copy of "Images of America: South Plainfield" for the speaker to sign.

She bought additional copies that she gave to brothers and sisters with an inscription on one photo that stood out for her. The photo, which begins the "Suburbanization" section, was taken around 1960 from the third floor of a house at 715 Garibaldi Ave.

Toth said the picture caption improperly located the house as "415 Garibaldi Place."

"I found a picture that was the view from my bedroom in my parents' home looking out on Garibaldi Avenue," Toth Garibaldi Avenue," said. "After I saw the picture I went back to the street and there were the three homes I

Artist shares vision of hometown

HIGHLAND PARK - Artist and teacher Coleen Tyler of Highland Park will display her landscape watercolors in the main hall display case at the Highland Park Public Library, 31 N. Fifth Ave., throughout January.

Since the spring of 2002, Tyler has been canvassing her neighborhood for subject matter to render in her art. Her watercolors represent a journal of every day life in the borough and she has documented the seasonal changes in vivid paintings.

The Highland Park artist has been displaying her paintings at the library throughout the years and she has shared her impressions of Europe, local scenes and still life subjects.

Tyler has taught art in Highland Park as well as in other communities. She has also traveled to Europe to share workshops with other painters.

For more information about exhibits at the library call (732)

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This report courtesy of: Tom Curtis Century 21 Moretti Realty

Builders' group is awarded grant to promote construction industry

Contractors Association of New good candidates for the profes- the required examinations. Jersey has received funds from New Jersey Labor Department to design a program that will help high school guidance counselors promote careers in the construction

industry. "School Counselor The Resource Guide," the core of the program, will provide accurate and comprehensive information about careers in the construction trades. Guidance counselors will be able to provide direction to students interested in construction as a career and

EDISON — The Building identify students who may be requirements; and preparing for

The program was developed with all students in mind; it focuses on attracting women and minorities to trade careers. It also will be directly promoted to all schools within the socalled "Abbott Districts."

A kit is used to house all materials provided. These include brochures for students; posters that can be hung around the school; a resource guide that lists the various construction trades; how to apply for apprenticeship or training; admission

The Edison-based agency plans to put up a corresponding website early this year.

"This program is an excellent way to promote the construction industry as an attractive career option for bright students, even those currently thinking about college," said Executive Director Jack Kocsis Jr.

"With the guide," he said, "counselors will be able to provide direction to students interested in a career in the trades and identify the trade best suited for them.'

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dult school plans annual Trip

The South Plainfield Adult School holds its annual "Trip Night" 7 p.m. Tuesday at South

Plainfield High School. This program is a preview of day trips and excursions sponsored by the Adult School. Included on this schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 1 — "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway. Feb. 6-11 — "London Super Saver" to England.

Saturday, Feb. 8 — "Les Miserables" on Broadway. March 1 — "Movin' Out" on tour. Broadway.

March 2 - Philadelphia Flower Show. March 4 — "Mamma Mia!" on

Broadway. March 8-9 — Cape May and

Smithville. March 19-25 - Scottsdale, Tucson and Sedona, Ariz.

March 24-April 5 - Rhine River cruise. March 31-April 8 — Italy and

Edison planning dance for disabled

EDISON - The Recreation Department is sponsoring a "Winter Wonderland Dance" for physically and mentally chal-

lenged teens and adults. The dance is 7-10 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31 at the Dorothy K. Drwal Stelton Community Center, 328 Plainfield Ave. Cost is \$5. Payment must be received by Friday, Jan. 24.

For more information, phone (732) 248-7312.

the Tuscan Valley. April 5 - "Champions on

April 5-6 — Washington, D.C. April 6-11 — "Springtime in Charleston (S.C.)

Savannah" (Ga.). April 11-12 — Lancaster County, Pa.

- Culinary April 26 Institute of America plus al parks. Vanderbilt or Roosevelt estate. April 26-May 13 — Australia

and New Zealand. May 4 — Manhattan walking

May 9-10 — Tulip festival in Albany, N.Y. May 10 — New Jersey State

Aquarium and USS New Jersey. 17-18 — Delaware Mary 2 May

May 18 — Greenwich Village walking tour. May 18 — Bronx Zoo. June 1 — Tribeca walking

June 1-4 — Cape Cod and Nantucket.

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June 3-14 — Alaska cruise. June 27-29 — Rhode Island. July 15-24 - Canadian Rockies.

July 15-27 — National parks July 27-Aug. 4 — Canadian

Rockies by train. Aug. 22-24 — Cape May. Sept. 1-9 — Northern nation-

Sept. 26-30 — Maine coast. Oct. 6-18 — Hawaii cruise. Oct. 17-21 — Indian Head resort in New Hampshire.

