Mountainside robbery ends in Newark car cras..

By Joshua Zaitz

Staff Writer

It was first reported to the Mountainside Police Department as a shoplifting but it ended as a two-car crash in Newark.

On Dec. 27 at 11:07 p.m., a call came into Mountainside police headquarters over 9-1-1. The 7-Eleven at 921 Mountain Ave. reported that a man had stolen two cartons of cigarettes and fled the scene.

Officer James Urban went to the 7-Eleven to investigate. The employee on duty, Douglas Stettler, explained that a man with black hair and no facial hair, who was approximately 5 feet 8 inches tall and wearing blue sweatpants, had asked him for two cartons of cigarettes, Newport and Newport 100's. Stettler scanned the cartons for the price and placed them on the counter in front of the

The suspect grabbed the two cartons and ran out the door. He got into a tan Cadillac, that was parked in front of the store, and pulled away, heading toward Route 22 East.

Stettler was able to take note of the license plate which he provided to police when he called 9-1-1.

When the Mountainside police ran the license plate number that Stettler had

given them, it turned out the car had been reported stolen from Bloomfield on Dec. 19.

Witnesses at the 7-Eleven confirmed Stettler's statement that the only words the suspect uttered were the ones asking for the two cartons.

"What happened was the call came in and the sergeant realized that by the way it was reported he left down Mountain Avenue towards Route 22," said Capt. Richard Osieja. "So the sergeant took it upon himself — obviously feeling that the guy was fleeing onto 22 East-he shot down Route 22 East 'cause he was already on Route 22 East when the call came in."

Sgt. Joseph Giannuzzi spotted the Cadillac when he entered the Township of Union. The Cadillac sped up and got onto the Garden State Parkway northbound. Gianuzzi activated his emergency lights and vehicle siren to signal the Cadillac to pull over.

"He caught up to the guy because they had a plate number and everything,"

The Cadillac continued on the Parkway, through the toll plaza at a high rate of speed, and finally exited at Exit 142, making a left turn onto Chancellor

Gianuzzi followed, cautiously.

"He followed him until backup was available, which was down at the Union line, and at that point that's when the suspect took off, accelerating at a high speed and the pursuit actually began," said Osieja.

The Cadillac then turned right onto Union Avenue and continued at a very high speed into an area of Irvington Township, which has numerous grid-like intersections, some of which have traffic lights.

The Cadillac continued, disregarding the traffic lights at which point several Irvington Police Department patrol cars assisted in the pursuit. They entered the roadway ahead of Gianuzzi.

The Cadillac turned right onto Springfield Avenue and continued to the intersection of 17th Avenue in Newark where it crashed into another vehicle. Police officers attended to the occupants of the vehicles. Two members of the

Union-Essex Auto Theft Task Force took the suspect into custody. The suspect was identified as Robert Kovacs, 35, of Union. He was taken to University Hospital in Newark for his injuries. He was treated and released into the custody of the Newark police.

Kovacs was charged with theft of the vehicle he was in, receiving stolen property, and second degree alluding police, said Osieja.

Dayton High students delve into congress competition for state

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Two history classes from Jonathan Dayton High School in Springfield participated in a mock congressional hearing on the morning of Jan. 10. The winning class will go on to represent the town's congressional district in the state finals.

"If nothing else I think they came away with a better working knowledge and understanding of the Constitution and its changes and its flexibility over the last 225 years," said Social Studies Supervisor Barry Bachenheimer. "In terms of skills. I certainly hoped that they've developed their thinking and reasoning and communicating and debating

The competition is part of a statewide contest known as "We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution." Each congressional district in New Jersey will be represented in the state finals on Feb. 8, at the State House in Trenton. The winner there appearing as a guest speaker, made a

will go on to represent New Jersey in the national finals.

"We're having this to see which class will represent," said Bachenheimer. "It's kind of a runoff between two of our history classes. Six people from the community will come in and be our judges."

The six people were: Joe Calimano, retired East Brunswick High School teacher who represented New Jersey in the National Competition from 1987 to 1998; Supervisor of Educational Programs for Springfield Schools Pamela Gray; environmental lobbyist Deborah Herr; Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes, Township Administrator Richard Sheola, and an alum of the competition Nascer Siddique.

"What a simulated congressional hearing is is the kids argue current issues, constitutional research and the judges ask them questions," said Bachenheimer.

Assemblyman Thomas Kean Jr.,

Speaking about the delegate and reserve power of the state and federal government

are, from left, Lisa Listowski, Andrea Handeli and Keith Dworkin. Two history classes

from Jonathan Dayton High School recently participated in a mock congressional hear-

ing to demonstrate what they learned in classes and plan to compete in a state '

short speech before the hearing began. "Let me say what an honor it is to be here today and how impressed I am that all of you have taken the initiative to get involved so early in the governmental process," he said. "Congratulations to you and what you are embarking upon today. I am looking forward to it a great deal."

Six different topics were to be debated. They ranged from philosophical and historical foundations of the American political system to how the values and principles embodied in the Constitution shaped American institutions and practices.

The classes, consisting of /38 sophomores from period 2 and period 5, were broken into 12 units, with three to four students in each of those units. Six units stayed in the auditorium with three of the judges. The other six units moved to a classroom with the three other judges.

"There were six units in total and what we did was we took three units from each class and split them up that



Township Administrator Richard Sheola and Deborah Herr, environmental lobbyist, editor and volunteer for Community Services Agencies serve as judges and listen to the students display their government knowledge.

way," said Bachenheimer. "For exam- I do is I take the point totals, tally ple, units one, two and-three from one class were in the auditorium and units one, two, and three from the other were in the other room and then vice versa four, five and six."

Judges select which question to ask the students from three that were given to each unit.

First, students present their prepared four-minute statements that answer unit questions designed by the Center for Civic Education. "For example, Unit 1 has three

questions," said Bachenheimer, "The kids prepped responses for each of those three questions but they weren't asked all three. The judges pick one question, of the three, to ask them." Once those statements are finished, judges ask follow-up questions in an

11-minute session, where the judges probe the extent of the students' understanding of the Constitution and constitutional issues. After, the panel of judges evaluates

the students' responses using the criteria of understanding, constitutional application, reasoning, supporting evidence, responsiveness and participation.

"There's a point total," said Bachenheimer. "When the judges are listening to their responses, there's a total of six categories, so the judges score them in each category from one to 10. They come up with a total out of 60 points for each team. Then what them all up, and the team with the most points wins."

Period 5 beat out Period 2 and will be representing the 7th Congressional District in Trenton.

"For me as a teacher, it's really difficult," said Bachenheimer. "When I look back I was pleased with everybody, happy that one class is going on, sad for the other guys because I know they did work really hard."



Lisa Listowski listens as



Keith Dworkin speaks about the power of government.

Attorneys argue Stop & Shop's exiting procedures

Photo By Jeff Granit

By Joshua Zaltz Staff Writer

competition.

In the ongoing Stop & Shop Supermarket debate at the Springfield Zoning Board of Adjustment meeting Tuesday night, how tractor-trailers will turn out of the site was the prominent issue discussed.

Henry Ney of Schoor Depalma Engineers and Design Professionals in Manalapan testified for Royal Ahold, the parent company of Stop & Shop, as a traffic expert.

The proposed location of Stop & Shop is at 90 Milborn Ave., where a Saks Fifth Avenue used to reside, an area that has very heavy traffic flow.

Tractor-trailers will arrive from the west make a right turn into the site, and return to the west. Those are under the specific equitor of

The continues that was the own of the continues that was the continues to the continues that was the continues to the continues that was the continues to the continues to the continues that was the continues to the continues that was the continues to the contin

lot. Ney said that if the truck made a right turn it also would have to meet the approval of the would violate the center line of Millburn

Stephen Barcan, attorney for Village Supermarkets, a rival of Stop & Shop, asked Ney if trucks owned by Coca-Cola or Pepsi, who were delivering to Stop & Shop, would be subject to the supermarket's control. Ney said they would not be subject to Stop & Shop's control.

"Therefore could they make a right if they're not subject to Stop & Shop's control?" asked Barcan, pointing out how the truck would therefore yiolate the center line of Milburn Avenue.

"There are many, many intersections where if a semi-trailer made a right turn it could only do so by violating the center line," said Ney.

James Segreto, attorney for Royal Ahold, objected to Barcan's line of questioning based on the ground flist Ney's configurations are within the jurisdiction of the county. He said any approval given by the Springfield board

"I again bring the attention of the board to the Toys 'R' Us decision of the Supreme Court," said Segreto, "which held that if there are existing traffic problems on a public roadway then those problems cannot be the basis of a denial for an application which had otherwise

Barcan moved his questioning along to deal with the issue of tractor-trailers pulling into the proposed Stop & Shop site and how they would go about parking in the enclosed unloading area, when there are several tractor-trailers in

He questioned the width of the loading docks, claiming that there might not be enough room for the trucks to maneuver.

"I object to the questioning of the width of the loading docks in as much as our responsibility is to comply with your ordinance," said Segreto. "We do comply with your ordinance and the decision as to what the width should be is a legislative decision which we have no control over. If we comply that's an end to it, it seems to me, from a municipal land use law requirement."

Barcan said it is the board's obligation to make sure a plan works, especially in a situation where there is an enclosed unloading area, which believes is unusual for this type of application.

"If the board seems to think that the ordinance standard is inappropriate they make a recommendation to the governing body," said Segreto. "The applicants and the board and the objectors are bound to what is in the ordinance. We comply and to my understanding that is the end of the story."

Testimony will continue at the Zoning Board's next meeting on Feb. 19.

Board approves grocery

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Springfield residents can soon welcome a new place to shop for groceries when Supermarket Queen opens at 901 Mountain Ave. where Office Depot used to reside.

At the Jan. 2 Planning Board meeting, minor site plan approval was granted pending several variances, including Health Department approval, a plumbing plan, a garbage collection schedule, signage and awning changes, and a filtration system for onsite cooking to be submitted to the Fire Department and Board of Health.

Stanley Boho testified on the behalf of and acted as a liason for David Kim, who wants to open Supermarket Queen. In previous meetings, there was a language barrier between the Planning Board and Kim, due to his accent. Boho spoke for Kim at last week's meeting.

The supermarket will feature a sushi area, a cell phone area, fresh cut flowers, fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as an organic food section in addition to the standard meat, poultry, fish, and frozen food areas.

"We did set up a company that will be taking care of the waste for the store," said Boho. "At the beginning, they'll be picking it up within a half hour of us calling. They'll be able to pick up six days a week, Monday through Saturday. Once we find out how much waste the store produces, we'll set up a regular schedule with them."

Planning Board Chairman Richard Colandrea said that once that schedule is set, a copy should be submitted to the board.

