



Welcome to the ECHO LEADER

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News items: News releases of general interest must be in our office by Friday at noon to be considered for publication.

Story reprints: For permission to reprint any item printed in the newspaper you must call Tom Canavan at 908-686-7700.

Letters to the editor: The Echo Leader provides an open forum for opinions and welcomes letters to the editor.

e-mail: The Echo Leader accepts opinion pieces by e-mail. Our address is Editorial@localsource.com.

To place a display ad: Display advertising for placement in the general news section of the Echo Leader must be in our office by Monday at 5 p.m.

To place a classified ad: The Echo Leader has a large, well read classified advertising section.

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Web site: Visit our Web Site on the Internet called LocalSource online.

Postmaster please note: The ECHO LEADER (USPS 512-720) is published weekly by Westcott Community Newspapers, Inc.

Borough agrees to field use

For the second consecutive year, Mountainside has agreed to allow Union County to use the grass ball field on Mill Lane for parking during the summer concerts held at Echo Lake Park.

The agreement last summer was contingent on a one-season trial period. "I had received a phone call from the mayor of Mountainside who indicated that he had done a survey of residents who seemed to think that it worked out to their advantage by getting more cars off of the local streets on Wednesday evenings during our concerts," said Charles Sigmund, director of the Union County Department of Parks and Recreation.

Previous to the agreement with the county, concertgoers were parking on Mill Lane Park Drive and all through the park. "That was not sufficient parking," said Debbie. "Not only were they parking along Mill Lane but they were also parking on all our side streets and creating all kinds of congestion."

Debbie said residents in the area were quite upset. "On one of our streets we had to pass a resolution that they'll be no parking on one side of the street because we couldn't get an ambulance through if we had to," said Debbie.

Mountainside officials surveyed the citizens who live by Mill Lane to get feedback on how they felt the concert parking affected their neighborhood.

"Our mayor has sent letters to all the surrounding homes in the area asking them if they had any objection to us continuing our relationship with the county regarding the parking situation," said Debbie. "He got three letters back and all the letters were in praise of the county's operation this past summer of the concerts."

The mayor has sent a letter to the county telling them that they can continue to use the area for parking, saying that he has received letters of praise and no letters of objection. The night of the concerts, the county posts no parking signs on Mill Lane and directs all the traffic.

"The way the driveway is angled that you go into the parking area, when you go out, you can only go up Mill Lane and head towards Route 22," said Debbie. "It takes the congestion off of South Springfield Avenue which seems to work out quite well."

The concerts take place Wednesdays at 7 p.m., throughout the entire summer.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

The Community Calendar is prepared by the Echo Leader to inform residents of various community activities and government meetings. Today: The Foothill Club of Mountainside conducts a luncheon, noon, at B.G. Fields, Springfield Avenue, Westfield. The program will be "Come Travel With Us" and features Elizabeth Zanders.

Clerk of the works is hired for fire HQ project

The announcement came at the Feb. 26 Township Committee meeting as committee members explained what the role of the clerk of the works will be. "The clerk of the works is basically the only representative on site every day of the week during the construction of the new firehouse," said Sheila.

