



**MISSING FAMILY DOG...**The Kane family dog, Wrigley, is missing. She is part golden retriever and part chow. Wrigley was last seen in a neighbor's yard on Bradford Avenue in Westfield on Friday night around 9:30. She is wearing a blue and orange Chicago Bears collar. The collar has no address, phone number or license on it. Her hair is shorter than the picture. She was recently groomed. Wrigley has a short tail and her tongue is partially black. If you have seen Wrigley, please contact the Kane family at (908) 591-2105.

## CONTACT We Care Honors Volunteers and Donors

WESTFIELD — The telephone crisis hotline, CONTACT We Care, that has served Union County and northern New Jersey since 1975, held its Volunteer Recognition Picnic at Tamaques Park in Westfield on Sunday, July 9. The picnic attracted 100 people — volunteers, special guests and their families.

CONTACT paid honor to several volunteers for special contributions made to the organization and recognized others for reaching service milestones. A new class of nine trainees was welcomed into service as interns, while a previous group of 12 interns was commissioned as telephone workers.

Ann Kerian of Scotch Plains, Jim Stewart of Roselle Park and Barbara Kreder of North Plainfield were honored for reaching 500 hours of service on the phones. Mary Ann Foster of Westfield, Laurie Graves of Liberty Corner and Maureen Moynihan of Edison received certificates and gifts for reaching the 1,000-hour mark. Joanne Bloomwell of South Plainfield and Barbara McLaughlan

were honored for 2,500 hours; they are the longest serving active volunteers in the organization.

The two Barbaras were also presented with the CONTACT Caring and Sharing Award, along with former phone worker Rod Dougherty, for extraordinary service to the organization. Barbara McLaughlan is a training assistant who works with interns to hone their telephone skills during their early shifts on the line. She was recognized by her employer, Prudential, with donations to CONTACT.

Barbara Kreder schedules volunteer shifts. Mr. Dougherty, who owns the UPS Store on Route 22 in Scotch Plains, prints all of CONTACT's business forms and training materials.

The event was made possible by donations from Famous Dave's Barbeque, ShopRite of Garwood, Trader Joe's and Stop and Shop. Participants were entertained by the magic of Mike Spade.

Interested in serving those in emotional crisis with active, empathetic listening? Please call the CONTACT business office at (908) 301-1899.

## Legislator Calls to Reform NJ State Budget Process

TRENTON — July 5 — In response to the unprecedented government shutdown, Assemblywoman Jennifer Beck announced she will introduce legislative measures to provide for a more orderly and responsible budget process.

"Democrat legislative leaders have failed a crucial leadership test by refusing to present the public with a finalized budget and forcing the state to shut down," said Asw. Beck (R-Monmouth and Mercer). "The budget process should not be centered around scoring political potshots and speech making. The focus of this process should always be on the people we serve. Let's not forget, the real victims in this endless budget battle are the families and businesses who have been adversely impacted."

The Beck budget reform package will include a measure that provides for the replacement of the Speaker of the General Assembly and the Senate President should the Legislature fail to enact a budget by the constitutional deadline.

"It is wrong to use a government shutdown as means of advancing a political agenda," declared Ms. Beck. "Legislative leaders should not be allowed to hijack the budget process. If they are unable to fulfill their basic duty and pass a budget by the constitutional deadline, they should be removed from their leadership post."

Asw. Beck also plans to introduce a measure that mandates all legislators, in the event of a government shutdown, remain in session until a general appropriations bill is approved by both houses of the Legislature.

"One of the Legislature's most important functions of the year is to structure a budget and make sure it is passed before the constitutional deadline," said Beck. "If the budget isn't passed by the constitutional deadline, legislators should be prepared to work around the clock."

She plans to introduce legislation that will require state government to keep revenue generating operations like race tracks, casinos, Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) facilities and the lottery open should another shutdown occur.

"Closing our profit centers is counterproductive," she said. "These facilities generate millions of dollars in tax revenue. Shutting down revenue generating operations only exacerbates the state's financial woes. We need to keep our economic engines up and running and keep people working."

She said she will also introduce legislation that, in the event of a government shutdown, would require

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## Letters to the Editor

### Freeholders Should Immediately Remove Hale Insurance Broker

Despite reports in local newspapers that Hale Insurance Brokerage has been charged by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance with forging the former Cranford mayor's signature to illegally assume control of township's health and dental policies, the all-Democrat Union County Freeholder Board, which includes a Cranford resident as its vice-chairperson, stands behind Hale Insurance as Union County's insurance broker of record.

Unfortunately, it's clearer than ever that pay-to-play politics are alive and well in Union County. Despite serious charges of illegal conduct of Hale Insurance Brokerage, including the forgery of a municipal official's signature and the alleged admission of the forgery to a

member of Cranford's governing body and Cranford's township attorney, the all-Democrat Freeholder Board has chosen to defend a big-time political contributor rather than protect the taxpayers of Union County.