Planning Board member and Township Committeeman Gregory Clarke asked at what hours the garbåge would be picked up. He reminded the applicant that the township has an ordinance prohibiting garbage collection to certain times near residential areas.

Clarke said he believes the proposed location is within 200 feet of residential property. The ordinance states that garbage and recycling pickup cannot be done between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when a residential area is within 200 feet.

"We have found the trucks backing out, the beeping noise, wakes people up at three o'clock in the morning," said Clarke.

Clarke pointed out that in the past, there have been issues of health standards with stores that have come in at that location.

However, Kim is no stranger to grocery stores. He owns Morris Farms in Union as well a supermarket in Nanuet, N.Y. "If you want to take a look at his store, Morris Farms is kept very clean," said Boho.

Clarke said he wants to make sure there is absolute adherance to standard health codes.

Issues of the store's signage came up, with board members asking Kim to have them redesigned with colors that more closely match the ones on the signs of the other stores in that area. Kim agreed to do so.

The resolution will be memorialized at the Planning Board's next meeting on Feb. 6. Once the plan is memorialized, 45 days are given for people to come forward and appeal the approval.

How to reach us:

The Echo Leader is published every hursday by Worrall Community Newspapers, an independent, family owned newspaper company. Our offices are located at 1291 Stuyvesant Avenue, Union, N.J. 07083. We are open from 9 a.m. to ! p.m. every weekday. Call us at one of the telephone numbers listed

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NEWS CLIPS Babysitter courses

offered by Red Cross The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a babysitters training course for youth ages 11 to 15 years old on Friday, and Saturday.

The course is ideal for current and future babysitters. It teaches youth the best ways to keep the children in their care safe. Topics include making good decisions, supervising children of different ages, keeping everyone safe inside and outside, handling emergencies, age appropriate activities, peforming basic infant care including feeding, diapering, burping, basic first aid and more.

The class will be conducted Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Chapter House, located at 321 Elm St., Westfield. Students must attend both. The course includes a handbook and a small first aid kit. Preregistration is required and space is limited: 1

The Chapter holds this babysitters training course every month. Interested individuals can call the Chapter at 908-232-7090, stop by the Chapter House or send an e-mail to johnsonl@crossnet.org.

Springfield Dems meet Wednesday The Springfield Democrats will

meet on Wednesday at 8 p.m., at the Sarah Bailev Civic Center, Church Mall, Springfield, Discussion will center on "What do we want in Springfield?"

For more information call 973-912-8448.

Pancake breakfast is Feb. 2 at Deerfield

On Feb. 2, the Mountainside PTA will sponsor its annual Community Pancake Breakfast in the Deerfield School Cafeteria, 302 Central Ave. and School Drive, 8:30 until 11 a.m.

Take a break from the winter doldrums and join family, friends and neighbors for this old-fashioned community event. All are welcome to attend this fun and friendly feast. Door prizes will be awarded. The snow date will be Feb. 9. The menu options are: Adult Por-

tion - 4 pancakes, 2 sausages, fruit, beverage for \$5; Smaller Portion - 2 pancakes, I sausage, fruit, and beverage for \$3.50; and the Bagel Breakfast bagel, fruit, beverage for \$2.50. Ticket purchase forms are available

Library and Borough Hall. The deadline for ticket requests is Jan. 30. For information, call Teri Schmedel 908-301-0147 or Carol Goggi 908-789-9420.

Editorial deadlines

Following are deadlines for news: Church, club and social - Thursday

Entertainment - Friday noon. Sports - Monday noon. General - Monday 5 p.m.

www.localsource.com

EXAMPLES.

Leaby Fancet

Broken Faucet

Russing Todat

Clagged Drain

Leaky Pipes

Garbage Duposai

Clapped Water Line

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. To give your community event the publicity it deserves, mail your schedule to Echo Leader, Attn: managing editor, P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

Today • The Springfield Library Board of Trustees conducts a reorganization meeting at 8 p.m. in the conference room of the library, 66 Mountain

• The New Jersey Gladiators Arena Football Organization cordially invites the community out to Deerfield Elementary School, 302 Central Ave. and School Drive, Mountainside for a "Night Out with the Gladiators." The Gladiators have teamed up with the Mountainside Police Department to promote education and drug awareness for today's youth. At 7:30 p.m. in the Deerfield auditorium, Coach Frank Haege will make his fourth visit to the school and will be joined by Gladiators Head Athletic Trainer Steve Kanter to talk about drug abuse in sports. The event is open to the public.

• The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a babysitters training course for youth ages 11 to 15 years of age, 6 to 9 p.m. in the Chapter House, 321 Elm St., Westfield. The course is ideal for current and future babysitters, teaching a range of child safety Preregistration is required. Call 908-232-7090.

Saturday

• The Westfield/Mountainside Chapter of the American Red Cross will host a babysitters training course for youth ages 11 to 15 years of age, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Chapter House, 321 Elm St., Westfield. The course is ideal for current and future babysitters, teaching a range of child safety skills.

Preregistration is required. Call 908-232-7090. Sunday

• Experience life in the winter woods and view slides of the birds, mammals and insects that spend the winter in the Watchungs at a program offered at Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside, at 2 p.m. A hike to look for animal signs will follow the presentation. Donation is suggested.

Call 908-789-3670 for more information

• The Springfield Township Committee conducts a regular meeting in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave. Wednesday • Ladies Night Out for the Mountainside Newcomers Club will take

the form of a Chinese supper in a member's home. Call 908-317-5765 for more information and to RSVP. • The Springfield Democrats meet at 8 p.m. at the Sarah Bailey Civic

Center, 30 Church Mall, Springfield. "What do we want in Springfield?"

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

will be the basis for discussion. For information, call 973-912-8448. Jan. 24

 Karen M. Ensle, family and consumer sciences educator, will speak on the topic of handling the family inheritance without causing family conflicts before the Springfield Hadassah, 12:30 p.m., Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. A light lunch will be served. The public is welcome.

· For information, call 973-376-7535.

• Disney classics come to life in a special program for the whole family offered by the Springfield Recreation Department at the Continental Airlines Arena in East Rutherford at 7:30 p.m. The fee is \$35 per person and includes transportation to the arena. The bus departs at 6 p.m. from the Chisholm Community Center.

Register at the Sarah Bailey Civic Center, 30 Church Mall, by making checks payable to the "Township of Springfield."

For information, call 973-912-2227.

• "Parrot Paper Puppets" is a program offered by Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd., Mountainside. Participants can learn how to recycle junk mail envelopes into colorful tropical rainforest

A donation is suggested. The fee is \$2 per craft. For information, call 908-789-3670.

Jan. 28 • The Springfield Board of Education conducts a regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Florence M. Gaudineer Middle School.

• The Mountainside PTA will sponsor its annual Community Pancake Breakfast in the Deerfield School cafeteria, 302 Central Ave. and School Drive, from 8:30 to 11 a.m. All are welcome to attend this fun and friendly feast. The snow date is Feb. 9.

Ticket purchase forms are available at Deerfield School, the Mountainside Library and Borough Hall.

For information, call 908-301-0147.

• The Rosary Altar Society of Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside offers a Rosary and Novena at 7 p.m., followed by a service with Rev. P.J. Leonard at 7:30 p.m., and a talk and video showing with Carolyn Bright, 8 p.m. For information, call 908-232-1162.

• The Foothill Club of Mountainside will conduct a luncheon noon at B.G. Fields, 560 Springfield Ave., Westfield. Guests are always welcome. For reservations, call 908-232-3626.

RELIGION

Heroism wins with Beth Ahm program

"Purim - When Heroism Triumphed Over Evil" is a special program open to the public at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield, Feb. 25, 6:30 p.m. with a

tume Parade in the Sanctuary. For Preschool through Kitah Bet, Second Grade of the Religious School. Every child gets a prize followed by Megillah Reading in the Sanctuary. This event will be followed by A Purim Shpeil Play. An original TBA Production featuring The Never To Be Ready For Prime Time Temple Beth Ahm Players

Letters to the Editor - Monday 9 a.m.

Mountainside On-line

At 6:40 p.m., there will be a Cos-

A Purim Puppet Show is next. This puppet show will take place in the

Ballroom. It is geared towards our

) Stuyvesant

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younger children. Note: One parent/ guardian must accompany each child. Best costume judging: During the Megillah Reading, undercover judges will circulate to pick best costume winners in the follwing categories: third to seventh grade, teens, adults, seniors and best family theme costume. Prizes will be awarded after the Purim Shpeil. Winners must be present to receive their prize. For more information, call

Rosary Society

973-376-0539.

conducts services The Rosary Altar Society, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 300 Central Ave., Mountainside, conducts a 7 p.m. Rosary and Novena; a 7:30 p.m. service with Rev. P. J. Leonard; and at 8 p.m. a talk and video showing with

Spring Meadows

Open House

"Medicare: What it covers if you need

Home Care or Hospice" &

"Living Wills" why you need one, today

Thursday, January 24, 10:00 AM &

Saturday, January 26, 11:00 AM

Featuring Michelle Cameron, RN and

clinician with Atlantic Home Care & Hospice

Open House, continental breakfast &

refreshments until 3:00PM

Please RSVP by January 20, 2002!

Hilary Murray or Susan Katz

Carolyn Bright, all on Feb. 4. For information, call 908-232-1162. Family conflicts

topic of lecture "Who gets grandma's yellow pie

plate?" The handling of a family inheritance without causing family conflict will be the topic of Karen M. Ensle, a family and consumer sciences educator, when she speaks before the Springfield Hadassah Jan. 24, at 12:30 p.m. at Temple Beth Ahm, 60 Temple Drive, Springfield. Ensle, who is a department head for

the Rutgers University Cooperative Extension Service of Union County, in Westfield, and an associate professor at Cook College of Rutgers University, received the 1997 "Distinguished Service Award" from the

National Extension Association of Family and Consumer Scences. In her talk, Ensle will touch on the

importance of an attorney-prepared will stating the distribution of personal belongings of the deceased, including even emotionally attached sentimental items without value. She will also touch on step-families. A mini lunch will be served. The public is welcome.