Nov. 6-15 — Portugal and

Madeira. - "French Nov. 6-16 Impressions. May 7-10, 2004 — Mother's

Day cruise aboard the Queen Nov. 6-16, 2004 — Caribbean cruise aboard the Queen Mary

Registration is required to attend Trip Night; phone (908) 754-4620, Ext. Refreshments will be served and door prizes awarded.



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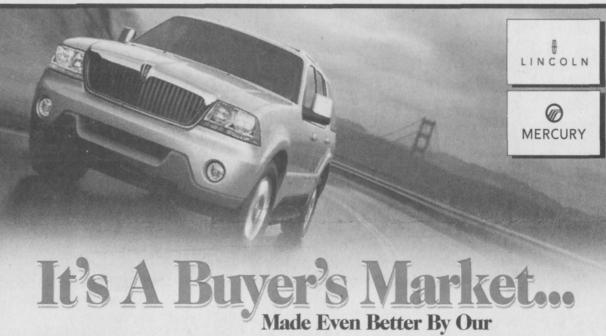
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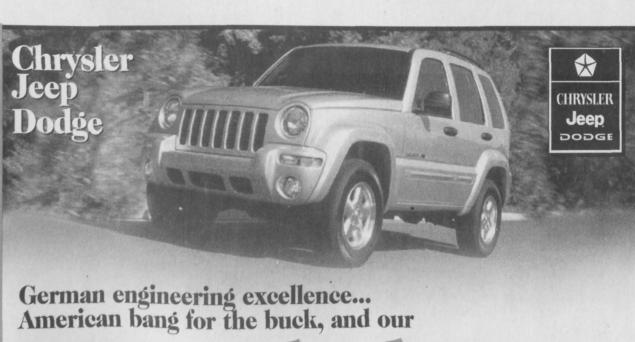
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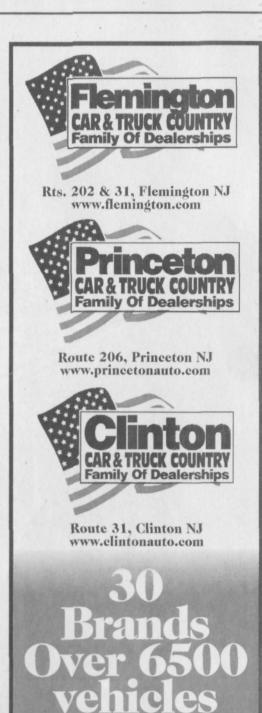
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Automotive/Classified

Chevy is putting its signature on distinctive pickup

By MARK MAYNARD

COPLEY NEWS SERVICE

As if there isn't enough anticipation among SSR enthusiasts, the first 25 of Chevrolet's V-8 powered Super Sport Roadster pickups will be a "Signature Series."

These specially equipped trucks will be used in a promotional tour to show off what's new at Chevy, then they will be auctioned. All but the No. 1 SSR, which will go to the GM heritage museum.

Production of the Signature Series SSRs has begun and will continue through April. Regular production SSRs will go on sale in early summer, but only 3,500 will be available through the end of '03 — divided somehow between 4,300 dealers.

They're built at the Lansing Craft Centre, and full-year production will be 15,000 to 16,000 units.

The SSR has that meaty, fat-fendered look from the '50s, but don't call it "Retro."

"It is a modern vehicle that expresses the very strong Chevrolet heritage," says spokesman Bob Tripolsky. "Retro makes us sound as if we want to relive our past, and we are not doing that."

The rear-wheel-drive SSR shares a foundation with the TrailBlazer sport utility vehicle and all exterior panels are of stamped steel. Power comes from a new aluminum-block version of the 5.3-liter V-8, developing



Chevy's V-8 powered Super Sport Roadster pickups have a meaty, fat-fendered look from the 1950s. CNS photo.

around 290 horsepower.

The only transmission will be the four-speed Hydra-Matic 4L60-E.

The SSR will ride on 19inch front and 20-inch rear wheels and tires. The retractable hardtop is poweroperated.

Price estimates are between a Camaro SS convertible and Corvette — or high \$30,000s to \$40,000. Official pricing is yet to come, Tripolsky says.

To enhance the fanfare of the Signature Series SSRs, each will be sold with a scrapbook of memorabilia gathered along the way of its tour. One may have autographed photos of Chevy racers and another may have news clippings or comments from a celebrity or Hollywood actor.

SSRs used in auto-writer test drives might have speeding or parking tickets.

The first SSR available to the public will be VIN 2. General Motors donated it to the Society of Automotive Engineers Foundation as a fund-raiser for the Heinz C. Prechter Scholarship for Automotive Excellence. "That one will have low mileage and will be offered on eBay in spring 2003," Tripolsky says.