EVENTS

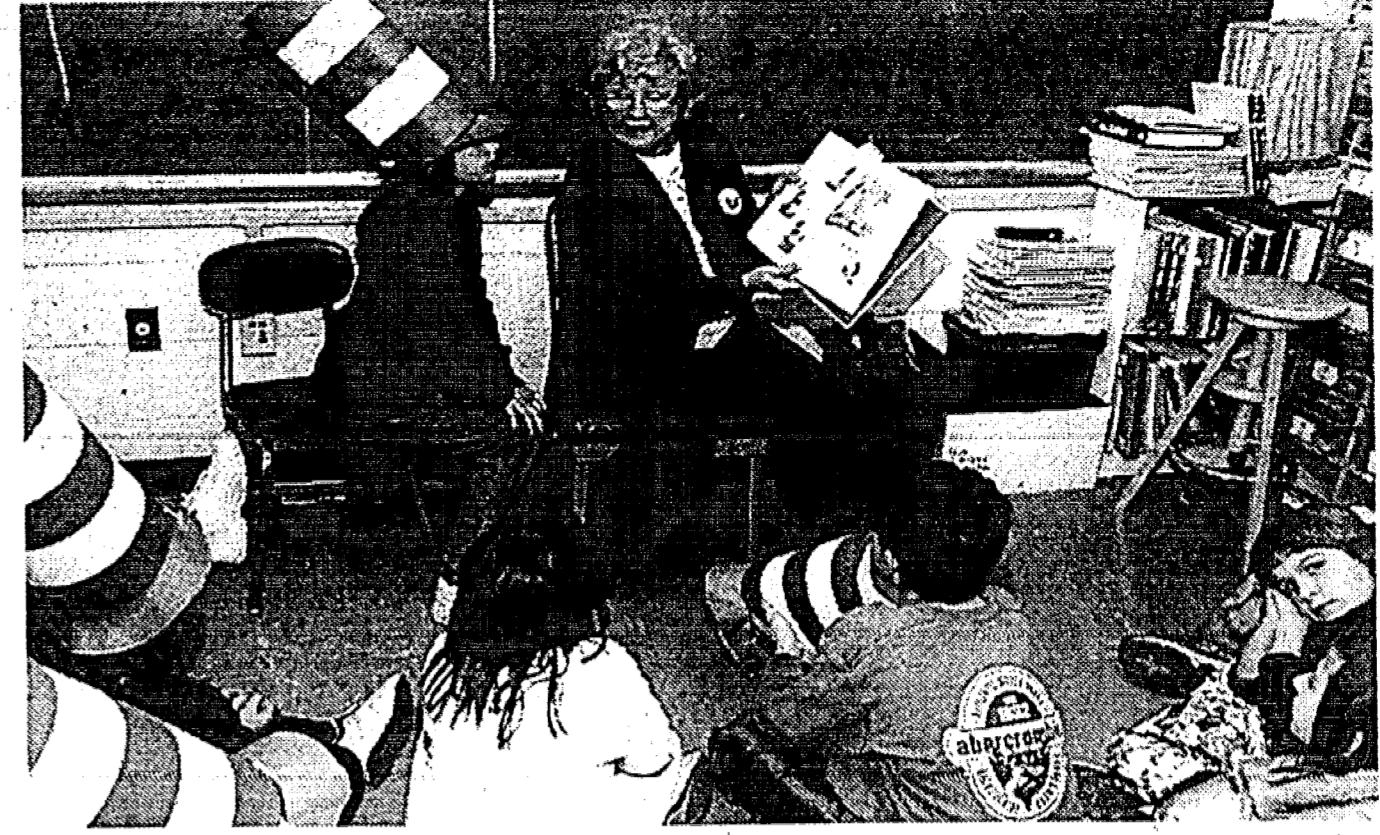
Nature Prints offered at Trailside Using a variety of sponges and stamper, participants can create a nature scene and a design to print onto a notecard, with "Nature Prints," on Sunday at 2 p.m. at Trailside Nature & Science Center, 452 New Providence Road, Mountainside.

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Reading event helps close generation gap

By Joshua Zaitz Staff Writer Look at these kids. Look at them all; the short ones, the tall ones, the big and the small. Look at them all read and write. Watch them read everything in sight. Read Across America started as a celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday several years ago. With the support of the National Education Association, the event has gained national recognition as a way to promote literacy.



Grandma Ann Luga reads a book to granddaughter Jennifer Bleiwiese and the rest of a fourth-grade class at Thelma L. Sandmeier Elementary School in Springfield as part of Read Across America.

Parents of reluctant readers should focus on what their child is interested in and get that child to read things relating to that topic. Parents might also want to check out www.nea.org to see a list of the top 100 children's books. "One of the biggest, special things you can do with your family is read," said Anderson. "Some of the earliest memories you have are of saying, 'Can you read me one more story,' to prolong that bedtime."

Architect offers update

By Joan M. Devlin Staff Writer Architect Jim Ruban of The Musial Group put in a brief appearance at the Feb. 26 Mountainside Board of Education meeting to brief the board on the building project. "Beechwood School is going very well," said Ruban. He said all of the excavations are complete, and so are the foundations. "They have back-sanded around all of the foundations, reinforcing the concrete foundations, and as we speak, they are getting ready to pour all the floors."