Judaism course will offer fresh insights

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United Jewish Federation of MetroWest-Women's Department

Bioterrorism and Health Issues Judith Miller, author of GERMS: Biological Weapons and America's Secret War

Leon Smith, MD, Saint Michael's Medical Center and Chair of Bioterrorism Committee, Medical Society of NJ Hetty Waskin, MD, MSPH, Medical Epidemiologist, formerly with CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service Stuart Weiss, MD, Director of Disaster Preparedness, St. Barnabas Medical Center, Member of the Governor-Elect's Task Force on Bioterrorism

> January 31, 2002 7:00 pm Congregation B'nai Jeshurun Short Hills, NJ

For more information, please call HFNJ 973-535-8200

ECHO LEADER

Board reviews site plans for Beechwood age of the classrooms somewhere

between 75 and 100 because the

requirement is 850 square feet per

to meet the standard set forth by the

Paskow asked what the shaded area

on the front driveway in the plans

and the traffic officers to determine

the traffic flow and they suggested

that we stripe it so that no one would

The school buses will be able to

come through there, drop the children

off, and then move along so that other

Members of the public, mainly con-

sisting of property owners surround-

ing Beechwood, asked questions of

Musial and Kress. Their concerns

ranged from the location of driveways

to buffer zones separating property

lines. Kress said the Board of Educa-

tion will be more than willing to work

with their requests once construction

The Deersield site plans did not

"Since the last time we were here,

tors to do both Beechwood and Deer-

has already begun on Deerfield.

Demolition and preparation work

Beechwood will have approximate-

ly 300 students, in grades moppet

appear in front of the Planning Board

buses can come.

is completed.

field schools."

"We have met with Chief Debbie

Doing this will allow Beechwood

Planning Board member Dean

classroom," said Musial.

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer

Acting out of pure courtesy and wanting to show adjacent property owners exactly what was going on, the Mountainside Board of Education stood before the Planning Board in an open public meeting to go over the Beechwood School site plans Thursday_night. "According to state law, the Board

of Education is not required to seek this board's approval," said Planning Board President John Tomaine. The board can give suggestions as park there," said Musial. to what they would like to see on the site plan, or what changes they would suggest, but the Board of Education

doesn't have to use those suggestions. "The Planning Board felt, and the Board of Education agreed, that it was appropriate to give all of the property owners notice as to what's going on so that everyone is aware of the fact that these plans are being brought here tonight and are being reviewed by the Planning Board," said Board of Education President Richard Kress.

Architect Noel S. Musial, of the Musial Group in Mountainside, stood in front of the board and explained the changes in the site plans.

because there is no change to the foorprint of the building. The main changes were the relocation of the media center and multiwe've closed on the bond," said purpose room, the addition of Board Kress. "We've received our bond of Education offices and the expandmoney and we've gone out to bid. ing of classrooms. We've accepted the bid for contrac-The site plans show that the outside

walls of some of the classrooms will be broken out and additions will be put on because the interior walls are bearing walls. The enlargement of the rooms is to meet state requirements for classroom

through second, when it opens in Sep-Outside cafes get the OK after few changes

By Brian Pedersen obstructions in the path of walkers. Managing Editor The council first considered side-Hoping to be ready for them by spring, the Mountainside Borough Council agreed to have sidewalk cafes

in front of eating establishments with certain provisions. An ordinance was granted final adoption at Tuesday's regular meeting upon the request of the merchants who had expressed interest in expanding their business onto the sidewalks. "This was brought to the attention of the council by some merchants in town who were interested," said Councilman William Lane. "There

was a long, investigative process that the mayor and council went through in trying to establish an ordinance." One of the restrictions that is part of the ordinance is the prohibition of liquor outside at any time. "There's a request from merchants who feel it will enhance their business," said Councilman Werner

proper rules it will be good for the accommodate passersby and baby ing of loud music.

went one step closer to having the sidewalk cafes. Schon. "As long as they maintain the

walk cafes in August after the borough received two inquiries from Mountainside eating establishments about the possibility of placing tables and chairs for patrons outside their Edward V. Walton. At first, the borough thought the the bus, which had parked at Jonathan

because a 6-foot clearance is the average rule for most towns who have After measurements were made, it was found that both the J&M Deli Market and Daimatsu Japanese Restaurant had 14 feet 6 inches from building to curb. Since this was well within the 6-foot rule, the borough

Mountainside devised its own ordinance for the cafes by polling other towns and looking at the different aspects of their ordinances, Based on these findings, among the

items included in the ordinance were strong supervision by the Board of passageway that's wide enough to Health and a prohibition on the play-

Get A Big Edge.

Happy to help



Kristen Bilotti and Ross Fish are packing up holiday gifts for the patients at Children's Specialized Hospital in Mountainside. The Student Council conducted a month-long collection in their school.

School board to take action at all meetings

The Springfield Board of Education approved to conduct all future meetings as Regular Board of Education Meetings, where action can be taken. The vote to change the policy came at a Board of Education meeting Jan. 7.

The new policy goes into effect immediately. "The reason we went to 'all action' meetings was to give ourselves added flexibility in terms of hiring and placing contracts," said Board of Education President Stephen Fischbein. "It gives us the ability to vote on these items at any meeting as opposed to once a month."

In the past, Springfield has had a process whereby the first meeting of the month is a conference meeting and the second meeting of the month is where the board can vote on issues, where action is taken. "What happened was there was a conference meeting coming up," said

Fischbein. 'The superintendent said we were going to need to make some decisions and we have an opportunity to get some people that we were looking to hire but we don't have the ability to vote." Members of the board suggested that they call a special meeting. Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler asked if there was a reason that they don't advertise every meeting as a potential action meeting. After deliberation and discus-

sion, the board couldn't think of such a reason. Mahler then went back and looked at the board's policies and procedures and found nothing in there stopping the board from making every meeting an "action" meeting.

"So he proposed it and we voted for it," said Fischbein. Mahler elaborated on what the conference meetings were like. "In other words, the board members were talking about issues, they were discussing what would be on the agenda for the action taken on the second meeting of each month," he said.

"Typically, unless they advertised it as a special meeting where action could be taken, it was just an oppurtunity to talk about things and to share informa-

With the past policy, for example, there may be a substitute teacher available to replace someone that is going out on maternity leave, but the policy said that the confirmed hiring of the substitute teacher could only be approved at the

"Things come up in between the meetings and there are times when we don't want to wait to what could amount to almost a full month before the board can vote on something," said Mahler.

Schools take preventive steps after mistake

when all the other students did to attend afternoon preschool classes at

Instead, the 4-year-old remained on sidewalk cases would not be possible Dayton High School, from 12:30 p.m.

On Jan. 27 at 2 p.m., Parrot Paper

A donation of \$2 per craft is suggested. For information, call 908-789-3670.

Sell it with a classified ad, 1-800-564-8911.

Parrot puppets at Trailside

Puppets comes to Trailside Nature and Science Center, 452 New Providence Rd., Mountainside. Participants can recycle junk mail envelopes into colorful parrot puppets. Use your imagination to create a tropical rain-

Live. Learn. Laugh. Pursue a New Passion

would not go through.

Changes have been made to ensure

that something like this doesn't hap-

there's an accident and to take the switches fixed," said Mahler. "We will best be handled in their school."

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any difficulty. We've also supple-

mented the procedure by having more

The old procedure only had the

nurse making the calls. Now the nurse

as well as a secretary in the office will

The other schools in the Springfield

"All schools are reviewing their

procedures to make sure there's no

delay," said Mahler, "How they do it

is going to be up to them. Each princi-

school system are also looking into-

than one person making those calls so

there is no delay."

make them.

"We got the phone lines and the pal will make the decision as to how it

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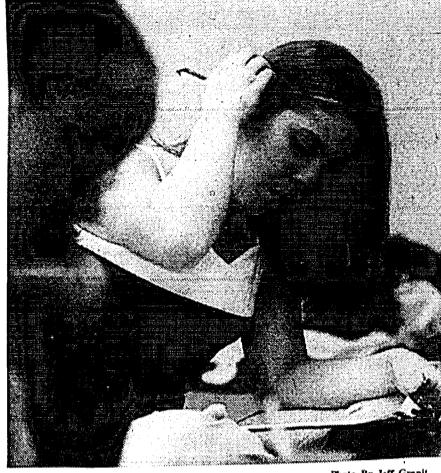
By Joshua Zaitz until the bus driver came back at 2:30 he said. "Her job is not to search the Staff Writer In the wake of a 4-year-old pre-The child's father said, at a Board of Education meeting, that he felt that schooler being left on a school bus The child's father questioned the Board of Education and Superinten-Jan. 7, the Springfield Board of Eduthe bus driver, the aide, the nurse and dent of Schools as to why a phone call cation and Superintendent of Schools ultimately the principal were most wasn't made to his house to inform responsible. have taken action to ensure that somehim or his wife that their child was not thing like this will never happen "The driver and the aide were both extremely upset over the incident," "The bus driver has resigned," said said Mahler, "The driver resigned." sibility to make the phone calls to stu-Superintendent of Schools Walter Mahler said the aide has been disdents' homes when they are not in the their policies and procedures for ciplined, even though it is not her ultischool. The nurse called the child's when a student does not report to mate responsibility to make sure that On Janes 7, the 4-year-old preschooler never exited the school bus all children get off the bus; rather, it is house but the number she kept dialing class.

Board of Education President Ste-

phen Fischbein explained the aide's

job description. "She's there to keep

decorum on the bus, to help in case



The Springfield YMCA recently began a new self-esteem building program just for girls in sixth to eighth grades called DAISE — Doing Activities to Increase Self-Esteem. Above, Sara Field, 13, reads over one of her answers for



Gina Molinaro, 13, reveals her answer with a smile — "Gives a chance to learn more activities. Doesn't limit yourself. Expands horizons." Activities for the program include cooking, crafts, group exercise class tures on nutrition, health, and more.

I DON'T GUARANTEE THAT I'LL BEAT ANY QUOTE

BUT I KNOW FROM YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

THAN MOST ESTIMATES GIVEN.

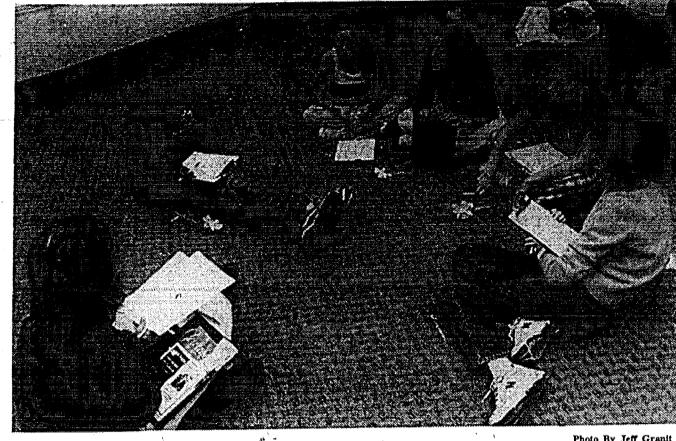
THAT MY ESTIMATES ARE 15% TO 35% LOWER

* OLDER FURNITURE

* DINING ROOMS

* BREAKFRONTS

* BEDROOMS



Springfield YMCA Physical Director Tracy Gaume sits down with some participants for the first day orientation. The girls enjoy getting to know one another. Clockwise from left are, Tiffany Dodson, 13; Gina Molinaro, 13; Jackie Janowski, 13, and Anna Fardman, 14.