Hale's principal and his wife have donated nearly \$90,000 to the Union County Democrats since 1998. I guess \$90,000 not only buys a big chunk of insurance business, it also insures a blind eye to reality.

The freeholders should immediately remove Hale Insurance as its broker and undertake an open and public bidding process for a replacement — now.

Phil Morin  
Cranford  
Union County GOP Chair

### Candidate Questions Antics and Taxes Passed by the Trenton Legislators

It was ironic that as we celebrated this past Independence Day, our legislators in Trenton were under lock-down debating a "tax on tea." I think that the founding fathers of this great land thought that when they dumped the Tetley into Boston Harbor and won freedom from England, their descendants wouldn't have to worry about confronting this issue again.

The antics in Trenton, if nothing else, have been entertaining; Paul Revere would have been enthralled watching as grown men nearly came to blows over spending other people's money. Good thing that our assembly representatives decided to leave the dueling pistols at home.

This show belonged to the Democrats. Some legislators appeared to be positioning themselves to stay in good stead with the electorate; certainly a wise choice as experts believe that there could be a backlash this November at the polls and carrying over into '07 when the full assembly is up for reelection.

Though the media concentrated on the one-penny increase in the sales tax, Jon Corzine's proposed budget contained new taxes on everyday items as well. Included was expanding this regressive tax to include groceries. Thank goodness that did not come to fruition, because on average a family in Union County spends between \$150 and \$200 a week on food; this would have translated into a minimum of \$10.50 extra a week or \$546 a year.

The plan included a tax on clothing, which for families with growing children would have tallied up quickly. Corzine's justification for imposing the new taxes was that other states tax these things and they have a surplus, so NJ should as well. However, other states don't bear the dubious distinction of taxing real estate and relying on these property taxes to the extent NJ does.

Union County is the home of several Urban Enterprise Zones (UEZs). These are areas that in an effort to rebuild their economic bases are allowed to attract shoppers by charging only 50 percent of the current NJ sales tax. Assemblyman/NJ Democratic State Chairman/Union County Under Sheriff Joe Cryan voted 'yes' to add an amendment to the tax bill which will cause some of these UEZ businesses owners to suffer penalties if they get their paperwork screwed up because they own businesses outside of the UEZs as well. In fact, Cryan from the get-go supported the entire Corzine tax plan and one has to wonder just whose interests he had in mind: those of UC residents/taxpayers or his political future.

This behavior is not surprising how-

ever, as his bosses, the Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders, who give him a full-time salary for working part time and provide a car complete with insurance to take him to Trenton to his other part-time job, remained totally mum when pressed to take a position or even voice an opinion on the state budget or the new taxes. Democrats all, these supposed representatives of the people have sold us out. The voters should remember that. Like the founding fathers, we are victims of taxation without true representation.

### Patricia Quattrocchi Candidate for Freeholder Asm. Munoz Comments On NJ Budget Process

TRENTON, July 6 — I [Assemblyman Eric Munoz, R-21] am as frustrated as the residents of New Jersey about this intolerable situation [state shutdown and budget crisis]. Now we hear that a deal was made with a tax increase. It seems like a smoke and mirrors gimmick to me.

The leadership of the Assembly Republican caucus had been in contact with the Governor [Jon Corzine] and the Assembly Speaker [Joseph Roberts] on a daily basis and offered to work with them to bring this shutdown to an end. Although Assembly Republicans have proposed \$2.2 billion in feasible spending cuts that would eliminate the need for Governor Corzine's sales tax hike — and any other tax — in this year's budget, we continue to be ignored. It would also set aside half-a-billion dollars for property tax relief.



**MEDIATORS RECOGNIZED...**The Honorable Brenda Cuba (center) honors Westfield residents Arnold Cohen (left) and Arthur Lieberman for their volunteer service to the Westfield Municipal Court.

## Westfield Municipal Court Honors Mediator Volunteers

WESTFIELD — On June 29, Westfield residents Arnold Cohen and Arthur Lieberman were honored for their volunteer service to the Westfield Municipal Court.

The Honorable Brenda Coppola Cuba explained there are many situations where mediation can resolve issues between litigants, eliminating the need to go to trial.

Westfield Town Administrator James Gildea said, "We are fortunate to have two experienced, skilled mediators who are town residents, will-

ing to give of their time and talents without thought of compensation."

Court Administrator Linda Chieffo thanked Mr. Cohen and Mr. Lieberman for their twelve years of service and presented them with commemorative clocks.

Michael D'Ecclesis, Municipal Division Manager, Union Visinage, stated the mediation program provides a great service to the court system and the court is fortunate to have the services of these experienced professionals.