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On 2/27/02, The Star-Ledger Business Section quoted Gerald Lipkin, Chairman and CEO of Valley National Bancorp: "People want to be able to move their money if they see a good opportunity."

OUTERBRIDGE CROSSING New York-Bound Lanes Closed Nightly Deck rehabilitation requires the closing of all New York-bound (to Staten Island) lanes during construction hours. March 18 to November 26 9:30 pm - 5 am, Mondays - Thursdays 11:59 pm Fridays - 8 am Saturdays 11:59 pm Saturdays - 8 am Sundays

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Puppets are people too



A visit to the 'Cirkus' at the Mountaintop Public Library on March 16 at 2 p.m. spells fun for all ages. 'Cirkus,' a rollicking puppet show, is presented by Tuckers' Tales Puppet Theater from Pennsylvania, and features a zany ringmaster, crazy characters, escaping animals, and the ultimate in clowning around.

Rec Department presents circus trip

Springfield Recreation Department will present the "All New 132nd Edition Circus" Friday at 7:30 p.m. The performance will take place in the lower-level seats at the Continental Airlines Arena.

New titles this week

The Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave., has the following new releases available: "Catch as Cat Can" by Rita Mae Brown; "Eureka!" by William Diehl; "Irish Stew!" by Nuala Anne McGrail; "The Oath" by John T. Lescaort; "Southampton Row" by Anne Perry; "The Thirty-third Hour" by Mitchell C. Chitiz; "Thursday's Child" by Sandra Brown; and "Warning Signs" by Stephen White.

Nonfiction: "Appalachian Trail Guide to New Hampshire, Vermont"; "The Bill of Rights" by Don Nardo; "The Carolinas and the Appalachian States" by Patricia L. Hudson; "The Columbia Presbyterian Guide to Surgery" by Eric A. Rose; "Drawn with the Sword" by James M. McPherson; "First Aid in the Workplace" by Grant B. Gould.

"Frommer's Comprehensive Travel Guide: Portugal"; "Hands On Dying" by Betsy Blumenthal; "Journey Through Heartbeats" by Mattie J. T. Stepanek; "Lesbian & Gay Youth: Care & Counseling" by Caitlin Ryan; "One Hundred Questions and Answers about Hypertension" by William M. Manger; "Perfect Parenting: The Dictionary of 1,000 Parenting Tips" by Elizabeth Pantley; "Pyramids of Life" by Harvey Croze; "Speaking for and Respecting Voiceless Animals" by Marc Bekoff; and "USA Immigration and Orientation" by Bob McLaughlin.

Biography: "Princess Sultana's Circle" by Jean P. Sasson.

Graphic novels: "Akiko, Volumes 1-4"; "The Amazing True Story of a Teenager Single Mom"; "Bone: Out from

AT THE LIBRARY

Boneville; "Calico, The Wonder Horse"; "Calvin & Hobbes (series)"; "A Day, A Dog"; "Eyes of Oscar Wilde"; "The Fairy Tales of Oscar Wilde"; "Fax from Sarajevo: A Story of Survival"; "Fire and Fight (Elfinquest #1)"; "Follow Carl!"; "Good-night Moon"; "The Hobbit: An illustrated edition of the fantasy classic"; "Just a Dream"; "Little Lit Folklore and fairy tale funnies"; "Making Up Megaboy"; "Mind Riot: Coming of Age in Comics"; "Nobody Particular: One Woman's Fight to Save the Bays"; "An Ocean World"; "Starry Messenger: Galileo Galilei"; "Storm Watch: Force of Nature"; "Tales from Shakespeare"; "The Three Golden Keys"; "Through the Red Box"; "Too Many Time Machines"; "Two Bad Ants"; and "Wreck of the Zephyr."

March programs feature folktales. A theater workshop program for 5- to 10-year-olds will center around Irish folktales on March 16 at 1 p.m. at the Springfield Free Public Library, 66 Mountain Ave. The program, presented by "Act Out!", will begin with a craft, tell the story of "Fin McCool" by Tommie DePaola, and enlist the help of the audience in acting out part of the story. Many theater terms will be incorporated into the afternoon, such as "pantomime" and "rehearsal" as well as "stage directions." Register at the Youth Services desk, by calling 973-376-4900, Ext. 232, or by e-mailing helena@springfieldpubliclibrary.com.