Gaume hands out flexible daisy bracelets for the girls to wear, a symbol of the DAISE program. The aim of the DAISE program is to increase girls' self-awareness and to provide an educational opportunity for active social and physical enrichment.

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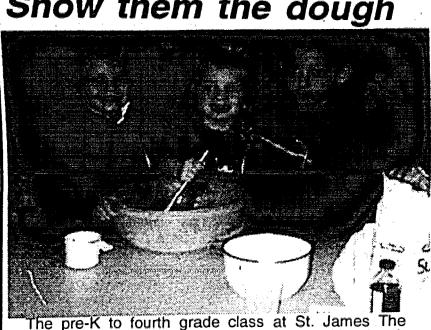
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Apostle School in Springfield made cookie dough for the letter of the week, then brought it home to bake sugar cookies. Stirring the ingredients are, from left, Justin Lopes, Zaya Kemph and Charmine

PUBLIC NOTICE

Prior lien(s): Subject to unpaid taxes and municipal liens. Amount due will be announced at the Sheriff's Sale or is available upon written request to plaintif's

attorneys.

JUDGMENT AMOUNT: ONE-HUNDRED
TWO THOUSAND FIVE DOLLARS AND
SIXTY-ONE CENTS (\$102,005/61)
ATTORNEY:
STERN LAVINTHAL, FRANKENBERG,
NORGAARD & KAPNICK, LL

HALPH FROEHLICH
FULL LEGAL DESCRIPTION IS FILED
AT THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE.

OFFICE.
ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-ONE DOL-LARS AND FIFTY-EIGHT CENTS TOTAL JUDGMENT AMOUNT (\$115,881.58)
Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2002
U8392 ECL (\$99.00)

SHERIFF'S SALE
SHERIFF'S NUMBER CH755243
DIVISION: CHANCERY
COUNTY: UNION
DOCKET NO. F1109809
PLAINTIFF: OCWEN FEDERAL BANK,

FSB DEFENDANT: JOHN JEROME BROWN, ETALS

SUITE 300 293 EISENHOWER PARKWAY LIVINGSTON, NJ 07039-1711

PUBLIC NOTICE

SHERIFF'S SALE

SHERIFF'S SALE
SHERIFF'S NUMBER CH755746
DIVISION: CHANCERY
COUNTY: UNION
DOCKET NO. F776900
PLAINTIFF: CITIMORTGAGE, INC.
DEFENDANT: LORENZO R. PECANA
WRIT OF EXECUTION DATE:
DECEMBER 15, 2000
SALE DATE:
WEDNESDAY THE 13TH DAY OF
FEBRUARY A.D. 2002
By virtue of the above-stated writ of
execution to me directed I shall expose for
sale by public vendue, at the UNION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at
two o'clock in the afternoon of said day, All
successful bidders must have 20% of their
bid available in cash or certified check at
the conclusion of the sales.
CITIMORTGAGE, INC.
VS. LORENZO R. PECANA, ET UX, ET
AL
DOCKET NO. E-7759-00

AL
DOCKET NO. F-7769-00
The property to be sold is located in the
Township of Springfield, County of Union
and State of New Jersey,
It is commonly known as 40 Meckes
Street, Springfield, New Jersey,
It is known and designated as Block
2004 (I/Na 124), Lot 29 (I/Na 28),
The dimensions are 39.0 feet wide 101.0
feet long. teet long.

Nearest cross street: Situate on the northeasterly line of Meckes Street, 465.86 feet from the northwesterly line of Springfield Avenue (a/k/a South Springfield Avenue)

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
COUNTY OF UNION
STATE OF NEW JERSEY
APPLICATION OF CLIFFORD WENER AND SHELLEY STANGLER
APPLICATION NO. 2001-15

WHEREAS, Clifford Wener and Shelley Stangler, applicants, are the owners of the property designated Block 2501, Lot 59 on the tax map of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, which premises are commonly known as 21 Ron's Edge Road, Springfield, New Jersey, and which property is located in the S-75 zoning district; and WHEREAS, said applicants have made application to the Board of Adjustment of the Township of Springfield for a variance from the provisions of the Township of Springfield Land Use Ordinance Schedule of Zoning Limitations, specifically the lot coverage and rear yard requirements, so as to permit the construction of an in-ground swimming pool in the rear yard of the subject property; and WHEREAS, proof of publication of the notice of hearing and proof of mailing of notice of hearing to the certified list of property owners for this application having been filed with the Assistant Secretary of the Board, Ms. Lynda Gagliano; and WHEREAS, said applicant has met all jurisdictional requirements of the statute; and WHEREAS, it appears that there has not been any other application to the Board of Adjustment involving this property; and WHEREAS, Clifford Wener, applicant, was sworn and stated that he wished to build an in-ground swimming pool in the rear yard of the subject property; that extensive foliage would be placed all around the property, that there is none existing at the present time, and the result of the added foliage will be to beautify the property and significantly improve it and the result of the added foliage will be to beautify the property and significantly improve it and the neighborhood aesthetically; that there is already a six foot wood fence along the back of the property; that additional fencing would be constructed which complies with all applicable laws, ordinances and regulations; and that the pool will not be less than filteen feet from any side yard or the rear yard line; and

from any side yard or the rear yard line; and
WHEREAS, a colored drawing of the proposed pool and proposed landscaping was
marked into evidence as Exhibit A-1, and was testified to by Mr. Wener and marked into evidence as Exhibit A-1, and was testified to by Mr. Wener, and WHEREAS, Board member, Sam Lubash, pointed out that Section 13-4.1 of Chapter XIII of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Springfield (1996), sets forth the requirements as to the location of private swimming pools, and not the land use ordinance, and that under Section 13-4.1 a., a pool may not be located within fifteen (15) feet of any side yard or rear yard line; that, accordingly, the applicant does not need a variance regarding the rear yard line; in the pool will not be located within fifteen feet of the rear yard line; and that the Board does not have the authority to permit the location of a pool within fifteen feet of a side yard or rear yard line; and WHEREAS, the Board and the Board attorney concurred with Mr. Lubash's statements, and, therefore, that the applicant does not require a rear yard variance, but must comply with Chapter XIII of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Springfield (1996); and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wener, agreed that any fence he erects will not exceed the height permitted by the applicable ordinances, and specifically, that anything in the plans or proposals for an eight foot high fence will be changed so that the fence will not exceed six feet in

for an eight foot high fence will be changed so that the fence will not exceed six feet in height; and WHEREAS, Mr. Pasquale Ruvolo was sworn and stated that he was the owner of Prestige Landscaping and that he will be doing the landscaping regarding the pool; that there will be 70 Arborvitaes, and they will be seven to eight feet in height; that he will be putting in one shade tree, because the property does not require many shade trees; that the rest of the trees will be ornamental trees, such as Japanese Maple, Red Plum, and Dogwood; that most of the escavated soil will be taken away because the quality of the soil is not that great; that organic soil will be brought in for the plantings; and WHEREAS, the meeting was opened to the public, and no member of the public wished to be heard, or raised any objection to the application, and the meeting was closed to the public and returned to the Board; and WHEREAS, Mr. Sam Lubash made a motion to approve application No. 2001-15 and grant the variance from the Township of Springfield Land Use Ordinance Schedule of Limitations with regard to lot coverage so as to permit the construction of an in-ground swimning pool in the backyard of the subject property as proposed, subject to the following conditions:

a. That the applicant shall comply with all other provisions of the Municipal Land Use Ordinance, and with all applicable provisions of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Springfield (1996), with particular attention to Chapter 13 which pertains to private swimming pools, and Chapter 30 which pertains to soil and soil removal, and obtain all required governmental permits;

b. That no fence shall exceed six feet in height

That the catch basin shall be protected from silt and the applicant shall provide to the Township engineer the method that will be used to protect this catch basin; and

d. That the applicant provide an "as-built" survey showing that the ground is sloping properly to the catch basin; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Lubash's motion was seconded by Mr. Selig Adler; NOW, THEREFORE, the following findings of fact are made:

 The above recitals are repeated as if fully set forth in length and the recitals and proofs
of the applicant and the applicant's witness presented are found as facts: 2. The application can be granted without substantial detriment to the public good and without substantially impairing the intent or spirit of the zoning ordinances of the Township and will substantially comply with the Township's master plan, and specifically will result in a significant aesthetic improvement to the subject property and the neighborhood in which the property is located, and the increase in lot coverage is not significant:

The purposes of the municipal Land Use Law would be advanced by this deviation from the zoning ordinance requirement;

4. The benefits of the deviation would substantially outweigh any detriment;

5. The applicant has demonstrated sufficient reasons for the requested relief;

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55D-70 et seq. and the zoning ordinances of the Township of Springfield, County of Union, State of New Jersey, it is resolved on November 20, 2001 that:

Application No. 2001-15 for a variance from the Township of Springfield Land Use Ordinance Schedule of limitations with regard to lot coverage so as to permit the construction of an in-ground swimming pool in the backyard of the subject property as proposed, be and is approved, subject to the following conditions:

a. That the applicant shall comply with all other provisions of the Municipal Land Use Ordinance, and with all applicable provisions of The Revised General Ordinances of the Township of Springfield (1996), with particular attention to Chapter 13 which pertains to private swimming pools, and Chapter 30 which pertains to soil and soil removal, and obtain all required governmental permits;

b. That no fence shall exceed six feet in height:

c. That the catch basin shall be protected from sitt and the applicant shall provide to the Township engineer the method that will be used to protect this catch basin; and

That the applicant provide an "as-built" survey showing that the ground is sloping properly to the catch basin.

Mr. Setig Adler, yes
Mrs. Marjoris Halpin, yes
Mr. Michael Herzlinger, yes
Mr. Sem Lubash, yes
Mrs. Ariene Newman, yes
Mr. Joseph Yes, yes
Chairman Stuart Applebaum, yes

7-0 in favor, there being no other vote

The memorialization of the alore resolution was approved at the December 18, 2001 seating of the Township of Springfield's Board of Adjustment.

