



Chance of showers

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Medford

Township couple help provide for Romanian orphans. **Page B1**

Burlington City

Pastor is a former Bermuda Parliament member. **Page B1**

State

Bill would prohibit smoking in cars. **Page B1**

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Who should be in N.J. Hall of Fame?



Henry Rowan

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New Jersey may be best known outside its borders as the land of turnpike exits, but those who live here know the Garden State has produced more than pollution and political corruption.

Most people elsewhere know that Bruce Springsteen, Frank Sinatra and Jon Bon Jovi are New Jersey boys, but how many also know that



Carl Lewis

Burlington County boasts several choices

Quick look

The story: The state Legislature has approved a bill creating a state hall of fame to be constructed at the Meadowlands and Burlington County has several candidates to consider.

actor Jack Nicholson, Washington former Redskins quarterback Joe Theisman and President Grover Cleveland also called the Garden

State home?

Burlington County alone was once home to Olympic and track star Carl Lewis, football star Franco Harris, Colonial-era revolutionist Thomas Paine and actress Calista Flockhart of "Ally McBeal" fame.

Recognizing these and other high achievers from New Jersey is the idea behind legislation to create a New Jersey Hall of Fame at the Meadowlands.

Before anyone cracks a joke, know this: Your elected lawmakers are serious about this one.

Both houses of the state Legislature have approved a bill creating the new hall, which would supplement or augment the existing New Jersey Sports Hall of Fame at the Meadowlands with one that also recognizes high achievers in the arts, music, literature, science, business, religion, athletics, the military, and government.



Alice Paul



Elizabeth White

See HALL A5

County has several candidates for inclusion in Hall of Fame

HALL From A1

Acting Gov. Richard J. Codey has not signed the bill. A spokesman said Codey supports the measure, which he voted for in the Senate, but that there is no timetable on him signing the bill.

Space for the hall is even being reserved at the Xanadu sports entertainment and shopping complex being built at the Meadowlands, and the bill appropriates \$95,000 for startup expenses.

Which leaves one obvious question: Who should be inducted?

Any answer is pure speculation, but several Burlington County officials and residents were willing to weigh in about those with and without county ties.

The consensus opinion about the hall was that it's a good idea, espe-

cially given national propensity for New Jersey punch lines.

"Given that New Jersey is often maligned, I think it would be nice for people to know about all the contributions New Jersey residents have made," said Gail Sweet, director of the Burlington County Library system.

"There really are a lot of people from here that have done extraordinary things," she said while listing off the names of Alice Paul, Mary Roebing and Elizabeth White.

In case you didn't know, Alice Paul, born and raised in Mount Laurel, was an internationally renowned leader of the woman's rights movement.

Mary Roebing of Trenton was the first woman to head a major commercial bank and was the first female governor of the New York Stock Exchange.

Elizabeth White of Whitesbog, now Pemberton Township, helped develop the first cultivated blueberry.

Ask Burlington County Clerk Phil Haines about his choices for a state Hall of Fame and he'll bring up John Woolman, the Mount Holly Quaker who spoke out against slavery during the 1700s.

"Some would argue Woolman really started the emancipation movement," Haines said.

Other suggestions by Haines included: Clara Barton, the Bordentown City resident who helped found the American Red Cross; 19th century industrialist and inventor Hezekiah Smith of Eastampton; "Last of the Mohicans" author James Fennimore Cooper of Burlington City and Dr. James Still of Medford, an early black physician.

Burlington County College Presi-

dent Robert Messina pointed to a more contemporary contributor, former Burlington County Times Publisher Joe Browne for his work with the Burlington County Literacy Committee and county Chamber of Commerce.

"He's the type of person I would like to see in a hall of fame," Messina said, "not just people who are popular or who appear in newspaper headlines all the time, but real contributors."

Former county Clerk Edward Kelly suggested former Burlington City Mayor Herman Costello along with Henry Rowan, the Westampton industrialist who in 1992 pledged a \$100 million donation to then Glassboro State College, which was renamed Rowan in his honor.

Many of these names were unfamiliar to county residents. Asked

about the Hall of Fame, most people interviewed at the Burlington Center Mall selected entertainers or athletes.

Whitney Houston, she's from New Jersey right?" asked Pat Haywood of Willingboro at the mall. "Carl Lewis is from Willingboro, he should be on the list."

Willingboro resident Margrett Guy said she would vote for Codey

"He really picked up for that guy McGreevey after he announced you-know-what," Guy said.

Perhaps the jokesters are right about us. In fact, several people couldn't name more than one deserving New Jerseyan.

"Frank Sinatra from Hoboken. He's the only person I can think of, other than my husband," said Mount Laurel resident Marie Vacanti. "It's sad isn't it."