The library continues March children's programming for babies, toddlers and young children, as follows: The Mother Goose Group promotes the enjoyment of language through

nursery rhymes, simple stories, songs and activities for toddlers ages 1 1/2 to 3 years old and their parent or caregiver. Plan to stay and play afterward. The program will be today and March 28 from 10:30 to 10:50 a.m. No advance registration.

Scrapbooking workshop. The Mountaintop Public Library, Constitution Plaza, is offering two special programs in March, one for adults and one for children. A scrapbooking workshop, sponsored by the Friends of the Mountaintop Public Library, will be Tuesday from 7 to 8:30 p.m., led by expert scrapbooker and Mountaintop resi-

dent, Susan Caudo. Scrapbooking has recently become an extremely popular hobby that transforms snapshots, family history and antique photographs into stunning archival masterpieces. Caudo will start with a 20-minute presentation to be followed by hands-on experience. Participants should bring 6-8 photos to the session to create a personal page of memories. Due to limited space, registration is required and first priority will be given to Mountaintop Library cardholders. Other area residents may request placement on a waiting list. For more information, call 908-233-0115 or visit the Mountaintop Public Library.

are insufficient to adequately address the needs of leasees. You may look at the non-confidential portions of the application and all comments filed with the OTS Regional Office. This information is available for public inspection at the appropriate OTS Regional Office during regular business hours. Any questions concerning these procedures, please call the OTS Regional Office at 201-413-1000. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION FOR REORGANIZATION UNDER CHAPTER 11 OF TITLE 17 OF THE FEDERAL BANKRUPTCY ACT AND APPLICATION FOR MERGER. This is to inform the public that under 12 C.F.R. Sections 674.0 and 674.01 of the Rules and Regulations of the Office of Thrift Supervision (OTS), Keaney Financial Corp. and Keaney Bank, both located at 614 Keaney Avenue, Kearny, New Jersey 07032, will file on or about February 28, 2002 an application with the OTS for permission to acquire control of Palisade Savings Bank through merger of Palisade Savings Bank into Keaney Federal Savings Bank. The consolidated financial statements of the above-named depository institutions will continue to operate.

This notice is published pursuant to 12 U.S.C. Section 1829(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act and 12 C.F.R. Sections 674.0 and 674.01 of the Regulations of OTS. This notice will appear at approximately 10 calendar days prior to the 30-day period beginning February 28, 2002 and ending March 30, 2002. Anyone may submit written comments in connection with this application within 30 calendar days of the filing of the application. Comments should be submitted to the OTS at the address of good cause. If a written request is received by the OTS within the initial 30-day period, the comment must be sent simultaneously to the Regional Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, 10 Exchange Place, 18th Floor, Jersey City, New Jersey 07310, and to the attention of Matthew T. McCanna, President of Keaney Financial Corp., at its address listed above. Written comments in opposition to the application should be accompanied by a written statement of such opposition, and should be supported by the information specified in 12 C.F.R. Section 516.120(a). You may request an informal meeting on such application, including a written request for a meeting with your comment that describes the nature of the issues of fact to be discussed and the reasons why written submissions

are insufficient to adequately address the needs of leasees. You may look at the non-confidential portions of the application and all comments filed with the OTS Regional Office. This information is available for public inspection at the appropriate OTS Regional Office during regular business hours. Any questions concerning these procedures, please call the OTS Regional Office at 201-413-1000. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL. For March 7, 14, 21, 28, 2002: U0123 ECL.