SAM LUBASH, ACTING CHAIR LINDA DAOLUNO, BOARD ASST SEC-

arrested Newark man

John McCleary Jr., 30, of Newark, was arrested at Guitar Center on Route 22 on Jan. 8 at 3:31 p.m. He was charged with theft by deception, forgery, passing bad checks and pos-

session of drug paraphernalia. On Jan. 8 at 7:58 a.m., a New York City resident reported that his 1999 Ford van was stolen from the ShopRite parking lot on Morris

• On Jan. 10 at 3:56 a.m., Springfield Acura, on Route 22 East,

POLICE BLOTTER

reported that four tires and four rims • On Jan. 10 at 3:34 p.m., Staples on Route 22 East, reported that a HP Pavilion PC and keyboard was

returned, but upon opening the box

ris Avenue apartment. At 2:10 p.m.,

PUBLIC NOTICE

ough of Mountainside as a Proposal Guaranty.

Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 C.127 (NJAC 17:27).

The Borough of Mountainside hereby resource the right to reject any and all hids.

reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to award the contract to any bidder whose proposal, in the Borough's judgment, best serves its interest.

Judith E. Osty, Borough Clerk U8532 ECL Jan. 17, 2002 (\$21.00)

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which great music,

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child's daily life.

Far Brook is a small,

coeducational day

through the Eighth

grade. Since its

and challenging

after the return was made, all that was inside was paper. Mountainside

at Rt. 22

• On Jan. 7 at 10:43 p.m., Michael Brown, 46, of Syracuse, N.Y., was arrested by Warren Township police for domestic violence and then was transported to the Mountainside Police Department on an outstanding

• On Jan. 10 at 1:15 p.m. Markeith

Bell, 24, of Irvington, was transported

to the Mountainside Police Department on an outstanding warrant. • On Jan. 11 at 12:02 a.m., Osvaldo

guitar store

from the Irvington Police Department

Laranjeira, 39, of Linden, was stopped for a motor vehicle violation and was found to be wanted by the Union County Sherrif for probation iolation. He was also found to be in possession of marijuana and drug

FD responds to truck fire on Rt. 78 West

FIRE BLOTTER • On Jan. 7 at 10:29 a.m., they rushed to a Baltusrol Way residence South Springfield Avenue business. for a medical service call. At 11:29 a.m., they attended to a med-On Jan. 8 at 5:05 a.m., the Springical service call at a Maple Avenue field Fire Department responded to residence. At 12:49 p.m., they investi-Route 78 West for a truck fire. gated an activated fire alarm at a Mor-• On Jan. 8 at 8:17 a.m., they

answered a medical service call at a PUBLIC NOTICE

Bids must be made on the Borough's form of bid and must be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Borough Clerk, Borough of Mountainside, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. and hand delivered or sent via certified mail at the place and hour named. Bids shall be endorsed on the outside of the envelope with the name and address of the bidder and: "Bid Proposal for Paving Improvements on Old Tote Road, Section 2 — Contract 2002-1" [

Each proposal must be accompanied by a certified check, cashier's check or a bid bond equal to ten percent (10%) of the full amount of the bid, not to exceed \$20,000.00, and made payable to the Borough of Mountainside as a Proposal WRIT OF EXECUTION DATE:

APRIL 10, 2000
SALE DATE:
WEDNESDAY THE 13TH DAY OF
FEBRUARY A.D. 2002
By virtue of the above-stated writ of
execution to me directed I shall expose for
sale by public vendue, at the UNION
COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING,
1ST FLOOR, 10 ELIZABETH TOWN PLAZA, Elizabeth, N.J., on WEDNESDAY, at
two o'clock in the afternoon of said day. All
successful bidders must have 20% of their
bid available in cash or certified check at
the conclusion of the sales. bid available in cash or certified check at the conclusion of the sales.

Property to be sold is located in the Township of Springfield, County of Union and State of New Jersey
Premises commonly known as 3 DIVEN STREET, SPRINGFIELD NJ 07081
BEING KNOWN as LOT 37, BLOCK 123, on the official Tax Map of the Township of Springfield
Dimensions: 65ft.x.101ft.x65ft.x.101ft.
Nearest Cross Street: Springfield Avenue

Avenue

The Sheriff hereby reserves the right to adjourn this sale without further notice by publication.
Subject to unpaid taxes, assessments, Subject to unpaid taxes, assessments, water and sewer liens
JUDGMENT AMOUNT: ONE HUNDRED FOUR THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT DOLLARS AND TWENTY-NINE CENTS (\$104,868.29)
ATTORNEY:
FEDERMAN AND PHELAN, P.C. SUITE 505
SENTRY OFFICE PLAZA
216 HADDON AVENUE
WESTMONT, NJ 08108
SHERIFF:

SHERIFF:
RALPH FROEHLICH
FULL LEGAL DESCRIPTION IS FILED
AT THE UNION COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE.
ONE HUNDRED FORTY THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE DOLLARS AND FOUR CENTS
TOTAL JUDGMENT AMOUNT

(\$140,983.04) Jan. 17, 24, 31, Feb. 7, 2002 U8391 ECL NOTICE OF HEARING
PLANNING BOARD TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an application has been made to the Planning Board
of the Township of Springfield by Monogram Building and Design Corporation, 7
Mt. Bethel Road, Warren, New Jersey, for
preliminary and final site plan approval and
variances for the construction of a medical
and/or general office building at Lot 1 in
Block 4001 known as 989 South Springfield
Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey. The applleant seeks variances for the following:

a) Maximum lot coverage by the Zoning Ordinance of the Township of Springfield is proposes 64.6 percent;
b) Parking set back in Section 35-23.5(b)
of the Zoning Ordinance requires a five-foot
set back for a driveway and/or parking area
to a side or rear property line, and the applicant proposes that the eastern side of the
parking lot be 4.5 feet from the rear property
line.

ine.

Also, any other variances that may be necessary as evidenced by the plans now on file or as may be modified at the request of the Planning Board. This application is made for premises located at 989 South Springfield Avenue, Springfield New Jersey, and known as Lot 1 in Block 4001. This application is now calendar no. 14-2001-S on the cierk's calendar, and a public hearing has been ordered for 8 p.m. on February 6, 2002, in the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Avenue, Springfield, New Jersey and when the calendar is called, you may appear either in person or by agent or attorney, and present any objections which you may have to the granting of this application. All papers pertaining to this application may be seen in the Office of the Administrative Officer of the Planning Board of the Township of Springfield located in the Annex Building, 20 North Theat Street Sertinefield.

Springfield located in the Annex Building 20 North Trivett Street, Springfield, New PITMAN, PITMAN, MINDAS GROSSMAN AND LEE, P.C. Attorneys for Applicants By: BRUCE M. PITMAN DATED: January 7, 2002 U8399 ECL January 17, 2002 (\$21.50)

BOROUGH OF MOUNTAINSIDE

NOTICE OF BID

NOTICE is hereby given that sealed bids will be received by the Borough Clerk of the Borough of Mountainside for: "PAVING IMPROVEMENTS ON OLD TOTE ROAD, SECTION 2 — CONTRACT 2002-1"

Plans and Specifications will be available on January 18, 2002.

Bids will be opened and read in Public at the Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, Mountainside, N.J. on February 7, 2002 at 10:00 A.M., prevailing time.

Bids shall be in accordance with plans and specifications prepared by the Borough Engineer. Proposal blanks, specifications and instructions to bidders may be obtained at the office of the Borough Clerk, Mountainside Municipal Building, 1385 Route 22, 1st Floor, Mountainside, N.J.

Bidders will be furnished with a copy of the Plans and Specifications by the Engineer, upon proper notice and payment of a check for twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) payable to the Borough of Mountainside, said cost being the reproduction price of the

Far Brook School 52 Great Hills Road, Short Hill: www.farbrook.org All decisions on admissions are made without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin.

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call at an Independence Way • On Jan. 9 at 11:11 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Forest Drive apartment. At 4:28 p.m., they attended to a medical service call on Route 78 East.

• On Jan. 11 at 9:38 a.m., they answered a medical service call at a Cambridge Terrace residence. At 11:48 a.m., they responded to a Battlehill Avenue residence for a medical service call. At 3:12 p.m., they investigated an activated fire alarm at a Mountain Avenue residence.

Attention churches, social clubs

This newspaper encourages congregations, temples, social and civic organizations to inform the editors about scheduled events and activities. Releases should be typed, double-spaced, and include a phone number where a representative may be reached during the day. Send information to: P.O. Box 3109, Union, 07083.

> Robert I. Greenblatt, M.D. Arun C. Naik, M.D. **Diplomates American Board of Gastroenterology**

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• Gain an understanding of the causes of this syndrome • • Learn non-drug solutions • Sponsored by The Summit YMCA

Guest Speaker: Dr. Jason Hagman, D.C. Wednesday, January 23, 2002 at 7:30 p.m. Summit YMCA Multi-Purpose Room



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> soon to 4 PAL, free Admission Service de la contra de la constante de la con



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

A busy

phone

Brownfields.

Left Out

years of efforts for programs

reclaim these sites and make then

productive, taxpaying and job pro

ducing. His service included h

current stint as co-chairman of the

U.S. Conference of Mayors Task

Force on the subject. He testified

six times on Capitol Hill on the sub-

iect, as well as at numerous prog-

Bollwage first got wind of the

important bill signing with a call

he took informing him that there

would be a ceremony somewhere,

probably on Friday in a location

between Washington and New

York. Increased presidential sec-

urity requires the vague notice and

the message was for the mayor to

essentially stay loose. A subse-

quent call gave Bollwage the

details and allowed him to attend

Bollwage can actually be a little

provincial on the Subject. He

points to the Jersey Gardens mall,

Elmora Little League and First

abandoned sites which were made

into economically and culturally

productive locations. The new law

includes \$50 million per year for

grants to local and state govern-

ments to encourage new cleanup.

Earlier in the week, while have

ing lunch at the Red Parrot restaut

ant in his city, Bollwage took a cal

from Acting Gov. Donald DiF

rancesco regarding the final details

of state legislation on Urban Enter

prise Zones extension. Three years

earlier, Bollwage had formed the

Urban Enterprise Zone Mayor's

Commission to steer the bill to

law. His knowledge of the intrica-

cies of the proposal found him dis-

cussing on the phone the last

minute details before the law was

The essential purpose of the bi

which extends the zones unti

2018, is reduction of up to half o

the sales tax charged to encourage

business to stay and expand in the

cities. Related benefits like infra

structure improvements and job

One of Bollwage's first call

about the enactment of the UEZ

extension was to fellow Mayo

Albert McWilliams of Plainfield

McWilliams later praised the UEZ

extension as "good news that will

allow our downtown redevelop-

ment including our streetscape

program to continue. It will help to

community."

protected.

enhance commerce in our

But the success of the UEZ and

Brownfields efforts are a victory

for more than the cities. The little

open space in our state has to be

Last week Phill Wallis, execu-

tive director of the Natural Lands

Trust, a group which encourages

conservation-minded growth put it

bluntly. "We've made it too easy

for development over the years,

providing the infrastructure to

allow it. There's something wrong

with a system that has consumed

33 percent of land to accommodate

a growth in population of only

Here's betting if Wallis con-

tacted Bollwage, the mayor would

also take that call. After all, they

"A resident of Crantord Frank

Capece is an attorney.

are on the same page on

conservation-minded growth.

training also come with the law.