Now's the time to make friends with your GM dealer. The rest of the Signature Series will be sold through dealer auctions.

All of the SSR Signature Series vehicles will be identical, with some special features from the accessory program. Among the extras will be Ultra Violet paint, Signature Series badging with a special numbered plate signed by SSR team members, silver stitching on the black leather-wrapped steering wheel and seats, body-color engine cover with silver insert, accessory gauge package and cargo compartment trim with wood rub strips, lights and drop-down stor-

age.
These accessories and others are part of the SSR launch plan.

Chevrolet has taken a page from the Mini Cooper marketing handbook and will offer a line of accessories, wearables and other "stuff."

The SSR accessory program will offer more than 15 extras for buyers to personalize their vehicle.

Among them: aluminum-finish running boards, cargo bed strips in body color or wood finish, ebony-finished side-saddle storage boxes (12 inches deep, 40 inches long and 8 inches wide) and a metal-framed net windbreak that fits behind the seats to reduce wind turbulence when the top is down.

Over the next 48 months, the accessory list should expand to 50 offerings and might include a cargo-area speaker system, head and tail-lamp treatments, power remote cargo cover and engine beautification packages, Tripolsky says.

Buyers can check off the accessories they want when they order their SSR, and finance them with monthly payments.

The add-ons have been planned with the SSR's development and come with a factory warranty: 36 months or 36,000 miles when installed prior to vehicle delivery, or for 12 months or 12,000 miles when purchased over the counter.

All SSR accessories will be sold through Chevrolet dealers, but official SSR "stuff" can be ordered online at www.ssrstuff.com. Shop for shirts, jackets, gloves, mouse pads, mugs and party favors.

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Prices include all costs to be paid by the consumer except for licensing, registration and taxes. Prices available on in-stock units only. *0% financing on select new vehicles in stock, to qualified buyers, must have primary lender approval, in lieu of rebates. Subj to primary lender approval. †To qualify for college graduate rebate must have graduated from an accredited 4 yr college within the last 6 months. Photos used for layout purposes only. Offers cannot be combined with any other offer. Not responsible for typographical errors. Offers expire 1/31/03.

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Autos for Sale 1385

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Autos for Sale 1385

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No Customer Cash

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Saturn Vue



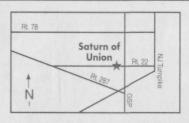
4 dr, 4 cyl, auto trans, pwr str/brks/wind/lcks, AIR, AM/FM stereo, CD, cruise, int wip, floor mats, heated mirrs, convenience grp, MSRP \$19,295 VIN #3Y548313. 48 mo closed end lease w/12,000 mi/yr; .15c thereafter. \$0 due at lease signing. Ttl pymnts \$10,992. Ttl cost \$10,992. Purch. opt. at lease end \$9261.60.

Per Mo. Lease 48 Mos.

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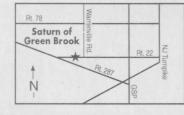


SATURN OF UNION

2675 ROUTE 22 WEST, UNION 1-908-686-2810

SATURN OF GREEN BROOK

270 ROUTE 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK 1-732-752-8383 Prices include all costs to be paid by consumer except lic., reg. & taxes. Not responsible for typographical errors. Lease & financing programs must be approved by primary lending source. Pictures for illus. purposes only. *Available if qualified.



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LINCOLN



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New 2003 Lincoln Navigator



MERCURY New 2003 Mercury Sable LS

VIN #3A604540, Stk #M036639, 4 DR, V6, auto, a/c, p/s/ABS/winds/lks/mirrs/seats, cass, filt, cruise, sunroof, air bags, leather, sec sys, MSRP: \$23,145. Includes \$1500 factory rebate, \$500 Red Carpet Option bonus, \$1000 return rebate, if qual.

New 2003 Mercury Mountaineer



Premium

Poor Credit? No Credit? Bankruptcy? Foreclosures? Judgements? Divorce? Repossessions?

Ask For Mike

LINCOLN Mercury

ROUTE 22 WEST, GREEN BROOK, NJ

if qual. must have graduated within last 6 mos. Finance w/\$1995 down. APR/Final Pymt/Ttl pymts: Aviator=6%/\$19,546/\$26,273; Sable=8%/\$8332/\$13,113; Navigator=3.5%/\$26,433/\$21,525; Mountaineer=4.75%/\$14,749/\$18,753. Subj to primary lender approval. Offers including special interest rates, factory rebates and advertised sale prices cannot be combined for multiple discounts. *Severity of credit may affect APR/down

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