

NEW JERSEY JEWISH NEWS

UNITED JEWISH COMMUNITIES OF METROWEST NEW JERSEY

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Vol. LXII No. 3 | Thursday, January 17, 2008 | 10 Shevat, 5768 | www.njewishnews.com



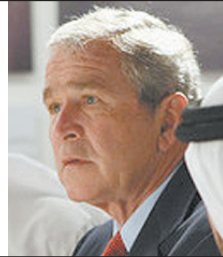
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Inside: *NJJN's* magazine for and by teens.



Tree learning

Going green on Tu B'Shevat, pages 6, 26, 34



High hopes

Israel counting on Bush's tour of Arab world, page 18

Cops nab teenagers for cemetery attack

See no evidence of bias crime

by Debra Rubin
NJJN Staff Writer

Announcing the arrest of four juveniles in a devastating attack on a New Brunswick Jewish cemetery, investigators said the evidence points to an act of vandalism rather than a bias crime.



Nearly 500 graves were toppled by vandals in New Brunswick.

Bruce Kaplan and New Brunswick Police director Anthony Caputo in a Jan. 10 prepared release.

"The facts as presently known do not indicate that these juveniles were part of or otherwise acted under the direction of an organized gang or hate group."

Four New Brunswick juveniles, ages 15-17, were arrested in connection with the desecration of

Poile Zedek Cemetery, where 499 gravestones were toppled or smashed in two separate incidents between Jan. 1 and 4. Damage has now been assessed at about \$1 million.

The arrests of the four males came late on Jan. 9 following an extensive investigation by the New Brunswick Police Department with assistance from the Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office and the bias crimes unit of the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General.

The names of the four are being withheld by authorities because of their age. A decision on what they will be specifically charged with will not be made until the investigation is concluded, according to authorities.

The four — two 16-year-olds, a 15-year-old, and a 17-year-old — were being held at the Middlesex County Juvenile Detention facility awaiting transportation to Middlesex County Family Court for a preliminary hearing.

The cemetery is operated by the 107-year-old Orthodox Congregation Poile Zedek of New Brunswick. The cemetery is also used by the Sephardi Congregation

See **ATTACK** page 15

Bittersweet beginning



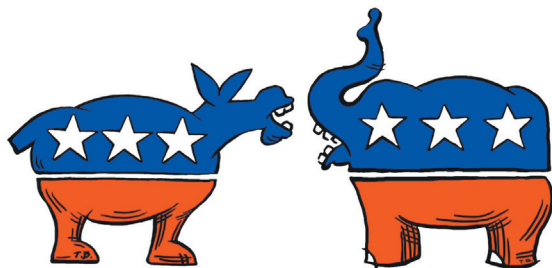
Torah scrolls from Temple Israel in Union made a last procession around the sanctuary before journeying to their new home at Temple Beth Ahm in Springfield.

Photo by Johanna Ginsberg

page 12

Temples' merger ends an era, starts another

In play



The candidates vie for NJ primary votes, and this time they might even count.

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