Street Soccer Fields as former

on behalf of pet projects.

rams here in New Jersey.

By Frank Capece

A Juin County

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2002 - SECTION B

Arts

Entertainment

Classified

Real Estate

Automotive

http://www.localsource.com

Administration submits \$324 million budget

Budget hearings will begin next month

Chris Bollwage went to Consho-By Mark Hrywna hocken, Penn., on Friday. Some Regional Editor other important people like Presi-dent Bush also visited that indust-The county administration submitted a \$324 million budget to the Board of Chosen Freeholrial community located on the ders on Tuesday, a spending plan that is \$3 milbanks of the Schnylkil River. The lion, or 1 percent, higher than last year's purpose of the activity was the signbudget. The 2002 budget includes a tax levy of ing into law of federal legislation approximately \$174 million, up from nearly which allocates \$200 million a year \$160 million last year after more than five years to reclaim contaminated and abanof a levy that remained close to \$150 million. doned industrial sites known as

County Manager Michael Lapolla, who is required to submit his executive budget by Jan. 15, expects the tax levy to be reduced through For the mayor, the two-hour tri cuts by Board of Chosen Freeholders as well as from Elizabeth capped off eigh additional revenue. He pointed to federal welfare funds directed through the state which the county might receive for sending some of its

> ment rehabilitation center in Newark. Lapolla said he may present recommendations on debt service, particularly on debt remaining for the county jail, and other financing. The county's debt service of \$22 million annually puts Union County in a much better position than some of its neighbors, he added.

> prison inmates to Delaney Hall, a drug treat-

Freeholder Daniel Sullivan said the Fiscal Affairs Committee will meet tonight for the first time this year to begin preliminary deliberations. "I need time to digest it," he said of the budget before commenting on it, adding that budget hearings likely will be scheduled for later this month or the beginning of February. "We'lll do the best we can to minimize the effect on taxpayers."

The Fiscal Affairs Committee, chaired by Sullivan, also includes Freeholders Angel Estrada and Alexander Mirabella and Vice Chairman Mary Ruotolo this year. The freeholders generally introduce the budget in April and give final approval in May. An anticipated \$15 million in surplus will be

used as revenue in the 2002 budget. Last year the county realized a surplus of approximately \$23.3 million. The county enjoyed surpluses in

million. "It used to be very large. Now it's back

the area of \$40 million in 1999 and 2000. In terms of the surplus, the county is "trying to limit to what we need," Lapolla said. "There is always enough in reserve," which is about \$6

in the range where it always was." Other decreases in revenue include interest on investments, which are expected to drop from \$5.2 million to \$4.2 million, due to the declining economy.

Health insurance is skyrocketing everywhere, Lapolla said, with overall health insurance for the county up 15 percent this year. Last year was the first year when employees began contributing to their health benefits on a sliding scale, according to recent labor contracts settled with the county's unions. Even with the employee contributions, the projected increase for prescription costs is 25 percent, Lapolla

Runnells Specialized Hospital is expected to generate \$32 million in 2002 as opposed to the \$26.5 million in 2001, generally because of better capacity. Lapolla said the opening of a new psychiatric unit at the hospital has increased expenditures but ultimately will generate \$1 million annually.

One of the larger new revenue items in the budget this year is an anticipated \$4 million settlement of a lawsuit the county filed as a result of oil tanks leaking on county property. Other revenue in this year's budget includes \$300,000

District

Linden

Average

Mountainside

New Providence

school year.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood

from the sale of land near the Goethals Bridge originally slated for a new juvenile detention center, to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. An increase in various fees throughout the county park system are expected to generate an additional \$500,000, from \$4.6 million to \$5.1 million.

Among the significant decreases in the budget are \$500,000 appropriated in the county manager's for "special studies and initiatives," which were budgeted at nearly \$1.3 million last

Lapolla emphasized that the freeholder merely sets the overall tax levy. It is the county tax Board which sets the equalized tax rate for each municipality. Those communities where housing values have soared will bear the bigger burden. "It is out of our control."

Last year the adminstration originally introduced a \$307-million budget in January, which included an increase of \$10 million in the tax levy and the lay off of corrections officers. A budget of \$315 million was adopted by the Board of Chosen Freeholders last year. The 2001 spending plan ultimately totalled \$321 million after the receipt of various forms of revenues and other grants throughout the year

4.50

5.00

222

Sources: Local school districts

5.00

4.18

2001-02 2002-03 2003-04

4.50

5.00

777

4.10 4.35 4.38

4.14 4.25

3.75 3.75

3.50

5.00

4.14

222

Of the five schoool districts in Union County whose

teachers contracts expired in June, only Scotch Plains-

Fanwood has not come to a settlement. Most districts in

the county will have contracts expire at the end of this

State to help with special ed costs

Beginning in the 2003-04 school year, the state will provide funds to local school districts for a portion of special education costs, and by 2006-07 the state will provide for all costs in excess of \$40,00 per student.

law legislation that will be phased in starting in 2003-04 and in full effect by 2006-07. The Assembly bill was sponsored by Richard Bagger, R-Union, and Robert Martin, R-

New Jersey School Boards Association showed that the cost of out-of-district special education placements can exceed \$100,000 per pupil and, in some cases, is above

state aid will relieve local property taxpayers who shoulder special education costs. The new state funding will be phased in over a three-

year period, providing the increased funding according to

• 2004-05: 70 percent of any costs in excess of \$60,000

costs in excess of \$40,000. Previously, local school boards could appeal to the state when special education costs for a student exceeded \$40,000. Not all districts were granted relief, however, and amounts usually granted were only partial reimbursement. According to the state Department of Education, there were 2,276 applicants in 2000-01 totalling \$33.1 million for additional funds to assist with extraordinary costs. Only

\$14.9 million was provided to local school districts. According to the NJSBA, five school districts in Union

budgets for special education costs: Elizabeth, \$3.2 million for 64 students; Roselle, \$1.3 million, 28 students; Scotch Plains-Fanwood, \$1.4 million, 26 students; Union, \$2.8 million, 50 students, and Westfield, \$1.1 million, 19

Overall, Union County districts budgeted \$15.7 million for 288 special education students in their budgets with the state providing \$1.75 million in aid, just over 11 percent of costs. Based on those figures, the average cost per student during the 2000-01 school year in Union County was approximately \$54,487.

While the state legislation is good news, school board members in Summit have been lobbying for some time for the federal government to provide 40 percent of funding to local school districts for special education programs. Board President Philip Eisner said federal law originally called for 40 percent to be covered by federal funds but in

actuality, it is closer to 15 percent today.

Summit school Business Administrator Harold Kessler is more conservative when it comes to expecting state funds. "When legislation is passed it's great but it all depends on money in the state budget to support the legislation." He said Summit has about 11 cases in which per pupil costs exceed \$40,000, with an even split between in-

district and out-of-district placement. Township of Union Superintendent of Schools Theo dore Jakubowski said the new measure could have a positive effect on the local property tax bill. When Union received an increase in state aid several years ago due to rising enrollment, the school board was able to present a budget to the public which included a tax decrease of more

than \$100. Union may have a high number of special education students relative to the county, Jakubowski said, but the percentage is about average, roughly 13 percent of the overall population. "It impacts upon us greater because of the size of our district." The district, he said, tries to provide the best possible situation for special education students in house but in many cases students are sent out of district. In most school districts, officials recommend to the school board whether a student should be educated within

One district remains without new contract

Average hikes higher than state

By Mark Hrywna

Regional Editor The Mountainside Board of Education's approval last week of a contract settlement with its teachers union leaves the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District as the only remaining district in Union County without a new contract. Mountainside and Scotch Plains-Fanwood are among the districts - including Clark, Linden and New Providence — whose teachers contracts expired in

Nearly 60 school boards in the state have not yet settled contracts with their teachers unions, according to Mike Yaple, a spokesman for the New Jersey School Boards Association. He said about 32 of the 57 districts are in or plan to enter some type of mediation. Since the two sides involved in negotiations can only meet with a mediator, much depends on the mediator's schedule, which may slow the pace of negotiations, he said.

Of New Jersey's 593 school districts, 200 had teachers contracts expire in June. About two-thirds of the districts usually begin the new school year without a new settlement. "Bargaining starts in earnest" when the school year begins, Yaple said.

The average annual salary increase settled last year was approximately 4.16 percent, according to the NJSBA. In Union County, the average annual salary increase among the four districts that settled was approximately 4.28 percent, Mountainside, a K-8 district that sends students to Governor Livingston High School in Berkeley Heights, had the highest average salary increase at 5 percent, followed by New Providence at 4.18 percent, Linden at 4.17 percent and Clark at 3.75 percent. Clark is a K-12 district that receives students from Gar-

Kathleen Meyer, public information coordinator for the Scotch Plains-Panwood schools, said talks are continuing in their negotiations. The school board and union have completed the mediation process with two sessions and a fact finder has been assigned to the talks. The parties are scheduled to meet on

A fact finder is appointed by the Public Employee Relations Commission. The fact finder reviews each side's proposal and offers a recommendation for

In Scotch Plains-Fanwood, the story is not much different from other districts

hroughout New Jersey: the rising cost of health benefits.

"It's not so much the benefits but how to contain the costs," Meyer said, 'Cost containment is something very important to local school boards," Yaple said the top issues for many negotiations in the state are salary increases, longer days and years, and health insurance. Almost 45 percent of settlements last year "had some mechanism to control benefits," he said, such as

prescription copayments and increasing deductibles. In Clark, negotiations between the school board and the Clark Federation of School Employees Local 3417 focused on pay increases as well as the health nsurance plan which had been changed in the previous contract.

Existing employees enjoyed a traditional indemnity plan but new hires would be included in an HMO. If new employees wanted to have the traditional plan instead of the HMO, they would have to pay more for benefits. The Clark Board of Education approved a settlement just before Christmas. New Providence was the first district to reach a settlement this year followed

by Linden, which reached a new accord in September. Many Union County school districts will have their teacher contracts expire in June, at the end of this school year, including, Hillside, Plainfield, Rahway,

Roselle, Summit, Union, Westfield and Winfield.