RENT LEVELING BOARD. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ORGANIZATIONAL AND THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RENT LEVELING BOARD WILL BE HELD IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING ON THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2002 AT 5:00 P.M. MURRAY FROMER, 316 W. MURRAY FROMER, SUITE 100, MURRAY, NJ 07032. (55-75)

TOWNSHIP OF SPRINGFIELD BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT. The Township Board of Adjustment has changed the time for the March 14, 2002 meeting as follows: The Executive Session will start at 6:45 p.m. and the Regular Meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. to hear Application #2001-19 for a Change of Zoning from R-1 to R-2 and a Major Site Plan. "D" variance and bulk variances. The posted agenda will immediately follow. The meeting will take place at the Municipal Building, 100 Mountain Ave., in the Council Chambers. This change in time applies to the March 14, 2002 meeting only. Formal action may or may not be taken. Robert C. Kirpatrick, Board of Adjustment Secretary, U0161 ECL March 7, 2002. (58-00)

BUSINESS & SERVICE DIRECTORY

A grid of 12 columns and 10 rows of small advertisements for various services including air conditioning, cleaning, construction, electrical, home improvement, and more.

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COUPON \$10. OFF Any Portable TV or Microwave. COUPON \$15. OFF Any Washer, Dryer or Dishwasher. COUPON \$25. OFF Any Refrigerator. COUPON \$25. OFF Any Stove over \$499. COUPON \$50. OFF Any TV 32" & Over.

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We're asking What did you enjoy most at the Olympics?



Sam Eagle: "I watched them on and off... I didn't think there was anything special..."; Mary Brandon: "I enjoyed it very much..."; Carole Mayer: "I liked the figure skating..."; Peter Bachus: "I liked the sportsmanship..."

Squad calls range from medical to auto

During the seven days beginning Feb. 16, the Springfield First Aid Squad's call volume was at slightly lower than normal levels... vehicle accident on Route 24 utilized the Northstar Medvac Helicopter to transport two injured patients...

Police charge driver of overturned car with DWI

Mountainside On Sunday at 12:55 a.m., a vehicle overturned on Route 22 West at the intersection of Lawrence Avenue... Police recovered the jewelry which allegedly was stolen...

POLICE BLOTTER

On Feb. 18 at 4:30 p.m., a Scotch Plains resident reported his vehicle stolen from Loew's Theatre on Route 22 East... On Feb. 23 at 9 p.m., Dev Bhandari, 23, of Garwood, was stopped on Route 22 East for making unsafe lane changes...



WORRALL COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

Union County

THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2002 - SECTION B

- News
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• Classified
• Real Estate
• Automotive

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Elevator talk at county

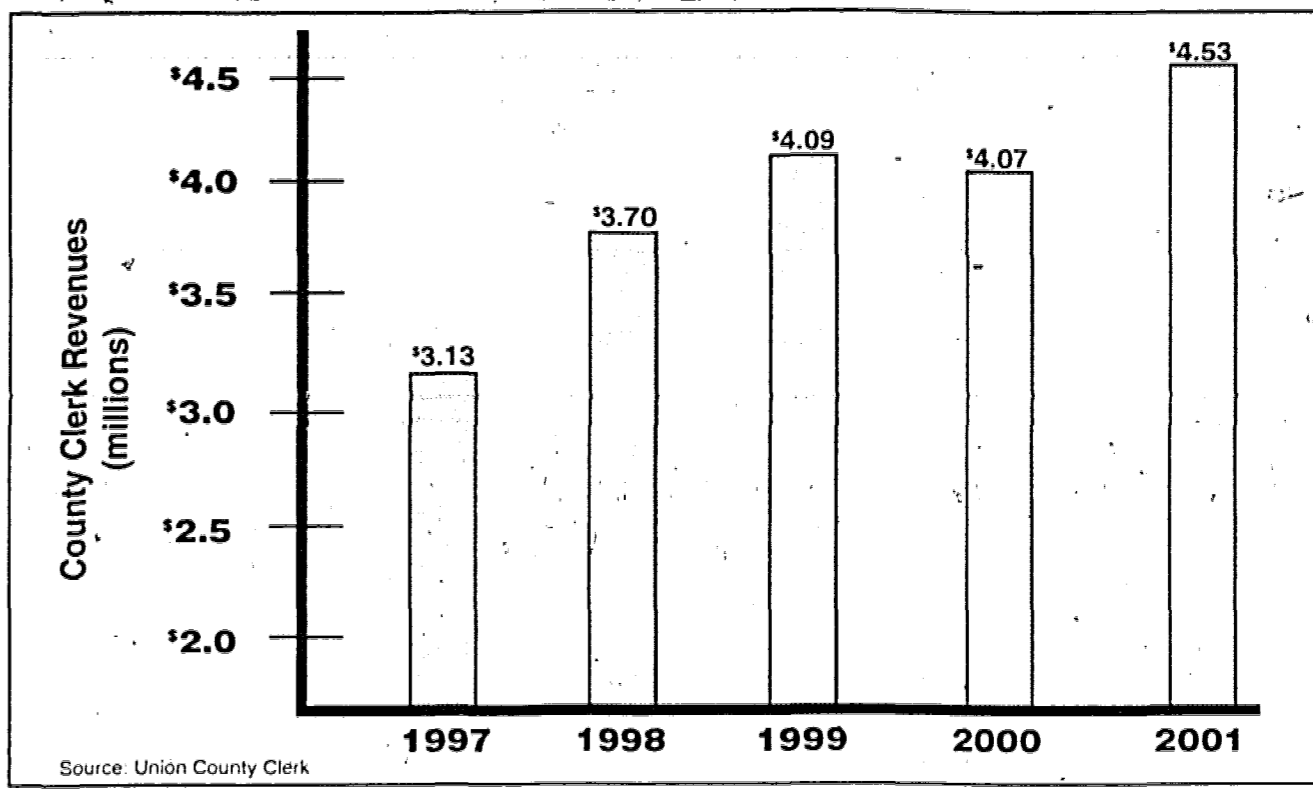
Traveling on the elevator at the county Administration Building in Elizabeth last week, the buzz was all about the appointment of County Manager Michael Lapolla to the position of executive director of the New Jersey Turnpike Authority...