## Rutgers Cooperative Rain Gardens Set For Cranford in August

CRANFORD — Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Union County will hold a program for adults entitled "How to Build a Rain Garden" on Tuesday, August 15, at the Hanson House in Cranford.

This presentation and outdoor tour of the Hanson House rain garden will begin at 7 p.m. in the meeting room of the Hanson House, located at 38 Springfield Avenue.

A rain garden is a landscaped, shallow depression planted with native plants created to collect storm water and recharge the groundwater supply.

In September 2005, Rutgers Master Gardeners of Union County con-

structed the Hanson House rain garden. A New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection grant provided funding for the project.

The goal is to have the Hanson House rain garden serve as a model for county residents who are interested in controlling polluted runoff and helping to recharge the groundwater.

Participants at the upcoming program will learn how to install a rain garden in their own backyards, from site selection to the choice of plants.

To register or obtain more information, please call Rutgers Cooperative Research and Extension of Union County at (908) 654-9854.

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**CLOS LA COUTALE CAHORS \$13.99**  
Mainly made from malbec, with the addition of some merlot and tannat, this is one of the classic wines of the south of France. Rich and complex, blueberry, plum, cranberry, tobacco and mineral are all carefully interwoven in the soft texture and long silky finish.

**LOLONIS OLD VINES LADYBUG WHITE \$11.99**  
Made entirely from organic grapes that are kept pest free by ladybugs that feast on the insects that would harm the vines. No, we are not making that up. An innovative blend of French colombar, semillon, chenin blanc and chardonnay, this is complex, interesting and easy drinking all at once. Apple, honeysuckle, lime and pear flavors are supported by lively clean acid tones.

## Wine Of The Week

**Brundmayer Ried Ladner St. Laurent \$23.99**

The St. Laurent grape gets its name because it ripens early in the year, around the time of the feast of St. Lawrence. While it shares some genetic coding with pinot noir, it is distinctly its' own thing and one of the great wine jewels of central Europe. Cherries, berries and garden herbs, it has a bit in common with cabernet franc as well. Lovely gentle spice and just a hint of chocolate. Give it a little decant and try it with pork. Or just sip it and be fascinated.

### Your Favorite Wines

Blackstone Merlot	\$8.99	750ml
J Lohr Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml
Simi Chardonnay	\$12.99	750ml
BV Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay/Pinot Noir	\$7.99	750ml
Hess Select Chardonnay	\$9.99	750ml
Toasted Head Chardonnay	\$10.99	750ml

### Your Favorite Whiskey

Jack Daniels	\$35.99	1.75L
Jim Beam	\$24.99	1.75L
Seagrams 7	\$15.99	1.75L

### Your Favorite Vodka

Absolut 80	\$32.99	1.75L
Ketel One	\$34.99	1.75L
Grey Goose	\$25.99	750ml
Smirnoff	\$18.99	1.75L
Stolichnaya	\$30.99	1.75L
Skyv	\$24.99	1.75L
Wolfschmidt	\$13.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L

### Your Favorite Rum

Captain Morgan	\$24.99	1.75L
Bacardi Silver	\$19.99	1.75L
Bacardi Gold	\$19.99	1.75L
Malibu	\$23.99	1.75L

### Your Favorite Gin

Bombay Sapphire	\$34.99	1.75L
Tanqueray	\$30.99	1.75L
Hendricks	\$27.99	750ml
Beefeater	\$26.99	1.75L
Gordons	\$14.99	1.75L
Seagrams	\$15.99	1.75L

### Your Favorite Value Wines

Mondavi Coastal Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$16.99	1.5L
Beringer Founders Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$15.99	1.5L
Woodbridge Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$10.99	1.5L
Vendange Cab/Merlot/Chardonnay	\$6.99	1.5L
Fetzer Cabernet/Chardonnay	\$12.99	1.5L
Cavit Pinot Grigio	\$11.99	1.5L
Walnut Crest Cabernet	\$8.99	1.5L
Cesar Pinot Grigio	\$10.99	1.5L
Bolla Soave	\$10.99	1.5L
Beringer White Zinfandel	\$8.99	1.5L
Franzia Burgundy/Chablis/Chianti	\$10.99	5L
Carlos Rossi Burgundy/Chablis/Paisano/Sangria	\$8.99	4L
Opici Homemade Barbarone	\$11.99	4L

### Your Favorite Scotch

Dewars White Label	\$29.99	1.75L
Chivas Regal	\$53.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Black	\$56.99	1.75L
Johnnie Walker Red	\$29.99	1.75L
Clan MacGregor	\$16.99	1.75L

### Your Favorite Cordials

Baileys	\$17.99	750ml
Romana Sambuca	\$17.99	750ml
Kahlua	\$15.99	750ml
Southern Comfort	\$13.99	750ml
Amaretto Di Saronno	\$18.99	750ml

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