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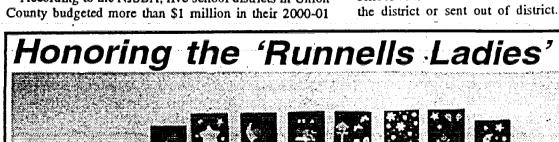
Acting Gov. Donald DiFrancesco last week signed into

The costs usually reflect the placement of students in facilities outside the district as a result of state and/or federal requirements or court orders. A 2000 report by the

\$200,000 per student. Much of the special education costs are borne by local property taxpayers. The NJSBA believes the additional

the following schedule: 2003-04: 60 percent of any costs in excess of \$40,000 per pupil and up to \$60,000. per pupil and up to \$80,000.

• 2005-06: 80 percent of any costs in excess of \$80,000. • 2006-07 and beyond: 100 percent of special education





The 'Runnells Ladies,' a volunteer group of women from the Second Westfield Senior Citizen Housing Corp. were honored on their fifth anniversary with a resolution from the Board of Chosen Freeholders. Freeholder Deborah Scanlon, standing, center, presented the resolution to, from left, seated, Mimi Gladstone, Betty Fraga, Evelyn Badge, Betty Kenely and Matilda Reitman; and standing, Irene Dosilk, Anita Munkascy, Kay Felter, Ivy Reznak, Marian Connolly, Millie Boguski, Helen Venegra and Edith Loland. Not pictured is Madeline Keller. The ladies make and durate decorative and useful items for patients at Runnells Specialized Hospital of Union County.

Acting classes are announced by theater

12 Miles West Theater Company in Montclair announces open enrollment for its Winter Session of Theater Arts Education Courses.

The eight-week session begins Jan. 28 and runs through March 18. The following classes are available: • "Curtain Up!," ages 6 to 8, Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., \$125.

• "The World's a Stage," ages 9 to 12, Wednesdays from 5 to 6:15 p.m.,

Through improvisation and theater games, students will develop their minds and senses. Age-appropriate group and individual activities will take place in a non-threatening environment that encourages self-awareness. Classes will be taught by Jane Keitel who earned an acting degree from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts and a bachelor of arts degree in English/music/education from Rutgers and has been a children's acting instructor since 1991.

* "Acting for Teens," ages 13 to 17, Mondays from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.,

• "Acting for Beginners," ages 18 and older, Mondays from 7:30 to 9

These classes will be taught by Bob Carr, a graduate of the American Academy of Dramavic Arts, who served as a producter at Praywright's Theater in Madison for the past two seasons and was a founding member of its Summer Theater Day Camp where he was an acting instructor. Class work will provide a non-competitive atmosphere in which students will explore personal approaches to the art of acting.

• "From Page to Stage: Beginners," ages 18 and older, Saturdays from

• "From Page to Stage: Advanced," ages 18 and older, Saturdays from 1:30 to 4 p.m., \$150.

Instructor/playwright Paul Caruso will guide students through an intensive course focusing on play development and culminating in a staged reading of participants' plays. Caruso holds a master's degree in dramatic writing from New York University, where he is a Ph.D. candidate in the Educational Theater Program, and has served as a Teaching Fellow at Montclair State University in writing, drama, creative writing and dramatic literature. Early registration is encouraged as class sizes are limited.

12 Miles West is located at 488 Bloomfield Ave. on the lower level of the Clairidge Cinema Building. For information or to register, call the theater at 973-746-7181, or visit the 12 Miles West Web site at www.12MilesWest.org.

Discounted arts tickets are available for students

discounted High 5 arts events in or near their own neighborhoods. For \$5 or less, teens can buy tickets to New Jersey Ballet, JCC Thurnauer School of Music, New Jersey Shakes-

peare Festival and Waterlot historic outlets including Tower Records and dents to any High 5 event for just \$25

Tickets to High 5 weekend events are \$5 each. Monday through Thursday performances are two for \$5. Tower Records and The Wiz. Many "Newsletter" as the subject. site this spring. Free High 5 Spring High 5's Take 5 program enables one catalogs are also available in New adult to accompany five students, or Jersey at participating Ticketmaster two adults to accompany four stu-

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New Jersey teens can now enjoy The Wiz. The catalog lists these and for all six tickets. Museum admissions tickets can now be purchased online hundreds of \$5-and-less arts events in are two for \$5 any day of the week. via the High 5 web site. New York City and the metropolitan For more information about these www.high5tix.org. Current listings of

and other events, pick up a High 5 events can also be obtained from High catalog at participating Ticketmaster 5's hot line, (212) 445-8587, or by eoutlets, which include HMV Records, mailing info@high5tix.org with ture continues as young audiences tional Children's Festival in Aberdeen

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iun., Jan. 27 Pre-K-7 10 90 - 1 00 lues.. Jan. 29 | K-7. | 9 66 - 16 66

Tues., Jan. 29 PreK 3 yr. thru Ti 19:00 am - 10:30 am Thurs., Jan. 31 PreK 3 yr. thru 7th 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm

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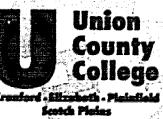
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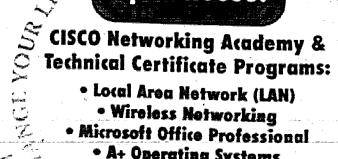
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January 23, 6:30pm - 9pm 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford NJ TA OFFICE AND LEGISLATION OF THE PARTY OF TH

Shoestring readies for travel

The Shoestring Players, a not-for- Lad," a magic helper who doesn't al. profit professional touring children's ways have his master's best wishes at theater company in residence at the heart! Finally, the players land in Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rut- Ghana for the wacky comedy, "Talk" gers University, has announced its Spring 2002 Tour: "The People Who Could Fly and Other Tales.",

"The People Who Could Fly," a 732-932-9772 powerful story of three young slaves who fly from their captors, received the prestigious Fringe First Award for "Outstanding New Dramatic Work" at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in Gail from Holmdel, Christina Pollat Scotland, a summer festival that from Teaneck, Liz Douglas from attracts more than 1,000 theater Wayne, Pa., David DeVito from troupes from around the world. Shoestring is renowned for its pre-

sentation of folk tales from around the Abescon. world in a style that challenges audiences to become active partners in imagination. Eight energetic performers and a percussionist become the landscape in each tale as they magically transform themselves into rivers, castles and animals. "The People" Who Could Fly and Other Tales" takes audiences on a captivating international journey, beginning in America with the powerful drama, "The travel to Sweden to meet "Lars My Scotland in June of 1999.

For more information on assembly programs and workshops in creative dramatics and creative writing call

WORRALL NEWSPAPERS

Cast in the ensemble are Ruth Dar. cy from Parsippany, Michael Beckwirth from Somerville, Christina Kirkland from North Brunswick, Lisa Cranford, Marlon Hall from Vernon. Tex., and Lico Whitfield from Founded in 1980 by Joseph P. Hart.

at seven festivals in the United Kingpany from the United States to be People Who Could Fly." The adven- invited to the Kaleidoscope Interna-

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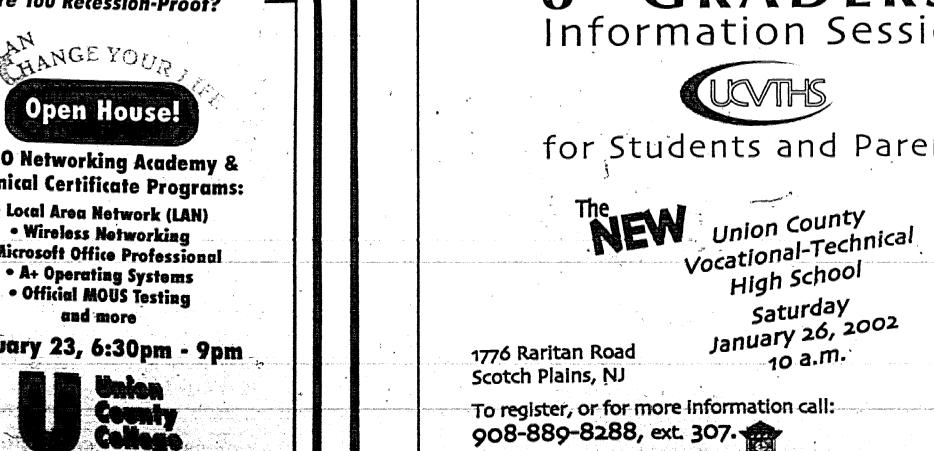
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WORRALL NEWSPAPERS EDUCATION WODAY!

Pushcart Players unveils new show for new season of touring to schools

professional touring company for young audiences, has announced plans to open a new musical producwit and wisdom, a twinkle and a grin. tion titled "Fiddler Tales" in begin-

ning this month. Imbued with the art of storytelling and in the tradition of Sholom Aleichem, whose stories were the basis for "Fiddler on the Roof," this collection

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Hanover and Springfield, a profes-

sional music school providing private

Spring semester begins Monday.

Summer Kindermusik Kamp i

offered one, two or three days a week

for children 2 to 7 years old Wednes-

day, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

mornings, in four-week sessions,

beginning May 29 and July 10. "Our

Time" at 9 a.m. is for 2-year-olds,

taken with a parent; "Imagine That" at 9:45 a.m. for 3-year-olds; and "Young

Child" at 10:45 a.m. for 4- to 7-year-

olds. The curriculum explores musi-

cal concepts through active participa-

tion and playing musical games and

songs. The children will also learn

how to play rhythm instruments and

enjoy musical experiences related to

For information call 973-428-0405

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12:00 - 2:30pm

the child's world.

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lessons on all instruments.

master teacher of creative dramatics at Mason Gross School of the Arts. Shoestring has performed in more than 30 states, on and Off-Broadway. dom, and the National Black Arts Festival in Atlanta, Ga. In addition to winning the coveted Fringe First Award, Shoestring was the only com-

1500s, the characters remain fresh and

current in their needs and values. A

ters continue to welcome audiences through their doors as the theater season kicks into high gear across

There is something for everyone

New Jersey Theater Alliance offers season calendar, discounts Bloomfield will present the on-theedge comedy 'The Mystery of Irma

from its enduring values and the

A free calendar of the statewide theater season detailing these events and many more is available now from the New Jersey Theater Alliance. This calendar features the season at a glance with contact information for each theater, along with information about the Theater Sampler series and other programs

he shares with us. Each is filled with — and in the end it is always ingenibit wiser than before. ous. But the universal appeal of each While much of the folklore in this of these stories ultimately comes not

season, is a dynamic ensemble of the- tour to the Republic of Czech. ater artists that has received numerous optimism within — the comfort in awards for outstanding work in child-

lage of Zlodievka each week. In each generation to generation. Earnest despair, that we will survive, no matthe courage to go on ... perhaps even a The company was recently selected www.pushcartplayers.org, by sending Pushcart Players, now in its 27th and will be going on an international by calling Pushcart at 973-857-1115.