Left Out

Later that day, the state Senate reacted with a statement from the senator's mother, Stephanie. In part, it read, "Mike's a nice young man, but he's not family..."

Revenue soars for clerk

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor The Union County Clerk's Office reported another record-breaking year for revenue last year and with increased recording fees mandated by the state, at least \$1 million more in revenue is expected in 2002...



County Clerk Revenues (in millions) Source: Union County Clerk

Jail deal renewed

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor Last year, when the county proposed to close the old jail and consolidate its inmate population into the new jail across the street, while sending 250 prisoners to a drug treatment center in Newark, corrections officers regularly came out en masse to freeholder meetings, speaking against the plan, which included layoffs...

Summer Sports Institute at Newark Academy

Sports camps for boys and girls entering grades 5-11. Boys Basketball July 8-12, Girls Basketball July 15-19, Boys/Girls Fencing June 17-21, Aug. 5-9, 12-16, Field Hockey Aug. 12-16, Boys/Girls Lacrosse July 22-26, July 29-Aug. 2, Boys/Girls Soccer Aug. 5-9, 12-16, Softball July 22-26, Boys/Girls Swimming July 15-19, Boys/Girls Tennis July 15-18, 22-25

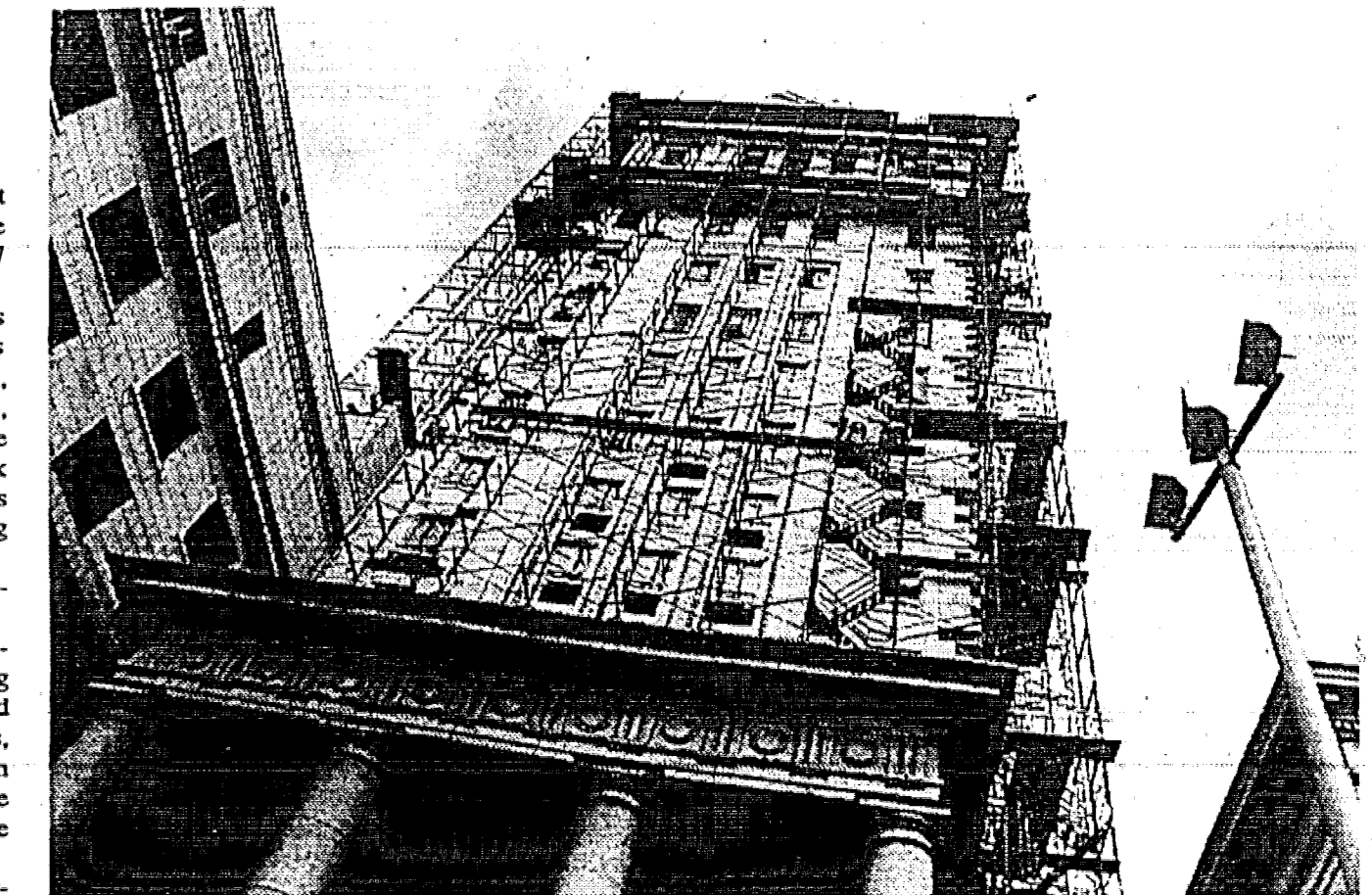
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Tower project may be completed by summer