More complete information about "Fidder Tales" and other Pushcart each classroom teacher accompanies

Subscribers connected to the

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News on their own computers. The

E-News features a weekly listing of

"What's Playing" at theaters across

the state and incredible last-minute

offers only available to subscribers.

A recent discount featured 50 per-

cent off tickets to Cole Porter's

Pushcart Players, the Verona-based of tales comes to life through the vil- family. An heirloom is cherished from be fixed, that hope can triumph over highly successful performance tour of Arts in Education Outreach programs, house there is a story. Some of these bumbling is as charming as it is funny ter what the odds and somehow find performances at The White House. cart Web site at for national tours of its productions e-mail to pushcart@microdsi.net, or

A comprehennsive study guide for

mother wants to do what's best for her knowing that whatever is broken can ren's theater. Recent credits include a productions, as well as Pushcart's all Pushcart performances. W,

Calderone earns New Jersey's professional thea-

'Maestro' status Kindermusik, the internationally renowned music program for children, awarded the Maestro classification that recognizes the top 100 Kindermusik programs in the world, to

to enjoy as the state's finest theatrical companies feature world premieres such as 'Mary Todd: A Woman Apart," at Centenary Stage Company in Hackettsown, and "Waiting for Tadashi," at George Street Playhouse in New Brunswick, alongside favored classics like "The Fantasticks" at New Jersey Shakespeare Festival in Madison, "The King and I" at Paper Mill: The State Theater of New Jersey in Millburn, and "Don Juan" at McCarter Theater in Princeton.

Dreamcatcher Repertory in Vep," Two River Theater Company in Manasquan delights with 'The House of Blue Leaves," while in Morristown, the Bickford Theatre's "Sylvia" will tickle your funny bone and make you wonder just how smart your beloved pet really

and publications of the Alliance. Gift certificates are available now for the ever-popular Theater Sampler Series. This discount ticket package, consisting of three plays at three different theaters for the unbeatable price of \$60, is only offered through the New Jersey Theater Alliance.

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To receive a free schedule of events, for more information on the Theater Sampler Series, or to subscribe to the Theater E-news, call 973-593-0189 or e-mail nitg@ni.com. Visit the New Jersey Theater Alliance Web site at

www.njtheatrealliance.com to find

out more about New Jersey's pro-

fessional theaters!

Funding for the New Jersey Theater Alliance, a not-for-profit organization, is provided in part by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, as well as contributions from foundations, corporations, businesses and individuals.

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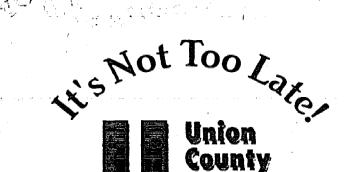
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Like many Americans, Jersey City residents Ora and Dennis Hartwick had achieved the American dream — they were moving from their apartment to a home in Maplewood. They were excited, and had many preparations - including arranging for the appropriate documentation to close on the home, and movers to bring all of their valuables. Their closing was unfortunately memorable for tragic reasons — it was Sept.

11, 2001, a day no one will ever forget. "Just as we arrived in the driveway of our new home to take our final walkthrough slightly before 9 a.m., the planes hit the towers. With cell phone service disrupted, we couldn't reach the lawyers to determine if we could proceed with

the closing, or with our movers, Leroy Graves, to confirm our 2:30 moving appointment," Hartwick said. "Since all traffic was at a standstill, we couldn't get back to Jersey City, and didn't know if the mover tried to get into our apartment," Hartwick continued. The Hartwicks were eventually able to get in touch with the mover, who is a Coldwell Banker Concierge approved vendor, and were able to schedule a

move for the very next day. "Everyone tried to keep their spirits up, under the difficult circumstances. In addition to the stressful atmosphere, our movers had quite a challenge — they had to move our belongings, which included heavy audio and video gear, and all of our everyday items, out of our four-story apartment building, using a small elevator and two flights of stairs to get to the moving truck," Hartwick

"Additionally, because of the building's layout, the movers had a 40-foot walk to the truck, because the parking area space couldn't accommodate the

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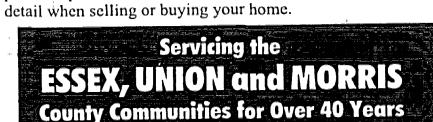
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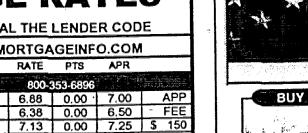


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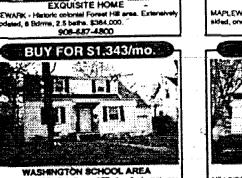


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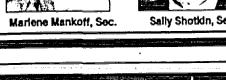


















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Buick's Rendezvous has all the right stuff for a busy family

By Mark Maynard Copley News Service

The Buick Rendezvous is a golden idea, but it's a couple of elements short of alchemy.

On paper, the first sport utility for Buick has all the right stuff for a contemporary do-it-all vehicle for the busy urban user — family or business person. It's a non-truck SUV with clever innovations, classy features. seats for seven and GM durability.

But wrap it all up and it looks like SUV-by-committee, and it drives like a heavy minivan.

Rendezvous is the long-wheelbase company cousin to the Pontiac Aztek, which borrows heavily from the GM minivan.

The exterior design has been stroked enough to separate it from the exaggerations of Aztek, and the interior is nicely done to a contemporary Buick style, not too soft and not too hard.

It's about 4.4 inches longer than Aztek, which provided space for the third seat, and - surprisingly - it's 19 pounds lighter.

Rendezvous is a blended family vehicle - part truck, part van, part sedan. Shorter than a minivan, it is supposed to be rugged-looking yet

refined — which is the same recipe that every manufacturer is rushing to perfect these days.

Buick did its best to remodel the Aztek shell for a gracious and contemporary transporter for emptynesters who still want the space of a

As a well-dressed business-class vehicle, it can be ordered with all the power conveniences, a tow package and leather and electronic enhancements, such as digital head-up display readouts for the driver and rear parking aid that gives tone alerts to objects in danger of being crunched.

Sold in three trim levels — base, CX and CXL - in two- or all-wheeldrive, each comes with the 185-horsepower, 3.4-liter V-6 and four-speed automatic transmission.

Prices start at \$25,624, including the \$600 destination charge. The topline test truck, the CXL, comes with heavy in emergency moves. all-wheel drive and the \$5,000 Luxury Package of power front seats with memory, leather-trimmed seats. second-row footrests, chrome wheels, a rear parking monitor, 8-speaker AM-FM-CD-cassette and more.

The addition of the tow package, sunroof and third-row seats with storage pushed the sticker to \$34,937.

That's serious SUV money, even if does include the Versatrak all-wheeldrive system. Versatrak works as a front-wheel drive system and adds rear-wheel-drive at the first indication

of wheel slip. Somewhere in the conversion to an SUV a lot of weight was carried over. The two-wheel-drive Rendezvous weighs 4,000 pounds, which is about 185 pounds more than the extended wheelbase GM minivan — for 14 inches less length.

The Lexus RX 300 and Acura MDX are no lightweights, either, but somehow the mass is better distributed in them for a sharper driving experience.

The Rendezvous bounds across cross-street intersections, sometimes bottoming out the front end. The suspension handles side-to-side maneuvers OK, but the weight feels top-

It's at its best in undemanding cruise mode — comfortable and fairly well soundproofed.

Two tons is also a lot to heft for the engine, however.

Acceleration is dutiful and sometimes loud when pressed for passing power. Mileage for the test truck was decent at 18 miles per gallon city and 24 highway. Playing in this entry-lux category, however, calls for better performance and bigger brakes. Stopping power is merely adequate, which doesn't help reinforce a luxury image.

Using the converted minivan architecture gives Rendezvous — and Aztek — a big nose-cone dashboard. It is awkward and imposing, with an expanse of unused space — but a lot of other space inside has been put to good use.

Storage areas are plentiful, including a center console at the base of the instrument panel where a passthrough will stow a purse or parcels, secured by elastic nets. The console between the front seats is deep and wide, made to hold a laptop computer, CDs and more.

The engineers got cheap and decided to save \$1.50 on hardware for a tailgate release handle. Walk up to the big lift gate with your hands full and there's no way to open it without digging in your pocket for the key fob or having someone press the switch on the instrument panel.

Seating can be configured for six or seven passengers. The six-seater with second-row captain's chairs feels open and roomy. The CXL comes with footrests for second-row passengers, but they get in the way more than they enhance comfort.

The third-row, two-seat bench has a table-like console between seats and more cup holders. The second row flips and folds with modest effort, but it's still a climb into the third row for older folks, who can plop down with a little more leg room than expected, 34.6 inches compared with 39 in the middle row.

For adults in the third row, the

release for the second-row sout back isn't easily located or operated, which adds to a feeling of confinement Those seats are still kid space.

Usable cargo space behind the third row is small, but snugly holds the grocery bags.

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

Season of giving



past holiday season, Maplecrest Lincoln-Mercury, at 2800 Springfield Ave. in Union, purchased toys and gifts for women and children residing at the homeless shelter sponsored by the Hopewell Baptist Church of Newark. Nancy Flaum, a social worker and friend of Maplecrest owners, the Giordano family, coordinated the purchasing and wrapping of the gifts. Many friends and neighbors donated their own wrapping paper as well so that all the money donated by Maplecrest could go toward the gifts. Flaum adds, 'It was particularly gratifying for the children who participated in the wrapping of the toys and gifts. They all really got caught up in the spirit of giving too.' Maplecrest also selected one family most in need through the Catholic Charities of Newark and helped fulfill their holiday wish lists. All the donated gifts were delivered by Maplecrest employees Dec. 21 to the Hopewell Baptist Church in Newark. Children participating are, from left in front, Gabrielle Flaum, Drew Vreeland, Jenna Vreeland, Danielle Flaum, Emma Goldberg, Sydney Giordano and, in back row, Sephen Giordano.

2002 Buick Rendezvous CXL AWD

Body style: Midsize, 7-passenger sport-utility vehicle

Drive system: Front engine, allwheel drive

Engine size and type: 3.4-liter OHV V-6

Horsepower: 185 at 5,200 rpm Torque: 210 foot-pounds at 4,000 rpm

Transmission: 4-speed automatic Acceleration: 0 to 60 mph, 11 seconds, estimated EPA fuel economy estimates: 18

mpg city, 24 highway Fuel capacity: 18 gallons: regular

unleaded recommended Cargo space: 18.1 to 54.5 cubic feet, or 108.9 with second- and third-row seats removed

Front head/leg/shoulder room: 40.9/40.5/58.7 inches



The new Buick Rendezvous is a non-truck SUV with clever innovations, classy features, seats for seven and GM durability.







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