By Mark Hrywna Regional Editor The county courthouse in Elizabeth will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2003. Since 1998, the county has been renovating parts of the century-old structure, adding an atrium and back entrance in addition to continuous stabilization and window replacement within the most visible part of the courthouse — the 17-story tower which was built in 1931...



Scaffolding on the tower portion of the county courthouse in Elizabeth should come down by the summer while work will continue along the exterior of the lower part of the complex.

ENTER OUR HOLIDAY HAM OR TURKEY CONTEST AND ENTRY BLANK AND WIN YOUR FREE HOLIDAY HAM OR TURKEY Register here - Contest Ends Fri., March 15, 2002

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Grid of local business advertisements including Broadway Diner, Hersh's Hearing Aid Center, Merle Norman Cosmetics, Mountain Side Deli, Summit Car Wash & Detail Center, Summit Food Market, Trost Bake Shop, Shop These Participating Stores, Cleveland Plaza, Cranford, Sylvan Learning Center, and Summit Car Wash & Detail Center.

Friendly Sons of St. Patrick prepare to honor two Irishmen

It's time to salute two legendary Irishmen and take some time for the Wearin' O' the Green as the Friendly Sons of Saint Patrick of Union County honor Matthew P. Giackin and William J. Duffy at their annual dinner Wednesday at L'Affaire in Mountainside... son Michael has taken up the pipes. A police officer since 1978, he received a valor award in 1991 for confronting a suspect who pointed a loaded gun at him...





